

Rockford Chamber of Commerce Manufacturers Council Action Plan 2009

Chamber of Commerce Mission Statement

Leading. Business. Growth. The Rockford Chamber of Commerce delivers benefit to the community by leading in the promotion of economic growth, advocating for the interests of business, and providing service and educational opportunities that help our members grow.

Manufacturers Council Vision Statement

The mission of the Manufacturers Council is to ensure the vital role of manufacturing in the Rock River Valley

Purpose and Primary Role

The Manufacturers Council serves manufacturers in the Rock River Valley as a vehicle for direct action improving the business climate, one that improves our competitiveness and profitability in regional, national and international markets. This Action Plan outlines the specific goals, strategies and tactics to fulfill this primary role.

Goals

To develop and continuously improve a range of services for existing manufacturers, assisting their expansion into new markets, advancing their technologies, improving the manufacturing business climate and attracting new manufacturing and support service investments.

Objective 1:
**Market the Region's Manufacturing Capabilities,
internally and externally to the Region.**

1. Coordinate the 7th Annual Rock River Valley Manufacturers Appreciation Dinner & Conference in March 2009 focused on the advocacy, recognition and appreciation of member manufacturers.
Goal: 550 Attendees

2. Host two Manufacturers Council events with an emphasis on industry related conferences and business opportunities for growth and productivity.
Goal: 100 attendees

3. Research and develop Manufacturing database of our members on the Chamber's website.

4. Facilitate collaboration between the Manufacturers Council and the region's nonprofit organizations that provide service to manufacturers in an effort to create an understanding of the types of services offered. Continue workforce initiative with Regional Collaboration for Workforce Development and Fulfillment.
Goal: Increased utilization of available programs

5. Support and promote possible manufacturing trade missions.

Objective 2
Improve the Business Climate

1. Actively advocate for continued or increased funding for government programs that directly benefit manufacturing.
Goal: Continue grass roots lobbying support for the Eiger Lab, the Belvidere Ag Tech Park, IMEC, Opportunity Returns and similar projects and programs. Work with RAEDC to create marketing opportunities outside of the Rock River Valley.

2. Maintain relationships with elected officials and candidates for public office to make the case for manufacturing in the Rock River Valley, while promoting the Chamber's Manufacturing Policy Agenda to lawmakers at all levels.
Goal: Advocate, respond to, and develop legislation through the Chamber's Government Affairs Council.

3. Increase Chamber membership of manufacturing companies.
Goal: Currently 160 manufacturing members, grow to 185

4. Annually survey Chamber member manufacturers to assist in the development of future products, services and initiatives of the Chamber's Manufacturers Council.

5. Develop a monthly guest column for the Voice.

Objective 3

Improve Education Opportunities and Workforce

1. Develop programs for high school students that will provide career opportunities in manufacturing.
Goal: Develop job fairs, job shadowing, internships, robotics teams, and encourage manufacturers to speak in schools.

2. Organize annual trip of regional high school students to attend the International Manufacturing Technology Show in Chicago or FABTech.
Goal: 200 kids attend show

3. Support the RAEDC monthly manufacturing section in the Chamber's monthly newspaper, the Voice, by providing industry-oriented information, regarding manufacturing and suggesting meaningful topics for articles and columns.
Goal: Monthly column

4. Host monthly meetings with educators and manufacturers to provide a communication link for workforce pipeline program development.

5. Identify an ongoing vocational training program in coordination with the local school districts.

6. Work with regional educational organizations to develop programs.

7. Promote and assist with Charter School development.

Support MCSC Subcommittees:

- Education Outreach to explore recommendations with K-12 and higher education leadership
- Annual Manufacturers Appreciation Dinner, Expo & Conference
- International Trade in coordination with existing Chamber of Commerce resources
 - i. Certificate of Origin Program

Organization:

The Manufacturers Council is guided by a Steering Committee of manufacturing members with liaison representatives from participants who are engaged in task force activities supporting the Steering Committee.

Task Forces will be appointed from time to time to study issues and opportunities, and to develop ideas and recommendations for the Steering Committee. Liaison representatives to the Steering Committee may include a mix of manufacturers, educators, non-profits and others whose services and ideas are important to the manufacturing business climate.

The Steering Committee is responsible for determining and communicating the needs and opportunities to assist area manufacturers, both within the Chamber and from other groups providing support programs and services to manufacturers. The Steering Committee will fully engage and provide guidance and advocacy on issues critically affecting the success and growth of manufacturing throughout the area.

The Chair of the Steering Committee will appoint the liaison representatives to the Steering Committee for the terms of their task force service, or for annual terms as shall be specified. The Steering Committee will meet monthly until satisfied that less frequent meetings are sufficient. The Steering Committee may convene nonprofit and government organizations providing services to manufacturers, for purposes of briefing them and/or networking with them in a collegial environment.

Council Steering Committee Chairman:

Tom McDunn

Manufacturing Educational Outreach Chairman:

Everett Hawkins

Technology Committee Chairman:

John Oller, KI Machine

Staff:

Mindy Shockley, Rockford Chamber of Commerce

Council Steering Committee:

Bob Trojan, Rockford Linear Actuation

Larry Bull, Ettco

Dennis Johnson, Ettco

Melesia Boyer, Safeway

Saba Jaffery, Hamilton Sundstrand

Skip Trotter, Trotter Machine

Pat Lee, FMA

Jeff Sherman

Fred Young, Forest City Gear

Teresa Beach-Shelow, Superior Joining Technology

Mike Molander, KI Machine

Mark Reichardt, Thermo Fisher

Jim Turmo, Thermo Fisher

Walter Peuker, North American Tool

Pete Gustafson, Rockford I.D. Shop, Inc.
John Oller, KI Machine
Scott Riggs, SPX Fluid Power
Mary Hallock, IMEC
Mark Podemski, Rockford Area Economic Development Council
Tom McDunn, EigerLab
Rob Lamb, City of Rockford
Sue Mroz, Winnebago County
Ted Duckett, Workforce Development Board
Mike Cermak, Rockford Public Schools District 205
John DiGiacomo, Rock Valley College Procurement Center
Robert Jones, Workforce Development Board
Mike Cobert, EigerLab
Sam Schmitz, Abilitiles Center
Larry Peterson, SJT and Chem Processing
Rich Gocken, Rock Valley College
Marjk Lietz, AMJ Industries Inc.

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