

To Serve Union Members

State Building Trades Training Program Gets Half Million Grant To Aid Workers

The WV State Building & Construction Trades Council's Construction Trades Training & Advancement Program (CTTAP) was awarded nearly \$500,000 for the program year beginning July 1 to help improve the skills of union construction workers.

The CTTAP program was begun in 1989. It's wholly financed through the state by Federal JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act) money allocated to each state based on its unemployment rate. Each year, CTTAP proposes to the state for different types of JTPA money to help laid off union members.

"CTTAP funds are used to supplement apprenticeship training," said Allen Fisher, Executive Director of CTTAP. "We also help in the retraining of journeymen and those interested in an Associate Degree in Applied Science."

For the program year beginning this July 1, CTTAP was awarded \$489,200 to serve 254 union members.

To date seventeen members of Building Trades affiliates

B&R Hearings Are Over

After almost four months the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hearings are over.

And while it took Brown & Root months to "present" their side, the Charleston Building Trades had their case made in just a few days.

"That just showed that Brown

have received college degrees through the assistance of CTTAP.

During program year 1992-93, CTTAP funded 364 union members with more than

\$500,000. Some of the training programs were welding, fiber optics, valve rebuild, theodolite (a new surveying tool), synthetic exterior design, laser alignment, interior systems

along with the Associate Degree program.

The Associate Degree program is part of a joint effort with the U.S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training and

Community Colleges throughout the state. Union members who have been through a certified apprenticeship program, or are within two years of completion, can obtain a degree in Applied Science for Occupational Development.

CTTAP helps the state along with the members according to John Samples, Director of Training.

"We help the economy by providing training for our members," he said. "The construction industry is constantly changing with the introduction of new technologies. We focus on meeting specialized training needs for workers by working with existing programs."

CTTAP is in its fifth year of operation. For the program year 1991-92 it was chosen "Service Provider of the Year" by the Job Training and Coordinating Council out of a field

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PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS Local 625 members in a recent skill improvement program in Wheeling were (from left) Jack Russell, Larry Racer, Darrell McClure, George Echols, instructor Mark Pauley, Chuck Hudson, Ronnie Burney, Jim Hanna and Herman White.

Fair Contracting Program Dents Mid-Eastern's Project Bid Plans

ACT's Fair Contracting program has issued a warning to unfair contractors. Now ACT

is beginning to put a few dents in their hard hats.

One case in point is Mid-Eastern Construction from Fairmont, WV.

In January of 1993 Tim Millne, ACT's fair contracting representative, learned that Mid-Eastern's owner J. Robert Hadox had been convicted in October of 1992 of violations of the federal Davis Bacon Act.

His crime included nonpayment of prevailing wages and falsification of documents on

the Federal Building and Courthouse in Wheeling.

Hadox was given a five month prison term that was served in a work release program. He was then put on a three year term of supervised release, and under home detention for five months.

The court order also placed Hadox, Mid-Eastern and any related companies on the U.S. Comptroller General's list of parties excluded from federal

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UC Battle Is Won By ACT

The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation and Union Carbide are still battling in the courtroom over the chemical company's Triton Surfactant Permit.

ACT won the first round when the company tried to claim the permit was confidential. However, ACT's lawyer, Stuart Calwell, went to court and won a court order to review the company's records relating to its permit application.

The next road block Carbide attempted to put in front of ACT was a claim that ACT had no standing to challenge their permit.

Once again ACT's lawyers went into court, winning a ruling from the Air Pollution Control Commission saying ACT was

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Fair Contracting Program Denies Mid-Eastern \$3.8 Million In Bids

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procurement and non-procurement programs for three years.

In effect, Hadox and his companies could not bid federally funded work for three years once the U.S. Comptroller General's list was published. This left a loophole for Hadox to bid projects during the six months it would take the government to publish their list.

"We knew that Mid-Eastern would be shut out of federally funded projects soon," commented Millne. "In the mean time we came up with a plan to get the message out on them."

Using ACT's project tracking system Millne found that Mid-Eastern was the apparent low bidder on the High Gate Carriage House in Fairmont.

