

**Apprenticeship Advisory Board  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 18, 2012  
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road No, St Paul 55155  
[DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US](mailto:DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US)**

**Members Present:**

Roslyn Robertson, *Secretary*  
*Director of Apprenticeship*  
Matthew McDowall  
Jeni Blaylock  
Everett Pettiford  
Todd Farrara  
Stan Theis  
Mark Christianson

**Members Absent:**

Mike Mitchell  
Dale Narlock  
Harry Melaner

**Staff Present:**

Bernie Michel

**Visitors:**

Sam DiPaola  
Rick Gale  
Dean Mills  
Jack Hettinger  
Buck Paulsrud  
Tom Reger  
Dick Tessier  
Ed Nelson  
Matt Marquis

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by member Theis at 1:35 p.m.

**II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Stan: I am sitting in for Harry who at the Capitol working on the Prevailing wage bill. Welcome new Members Matt and Mark.

Matt: Hi my name is Matt McDowall with McDowall Company out of St. Cloud; we are a roofing company as well as a commercial HVAC shop. We deal with local 10, Local 96 and we have 1 49er on our staff.

Mark: Hi my name is Mark Christianson; I am a business agent with district counsel #82 International Union of painters & Allied trades. I represent painters, glaziers, dry wall finishers and sign and display.

Motion to accept agenda, second.  
All to Accept, non to Oppose.

### **III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Roslyn: In the interest of full disclosure I would like to make the group aware that the minutes as drafted are based on my specific recall, there was a technical issue at the last meeting and the recording did not take. I invite you, the members, to please review the minutes. There were no votes taken other than to move the meeting along, please provide any feedback if there was anything taken out of context or not reflective from your own recall let me know.

Motion to accept previous minutes as written, second.  
No discussion, no correction. All to Accept, non to Oppose.

### **IV. DLI Reports** (Robertson)

I have included a couple different types of reports based on feedback from individuals. Standard monthly performance measurement report as indicated, this is the single report used to communicate with the agency leadership as well as the Federal office of Apprenticeship. The current total for all registered Apprentices, as of April 2012, is 6137 active Apprentices and 1086 female and minorities. At the last meeting there were inquiries into what type of new occupations have been certified. Two new occupations from this quarter reflected, Jan-Mar, is in the area of Power line worker that's been approved. I believe it was Dale Narlock who asked the question in the fall and then again at this last meeting. The other report is the individual Apprenticeship report; these count very specific unit activity in terms of new Apprentices. For the past quarter the number of completions is at 215. I have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to celebrate with some of the individuals by attending several graduation ceremonies between Jan-Mar. I have been invited to both St. Paul/Mpls Plumbers Graduations in May.

There have been a large number of cancellations but I feel a lot of that is due to the economy. I wanted to provide this report in response to the inquiries that have been made recently and make sure we are all seeing off the same page. The 3<sup>rd</sup> report is occupation breakdown and how many Apprentices are training per each labor class. About half of our programs have less than 5 Apprentices, the other half have more than 5. Programs with more than 5 are subject to compliance review provided there are 5 apprentices in a single program.

Question: Roslyn can you explain to us if it's less than 5 they aren't subject to a compliance review then what are they subject to? They have to apply to be accepted correct?

Roslyn: The 5 Apprentices that are subject for review is completely separate from the overall registration of the program. Our office still pays as much attention to for those programs with less than 5 and is still reviewed at least 1 time/year without any specific EEOC requirements in term of sponsor obligation to recruit, retain and create opportunities for woman and minorities. As the program grows so do the obligations, it is in these obligations that we spend a bit more time regarding effective recruitment; getting dissemination lists out there are so forth.

Stan: Thank you, moving on to Prevailing Wage.

Roslyn: I have invited Michelle Dreier, Prevailing Wage Supervisor to join us. I will make her a regular part of the agenda as Prevailing wage directly affects the building and construction trades in a very meaningful way. Part of our responsibility in the Prevailing wage area is to provide outreach and educate to the industry and not just provide reports.

Michelle: Thank you ~ my name is Michelle Dreier with Prevailing wage, to give you an update with the activities in our unit, to date in 2012 we have closed 32 investigations and collected \$275,000 on behalf of 112 effected employees. We currently have 52 open investigations with the average age without findings 65 days. We are currently conducting our prevailing wage survey; prevailing wages are set annually by a survey of contractors performing work throughout the State of MN. We refer electronic responses but will accept paper responses as well.

