



A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Bill Hutchinson, *President* | Dave Efav, *Secretary-Treasurer* | Steve White, *Director*

26th Workers' Memorial Day Held in Charleston

Tuesday April 28 marked the 26th observance of Workers' Memorial Day meant to honor workers who have died on the job during the prior year.

In West Virginia 17 workers died on the job during 2014.

In 2013 the number was 22.

This year the event was held in Charleston on the grounds of the State Capitol.

Among those speaking was Scott Brewer of the Carpenters who talked about his personal experience of going to work right after the Willow Island disaster in 1978.

He went on to discuss how workers have struggled for safety laws and procedures since then.

"The safety measures we have fought for are under attack today," said Brewer.

Additional speakers noted legislation passed during the recent session

to roll back safety for mine workers. The event was sponsored by the

West Virginia AFL-CIO and the Kanawha Valley Labor Council. ■



Scott Brewer, Representative for the KML Regional Council of Carpenters, speaks to a crowd gathered for Workers' Memorial Day at the state capitol complex in Charleston.

Kanawha County Commission Enacts Pro-Prevailing Wage, Local Construction Policy

In a unanimous vote the Kanawha County Commission adopted a policy statement to "continue the past practice of requiring successful bidders for all County Commission construction" to pay the prevailing wage rate.

The measure, adopted on Tuesday May 5, falls just a few weeks after new legislation removed prevailing wage requirements on state or local tax funded projects under \$500,000.

The law leaves unchanged the Federal prevailing wage requirement,

referred to as Davis-Bacon, which applies to projects valued at more than \$2,500.

The County effort was met with much enthusiasm from Charleston Building Trades Business Manager Paul Breedlove. "We can use all the help we can get," said Breedlove. "And we really appreciate the County Commissioners stepping up at a time we feel kind of beaten down."

There are three Commissioners in Kanawha County with Kent Carper-D as the President, along with David

Hardy-D and Hoppy Shore-R, each long term office holders.

Carper, in explaining why he supported the prevailing wage policy, was quoted in the local paper as saying "If it's a real work project, we want local workers. I absolutely oppose bringing out-of-state workers here that don't pay taxes in Kanawha County, who do shoddy work and then leave."

Local contractor representatives also praised the Commission. "We really appreciate the bi-partisan effort

of these Commissioners and their long history of supporting local contractors and workers," said Jim Cerra, Executive Director of the Kanawha Valley Builders Association.

Cerra and Breedlove sent a joint letter to the commission thanking them for their leadership.

"The companies and skilled workers that we collectively represent rely on this law to allow them to compete on a level playing field with other businesses on awards on public project," wrote both Cerra and Breedlove. ■

Students & Civic Leaders Attend Wheeling's Construction Trades Showcase

Students and public officials both got to learn about construction careers thanks to a trade show held in Wheeling on April 13 and 14.

The event called the Construction Trades Showcase, sponsored by the Upper Ohio Valley Building Construction Trades and Project BEST, was held at the Westbanco Arena over a two day period.

According to Project BEST's Administrator Lisa Goodnight an evening event was held for local politicians and civic leaders so they could better understand how apprenticeship programs operate.

The following day more than 450 students attended to learn about construction career opportunities for themselves.

Booths were manned by all crafts to highlight each apprenticeship program and contractors had booths as well.

"We had a great turn-out and

positive reaction from all," said Doug Griffin of IBEW Local 141 Wheeling and one of the event organizers. ■



More than 450 students toured the Construction Trades Showcase held in Wheeling mid-April to learn more about construction careers. Project BEST and the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades organized the event.

Upgraded Training Facility to Follow Plumbers and Pipefitters LU 625 to Build New Union Hall

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 625 is constructing a new union hall in Charleston.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 28 to mark the occasion.

The project will add 7,200 square feet of new office and meeting room space plus additional parking.

Expansion of the apprenticeship outdoor facilities including outdoor rigging, plumbing and pipefitting training modules will be part of the project.

Agsten Construction Company is the general contractor for the approximately \$478,000 project.

"We have been planning this new building for many years," said Mike Rhodes, Business Manager.

The new facility is going in next

to the existing union hall and training facility.

Construction should be complete by the end of this summer.

According to Rhodes once the new building is complete their current building will be turned over to the training program with additional expansion planned there at a later date.

On hand for the ceremony were a number of representatives including one of the original charter members of Local 625, Gerald Sayre who is soon to be 95 years old. ■



Shovels in hand at the groundbreaking ceremony are (from left) Mike Rhodes, Business Manager; Danny Rose, Agent; Brett Matthews, Training Coordinator; Ed Boone, International Representative; Gerald Sayre, 70 year member of Local 625; and T.L. Ranson, Administrative Assistant to the UA General President and former Business Manager of 625.