He notified David Marino, Planner with the City of Fairmont with information regarding Mid-Eastern and protested the potential award. After reviewing Mid-Eastern bid documents Marino found that Hadox had not disclosed his

criminal record thus disqualifying him from receiving the High Gate Carriage contract and future work for the City of Fairmont.

attempting to use a different company, P&B Construction to bid work. P&B Construction is reported to have asked to be placed on the vendors list at

renovation project at the Monpointe Continuing Care Center. Millne asked them to review the information on Mid-Eastern before making an

Mid-Eastern Projects Lost

Arnoldsburg	Arnoldsburg Elementary Renovation	\$ 188,600
Morgantown	Chemistry Laboratory	84,147
Franklin	County Courthouse	548,073
Cowen	Glade Elementary Addition	208,981
Fairmont	High Gate Carriage House	680,778
Morgantown	Homeless Shelter Renovation	187,600
Clarksburg	John W. Davis State Office Building	53,989
Harrison County	Johnson and Lumberport Elementary	925,000
Keyser	Keyser Primary and Middle School	299,999*
Morgantown	Monpointe Continuing Care Center	452,000
Nutter Fork	Public Safety Complex Alterations	55,700
Total		\$ 3,684,867

* Estimate, project not yet bid.

To date Millne has found ten projects Mid-Eastern was bidding. Each time he has contacted the owners and sent documentation regarding the status of Mid-Eastern.

Mid-Eastern has not gotten any of these projects.

Not to be denied, Hadox is

West Virginia University. Hadox is president of P&B, and the court order refers to any company in which he or Mid-Eastern has an interest.

The prevailing wage program is even having an effect in the private sector. Mid-Eastern was the low bidder on a

award. Their response -- "We will not have any thing to do with Mid-Eastern Construction".

As a source of credible information, ACT has succeeded in accomplishing one of its main goals -- to create a level playing field for fair contractors.

Brown & Root

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had to subpoena B&R workers.

"The Labor Board said that 60 people were still in dispute, and they could come in voluntarily or they would subpoena them. Brown & Root couldn't get them to come in voluntarily, so 32 were subpoenaed.

"The amazing part is Brown & Root agreed that most of their witnesses were not eligible to vote. Why did they bother to bring them at all? It was just another delay," Midkiff said.

The next step is in the hands of the NLRB, he said.

"They'll review all of the paperwork, and then decide if and when there will be an election. It may be a month or longer before they have a deci-

sion."

Midkiff said he's optimistic about the upcoming events.

"Things are going really well, we're getting more people involved and working with us," he said.

"I feel really confident about the election. A lot of out of state workers are finishing up their jobs and going home to Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and all over. I don't think they're going to fly back here to vote in this election.

"And, a lot of the out of state workers that Brown & Root thought was on their side are now saying they'll vote for a union in the election.

"Brown & Root is our best organizer, they're making everybody angry, and they're coming over to our side."

Says Teamsters Local 505 B.A.

ACT 'Best Thing For Labor'

"The fact is, ACT is probably the best thing to happen to labor in the state of West Virginia in the last 30 years," said Glen Johnson, a business agent for Teamsters Local 505.

"In the past, we had no way of knowing what other contractors were doing," he continued. ACT is keeping everybody honest. And if everybody has to pay the same package, we can all be competitive in bidding."

Only the construction division of a Teamsters Local is permitted to join ACT. The Huntington based local serves

a six county area in southwestern West Virginia and has 111 dues-paying members in its construction division, said Johnson.

Those members who belong to the construction division are the truck drivers who haul the materials to and on construction sites.

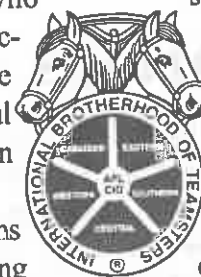
Some of the problems his members are facing are "Brown & Root and any and all non-union contractors under-bidding union prices, and bringing in inexperienced people."

Johnson said his members pay into ACT to combat those non-union contractors who cut the scale.

"If a contractor doesn't pay scale wages or health and welfare, they have a competitive edge.

"The bottom line is ACT gets on these "rat" contractors and gets rid of them. ACT "bird-dogs" these people to make sure the prevailing wage and benefit package is being paid," Johnson said.

