

THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council met on Thursday, September 21, 2018 at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Richmond, VA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dudley Harris, Chairman
Dr. Robert Benson
Laura Duckworth
Darold Kemp
Jeffery Ryan
Christopher Cash
Michael Mays
Terry Kelley
Elizabeth Moran
Ray Davenport, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Patricia Morrison, Director
Kathleen Eddington, Assistant Director
Caleb Wade, Lead Generalist Specialist

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Dudley Harris called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and welcomed everyone. The Chairman welcomed the new council members Laura Duckworth and Christopher Cash. Council members introduced themselves. Chairman Harris thanked the staff of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation for their hospitality.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

In August 2018, Chairman Harris attended the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD) conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The NASTAD organization had provided a sample Memorandum of Agreement. The agreement was made and entered into among the state apprenticeship councils across the nation, represented by the chairpersons of the respective state apprenticeship council or boards, for the betterment of the nation's Registered Apprenticeship systems. At the last council meeting, the memorandum was tabled in order to have the Attorney General's office review the Memorandum of Agreement.

Based on the Attorney General's review there were no contractual obligations of the State Council upon signing the memorandum; therefore, based on that advice Chairman Harris asked for a motion to vote for the Virginia Apprenticeship Council to be a signatory to the Agreement.

On proper motion and second, the Memorandum of Agreement was approved by the Council members on September 20, 2018 by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second, the minutes for the Council meeting held on June 21, 2018 were approved by Council members by roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Michael Mays, Exemption from Examination Subcommittee member reported:
Sponsor 2018-03R has been registered for 24 years and this is the company's fifth submission for Exemption from Examination by this sponsor. The request has been reviewed and meets the requirements for exemptions from licensing examination.

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

Sponsor 2018-04R has been registered for 22 years and this is the company's first submission for Exemption from Examination by this sponsor. The request has been reviewed and meets the requirements for exemptions from licensing examination.

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

REPORTS:

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA): N/A

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC):

Deputy Commissioner Ryan reported Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in July to 3.1 percent and was down 0.6 percentage point from a year ago. July's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, of 3.1 percent, is the lowest rate since the August 2007 rate of 3.1 percent. In July, the labor force expanded by 7,790, which was the sixth consecutive monthly increase, and at 4,356,623, set a new record high. The number of unemployed continued to drop, declining by 4,356 to 133,348, and Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in July to 3.9 percent.

Since the last meeting, the Governor has issued Executive Order 16 *Establishing an Inter-Agency Task Force on Worker Misclassification and Payroll Fraud*. The Task Force will be chaired by Secretary Ball and will include membership from various state agencies. VEC has started communications with those agencies and will be supporting the effort to develop a work plan. Please expect additional announcements regarding meetings, etc. in the near future. A final report from the Task Force is due to the Governor by August 1, 2019.

Commissioner Hess is currently at the Annual meeting of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies where tonight Newport News Shipbuilding will be recognized as the National Business of the Year. The Director of the Apprentice School, Ms. McCane will be on hand in Alabama to accept the award on behalf of the company.

Virginia Community College System (VCCS):

Ms. Moran distributed an infographic entitled “FastForward: Credentials for a Career that Matters”. She reminded the council that the FastForward Program provides students access to a wide variety of credentials that lead to high-demand jobs at a reduced tuition rates. The infographic illustrated a number of interesting facts about FastForward students and highlighted a number of promising program results. Infographic attached.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship (DOLI)

Since the last meeting, the Division brought on a temporary Contractor who is working as a Lead Generation Specialist to fulfill the Apprenticeship Accelerator Grant requirements. Caleb Wade is helping the Division identify industries, geographies, and Associations and supports the Division by opening the doors to discuss Registered Apprenticeship. The Division has experienced a bit of volume and inquiry at this time and the Lead Generation Specialist can play a vital role in the initial contact and education of potential participants of Registered Apprenticeship and then do a hand-off to the Consultants.

The Lead position will develop a method that produces results. It will help to discover that certain industries categorically do not fit well with the model, or have made other choices. This allows efficiencies for the Division.

In August, Caleb Wade and Director Morrison traveled to the Eastern Shore and spoke with a large Nursery/Landscaper, Insurance company, Oyster Aquaculture farm, Winery, Brewery, a Holiday Inn Regional Executive, the Hospital, the Employment Specialists for the Department of Social Services and Eastern Shore Community College. The Lead Generation Specialist learns something new from each encounter and these efforts will continue to fuel the interest and that each encounter produces a new referral.

The Division works very hard to promote the visibility of Registered Apprenticeship through efforts funded by the Accelerator Grant. Here is a recap of the year’s promotions:

- Bus ads on the Greater Richmond Transit Company fleet and the Greater Roanoke Transit Company fleet
- The CBS commercial featuring Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney providing a PSA on our 80th Anniversary
- The CBS Virginia This Morning interview with me for promotion
- The Roanoke County Virginia Economic Development interview with Diana Lyons, consultant in our Roanoke office
- The Youth Registered Apprenticeship signing events
- Various graduation events such as UVA, Microsoft and IBEW coming up
- Completion of first participants in YRA who graduated from Richmond Technical
- Makeover of our Division brochure which is in process.

Director Morrison provided an update on the numbers for the Division for the current performance year:

From July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018

601 National Guard apprentices active

494 Department of Corrections active apprentices

10,458 public/private apprentices active

(NOTE: also due to Federal re-organization, we no longer house USMAPS records except for Virginia credential requests)

DOLI Issued 2064 Completion Certificates

Added 4,074 new apprentices

Added 371 new or re-activated sponsors

The Division is currently working with Youth Registered Apprenticeship programs in 10 School Divisions and is seeking to deepen participation there. Any assistance for developing a Youth Registered Apprenticeship program in the member's area would be appreciated.

Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI):

Commissioner Davenport reported the following:

There have been no updates on changes in the regulations to come in compliance with 29CFR29 and 29CFR30 from OA.

Since the last meeting VOSH has investigated 25 fatal workplace accidents. Unfortunately, the trend may exceed our total number of fatalities (34) that were investigated in calendar year 2017. One noted trend this year in the fatalities investigated, 12 of the fatalities this year were the result of struck by equipment, objects, vehicles or trees.

Commissioner Davenport extended congratulations to Chris Cash, Training Director, IBEW, and Local No. 26 and to Laura Duckworth, Director of Occupational Programs, and UVA and thanked the new members for their future service. Congratulations were given to Dudley Harris, V-P of Bay Electric and Darold Kemp, Business Manager of the Operating Engineers, Local No. 147 for their reappointments.

The Commissioner extended a special thanks to the VAC's former Chairman Darold Kemp for his many years of service to the Council and his many years of service as Chairman and his continued service to the Council, Registered Apprenticeship and the Commonwealth.

Congratulations were given to the new VAC Chairman Dudley Harris. Chairman Harris was encouraged to contact the Division staff if VAC assistance is needed in the future.

Dr. Keisha Pexton recently appointed VAC member has been taken from the Council and appointed by Governor Northam to the Board of Education. Congratulations were given on the appointment to the Board of Education where Ms. Pexton will continue to be strong advocate for Registered Apprenticeship.

Thanks to all the members for their support for Registered Apprenticeship and continued service to the Commonwealth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Harris announced that the next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2018 at 10 am at the Department of Professional and Regulatory Occupation.

Chairman Harris thanked the Council, Director Morrison, her staff, and all in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Mr. Dudley Harris, Chairman

Mr. C. Ray Davenport, Secretary