THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council met on Thursday, March 13, 2014, at Confederate Hills Recreation Center, Highland Springs, Virginia. Chairman Darold Kemp called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Darold Kemp, Chairman
Danny Amos
John Biagas
Jeff Brown
Earl Dickerson
Steven Foster
Dudley Harris
Terry Kelly
Michael Mays
Randy Stamper for Dr. Glen DuBois
Bill Burge, Acting Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:
Beverley Donati, Division Director
Delores Ferrell, Apprenticeship Representative
Marco Pineda, Apprenticeship Representative

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Kemp welcomed everyone. He thanked Henrico County Public Schools and the staff at Confederate Hills for the hospitality always shown to the Council. Council members introduced themselves.

Chairman Kemp acknowledged in the audience C. Ray Davenport, former Commissioner of Labor and Industry and Secretary Treasurer AFL CIO and Norris Williams, President of the Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association.

Registered Apprenticeship Director, Beverley Donati introduced Delores Ferrell and Marco Pineda, Apprenticeship Representatives and John McDowell, Apprenticeship Representative, Office of Apprenticeship.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

No comments offered by Council members.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second, the minutes for the Council meeting held on November 21, 2013 were approved by Council members by roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

Legislative Update – Director Donati reported the code changes requested by the Council were introduced by Delegate Kathy Byron; approved by the General Assembly; and are waiting the Governor's signature.

The summary of the legislation reads: Conforms provisions of Virginia's voluntary apprenticeship program to federal law in order to ensure the Department of Labor and Industry's continued recognition as a State Apprenticeship Agency. Changes include transferring to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry powers that currently may be exercised by the Apprenticeship Council, amending references to the Apprenticeship Council, and removing the exemption for apprentices currently in the Virginia Minimum Wage Act.

Passed by both the House and Senate.

Next step will be for the Council to approve revisions to existing regulations. The past 5½ years, the code and regulation changes had to be approved prior to any State actions by the USDOL, Office of Apprenticeship.

Director Donati introduced Mr. John Crisanti, DOLI's Policy and Planning Manager and thanked him for his leadership through this process and also for his assistance in working with the Attorney General's Office in the past.

Next step required will be for the Council's Ad Hoc subcommittee to review and make recommendations for public notification of the revisions by the June meeting. Due to the fact that the changes are mandated in order to retain recognition the process will be on a fast track.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of Vice Chairman

Mr. John Biagas nominated Mr. Dudley Harris as Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made.

A motion was properly made and seconded and it was passed by roll call vote.

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B. Request for New Occupation Approval

The Council was provided information packets on this request prior to the meeting for their review.

Director Donati gave a short overview of Newport News Shipbuilding and their request for approval of two new occupations – Marine Engineer, 10,000 hours (5yr) program and 16,000 hours (8yr) program. Newport News Shipbuilding has been a registered sponsor since 1942, currently has 826 active apprentices and 29 active occupations. March 1, 2014, 137 apprentices graduated from The Apprentice School, Newport News Shipbuilding. Director Donati introduced Mr. Dave Tilman and Mr. Vince Warren from the shipyard.

Mr. Tilman thanked the Council for the opportunity to come before them with this request. Mr. Tilman explained the Marine Engineer Apprenticeship Program (MAE) was designed as a cradle-to-grave approach to the engineering profession. The skill set for the MAE encompasses waterfront trades experience, construction management, design and material specification, quality analysis, system test engineering, and traditional engineering applications. The MAE is designed to operate in conjunction with The Apprentice School's existing apprentice programs and in conjunction with academic partnerships with Thomas Nelson Community College, Tidewater Community College, and Old Dominion University. Mr. Tilman ended by explaining the two entry points to attract high potential applicants.

A motion was properly made and seconded and it was passed by roll call vote.

C. Request for Exemption from Examination

Mr. John Biagas, Chairman of the Exemption from Examination Subcommittee – Sponsor 2009-01R, an active sponsor since 1987. This sponsor has met all qualifications set by the Council for exemption from examination. Approval recommended until June 30, 2018.

A motion was properly made and seconded and it was passed by roll call vote.

Appointments to Subcommittees

Exemption from Examination Subcommittee:

Chairman Kemp requested volunteers for the Exemption from Examination Subcommittee and requested that Mr. John Biagas remain as Chairman. Mr. Biagas agreed and Mr. Michael Mays and Mr. Danny Amos volunteered to join the subcommittee.

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Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

Chairman Kemp requested volunteers for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and requested that Mr. Dudley Harris remain as Chairman. Mr. Harris agreed and Mr. Terry Kelly and Mr. Michael Mays volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Chairman Kemp requested the Ad Hoc Subcommittee meet to review the existing Council policy for proctoring distance learning final examinations per a request by the Virginia Community College System (VCC). This policy was put in place by the Council in following a distant learning request from the Board for Opticians. *Note: The Council by code advises the VCCS on apprenticeship related instruction.* The subcommittee will report at the next meeting. Director Donati will coordinate the meeting.

REPORTS:

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA):

Mr. Norris Williams began by explaining the purpose of the VAAA. He reported that the VAAA is currently seeking applicants for three scholarships in the amount of $1000.00 each to two active members and one CTE teacher. Mr. Williams mentioned that the annual golf tournament is an event to help provide funds for the yearly scholarships.

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC):

Mr. Jeff Brown reported a new VEC Commissioner has not been appointed and will have a report for the Council at the next meeting.

Virginia Community College System (VCCS):

Mr. Randy Stamper reported there have been meetings held statewide that were attended by Chairman Kemp, Director Donati, Mr. Harris, Apprenticeship Representatives and VCCS personnel regarding VCCS guidelines aligning with the VA DOLI, Division of Registered Apprenticeship. Mr. Stamper stated the final report has not been received from the consultant. Once received, the report will be shared with all Council members and Director Donati.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Director Donati began by stating that activity continues to slowly increase in the construction and manufacturing industries. Manufacturing plants continue to register as this has been a primary focus in several regions. Advanced manufacturing is an industry where initial registration can take 18 months or longer due to internal HR processes and headquarters may be located in another state or country. Todd Cook is the DOLI Advanced Manufacturing Specialist who works with all field representatives with potential new manufacturing sponsors.

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Director Donati reflected on Newport News Shipbuilding's recent apprentice graduation and the importance of this sponsor's program to our country's defense, the shipbuilding industry and Virginia's economy.

Activities since July 1, 2013:

New Registrations – 3,793
Cancellations – 1,274
Certificate of Completions – 2,556 (The largest number is the Navy -1,270)
Total Active Apprentices - 13,161

Newly Registered Sponsors – 179
Reactivated – 69
Cancelled – 51
Total Active Sponsors – 2,215

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY:

Mr. Bill Burge, Acting Commissioner, began by thanking the Chairman, Council members, Director Donati and her staff. Since the last meeting two compliance officers have completed the VOSH Apprenticeship program bringing the total to forty six since 2005 which is out of fifty nine benchmark positions. There will be a time when all inspectors out in the field will have gone through the VOSH Apprenticeship program. Currently, there is no information on the budget which deals with both Federal and State funding.

ANNOUCEMENTS:

Chairman Kemp thanked the Council, Director Donati and her staff and all in attendance. The next Council meeting will be in June, date and location to be announced. Meeting adjourned 10:40 a.m.

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Mr. Darold Kemp, Chairman

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Mr. Bill Burge, Acting Secretary

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