

FINAL

**VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES
June 15, 2006**

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council (Council) met on Thursday, June 15, 2006 at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, North Run Business Park, 1630 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA. Chairman Barry Baker called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

COUNCIL MEMEBERS PRESENT:

Barry W. Baker, Chairman
Robert M. Bess
Theresa Dagenhart
Dudley Harris
Earl Dickerson
Darold Kemp
Commissioner Dolores Esser
Dr. Steven Staples
Lynn Taylor, II
Gloria Westerman for Dr. Glen DuBois

STAFF PRESENT

Beverley Donati, Division Director

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Chairman Baker expressed the Council's appreciation to Mr. Charlie Peterson, Mr. Harvey Crone, and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College for hosting the Council meeting.

Council members introduced themselves. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, State Director Jim Walker introduced himself and BAT Apprenticeship Representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment offered.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

No comments were offered by Council members

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second the minutes from the March 16, 2006 Council meeting were approved unanimously by role call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to come before Council

NEW BUSINESS:

Standing Subcommittees:

a. Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

Mr. Kemp reported that the subcommittee did not meet this quarter.

b. Exemption from Examination Subcommittee:

Mr. Dickerson requested Ms. Donati give an overview on the history of the exemption from examination. Ms. Donati reviewed the 1997 Council action that all apprentices in the trades of electrical, plumbing, pipefitting, and the two mechanicals be required to take the journeyman licensing examination unless the sponsor requests an exemption and is approved. The exemption was effective July 1, 2001 and must be renewed every four years. The examination procedure was developed by a committee of council members and members of the public. Council approved the procedure. Sponsors were notified in 1997 and again in December, 2000 of the change.

There were no questions from the Council.

Mr. Dickerson reported that sponsor number 2006-01 had met all of the requirements for exemption. Mr. Dickerson moved that sponsor 2006-01 be exempt from the licensing examination for the period of four years. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by role call vote.

b. Update Perkins Funding

Dr. Staples reported that the House Appropriation Committee on June 13, 2006 restored Perkins funding. Although programs have been cut there is a level funding stream for this year.

There were no questions from the Council.

c. Workforce Development

Commissioner Esser reported on the Federal Workforce Investment Act and Job Services Program. The Senate has

reported level funding with minor cuts. The House combined all categories into one funding stream. President Bush has proposed Career Advance Certificates. This is a model program that is proposed to be used in all states when Ford Motor Company closes plants. Due to time restraints, Congress will probably not act this year. Commissioner Esser reported Mr. Danny LeBlanc has been appointed Senior Advisor for Workforce by Governor Kaine. Strategic planning has begun and there will be public sessions throughout the state to solicit citizen input. She encouraged all present to participate in these sessions. Meetings will be held in conjunction with the Virginia Partnership for Economic Development. The Strategic Plan is due December 1, 2006.

Chairman Baker shared his experience with a plant closing. Employees were unable to get any information. Mr. Baker contacted Mr. LeBlanc who then contacted Commissioner Esser. The necessary information was then forwarded to the appropriate parties. Chairman Baker thanked Commissioner Esser for the timely response.

Ms. Dagenhart joined the Council at 10:15 a.m.

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association:

Mr. Harris announced that the Alumni will hold its Third Annual Golf Tournament on September 14, 2006 following the Council meeting at the Highland Spring Golf Course. He reminded everyone that flyers for the Tournament and VAAA membership applications are on the registration table. Dues notices will be in the mail by the end of the month. Mr. Harris invited all present to attend the VAAA Board meeting immediately following the Council meeting.

REPORTS:

Virginia Community College System:

Ms. Westerman explained that the notebooks in front of the members were for the DOLI Apprenticeship Representatives. The books are arranged by region and contain the syllabus of courses offered by related instruction providers. This information will be used by sponsors and apprentices when registering for classes. Currently there are five new providers of related instruction in addition to the current providers: Tidewater Community College, Thomas Nelson Community College, Northern Virginia Community College, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, John Tyler Community College (CCWA), and New River Community College. Additional technical centers and community colleges will be added next year. Ms. Westerman assured the Council that all providers would be offering 144 hours of related instruction per year. The use of the "Blackboard" is being used more frequently to allow apprentices to receive instruction off site. Ms. Westerman ended by stating that a definition of an apprentice served is one that is enrolled and is actually in the classroom. The final report of students served will be made public on July 15, 2006. Ms. Westerman introduced Dave Siewert, Related Instruction Specialist for the eastern region of Virginia (east of Route 29).

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

Mr. Walker addressed the Council. Greetings were extended from the USDOL national and regional offices. Mr. Walker told the Council that OTEL is no longer used by the USDOL. The new title is Office of Apprenticeship. Mr. Walker stated that he receives quarterly reports for DOLI and that he then submits this information the USDOL. He reported that at the end of March, there were 12,700 apprentices; 35% were minorities; and 15% were female. He stated that Virginia ranked high in minorities and females because the

Council encouraged new programs. Mr. Walker stated that the SAC Audit for Virginia would be in August. He will not participate in this year's audit.

Commissioner Esser asked if military activities were tracked such as Helmets to Hardhats. Mr. Walker stated that this particular program's numbers were not tracked but that his office worked with the military transition offices at Fort Lee. There was a general discussion on other military transitioning activities. Mr. Bess stated that participants in Helmets to Hardhats had direct entry into apprenticeships sponsored by all Plumber and Pipefitters Joint Apprenticeship Programs and in IBEW Joint Apprenticeship Programs.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Ms. Donati announced that Commissioner Davenport sent his regrets for not being able to attend the Council meeting. He is in Philadelphia at an OSHA function. He asked that Ms. Donati report to the Council that the Commonwealth is still without a budget and that we at this time do not know the impact that the new budget when presented will have on the Agency.

Ms. Donati reported that the vacancies in the Richmond Regional Office will be filled on June 26; the position in Winchester has been re-advertised; and that Ann-Marie Mendez (Norfolk) has resigned to return to school. To date there are 13,104 apprentices registered and 2,061 registered sponsors. Staff members have participated in apprentice graduations throughout the Commonwealth. She advised the Council that the staff is very close to registering the Nursing Assistant Program in Northern Virginia and that DOLI and VCCS staff members are working with statewide leaders of the Head Start Programs. The goal is consistency in Head Start staff training throughout the Commonwealth. She announced that members of the Virginia Roof Contractor Association will sponsor 60 apprentices (20 each in three regions). This initiative is a result of the Governor's Taskforce on Construction. The curriculum has been developed and will have Blackboard components.

There were no questions from the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Baker announced that he would be retiring on October 1, 2006 and that the September meeting would be his last meeting as a Council member. Mr. Baker stated that he had been on the Council for over 14 years and that he had enjoyed his time as a member of the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Barry W. Baker, Chair

C. Ray Davenport, Secretary