

Leaders from the Georgia Department of Labor Became the Special Guests of Norcross' RockTenn and Suniva



RockTenn Chief Executive Officer, Steve Voorhees (center) graciously hosts City of Norcross and Department of Labor teams.

From left: Department of Labor, Rebecca McGee; Commissioner, Mark Butler & Elizabeth Scott- RockTenn CEO, Steve Voorhees- City of Norcross Mayor, Bucky Johnson; Economic Development Director, Rusty Warner and Council Member, Charlie Riehm

Georgia Department of Labor Leaders spend the day touring two facilities within the City of Norcross, presented in full by Norcross' beloved RockTenn and Suniva

By Susan Warner

First Stop- RockTenn, Norcross

Within all its Georgia operating facilities, RockTenn employs a staff of approximately 1,500, with most of the workforce housed here, in Norcross.

Great dialogue occurred among RockTenn's Chief Executive Officer, Steve Voorhees, Department of Labor Commissioner, Mark Butler, and City of Norcross participants. All were able to present their history and goals while rediscovering their interconnection.

RockTenn is one of Norcross' biggest employers but is not confined to Georgia. In total, RockTenn has 240

locations throughout the United States and internationally.

An integral part of the Norcross community since 1972, RockTenn is one of North America's leading manufacturers of corrugated and consumer packaging, along with recycling solutions, with dozens of related patents.

As a Fortune 300 company, RockTenn was recently named one of Fortune's "Worlds Most Admired Companies" of 2014. RockTenn is definitely the heartbeat of our area and one of

"Norcross' Most Admired Companies!"

According to Voorhees, Norcross was chosen as "home," primarily for its "good location and affordable housing."

Earning a reputation of "always giving back," in the form of business entrepreneurial programs, RockTenn is proud to announce its associations to projects such as Junior Achievement, VA/troop support, etc., as stewards of "Corporate Citizenship."

website: rocktenn.com

Next- Suniva, Norcross

Suniva has found a way to "make the math work," stated John Baumstark, CEO. "We are able to bring jobs back to the United States," with a possible expansion of the Norcross plant, including new hires. This was great news to both City of Norcross and Georgia Department of Labor staff.

Attendees were given a stimulating opportunity to learn about photovoltaic technology (solar-panel construction) and then were dressed in scientific-style

clothing before touring the highly efficient manufacturing facility.

Suniva is a manufacturer of high-efficiency solar panels, led by several of the world's most experienced technical experts in photovoltaic technology. Their goal is to produce solar cells, "the brains," at the lowest possible cost and tighter lead-time-- much like every typical business-- but Suniva is anything but "typical."

Recently named one of the "Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies" by the Atlanta Business Chronicle (April, 2012) and "Cool Vendor in Solar Technology" by Gartner Research, it was obvious how they gained these designations-- as they were beaming about their product, strategies, and projections.

This month celebrated seven years as *America's leading U.S. born, U.S. owned solar manufacturer.*

website: suniva.com

Department of Labor officials are “on the road” scheduling “Friendly Business Connections” throughout the community, in an effort to reintroduce themselves as your business partner

Suniva Photo
 From left: Suniva, Greg Mihalik; Norcross Council Member, Charlie Riehm; Department of Labor’s Rebecca McGee and Elizabeth Scott; Suniva, John Baumstark, CEO; Norcross Mayor, Bucky Johnson; Norcross Economic Development Director, Rusty Warner; Department of Labor Commissioner, Mark Butler; and Suniva, Paul Schneider



Georgia Department of Labor

Visiting two of Norcross' finest was on the Department of Labor's (DOL) calendar this past Monday, in an effort to put a “new business face” to the Department.

The DOL participated in two forums, and all participants seemed to come away with a better understanding of how the GA Department of Labor works in combination with job tax credits, new labor laws, and other labor issues, but a big take-away was a reintroduction to the Department's proficiency and record of assisting businesses, particularly start-ups, to find important skilled talent.

According to Mark Butler, Commissioner of the Department, “We are trying to make a friendly connection to overcome stigmas, make a responsive link and bump-up communication. If we can't help first-hand, we will know the right resource. We are not the hammer, but the help!”

Generally, the Department of Labor may be an overlooked business tool.

Butler presented an eager and genuine presentation, pointing out the enthusiasm of the entire DOL group. “We are here today to reintroduce ourselves and our programs and to make connections.”

According to Rusty Warner, Economic Development Director for the City, “This agency (DOL) plays an important role in ‘Future’ Norcross and it has been such a privilege to *reconnect* the Department of Labor to Norcross businesses. Norcross works hard to provide our firms ALL opportunities, from community to governmental support.”

Business questions: EconomicNorcross.com, dol.state.ga.us




RockTenn- One of North America's leading manufacturers of corrugated & consumer packaging.



Mayor Bucky Johnson, of Norcross and Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner, Mark Butler, prepare for a factory tour of Suniva.