

## **Golden Triangle Business Roundtable (GTBR)**

### **Minutes**

September 16, 2003

Walter Almon called the meeting to order and welcomed the 92 members, subscribers and guests in attendance.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Walter Almon – Construction Industry Institute (CII)**

Skills assessments continue to progress. All the major plants have instituted skills assessment requirements. The major contractors are essentially complete with skills assessing their craftspersons. The CII group is currently planning a follow up seminar on turnarounds for next year.

##### **John Durkay – Legal:**

John reported on the emergency communication system. Plant incidents needing to be reported will respond with an immediate message transmission to area television stations and the KLVJ radio station for broadcast. Sirens will sound. If concerned, the number to call is **1-877-THE STAN**. (1-877-843-7826)

##### **Program Committee:**

Walter announced that Mr. Sherrod with Entergy will discuss hurricane preparedness in October and in November a presentation will be made on the STAN program.

##### **Pat Avery - Safety Committee:**

Pat reported that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Awards banquet held at the Holiday Inn Atrium Plaza went well and the food was good. Pat thanked all the contractors and plants that have representatives on the Safety Committee. Pat asked that questions concerning the safety awards results be directed to her.

##### **George Talbert – Air Research:**

George reported that the Air Research Center was approved for funding for the next two years. The research center's major objective is to provide clean air for everyone. Two goals are to solve the ozone problem for Texas and to develop a group of scientists in Texas that know about the ozone and how to solve air problems. In 2000 they participated in a field study with NOAA and it brought twenty (20) million dollars to the state. Thirty, (30) new ozone monitors will be installed to study ozone transport. They have learned that transport comes from everywhere.

Lamar University has developed a modeling computer center with the help of TCU and Texas Air Research funds. They will be working and developing the new model that will be used for SIPPS as well as working closely with industry and the public.

#### **PROGRAM SPEAKERS:**

**John Bernard**, President/CEO with ABC discussed the status of ABC after giving a brief history of the organization. They experienced a 15% membership growth in 2003. Mr. Bernard recognized ABC members in the audience. Instructors come from Motiva Enterprises, DuPont, BASF, Entergy and many Contractor Companies. They teach four ten-week courses. They have added twenty Dell computer stations and web-based training is now available. ABC is building a lounge and student study center as well as

a new electrical and instrumentation lab. It has been a tough year but construction numbers are up and John expects 2004 to be a better year.

**Russell Melancon**, President/CEO with Industrial Safety Training Council, (ISTC) reported that both the Nederland and Baytown sites are busy. Russell shared updates and future predictions for both sites. Over 22,000 people came to ISTC trained in Baton Rouge, Houston, Texas City, Lake Charles, Freeport, Corpus Christi and New Orleans. Reciprocity has saved industry 800,000 dollars. Russell stated that ISTC is seeking other moneymaking avenues due to reciprocity. They have set up skills assessments in Baytown. Another avenue where ISTC is developing a way to teach contractors and maintain records is through toolbox safety meetings. They will present a mini seminar to provide more information and this program will kick off November 1, 2003. ISTC will also offer a two-day offshore training course starting January of 2004. Current offshore workers will be allowed to test out. If they do not pass after two attempts training will be required. ExxonMobil and Chevron/Texaco made the request for offshore workers training. Medical testing is currently offered at the Baytown site and will be offered in Nederland starting October 6, 2003. Background screening and social security verification has been operational since September 2002. Thirteen plants and two hundred and two contractors are utilizing ISTC. Other Councils have chosen to piggyback ISTC and utilize their system for their Council's needs. Finally, Russell reported that ISTC would be migrating to .NET and XML for future computer growth. Their plan is to have total conversion in six to nine months.

**Stephen Lindauer**, Senior Vice President for (NEA), the Association of Union Constructors and (NMAPC) the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. opened by sharing background on his organizations. The program provides a cost effective vehicle for construction contractors and skilled building tradesmen to perform maintenance and repair work for America's industrial and manufacturing base. Cost savings include a no strike clause-including substantial penalties, mandated pre-job conferences, and alternate dispute resolution to reduce workman's compensation insurance costs. Other items of saving are all overtime at 1 1/2x except for Sundays and Holidays, all crafts observe the same 7 unpaid Holidays and flexibility in scheduling. Still other savings come from a commitment to a drug free workplace, allowing the contractor to determine the crew size needed, welder certification cost control, and only one foreman per craft on any shift is guaranteed 40 hours pay. The last item is a provision to enable participants to respond to changing needs. He stressed the three-legged stool philosophy. Owners, contractors and unions make up the legs and each is as important as the other. Balance has to be ensured. Stephen said he represents all three groups. He remains impartial and his mission and goal is safety, productivity, quality and strength in his projects. Their scope of work performed is to repair, replace, renovate, rehabilitate, and modernize. They have worked in auto, steel, petrochemical and power plants. They have achieved success and worked on 40,000 construction jobs since inception. Most of their work has been in the East but they are branching out. The program is being presented all over the country and they work in low and high-density union areas. Contact NMAPC Administrative Office for additional information and applications.