



# SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 3: ISSUE 6: AUGUST 2007

## SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

### EXECUTIVE

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**Rodney Cabaness, 2nd Vice Chair**  
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**John Alongi, 3rd Vice Chair**  
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**Michele Rheinecker, 4th Vice Chair**  
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**Kathy Lively, Vice Chair**  
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**John Hammack, Vice Chair**  
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**Angela Holmes-Young, Vice Chair**  
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### WIA POLICY & PLANNING

**Michele Rheinecker, Chair**  
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**Vice Chair**  
To be elected

### YOUTH COUNCIL

**Tyler Young, Chair**  
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**June Hickey, Vice Chair**  
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Visit our web site at  
[www.siwib.org](http://www.siwib.org)

## Connect SI

Connect SI, a collaborative, regional economic strategy for the southern 20 counties of Illinois, was launched in 2006. The initiative is built upon broadband connectivity, with the concept that our dispersed assets can be connected to make our region a driving force in the world economy. The goal of the project is to produce measurable, transformative, and sustainable results that will allow southern Illinois to thrive rather than simply survive.

The leaders of Connect SI, in conjunction with over 1,000 volunteers have worked diligently to establish region-wide interest in the initiative and to change the way the region works collaboratively to improve the economy of southern Illinois. The adopted slogan "Crossing the Boundaries" signifies that all things are possible when people are willing to collaborate. When competing in today's knowledge-based, global economy, the competition is no longer the next county or the bordering state. When competing with foreign countries or regions of the world, individual communities or counties are nearly powerless. Using high speed broadband infrastructure to connect our assets allows southern Illinois to be viewed as one, sizeable community, enabling the area to compete on a larger scale.

Connect SI has raised more than \$1.2 million in cash and in-kind contributions from private, not-for-profit institutions and local municipalities. This unparalleled level of collaborative investment has been matched by \$540,000 in state and federal funds.

At a news conference held on July 16, 2007, the announcement was made that Man-Tra-Con, led by Kathy Lively, will assume primary management of this initiative — providing human services and administrative support. Connect SI has addressed critical segments and strategic issues such as broadband access, global competitiveness, healthcare, and transportation. It is spurring the growth of knowledge-based employment opportunities and enterprises in southern Illinois through access to broadband Internet technology. Healthcare is the leading industry in the movement, and the ultimate goal is to create a prosperous, sustained local economy that can compete in the global market.

The goals for Connect SI are implemented by Communities of Interest (COI) organized around four economic sub-regions of southern Illinois — Greater Wabash, Greater Egypt, Southern 5, and

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of you for the trust and confidence you have shown by re-electing me your Chairman for another term. A special "Thank you" to the board officers, John Rendleman, Mary Roe, John Alongi and Rodney Cabaness for their dedicated service and leadership last year. Officers for the new year are: Mary Roe - First Vice Chair, Rodney Cabaness - Second Vice Chair, John Alongi - Third Vice Chair and Michele Rheinecker - Forth Vice Chair. I also wish to thank P. E. Cross, Patricia Drake, Mary Roe, Alan Summers and Gail West for their work on the Ad Hoc Nomination Committee.

I thought you would be interested in the progress of two of our recent major dislocation events, Whirlpool/Maytag and Technicolor Universal Media Services (TUMS). There were 862 displaced workers at Whirlpool/Maytag enrolled in our TAA system. Of these affected workers 30% were women and 70% were men. Three percent of the workers had not received a GED or a high school diploma. Twenty five percent of those enrolled in TAA were reported to have low TABE scores. Seventy two percent of those enrolled are age fifty or older with 14% of them attending school. A total of 450 workers are enrolled in school. The

*(Continued on page 3)*

## SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

### One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee met on July 16, 2007 at the Marion Man-Tra-Con office. The main purpose for this meeting was to review nominees encompassing four award categories and make recommendations on those candidates to submit at the state level. Two new nominees for the Innovative Solutions category included Connect SI and the Transition Team. The previous nominee, Williamson County Regional Airport, was also acknowledged. The Committee concurred the new nominees should be the two selected for consideration and submission to the state Workforce Conference.

Continental Tire of North America was the only nominee received for the Business Leadership Award. Melanie Turner was selected as the Individual Achievement Award nominee to be sent to the state. The Committee agreed she personifies an individual that has made the "entire journey" in her training and career path by exhibiting fortitude that's reflected in positive end results. Alan Summers praised all the nominees for their hard work and perseverance. Kathy Lively suggested

giving recognition for all nominees at the September Board meeting. By doing so, nominees and their families can be acknowledged and honored in a comfortable, casual atmosphere.

The new Journey Award had two nominees proposed for consideration. The Committee chose John Ogden for submission to the state. Kathy Lively praised John's empathetic approach to his customers. In summary, the following will be submitted to the Workforce Conference: Connect SI, the Transition Team, Continental Tire of North America, Melanie Turner, and John Ogden.

