

## **TUMMA (The Upper Mississippi Manufacturers Association) Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 6, 2016

Location: Workforce Connections

Attendance - Roll Call Board Members: John Belmonte, Kurt Bear, Pat Rezin, Bryan Akervik  
Others: Jim Hill, Brian Hopkins, Ed Johnson, Tim Brennan, Carol Wagenson

The Board accepted the logo - 2 versions of the same image

Roll call at about 12:15 PM - All board members were present

Kurt presented the Treasurer's report - the Wells Fargo account balance is \$7,756.45 - this after the check for \$190 was paid. Motion to accept treasurer's report was made by Pat and seconded by John - unanimous acceptance.

Other fiscal matters - additional expenses planned and approved at the meeting include \$40.00 for food, \$25.00 name change filing fee with the state of WI and a reimbursement of room rental to LADCO for \$150. All these checks have been disbursed and the checkbook ledger balance considering these pending debits is \$7,541.45

Each board member spoke about the accomplishments of EMMA (Equipment Metal Manufacturing Association) since it began in the fall of 2006. The option of including other manufacturing firms and re-branding the name is very favorable. A new Charter and By-Laws has been developed and is in review for an association which includes all manufacturing firms in the tri-state region. One challenge will be to not have this be viewed as a "La Crosse" group and also bridge the gap across state boundaries - IA, MN, WI. This group has adopted the name The Upper Mississippi Manufacturers Association - acronym - TUMMA. The focus of this work will be similar to EMMA but with a greater concentration on development of the workforce. Networking and fruitful business relationships will be a natural by-product and those members with common interests (such as metals manufacturing) can easily network.

After continued discussion, Pat Rezin made a motion to expand EMMA to include other manufacturers and accept the name change to The Upper Mississippi Manufacturers Association - acronym - TUMMA and also amend the Bylaws and Charter. The motion was seconded by Bryan Akervik. The vote was for unanimous acceptance.

Kurt spoke briefly about the New Manufacturing Alliance Event he attended in Green Bay. Great event and very significant accomplishment between industry and education to the benefit of all parties. The website for this group is <http://www.newmfgalliance.org/> Take a look - this is our model for TUMMA.

Kurt signed the Wisconsin document to begin the name change process and provided a EMMA check for \$25.00 - this was hand carried to Greg Flogstad office for him to forward to the state. With this process completed, EMMA can retain its Wisconsin tax ID number and tax exempt status and operate as TUMMA.

Tim Brennan provided his hard copy records for EMMA to Kurt Bear. He will retain for an appropriate period. Tim was a founding member of EMMA and we appreciate his vision and support in the early period.

The next meeting is planned for 3 PM on the 3rd of December at the Coulee Region Business Center. Interested parties are welcome to attend.

The EMMA board wants to specifically acknowledge the dedication and work performed over the years by Workforce Connections and the Mississippi Regional planning commission. Key individuals are Carol Wagenson and Greg Flogstad. We believe their involvement in TUMMA will add value as it has for EMMA.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bryan and seconded by John - approved unanimously about 1 PM