

HTC Advisory Board Identifies Strategy Issues

Pushing the lean manufacturing culture throughout the hosiery manufacturing chain—including yarn suppliers—emerged as a top priority at the organizational meeting of the new Advisory Board for the Hosiery Technology Center.

The 13 members of the board will be responsible for strategic planning and policy recommendations. Lean manufacturing will be a central issue in the strategic planning process, according to dialogue at the meeting.

Members of the board include Danny McNair, vice president of manufacturing at Harriss&Covington Hosiery, High Point; Ron Brittain, president of L&R Knitting Inc., Hickory; and Kevin Huitt, president of Huitt Mills, Inc., Hildebran. All are past presidents of the Carolina Hosiery Assn.

Other members are Peter Menzies, vice president, Southern Hosiery Mills Inc.; Jill J. Patton, president of Johnson Hosiery Mills Inc., Hickory; Ted Wells, CEO of Wells Hosiery Mills Inc., Asheboro; Nimrod Harris, president, Pickett Hosiery Mills Inc., Burlington; Brenda Goings, director of education and communications, Kentucky Derby Hosiery Co. Inc., Mt. Airy; Fran Davis, president, Twin City Knitting Co. Inc., Conover; and Ray Shearin, NPD business manager, Wellman Inc.

Sally Kay, president of The Hosiery Association, is an ex officio member of the board.

Another important issue to face the board is the relationship

with the Center for Applied Textiles Technology in Belmont. The 2004-2005 budget adopted by the General Assembly includes a special provision mandating a study be completed by October 31 on the future status of the Belmont center. Some legislators are known to favor placing the center under Gaston Community College, with some services be directed to the Hosiery Technology Center.

The provisions call for Dan St. Louis, manager of the hosiery center, to serve on the study committee which is under the N.C. Department of



HTC ADVISORY BOARD--From left: Sally Kay, Dan St. Louis, Peter Menzies, Jill Patton, Ray Shearin, Fran Davis, Ted Cooley, Kevin Huitt, Brenda Goings, Ron Brittain.

Community Colleges.

Shearin said the textile executives on the Belmont board favor keeping the current structure intact. He also acknowledged that the full potential of the center can be expanded.

Board members were brought up to date on services of the center—in plant training, government procurement opportunities, research and development services, testing, and electronic business-to-business activity through Legsource.com.

St. Louis said the center will also focus on marketing opportunities, including exporting. The HTC has focused on Japanese consumers as a target for hosiery products, but St. Louis said the vision is global.

The HTC annual budget now is around \$900,000 of which \$600,000 is from state appropriations with the balance in fees from testing and website services. The center employs 12 people in the Randolph County and Catawba County locations.

BEAR CREEK HOSIERY, INC.

5 84N Concepts - 4 84N Haw Rivers
3 3/4 108N KN Dials - 4 108N LONATI 454JS

227 Wright Road
PO Drawer 519
Biscoe, NC 27209

CONTACT: Kent Maness
TEL: 910-428-2188
FAX: 910-428-2781

L&R Knitting

Specializing in Distinctive Products and Customer Service

84 N Link-Link, Ribs, Jacquards

6350 Claude Brittain Road
Hickory, NC 28602

Phone: (828) 874-2960
Fax: (828) 879-4880

Quality Greige Hosiery



We have been supplying Quality Greige Goods to the Hosiery Industry over 40 years. We produce a full range of sizes from infant to 12-15. Rib or Pattern in Men's & Women's Styles.

Equipment Available for Production:
#4 1/2 84N Lonati
#4 1/2 84N Lonati EI
#4 84N Lonati Bravo
#4 168N Lonati Bravo
#3 1/2 132N Lonati Bravo
#4 132N Lonati Bravo

Ruppe Hosiery Inc.

P.O. Box 517
300-4 East Gold Street
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Tel: 704-739-4537
Fax: 704-739-8150
E-Mail: ruppehosiery@carolina.rr.com

RUMI

Single Cylinder Sock Machines For Any Application
Fine Gauge or Heavy Gauge
Normal Terry, Sandwich Terry, Electronic Sinker Selection
6 Colors per Course Patterns
Phone: 828-403-1595 Fax: 828-437-9231
E-Mail: jlaws@hci.net