

SHELTERED WORKSHOP MANAGERS

From the President

Workshops Look To Build On Successful Year

Overall, 2007 was excellent for the Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers.

The legislature authorized an increase of nearly 40 percent in state aid over the next three years. In addition to this, sheltered employee wages are now exempt from consideration for Medicaid and sheltered employees are exempt from the new Missouri minimum wage law.

While it appears we have received exceptional support from the legislature, all is not rosy in the sheltered workshop industry. We continue to be criticized by those individuals seeking total inclusion, even though that remains an unrealistic expectation. The economy continued to struggle in the area of manufacturing jobs.

We must continue to evolve, both as an

organization and as individual workshops, to provide the best possible employment opportunities for our special employee population. We must be innovative and work together to continue the tremendous success of our 43 year old program.

This year will represent a year of change for MASWM. It is an election year for officers and we will conduct our summer meeting in a different manner. The summer meeting will consist of a combination of safety training and regional managers meetings. This will provide an opportunity for the managers from each region to talk about regional issues and work on specific matters that may not be relevant to all other managers.

*Stan Shurmantine,
MASWM President*

Managers Hope for Legislative Budget Support

Workshop managers are urging Missouri's Legislators to pass funding for per diem allowances approved last year.

In 2007, House Bill 352 increased the funding allowance for sheltered workshops. Before the HB 352, sheltered workshops received \$65 per week per worker and \$13 per diem for weekend work. The 2007 legislation increased the amount of state aid workshops receive over the next four years to \$95 per week per worker and \$19 per diem for the weekend—although funds to pay for that must be approved starting this year.

Workshops in Missouri receive funds from several sources, although the largest in almost all cases is sales generated by the workshops themselves from their own contracts for goods and services provided

Although these sources are important, the largest single funding for workshops is the workshops themselves.

to Missouri and even businesses nationwide.

The state funds represent about 20 percent of most workshop budgets, which comes through the Extended Employment Sheltered Workshops program of the Missouri Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Special Education. The original legislation was passed back in the late 1960s, thanks to the efforts of numerous concerned parents of children with mental retardation who were becoming adults.

Another 10-15 percent of many sheltered workshops' budgets comes from local taxes authorized by the voters and administered by county SB 40 boards, called that because of the Missouri state legislature bill number that authorized

(please turn to page 2)



Former Director of Missouri's Sheltered Workshop Division Larry Young was honored at the MASWM October meeting. (See Page 4 for additional photographs.)

Joplin Reports Show Important Aspects of Workshop World

All Missouri workshop managers might want to give a nod of appreciation to the *Joplin Globe* newspaper and writer Melissa Dunson for some very excellent coverage in October and December.

In two large features, Dunson provided an accurate, comprehensive and enjoyable coverage of Manager Ron Sampson and the workshop's efforts with 178 employees. Along the way, the article did a good job of not only detailing the challenges and accomplishments of workshops in general, but communicated some of the unique "feel" that almost any workshop manager would appreciate.

The first article Oct. 5 described "A pleasure every day: Executive director of Joplin Workshops run a tight, but rewarding ship." The feature even noted Sampson as a self-proclaimed "salty ex-
(please turn to page 3)

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MASWM

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Mission

Sheltered Workshops in Missouri share a common mission of providing dignified and meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

If you have questions regarding the Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers, please contact Bob Wilson, consultant, (573) 634-6102, Fax: (573) 634-4197; or President Stan Shurmantine, (816) 796-7070, e-mail stan.shurmantine@ibsindustries.com; or visit MASWM's site on the Internet

Workshops Anticipate Budget Support

(continued from page 1)

them in 1968. Over the years, these boards have begun to provide funding for other organizations that provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities; but they started out primarily as a funding vehicle for sheltered workshops. About half of these boards are members of the Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Boards. Each board is an independent body with its own tax rate, and allocates its funds independently.

Although these sources are important, the largest single funding for workshops is

actually the workshops themselves. Missouri's workshops operate primarily on an industrial model, where they generate most of their revenues from contracts for manufacturing and services. In many other states, the per diem reimbursement rates from state government are much higher, because the program is more of a residential treatment and recreation center, with the work being secondary. Missouri's workshops are not only more self-sufficient, but workers visibly take pride in their independence because of this ability to truly earn a paycheck.



Ray McMenemy (left) of the Springfield Workshop recently received the Springfield Workshop's recognition as a finalist for Manufacturer of the Year from Phil Davis, one of the selection committee judges.

Springfield Workshop Named Among Elite Finalists

The Springfield Workshop was one of only three manufacturers in the Springfield area that was named a finalist for the prestigious "Manufacturer of the Year Award" for 2007.

