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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Justin Williams, Director

WV Building Trades Hold Legislative Conference

On January 17, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council (WVBCT) held their 2024 Legislative Conference at the Four Points in Charleston, West Virginia.

The conference is held each year and brings members from across the state to hear from WVBCT leaders about the organization's position on numerous legislative issues.

In addition, members are able to hear from lawmakers and construction industry officials about the potential issues facing the trades during the ongoing legislative session at the Capitol.

This year, trades leaders warned of the proposal to cut unemployment benefits and bills to conceal public construction payroll documents. However, WVBCT leaders also said the session has potential for positive legislation as well.

"Obviously we are working hard with our friends at the Capitol to continue fighting the terrible bills that would cut unemployment ben-

efits," said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction

Trades.

"However, we are also very optimistic about two proposals. [One

bill] would help us promote apprenticeship in public schools and another

Cont. on p. 2 >>



WVBCT Secretary-Treasurer John Epperly calls the 2024 Legislative Conference to order at the Four Points hotel and conference center in Charleston, West Virginia on January 17.

Trades Sign Agreement to Build Natural Gas Power Plant in Doddridge County, WV

On January 29th, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council and the North Central Building and Construction Trades Council signed an agreement with CPV Shay, LLC to build a natural gas-fueled combined cycle power plant in Doddridge County, West Virginia.

CPV Shay, a subsidiary of Competitive Power Ventures, is calling the project the CPV Shay Energy Center and claims the deal amounts to a \$3 billion investment by the company.

According to a release from CPV Shay, the project will be built on 54 acres of a 230-acre plot of land in

Blandville, WV and the facility will have a generating capacity of approximately 2,060 MW.

In terms of the construction, CPV Shay representatives say the project will create roughly 2,000 jobs during peak construction and 1,200 jobs annually throughout the three-year

construction timeline.

The MOU outlines the project, saying the project "may or may not include an integrated carbon capture facility" as well.

"We look forward to partnering with CPV Shay to build this project,"

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Final Structural Beam Raised at Ongoing Form Energy Project in Weirton, WV

Earlier this month, Form Energy officials held a ceremony to commemorate the final beam being placed at the iron-air battery manufacturing facility project in Weirton, West Virginia.

Company officials, members of the construction crew and other guests gathered at the site of the project for the “topping out” ceremony, which is a major milestone in the development of the new facility.

“It has been such a journey to get here,” said Ted Wiley, President and Chief Operating Officer for Form Energy. “We looked all over the country for a place to build Form’s first factory. I couldn’t be more happy and feel more fortunate that we decided to pick Weirton as the place for Form’s new home.”

Form Energy originally held a ceremonial groundbreaking for

Form Factory One on May 26, 2023, with the first steel raised on the site July 21.

Since that time, more than 700 piles of earth have been brought in to help level off the site, with more than 3,000 tons of steel erected and more than 300,000 square feet of concrete poured, along with a roof and exterior walls installed.

According to company officials, equipment will be moving on site throughout the spring and early summer, with plans to begin operations in the middle or late part of the year.

When fully operational, the factory will have an annual production capacity of 500 MW of batteries and will employ at least 750 people.

President Tim Wiley says he is optimistic about the timeline for completion, as everything is currently on

schedule.

“Some people can take seven months just to get a permit, and here we have the last beam going up

seven months after the groundbreaking.” For more information on the Form Energy facility, log on to www.FormEnergy.com. ■



Workers at the Form Energy project in Weirton, West Virginia raise the final structural beam, marking a major milestone in the construction of the project.

WV Building Trades

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er we’ve worked on with the House Speaker’s office to create a pool of funding to cover tuition costs for our apprentices to receive associate degrees.”

The two bills Capel referred to are HB 5200 and HB 5435.

HB 5200 would require public school guidance counselors to receive continuing education training on a number of issues, including trade apprenticeship programs, as a condition of employment.

“We believe HB 5200 will provide an opportunity for us to engage more meaningfully with the public school system to encourage young individuals to take on a career in the skilled trades,” said Capel.

HB 5435 would create a new program, to be administered by the Council for Community and Technical College Education.

HB 5435 officially establishes the apprenticeship to associate of applied science degree program and creates a

pool of state funding that would cover the costs for WVBCCT apprentices to receive associate degrees from local community colleges.

