Call to order by Chairman Henry Heier at 10:05 a.m.

Chairman asks for audience members to introduce themselves while we wait for a quorum.

Guests in attendance:

Jason Schumm, program director for Southeast Louisiana Chapter of NECA.

Sandy Theriot, New Orleans Electrical JATC

Matthew Hennings, Alexandria Electrical JATC

Carlos Perez, Lake Charles Electrical JATC

Kelly Ebey, Deputy Director of Workforce Development, LWC

Curt Sims, Fire Pro

Ross Erzar, Vice President of American Fire Protection Group

Troyce Thoms, Baton Rouge Ironworkers Apprenticeship Program

Brent Moreland – Shreveport Electrical JATC

Katie Dupree – Bollinger Shipyards

John Barker – Director, Louisiana State Plumbing Board

Roy McGraw – Local 198 Pipetrades Apprenticeship Program

Randy Rovira – New Orleans Pipetrades JATC

Tigger Carron – Elevator Constructors Apprenticeship program

Council Introductions:

Keith Brand – Baton Rouge Electrical JATC and representing the Workforce Investment Council

Robert Clouatre – ABC Pelican Chapter

Trish (Inaudible) – Representing LCTCS on behalf of Dr. Monty Sullivan

Henry Heier – Council Chair, Executive Director of Mechanical Contractors Association of LA

Andy O’Brien – New Orleans & Baton Rouge Insulators JATC

Terry Reynolds – Business Manager, Shreveport IBEW Local Local 194

Moment of silence observed for anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

State Directors Report (Heather Stefan):

Currently have 46 registered programs. 3,860 registered apprentices. 70% are in building and construction trades, 11% in utilities, 19% in service related trades, 10% are female, 46% are minorities, 10% are (inaudible). Programs that have been deregistered: Aeroframe, CVS, Life Safety and Security Association, Lake Charles Insulators voluntarily deregistered due to lack of program activity and development. Avondale Shipyard and GM both deregistered due to plant closings.

State compliance with federal regulatory changes update: We believe all changes have been made and awaiting final approval from USDOL.

State apprenticeship tax credit certification submissions are lower than normal for 2013. Please make every effort to remind contractors to submit their paperwork for approval. If anyone needs another form, let us know and we’ll email it to you ASAP.

Chairman Heier calls for Roll Call of Council:

Claire Nettles – Absent

Robert Clouatre – Present

Terry Reynolds – Present

Andy O’Brien – Present

Dr. Sullivan – Absent, represented by Trish (inaudible)

Nicholas Felton – Absent

Woody Oge – Absent

Senator Ben Nevers – Present

Keith Brand – Present

Curt Eysink – Absent

Heather Stefan – Present

Chairman Heier: I’d like to personally welcome our newest member of the apprenticeship council, this is his first meeting – Senator Ben Nevers. Thank you, sir. Moving onto new business. We have two proposed programs here today. One of the providers I see here in the audience – Fire Pro. Fire Tech is not here yet. Fire Pro Systems, the way this works is that the three chairs up there are available to you as an applicant. Please come up and explain your proposal that all of the members of this body have had well in advance of this meeting. This is your opportunity to come to the table and answer any questions from council members. The staff has reviewed the application and worked with you to get it in the shape and format that it’s in, and if you could state for the record your names, gentlemen.

Ross Erzar: I’m Ross Erzar, Vice President of Operations for Fire Protection Group.

Curt Sims: I’m Curt Sims, Division Manager of Fire Pro in Monroe, Louisiana.

Heier: Ladies and gentlemen, you’ve met the representatives of Fire Pro, they’re here to present the application. Questions that you have today, please pose them to applicants. Any questions?

Andy O’Brien: How long has Fire Pro been in operation?

Curt Sims: The company Fire Pro has been in business more than 30 years at the same location in Monroe, LA. I don’t recall the exact date, but sometime in the 70’s.

Andy O’Brien: Why do you want an apprenticeship program at this time?

Ross Erzar: American Fire Protection Group has 13 different offices operating throughout LA, TX, OK, NM, TN. We purchased the company two years ago. That group of companies were in some financial distress, there hadn’t been much investment in the people or training for some time. Since the new ownership, we’ve made it a priority to focus on our people, hiring, training and trying to retain quality folks in our organization. In our business, the lifeblood of how we do on projects comes down to the field technician level, the apprentices and foreman. We felt that by putting apprenticeship programs in place and training our people, we’re going to produce quality foreman that will run the jobs and help our company be more successful, and help those folks become more successful.

Terry Reynolds: Do you have a goal of the number of people you want to train?

Ross Erzar: In Fire Pro, we talked with Heather about this. But for this year, our goal is four apprentices. As we grow the business, we want to increase that pool.

Terry Reynolds: As I read the application, there are 14 employees currently?

Curt Sims: There are 13 field employees, 9 foremen, a helper that was just hired, and three helpers in our training program.

Ross Erzar: We would like to get our helpers immediately into the program, and as new helpers come in, generally we have 3-6 month period to make sure it’s a right fit before we put them into the apprenticeship program.

(The rest of the recording is inaudible due to technical difficulties.)

The council voted on Fire Pro’s proposal and unanimously approved it.

A representative of Fire Tech was not present due to a misunderstanding regarding their requirement to appear. The council agreed to meet later in the Fall again to review Fire Tech’s proposal.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Chairman Heier adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.