

Executive Board Meeting
June 2, 2023 at 12:00 pm
Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown

The Executive Board met on Friday, June 2, 2023 at noon at the Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown. In attendance were Matt Cooper, Jody Pettit, Rob Aiken, Angel Munson, and Director Cheryl Mayforth. Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

Chairman Cooper stated there were quite a few resolutions this time. Director Mayforth went over the resolutions, many of which are membership renewals. Those that were not membership renewals were discussed in more detail. Director Mayforth also shared that the LWDA is receiving an overall 7% increase in funding this upcoming program year.

Mr. Aiken asked if school counselors go out to local businesses to see what is really available in our area? Further discussion ensued regarding this topic. Director Mayforth shared that BOCES enrollments are up, which JCC enrollments are down. We are seeing changes in the focus of post-high school education and training. The school counselors do meet with BOCES monthly.

Director Mayforth discussed Jain Irrigation, and a date was set for the Manufacturing Job Fair of August 10th from 1:00-4:00 pm. She then discussed the In-Demand list. This list is updated regularly by the directors for the North Country region. The last update was on May 2, 2023 and it is available online at <https://dol.ny.gov/priority-occupations-north-country>. The Regional and Local Plans are also being updated, and modifications will be sent to the state shortly. Both plans will be available on our website at <https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/EmploymentTraining/jefferson-lewis-workforce-development-board>.

Career Jam was the next topic of discussion. It was another successful year with approximately 2400 students, 100 businesses and dozens of volunteers in attendance. Further discussion ensued regarding the event, the legal issues with Mr. Van Amburgh trying to copywrite the Career Jam name, etc.

Director Mayforth next went over staffing changes that will be occurring this summer. Neely Shaw's last day with us will be June 9th, and Ethan Brown will be leaving us in early August. Staff will be moving positions within the office, and we will be hiring for vacancies. Vice Chair Pettit asked what the requirements are for those positions. A Coordinator must have a bachelor's degree in specific fields, while an Assistant needs an associate's degree or 60 semester hours. This topic led to what the WDB Board and officers' terms are. Board members are for a term of 3 years, while officers must be renewed each year. Director Mayforth also shared upcoming changes to the board. Mr. Haug is stepping down and Mr. Keruski will be taking his place. Ms. Pietroski is also stepping down and Ms. Dwyer will be taking her place.

Discussion on the debt ceiling, funding for the next two years, and ABAWDs was the last topic of discussion.

Chairman Cooper closed the Executive Board meeting at 12:58 pm