

**Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 16, 2023**  
**Connecticut Department of Labor**  
**Office of Apprenticeship Training**  
**Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting**

**Meeting Call to Order at 1:35 p.m.**

State Apprenticeship Director Todd Berch chaired the meeting on behalf of SAC Chair, CTDOL Commissioner Bartolomeo.

**SAC Attendees** - Larry Vallieres, Paul Costello, Kelli Marie Vallieres, Gregory Raucci, Richard DuPont, Robert Berkmoes were present for a quorum.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** – May 26,2022 minutes were approved unanimously.

**Correspondence** - None.

**Public Comment** - Jeremiah Weid, Representative of the CT Well Water Association and Chairman of the Education Committee, spoke to the Council about a new apprenticeship education program for J-2 well water apprentices that Todd helped to create. He reported that the first classes are scheduled for January 2024 and that to date 25 people have enrolled. Mr. Weid thanked Todd for his help in setting up the program and quickness in approval of the proposed program.

**Apprenticeship Director Report** - Todd Berch reported that there are 1,699 currently active Employers and 6,417 apprentices. Since last report, 1,231 new apprentices have been registered, 506 apprentices have completed their programs, 301 apprentices separated without completion of their programs.

Larry Vallieres motioned to accept Todd's report which was seconded by Paul Costello.

**New Business**

Federal OA Regional Director Bernard Trembl noted the success of events occurring during National Apprentice Week (Nov.13-19 2023).

Charles McNeil suggested Council members and the public go to the Apprenticeship.gov website for information/comment on Regulations that are being reviewed and updated, then finalized in October 2025.

Todd Berch shared a Proclamation received from Governor Lamont.

Todd Berch shared an informational flyer created with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). The flyer will be used in an upcoming joint agency educational campaign to inform current registered apprenticeship employers, and prospective apprentices, of the rules and laws of registered apprenticeship. The flyer and the campaign are also a recommendation of the SAC subcommittee on this matter.

**Old Business** – Public Act 23-99 is the newly enacted technical change laws for DCP. DCP can impose a fine and a cease-and-desist order for those that hire an apprentice but do not register upon hire. Todd also shared that In Connecticut, apprentices with convictions are not prohibited from participating in apprenticeships. The new public act allows for individuals to have a review prior to applying for licensed journey person exams.

Todd also informed everyone that the Office of Apprenticeship Training will be switching to a new E-license system within the year.

**Good and Welfare** - Kelli Vallieres is working on streamlining trade license requirements and asked members for feedback and suggestions for improving the process. Kelli also stated new council members need to be appointed. Todd Berch commented the council member composition is established in statute and are appointed by the governor.

Paul Costello announced the next Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference (ESAC) will be held May 6 – May 9, 2024 in Puerto Rico.

**Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday February 15, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.  
Location: To be determined

**Meeting Adjourned** - 2:21 p.m. as motioned by Todd Berch and seconded by Kelli Vallieres