

THE ACT REPORT

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The ACT Foundation is an association of West Virginia building and construction trades unions, with offices in Charleston and Clarksburg. Bruce Tarpley, President; Randy May, Vice President; T.L. Ranson, Secretary Treasurer; Roy Smith, Executive Director; Steve White, Director.

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ACT Protests Parkersburg Roundtable Over Coldwater

ACT members picketed outside the Parkersburg/ Wood Co. Area Development Corporation (ADC) on August 7th to protest the use of imported workers on the Coldwater Creek project at the Parkersburg Industrial Park.

The ADC, funded in part with tax dollars, has become a construction manager and hired a subcontractor from North Carolina.

That contractor has refused to hire West Virginia workers for the concrete pouring and finishing.

People from North Carolina and Florida have been

brought in to do the work.

"We are upset because our

Area Development Corporation has gone into the contract-



PICKETING OUTSIDE THE PARKERSBURG Area Roundtable office are Mark Williams, member Sheetmetal Workers Local 33 and Dan Poling, BA Painters Local 1144.

tax dollars are being used to pay this man while local construction workers remain unemployed," said Charlie Metz, business agent for Cement Masons Local 181.

"And we don't know why the

ing business and is giving away local jobs."

ACT's Jim Lewis has been investigating the ADC and its connection to the powerful Parkersburg Area Roundtable.

The Parkersburg Area Roundtable is made up of influential politicians, business people, and other community leaders in the Parkersburg area.

"If we don't get a favorable response we plan to aim the protest directly to the Area Roundtable members," Lewis said.

Parkersburg newspaper and television stations were covering the picket.

More than 40 people showed up at the site to participate.

Among the participants were members of Carpenters 899, Cement Masons 181, Plumbers and Pipefitters 565, Millwrights 1755, Operating Engineers 132, Sheet Metal Workers 33, Laborers 1085 and Painters 1144.

Meade Construction & Tri-State Sign Agreement; First Of Its Kind In Area

Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council and Meade Construction of Cattlettsburg, Ky., have signed a contract nearly one year after a successful organizing drive.

The contract is the first of its kind because it covers only light commercial work, or work under \$1.5 million in total cost.

The contract is open to all crafts and all contractors.

The reason for choosing this type of contract, according to Tri-State organizer, Tom Will-

iams, is "...because we have not been a dominate force in the

The success of the organizing campaign came after two years

This new contract is unique in another way as well.

Contract provisions guarantee a maximum average wage amount for each craft.

It will also give the crafts the opportunity to arrive at the average as they see fit.

"It will give Tri-State the chance to become a key player in the light commercial field as we are in the industrial and large commercial fields in this area," said Steve Burton, Tri-State's business manager.

"It also guarantees the light commercial jobs Meade is awarded will use union labor."

"IT WILL GIVE TRI-STATE THE CHANCE TO BECOME A KEY PLAYER IN THE LIGHT COMMERCIAL FIELD AS WE ARE IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND LARGE COMMERCIAL FIELDS IN THIS AREA."

**STEVE BURTON
BUSINESS MANAGER, TRI-STATE BUILDING TRADES**

Cattlettsburg area when it comes to light commercial work."

of hard work and dealing with several false starts and setbacks.

Laborers 543 To Start New Retirees' Council

Earlier this month, Laborers Local 543 in Huntington finalized the formation of its Retirees' Council by electing officers.

"We would like to thank Jack McComas (retired Secretary-Treasurer, WV AFL-CIO) for his part in the organization of the Retirees Council," said Dave McComas of Local 543.

Local 543 is the first Local in Laborers District Council of West Virginia to form a retirees' council.

Previously there was a Laborers District retirees' council which was dissolved because of lack of participation by members.

The main goal of the council is to encourage retirees to become

more active and get them involved, mostly in political areas.

"All locals would like for their retirees to become more involved

camaraderie of the union to continue after retirement."

If your local doesn't have a retiree council and would like to



PICTURED AT THE RETIREE'S Council meeting to elect officers are Laborers Local 543 Retirees Thomas Queen and Paul Miller.

in political education," said McComas.

"The council also allows the

talk to someone about starting one, contact your business agent or the ACT office.

Recent Floods Spark Consumer Concern

Problems with dishonest contractors have always been evident, but with the recent flooding in the area consumers need to be extra careful.

It's times like these when contractors take advantage of people who are in need of repairs due to disaster.

Fortunately in West Virginia the state Attorney General's office has a consumer protection office to help.

The benefit of the consumer protection services has always been associated with faulty prod-

ucts or mail order scams.

However, consumer protection can also help people who have been scammed by contractors.

The Consumer Protection Department at the Attorney General's office has a toll free telephone number people can call if they think a contractor has overcharged, taken money or provided unsatisfactory work.

"We believe encounters with scam artists disguised as contractors is a problem for the people of our area, especially with the recent flooding" said ACT's Pauline Hanson.

"We encourage people to call consumer protection if they are fearful their contractor is scamming them."

This hotline can also be used as a preventive measure as well.

"A person can call the 800 number to find out if a contractor they are thinking of hiring has been reported," said, West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw.

"We can even give consumers tips to help them avoid dishonest contractor."

To contact the Consumer Protection Agency dial 1-800-368-8808.

School-To-Work Program Good For WV Schools

School-to-Work is a federally funded program aimed at reforming the curriculum of West Virginia schools.

Participating schools will move away from traditional vocational and college prep courses and begin offering clusters of classes tailored to certain careers.

School-to-Work is a joint project of the state Departments of Labor and Education.

Each county applies for funding to a statewide review committee.

