



ADDRESS REPLY TO:
California Apprenticeship Council
P. O. Box 420603
San Francisco, CA 94142-0603

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday – July 25, 2012 10:00 A.M.

I. Call To Order/ Roll Call

Commissioner Anne Quick called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Members present: Anne Quick, Paul Von Berg, Jack Buckhorn, Julia Dozier, Donna Bechthold, Scott Gordon, and Diane Ravnik

A quorum was met.

Members absent: Wayne Lindholm and Aram Hodess

Review and approval of January 25, 2012 minutes

Commissioner Julia Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Paul Von Berg seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

II. Discussion

- Veterans Group Presentation

Frank Boecker, Bergelectric gave a brief overview of Bergelectric Corporation. Mr. Boecker is a human resources representative and a veteran. He was an instructor for Associated Builders Contractors for 14 years and served on several apprenticeship committees.

He spoke on the difficulties of employee retention, and that most contractors face about 50% retention and approximately 80 apprentices graduate leaving a deficit of about 100 apprentices a year.

He further stated that with government budget cuts the military branches will be downsizing. In the near future, approximately 30,000 veterans will be released from active duty in southern California. Only 25% of veterans are securing employment. Studies show that the largest pools of veterans are homeless.

Mr. Boecker reported that Bergelectric has collaborated with ABC and WECA to provide apprenticeship programs. In 2008, their San Diego District office worked with the Family Service Center at Camp Pendleton. In 2010 Bergelectric signed on with the marine recruiting depot, the air station in Miramar and the naval base on 32nd street in San Diego. The company continues to collaborate with other organizations to reach out to newly released veterans such as Veterans Village of San Diego and Greenlee Corporation, which provides tools for the apprenticeship

programs. The State of California has a special division for veterans only. Activision and USAA Bank have a “Call of Duty Endowment”, which spends millions of dollars helping veterans making that transition from military service to civilian service. At this time their call of duty is providing Bergelectrics’ apprentices, newly released military veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, with all the tools they need.

Mr. Boecker further noted that in the beginning, the goal of Bergelectric was to register one veteran a week – in the past 18 months they have hired over 170 veterans in San Diego alone. In 2011 the State of California presented them with an award as Employer of the Year for hiring veterans.

He expressed the thought that the military is looked at as a group of men.

Bergelectric employs approximately 29 women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Boecker gave an overview of the large unemployment rate of some Native American tribes and asked the attendees to get involved with employment of Native Americans within their county by contacting their local TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office).

III. Other Items of Interest

- Future of EOA Committee

Chairperson Anne Quick asked attendees to send her ideas on different groups to give presentations for equal opportunity in apprenticeship such as veterans, women business owners and Native Americans. Commissioner Quick can be reached at: aquick@abc-ggc.org

IV. Adjournment

A motion and a second were made to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.