



# SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 4: ISSUE 6: AUGUST 2008

## SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

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[www.siwib.org](http://www.siwib.org)

## SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

### LWIA 25 and LWIA 26 *Address Barriers for Region's Employers*

BY CARY MINNIS

In an unprecedented joint session, the Executive Committees of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board (SIWIB) and the Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board came together on July 31, 2008, at the Illinois workNet Center in Harrisburg. This meeting provided a venue for the two boards to discuss the workforce issues previously identified by the Connect SI Business Retention and Expansion Survey sponsored by the SIWIB. The survey results are a compilation of responses from 1,998 businesses in the 20 southernmost counties. Assembling both boards personified the spirit of regionalism and collaboration to mutually address these issues.

The primary focus for the discussion was the work ethic of the region's workforce — identified as the top employee deficiency by employers. Questions about employee commuting patterns, growth/expansion pockets, and educating employers on the international trade process were topics

that can be expanded on in both LWIAs. Plans were proposed to disseminate the survey findings and to develop regional strategies to address the issues identified in the survey. The potential of a joint press release was also addressed by the group. Both boards look forward to continued opportunities to convene in a unified approach. Thanks to all that participated in this historic meeting!

### *General Dynamics participates in Incumbent Worker Training Program*

BY ROSIE ROBINSON

A check in the amount of \$10,000 was presented to General Dynamics for participation in the Incumbent Worker Training program offered through Man-Tra-Con and the members of the Southern Illinois

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**SIWIB News** is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board and published monthly by Man-Tra-Con Corporation under a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant provided by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This publication seeks to promote workforce development efforts in Local Workforce Area 25. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For those who do not use traditional print this information is available electronically. For specific access information please contact (Voice) 618-998-9921, ext. 216, (TTY) 618-998-9602 or nataliecooper@mantracon.org. Please allow two weeks advanced notice for interpreter requests.

## Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I am happy to report the Executive Committee engaged in the first ever Joint Executive Committee meeting with Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board (LWIB # 26). We met on July 31st at the Illinois workNet Center in Harrisburg.

We are once again recertifying the SIWIB. If you have not already done so, please contact Bob Hopkins about any information changes you may have for your Appointment/Reappointment Form. Thanks all of you, who have already completed, signed, dated and returned your form!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Southern Illinois Launch of Illinois workNet — Expanding Access to Career, Education and Work Support Services. The event is scheduled

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## General Dynamics participates in Incumbent Worker Training Program

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Workforce Investment Board. Forty employees of the company were given Basic Quality instruction through John A. Logan College. Basic Quality is tailored around the Department of Defense Quality Management Program and is a core curriculum feature of the Certified Quality Improvement Associate's (CQIA) program developed by the American Society for Quality (ASQ).

The Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) program helps employers upgrade the skills of their workforce in order to become and remain competitive in both regional and global markets. Incumbent worker training is also designed to keep workers employed, prevent layoffs, enhance worker skills, increase wages earned by employees, and improve employee marketability. The IWT program is administered by Man-Tra-Con in partnership with One-Stop Business and Employment workNet Centers, the Department of

Commerce and Economic Opportunity and business and industry sectors. Funding for IWT comes from the Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs under the Department of Labor's federally funded Workforce Investment Act. Companies receiving the training grants are required to provide a percentage of the matching funds.

The IWT program will benefit General Dynamics and the area economy in a variety of ways. Officials at General Dynamics stated that future hiring expectations potentially exist as a direct result of this training opportunity. The training is expected to stabilize the workforce within the department and lead to consistency in product quality. Improvements in product quality will lead to higher customer satisfaction. Customer satisfaction will lead to increased sales. Increased sales volume will produce more jobs. A win-win for everyone! ■



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dennis Diehl, operations director, Robin Spicer, quality director, Tim McAuliffe, vice president and general manager, at General Dynamics, Kathy Lively, chief executive officer at Man-Tra-Con, Michael Spinks, quality manager at General Dynamics, and Rosie Robinson, Business Services Representative at Man-Tra-Con.

PHOTO BY THERESA SMITH

## SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

### *One-Stop Committee*

BY ROXANNE BREWER-COFFEY

The One-Stop Committee met on August 5, 2008, at the Man-Tra-Con office in Marion. Natalie Cooper announced some of the reporting categories for the resource room have been revised to more accurately capture customer visits. Information about those individuals who would like to obtain assistance for training is being retained until funding allows additional enrollments. Karen Laws reported the Mt. Vernon One-Stop has continued to remain extremely busy due to summer layoffs at Crownline Boats and Continental Tire.

Cary Minnis discussed the joint LWIA 25 and LWIA 26 Executive Committee meeting held to discuss the results of the Business Retention and Expansion Survey. Cary will reconfigure the results to reflect industry sectors. Cindy Webb reported 80 partner staff have registered for the Illinois workNet course advisor certification; 75 have successfully completed the course. The workNet workshops will be held two Mondays a month in Du Quoin and two Fridays a month in Marion.

The committee selected Tippey's Restaurant and General Cable as the Business Leadership Award winners.

## *Spotlight On...*

### BOARD MEMBER DEBBIE GREENE

Debbie Greene has served on the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board since February 2002. She has a passion for helping people to see problems as opportunities and look at the positive side of life. She brings a unique human resource perspective to the Board with over 35 years of experience in healthcare and hospitality management.



PHOTO BY BOB HOPKINS

**Debbie Greene**

As manager of the Drury Inn and Thrifty Inn in Mt. Vernon for the past twenty years, Debbie enjoys the challenge of a 24-hour business and particularly likes the customer service aspect. Prior to this, she worked under the direction of Sister M. Joanne at Good Samaritan Hospital as medical staff secretary and medical librarian for fifteen years.

Born in Jefferson County and one of seven girls, Debbie attended school in Wayne City where she graduated with honors. She completed a year of studies at Rend Lake College before marrying and moving to Indiana. In 1975, she returned to the Wayne City area where she currently resides. Debbie is the mother of four children — three live in the area, and one lives in England. She loves spending time with her family, and enjoys singing, playing piano, reading and traveling.

In addition to membership on the SIWIB, Debbie is president of the Mt. Vernon Tourism Board, of which she has been a member for several years. ■

### *Save the Date!*

*4th Annual H.O.P.E. "Boo"ce Tournament*

*Sunday, October 26, 2008*

*2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Herrinfesta Bocce Courts*



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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

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*Additional information about SIWIB initiatives and board members  
can be found on our web site at [www.siwib.org](http://www.siwib.org).*

### Message from Our Chairman

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for Friday, August 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the Batteau Room at John A. Logan College. Please RSVP at 800-665-5268 if you can attend. Check the Calendar of Events, on the right, for other upcoming events. ■

### One-Stop Committee

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The Southern Illinois Reentry Group was chosen as the Innovative Solutions Award winner, and Marvin Harvey as the winner of the Individual Achievement Award. All four will be submitted to the state for consideration in the Workforce Development Awards selection process.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. ■

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### AUGUST 22, 2008

**Illinois workNet Launch**  
1:00 p.m. in the  
Batteau Room at  
John A. Logan College  
Carterville, Illinois

#### AUGUST 25, 2008

**Board Development  
Committee**  
12:00 noon at  
Alongi's Restaurant in  
Du Quoin, Illinois

#### AUGUST 26, 2008

**WIA Policy & Planning  
Committee**  
4:30 p.m. at the  
One-Stop Business  
& Employment Center in  
Marion, Illinois