“We are calling this the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree program or the ‘STAND’ program for short,” said Capel. “We have worked with the House Speaker’s office and the Council for Community and Technical Education to create this legislation, and we believe it would be a tremendous added benefit for our current members and a great incentive for future members to join our programs.”

Capel says that if the legislation were to pass, the opportunity to receive associate degrees would be given to journey workers as well as current apprentices.

For more information on the ongoing West Virginia Legislative Session and details about the bills included in this article, log on to www.wvlegislature.gov. ■

County Commissioners Association Conference



Dave Bland, Political Director for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades DC 53 (IUPAT) is seen at the annual West Virginia County Commissioners Association Legislative Conference earlier this month in Charleston. The West Virginia Building and Construction Trades also held a table and participated in the event. “This is part of an ongoing initiative by the Painters and all of the trades to educate government officials about our industry and programs,” said Bland.

Registration: www.WVTrades.org

WV Construction Coalition Conference

SAVE THE DATE

April 29–30, 2024

HOSTED BY:



WV Building and Construction Conference
Building West Virginia's Future, Together

SPECIAL RECEPTION:

Monday, April 29, 2024
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

CONFERENCE:

Tuesday, April 30, 2024
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place
Two Waterfront Place
Morgantown, WV 26501

Join us on April 29th and 30th for the Affiliated Construction Trades & WV State Building Trades' Building West Virginia's Future, Together conference focusing on building the Mountain State's Infrastructure, Energy Portfolio, and Healthcare Facilities.



As economic development thrives in West Virginia, skilled labor is needed now more than ever. Together, we can build a strong foundation to improve life for 1,800,000 hard working West Virginians.



At this day-long conference and reception, you'll hear from and connect with West Virginia's leaders and industry experts on a myriad of topics.

WV Building Trades and WV Republican Labor Caucus Sponsor Governor Debate

On Tuesday February 6th, the first official WV Gubernatorial Debate was held for the 2024 election cycle.

This year, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades and the WV Republican Labor Caucus partnered to sponsor the event to bring attention to construction and labor issues.

The two organizations also partnered to sponsor the event to show that labor has a strong voice and plans to take an active role in the upcoming election.

“We want people to recognize that our members are watching and will play a big part in the 2024 election cycle,” said Justin Williams, Director of the WV Affiliated Construction Trades.

Williams says the Trades have

plans to continue being involved in events like this in an effort to promote best electoral outcomes for craftworkers.

“It’s important for us to get our message across at all levels to help educate lawmakers, and candidates for office, about the benefits of our craft apprenticeship programs and the issues we face in the construction industry,” said Williams.

While there are numerous candidates running for West Virginia Governor this year, the debate hosted four of the top candidates for the office on the Republican ticket.

The participants in the debate included: Secretary of State Mac Warner, businessman Chris Miller, former Delegate Moore Capito (R-Kanawha), and Attorney General

Patrick Morrissey.

Hoppy Kercheval, host of the WVMetroNews Talkline radio show, served as the moderator of the debate.

During the event, candidates answered questions on numerous issues

related to topics such as infrastructure, energy, healthcare, and various social issues important to voters across the state.

The West Virginia primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14. ■



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Members of the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades stand with members of the WV Republican Labor Caucus (RLC) after the first Gubernatorial Debate of the 2024 election cycle.

Trades Sign

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said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

While there currently is no set date for the start of construction, West Virginia Building and Construction Trades leaders are optimistic about the project.

“We have been in talks with CPV

Shay for over a year related to this project,” said Epperly.

“If the company elects to build this project, we believe they will be more than satisfied with the results of our craftworkers.”

For more information on the project, log on to www.cpv.com/our-projects/cpv-shay-energy-center/. ■

AFL-CIO Holds Annual Legislative Conference



Andy Walters, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia AFL-CIO speaks to attendees of the 2024 annual Legislative Conference.

During the event, representatives from across the labor movement gathered at the Four Points hotel in Charleston, West Virginia to hear from labor lobbyists, lawmakers, and industry officials about the legislative outlook for 2024. “It’s important for us to let our members know about the issues legislators will be voting on at the state Capitol,” said Walters. “It also provides us with a time to start talking about the 2024 election cycle and encouraging our members to take an active part in the electoral process.”