



April 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Introduction & Opening:

The April meeting was held at CTTC. A-Lert Building & Roof Systems hosted the meeting. Barry Brittain opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests. Member companies present were: A-Lert, Ameridrives, Cemex, CTTC, Checks in the Mail, Coleman, Comal ISD, Detex, Edisto, Fedex, Great American Products, ITM, Personnel, NB Chamber, NB Herald-Zeitung, Owens, Resource Mfg., Star Manufacturing and Stay-Tuff Fence.

Guests present were: Christia Moore from Seguin Adult Ed. Coop and Virginia Gaiennie from Texas Assoc. of Manufacturers.

Thanks to A-Lert for hosting the meeting and CTTC for providing the facilities.

Erin Kitt talked about the Dream-It, Do-It campaign to raise the awareness for workforce development and availability. The website is www.dreamit-doit.com. This is the national website that gives information about the program, but is also targeted to inform students and young adults about the great careers available in manufacturing. The San Antonio Manufacturing Association (SAMA) announced last month the launch of a local campaign. They are in the organizing and fundraising stage at this point with the goal of launching to the public in Dec 08. The TAMA meeting next month will also be focusing on this campaign.

Officer Reports:

Paul updated the membership on the finances.

Barry announced that NBMA will be a referring member for American Express Partners Plus program. Barry reported to the membership last year that he believed this to be a legitimate A/P alternative. Barry was contacted by Kathy Ahlenius from American Express a couple of days ago to see whether or not we were going to proceed. Her carrot to NBMA was that Loren Cordes at Simpson is very interested in the program, and will be meeting with her next week. She wanted to have NBMA be the 'referring partner, because, depending on whether Simpson goes with the deal, could mean a tidy amount of cash that could come into the NBMA general fund to be used for scholarships (or anything for that matter). Based on her early estimates of the amount of money that would pass through Simpson's A/P activity, NBMA could receive as much as \$3500 for the referral. NBMA, as an organization, has no obligation to purchase anything or to guarantee that anybody will sign-up. We simply make the introduction for their sales

people. It's a lot like a rewards points program any of us can get through our personal credit cards to the participating clients. So not only does the referring entity get a referral fee, the participating partner earns reward points for dollars spent through the AmX card.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship: The 1st draft of the revised scholarship guidelines has been presented to the NBMA board for approval/revision.

Host Program:

John Bagley from A-Lert Building & Roof Systems conducted a short presentation on their company and divisions. John supplied folders with information on A-Lert and the various divisions.

Featured Program:

Jim Hawkins from Owens Corning presented an overview of Lean Manufacturing. Lean Manufacturing is a continuous improvement process that focuses on reducing/eliminating waste in non-value added steps of the manufacturing processes. Lean Manufacturing needs to start with a culture change in the organization from the top level down. All levels of management and the labor force are continuously involved in the process. Lean Manufacturing is a living program with cyclic training and monitoring of goals.

Jim had a slide presentation which he will be sending to me to distribute to the members.

Chamber Report:

Rusty encouraged everyone to attend the mixer at the Gruene Harley Davidson. The next mixer will be on May 15.

CTTC summer classes are enrolling with 2 for 1 pricing.

Keep up with the discussion started by John Malik and how the schools will affect anything done in workforce development. The 4X4 requirements to graduate, lack of funding for vocational/technical training program offerings in high schools, and the new Achieve Texas program being promoted by TEA and the Texas Workforce Commission. For more information about the Achieve Texas program go to www.achievetexas.org.

CTTC Request:

Buddy Watson from CTTC explained the skills test that he is conducting for MTA students. The skills test comprises design and building of an apparatus to transport an egg over a wall. The students will need to complete the project within prescribed guidelines and budget. Buddy requested from NBMA \$20 per student for 9 students that would be their budget for the project. A vote request was sent out to voting members and passed. NBMA will fund \$180 towards the skills testing.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on May 6. This is the annual joint meeting with San Marcos Manufacturing Association hosted by TXI. The meeting will be held at Texas Ski Ranch in their restaurant called COCONUTZ!! The meeting, supper will be from 5-6:30 pm. The Texas Ski Ranch is on IH 35 just north of the TA Truck stop. Take Exit 193 from New Braunfels and follow the access road to the drive in to the Ski Ranch.

Respectfully submitted: Paul W. Webber, Secretary/Treasurer