

THE BEST NEWS

BESTWORK WAS PROUD TO HOST THE 2018 NIB TAG CONFERENCE

For the first time in 12 years, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) held its Textile Apparel Group (TAG) Conference in Philadelphia. NIB and its nationwide network of associated agencies manufacture and supply thousands of finished products for the federal government, U.S. military, and private industry.

Bestwork Industries was asked to host due to its close proximity to Philadelphia, which is home



William J. Kenny, Executive Director, Head of Contracting Activity, Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support



*Melvin E. Maxwell Jr., Col, USAF
Director, Clothing & Textiles
Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support*

to DLA Troop Support (Defense Logistics Agency). Since the conference took place in the City of Brotherly Love, many more DLA Troop Support employees were able to attend. Meetings were held from Tuesday September 4 to Thursday September 6 at the Seaport Museum at Penns Landing. NIB textiles staff, NIB Not-For-Profit agencies, customers like DLA Troop Support, NIB business

partners, and partner suppliers discussed key industry topics regarding military clothing and equipment.

On Wednesday morning, the attendees were transported by trolleys to Bestwork Industries for the Blind, Inc. in Cherry Hill, NJ for an agency tour. A dinner

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Attendees enjoy the view of the beautiful Philadelphia skyline at dusk aboard the Spirit of Philadelphia dinner cruise along the historic Delaware River.

NIB TAG CONFERENCE

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cruise was held on Wednesday evening aboard the Spirit of Philadelphia where guests could enjoy views of the Philadelphia skyline from the historic Delaware River.

Bestwork was proud to be the host agency and we thank all of our sponsors for their support. A special thanks to the Defense Logistics Agency for hosting an informative Round Table Session. “It was a great conference,” says Steve McLaughlin, VP of Finance & Operations for Bestwork. “There were over 150 people in attendance, the largest TAG gathering thus far.”



Attendees boarded trolleys to make the trip across the Delaware River to Bestwork Industries for the Blind, Inc. to tour the facility.



Attendees listen as production manager Stan Dogan speaks during the tour of Bestwork’s facility



Steve Merch, Director of Suppliers Operations, Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support

THE TALE OF THE SEWING TABLES



Once upon a time, Bestwork Industries was in need of functional sewing table work benches. Their current tables weren't specifically designed to meet the needs of workers who were blind or visually impaired. AND, as a non-profit, funding wasn't readily available to purchase new tables.

That's when a lightbulb went on in Jackie Herman's head. Jackie, Operations Manager, previously worked for a company that sought the help of a local Boy Scout Troop with a building project. Jackie put the word out to various Troops in the area as well as to Board Chairman, Jack Hughes, whose grandson, Tim Ravelli, is a Scout.

The very next month, Tim, from Troop 179 in Westmont, NJ, stepped forward to tackle the task for his Eagle Scout Project. Jackie and Tim worked together on a design that would fit snugly next to a sewing work station and add a much needed bottom shelf. They agreed that he would build 20



tables. Tim then hosted a Spaghetti dinner fundraiser to raise money to purchase the wood.

After a few months, the tables were completed and delivered. "They came out perfect," says Jackie. "Our workers love them and we are grateful to Tim for his time and effort in making these benches for us!" THE END. *Well, actually, maybe not. We would really love some more tables. Any Scouts out there need a project?*

ARLENE STILL - EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!



Bestwork Industries congratulates Arlene Still, our 2018 Employee of the Year!

"Arlene has a wonderful calm and positive demeanor that affects everyone around her," says Belinda Moore, President & CEO of Bestwork. "She was chosen because she also possesses a great work ethic and a commitment to excellence."

Arlene began her career with Bestwork in April 2016. "After I lost my sight," she says, "I sat home for seven years. I didn't know that a place like Bestwork existed."

Luckily, Arlene met some Bestwork employees on the AccessLink, a state-run public transportation service for people with disabilities. She applied for a position and the rest is history.

Operating a bar tack machine, which reinforces areas of a garment with extra stitches, Arlene works five days a week from 8:00am to 4:30pm. "I really enjoy the camaraderie of my coworkers and I was blown away when I found out I was selected," she says.

