

The Herrin Spokesman

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Man-Tra-Con helps 339 former Maytag employees enroll

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THE SPOKESMAN

HERRIN — Kathy Lively, Executive Director of Man-Tra-Con in Marion, gave the Marion Chamber of Commerce an overview of Man-Tra-Con's assistance to area job seekers. Most recently, Man-Tra-Con assisted the former Maytag/Whirlpool workers who were employed at the Herrin plant.

Lively, who spoke at the Chamber's monthly luncheon, said Man-Tra-Con assisted 931 former employees fill out applications for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

TAA is a federal program primarily aimed at employees who have lost their jobs due to foreign competition. The former Maytag workers were eligible to receive an additional 26 weeks of benefits through TAA. WIA provided other benefits to workers.

Man-Tra-Con helped 339

former Maytag employees enroll in classes at seven area colleges.

"Some of the employees were only looking for manufacturing jobs, and that's limited," Lively said. "Our local colleges were on-site at the plant to meet the employees at their convenience."

Lively said college representatives, who were working helping Maytag personnel, were impressed with their work ethic.

"We needed to help them stay here, or otherwise we were going to lose them," Lively said. "We want and need to keep that work ethic here in Southern Illinois."

As a show of support, Man-Tra-Con began the Silver Lining Campaign by handing out small silver ribbons to wear on the lapel, as well as large silver bows, which businesses can display.

Lively said the idea

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Employers seeking workers at Job Fair

Enroll

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MARION — In response to the mass layoffs at the Herrin Maytag/Whirlpool plant, businesses from all over the state will make their way to the One-Stop Business and Employment Center for the Employment Opportunity Fair.

This Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007, over 60 businesses from Peoria to Metropolis, each with job openings, will meet with Southern Illinois job seekers from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The theme for the

Employment Opportunity Fair is "Smart Choices for Today and Tomorrow."

"In today's job market, it is important that workers choose a job that meets all their needs," said Kathy Lively, Executive Director of Man-Tra-Con Corporation.

"That's what this Employment Opportunity Fair is all about. Not just matching job seekers with a job, but matching them with the right career so they can build a future for themselves and their families."

Everyone interested in participating in the Employment Opportunity Fair is welcome.

Participants are encouraged to bring a resume and dress professionally. Employers will be conducting interviews that day.

Individuals needing assistance in creating or upgrading their resumes can get help at the Marion One-Stop, as well.

Some of the job openings include: mechanical maintenance tech, clerical, welders,

therapists, general labor sales, dispatchers, drivers, as well as many others.

The Marion One-Stop Business and Employment Center is located on the northeast side of the Illinois Centre Mall.

Man-Tra-Con would like to thank all sponsors of the Employment Opportunity Fair, especially John Orey of the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Darren Pulley of John A. Logan College and employers from across the state.

behind the silver ribbon is that every cloud has a silver lining. She hopes the campaign will be a strong show of community support and hope for the Maytag workers who are facing difficult times.

Man-Tra-Con also worked in conjunction with the Herrin Ministerial Alliance, Herrin Chamber of Commerce and Maytag's union to sponsor a Regional Day of Prayer, on Jan. 21, for all former Maytag workers and their families. The evening of Jan. 21, a

gathering of former Maytag employees, friends and coworkers for New Beginnings, will meet at the Herrin Civic Center, where Herrin Mayor Vic Rimer and STU President Glenn Poshard will speak.

Entertainment will be provided and attendees will be served a complimentary meal.

"This is a region in transition, but we need to remember that there is always a silver lining," Lively said.