

Minutes

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance Meeting

June 10, 2015

1:30 to 3:00 PM

NWTC Green Bay Campus – BA101 Classroom

Type of Meeting:	Steering Committee
Note Taker:	Debbie Thompson
Attendees:	Bill Behme -Bay Shipbuilding, Jerry Clusen -Navy League, Josh Delforge -Marquis Yachts, Joe Draves -NWTC, Jeff Frank -Ace Marine, Dave Geitner -NWTC, Heidi Mitchell -Fincantieri, Ann Franz and Debbie Thompson

AGENDA TOPICS

PARTICIPANT(S)

MEMBER & SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Ann will be participating on the [NSRP Risk Management Panel](#) in New Orleans on June 24-25. Members are encouraged to contact her if they have safety related items they would like to get funding for. A follow-up report will be given at the August meeting.
- Marquis is currently focusing on designing and engineering a new 50' Carver, in addition to redoing a 72' Marquis. VanDutch business has been reconciled and is situated. The organization has experienced an uptake in big boat business and will be having an onsite job fair tonight. Some of the positions being recruited include; manufacturing, trades, cabinet installers, and laminators. Marquis, utilizing local talent, has hired a Pulaski High School engineering student for a summer intern position.
- Ace Marine is currently building MMC modules for the LCS. They are building 9 of the 11 modules, plus the mast. The organization has seen nice performance improvements with the last couple of vessel builds. They are still one of the final candidates for a Coast Guard multiple facility award and are awaiting notification. The organization has a plan in place if designated the award. They currently have 50 employees but will be adding 15 to 20 workers, mostly welders and mechanical people, if awarded the contract.
- Bay Shipbuilding has signed 11 new vessels, with one delivered and 10 to go. They have been adding staff due to attrition/retirements and new business. Winter work has already been filling up the yards. A lot of their new business has come from the Gulf Coast and Eastern Seaboard for tug and barge combinations. The companies are pleased with Bay Shipbuilding's work ethic, craftsmanship, and efficiency. Bill shared that a video was recently created that highlights living and working in Sturgeon Bay.
- a) NWTC just started the summer semester. A summer welding class is being planned. Marine program welding students are also taking other welding classes, giving them extra skills and safety knowledge. Ten students will be graduating in October. They are also looking to get some other programs started. b) Green Bay campus marine and welding enrollments are currently ahead of last year. Marinette will be doing some marketing to increase their enrollments, but have traditionally experienced later enrollments. c) As NWTC is developing their 2nd marine program technical diploma, industry employees are able to take NWTC classes, with some of the program requirements waived based on completed training. d) Another goal is to provide the marine program in Sturgeon Bay so it is offered on all three campuses, including online classes. e) Student plant tours are encouraged and have been successful in sparking interest. f) High school students are able to take NWTC classes; however, there are limited amount of instructors that can teach an intermediate classes in the high schools.
- MMC is christening and launching an LCS in July.

SEAPERCH COMPETITION

The first-ever local SeaPerch competition was held on May 9 at Edison Middle School. The event was a great learning experience and prompted plans for next year's competition. The Sea Cadets, Marinette Middle School, and Leonardo da Vinci School students participated. More girls than boys competed. Dave Geitner and his NWTC students were recognized for their work and enthusiasm in building the obstacle course and judging the competition. Plans for the next event are:

- Ron Tupper will be giving Ann the event video in September. The video can be sent to local schools to spark interest.
- Depending upon the level of participants, possibly build two courses.
- Run events concurrently to save time.

- Hold the event on two weekends if needed.
- Identify the schools and number of kits needed.
- Schedule the event for February 2016.
- Provide clipboards for the judges.

Jerry Clusen reported the U.S. Navy Reserve Centennial is scheduled for July 25, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc (see attachment). Jerry will be providing a Sea Cadet display and a STEM/SeaPerch exhibit with information and photos. Ann will be sending Jerry the SeaPerch photos and a logo.

NCMMA COLLEGE OUTREACH

- The NWTC welding club recently toured Ace Marine, Bay Shipbuilding, and Palmer Johnson. Jon Russell, NWTC welding instructor, led the group. Members reported the tours were a great success and allowed them to showcase their business. The students were very respectful and seemed to benefit from the experience. Student transportation was paid using NCMMA membership dues. Joe reported the NWTC welding club is recognized as the largest student welding club in the U.S.
- On the agenda for spring 2016 will be to visit colleges/universities outside of Wisconsin to recruit graduates. The tour may include a job fair at the College of DuPage in Illinois. Bill Behme shared that ETI School of Skilled Trades, Willowbrook, IL, is sending an instructor to Bay Shipbuilding to learn what their students may be needing in additional skills.
- October is manufacturing month. Ann gets numerous requests to coordinate plant tours. Please contact her if your organization would like to provide a plant tour.

FAST FORWARD GRANT (FFG)

The FFG is available for a new round of grant opportunities to train incumbent workers or provide training for job seekers. Bay Shipbuilding and Marinette Marine have taken advantage of the FFG. Bill shared that Bay will be training in June with another group training in July. They have experienced a great cost savings for training their incumbent workers. Ann reported new grant applications must be providing a different type of training than what was funded by past grants.

Congressman Reid Ribble is partnering on a federal grant that designates ten colleges in the country to expand marine manufacturing workforce training and job placement. Some of the funding will go towards recruitment. NWTC is interested in participating in this grant. Alliance members agreed to each write a letter of support for NWTC to receive this grant. A template of the letter of support will be sent to the marine builders in the near future.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

SeaKeepers produces marine stabilizers and is located in Maryland. Members unanimously approved their Associate membership. Ann will arrange to have the \$750 invoice sent to the company.

PLAN NEXT STEPS AND MEETING

The next NCMMA Steering Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Palmer Johnson is tentatively set as the location to host the meeting, finalization of meeting location will be sent to members in July. Agenda items include member updates, SeaPerch, job fairs, FFG, and a college recruitment update.