

# Taking ACTION

Legislative Committee Newsletter of Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation

Vol. 1, No. 1



December 1995

## Comp Threshold One of a Kind

The threshold established last year by the Legislature for determining permanent total disability awards from the Workers Compensation Fund places West Virginia as the only state in the country with such an eligibility requirement.

Testifying before the workers' compensation subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee of the Judiciary on November 13th, the Workers Compensation Funds Director of Research and Informa-

tion Judith Greenwood told lawmakers "We appear to stand alone in respect of having a threshold for qualifying for permanent total disabilities."

According to West Virginia AFL-CIO President Joe Powell the state's solitary position on the disability threshold is new evidence of the unfairness of the legislatures actions last year.

"Now we know how mean it was," Powell said.

### HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEER LOBBYISTS

ACT needs your help during the upcoming legislative session. Members who can spend a day at the Capitol talking with legislators to help keep the issues of concern on to working people on the "front burner" are urged to contact B.B. Smith at (304)455-5500.

**YOU CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**

Jobs Act Update-Jobs Act Update-Jobs Act Update-Jobs Act Update

## Resolution Passes in 24 Counties

ACT Legislative Representative B.B. Smith has been criss-crossing the state urging County Commissions to pass resolutions supporting the hiring of local workers on projects which are publicly funded. These resolutions will demonstrate the need for legislation such as the West Virginia Jobs Act which would require projects funded by state tax dollars to hire ninety percent of the workers locally. The Jobs Act is one of ACT's primary legislative goals for next year.

"Our objective right now is to gain support for important components of the Jobs Act at the county

commission level," Smith said.

Twenty-four counties have already passed the resolution. They are Doddridge, Ritchie, Harrison, Raleigh, Clay, Wirt, Lincoln, Hardy, Grant, Preston, Marshall, Tucker, Fayette, Wood, Wetzel, Lewis, Wayne, Taylor, Calhoun, Randolph, Wyoming, Nicholas, Braxton and Tyler.

In the coming weeks resolutions will be taken up in Boone, Cabell, Mason, Monongalia, Kanawha, Webster, Summers, Berkeley, Monroe, Roane, Barbour, Greenbrier and Gilmer counties.

Only two counties, Putnam and

Jackson, have rejected the resolution.

"By and large the support is very strong for local jobs," Smith said, "The county officials understand, just as we do, that tax-funded projects which hire local workers help build stronger communities. They see the recklessness of letting these jobs go to people not living in the area."

ACT members in counties which have not yet taken action on the resolution are encouraged to contact their County Commissioners and urge their support of this measure.

# Make Your Voice Heard

A simple letter to the editor can make a significant impact in your community. Letters should be brief (150 words or less) and to the point. Address only one issue - do not try to change the entire world through your letter. ACT is strongly encouraging members to write regarding their feelings about the workers compensation changes and in support of the Jobs Act. To help get you started a sample letter on workers comp is shown on the right of this page.

The Register/Herald  
801 N. Kanawha Street  
Beckley, WV 25801

Bluefield Daily Telegraph  
P.O. Box 1599  
Bluefield, WV 24701

Charleston Daily Mail  
1001 Virginia Street, East  
Charleston, WV 25301

Charleston Gazette  
1001 Virginia Street, East  
Charleston, WV 25301

The Exponent  
324-326 Hewes Avenue  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

The Telegram  
324-326 Hewes Avenue  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

The Inter-Mountain  
P.O. Box 1339  
Elkins, WV 26241

Times-West Virginian  
P.O. Box 2530  
Fairmont, WV 26554

The Herald Dispatch  
P.O. Box 2017  
Huntington, WV 25720

West Virginia Daily News  
P.O. Box 471  
Lewisburg, WV 24901

The Logan Banner  
P.O. Box 720  
Logan, WV 25601

The Journal  
207 West King Street  
Martinsburg, WV 25401

Parkersburg News  
519 Juliana Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Parkersburg Sentinel  
519 Juliana Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Weirton Daily Times  
114 Lee Avenue  
Weirton, WV 26062

Welch Daily News  
P.O. Box 569  
Welch, WV 24801

The Intelligencer  
1500 Main Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003

Wheeling News-Register  
1500 Main street  
Wheeling WV 26003

Williamson Daily News  
P.O. Box 1660  
Williamson, WV 26003

## SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Last year the legislature placed a threshold for permanent total disability awards from the Workers Compensation Fund. West Virginia is the only state in the country with a threshold like this. Why make it much more difficult for a seriously injured worker to receive the benefits they need to feed, clothe and house their family?

Legislators who supported this measure should be ashamed of themselves. Why did they look to cut benefits, in a way no other state does, instead of collecting the millions of dollars employers owe the fund?

Maybe the legislators will see the error of their ways and correct it next legislative session. If not, maybe the voters will have to correct things at the ballot box.

Sincerely,

John Q. Worker  
1234 Main Street  
Elmersville, WV 25555  
(304)555-5555

*Note: Most papers now require you to provide your full address and a daytime phone number. This information is usually not printed but it just so the paper can verify the authenticity of your letter.*

*You're Invited*

## ACT Legislative Reception

January 31, 1996

Charleston House Holiday Inn

"Windows on the River"

5:00 - 8:00 P.M.

