



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 5: ISSUE 3: JUNE 2009

SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE

Mary Roe, Chair

e-mail: maga7roe@yahoo.com

William Armstrong, 1st Vice Chair

e-mail: armstrong@mvn.net

John Alongi, 2nd Vice Chair

e-mail: johnr@alongis.com

Jim McPhail, 3rd Vice Chair

e-mail: jimmpc@4siwi.com

Janice McConnaughy 4th Vice Chair

e-mail: jmcconnaughy@shsdc.org

Kathy Lively, Treasurer

e-mail: kathylively@mantracon.org

Milton Maxwell, Parliamentarian

e-mail: info@siwib.org

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Milton Maxwell, Chair

e-mail: info@siwib.org

Dr. Jack Struck, Vice Chair

e-mail: docstruck1@verizon.net

Business & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

William Armstrong, Chair

e-mail: armstrong@mvn.net

John Hammack, Vice Chair

hammack@midwest.net

ONE-STOP

Alan Summers, Chair

e-mail: alansummers@illinois.gov

Angela Holmes-Young, Vice Chair

e-mail: a-holmes@aisinil.com

WIA POLICY & PLANNING

Michele Rheinecker, Chair

e-mail: michele.rheinecker@
cooperindustries.com

John Alongi, Vice Chair

e-mail: johnr@alongis.com

YOUTH COUNCIL

Tyler Young, Chair

e-mail: tyjr@midwest.net

June Hickey, Vice Chair

e-mail: jhickey@cchs165.jacksn.k12.il.us

Visit our Web site at
www.siwib.org

Local Collaborative Effort Addresses Nursing Shortage in Southern Illinois

BY CARY MINNIS,

HEALTHCARE COORDINATOR, CONNECTSI

The Southern Illinois Online Nursing Initiative (SIONI) is a new full-time, hybrid-online associate degree Nursing program under development that hopes to address the shortage of registered nurses (RNs) in southern Illinois. RNs provide bedside care directly to patients which makes them a critical component of the healthcare system. Unfortunately, there are many challenges affecting the supply of these caregivers, including the lack of faculty, the lack of clinical space, and one factor not typically considered — the out-migration of educated nurses from a region.

Southern Illinois is located near several metropolitan centers such as St. Louis, Paducah, Evansville, and Cape Girardeau — creating greater competition for nurses educated in southern Illinois. Unfortunately, the lure of city life and thoughts of higher wages are often irresistible to some nursing students. These and other factors have resulted in a reduced number of nurses in southern Illinois.

To address the need for registered nurses in southern Illinois, the Connect SI team convened a partnership that included

members from public and private sectors: local healthcare providers, educators, workforce development providers, and several state agencies. The group has worked for over a year to plan and fund solutions that will make a difference in patient care at our local healthcare facilities. As a result, the Southern Illinois Online Nursing Initiative (SIONI) was formed as a possible solution. Tom Blythe, PHR, vice president of Human Resources at St. Mary's Good Samaritan, Inc. said, "We are very excited about our partnership with ConnectSI to promote the development and retention of qualified registered nurses in southern Illinois. As a result of this partnership, we are confident there will be a sufficient number of nurses available to provide excellent patient care to the citizens of southern Illinois in the future."

SIONI is the centerpiece of the region's "Grow Your Own" strategy. SIONI is a hybrid-online associate degree Nursing program that has been designed for working licensed practical nurses (LPN). The goal of this initiative was to develop a program that would provide working (incumbent) nurses who have strong ties to the region an

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SIWIB News is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board and published 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 Chairperson...



MARY ROE

Thanks to each of you for the leadership you provide the Board and your valued work on our committees. It is with your guidance and through your efforts that we continue to lead the State in our mission of providing information and access to the wide variety of workforce development programs and services offered to our citizens and employers in Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, and Williamson counties. THANK YOU for your greatly appreciated contributions!

I also send a very special THANK YOU to the many volunteers who made this year's Tax Counseling Project an enormous success! This tax season the Tax Counseling Project completed over 1,500 returns with refunds totaling over 2.1 million.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is one of the most

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SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board Development Committee

The Board Development Committee met on May 18, 2009. The committee discussed the June SIWIB meeting agenda. The agenda was revised to include a "Reports" category at the suggestion of Kathy Lively who wished to report on the training status and results of dislocated workers enrolled in WIA training and other activities.