"On our end, we have nothing but praise for ACT."



Fight Taken To Texas

News of the Brown & Root fight in West Virginia is spreading across the nation.

A news story recently appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* comparing the fight to a "hotly contested political battle".

Steve Midkiff, an organizer for the Charleston Building Trades, and Wendy Radcliff of Charleston, a representative of Communities Concerned about Corporations (CCC), traveled to Texas City, Texas, in mid-June to attend CCC meetings and to handbill area Brown & Root workers.

While there, Midkiff was contacted by the *Chronicle*. Both Midkiff and Bubby Casto, business manager of the Charleston Building Trades, are quoted in the *Chronicle* story.

"The company is trying to load up its payroll with their own people who vote 'No'," Casto told the *Chronicle*.

The newspaper's story also tells about Les Holstein, an electrician who was laid off by Brown & Root in Charleston.

Holstein contends he was laid off because he signed a union card.

Holstein said he has been unable to get another job with the company even though out-of-state electricians have been hired.

Carbide

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within its right to challenge Carbide's permit.

ACT's lawyers are now preparing legal briefs challenging Carbide's permit based on Carbide's own confidential documents

If successful, ACT's lawyers will have stopped an "on the cheap" construction project by forcing Carbide to obtain the proper environmental permits.

Local 301 Can't Fight Big Guys Alone

ACT Is Ironworkers' Balance Factor

ACT is an equalizer between union and non-union contractors, according to Willard "Bubby" Casto, the business agent and financial secretary of Charleston-based Ironworkers Local 301, and a business manager for the Charleston Building Trades.

"One local union can't af-

ford to take on the big guys," Casto said, "but ACT has the time and money to fight them."

The local covers 13 south central counties and has 140 active members and 22 apprentices who do all types of work, including

bridges, sheeting and welding. Seventy-one members are retired.

Casto said that his members expect simple yet significant things from ACT.

"We expect ACT to get us a bigger part of the

work, and it has already turned around some jobs for us."

Non-union contractors are a big problem for his members, Casto said.

"For example - Brown & Root has taken about 1000 jobs in the [Kanawha] Valley. Half of the workers are from out of
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Education And Labor Leaders Join In Fight For State's Schools

The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation worked hard to bring together a group of educational and labor leaders in order to remind West Virginians how important our children are.

Together, they ran the ad (at right) statewide urging the West Virginia Supreme Court to allow the rebuilding of West Virginia educational facilities.

However, the court decided that borrowing money for rebuilding would be unconstitutional and the plans were scrapped.

ACT had more than one reason for recommending a positive decision. If the court had decided to let the WV School Building Authority borrow money to rebuild, it would have created a lot of jobs for construction workers in West Virginia. A majority of these jobs would have been for union members.

ACT saw an opportunity to help union members with both

things: providing jobs, and helping the children.

"Union Construction work-

ers are just like other people in our state," said Steve White, ACT director. "They want the

best for their children. But to give them the best, construction workers need good jobs.

It's Our Children That Count!



There's a dispute in the West Virginia Supreme Court over whether the West Virginia School Building Authority can borrow money. That money is intended for rebuilding antiquated county educational facilities throughout West Virginia.

It's up to the Court to decide who's right or wrong in the dispute. But we all know who gets hurt the longer it drags on. Our children. The future of West Virginia.

It doesn't much count who's right or wrong in the dispute. Not if because of it our children are denied the future they deserve. And it will be denied them if we fail today to give them the quality education they must have to compete in the world of tomorrow.

The executive, legislative and community leadership of West Virginia, the "movers and shakers," can and must reach a compromise. Soon! Then we can get on with the job of rebuilding our school system. If we don't, our children will suffer forever.

And it's our children that count!

WV ASSN. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
AFFILIATED CONST. TRADES FOUNDATION
WV ASSN. SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

THE W.VA. CONSTRUCTION COUNCIL
W.VA. FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (AFT)
W.VA. BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES

The ACT Report

A monthly publication of the Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation, an association of West Virginia building and construction trades local unions, with offices in Charleston.

