



# Iowa-Illinois Chapter NEWSLETTER

## May 2014

### NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Given my track record, this is now an annual Newsletter. Again, it's not that there is only news annually. Please check our website periodically. You will see there are lots of News items and Event items appearing throughout the year. We continue to make the site as current on information as possible. Much of your Chapter's year long activities come to fruition in the May/Jun timeframe, and hence a special Newsletter is warranted to address these activities. As last year, the now 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Small Business Government Contracting Symposium and scholarships/awards are now completed. You should also note that your chapter succeeded again in being named a Model Chapter for 2013; that is 12 consecutive years we have been so honored. Our Model Chapter submission package and notification of selection are on our website. We were one of only 13 Chapters of the 52 total NDIA Chapters to receive this award.

We hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual "2014 Midwest Small Business Government Contracting Symposium" May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the i-Wireless Center. The symposium theme for 2014 was "**Small Business - Big Success**".

The main track of the symposium was Team Rock Island Center of Excellence Advance Planning Briefings for Industry (APBI). In addition to the Army Sustainment Command (ASC), the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers (COE), Joint Manufacturing Technology Center (JMTC), the RIA Garrison, the Army Contracting Command (ACC), and Joint Munitions Command (JMC) all discussed their requirements. The ASC Command Group, as well as senior members of the other activities, participated in both days of the symposium. Registered attendees totaled 617 compared to 550 last year, with exhibitors totaling 82 – down a bit. While the industry attendance was nearly identical to last year, the government attendance more than doubled. The breakout stats were: 471 from industry, 138 from government, plus 8 active duty military. There were 144 large and 327 small businesses attending. Impressive numbers! The layout and conduct of the event was even more exhibitor-centric than prior years, with the main arena being dedicated solely to exhibitors, with all briefings conducted in the conference center. Lunches were served on the mezzanine rather than within the exhibitor's area making for a much more comfortable setting. Break refreshments remained within the exhibit area to assure optimum exposure. The Matchmaking session, now in its fourth year as part of the symposium, once again was a huge success and a heavily attended activity. Traditionally, the "primes" have been Large Businesses (LB). However, the current environment has emerging Small Business (SB) primes who were looking for good partners; therefore the event was opened up to all businesses who wished to host. Businesses were able to schedule one-on-one sessions with represented "host" businesses that included 16 "primes" comprised of both LB, SB, WOSB, SDVOSB, Alaskan Native, 8a and other socioeconomic statuses (see the Matchmaking agenda for the symposium still on our website for a complete list). There were over 70 businesses making appointments with the 16 "primes" totaling 160 separate appointments occurring during the scheduled matchmaking session on the second day of the symposium. Rock Island Corp of Engineers Office of Small Business again hosted a table. ASC/JMC/JMTC/ACC-RI Office of SB expanded their presence from one table to five tables this year covering five sectors: Logistics, Information Technology, Garrison/Construction/Misc., Manufacturing & Ammo, and IT/Misc. Collectively, these six tables provided an additional 60 appointments with the Government. Survey feedback once again gave high marks to the Matchmaking event which remained a well-liked, well attended portion of the symposium; in fact, the overall symposium feedback was again very highly positive. After action reviews of the feedback surveys coupled with personal observations by the symposium committee enables us to continuously improve the event.

This year, the Chapter used the reception time at the symposium as the venue for presentation of the 2014-2015 IA-IL NDIA and Sargent Paul Fisher Scholarships to the recipients. Earlier in February, the Chapter once again provided a STEM scholarship presented during the annual Quad Cities Engineering and Science Council (QCESC) dinner meeting. Some photos of the events and details of Scholarships are shared later in this newsletter.

DOD STARBASE becoming a reality for Rock Island Arsenal remains doubtful at best. Currently, DOD funding for the STARBASE program has been cut to the point that some existing STARBASE's were closed. Nonetheless, our chapter continues to be a strong supporter of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). As earlier mentioned, our Chapter again offered a specific STEM targeted scholarship through QCSEC; details are discussed in the Scholarship section of the website. We also continue to actively support other STEM activities (e.g., Engineering Kids Summer Camp, QC Elite FIRST Robotics team, Putnam Museum STEM Center, FIRST LEGO League Robotics Team, and attendance donations for the QCESC dinner).