Ms. Lively reported on the *SummerWorks* program. To date, 39 worksites have been recruited. Some of the worksites requested several workers at their location. The City of Carbondale, for example, had requested as many as 50 workers. Many cities and park districts are expected to apply as

worksites to get help with cleaning up after the storm damage of May 8th.

The committee discussed Board recertification and the recruitment of new members — especially in the transportation, distribution or warehousing areas. Committee members were asked to submit a list of potential nominees.

The committee discussed and approved the Draft Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2009, and requested that the Board move the annual meeting scheduled for September 17, 2009, to Thursday, September 24, 2009, to facilitate greater attendance.

Chairman Maxwell recognized Dr. Struck's recent birthday and wished him a belated happy birthday! *(Continued on page 3)*

Summer Works Program Update

BY MICHELLE CERUTTI,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MAN-TRA-CON CORPORATION

The 2009 Summer Works experience is underway! The Summer Works experience provides paid work opportunities for a period of six to eight weeks during the summer for area youth 16 to 24 years of age. Placements give young adults an introduction to the world of work, exposure to career opportunities, and an understanding of how education is connected to

economic success. Man-Tra-Con Corporation will pay wages with funds administered through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Youth with a HS Diploma or GED will be paid \$8.00 – \$8.50 per/hr and those with an Associate's Degree or higher will earn \$9.00 per/hr. Man-Tra-Con Corporation will be the employer of *(Continued on page 4)*

Nursing Shortage

(Continued from page 1)

opportunity to advance their education and become an RN. Community colleges working in collaboration with local Workforce Investment Act providers will identify working LPNs who would like to participate in this initiative and be able to negotiate agreements with local healthcare providers to pay a significant portion of their staff's training costs through incumbent worker training

programs. Incumbent worker programs offer employers matching funds to lower the cost of providing education to their employees, which results in higher skilled and more valuable employees.

SIONI is planned to be offered at the six community colleges in the Connect SI region: Frontier Community College, John A. Logan College, Rend Lake College, Shawnee Community College, Southeastern Illinois College, and *(Continued on page 3)*

Message from Our Chairperson...

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significant pieces of legislation passed by Congress in recent history. One very important part of this bill provides for additional funding for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs. In addition to extending the age of WIA eligible youth from 21 to 24 years of age, this bill provides for a summer work program for youth. We have initiated the Summer Works program in response to this legislation. (Additional information about the Summer Works program can be found on pages 2, 4, and 5.)

Mr. Wayne Bigham is our newest addition to the SIWIB. Mr. Bigham is a business representative on the SIWIB. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Du Quoin State Bank and the owner of the *Razor's Edge Barber Shop* in DuQuoin.

Please mark your calendars for the next SIWIB meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2009. ■

Nursing Shortage

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Wabash Valley College. Each participating college plans to accept 10 students this fall to begin the program in spring of 2010, and will share the online curriculum.

Anyone interested in attending should contact their local college and ask about the prerequisites for this program. Employers who are interested in helping their employees pay for the SIONI program through incumbent worker training funds — or anyone interested in additional information — should contact Cary Minnis via email at caryminnis@mantracon.org, or by phone (618) 998-0970, extension 211.

Spotlight On...

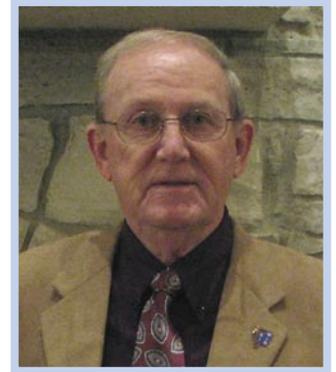
BOARD MEMBER WAYNE BIGHAM

Wayne Bigham was born and raised in Perry County with four sisters and three brothers. After graduating from Pinckneyville High School, he attended Barber College and worked in the profession before being drafted into the United States Army. Wayne was honorably discharged in October of 1963. Following his military service, Wayne returned to open his own barber shop in Du Quoin and retired from the profession in 2005. In addition to his career as a barber, Wayne worked as a referee for high school football and basketball games from 1963 until 1999. His work as a referee included three state high school basketball finals in Champaign and five state high school football finals.

Wayne has been a member of the Du Quoin business community for thirty-four years. He has worked as a barber, referee, and has served on his church council. Wayne currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Du Quoin State Bank.

