

APPROVED

**THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES**

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council (Council) met on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at Confederate Hills Recreation Center, 302 Lee Avenue, Highland Springs, Virginia. Chairman Darold Kemp called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Darold Kemp, Chairman
Don Lillywhite
Gloria Westerman for Glenn Dubois
Dr. Gary McQuain
Dudley Harris
Catherine McQuade
Lorne Seay

STAFF PRESENT: C. Ray Davenport, Commissioner, DOLI
Beverly Donati, Division Director
Patricia Morrison, Assistant Division Director

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. He thanked Henrico County Schools for their hospitality in hosting the meeting. Chairman Kemp recognized special guests, Dr. Jim Hughes, Mr. Ray Louth, Dr. Johnson and Mr. Dave Taylor. Dr. Gary McQuain was welcomed to the Council.

Council members introduced themselves.

Bev Donati of the Department of Labor and Industry introduced the Division of Registered Apprenticeship staff member present, Trish Morrison.

Jim Walker of the U.S. DOL, Office of Apprenticeship brought greetings from the National office and introduced his staff member, John McDowell.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Danny LeBlanc, Senior Advisor to the Governor for Workforce, on behalf of the Governor thanked the Council for what has been done and what they will do in the future to increase the number of folks in the Registered Apprenticeship program. Secretary LeBlanc also thanked the sponsors, the Registered Apprenticeship administration and the teachers who help make apprenticeship a strong factor in training Virginia's workforce. The benchmarked goals for adding apprenticeship participants were exceeded. A company called Continental

(formerly Siemens) expanded their operations in the Tidewater area based on the basis of the collaboration of Registered Apprenticeship, and the Virginia Community College System.

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 18, 2009 were approved by Council members by roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bev Donati reported that during a routine visit in the Northern Virginia region, Crystal Thrower, the Apprenticeship Representative discovered that Luxottica, the parent company for many optical retail outlets such as For eyes, Pearl Vision, and Sears had changed the definition of full time employees to 30+ hours per week. The Division procedure allows individual sponsors to request the changes in the definition of full time in writing to the Director.

Ms. Donati gave the history of how changes to normal hours are handled by the Division. In the past, nursing assistants, and cafeteria workers had requested changes to the definition to reflect the industry norms. A previous Council action allows the Director to review and approve all such requests regarding the definition of full time hours and report back to the Council. Luxottica's request appears to be a very commendable way to retain employees in this economy.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lorne Seay reported that an Exemption from Examination request had been reviewed and the recommendation was made to approve the request from Sponsor 2009-001 to be granted exemption from examination. The motion passed on roll call vote.

Chairman Kemp instructed the Exemption Sub-committee to review its policies with Bev and report back at the next meeting with any suggested changes.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Exemption from Examination Sub-committee:

No additional report.

Outstanding Apprentice Awards Sub-committee:

Ms. Donati reported for sub-committee Chairman Patterson. Requests for nominations for the 2009 Outstanding Apprentice Awards were mailed to approximately 2,200 sponsors. The letter from the Council does explain the addition of the service category in an effort to see more participation from those industries.

REPORTS:

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA):

Chairman Kemp, also the VAAA President reported that a regular meeting for the VAAA had been conducted earlier that day. The annual golf tournament for the Association was taking place later in the afternoon.

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC):

Donald Lillywhite reported for the VEC that the state's unemployment rate has been on a three month decline. July's unemployment rate was at 6.9% and August's rate was 6.5%.

Virginia Community College System (VCCS):

Gloria Westerman reported that the Community Colleges and Technical Centers continue to work in challenging times. Providers are trying to incorporate new technology into related instruction. It is hard to develop and deliver curriculums that are friendly to both the apprentice and the sponsor, but the efforts are being made to do so. Reporting from the related instruction coordinators is going well.

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship (U. S. DOL, OA):

Jim Walker reported that the U.S. DOL is hiring in the areas of enforcement, but not in the Office of Apprenticeship. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis has a new Assistant Secretary, Jane Oates, who heads up the Employment Training Administration portion of U.S. DOL. The Virginia Office of Apprenticeship reports to Mr. Doug Small.

Mr. Walker shared national statistics on from the 2007 Fiscal Year. Data is as follows:

28,000 registered apprenticeship programs nationwide.

3,253 new apprenticeship programs were established nationwide.

468,000 apprentices currently active nationwide.

212,000 individuals entered the apprenticeship system nationwide in FY 2007.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Ms. Bev Donati reported several statistics reflecting the end of Fiscal Year 2009. The Division had 13,761 active apprentices; down 3.9% from last year. There were 2,175 active sponsors; down 5.2% from last year. 2,529 Completion Certificates were issued last year, up from 2,199 in 2008.

From 2002 through 2009, 13,306 Completion Certificates had been issued. In 2002, there were 10,644 apprentices compared to 13,761 in 2009. Currently, the Division has 14,123 registered apprentices and 2,208 sponsors. One sponsor can include multiple employers to bring the number of participating employers to 3,290.

A new project for the Division is the Virginia National Guard which is being worked on by Patty Moore, the Abingdon representative and Dr. Tom Cecere, the related instruction specialist. Part of the process includes conference calls with the staff of the adjutant general's office. A future meeting is planned to move this program along.

One of the Division representatives has resigned and the position will be filled.

In August, Ms. Donati attended the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD) meeting in Seattle, Washington. The National Administrator, John Ladd was in attendance for the whole conference which was designed to help states implement the regulatory changes in CFR 29 29 and CFR 29 30. Ms. Donati finished by asking that the Council encourage sponsors to nominate apprentices who they believe are outstanding.

Department of Labor and Industry:

Commissioner Davenport said that the agency was subject to a \$282,000 budget cut, but is thankful that it was not worse. Commissioner Davenport thanked Secretary LeBlanc for his assistance in providing stimulus funds. The Department has 17 unfunded positions.

Commissioner Davenport also thanked Gloria Westerman for the support and cooperation in obtaining grants that will positively impact the Apprenticeship program. He also thanked the Council for their continued support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2009 at Confederate Hills Recreation Center. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a. m.

Chairman Darold Kemp

C. Ray Davenport, Secretary