STATE ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE (SEAC)

MINUTES

June 6, 2025

Call to Order: 1:05 P.M.

The SEAC meeting was held via zoom. Chairman Richard Geraci presided over the meeting.

Members Present
Rick Geraci
Charles "Richard" Blaty
Jim Burbridge
Roger Chaple
Amy Martindill

Member(s) Absent
Keith Davis

Ex-Officio Member(s) Present
Michelle Hildreth, OSD Office of Apprenticeship

Guest in Attendance
John Kuznar, USDOL

Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2025

- The minutes from the April 4, 2025, meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Richard Blaty and seconded by Roger Chaple. The minutes were approved by the committee.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

- **ACT 746 of 2025**
  Michelle Hildreth provided an overview of ACT 746 of 2025, recently enacted by the General Assembly. Under this legislation, the responsibility for paying apprentice license fees and ensuring licenses remain current will return to the apprenticeship programs. A discussion ensued regarding the implications of the Act and any language that might impact the committee and the apprenticeship program in general.
- **Federal Grant Funding**
  Committee members discussed concerns regarding the clawback of federal grant funds allocated to various programs across the country. At this time, it remains unclear whether Arkansas programs will be affected presently or in the upcoming fiscal year.

Experienced Credit:

- **Dalton Lott – NPC**
  Dalton Lott submitted a request for approval of two years of experience credit. After review and discussion of the application, Roger Chaple moved to reject the request due to issues with the timeline presented. The application was made before verification was completed. The motion was seconded by Richard Blaty. The motion carried, and the request was denied.

Reports

- **USDOL Report**
  John Kuznar provided an update on behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor. He noted that little progress had been made on the federal budget and that staff travel remains restricted. Additionally, an operational pause has been placed on Job Corps centers per an executive order. Mr. Kuznar expressed willingness to assist Arkansas's two Job Corps centers in transitioning candidates into apprenticeship programs.
- **Office of Skills Development Report**
  Michelle Hildreth presented updates on behalf of the Arkansas Apprentice Office and OSD:
  - June 6 was the final day to submit reimbursement requests for the fiscal year. To date, $579,204 has been disbursed. A few program submissions are still outstanding.
  - The notification of award of the SAEF3 grant is expected later this month. If approved, funding will support adding additional apprenticeships in manufacturing, teaching, heavy equipment operation, and healthcare.
  - The annual apprenticeship training event will be held on July 16, 2025, at the ABC facility.
  - Amended Apprenticeship Rules will be distributed later this month.
- **ARDOL Report.** No report.
- **Compilation of number**
  At the previous meeting Derrick Daniels committed to provide data on program completions through May. The latest figures are encouraging and align with recent economic development announcements across the state, including the construction of a major new high school in Little Rock. These trends underscore the growing demand for qualified electricians.
- **Vacant Committee Position**
  Chairman Geraci reminded members of the current vacancy on the committee. He requested that Roger Chaple connect with Derrick Daniels if he knows of potential candidates who may be qualified to serve.

Adjourn

- Richard Blaty made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 P.M.

Next Meeting

Date: July 11, 2025.
Location: TBD