

**North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance
Steering Committee Meeting | via Microsoft Teams
April 10, 2024 | 8:30 AM**

ATTENDEES: Jerry Clusen-Navy League, Kevin Cullen-WI Maritime Museum, Josh Delforge-Cruisers Yachts, Ann Franz-NCMMA, Jim Draeger-NWTC, Chris Nielsen-FMG, Dennis Rockhill-Einstein Project, Debbie Thompson-NWTC

RECAP: SEAPERCH REGIONAL COMPETITION

Saturday, February 17, 2024 | 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM | at Ashwaubenon Community Pool

All 20 teams that registered participated. Aldo Leopold students took first place, while Washington Island teams won second and third place. First and second place finishers will be attending the National SeaPerch Competition at the University of Maryland on May 31 and June 1, 2024.

It was agreed that February is a good time to hold the NCMMA SeaPerch competition. March has a lot of spring breaks, while April is getting to be too late in the year. In September, Ann will schedule the February 2025 competition at the Ashwaubenon Community Pool, as their school schedules will be more established by then.

For 2025, Dennis suggested posting some signs encouraging attendees in the stands to remain seated during the competitions, as some of the attendees that were sitting had their view blocked. Ann suggested also making announcements regarding the viewing area.

PLAN: ASSOCIATE MEMBER EVENT

The event will be held on September 10, 2024 at Cruisers Yachts in Pulaski, WI. Boat builders will be asked to complete a survey in August, with the results sent to associate members. This will give suppliers a better understanding of who and what they should bring to the event.

Survey questions for boat builders will be finalized at the June 12 meeting.

1. *How do you rate your current suppliers / partners for the following products / services?*
2. *Over the next 12 months, does your company anticipate any of the following changes to staff levels?*
3. *Over the next 12 months, does your company have any of the following initiatives planned?*
4. *Does your company have any plans for new training initiatives?*
5. *Within your purchasing department, are there any current or upcoming needs?*
6. *Does your company have any upcoming facility projects?*
7. *Does your company have any plans for process improvement projects?*

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Jim Draeger reported NWTC is working to raise community awareness regarding the need for marine industry welders. A ‘welding rodeos’ soft launch was done in Marinette and is aimed at increasing enrollments. Ann hopes to have more in the works soon regarding recruiting / retaining people to work in the area, including those transitioning out of the military. Electrical skills and leadership trainings are needed.

Chris Nielsen shared there is recently released congressional funding for talent recruitment. “We have a really good working wheel, so how do we *improve what we already have in place* with NWTC, NEWMA, etc.” said Chris. A grant writer, fiscal agent (owner) for the funding is needed. Retention and training are two major areas funding needs to be directed, while outside sources need to be educated. More to come.

UPCOMING NEWMA EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

April 23 - Hiring & Retaining Correctional System/Justice Served Individuals, 12:00 to 1:00 PM, [REGISTER](#)

April 25 - Brown County 12th Grade Student Job Fair at NWTC’s Green Bay Campus

May 1 - Future of Work: Mental Health in the Workplace at FVTC, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, [REGISTER](#)

May 30 - Industry 4.0 Tours & Dialogue for College Faculty at Johnsonville's Tailgate Village, 1:15 to 3:00 PM

June 5 – President's Cup Scholarship Golf Scramble at Blackwolf Run

June 6 - Quarterly Membership Meeting at Lambeau Field - 4th Floor, 1:15 to 3:00 PM

NEXT MEETING

The next NCMMA meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2024, 8:30 a.m. at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc. After the meeting, there will be optional tours of the Museum and Maritime Heritage Center.