

March 2008

Save the Dates


SPRIT OF INNOVATION
April 16, 2008
Keynote Speaker
Roger Staubach
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
chattanooga convention center
Call (423)763-4366 or
ckelly@chattanoogaachamber.com.

**Living with Grief
Children & Adolescents**

Wednesday, April 16, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Free Teleconference at

Floyd Medical Center

Rome, Georgia

RSVP: 706.509.3204 or sdavis@floyd.org

Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Northeast Alabama Community College

Time to be Announced

ASTD2008 International Conference & Expo

June 1 - 4, 2008

San Diego, California

www.astd2008.astd.org/**SHRM 60th Annual Conference & Expo**

June 22 - 25, 2008

Chicago, Illinois

<http://shrm.org/conferences/annual/>**USDOL Proposed Rules to H-2A Program**

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Employment & Training Administration (ETA) and Employment Standards Administration (ESA) have jointly proposed rules to the H-2A program for employing foreign workers in temporary and seasonal agricultural jobs. The Department estimates that there are 600,000 to 800,000 illegal farm workers in the U.S. while only around 65,000 workers participate in the H-2A program.

Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao stated, "This issue must be addressed now, or our country will see eroding competitiveness in its agricultural sector, crops being left to rot in the fields, and increasing shifting of domestic food production to overseas. These proposed changes to the H-2A program will provide farmers with an orderly and timely flow of legal workers and increase protections for both U.S. and foreign workers." For information about the proposed rules, visit www.doleta.gov.

Tax Assistance

The IRS maintains a section on its web site with extensive **tax information** for businesses including sections for corporations, international businesses, partnerships, small businesses, and the self-employed. You can access the information at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/>

**Treasurer****Tri-State Alliance**

The Tri-State Regional Workforce held its quarterly meeting in Rome, Georgia, on February 19. The keynote speaker for the meeting was **Dr. Jeffrey H. Schwartz**, Education Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission. The presentation and discussion led by Dr. Schwartz centered on "Structural Barriers to Interstate



Dr. Jeffrey H. Schwartz

Collaboration: Experiences with Education and Training Programs." He noted that many of the structural barriers faced in interstate collaboration involve government rules, regulations, and laws. Those present were encouraged when Dr. Schwartz discussed some of the common elements of the successes he has observed with other interstate alliances.

Tri-State Alliance members who attended the National Association of Workforce Boards Conference in Washington, D.C. February 22 - 26 had the opportunity to meet with **Ann Randazzo**, Director, Center for Energy Workforce Development and **Dr. Schwartz**. The discussion centered on means by which the Alliance could assist the energy and construction industries meet their growing demands for skilled workers.

Retirement Tool

The U.S. Department of Labor has released an online resource to help individuals prepare for their retirement. A series of interactive worksheets have been prepared based on the publication, "Taking the Mystery out of Retirement Planning." The resource helps people who are 10 to 15 years from retirement calculate their income and savings as well as their expenses in retirement.

The worksheets and booklet are available online at www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/nearretirement.html. Hard copies of the booklets are available by calling the **Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)** toll-free at 1.866.444.EBSA (3272).

Free Online Classes

HP offers a number of free, online classes geared to Small and Medium businesses. The series includes classes on Software & Technology, Creating Marketing Materials, IT Professionals, and Business Skills. You can obtain additional information about the classes at <http://h30187.www3.hp.com/?mclD=hpsbso1>.

Federal Government Needs Employees

According to the AARP, the federal government is expecting over one-quarter of its workforce, or half a million workers, to retire over the next five years. Eighty-five percent of the jobs are outside the Washington, D.C. area. Individuals interested in exploring employment opportunities with the federal government can visit <http://www.usajobs.gov/>. This web site is the official job site for the U.S. government.

Looking for a Business Site?

The **Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce** has a number of land and building sites in Floyd County listed on its web site. Visit www.rome.ga.com/econdev-sites.htm to see what is available.

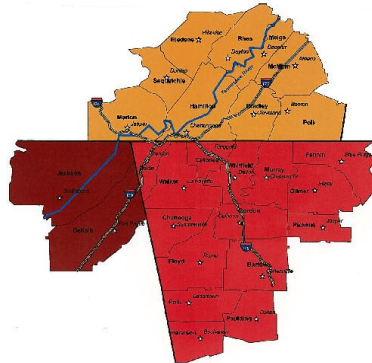
Jackson County Economic Development Authority has extensive information about the land and business sites available in their area listed on their web site. Their site is <http://www.jacksoncountyed.org/buildings.html>.

And, if you are interested in locating or relocating a business in **Bradley County, Tennessee**, their properties that are for sale or lease can be seen at <http://www.tvasites.com/ed.asp?community=bradley>.

The 26 counties in the Tri-State Region are a great place to do business.

The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce Magazine** in a recent issue, relayed that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) proposed that smaller companies be given until 2009 to comply with certain Section 404 of Sarbanes Oxley requirements. The U.S. Chamber released a December 2007 report demonstrating that Section 404 disproportionately impacted small businesses. During the enforcement delay, the SEC will study the costs and benefits of Section 404 under the May 2007 rules.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Magazine is online at www.uschambermagazine.com.



USDOL Invites Tri-State to Baltimore

The U.S. Department of Labor invited members of the Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance and their respective state representatives to Baltimore to participate in a third round of Regional Transformation Forums. A team of twelve stakeholders attended the Forum where they had the opportunity to participate in creating a shared national vision for the future of the workforce system.

SCORE

The Score web site, www.score.org, has a wide variety of materials available to assist small business owners succeed. The site has special sections offering advice to 50+ and young entrepreneurs and veterans, guards, and reservists among others. Anyone can ask a small business question and receive a response from an expert by email within 48 hours.

Update on Kimberly



Kimberly Patterson

Several people has asked us for an update on **Kimberly Patterson**, a graduate of Southeast Lineman Training, who was highlighted in our last issue. Kimberly has accepted a position with **Georgia Power**.

The Business Informer is a publication of the Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance. For more information about the Alliance contact Gwen Dellinger, Northwest Georgia Workforce Development Director, Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, 706.295.6485; Mike Kennemer, Director Workforce Development, Northeast Alabama Community College 256.228.6001, or Wanza Lee, Director Workforce Development, Southeast Tennessee Development District, 423.266.5781. Suggestions or articles to contribute - contact Karen Howell, 706.277.7466 or Vandy88@aol.com. An Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request. Published by Coosa Valley RDC, Rome, Georgia.