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

WV Jobs Act Under Attack

The West Virginia Jobs Act came under attack during a June Legislative Interim Committee meeting.

In a bold display of partisan politics, the Legislative Auditor released a flawed report and called for the repeal of the WV Jobs Act.

The Jobs Act requires contractors to use at least 75 percent local workers for tax funded projects. Local is defined as all of West Virginia and any county within 50 miles of the WV border.

According to the report the Jobs Act has not been effective in helping local workers get construction jobs. However, the data used was very limited and suspect.

State Minority Leader Roman Prezioso (D-Marion) asked why the Jobs Act was audited and got two different answers.

First the analyst presenting the report claimed it was a random audit. But then the Legislative Auditor said it was a staff decision.

Prezioso pressed to ask if the auditor thought more local workers would be hired if the Act was repealed. The answer was no.

The report did point out some

interesting facts. For example, when WorkForce sends applicants to contractors it does not know if the company hires them.

The report also noted the DOL does not receive any funding to police the Jobs Act.

"These are easy fixes," said House Minority Leader Tim Miley (D-Harrison). "I would think we would be trying to improve the Act not asking

to repeal it."

ACT's Steve White testified that WorkForce is not the only way workers get hired. "WorkForce is the last stop to get a waiver, but it is not often the first place an employer goes to hire," said White.

"When an employer sees the requirement to hire locally they pay attention and that is the point of the Jobs Act," said White.

Prezioso made a motion to reject the report and Miley seconded the motion. However the motion failed with Prezioso and Miley voting for local workers and Senate President Mitch Carmichael (R-Jackson), Senator Greg Boso (R-Nicholas), Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw (R-Clay) and Delegate Gary Howell (R-Mineral) all voting against local workers. ■



ACT's Steve White testified at a recent Legislative Interim meeting in support of the WV Jobs Act requiring local workers get hired on tax funded projects. Senate and House Republican leaders votes to accept the flawed report over the objections of Senate Minority Leader Roman Prezioso (D-Marion) and House Minority Leader Tim Miley (D-Harrison).

DAELIM Chosen as EPC

Proposed \$1.2 Billion Project to Convert Coal to Diesel in Mason County

Domestic Synthetic Fuels I, LLC is proposing to build a \$1.2 billion coal-to-diesel project in Mason County.

The company announced the project on June 17 after receiving a draft environmental permit from the state DEP.

News reports say the project has a

major investor from South Korea and additional investors are being sought.

The developer, known as DS Fuels, has signed an Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) agreement with South Korean construction giant DAELIM Industrial Company.

While news reports also claim construction will begin in October, company officials explain it will only be a ceremonial groundbreaking.

Tri-State Building Trades Council Business Manager Mark Johnson, along with ACT's Steve White meet with a DS Fuels Representative in late

June to discuss the project.

"We were well received and had a very good discussion," said Johnson.

"We learned the project did have a year or so before construction could begin and the October date in the papers was really just a ribbon cutting

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Held Office Since 2013

State Trades President Hutchinson Retires

Bill Hutchinson, President of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, retired in June.

Hutchinson also was Business Manager for the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Council.

Hutchinson started his career as an Iron Worker apprentice in 1977. He served as Business Manager for Iron Workers Local 787 Parkersburg from 2001 to 2008 before being elected as Business Manager to the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades in 2008.

Hutchinson was elected as President of the WV State Building Trades in September of 2013.

The role of President at the WV State Building Trades is a non-paid position.

"I have truly enjoyed working with a great group of agents and members from all the crafts," said Hutchinson.

At his Parkersburg-Marietta post he is replaced by Buddy Malone who

won election in June.

Delegates to the WV State Build-

ing Trades will elect Hutchinson's replacement in September. ■



Outgoing WV State Building Trades President Bill Hutchinson was also active in the Ohio State Building Trades and is seen here (left) at their convention in October of 2012 where ACT-Ohio was formed.

Kanawha Valley Trades-Contractors Raise \$7,000 for HospiceCare

The 26th annual Kanawha Valley Construction Labor-Management Golf Scramble raised \$7,000 for HospiceCare, a nonprofit organization serving 16 counties in West Virginia with end of life services.

