

Talent Task Force Meeting

July 9, 2026

Teams

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Marney Verhasselt, NWTC, Kelli Karpinski, MPTC, Raisa Ramas, Find Joy Off the Path, Cassie Diedrick, Titledown Mfg., Dawn Rall, FVTC, Bobbi Miller, FVWDB, Ann Franz, NEWMA and Sarah Putbress, NEWMA; Christopher Ledvina, UW-Green Bay's Continuing Education & Workforce Training Division; Amber Yurek, AK Pizza Crust; Jill Fuss, Brown & Brown Insurance; Steve Van Remortel, StopThe Vanilla, LLC/MyTalentPlanner; Paige Vanden Bush, Sartori; Tim Lisowe, ; Lisa Pichotta, Nicolet Plastics

Topic 1: Manufacturing Leadership for Frontline Leaders training program

Christopher: UWGB taking over training from St. Norbert; building on previous course framework based off of the work the Talent taskforce created.

- Target Audience: New frontline supervisors promoted from technical roles (e.g., machinist) who lack formal leadership experience.
- Format: Blended learning (in-person & virtual) to maximize flexibility.
 - In-person: Kickoff, graduation, and the "Managing Conflict and Stress" session.
- Content Philosophy:
 - UWGB provides the robust, research-backed learning modules.
 - Industry-expert instructors provide practical application and institutional knowledge.
 - UWGB supports instructors with content development to ensure quality.
- Program Structure:
 - Topics: Role of Leadership, Leading Self/Emotional Intelligence, Motivating/Engaging, Teamwork, Communication, Managing Conflict/Stress, Managing Change, Onboarding, Inclusivity, Time Management.
- Graduation: In-person celebration with certificates of completion and digital badges.
- Instructors (Shortlist):
 - Janine Calloway (SVP, Talent Dev & CDO, Schreiber Foods)
 - Sherry True (Menasha Corp)
 - Dean Nemechek (Consultant)
- Promotion of the training program will start in August.

Topic 2: Training grants

Ann is finalizing the application, with a decision expected in late August/early September.

Training Areas:

- AI
- Change Management (highest member interest)
- Predictive Maintenance

Participation: 22 companies have committed. Ann will notify training providers next week of their designated interest.

Topic 3: Brainstorm topics for the next Future of Work Summit in April 2027

Topics:

1. Teambuilding
 - Office workers vs. production workers, get more connected.
2. Career & Development for Employees
 - Shift Mindset: Focus on developing skills for various opportunities, not just for a promotion.
 - Framework: Use SMART goals to target specific skills (e.g., relationships, results).
 - "Ownership Unlocked": Explore this book's model for shifting from delegation to empowering team ownership.

3. Generational Differences
 - Hot topic on production floor
 - Succession planning
 - Manufacturing First Keynote Speaker: [Phil Gwoke](#)
4. Leadership/Servant leadership
5. AI
 - AI for Talent Workflows:
 - Focus: Automating administrative tasks (e.g., hiring, 1-on-1 prep) to free leaders for coaching.
 - HR leaders using AI tools.
 - Framing: Emphasize AI as an assistant, not a replacement, to avoid fear of job loss.
 - Legal Angle: Address intellectual property (IP) ownership when employees use AI for work.
 - Creating AI policy for your employees.

Finalize topics in Fall – will spend more time on this topic next meeting (in person)

Topic 4: Internship Draft Day

Wednesday, November 4th 2 – 5 PM

- Amazing Events & Sarah – Promotions with schools
- Early August – Employer registration opens (booths, sponsorships available)
- Student registration drive – September 22nd
 - Last year, over 200 registered
 - Looking for help with increasing recruitment
- Anyone who can volunteer day of event – contact Ann

Topic 5: NEWMA upcoming events and programs

July 16th - **NEWMA Lunch & Learn - Energy Sustainability 101 for Manufacturers** presented by Constellation. Register for this free webinar being held from noon until 1 p.m.: <https://form.jotform.com/261663479855170>.

July 22nd: **NEWMA Taps + Tours at Graetz Manufacturing**. Come anytime between 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. for a tour and beverage. This is a free event for NEWMA members: <https://form.jotform.com/261663183835160>. The address is W11094 WI-64, Pound.

July 29th – **NEWMA AI training focused on Generative AI** will be held on July 29 – September 2, 2026. This marks the 9th cohort of the training, in which over 500 Alliance members have taken the course. The training is free for NEWMA members. To register go to: <https://form.jotform.com/261664002765153>.

August 4 – Kick off to registration for Internship Draft Day.

Topic 6: Next steps & agenda for the August 13, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at HART Design & Manufacturing