



April 17, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Introduction & Opening:

The April meeting was held at Mamacittas and hosted by Cemex. Barry Brittain opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Member companies present were: Ashley Furniture, Cemex, Coleman, Comal ISD, CTTC, Detex, Edisto Business Resources, FedEx Services, Great American Products, Hawkins Personnel, NB Chamber of Commerce, New Braunfels Utilities, Objective Maintenance, Priority Personnel, Star Manufacturing and TXI.

Guests present were: Michael Gilmore and Judge Danny Scheel

Thank you to Cemex for sponsoring the lunch!

Officer Reports:

Barry discussed some proposed by-law changes encompassing the definition of a manufacturer and the ratio of manufacturers to associates (60/40). Since not all voting members can attend the monthly meetings, voting will be conducted through email. The board will send out items for vote and the results will be announced at the monthly meetings. Barry encouraged the members to forward questions and topics that the speakers can address prior to the scheduled meetings. That way, the speaker can come prepared to address the issues and questions that are relevant to the member companies.

Paul provided an update on the organization's finances. There are still some membership dues outstanding, please process those for payment. Hawkins Personnel is sponsoring a hole at the golf tournament.

Committee Reports:

- Membership:
 - o The membership committee has recommended a 60/40 ratio for manufacturer to associate makeup of the organization.
 - o A survey will be sent out to manufacturer members and prospects to determine the issues that the organization needs to address and to help determine the programs for the monthly meetings.
 - o For marketing, the committee is working on ads in the local paper to help promote and raise community awareness of the organization. The committee will be meeting with Doug Toney and have proposals by the next meeting.
 - o A list of prospective members was read and current members volunteered to approach these companies to discuss potential membership.

- Fundraising:
 - o The golf tournament will be on May 19th, 8 a.m. at the Bandit. The tournament will be 4 person scramble.
 - o 2000 Flyers /entry forms were sent out in the Chamber newsletter. Ads will be placed in the newspaper.
 - o The San Marcos Manufacturers Association has been invited to participate in the tournament.
 - o 2 teams have already been signed-up
 - o Contact Lyndon Frame or Tom Brooks to sign up for the tournament.

- Scholarship:
 - o The scholarship committee is waiting for more applicants.
 - o Applications have been given to the schools and are posted on the web-site.

Chamber Report:

Rusty Brockman touched on a number of events and issues that are on the horizon:

- A Manufacturing caucus with Rep. Rose will be held in Austin on 4/19. Rusty will send out details to the members.
- Production Worker Training course is starting at CTTC. This course is running under a DOL grant and is free to the participants.
- There are a couple of prospective companies interested in opening operations at the airport.
- The Moll Building is still available. There are a few manufacturing prospects interested in the facility.
- The chamber is working with universities on a Bio-diesel/ethanol project to get a grant from the department of agriculture. The project would be to create fuel from cedar trees from the area.
- Guadalupe Basin Coalition is working on water issues.

CTTC Report:

Robert Escara from CTTC updated the membership on upcoming programs:

- Production Worker training course will be running mid-May thru the end of June. This is a 120 class hour course. CTTC needs 156 people in the program for the DOL grant to apply. Robert asked members to send people to the class to evaluate so that they can improve and streamline the curriculum.
- CTTC is working with St. Philips College on implementing a Diesel mechanics training program.

Featured Program:

Judge Danny Scheel discussed the growth in Comal County. This is the most important issue in the area. Growth in population is impacting infrastructure, schools, utilities, water and funding. The population in the area is expecting to grow substantially in the near future. A study has been done on an outer loop for New Braunfels to ease congestion on 306 and 46. A portion of the loop may be completed as part of a development north of New Braunfels.

The latest proposed subdivisions are higher density meaning smaller properties. The developers are setting aside “green” space in the developments for conservation. Work will be moving forward on the Creekside development at I35 & FM306. Judge Scheel distributed charts showing the latest subdivisions and developments in the county. Judge Scheel discussed current road improvement projects that are underway or will begin soon.

Judge Scheel asked for our assistance and support in opposing HB3534 which creates appraisal caps and 5% budget increase limits on the county. This bill would limit funding for growth in the county.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10. The meeting will be at 5:30pm at TXI Park. This will be a joint meeting with SMMA. Representatives Patrick Rose and Nathan Macias are scheduled to attend the meeting. Contact Rusty Brockman for reservations.

Respectfully submitted: Paul W. Webber, Secretary/Treasurer