According to Paul Breedlove, Business Manager of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council, HospiceCare has been the recipient of the effort for many years because of the valuable services they bring to the region.

Services include 24/7 skilled nurses, pain management, Certified Nursing Assistants to provide bathing, dressing and other personal care for patients, support for family caregivers, spiritual and emotional support from HospiceCare chaplains and counselors.

The event is part of the long-standing partnership between the Kanawha Valley Builders Association and the Charleston Building and

Construction Trades Council.

"Not only do we help a worthy charity, as labor and management

working together we build a stronger relationship by getting to know each other," said Breedlove.

For more information about HospiceCare visit their web site www.hospicecarewv.org. ■



(from right) Gary McCallister, President of the Charleston Building Trades and a Representative of the KML Regional Council of Carpenters, Paul Breedlove and Luther Lasure (far left), Executive Director of the Kanawha Valley Builders Association, present a \$7,000 check to Larry Robertson, Executive Director of HospiceCare at their Charleston offices.

NABTU Sounds Alarm; Possible Attack on Construction Apprenticeship Programs

Proposed Federal rules to define what is called 'Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs' (IRAPs) exempt the construction industry.

That's a good thing says Sean McGarvey, President of North America's Building Trades (NABTU), because IRAPs in the construction industry would hurt existing craft apprenticeship programs by watering down standards and regulations currently in place.

To make sure the exemption stays in place NABTU is working with affiliated unions and councils to submit comments to the U.S. Department of Labor.

On June 25, McGarvey issued a statement regarding the proposed rules.

"North America's Building Trades Union commends the Administration for recognizing in the proposed rule on Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs that these new programs have no place in the construction industry. We firmly believe this exemption should be a permanent part of the final rule."

Industry Programs will not have to meet the same standards as Apprenticeship Programs.

For example, Industry Programs are only required to pay minimum

wage and are not subject to the same equal employment and affirmative action obligations met by registered apprenticeship programs.

Industry Programs don't have to have a wage progression as a person moves through the program. Nor do they have any journeyworker to apprenticeship ratios, do not need to graduate apprentices as journeyworkers, nor other quality control and oversight features found in current apprenticeship rules.

In a related matter, language to require the U.S. DOL to fund these under-regulated

Industry Programs was proposed as an amendment to a recent U.S. DOL funding bill (HR 2740) in mid-June.

Congressional Building Trades Caucus Co-Chairs David McKinley (R-WV) and Donald Norcross (D-

NJ) wrote a letter to colleagues opposing the amendment.

"The amendment would undermine the successful apprenticeship model in the construction industry

"...IRAPs in the construction industry would hurt existing craft apprenticeship programs by watering down standards and regulations currently in place."

Sean McGarvey

President

North America's Building Trades

by allowing taxpayer dollars to support untested and loosely credentialed workforce training programs.

"The Building Trades Caucus strongly supports workforce training, including traditional registered apprenticeship programs that have successfully trained generations of workers in the construction industry.

"However, this amendment would divert valuable funds toward untested, unproven, and duplicative unregistered apprenticeship programs."

The amendment was defeated 266-158. ■

Tri-State Dad's Day Event Nets \$12,347

The Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council raised \$12,347 during their annual DAD's Day event.

DAD's is short for 'Dollars Against Diabetes' and is a long running effort by North America's Building Trades Unions in the U.S. and Canada to support diabetes research. More than \$40 million has been donated to the

Diabetes Research Institute, located at the University of Miami.

According to Tri-State's Business Manager Mark Johnson it was the 25th year of fund raising.

"We thank all those who sponsored and participated from both Labor and Management and I want to especially thank the volunteers who put this together." ■



Neil Huffman of Operating Engineers Local 132 prepares food for participants in the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades annual DAD's Day fund raising event held in mid-June.

Mason County

Continued from Page 1

event."

Information was exchanged about area manpower, apprenticeship programs, drug testing and other projects in the region.

"We of course offered a project labor agreement similar to what other major projects in the region are working under," said Johnson. "We have many hurdles to cross before we get to any Project Agreement, but we as representatives of Tri-State and ACT will continue to engage in the negotiation process."

