



THE TOWN OF AFTON • 416 S. Washington St. • P.O. Box 310
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THE TOWN OF AFTON NAW PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 2022 marks the 85th Anniversary of the National Apprenticeship Act; and

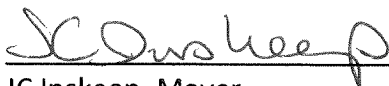
WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its 8th anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in creating opportunities by allowing apprentices to earn while they learn and preparing a pathway to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers in Afton, Wyoming, and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seekers affordable paths to secure high-paying jobs, and

WHEREAS, Afton recognizes the role of Registered Apprenticeship in expanding opportunities in our workforce that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, thus providing a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, rural communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to Wyoming and America's industries; and

WHEREAS, Afton recognizes that Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, can train our workforce and build a pipeline into good, quality jobs in order to address our nation's pressing workforce challenges such as rebuilding our country's infrastructure, addressing critical supply chain demands, supporting a clean energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, and responding to care economy issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JC Inskeep, Mayor of Afton, do hereby declare November 14, 2022, through November 20, 2022, as National Apprenticeship Week in the Town of Afton.



JC Inskeep, Mayor



Town of Afton honors apprenticeship programs with NAW proclamation

◆ Lower Valley Energy Apprentices greet Afton Town Council in celebration.

By Janet Erickson
SVI Media

In honor of registered apprenticeship programs nationwide, The Town of Afton issued a proclamation this last week, designating the week of November 14-20 as National Apprenticeship Week in the Town of Afton. Apprentices from Lower Valley Energy attended the monthly Town Council Meeting to thank the council for their recognition.

Signed by Mayor JC Inskeep, the proclamation outlines the value of apprenticeship programs for businesses and apprentices alike and honors the role they play in strengthening the work force in communities.

"Registered Apprenticeship Programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seekers affordable paths to secure high-paying jobs."

Devin Jensen, Marcuss Sainz and Brock Wright represented the current team of apprentices from LVE and expressed gratitude in public comment to the council.

Jensen, a Step IV Apprentice with LVE, is halfway through his apprenticeship. "The apprenticeship program at Lower Valley has been great. It has allowed me to be able to keep



L to R: Jace Romrell, Marcuss Sainz, Devin Jensen, Brock Wright, Dirk Hillyard, William Wilkes, Abby Humes, and Jeff Jensen pose with the newly minted Town of Afton NAW Proclamation at the Town Council meeting on November 8.

my family here and raise my kids in the community, and I really appreciate that Lower Valley can train me the way they want, the way that is best for our community."

Completing a four-year apprenticeship and investing 8,000 hours gives Jensen and Sainz full time positions. They perform typical duties as well as respond to on-call situations and outages as they work through their apprenticeships to become Journeyman Linemen. At the conclusion of their 8,000 hours, they will test for their Journeyman licenses and step into full employment as linemen.

Brock Wright, who serves at LVE as a Metering Technician Apprentice, was born in Star Valley and is also working through a four-year/8,000 hour program. Meter Technicians, according to Wright, are essentially the cash registers of the company. They install, maintain and read meters so that the company remains financially sound.

Sainz, a Step III Journeyman Lineman Apprentice, was

raised in Star Valley, but spent a year in Puerto Rico, helping repair infrastructure after a storm there, and is grateful that he was able to return quickly and begin his apprenticeship with LVE working in his hometown. "I've been very fortunate. We are able to work from Afton and learn the Jackson area as well, getting lots of experience in both districts. We do all the overhead circuits and all the underground circuits. We take it to the meter base and the [meter] guys take over from there."

"I think what's important about the apprenticeship program is that it allows us younger guys to get our foot in the door at Lower Valley and not miss out on that opportunity by having to do our apprenticeship somewhere else," shared Jensen. "We can Journey here. It's our hometown and we know the system like the back of our hands."

LVE has also engaged Casey Morely, Jayce Wolfley, Sam Taylor, Max Gardner and Mason Rogers as apprentices.

Jace Romrell, who serves as the Safety Director for LVE, is very proud of these young apprentices. "It's important to know that these guys work really hard to be qualified to do this dangerous job. You wouldn't want just anybody out there working on power lines with the high voltages, so these guys go through schooling. Some of them have gone to college and come and do another four years of on-the-job training. Not only do they do bookwork, but they do step-up interviews during the year. I think it's important that we know that they are here and working to [serve our community through this program.]