Although the workshop did not receive the top award, being one of three finalists was a great honor, said Ray McMenemy, General Manager. The final three companies were selected from among dozens of

firms nominated for the award.

The three finalists were honored at a luncheon on Dec. 12 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield attended by several hundred people. McMenemy noted that Springfield Workshop being honored as a finalist was great testimony to the work and effort of the 230 disabled people.

Joplin Focus Brings Out Other Sides of Workshops

(continued from page 1)

Marine,” Ron Sampson leads his team of workers — who range from individuals with minor physical challenges to severe mental disabilities — into battle each day.

Others will also appreciate the second article in December, “Joplin Workshops offer helping hand to area businesses.” In this feature, Tom Middleton even said the greatest asset of his Arkansas-based business is the group of workers with disabilities in Joplin.

Middleton, owner of Evergreen Outdoors, based in Mountain Home, Ark., called Joplin Workshop employees and management “a godsend.”

“They tell you what they’re going to do, and then they do it,” Middleton said.

“They’ve got good equipment and good folks. They’re the best asset my company has.”

The 178 employees with disabilities at Joplin Workshops repackage and ship a variety of Middleton’s outdoor products, which come from other states and overseas. “If I have a problem with my stuff that imports from China, I don’t have to worry about it,” Middleton said. “They’re capable of taking care of it.”

Another endorsement came from Abby Demery, owner of E Market Solutions in Joplin, which helps owners of online busi-

nesses find better ways to do business. Demery said sheltered workshops offer small businesses the opportunity to grow quickly without having to increase overhead significantly.

Workshop Updates:

Manager Jeff Arnold at the Manufacturers Assistance Group in Poplar Bluff reports that the workshop has moved into its new facility and now has changed their e-mail addresses. New addresses for key personnel are Dianne Arnold, darnold_mag@hughes.net; Jeff Arnold, jarnold_mag@hughes.net; and Mary Peters, mpeters_mag@hughes.net.

Mica Plummer at Monett Area Extended Employment in Monett reports that the workshop has a new e-mail address, maw204@sbcglobal.net.

Make sure you have the latest contact information for Bates County Industries, inc., in Butler. The full information is: Bates County Industries, Inc., Rt. 1 Box 47, Butler, MO 64730; 660-679-3667 Phone; 660-679-3408 Fax, and the new e-mail for Executive Director Debra Huntsman, bcii@embarqmail.com.

Perry County Sheltered Workshop in Perryville has a beautiful new Web site at www.pcswinc.com on the Internet. PCSW has worked with clients ranging from Subaru to General Motors and their site reflects that level of professionalism. Manager Ron Gilmer reports that PCSW also has a new e-mail address, pcsw@embarqmail.com.

Update your contact lists. Innovative Industries in Carthage serves Jasper, Newton and Lawrence counties only. Manager Larry Lloyd also noted that their address should be 421 W. Centennial Ave, Carthage, MO 634836; and e-mail address is larryl@innovativeindustries.org.

The manager at Enterprises in Bolivar Unlimited is Gary King. Contact information is phone, 417-326-6464; e-mail eui@altel.net.

State Representative Tours Grandview Workshop

Rep. Jason Holsman (D-45) recently toured Foundation Workshop in Grandview.

Foundation Manager Aaron Martin said that Rep. Jason spent two hours at the workshop, shaking hands with all of the employees and then participated in a town hall style meeting with the staff, parents, and concerned citizens to discuss disability issues.

Rep. Holsman’s visit and the time he spent at the workshop were very appreciated.



Missouri State Representative Jason Holsman (D-45) recently met with employees of the Foundation Workshop in Grandview.

Unlimited Sees Big Jump in Individuals Served

Unlimited Opportunities in Cooper County recently released their 2007 annual report and there are some interesting numbers in the information.

Over viewing the services of Unlimited Opportunities, Boonslick Industries and the Cooper County Board of Sheltered Services, the report noted an 18 percent increase in the number of individuals served since 2006!

Boonslick Industries continues to see its

recycling program achieve success. In 2007, they recycled more than 1.2 million pounds of paper, cardboard and textiles. Savvy Seconds, the organization’s upscale resale store, had an average of \$9,545 in sales per month. They also continue their contract with the Missouri Department of Transportation to maintain rest areas east of Boonville, an effort that employs 44 people.

Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers

Scenes from the Missouri's Sheltered Workshops October, 2007 Meeting

Managers and supporters from across Missouri attended the MASWM October meeting in Branson. The session included a presentation of original products by several workshops, as well as awards for numerous attendees.

