



# *Economic Development Group of Wabash County*

*Dedicated to creating economic and employment opportunities for the people and businesses of Wabash County.*

***EDG Annual Meeting will be held on April 22 at the Wabash Country Club.***

The EDG Annual Meeting is at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 22 at the Wabash Country Club. Dessert and Refreshments will be served. The cost to attend is \$15.00 per person.

EDG members will be briefed on the previous year's business, activities and progress. Each year we elect two members to the board of directors. The Board will nominate a slate but nominations will be taken from the floor.



This year EDG has secured Indiana State Treasurer Richard Mourdock as our speaker. It should be an informative evening as we review the progress we made in 2007 and listen to Treasurer Mourdoc. Invitations have been sent out and if you are a member and have not yet received your please call our offices. The deadline for RSVP's is April 15th, please call the EDG office at 563-5258 to make reservations. We look forward to seeing you there!



## *Actions of the Board*

Economic Development Group's monthly board meeting was held on April 8, 2008 at 7:30 am in the EDG Board Room. The board reviewed minutes from the March Board Meeting, monthly financial reports, and the President's Report. There was one New Business Item to approve.

New Business Item 04-08-01 considered the write down of the loan receivable for a revolving loan granted to The Learning Center (TLC) in November of 2003. Although this loan was not discharged during TLC's bankruptcy it is highly unlikely that we will collect all of the principal balance. Although collection effort will continue on this loan it will be written off our balance sheets to give a more accurate assessment of our financial condition. The board approved NBI04-08-01 unani-mously.

The board also welcomed Candy Norman from IU Kokomo's Regional Leadership Institute. Ms. Norman gave a brief presentation explaining the objective of the Leadership Institute and the 14 WIRED counties of Northern Central Indiana. The board agreed to work with Ms. Norman to schedule a Listening Session, the first step of the process.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.

### EDG Board of Directors

**Jeffery Kellam, Chair**

**Ralph Naragon, Vice Chair**

**Ken Perkins, Treasurer**

**Robert Vanlandingham**

**Skip Daughtry**

**Dan Hannaford**

**Rob Pearson**

**Bill Reed**

**Lester Templin**

# President's Report April 2008



William S. Konyha  
President

These items were reported on by the President:

- The President is planning on attending the Warehousing Education and Research Council meeting in Chicago during its annual conference from May 4-7. This conference has been highly recommended by the North East Indiana Regional Partnership as an entrée to the logistics and warehousing industries.
- The President spoke at the OCRA conference in March presenting the Entrepreneurship Development Program funded by OCRA to approximately 100 Community and Economic Development agencies from throughout the state. EDG staff are planning to submit another application for funding to expand the program into North Manchester and other areas of Wabash County. We plan to maintain our current partners and add others from the region and from North Manchester.
- The President attended Advisory Board meetings for Ivy Tech and NIPSCO.
- EDG worked in cooperation with the Wabash County Auditor to secure passage on first reading of the ordinance moving the POET TIF and Solid Waste Bond financing forward. Public hearings will be conducted on April 10 by the Economic Development Council and the Economic Redevelopment Council prior to the County Council meeting. These will precede the second reading of the ordinance and are the final steps required prior to completing the financing.
- The President spoke at the Farm Bureau Annual Policy conference and received a very nice reception. They are very grateful that we have included AG as a part of our overall strategy.
- The President spoke in favor of the GDX rezoning at the Plan Commission meeting. The City Council and the Mayor want to be able to have some input and influence over what may go into the abandon site.

## Administrative Professionals Day



April 23, 2008



## EDG Sponsors 2008 Ag Day

EDG was proud to be a sponsor of the 2008 Ag Day, hosted by Wabash County Chamber of Commerce on March 18. With EDG's heavy focus on Ag based economic growth it was important that EDG actively participated in this event. Approximately 125 farmers, agribusiness representatives and chamber members attended.



Picture courtesy of The Paper of Wabash County/ Mary Beth Dolmanet

After a breakfast sponsored by First Merchants Bank participants were welcome by Mr. Konyha as he introduced agriculture economist Dr. Chris Hurt of Purdue University. Other speakers included: Howard Halderman, President of Halderman Farm Management; Michael Comparato, President and CEO of Vieste LLC and Jeremy Armstrong, grain and biofuels merchandiser LouisDreyfus Commodities. Following the speakers a panel discussion was moderated by ag industry specialist Darin Hadley of Wells Fargo Bank and the floor was opened to the audience for questions.

**We are always happy to hear from our members! Questions or concerns? Please contact us at 260-563-5258 or by email at [info@edgwc.com](mailto:info@edgwc.com)**