

APPROVED 3/20/03

**THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2002**

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council (Council) met on Thursday, December 19, 2002 at the Confederate Hills Recreation Center, 302 Lee Avenue, Highland Springs, Virginia. Chairman Barry W. Baker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barry Baker, Chairman
Danny Amos
Earl Dickerson
Kathy Dolan-Marshall for Ms. Dee Esser
Bill Mercer for Dr. Glenn DuBois
Dudley Harris
Darold Kemp
Dr. Steven Staples
Robert Walter
Jack Whitaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Susan Frith Tansey

STAFF PRESENT:

C. Ray Davenport, Commissioner
Jennifer Nolen, Program Director
Beverley Donati, Assistant Program Director
Ellen Marie Hess, Director of Labor & Employment Law

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The scheduled quarterly meeting of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council was called to order by Chairman Barry W. Baker. The presence of a quorum was established.

Council Members introduced themselves. Staff members introduced themselves.

Chairman Baker congratulated Commissioner Davenport on his recent appointment by Governor Warner to serve on the State Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Advisory Council.

Chairman Baker asked former Council member and vice-chairman, Jack Cowherd to step forward. Chairman Baker expressed his personal and the Council's appreciation to Mr. Cowherd for the years of service he had given to furthering apprenticeship in the Commonwealth. A gift from the Council was presented to Mr. Cowherd.

Mr. Cowherd responded by addressing the Council and the audience. He spoke of his appreciation for the opportunity to serve and stated that he had “never worked with a more dedicated group of people.”

OUTSTANDING APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS:

Chairman Baker, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Michael J. Schewel, and Commissioner Davenport presented the 2002 Outstanding Apprentice Award to the following:

Maria L. Bloch, an optician apprentice employed by MacPherson Opticians, Arlington;

David Detwiler, III, a machinist apprentice employed by Northrop Grumman Information Technologies, Wallops Island;

William Christopher Hinton, a plumbing apprentice employed by EMC, Richmond; and

Jodi L. Pierce, a cosmetology apprentice employed by Toppers Hair Graphics, Hampton, Virginia.

Commissioner Davenport offered his congratulations and introduced Secretary Schewel, who commended the outstanding apprentices for excelling in their work. He stated, “their skill, hard work and commitment to apprenticeship result in a winning situation for the employees, their employers, and the Commonwealth.”

A short recess was taken to allow for photo opportunities.

The chairman reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second the minutes for the Council meeting held on November 7, 2002 were approved unanimously by role call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

Standing Subcommittee:

No report.

Williams Steel Erection Company, Inc

Chairman Baker offered the following motion:

“I move that the members of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council go into closed session to discuss actual or probable litigation relating to Williams Steel Erection Company and to ask about specific legal matters under section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia. Attending will be:

Members of the Council
Ray Davenport, Commissioner of Labor and Industry
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, Jim Walker
DOLI employee, Ellen Marie Hess
William Diamond, Assistant Attorney General.”

Mr. Kemp seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by role call vote.

The Council went into closed session at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:45 a.m.

Chairman Baker offered the following motion:

“I move that the members of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council end the closed session and certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under 2.2-3711 and 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia and that only matters identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.”

Dr. Staples seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by role call vote.

Chairman Baker offered the following motion:

“I move to endorse the strategy as proposed by Counsel in closed session.”

Mr. Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by role call vote.

REPORTS:

Virginia Community College System:

Mr. Bill Mercer and Dr. John Sygielski, VCCS, addressed the Council. Dr. Sygielski reported that due to budget cuts some programs were restructured including apprenticeship. Mr. Mercer would be Dr. DuBois’s representative to the Council.

Commissioner Davenport asked Dr. Sygielski if there would be any reductions in the number of Apprenticeship Related Instruction Coordinators. Dr. Sygielski responded in the negative.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training:

Mr. James Walker, USDOL, BAT State Director addressed the Council. Mr. Walker brought greetings from the Regional USDOL, BAT Director and the National Administer. Mr. Walker commented on the cooperation between the Program Office and his office.

Department of Labor and Industry, Apprenticeship Program:

Ms. Jennifer Nolen, Apprenticeship Program Director reported that there were 11,267 active apprentices and 1,948 active sponsors to date.

Department of Labor and Industry:

Commissioner Davenport began by expressing his appreciation to Mr. Jim Walker.

Commissioner Davenport reported that the Agency had hosted 16 delegates from the Peoples Republic of China on December 17, 2002. The delegation came to learn how apprenticeship worked in Virginia and they would visit only the states of Virginia and California.

The report concluded with the Commissioner thanking all of the Council members for their time, energy, and efforts in the support of apprenticeship.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairman Baker expressed his appreciation to the DOLI staff, Mr. Walker, Council members, and Jack Cowherd.

There was no further business to come before the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Barry W. Baker, Chair

C. Ray Davenport, Secretary