

**Full Board Meeting**  
**ZOOM**  
**Friday, January 15, 2021**  
**8:30 AM-9:30 AM**

**Committee Members Present:**

Beth Bowers, Mike Choquette, Barb Schram, Amy Turner, Gary Scalzo, Emily Arthur, Franca Armstrong, Robert Brenchley, James DeLude, Samantha DiRiso, Mike Messersmith, Allene Monaghan, Alice Savino, Julie Synakowski, Karin Piseck, David Mathis, Scott Ingmire, Terry Humpries, Annette Janucik, Ellen Bowe, Phil Martini, Mellissa Burns, Cheryl Blask, and Colleen Fahy-Box,

**Call to order:**

Beth Bowers welcomed everyone and introductions at 8:34 AM

Minutes/Financial report November, 2020 approved M/S.....Barb Schram, Samantha DiRiso

**Operator Search & RFP**

Operator group was Colleen Fahy-Box, Amy Turner, Judy Petroski and Kathleen Rinaldo. Judy and Kathleen retired and due to the heavy workload caused by the pandemic it is not possible to continue under the current structure. A proposal & draft RFP were sent to the board. There has been some interest from people to send in proposals. The Operator will act as a liaison between the Board and the Centers and is required under WIOA.

Approval of RFP M/S..... Gary Scalzo, Amy Turner

**Update on MOU**

Operator meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 1/21 @ 9:00, need to get signatures by 2/26 deadline.

**Report on Remington services & status**

Karin Piseck from Herkimer Working Solutions has been working with the Remington employees that have been laid off regarding the Trade Act eligibility. Please refer to "Remington Arms Report" handout.

- They've met with 2 groups a day up to 12/22 to inform them of benefits available through the Trade Act.
- Karin joined the Union FB page to post and communicate with employees.
- Portal added on the Working Solutions site with information, Q&A, YouTube video of Karin covering all the information from the group meetings for those that couldn't attend.
- Training benefit, about 100 taking advantage, going up every day. Up to 2 years, \$20K in training benefit.
- Anyone over 50 years old, if they take another job and make less, apply to Trade Act to receive ½ of difference paid back.

- New company, RemArms – Karin invited to a meeting with new company next week. 200 letters from RemArms offering employment starting 2/14 or 2/15.
- Herkimer staff has been working very hard with all the employees, writing resumes, job search, help with school, contracts for training, info on Trade Act.
- Great feedback from the employees. Mostly Herkimer County, Terry's working with Oneida County, not many from Madison.
- Some of the training includes Truck Driving CDLA, CNC/welding, Supply Chain Mgmt, Medical Coding, HVAC, Carpentry, Health Service Mgmt, Quality Assurance, HR Mgmt, all jobs that are in this area.
- Messages to employees are usually through the portal if employer is interested in them.

## **WANTO Grant**

Rochelle Ferro will discuss her new WANTO Apprenticeship grant at the March Board meeting.

## **Center Updates**

**Madison** - Tom Reichel retired, Scott will remain Director, Ellen is managing the center and they are recruiting for new Manager. Office is not open currently, closed in December, hoping to reopen 1/19 for appointment only. 50% staff for a few weeks and then full staff after.

**Rome** – Never opened since pandemic, working full speed from home and back to center 5/18, redesigned the center to use resource center and 1 on 1 counseling. Working over phone and zoom is working well. Range of customers, some are ready to return to work. They've helped Remington people also, over 100 are Oneida County residents. Currently assisting 20 people with training. Lot of employees are looking to advance their skills, taking advantage of MVCC programs/training. Also have done OJT, reimburse employers 50% of wages for up to 6 months so they can start working right away. Beaton, Revere, Worthington and other employers in Rome have been hiring.

## **New Business**

Franca Armstrong – Job Corp grant from US DOL, pilot project, Job Corp Scholars, 1 year certificate, 17-24 years of age, City of Utica resident, income eligible. Certificates in mechatronics, welding, carpentry/masonry starting February, May, August. Still room in February. Pays for all tuition, fees, meals, bus passes. Franca to send Mike more info on welding standards. Hope to open to other counties, other cities other than Utica.

Cree is still trying to fill a lot of openings, first go to Albany for 6 months and return to area. Only hiring for management positions now. Giotto Enterprises has a lot of openings. Labor pool has decreased, some due to unemployment benefits but a lot due to staying home with children.

**Next Executive Committee meeting February 12, 2021**

**Next Board meeting March 12, 2021**

Adjournment at 9:04am: .....M/S.....Mike Choquette, Robert Brenchley