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ACT Finds Industry Tax Breaks

Most likely your property taxes have gone up this year.

They were supposed to. The state wants to equalize property taxes in all 55 counties, and some county rates have been lower than others.

But what you probably don't know is some industrial taxes are lower.

And some of the largest corporations in West Virginia have seen their land taxes lowered as much as 50 percent for 1993.

That's because of a law passed in 1990 to equalize tax rates for all the state's counties. This includes land, buildings and equipment.

Industrial property is appraised by the state for its full fair market value. It's then assessed by the county, with the goal to be a 60 percent assessment by 1994. In Kanawha County 1993 rates are at 49 percent.

But in the past county assessors often believed state appraisers didn't actually set industry at full market value. So they set their own county assessments at higher rates than they used for other property.

But this year county assessors were prohibited from setting higher rates. And this resulted in at least three major Kanawha County corporations quietly reaping a windfall of hundreds of thousands of

dollars in lowered property taxes. Union Carbide, Dupont and Rhone Poulenc all saw dramatic decreases in their tax bills.

Unfortunately for Carbide, DuPont and Rhone-Poulenc, however, property tax researchers for the ACT Foundation documented their lowered tax bills and went public with the revelation.

"We've spent months looking at property records to pull all the facts together and we still have a bunch of unanswered questions," said Steve White, director of ACT.

"What we do know is that all three companies have major tracts of land valued at less than \$200 per acre. At the same time state appraisers tell us industrial land is worth an average of \$25,000 per acre."

ACT is also investigating the value of specific plants both in Kanawha County and elsewhere in West Virginia.

"This is a state wide issue and we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg," White continued. "It's not surprising to me to find the same companies that underpay construction workers and pollute the environment also don't pay their fair share of taxes."

At Parkersburg's Washington Works

DuPont Pact With Ferguson, Presidents

In the last issue of the ACT Report it was incorrectly reported that the contract at the Washington Works plant in Parkersburg was between Dupont and the General Presidents Committee of the National Building Trades.

The contract is between the General Presidents Committee

CTTAP

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of more than two hundred other agencies.

CTTAP is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of one representative of each local Building Trades Council and the Secretary/Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

The staff consists of John Samples, Director of Training, Raymond Bias, Training & Placement Specialist, Bonnie Nida, Fiscal Officer, and Amie Robinson, Secretary.

Any local union interested in funds for training their members please contact CTTAP at 346-3863.

and both M.K. Ferguson and Pritchard Electric.

However, some believe it is unclear whether or not a contract exists at this time.

The General Presidents Committee voted on a supposed agreement between the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades and MK-Ferguson, but no agreement existed.

"We never agreed to any of the language in that contract," said Randy Henderson, Business Agent for the Parkersburg plumbers and pipefitters.

"As far as we are concerned the General Presidents Com-

Ironworkers

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state. If they were a union contractor at least 100 of those jobs would be held by my people," he said.

"And as far as the election goes, we could win lose or draw, but they've spent a ton of money fighting it. They have to know we aren't going away, we've got no place else to go.

mittee voted to accept something that did not exist -- a local agreement."

In the meantime the construction workforce at the plant has been cut down to approximately half the usual size.

There are reports Dupont is undergoing company wide cut backs. But there may be other reasons behind the cut backs.

"That's the same thing that happened to us at the Belle plant," commented Sammy Saul, Business manager for the Charleston plumbers & pipefitters.

"We agreed to everything

they asked but Dupont didn't want a contract, they just wanted us out. They kept laying off until there were a few workers left, then they brought in Brown

Tri-State Radio Ads Scheduled

Beginning Aug. 2 and running through Oct. 22, Tri-State area ACT members will hear radio commercials praising community businesses which hire union workers.

The ads, a series of three, ran in the Parkersburg area and were so successful ACT offi-

& Root."

The General Presidents Committee is reviewing its decision. Meanwhile, local unions are evaluating their options.

cialists decided to give the Huntington Tri-State area a turn.

To catch them, tune in to Country station WTCR AM 1420 and FM 103.3 Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. WTCR is the #1 Tri-State area radio station for adults ages 18 to 55.

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