

DRAFT

**THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES**

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council (Council) met on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, North Run Business Park, 1630 E. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228 Chairman Dr. Steven R. Staples called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven R. Staples, Chairman
Delores Esser
Everett Patterson
Lorne Seay
Gloria Westerman for Dr. Glen Dubois
Dudley Harris
Catherine McQuade
Earl Dickerson

STAFF PRESENT: C. Ray Davenport, Commissioner, DOLI
Beverley Donati, Division Director
Patricia Morrison, Assistant Division Director
Reba O'Connor, Policy & Planning Specialist

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr. Staples called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Charlie Peterson of J. Sargeant Reynolds extended his warm welcome via Bev Donati.

Council members introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

There were no comments offered by Council members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second the minutes for the Council meeting held on June 19, 2008 were approved unanimously by Council members.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence to the Council came from sponsor M.C. Dean. They are giving Council an update on the delivery system of their related instruction to a hybrid design to incorporate on-line training along with the hands on training. A recommendation from the Division of Registered, which will be handled internally addresses page 3, section 13. They will be guided that they must be consistent with Virginia Davis-Bacon laws in addition to the Federal laws. No action was required.

Gloria Westerman indicated that her office had done a thorough review and approved the curriculum with has at least 144 hours of instructional time. Mention of “homework” in the correspondence was a reference to “projects” Ms. Westerman explained and she will be providing a sample of a project to be shared with the Council. She also stated that she would like to see the concept expand to other areas as it fits, particularly the hybrid design. The online provider is NCCER.

Ms. Westerman also indicated that there will be a joint meeting with VCCS, NCCER and Department of Education K-12 about using the online training with the goal that it will provide consistent training and a seamless transition for K-12 to a Technical Center or a community college. She stated that her office receives many inquires from apprentices about on-line training due to the rise in gasoline costs, family obligations and the way life is now for those who are working and attempting to get their related instruction.

Bev Donati alerted the Council members to the Outstanding Apprentice documents and said that the Division had just sent its annual mailing to ask for nominations.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bev Donati introduced Dr. Jim Hughes from Northrop Grumman Newport News (Northrop Grumman Newport News). NGNN is asking for a new position to be approved as apprenticeable. Dr. Hughes described the position of Cost Estimator. It is a 10,000 hour position, similar to other advanced optional programs. The first two years are in the production/maintenance trades and the apprentices are then selected. It is within the Division of Contracts and Pricing and features three years of rotations. Related instruction will be through Thomas Nelson Community College and Tidewater Community College. The position is needed to cope with upcoming retirements. This is a position that also has a career pathway associated with it.

On proper motion and second, approval for the new occupation was granted by roll call vote.

Ms. Donati introduced the representatives of Liebherr Mining Equipment Company who are asking for a new position to be approved as apprenticeable. Mr. Cort Reiser gave a background of the company and indicated that the firm spends a great deal of money on apprenticeship. Mr. Bob

Poirier, one of the company's instructors further described the apprenticeship. This position, Production Welder, is a 4000 hour program with 310 hours of related instruction. It includes six phases in welder and production training. They have piloted the program with a current group of five apprentices. Each apprentice has their own mentor.

Ms. Westerman added that it was exciting to work with Liebherr in customizing this program. She also shared that the 2 year programs have been somewhat better received than longer programs at this time.

On proper motion and second, approval for the new occupation was granted by roll call vote.

Ms. Donati described the new Public Participation Guidelines which are authorized by Chapter 321 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly, Virginia Code §§ 40.1-22(5) and 2.2-4006.A.4(c). The Guidelines are required by all Boards and Councils.

On proper motion and second, adoption of the amendments was passed by roll call vote.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dr. Staples reminded the Outstanding Apprentice committee members, Ms. McQuade, Ms. Donati, Mr. Patterson, and Mr. Dickerson that they will be getting together with him to select the outstanding apprentices shortly. He also asked that someone consider taking his place on the committee next year.

REPORTS:

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA):

Ray Louth, President of the VAAA thanked the Officers and the Department of Labor and Industry staff for all their assistance. The VAAA held a Board meeting earlier in the morning. It was reported that the financials are sound and membership is up. Mr. Louth reported that the Association has been able to meet one of its main goals of 2004 to set up a scholarship fund. The Scholarship Committee made recommendations that include awarding two \$1,000 scholarships in June 2009. More details will be shared at the December meeting. Mr. Louth asked the council to participate, if they could in helping to find a suitable honoree for the Scholarships.

The golf tournament sponsored by the VAAA has been postponed until October 16 due to weather.

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC):

The VEC has laid off 160 full time employees and eliminated 80 positions as well as having to close 4 offices as a result of reduction in Federal money coming back into that agency. Ms. Esser reported that Virginia is issuing 30 million dollars a month in unemployment insurance benefits. The staff reductions have impacted service and there are complaints. Senator Webb is working

closely through the liason office in DC to perhaps craft some legislation to get some help, but it won't be until next year. Virginia's claims have doubled in number from 2007.

Virginia Community College System:

Ms. Gloria Westerman reported that the VCCS is up in its number of apprentices served in related instruction. She reported 7,286 served. Rappahannock Community College is now a provider which helps serve an underserved area. With the threat of reduced funding, Ms. Westerman stressed that apprenticeship helps middle and lower income class students.

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship:

Jim Walker brought greetings from the National and Regional offices and national director John Ladd. He stated that there are 450,000 apprentices in the national system. The national system is also shrinking. They have gone from 600 full time employees in 1981 to 130 now and as staff retires, positions will be abolished. The national agency is moving to online sponsor and apprentice registration.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Ms. Bev Donati of the Division of Registered Apprenticeship informed the Council that the Division had been pursuing its outreach efforts with efforts such as producing a new brochure for the program and participated in a free-lance article written for Costco Connections, the member magazine for its business owners nationwide. From the Verona area, a video was made with the help of one of our representatives, Todd Cook and one of our sponsors to promote workforce training. Another rep and Ms. Donati attended the Latino Summit and provided outreach. The Division is currently in the midst of getting a WIA grant to help supply outreach materials.

The Division's FY08 numbers were 14,307 apprentices served, 2,290 sponsors served and 2,199 completions issued.

Department of Labor and Industry:

Commissioner Davenport highlighted the copy of the agency's Annual Report provided to council members. He commented on pages 4 and 5 of the report which featured the 2007 Outstanding Apprentice Awards which included attendance by the Governor. Each member of the General Assembly gets the report. The Commissioner announced that the agency had just completed its 16th and 17th apprentices in the VOSH division. He has been at various locations around the state with the VOSH training. With regard to the budget, each agency will submit their 5, 10 and 15 percent proposed budget cuts for the biennium which was above and beyond last year's reduction endured already by agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2008 at Confederate Hills Recreation Center at 302 Lee Avenue, Highland Springs, Virginia.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a. m.

Dr. Steven R. Staples

C. Ray Davenport, Secretary