Zina Nolen announced the board approved the proposed Illinois workNet logo. Kathy Lively confirmed that a letter of intent had been received in the amount of \$75,000 to purchase marketing materials necessary for the rebranding effort. The Committee requested that Zina investigate signage and solicit pricing. Discussions are still occurring regarding the Mt. Vernon One-Stop and appropriate signage.

The September meeting agenda will include a discussion on the designation of Comprehensive One-Stop Centers and affiliate sites. ■

### Connect SI

*(Continued from page 1)*

Southeastern, as well as region-wide COI of healthcare providers and broadband network providers. Since Connect SI is about enabling all of southern Illinois to have access to broadband communications even in

remote areas, the exciting news that service will now be available for citizens of Omaha, Ridgeway, Cairo, Mt. Carmel, Albion and Fairfield through Ridgeview Telecommunications and New Wave Communications was released to the media July 27, 2007.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Connect SI

(Continued from page 2)

The work of Connect SI has helped put southern Illinois back in the spotlight at the state and national level. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the state and federal representatives serving this region have all taken a renewed interest with this grassroots effort to improve the economy of southern Illinois. Connect SI with Man-Tra-Con's involvement certainly has the potential to lift southern Illinois out of the current state of economic distress and to invigorate the regional economy. For more information, visit [www.connectsi.us](http://www.connectsi.us). ■

## Message from Our Chairman

(Continued from page 2)

top training programs included industrial technician (HVAC and heavy equipment/automotive), health/medical fields, business/tourism/marketing, electronics/manufacturing/drafting, information technology/computer support, tooling/welding, criminal justice/corrections, construction trades and truck driving. An additional one hundred individuals have already acquired other employment.

At TUMS there were 820 dislocated workers enrolled in our TAA system. Forty seven percent of those enrolled were women while 53% were men. Three percent of the employees had no high school diploma or GED. Only 8% of the TUMS workforce had low TABE test scores. Twenty five percent of the workers were age fifty or older and 5% of these workers returned to school. As of last month 228 individuals were enrolled in training programs. The most popular training programs were healthcare related — health information technology, medical transcription, dental hygienist, etc. Top

(Continued on page 4)

## Spotlight On...

### BOARD MEMBER KATHY LIVELY

## This month's issue of SIWIB News recognizes and congratulates Kathy Lively!

Kathy received the John A. Logan College Distinguished Alumnus Award on May 11, 2007 and was a nominee for the Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award. She was honored at the ICCTA Awards Banquet in Chicago on June 8, 2007. This honor symbolizes the accomplishments of those individuals who graduated from Illinois' community colleges more than five years ago.



Kathy Lively, left, receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award from John A. Logan College President Robert Mees.

Currently the Executive Director of Man-Tra-Con Corporation, Kathy was previously Associate Dean of Adult Basic/Secondary Education at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois.

Kathy received her Associate of Science degree from JALC in 1977. She also holds two degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale: Bachelor of Science in English (Secondary Education Certification), and Master of Science in Education (Workforce Education and Development).

During her 19 years at JALC, she chaired several statewide adult education groups, including the Illinois Adult and Continuing Education Association. In her current role, she continues to improve the quality of life in southern Illinois by working with her alma maters to bring economic growth to the region. "The community college system in Illinois has shaped my life in many wonderful ways," says Lively. "It is difficult to imagine my life without the influence of the community college."

Kathy recently graduated from the Delta Regional Authority Advanced Leaders Program, to which she was nominated by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. She is an advisory group member of the Williamson County Regional Development Corporation (REDCO), a board member of the Jefferson County Development Corporation, an active member of several local Chambers of Commerce, and an Executive Committee Member of the

(Continued on page 4)



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800B  
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## **INSIDE:**

- **Connect SI**
- **Message from Our Chairman**
- **Committee Report**
- **Spotlight On...  
Board Member Kathy Lively**

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

### **Spotlight on Kathy Lively**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Kathy is also the Executive Director of the Connect SI project with ViTAL Economy and the SIUC President's Office.

In addition to her professional activities, Kathy remains active in her home community of Herrin. Her involvement includes volunteer worker for the Herrin Football League and the Tiger Booster Club, the athletic director of a local school, and Youth Director and Council member of her local parish. She has also been a board member of the Herrin Junior Ball League.

Kathy and her husband Randy are the proud parents of two, both of whom attended John A. Logan College. In addition to her many professional and community activities, Kathy spends time with her two grandchildren. ■

### **Message from Our Chairman**

*(Continued from page 3)*

training programs included business (office and tourism), industrial technician (HVAC and heavy equipment/automotive), and construction.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting. ■

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

AUGUST 24, 2007

**Board Development Meeting**

12:00 noon at  
Alongi's Restaurant  
18 West Main Street  
DuQuoin, Illinois

AUGUST 29, 2007

**WIA Policy & Planning Meeting**

11:00 a.m. at the  
Marion One-Stop Business  
& Employment Center

*Have a  
Wonderful Labor  
Day Weekend!*