

# WLVDC

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WLVDC had to deal with concerns such as energy costs and availability; wages and quality of the labor force to transport the completed product to Europe; availability and cost of suitable land in West Las Vegas and incentives being offered by state and local governments in Las Vegas.

Tom Weir, one of the Consortium members who is a member of the Board of Advisors for the National Association of Private Industry Councils has painstakingly taken steps to

assure that Nevada stays competitive in the quality of the labor force.

Watson said that America can now produce goods cheaper than many of our foreign competitors and that the tide is changing.

"All we're doing now is responding to a changing market. We will be doing now what was once done to America in terms of production costs and labor costs. We can now produce cheaper in America than many of our foreign competitors. So now, with this opportunity to bring

a manufacturing plant locally, we can become more competitive on the world market and we can put a damper on the unemployment cycle as it affects West Las Vegas residents and other unemployed citizens" he said.

Watson admitted that Steve Cannon, Vice President of the Site Selection Committee in Stuttgart, Germany has been corresponding with WLVDC as well as several other proposed sites. There is no guarantee that Las Vegas will be selected, however Watson believes that Las Vegas does have the most

attractive package to benefit the goals of the Freightliner plant.

Watson is an outspoken community activist and has been putting in numerous hours seeking to steer employment opportunities towards African-Americans and other people-of-color. He has appeared on television and has chaired community forums in support of the Yucca Mountain Project which he hopes will bring in jobs and other opportunities.

Other agencies offering support in terms of fact-finding, land development, personnel development tax, and industrial incentives for Freightliner/ Mercedes Benz have been the City of Las Vegas, offering free land in West Las Vegas for the proposed site, Nevada Power Corporation, Clark County School District Vocational/Technical School (Vo-Tech), Nevada Employment and Security Department, which will provide Employee Pre-Screening and Pre-testing as well as a facility conveniently located which will conduct interviews at no cost to the employer, and the State of Nevada Legislators, who have indicated a "tax incentive package" is in the making. Finally, included in the package from the City of Las Vegas is a Free Trade

Zone in which import and export duties would be suspended, as

## SHRINERS

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dance from throughout America, including the Imperial Commandress Dt. Margaret Warren of California and the Deputy Imperial Potentate Noble William T. Pratt of North Carolina. The Imperial Co-Directress of Region VII, Daughter Mary Alice Blackwell, both of northern California, will also be in attendance.

The general chairpersons for this conference are the Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Nevada, Noble Cranford L. Crawford, and Imperial Deputy of the Daughters of Isis, daughter Gladys Collick-Palmer. They are both excited over the potential for the building of goodwill and cooperation among region members, that will be fostered during this weekend of shrine activities. This will be the first major Prince Hall Shriners and Daughters of Isis event held in Nevada, since the Imperial Council court held their international conference here in 1988.

Local chairpersons for the regional convocation are the husband and wife team of Noble

well as financial assistance for employee training.

John Woodard and Dt. Alice Woodard, both are imperial deputies of the Oasis for the Nobles and Daughters. Noble Woodard states the major preparations are complete and the membership is attending to the many minor details that ensure the convocation will be informative and entertaining for all those in attendance. The Woodards are looking forward to the shriners weekend and the opportunity to greet old friends and meet in new friends.

Although many of the shriners and daughters activities will be closed to members only, community residents are invited to attend the public program on Thursday, May 27, 7 P.M. The guest speaker for this occasion will be Mr. George Cotton, the Affirmative Action Officer for Clark County, Nevada. There will also be several awards presented on behalf of the region to local residents; the Humanitarian Award recipient will be Nevada Senator Joe Neal for his 20 years of legislative and civic activities.

The Education Award recipient will be Ms. Margaret A. Crawford, special education teacher with the Clark County School District and an involved citizen in community education programs. The Community Services award recipient will be Ms. Nedra Cooper-Scott, community activist for youth employment and social programs. The region will also present a financial charitable donation to the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Nevada, selected by the Nobles and Daughters from Nevada.

This will be an opportune time for the Clark County community to see the Prince Hall Shriners and Daughters of Isis on parade. Other activities open to the public include: Friday, May 28, 7 P.M., the annual talent and scholarship pageant that selects a Miss Shrine to represent the region at the national pageant in New Orleans, LA. this August. On Saturday, May 29, 2-5 P.M., there will be a day in the park held at the Doolittle Center for local youths. There will be refreshments and entertainment for all ages. The final activity for public participation will be the grand ball on Saturday night, 9 P.M.

For more information please call the Shriners information desk at the Alexis Park Hotel.

## NEVADA PARTNERS

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as though they were going to a job interview.

Nevada Partners hopes to place all of its participants in the sessions in jobs during the summer. Representatives from the McDonald's Corporation were present at the Saturday sessions and were hiring on the spot. Other potential employers included the Wynn Properties.

For more information about Nevada Partners and its job training programs for youths call 385-2500.



Y.E.S. Coordinator, Joycelyn Oates, tries to explain what to expect out in the work place and how to handle some on those situations. (Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice)

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