



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 4: ISSUE 4: MAY 2008

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Visit our web site at
www.siwib.org

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

Energy Sustainability

BY TAMMY KIRK

The fourth and final discussion in the *Connecting with the Future of Energy* series will focus on *Energy Sustainability*. The event will be held on May 22, 2008, at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center, 150 E. Pleasant Hill Road, Carbondale, with refreshments at 5:30 p.m. and the discussion beginning at 6:00 p.m. The session will cover energy consumption, geo-thermal energy, energy efficient housing, electric vehicles, green buildings, wind power, and more.

Donald Fournier will be the featured presenter. He will discuss energy consumption, where it comes from, and where it goes, from a national perspective. Mr. Fournier is on the University of Illinois Building Research Council as senior research specialist in the areas of sustainable design and development and energy efficiency. In his position, he develops indicators of sustainability for the built environment that are regionally weighted, evaluates urban growth within a dynamic modeling environment, evaluates environmental risk associated with rapid urban growth, models distributed generation

technologies, develops encroachment analysis and capability assessment techniques for military installations, and advises on energy policy, energy security, and green building rating systems for the U.S. Army. Don participates in several committees of the U.S. Green Building Council. He also develops and teaches Continuing Education courses in sustainable design and the architecture of sustainability.

Don also serves as program manager for the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC). The SEDAC provides advice and analyses enabling facilities in the State of Illinois to increase their profitability through the efficient use of energy resources. SEDAC is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and provides valuable services at no cost to small businesses and public facilities. SEDAC is managed by the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the 360 Energy Group.

(Continued on page 2)

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I thank each of you for the leadership you provide to the Board and your valued work as committee members. It is with your guidance and through your efforts that we continue to lead the State in our mission of serving the citizens and employers of Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, and Williamson counties in southern Illinois. Our One-Stop centers are recognized as the premier source of information about and access to the array of workforce development programs and services offered in our area. THANK YOU for your greatly appreciated contributions!

A special THANK YOU to the many volunteers who made this year's Tax Counseling Project a huge success! (See article on page 3.)

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has sent a letter informing us that our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been officially approved. Thanks to all of our

(Continued on page 4)

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board Development Committee

The Board Development Committee met on Friday, April 25th at noon. The committee discussed details for the SIWIB Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 19th after a telephone survey of the Board membership indicated that a quorum would be present. Twenty-two of the SIWIB members responded favorably about attending the meeting. There had been concerns about whether there would be a quorum at the meeting as there had been problems establishing a quorum at past Board meetings. The committee decided that a dinner for local award nominees would start at 5:00 p.m. with Great Boars of Fire catering the dinner. The awards ceremony is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. with the

meeting following the awards ceremony. Agenda items include ratification of the local workforce plan modifications dealing with the rescission of local WIA funds. New business will include approval of contracts and election of officers. The committee asked Mr. Hopkins to look into the possibility of playing bocce ball following the meeting. The committee reviewed SIWIB members' attendance at Board meetings. The committee asked Ms. Lively to talk to a few members about improving their attendance. The committee also discussed the need to replace a few members of the Board who were resigning or whose attendance was less than exemplary. Before adjourning the meeting the committee asked that Board members be surveyed prior to SIWIB meetings in order to establish quorums at future Board meetings. ■

Energy Sustainability

(Continued from page 1)

Panelist John Freitag is vice president of operations for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), the statewide trade organization for the Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. A native of Wisconsin, Freitag has been with the AIEC since 1985 and is responsible for marketing, communications, safety, training, member and field services and youth education for the Illinois electric co-ops. John was instrumental in the recent formation of

the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, and serves on the organization's first board of directors. Mr. Freitag is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) and a Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) and has been recognized for his work in the cooperatives' International Foundation, the Energy Electric Council, Safe Electricity and the Illinois Society of Association Executives.

Bruce Barkau, member services director of the Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Mt. Vernon, will discuss energy efficient

(Continued on page 3)

Energy Sustainability

(Continued from page 2)

housing and the cooperatives program, Certified Comfort Home. Justin Harrell, an electrical engineer for the SIUC Physical Plant Service will also be a panelist.

You may register by contacting Tammy Kirk at tammykirk@mantracon.org, or at 618-998-0970, extension 215.

