

STATE PLUMBING APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE (SPAC)

MINUTES

April 3, 2025

Call to Order: 9:30 AM

The SPAC meeting was held on Zoom meeting. Chairman, Kelley Sharp, presided over the meeting.

Members present:

Kelley Sharp, Chairman, Master Plumber, Congressional District 3
Karen Breashears, Citizen Member, Congressional District 4
Ronald Jarrell, Master Plumber, Congressional District 4

Member(s) absent:

James Corser, Master Plumber, Congressional District 2

Ex-Officio Member(s) Present:

Derrick Daniels – Program Advisor OSD

Guests in Attendance:

Ric Mayhan, AR Dept. of Health
Michelle Hildreth, OSD
John Kuznar, US DOL

Approval of Minutes February 6, 2025:

The minutes from February 6, 2025, was reviewed by committee members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Karen Breashears and seconded by Ron Jarrell. The committee voted in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

- **Documentation for fourth-year apprentices**

The committee discussed a recurring issue involving fourth-year apprentices and job site inspectors. Inspectors have requested documentation verifying the apprentices' fourth-year status, which includes the completion of 6,000 On-the-Job Training (OJT) hours and 480 classroom hours.

Derrick Daniels advised that fourth-year apprentices should carry a form of identification verifying their status, such as a card valid for one year and including relevant qualifications. The committee supported the idea. Ric

Mayhan committed to addressing this matter during inspectors' annual training and educating them on documents students can provide. Derrick will follow up with an email outlining recommended format identification cards for fourth-year apprentices.

- **2025 legislative session**

Derrick Daniels provided an update on the legislative session and the status of various bills. He noted that the State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) bill is currently in the House Education Committee and expected to be heard within the week. Chairman Sharp added that these bills would also be addressed at the upcoming Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordinating Steering Committee (AACSC) meeting.

Reports:

- **Arkansas Department of Health**

Ric Mayhan reported current licensing statistics:

- 1,502 active apprentices;
- 1,519 journeymen; and
- 2,116 master plumbers

- **OSD Report**

Derrick Daniels briefed the committee on recent developments at OSD and the Arkansas Apprenticeship Office. He noted that Michelle Hildreth will gradually assume more responsibilities with the SPAC. The SAEF 3 base and competitive grant applications have been submitted, and approval for the base grant is expected by June 2025.

He also announced that Mark McManus, Apprentice Expansion Coordinator, will retire in May. His role, along with several support positions, will be filled in due time. Development of the apprenticeship portal is progressing toward completion.

- **US DOL Report**

John Kuznar reported the registration of a new program at SAU Tech in Camden, covering multiple occupations. He also informed the committee that this year “National Apprenticeship Day” will replace “National Apprenticeship Week.” This will allow for the weeklong event to move to the fall.

John encouraged committee members to share their planned events to be included on the national calendar. John also mentioned receiving information from Casey Millhorn, who represents an organization with conducts fire safety training. He shared the information in the email with the committee via the meeting chat.

Other Business:

- **CT grant funding**

Derrick Daniels reported on the shortage in CT grant funding. He received approval to reallocate surplus funds from another category to cover 17 CT grants applications that were impacted by the lack of regular funds.

Next Meeting

May 1, 2025

Location: Via Zoom, unless otherwise notified.

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Adjourn

Ronald Jarrel made a motion to adjourn, Karen Breshears seconded the motion. At 10:30 AM the meeting was adjourned.