Resolution May be at Hand

Labor Board Issues Unfair Labor Practice Complaint against Insulation Contractor

The National Labor Relations Board has issued a complaint against Global Scaffold Construction Services, Inc., for “failing and refusing to bargain collectively and in good faith with the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of its employees in violation of Section 8(a)(1) and (5) or the [National Labor Relations] Act.”

Global, based in Louisiana with a local office in South Point, OH, works at numerous locations across the country.

The complaint arose from their work at the Marathon plant officially called Catlettsburg Refining, LLC in Catlettsburg, KY.

Global is signatory to an agreement between the West Virginia Master Insulators Association and Insulators Local 80.

However a company called Excel Modular Scaffolding and Leasing Corporation is also performing work at the plant and out of the same office as Global.

“We started looking into it and the two companies looked the same to

us,” said Steve Keller, Business Manager for Local 80.

“We started looking into it and the two companies looked the same to us”

Steve Keller

Business Manager, Insulators Local 80

Keller tried asking the company for clarification but did not get satisfactory answers.

“We have an obligation to enforce our agreement but we don’t know where one company stops and the other begins,” said Keller.

So working with ACT attorney Vince Trivelli the Local sent a letter

in October and again in December to Global with a series of questions to find out more about the two companies.

When no significant response was received Unfair Labor Practice charges were filed in February and a representative from Region 9 of the NLRB investigated.

The “Complaint and Notice of Hearing” was issued on April 30 and calls for a July 14 hearing.

“We have actually had some very good conversations with the company during this process and I hope we can resolve the issues in the very near future,” said Keller. ■

CAMC Gets Thanks



Members of the Charleston Building Trades and the Kanawha Valley Builders Association were on hand as Charleston Area Medical Center CEO Dave Ramsey (right) receives a plaque of appreciation from Jim Cerra, Executive Director of the KVBA.

The presentation was held in Charleston on May 11 and follows the recent opening of a major new cancer center.

The 110,000 square foot building created more than 235,000 union manhours during the 22 months it was under construction. The total construction cost was \$39.5 million.

“We appreciate not only this project and the valuable services it will bring the community, but the many years and projects CAMC has used local workers and contractors,” said Cerra.

DC Legislative Visits



A delegation from the West Virginia State Building Trades met with Senator Joe Manchin at his DC office on Capitol Hill. The meeting took place on April 20 as part of the annual Building Trades legislative conference. A number of issues were discussed including Manchin’s continued support for Davis-Bacon legislation, U.S. Trade policy, shale development and Senator Manchin’s announcement the day before that he was not planning to run for Governor. Meetings were also held with Senator Shelly Moore Capito, Congressman David McKinley and Congressman Evan Jenkins.

“We tried to get a meeting with Congressman Alex Mooney (R-2nd District) but his office turned us down repeatedly,” said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the State Building Trades.

Tri-State Volunteers Upgrade Ball Field

Members of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council volunteered to renovate the dugout and backstop of the Vinson Middle School baseball field in the Wayne County portion of Huntington.

The ball field had fallen into disrepair and official games have not been held there for many years.

"The school system only had \$5,000 for the project and had no idea how to get it done," said Mark

Johnson, Business Manager for the council.

Johnson talked to the local Trades and 'problem solved.'

According to Johnson members of Bricklayers Local 5 rebuilt the backstop with help from Laborers Local 543.

The backstop will have pipe extending up to hold a 36 foot high net making the facility meet current standards.

Painters District Council 53 took

on the painting and Pipefitters Local 521's apprenticeship program welded the pipe used in the backstop.

Carpenters Local 302 stepped in and renovated the dugout roof.

Arrow Concrete, signatory with Operating Engineers Local 132, donated 12 yards of concrete.

"All together the crafts put in lots of hours and feel good about turning an impossible job into a ball field that can meet current standards," said Johnson. ■



Steve Ruble, Business Agent of Bricklayers Local 5 & 9, (right) was among the volunteers from the Tri-State Building Trades Council building a baseball backstop for the Vinson Middle School in Huntington. Also pictured (from right) Brandon Ruble and Ray Findley from the Bricklayers; ACT's Matthew McComas and Shane Dillon from the Laborers.

Affiliated Construction Trades
600 Leon Sullivan Way
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Charleston - (304) 345-7570
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Wetzel County Supports Local Hiring



After signing a resolution in support of local workers and contractors (from left) Wetzel County Commissioners Don Mason and Bob Gorby, ACT's Fuzz LaRue, and Commissioner Larry Lemon pose for a picture.

The resolution was approved at an April 21 meeting.

The resolution is meant to encourage the use of local workers and contractors on shale related construction projects. The resolution also asks companies in the area to notify the commission if they have any trouble finding qualified people.

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