Proposals to convert coal to fuel are not new, and the Trades have seen their share of disappointments in recent years.

DS Fuels claims their technology is different from prior projects because they use hydrogen to convert coal directly to diesel rather than from coal to gas, then gas to fuels.

Their process would use 2,500 tons of coal per day, along with 23 million cubic feet of natural gas to produce 451,000 gallons of low sulfur diesel, jet fuel and gasoline per day.

The company has already identified and secured their coal supply from Kanawha County mining operations.

This would be the first commercial scale plant of its kind in the United States with only one other in operation in China. ■

Contract Dispute

Roofers Local 242 Strikes; Settles

Members of Roofers Local 242 based in Parkersburg went on strike June 1 over a dispute to renew their collective bargaining agreement.

According to Business Manager Dan McCoy the dispute was primarily over travel pay and what was seen as bad faith bargaining.

A union proposal to make some modest changes to travel pay had been

“We felt the contractors had given their word, then gone back on it at the last minute...The members were mad.”

Dan McCoy

*Business Manager
Roofers Local 242*

was written up the agreed to language was missing.

“We felt the contractors had given their word, then gone back on it at the last minute,” said McCoy. “The members were mad.”

Also at issue was the duration of the agreement.

The union wanted a four-year contract and the contractors of-

Workers walked off the job on June 1 and picket lines went up at area contractors’ offices.

McCoy said it had been 10 years since the local went on strike over a contract.

The agreement was settled on June

11 by returning to existing travel pay language, including a modest raise, and a four-year deal.

Roofers Local 242 covers 24 Counties in West Virginia; from Parkersburg, to Elkins, to Morgantown; and five Counties in Ohio. ■

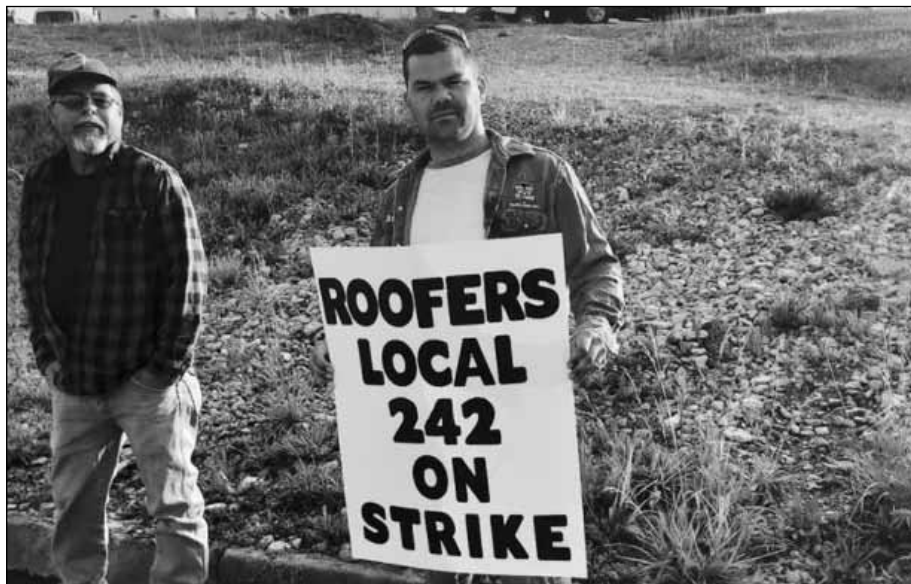
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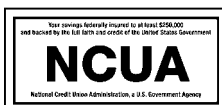
Roofers Local 242 members Randy Norris (holding sign) and Tony Parsons man a picket line outside of a contractor’s office after their contract expired on June 1 without an agreement for a new one.

Teachers and School Service Personnel Rally



Teachers and School Service Personnel rally on Monday, June 17 at the state capitol in Charleston during a Special Legislative session. Republican leaders rammed through an education bill over the objections of Democrats and a handful of Republicans in the House of Delegates. The measure was then passed by the Senate and signed into law. Key to the disagreement was the creation and funding of Charter Schools.

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