

New group links regional businesses

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An idea that started as a networking opportunity for small business owners in Benton County is expanding to the north and south.

A Wednesday night meeting will launch CORR 41/52, a group that is being formed among business owners in Benton, Fountain, Newton and Warren counties.

"There is no business group available in that region," said Heather Clark Reynolds, business adviser for the Indiana Small Business Development Center. "It's not to take the place of a chamber of commerce. Especially for business people in that area, it's a gateway for them to know each other."

The name -- CORR 41/52 -- signifies the importance to the region of U.S. 41 and 52. Those highways, which merge northwest of Fowler, pass through or by Otterbein, Kentland, Attica and Williamsport.

The group is being supported through a grant from the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development.

THE MEETINGS

The monthly meetings will be held at various business locations throughout the four-county area.

"It's very heavily educational and very heavily networking," Reynolds said. "A lot of groups could be part of this."

Following a 30-minute networking session, the meetings are structured to include time for presentations by business owners, an educational program, discussion of the "business book of the month" and time at the end for open discussion.

This month's book is "Energizing Entrepreneurs: Charting a Course for Rural Communities."

TO PARTICIPATE

The meeting will be at Guthridge Real Estate, 205 E. Fifth St., in Fowler.

Networking will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a presentation from Joanne Broadwater of The Broadwater Group, an Attica financial planning firm that specializes in special needs and long-term care.

Aggie DeBruicker, a real estate agent with Guthridge, will talk about a business she co-owns with her sister.

Those presentations will be followed by the educational program, the book discussion and discussion on any economic issue.

More information is available by contacting DeBruicker by e-mail to sixthtoy@msn.com or by calling (765) 418-6736.

-- Max Showalter/mshowalter@jconline.com