Once again, I want to encourage you to become an active member of our Chapter. BTW, NDIA continues to offer, F-R-E-E three (3) year memberships to Government Employees. It includes 12 issues each year of the National Defense magazine! Go to the NDIA website to the Membership & Chapters area and sign up now! There are lots of great articles and opinions on varied national defense issues. You will find these often linked directly to what and how you, as one of nearly 1000 Chapter members, are supporting our national security. Shape the future.

We really need more Chapter members to become actively involved in Chapter's events/activities, to even include participation on the Board of Directors. Please step up and "Contact Us" on our website or contact any of the board members directly and become part of our Chapter support team. Your active participation in Chapter events, such as our annual symposium, can make the effort less burdensome on the few. We need not only your hands on support, but also your ideas as to how the Chapter can better serve its membership and fulfill its mission. We do great things – help us do more!

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George B Rivard  
President

## IA-IL CHAPTER HOSTS MIDWEST SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

As mentioned above, we hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> annual small business conference. Presentations/briefings given during the conference may be viewed elsewhere on our IA-IL Chapter website, along with the list of attendees. Below are some photos from the event.



Mr Bob Radkiewicz (Chapter Executive VP) and Mr Jim Morgan (Chapter Director & Symposium Committee Chair) work the registration table. Also pictured are Patty Kupresin (volunteer & booth registration lead), Al Kruse (Chapter Director), and Brent McRae (volunteer & Quad Cities Chamber Member (Clarion Hotel/ Davenport)).

Ms Lynn Gibson, of Valley Construction, was again our Mistress of Ceremonies for the entire event; another superb job!



An industry panel discusses approaches to successful prime contractor relationships.



On the left, Ms Kim White, a Chapter Director, had the lead for orchestrating this year's matchmaking event. In its 4<sup>th</sup> year, it remains a well-attended, sought after event of our symposium.



Above, you will note that we used almost the entire main arena to accommodate our 82 exhibitors. An improved layout and use again of padded carpeting, coupled with extensive networking breaks supported our even more exhibitor-centric focus this year.



The Wednesday evening reception again included a Plinko game with a drawing for two mini-iPads. To enter, one had to get 10 different exhibitors to sign their Plinko card. The number of actual chances to win was determined by which slot the Plinko wheel fell into.

The announcer was Mr. Drew Horvath, a Chapter member.

For the past several years, we have used the NDIA Symposium event as an opportunity to showcase outstanding small businesses – one from Iowa and one from Illinois – as selected by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, CIRAS and by the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). This year, once again, two truly deserving small businesses were recognized with an award. The Illinois recipient was Larry Van Daele, owner of KD Industries, Kewanee... The Iowa recipient was Ms Mary Connell, President and CEO of Air Control Inc., Clinton, IA. Award presentations are pictured below:



Ms Vicky Miller, Director, IL PTAC @ Black Hawk College, is shown congratulating Mr. Larry Van Daele, this year's Illinois recipient.



Mr. Sean Connell, shown with Beth White, Government Contracting Specialist, CIRAS, accepted the award for Mary Connell, President, of Air Control Inc., the Iowa recipient.



To the left is Mr. John Neger, Executive Deputy to the Commanding General, US Army Materiel Command, keynote speaker addressing the attendees. Senior leaders of activities on Arsenal Island have the front row seats.



Above, MG John F. Wharton, Commanding General, Army Sustainment Command, gets some insights from Ms Nancy Small, Director of Small Business Programs, Army Materiel Command.



On the right, General Wharton shares his perspectives. More pictures and an ASC article about the event can be found at: <http://www.army.mil/article/125852/>

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE THIS EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!**



Our Chapter's objective is to facilitate the open exchange of ideas and information between government and industry. From the feedback surveys from both the conference attendees and the exhibitors, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium was again a great success, meeting that objective. Events such as this could not occur without the contributions of our many sponsors, and the time and exhaustive efforts of the planning committee members from throughout the Quad Cities community. Thank You!

## **IA-IL CHAPTER AWARDS 2014-2015 SCHOLARSHIPS**

Complete details of our 2014-15 Scholarship Program recipients in the “Scholarship Recipients” section of our website or [Click here](#). In summary, a total of 10 scholarships were awarded this year: One STEM, 7 NDIA, and 2 SGT Paul Fisher Scholarships. Each scholarship was in the amount of \$2000; that totals \$20,000! In the last five years, our Chapter has awarded \$97,000!!