



Iowa-Illinois Chapter NEWSLETTER

June 2015

NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

My annual Newsletter is now a 13 month Newsletter. I do have a good reason ~ I think. Our symposium and scholarship events were held in June so..... 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 ~June timeframe, and hence a special Newsletter is warranted to address these activities. As last year, the 8th 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 2014; that is 13 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 14 Chapters of the 52 total NDIA Chapters to receive this award. And, we will be going for the 14th consecutive year for 2015 later this fall!

We hosted the 8th Annual "2015 Midwest Small Business Government Contracting Symposium" June 3rd and June 4th at the i-Wireless Center. The symposium theme for 2015 was **"Making Connections – Building Bridges"**.

The main track of the symposium was once again 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 673 compared to 617 last year, with exhibitors totaling 62 – down about 30%. While the industry attendance was down around 11% from last year, the government registered attendance almost doubled again. The breakout stats for registered attendees were: 420 from industry, 253 from government, plus about 8-10 active duty military. There were 115 large and 305 small businesses attending. Impressive numbers nonetheless! The layout and conduct of the event remained more exhibitor-centric like the prior year, with the main arena being dedicated solely to exhibitors, with all briefings conducted in the conference center. Lunches were again served on the mezzanine rather than within the exhibitor's area making for a much more comfortable setting. Break refreshments remained near the exhibit area to assure optimum exposure.

The Matchmaking session, now in its fifth 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 10 "primes" comprised of both LB and SB (see the Matchmaking agenda for the symposium still on our website for a complete list). There were over 40 businesses making appointments with the 10 "primes" totaling 80 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 had three tables this year covering the following sectors: Information Technology, Manufacturing/Garrison, and EAGLE/Professional Services. Collectively, these three tables provided an additional 24 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 sowed the seeds to resurrect a venue used in the past – organizations associated with Arsenal Island having a joint scholarship presentation ceremony. This was held 11 June at the Arsenal Golf Club. This year we awarded 8 scholarships – 6 IA-IL NDIA and 2 Sergeant 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.

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 STEM student attendance donations for the QCESC dinner).

We continue to strongly support military related activities and causes. We are among the partners supporting WQPT's "Embracing Our Military" Task Force, and participated in WQPT Military Workforce Symposium last November. We partnered with the USO and sponsored 4 "Franks on Fridays" events on Arsenal Island, which offers free hot dog lunches to military and their families. And we provide donations to DAV hospital, Jason's Box, Project Healing Waters, and other similar military focused organizations and activities.

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 825 Chapter members, are supporting our national security. Shape the future.

BTW, this is YOUR chapter's 70th Anniversary ---and we are having a celebration for the membership 12 September at the Putnam Museum. Check the "Upcoming Events" section on the website for information and join us to mark this significant occasion.

URGENT! 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. See the following pages of this newsletter to better appreciate Chapter activities. 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 our 8th 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 several photos from yet another successful event.



Mr Jim Morgan (Chapter Director & Symposium Planning Committee Chair) and John Masengarb (Chapter Secretary Treasurer & Symposium Planning Committee) work the registration table.

Ms Lynn Gibson, of Bush Construction and on the NDIA Planning Committee, was again our Mistress of Ceremonies for the entire event; another superb job!



Mr. Paul Rumler, Executive Vice President, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, welcomes the attendees to the 8th annual symposium





GEN Via, Commander, Army Materiel Command, makes a point during his APBI Kickoff presentation.

Mr. Don Tison, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff G-8, Department of the Army (right and below), our keynote speaker, shares his Army Funding knowledge and insights.



Mr. Harry Hallock, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement), pictured on the right, discusses Army procurement opportunities.



Mr. Brian Castro, National Ombudsman, Small Business Administration, on the right, provides the audience with insights on their assistance role and support they can provide.



The Senior Leader Panel (left) has a packed house! Below, BG French, Commander of the Joint Munitions Command, responds to an audience question.



On the right, MG Ted Harrison, Commander, US Army Contracting Command, provides an update on his command and its activities.





MG O'Connell, Commander of the Army Sustainment Command, above and to the right, discusses the global mission of his command.



Above, General O'Connell visits exhibitors' booths during the symposium. More pictures and an ASC article about the event can be found at: <http://www.army.mil/article/150117/>



This year during the Wednesday evening networking reception, participants enjoyed slot car racing for a chance to win one of two mini-iPads donated by the RIA Development Group and the Iowa Illinois NDIA Chapter. To race, one needed to garner 10 exhibitor signatures and a pit pass. Winners with the two fastest times won the iPads.

For the past several years, we have used the NDIA Small Business Symposium event as an opportunity to showcase outstanding small businesses – one from Iowa and one from Illinois – as selected by Iowa State University, 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 Ms. Brenda Gillman, President of Pak Source, Rock Island, IL. The Iowa recipient was Kathy Buxton (Producer/Owner) and Steve Jennings (Founder and Director) of Grasshorse Studios, Winfield, IA.

Award presentations are pictured below:



Ms Vicky Miller, Director, IL PTAC @ Black Hawk College, is shown congratulating Ms. Brenda Gillman, Pak Source, this year's Illinois recipient. Pak Source is a manufacturer of wood pallets, skids, and crates.



Kathy Buxton and her brother Steve Jennings, Grasshorse Studios, are shown with Ms Beth White, Government Contracting Specialist, CIRAS, accepting the Iowa Small Business award. Grasshorse Studios is a character animation, live action and visual effects studio.



On the left, Mr. Tommy L. Marks, Director, Office of Small Business Programs, Office of the Secretary of The Army, provides an Army Small Business Program Update.



Matchmaking - a continued favorite and a key element of our symposium is providing one-on-one opportunities for buyers and suppliers of products and services to meet and share their requirements and capabilities.



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 8th 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!

2015 Sponsors



IA-IL CHAPTER AWARDS 2015-2016 SCHOLARSHIPS

Complete details of our 2015-16 Scholarship Program recipients in the “Scholarship Recipients” section of our website or [Click Here](#). In summary, a total of 9 scholarships were awarded this year: One STEM, 6 NDIA, and 2 SGT Paul Fisher Scholarships. Each scholarship was in the amount of \$2000; that totals \$20,000! In the last six years, our Chapter has awarded \$115,000!!!

SNAPSHOTS OF SOME OF OUR CHAPTER ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST YEAR









COMING THIS FALL!