As Employee of the Year, Arlene received an all-expense paid trip to the 2018 NIB/NAEPB National Symposium. The Conference was held at the Hilton Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia from April 16-19. The annual conference, hosted by National Industries for the Blind and the National Association for the Employment of People Who

Are Blind, brings together hundreds of NIB and associated agency employees, partners, and supporters to advance employment issues for people who are blind.

"The trip was awesome," she says. "I was lavished with food and care and great activities." In addition to networking with other people who are blind and visually impaired, Arlene visited the Newseum and took an introduction to self-defense class. "I don't have the words to say how amazing it was."

Arlene credits her faith with getting her through hardships. Although she is blind in the right eye and has tunnel vision and no peripheral vision in the left, she feels the presence of God in everything and likes to share it with people.

Congratulations, Arlene, on a well-deserved honor!



SPIRIT OF GIVING AWARD

Belinda Moore, President & CEO of Bestwork Industries proudly accepted the “Spirit of Giving Award” from John Emge, Vice President & Regional Executive Director of United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. The Annual Community Awards dinner was held at Ramblewood Country Club on Thursday, May 17, 2018 .

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER, BRIAN KATZ

Bestwork Industries is delighted to announce that Brian Katz has joined our Board of Directors, effective July 2018.

Brian worked as a Tax Partner for PricewaterhouseCoopers. He served a variety of public and private clients on various tax issues including acquisitions, dispositions, global expansion, IPO, internal restructuring, IRS audits, etc. He retired in June 2017 after a 34-year career.

Brian earned his BS in Accounting from Penn State University and his Master’s Degree in Taxation at Temple University. He served as Treasurer for the Philadelphia Theatre Company for many years.

Born and raised in Cherry Hill, NJ, Brian wants to give back to his community after retirement. He looks forward to making meaningful contributions to Bestwork, especially by getting on committees that directly address ways to improve the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.



Brian is married and has two daughters. The family enjoys outdoor activities including the beach, hiking, biking, and skiing out west.

Welcome, Brian!



2017 NIB EMPLOYMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congrats to Bestwork Industries for receiving the 2017 NIB Employment Achievement Award at the 2018 NIB/NAEPB National Symposium held in April in Alexandria, Virginia! Pictured from L-R are: Reinhard Mabry, President, National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind (NAEPB); Kevin Lynch, President and CEO, National Industries for the Blind (NIB); and Belinda Moore, President & CEO of Bestwork Industries for the Blind, Inc.

TENURE AWARDS LUNCHEON



30 YEARS of SERVICE



25 YEARS of SERVICE



20 YEARS of SERVICE

In what will now be an annual ceremony, Bestwork held its first Tenure Awards Luncheon on October 4, 2018. Employees are recognized for length of service in increments of five years and receive a certificate and gift card. Congratulations to all our amazing employees!

30 Years – Mosie White

25 Years – Julio Miranda

20 Years – Wilfredo Martinez,
Merry MacLaughlin,
Jesus Martinez



NEW EMPLOYEE ENTRANCE!



We love our employees and wanted to give them a welcoming entrance that includes the following: Industrial benches that are both durable and comfortable, curb cut and rail to offer greater mobility, and a canopy that provides shelter from the rain, snow, and sun.



1940 Olney Ave, Suite 200
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-2016

Our mission is to provide meaningful employment for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Check out our new website at www.bestworkindustries.org. The website is designed to enable people who are visually impaired to adjust the color, contrast, and font size for optimal accessibility. We welcome your feedback!

 Like us on Facebook!

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BESTWORK INDUSTRIES LEADERSHIP

Belinda S. Moore, MSW
President/CEO

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JIM HOWE'S INSIGHT



The Assistive Technology Center is a NJ online resource that helps people with disabilities, their families, teachers and employers identify and learn to use the technology that will be most effective in meeting their goals.

The website offers the following resource information:

1. Assistive Technology for Home and Living
2. Assistive Technology for Work and Earning
3. Assistive Technology for School and Learning
4. Augmentative Communication

They also offer a technology lending center, a resource guide, training, and examples of success stories.

To contact the center you can call toll free 1-888-322-1918 or go on line at <https://www.assistivetechologycenter.org/>.