Todd: Are the survey's then public information?

Michelle: The data of the survey is public with the exception of the individual reporting; the name of the person is considered private.

Roslyn: I strongly advise anyone in this room to take the opportunity to participate, I can't say enough about the value of collecting wage data. Our office entertains a lot of debate and disagreement about prevailing wage rates after they are set. There are some trends we are noticing that we don't believe will be helpful in ensuring certified wage rates in every region. There are more challenges as we get further away from the metro area.

## **VI. Office of Apprenticeship Report – (Robertson)**

The office of Apprentice is the new BAT; they are our Federal Counter parts. As I have indicated since 2008 the office has made changes in Apprenticeship regulation 29:29 and directed each State program to review its laws and rules. I was under the impression that we had met that mark; however, on November 28, 2011 I was informed that we had not and was directed to make additional changes to our regulations. There is legislation moving through the current session and there is nothing contentious in the regulation. It is what I have spoken of in the past with the changes to the terminology and jargon from Apprenticeship training to Apprenticeship learning, on the job training to on the job learning. Recognizing the office of Apprenticeship and regulation 29:29 as the controlling authority that allows MN to have a State run program. As we were informed to late the legislative agenda had already been set we had to find authors to

carry such a bill; it was attached to the agency housekeeping bill. There was concern if the bill would move forward due to some controversial issues attached to the agency bill. We have written and implied support from the office of Apprenticeship, there is nothing about the MN program that is in jeopardy. If our legislative liaison cannot negotiate away the controversial provision I am unsure what will occur with the legislation.

If there is interest I can send this information electronically.  
Motion for Secretary/Director to provide a link to the information.

All to Accept, non to Oppose.

Todd: Would there be a reason for individual members to write our representatives or our department indicating our membership to this board in support?

Roslyn: This has been an unusual session and hard to call, there has been little progress made. We don't have a choice because the changes being made are required by the controlling legislation, we have to get it through, if not this session then it will be revisited next session.

### **VII. Apprenticeship Coordinative Report** - (Paul Bucksrud)

There is an organization for the new members called the Apprenticeship Coordinators Association that meets 6 times/year where this group meets 4 times/year and we provide a report to the council. Economy recovery continues, sheet metal local 110 is at the lowest apprenticeship count in all the years I have been with them so we can only go up from here. Every trade I have spoken with is positive about improvements.

There is an initiative that the department of labor is actively investigating apprenticeship programs and how they are spending their money. In early April the Feds issued a 4 pg. bulletin, Field Assistance bulletin #2012-01. The Apprenticeship Coordinators Association attempted to open up dialogue with the MN School Counselors Assoc. last year, we were partially successful and I feel positive about our talks. We are currently working on a recruitment video, Labor services with the U of M is assisting with this, the video will be shot primarily at the St. Paul Union Dept. as it is a high profile project right now.

Our annual Pat Roelfer injured Apprenticeship fundraiser golf tourney is May 30<sup>th</sup> ~ this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for this event.

Roslyn: Pat Roelfer was a dynamic individual particularly to the apprenticeship industry. He worked in the trades, then as a senior field rep for many years, towards the end of his career he was the acting director of apprenticeship. He commanded a great deal of respect for his commitment to Apprentices on the forefront. There is not enough to be said about his contributions to the Apprenticeship industry and to have an Apprenticeship fund in his honor speaks well of him and carries on that same commitment.

Last item, I referenced labor education services with the U of M earlier; one of their retired members, Larry Casey, did a paper on the history of Apprenticeship. It's an excellent paper and highly interesting.

### **Training new members**

Board member positions are typically 4 years unless there are some interruption, half of the members terms expire the 1<sup>st</sup> year of a new administration and the other half the second year. We did have some expiring members this past year resulting in our new members this year. It's important for new members to understand the depth and the importance of their role to this board. I would like to invite new members to meet 1 hour prior to our next scheduled meeting and any other interested members to discuss the scope and the responsibility of serving this board.

## **X. Announcements**

- a. Next regularly scheduled meeting
  - i. Wednesday July 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 ~ 1:30 p.m. Minnesota Room DLI
  - ii. Wednesday October 17, 2012 ~ 1:30 p.m. Minnesota Room DLI

## **VIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roslyn Robertson*

Roslyn Robertson