The program allows students to choose a career interest as early as eighth grade, and then take classes which specifically apply to their choices.

another cluster of classes without the hassle like that of changing majors in college.

"The School-to-Work program allows students to focus on specific careers and interests, and then work to enhance their skills in that field," said Cheryl Johnson, member of the review committee.

Johnson is also a member of Iron Workers local 301 and director of the WV State Building Trades CTTAP program.

She points out it is important for labor to be involved in School-to-Work to make sure it benefits students and does not simply substitute job training for career preparation.

"Students are able to become better prepared for the work

"STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO BECOME BETTER PREPARED FOR COLLEGE OR THE WORK FORCE BECAUSE OF THE SKILLS THEY LEARN FROM SCHOOL-TO-WORK."

**CHERYL JOHNSON
MEMBER OF SCHOOL-TO-WORK REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The program involves activities like job shadowing-following someone at his or her place of employment to see what he or she does on a typical day.

It also includes hands-on experience to allow students to find out for certain which jobs they want to pursue.

If a student changes his or her mind about a career choice after taking classes or job shadowing, he or she can move into

force or college because of the experience they gain from School-to-Work.

"The course clusters are geared toward applied sciences and mathematics and are job specific, which gives students an understanding of how the skills they learn in school will help them in their chosen careers."

Currently 49 counties in West Virginia participate in the School-to-Work program.

Members Show Volunteer Spirit



Pictured are Dave Carte of Bricklayers District Council, Allen Atkinson of Laborers Local 1353 and Paul McLanahan, Shane Blankenship and Justin McMillan of Iron Workers Local 301 who, along with other union members, volunteered their time to build and later take down the stage and dance floor for the Summer Beach Dance for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of West Virginia.

There were about 20 workers total participating in the project. It required two day and eight crafts participating, including Boilermakers, Bricklayers, Plumbers and Pipefitters, Sheet Metal Workers, Laborers, Iron Workers, Carpenters, and Milwrights, Cement Masons.

The Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council sent each Local Union and each individual who participated a certificate of thanks and appreciation. The dance raised more than \$60,000.



The West Virginia Laborers Training Facility and Laborers Local 543 in Huntington worked together recently to repair Judy Calloway's home in Logan County after Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV's office contacted Gary Tillis, Business Manager for Laborer's District Council, and requested assistance.

Calloway was no longer eligible for state assistance and her home was badly in need of floor repairs. The project took one day and five men- Pat McCauley, Sr., Pat McCauley, Jr., and Carl Reynolds, of the Laborers Training Facility and Henry Dillon and Bob Killey of Local 543.

The materials were donated by area union contractors.

Reynolds said the home also needed electrical repairs, and Laborers Training Facility is in the process of finding an electricians' union to make those repairs.



For three weekends nearly 80 people from Carpenters Local 302 and Laborers Local 543 in Huntington helped repair the roofs of two Green Acres Facility buildings so they would meet federal standards.

According to Carpenters' Business Agent, Randy May, the workers stripped and replaced over 100 shingles.

Green Acres is a place where both mentally and physically handicapped people live and work.

The Facility is also equipped with classrooms to enable the residents to learn skills to help them in the work place.

Iron Works Co., UA Locals See Positive Changes After Signing New Agreement

Nearly one year after signing an agreement with Plumbers and Fitters Local 625, the Iron Works Company and its employees have seen a number of changes in the company - all for the better.

Since joining the union, employee wages have gone from \$10-\$15 per hour to more than \$20 per hour plus health and pension benefits.

Iron Works is a fabrication shop where employees have steady work and job security, unlike many other construction jobs which last for a limited amount of time.

Not only has the union benefitted the employees, but Iron Works owner, Kent

Miller, is also positive about the agreement.

"Organizing Iron Works has given us a hold on the pipefitting market," said T.L.

Iron Works is also a place where any member of Local 625 has the opportunity for employment if he wants or needs it.

"By organizing Iron Works we've been able to send more people to work," said Ranson.

"There are now more work opportunities for our local and for other UA locals.

"We have sent as many as 15 UA members to work there.

"I can only hope future organizing efforts will go as smoothly as Iron Works and have such positive results."

"BY ORGANIZING IRON WORKS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEND MORE PEOPLE TO WORK."

**T.L. RANSON
BUSINESS MANAGER PLUMBERS AND FITTERS LOCAL 625**

"In one year Iron Works has nearly doubled its work load and work force," said Miller.

"We are also in the process of expanding the size of the building to almost triple what it is now."

Local 625 is also seeing positive results.

Ranson, Business Manager, Local 625.

"We are now a part of the best pipefitting company in the state."

Protests Continue at New KSC Site



Letting the public know about Kanawha Stone Company and its violation of Federal Labor Laws are members of Operating Engineers Local 132, Laborers Local 1353 and Teamsters Local 175.

The National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint last June against Kanawha Stone for threatening employees about their union efforts and employer interrogation.

"We want the public to know that Kanawha Stone has violated federal laws and has denied employees their rights to form a union," said Bruce Tarpley, Business Manager for Operating Engineers 132.

The protestors were at the Terramite site at Cross Lanes in Kanawha County where a plant expansion is underway.

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ACT Sponsors Labor Day Parade and Celebration

The 48th annual Paden City Labor Day Parade and Celebration will be held on Sept. 6-7 and will feature carnival rides, musical entertainment, food, contests and other activities.

This year the ACT Foundation has

sponsored the performance of the Challengers, a well known musical group on Labor Day at 7pm.

The parade will begin at 1pm on Labor Day, followed by other activities.

The parade is being organized by the Marshall-Wetzel-Tyler Labor Council.

For more info call ACT's B.B. Smith.