

**Golden Triangle Business Roundtable
Minutes
January 16, 2007**

Walter Almon called the meeting to order and welcomed members, guests, plant managers, and local government representatives.

Committee Reports:

Jody Briggs reported that the Safety Committee is continuing to critique its purpose by providing the educational process for the contractor members. The safety awards applications will be distributed the first part of March. The later part of March the Safety Committee will provide a seminar. The applications will be required to be submitted by April 15, 2007.

Walter Almon reported that the Construction Industry Institute Committee continues to work on craft person availability. They are focused on ways to bring more skilled workers into the area.

Jim Griffith reported that The Workforce Initiative Committee continues to work on both fronts. They are looking into advertising what is and will be going on in the area. They are also reviewing the training front. There was a good response from area schools, ABC, the Building Trades and electricians. All are being very active in taking new people into their training programs. There have been several meetings to discuss ways to get the word out to the rest of the nation about our local manpower needs.

Walter reported that the Labor Survey was published in December and the bottom line was that the area needs a lot of people to handle the upcoming work.

John Durkay gave the legal report. The Department of Homeland Security has issued proposed regulations for chemical source security. This will make background screening mandatory. Several local plants are ahead of the curve because they already have background screening in place. ISTC has plans to grandfather the present plan.

Walter reported for the budget/membership committee. Invoices have gone out and if you haven't sent in your payment please do so as soon as possible.

James Riley reported for the program committee. February 20, 2007 Jim Griffith and Mark Viator will talk about workforce issues such as skilled craft persons and housing for those workers.

Program:

Dick Townsend the plant manager for ExxonMobil's Beaumont Chemical Plant shared his plant's outlook for energy. He gave a twenty-five year overview of what the landscape would look like. Mr. Townsend shared a PowerPoint presentation as he reviewed population growth, gross domestic product, and energy consumption and economic activity. He stated that energy demands would grow more slowly than economic output and this would reflect in continuing gains in energy efficiency throughout the world. It is essential to develop new technologies and use energy more efficiently. Transportation demand will continue to grow and fossil fuels will continue to be in demand. New technology is needed to recover energy and they are working with scientists to make hydrogen and solar energy more economic, engine and fuel systems more

effective and bio fuels more abundant. Resources are out there we just have to develop better technology to retrieve them, keep markets free and open and use energy more effectively.

Tim Sudela, plant engineer for American Valve and Hydrant shared who they are, what they do and their outlook for business. They were founded in 1905 and grew to be who they are today because Mr. Egan wanted some comforts of life for himself and others. When he accomplished his dream he went another step and left the company to his employees upon his death. They were one of one hundred best companies to work for. They produce pipe for water and wastewater, steel casting for capital goods and exotic alloys for specialty items. The company in Beaumont produces fire hydrants, valves, fire truck pumps and accessories for water work industries. They make gate valves and serve ninety eight percent of the municipal market. Fire hydrants come in many colors but red is the most popular. After hydrants are coated they are hydrostatically tested. They are currently expanding to add a shipping center and an assembly test area. They recently celebrated their fourteenth consecutive record year in sales and profits.

Todd Monette, refinery manager for Motiva Enterprises came with one slide, a book, the 2007 Motiva travel guide, which is a roadmap for the future of Motiva and a bracelet that he used to tell a story. Mr. Monette went on to tell the membership about the expansion. They are continuing to work to make sure the expansion is the right project for Motiva and its shareholders. Three key things to running Motiva is to Keep it Safe, Keep it Clean, and Keep it Running. They have a simple statement that they drive with plant personnel and contractors and that is, "NOBODY GETS HURT". The "Nobody Gets Hurt" bracelets were given out to all employees and contractors to kick off safety awareness. The 2007 agenda is emphasizing is being put on process safety. Compliance included a second certification for ISO Fourteen Thousand and One and VPP Certification. The proposed Shell and Saudi Aramco Expansion is moving along with preliminaries. Motiva is looking at the big picture to insure their needs are met for housing, workers, contract workers, parking and transportation issues. Scheduled maintenance turnarounds continue alongside of preparation work for the expansion.