Members of the Executive Committee Present:
Eddie Rispone-Chairman
Curt Eysink
Mike Mitternight
Charles Moniotte
Joe May
Jorge Tarajano
Kathy Bobbs
Louis Reine

Members of the Executive Committee Absent:
Jacqueline Beauchamp
Art Farve
Mike Palamone
C. A. “Buck” Vandersteen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rispone.

I. Comments from Chair
Chairman Rispone addressed the council and informed them that Charles Moniotte would provide an update on the IBC. He also had a chance to take a look at the report by the Homebuilders Association and has a copy of the curriculum for everyone to review.

II. Approval of Minutes
A draft of the minutes from the December Executive Council meeting was given to each member for their review and approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes. That motion passed.

III. Discussion of Wage and Tax Records
Curt Eysink, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission gave an over view of the wage and tax records and the importance of their accuracy. Business with 200 or more employees are required to complete their wage and tax records electronically and some are not doing so. The Louisiana Workforce Commission is going to start penalizing those employees that do not complete the form electronically and in the proper format. Notices of this have been sent to employers, CPA and private vendors that handle HR issues. The improper filing creates a significant cost to the Workforce Commission. The LWC is currently facilitating outreach efforts to notify businesses of the penalty regarding non-compliance.

IV. Update on Industry Based Certifications
Charles Moniotte gave an update on the Industry Based Certification and a draft of the new guidelines, procedures, and the application that is being developed. He discussed the re-certification process and the criteria for current businesses. A task force is being created to revamp the program and to define the criteria, list the programs and what they teach and to clarify the certifications that are already in place.
V. Other Business

Charles Moniotte met an executive with CentryLink and discussed the possibility of them getting involved with the workforce commission. He also found out that Claudeidra Minor had been in contact with CentryLink and thanked her for her initiative in reaching out to them. CenturyLink is located in Monroe, La and they have about 60,000 employees nationwide.

Curt Eysink shared some information on the status of workforce in Louisiana. The information showed the size of the labor workforce before Katrina and that it has taken Louisiana almost 6 years to return the workforce back to where it was pre-Katrina. Those numbers are still growing and it shows how Louisiana has weathered the economic crisis. Also, LWC sends out weekly talking points and monthly reports that give the status of unemployment and the status of workforce in the state that everyone should be receiving. All of this information is also available online at laworks.net.

Chairman Rispone asked the members to think about the Workforce Investment Council and the direction in which it is headed. He asked each member to think of ideas and/or suggestions about the council and if it is headed in the right direction.

Meeting was adjourned