Wayne also found time to get involved in local politics. He was first elected Du Quoin City Commissioner for two terms, and then elected Perry County Commissioner for two terms. In addition, he served as Chairman for five years while he was a County Commissioner. Wayne has also served on the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission, the Perry County Housing Board, the Perry County Health Board, and two terms as Chairman of the Chief Local Elected Officials of local workforce investment area #25.

Wayne married his wife Charlene in November 1963, and raised their daughter Rhonda in Du Quoin. Today, after forty-six years of marriage, they are the proud grandparents of one grandson age 15 and a granddaughter age 11, who live in Chesterfield, Missouri. ■



WAYNE BIGHAM

SIWIB Committee Project Overview

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Business & Economic Development Committee

Since the last issue of SIWIB News was published, the committee has met on April 28, May 5, and May 28, 2009. The following is a summary of those meetings.

At the April 28th meeting, Chairman Armstrong introduced our newest member, Rex Cusumano. Mr. Cusumano is a business representative on the Southern Illinois

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Business & Economic Development

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Workforce Investment Board. He is currently Chairman of the Downtown Development and Secretary of the Jefferson County Development Corporation (JCDC), a member of the Red Cross Board and CEO of Cusumano & Sons and Cusumano Construction in Mt. Vernon. Chairman Armstrong welcomed Rex to the group, stating that his insight and knowledge will be very beneficial to the committee.

The committee also discussed marketing Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) and On-the-Job (OJT) Training programs, with plans to target Human Resource departments. The committee agreed that all public relations forums and marketing opportunities should be pursued. The group discussed plans to seek assistance from SIPMA and SIERRA associations for mailing

lists, presentation opportunities, and hosting information on their respective Web sites. The committee also plans to participate in Chamber of Commerce e-blasts, speaking events and/or promotional letters.

At the May 5th meeting, the committee approved updates to the Incumbent Worker Policy. The former policy had expiration dates which were removed. The current policy will not have ending dates but will include language based on program funding availability. The word "pilot" was removed from the document. Five industry categories were added to the list to include businesses in Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas Extraction; Construction; Information, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Administrative Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services.

At the May 28th meeting, the committee evaluated IWT applications from The Noteworthy Group, Professional Cleaning

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Services (PCS) and Midwest Internet Consulting Group, Inc.

The Noteworthy Group is applying for assistance to train two employees in CAD Design and CRM Operator software. The committee voted to table the application until the next meeting when they can speak with the employer about the credentials of the person who would be doing the in-house training.

Professional Cleaning Services (PCS) is requesting assistance with training employees for a new department they are creating within their company. PCS has been awarded a contract to service a local healthcare provider with their linen requirements. The company has purchased new equipment in order to provide this service and they plan to train sixteen current employees to learn the concepts of becoming Certified Washroom Technicians (CWT's). This training also includes OSHA standards for Blood Borne Pathogen Training and Linen rules. This will allow the employer to train existing staff and hire approximately five more employees in the future. The committee approved the application in the amount of \$4,000.

Midwest Internet Consulting Group Inc., d/b/a The School Center, has applied for assistance with Crystal Reports Training. The company is eligible to request 75% reimbursement on this training. Two employees, the Accounting Department Manager and the MIS Specialist, will receive training through a correspondence course on June 15 -17, 2009. The cost of the training is \$1,350. The committee approved the application in the amount of \$1,050.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2009, at 4:30 p.m., prior to the full board meeting.

WIA Policy & Planning Committee

The committee met on May 13, 2009, to review and revise policies for adult and dislocated workers, to be in compliance with the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and state policy. The following policy changes were recommended to the committee:

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Summer Works Program Update

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record and will provide worker's compensation insurance. The process began on May 1, 2009 and will end on September 30, 2009. We have received 39 employer worksite applications and over 700 youth participant applications to date. However, there is only enough funding to serve 400 youth. As a result, we are currently only accepting worksite applications from potential employers.

The placement of workers is expected to begin the week of June 15th.