Tax Counseling Project A Huge Success

BY BOB HOPKINS

The Tax Counseling Project completed over 1,723 returns this year which is an 8% increase over the number of returns filed last year. Many of the tax returns were filed by single heads of house holds and most of them qualified for the Earned Income Tax Credit. An overwhelming majority of the tax returns were filed electronically which is the fastest method of receiving a tax refund. Almost all of this year's tax refunds (totaling nearly \$2 million dollars) were deposited directly into local bank accounts within ten to fourteen days.

The Marion Center has a tradition of completing the most returns outside of the Chicago area. The Marion Center was recognized as a model for the tax counseling project which prompted a visit by the Executive Director of the Center for Economic Progress, Mr. David Marzahl.

Thanks to the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make this project a great success! ■

Spotlight On...

BOARD MEMBER RANDY CROMPTON

Randy Crompton is currently the general manager of Vernell's Interstate Service, Inc. in Marion, Illinois. After twenty-two years of managing Vernell's Body Shop and Wrecker Service in Herrin, Illinois, he was promoted to his present position in July of 1999.

Randy was born in Herrin, Illinois where he now resides with his wife, Gina, of twenty-eight years. Randy and Gina are the proud parents of four exceptional children and their mates: Seth and fiancée, Carrie; Adam and wife, April; Shanna; and Sheena and husband, Andreas. Randy and Gina are anticipating the birth of their first grandchild — a baby boy — any day now.

In the summer of 2006, Randy was appointed to the Pony Baseball/Softball International Board of Directors. He serves as the north zone director of Softball for the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Locally, Randy is the vice president of Herrin Jr. Ball League. For the past three years, he has been a part of and coached the Champions League of Southern Illinois, a baseball league for physically and mentally challenged children. Randy is the former president of Herrin Youth Sports, Inc., specializing in Flag/Tackle Football. He is also the former president of the Herrin Tiger Booster Club. Randy is a current member of a Traffic Incident Management Committee. Additionally, he is a member of the Herrin Prairie Masonic Lodge.

For recreation, Randy enjoys traveling nationally and internationally. He likes to follow college basketball and football seasons. Most importantly, he enjoys spending time with his wonderful wife and ever-growing family. ■



Randy Crompton

Don't Miss H.O.P.E. Trivia Night...

Friday, May 2, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the Trinity United Methodist Church, 304 N. Sunny Slope Street in West Frankfort.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800B
Marion, IL 62959

INSIDE:

- **Energy Sustainability**
- **Message from Our Chairman**
- **Board Development Committee Report**
- **Spotlight On...
Board Member Randy Crompton**

Save the Date! SIWIB Annual Meeting on June 19, 2008, at the Civic Center in Herrin.

***Additional information about SIWIB initiatives and board members
can be found on our web site at www.siwib.org.***

Message from Our Chairman

(Continued from page 2)

One-Stop partners and the One-Stop Committee for the continued collaborative efforts that make this agreement possible. Go Team!

My appointments to this year's Ad Hoc Nomination Committee are: Chair Mary Ellen Bechtel from Jefferson County, Tyler Young Jr. from Jackson County, Debra Jackanicz from Franklin County, John Hammack from Perry County and Mary Sullivan from Williamson County. Please contact a committee member if you wish to nominate or be nominated as a business representative for a position as an officer of the Board.

Please mark your calendars for the Illinois workNet launch event on May 28th. You are invited to attend this public announcement in the Batteau Room at John A. Logan College at 1:00 pm. Your formal invitation will arrive via email. Also, please note the Executive Committee will meet on May 30th to approve the local workforce plan modifications. The modifications are to address the rescission of WIA allocations. The date for the Annual SIWIB Meeting is June 19, 2008. The meeting is scheduled for the Herrin Civic Center. We plan to honor several of our local award nominees. Please come early in order to meet our valued customers. (See Calendar of Events at right.) ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 14, 2008

One-Stop Committee
8:00 a.m.

Chief Local Elected Officials
11:30 a.m.

Youth Council
4:00 p.m.
at the One-Stop Business
& Employment Center in
Marion, Illinois

MAY 14, 2008

**Business & Economic
Development Meeting**
4:30 p.m. at the Man-Tra-Con
Family Opportunity Center
DuQuoin, Illinois

MAY 30, 2008

Executive Committee
12:00 noon at the
One-Stop Business &
Employment Center in
Marion, Illinois