

**Apprenticeship Task Force
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m

Members Present: Jim Conness, Pam Furlan, Sue Isermann, Ronda Kliman, Louie Sekula, Gerald Waszkowiak

Members Absent: Mary Stouffer

Others Present: Carol Betts

Ronda Kliman, Apprenticeship Training Program Specialist opened the meeting by reviewing the Registered Apprenticeship Program. Ronda shared an organizational chart with the task force members reviewing the steps used to develop an apprenticeship program for a company or a group of companies. Ronda reviewed the steps taken to select a candidate, implement the training, assigning a mentor, and identifying an occupation. Ronda also shared a list of recognized apprenticeship occupations. She explained that the company helps to develop the standards used to develop an on the job training outline.

The group discussed different apprenticeship programs. Jim Conness said that the electricians require 55 hours in the apprenticeship program. It takes 3 years in the program and part of the hours go towards a degree. They then need to do 2 more years to get a journeyman card to work on commercial jobs. Everyone is required to take the same core classes. Ronda explained that the specific industry dictates the standards used for the program.

Jim said everyone talks about wanting trained people, but are having problems finding them. The apprenticeship program would allow you to train the employee with the skills needed for the specific job.

Ronda said the apprenticeship program works well for people that need to make money right out of school. It allows them to work and take classes. Ronda also said many companies are big on short term training, but long term training is needed to build the skills necessary, so the Apprenticeship Program involves 8,000 hours which is about 4 years of training.

Louie Sekula discussed some of the challenges at DelMonte Foods. He said from a safety standpoint they need to change the culture at the plant. He's hoping to establish a mentor program; the apprenticeship program may be a good way to initiate a training program.

Pam Furlan wondered if there is some way to adapt the Apprenticeship Program to another group already started. She thought maybe the program would tie-in with the Business Round Table.

Gerald Waszkowiak said he meets with a group that employ machinist. The group may be interested in having a representative join the discussion with the task force. Gerald had one individual in particular that he would contact to maybe establish a Machinist Apprenticeship Program.

The group decided to allow Gerald to make his contacts; he will get some dates and another meeting will be set.

The meeting adjourned.

Carol Betts