We are in need of more worksites! If you are interested in becoming a worksite, please contact Roxanne Brewer-Coffey at 618-998-0970, extension 271, and visit our Web site at www.ManTraCon.org for information and application forms. ■

SUMMER WORKS PROGRAM SUMMARY

COUNTY	WORKSITES	POSITIONS	PARTICIPANTS AVAILABLE TO FUND
Franklin	12	72	62
Jackson	19	79	137
Jefferson	11	27	55
Perry	8	17	42
Williamson	19	55	104
TOTAL	69	250	400

WIA Policy & Planning Committee

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Needs Related Payments (NRP) Policy

The ARRA encourages the establishment of policies that assure needs-related payments are available when necessary to adult and dislocated workers to allow participation in a training program. The committee recommended limiting NRP obligations to a specific budget amount.

The following basic criteria were recommended to the committee for NRP customers:

Basic Eligibility Criteria

- ◆ Must be enrolled in training full-time, making satisfactory progress (C average).
- ◆ Must meet income guidelines — total family income (all sources) less than Lower Living Standard Income level. (Ex. A family of 4 / \$33,298)
- ◆ Must complete "Financial Need Statement." Monthly expenses must exceed income by \$100.
- ◆ Eligibility will be determined bi-weekly via income statement.

Establishing Payment Levels (after eligibility has been met)

- ◆ Individuals who were receiving UI will continue to receive payments at the same level as the UI benefit.
- ◆ For individuals who did not qualify for or receive UI, payment levels will be determined based on the Poverty Guidelines/52 weeks. (Ex. A family of four would receive \$407.69 per month.)

Local & Out-of-Area Job Search Policy Changes

- ◆ Each customer will receive a limit of \$1,250 in assistance for local and out-of-area job search. (No limit was in effect prior to the change.)
- ◆ Job search outside of our local workforce area will be paid at current GSA rate per mile.

Individual Training Account (ITA) Policy

- ◆ Increase tuition & fees to \$10,000 per year when a customer is attending a four-year institution or university.
- ◆ Extend assistance beyond a two-year limit if training is for a high-growth,

in-demand occupation, and if funds are available. (Must have prior approval.)

Note: The former policy had allowed for payment of tuition and fees up to \$4,000 for a one-year program, and \$8,000 for a two- to three-year program. This was enough to cover costs at community colleges, but not universities such as SIU.

The committee approved all recommended policy revisions listed above.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met on March 18, 2009, and approved the contractors' year-round reports.

The SIWIB approved the Youth Council's recommendations regarding the Summer Works program. In accordance with WIA guidelines, the Summer Works program must serve a minimum of 30% of out of school youth to meet its work readiness performance measure requirement. The same methodology utilized to determine WIA funding allocations was used to determine the job slots assigned for each county. (See Summer Works Program Summary chart on page 4.)

Flyers were created and distributed to solicit worksites and youth participants. Applications for both youth participants and employer worksites are available on the Man-Tra-Con Web site. Copies of youth pre-application forms are also available at local Boys and Girls Clubs, area high schools and other youth organizations. Youth interviews are being held at Man-Tra-Con offices in each of the five counties. Participants will be selected on a "first-come, first-served" basis and veterans will be given preference.

Dorothy Porter was hired as Coordinator for the Summer Works program. Four candidates for the Summer Works Specialist position have been interviewed to date. A need for eight or nine Summer Works Specialists in total is anticipated. One specialist will be located at Man-Tra-Con offices in Franklin, Jefferson and Perry counties and two specialists will be located at Man-Tra-Con offices in Williamson and Jackson counties.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 16, 2009

One-Stop Committee
8:00 a.m. at the
One-Stop Business
& Employment Center in
Marion, Illinois

JUNE 17, 2009

**Chief Local
Elected Officials**
11:30 a.m. at the
Man-Tra-Con office in
West Frankfort, Illinois

JUNE 18, 2009

**Business & Economic
Development Committee**
4:30 p.m. at the
Family Opportunity
Center in
DuQuoin, Illinois

**Southern Illinois Workforce
Investment Board**
5:30 p.m. at the
Family Opportunity
Center in
DuQuoin, Illinois

JULY 8, 2009

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

**For more information about
upcoming SIWIB meetings visit:**
[http://www.siwib.org/
displaymeetings.asp](http://www.siwib.org/displaymeetings.asp)

Man-Tra-Con has disbursed \$194,281 in direct youth participant payments to date for this program year.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2009, at the Man-Tra-Con office in Marion, beginning at 4:00 p.m. A call-in number will continue to be offered for those members unable to physically attend the session. ■