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

Trades Hold Construction Coalition Conference

Last month, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades held the first annual Construction Coalition Conference in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The event hosted many representatives from industry and labor and was held to highlight the integral role the Trades play in a vast array of sectors, including energy, health care and infrastructure.

“We’re here to talk about potential construction projects across West Virginia, and that covers traditional infrastructure, health care infrastructure and energy projects of all types,” said Justin Williams, director of Affiliated Construction Trades of West Virginia.

“We just want everyone to build connections so those projects can be successful, so workers can be successful, so our communities can be successful, and West Virginia can be successful.”

The event’s keynote address was delivered by Morgan O’Brien, CEO

of Hope Gas.

O’Brien discussed the company’s pipeline project, which is planned

to span about 30 miles from western Monongalia County to northern Marion County.

“West Virginia is rich in natural gas, but there’s one pipeline that feeds

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Justin Williams, Director of WV Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT) and John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the WV Building and Construction Trades kick off the first annual Construction Coalition Conference in Morgantown, West Virginia.

2024 Primary Brings Major Changes, Wins for the West Virginia Labor Movement

The 2024 WV Primary Election was held on May 14, and the occasion was marked by notable wins for labor-friendly candidates as well as notable defeats of some high-profile lawmakers.

Overall, the WV Building and Construction Trades (WVBCT) en-

dorsed 68 candidates in the Primary election (see full results on page 3). Of those 68 candidates, 57 won and will move onto the General Election, which will be held later this year on November 5.

WVBCT leaders say these wins bode well for labor, as they could po-

tentially lead to increased numbers in the Republican Labor Caucus in the legislature.

“We believe we will increase our numbers in the Republican Labor Caucus by at least 6 in the House of Delegates and 1 in the WV Senate,” said George Capel, Government Re-

lations Director for the WVBCT.

In addition to the wins experienced by Building Trades candidates, there were also many high-profile defeats of certain lawmakers throughout the state.

These defeats include: WV Sen-
Cont. on p. 2>>

Apply Now! Insulators Local #80 is Taking Applications for Apprenticeship Program Year-Round

The Heat and Frost Insulators Local 80 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) is accepting applications for their apprenticeship program year-round.

All interested applicants should apply by submitting an application at their headquarters on Tuesdays between the hours of 9:00am – 11:30am and 1:00pm – 3:30pm.

The Heat and Frost Insulators Local 80 headquarters is located at 4998 Street, Route 34, Winfield, West Virginia 25213.

Applicants are asked to contact the office before coming to the Insulators headquarters by calling 304-586-4780.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must: be at least 18 years of

age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug test, be physically able to perform the work of the trade, and possess a valid driver's license.

Applicants are also required to submit the following documents: Certified Birth Certificate, Copy of High School Diploma or GED Certificate, Copy of Valid Driver's License.

Finally, a Certified High School Transcript of Grades, must be mailed c/o JATC, P.O. Box 806, Winfield, WV 25213 or submitted when filling out the application.

In addition, applicants must be a resident of one of the following counties for at least one year before applying:

(WEST VIRGINIA) Boone, Cal-

houn, Fayette, Jackson, Lincoln, Mason, Monroe, Pleasants, Raleigh, Roane, Webster, Wyoming, Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Summers, Wirt, Wayne, Cabell, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Lewis, McDowell, Mingo, Pendleton, Putnam, Ritchie, Kanawha, Logan, Mercer, Wood, or Upshur.

(OHIO) Gallia, Meigs, Washington, Jackson, Pike, Lawrence, or Scioto.

(KENTUCKY) Bath, Carter, Floyd, Knott, Letcher, Martin, Owensley, Rowan, Boyd, Elliot, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Menifee, Pike, Wolfe, Breathitt, Estill, Johnson, Lee, Magoffin, Morgan, or Powell.

(VIRGINIA) Allegheny, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, or Botetourt. ■

Trades Conference

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Morgantown," he said. "We came up with an idea that we build that (additional) pipeline, using the people in this room's labor."

The project represents the first "mid-stream" pipeline project in the company's history, O'Brien said.

The pipeline's total price is "nearly \$200 million," O'Brien said.

"It's going to put to work over this period of time something like 600 workers," he said. "They're all going to be union — I promise, I'll put my hand on the Bible — we're going to make sure those are all union workers here."

In addition to the keynote address, break out panels were also held to discuss the path forward for West Virginia's infrastructure.

The event was sponsored by: Hope Gas, West Virginia & Appalachian Laborers District Council (LiUNA), WV State Pipe Trades, EQT, WV Women Work, Parkersburg-Marietta Contractor's Association, Bricklayers Local 23, EDF Renewables, Nitro Construction Services, Stevens, Millwrights Local 443, Hissam Foreman Donovan & Richie PLLC, and the North Central WV Construction Employers Association. ■

2024 Primary

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ate President Craig Blair (R-Berkeley, 15); Senator Chandler Swope (R-Mercer, 06); Delegate Paul Espinosa (lost race for Senate district 16); Congressman Alex Mooney (lost race for U.S. Senate); House Majority Leader Eric Householder (lost race for WV Auditor); Senator Robert Karnes; and Senator Mike Maroney.

These defeats will drastically change the makeup of both the WV House and State Senate.

With the departure of Senate President Craig Blair, the stage is now set for a new race to determine who

will be the next one to preside over the WV State Senate.

However, leadership will change in the House of Delegates as well due to the result of the exits of both House Majority Leader Eric Householder and Speaker Pro Tempore Paul Espinosa.

"It goes without saying that with all of these wins and defeats, we will see a much different legislature next year," said Capel. "We will continue to work with our lawmakers to ensure best outcomes for the trades going forward." ■

Insulators 80 Holds Apprentice Contest



On April 15-17, 2024, the Heat & Frost Insulators held their Central States Conference @ Stonewall Resort where they hosted the Master Apprentice Competition. They had 13 apprentices (seen in pic) from across the Central States compete in it including an apprentice from Local 80.

At the awards banquet for the competition there was also an award given to Garry Kincaid. Garry is a retired member who was recognized for his 40 years of service as an instructor at local 80. I believe Garry is 84 years young and still teaching their apprentices.

Primary Election Results

WVBCT 2024 Primary Endorsements

<u>US Congress</u>	3rd	Dave Cantrell (D)	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R)	67th	Cody Thompson (D)	
Riley Moore (R)		Jimmy Willis (R)	34th	Mark Dean (R)	68th	Chris Phillips (R)	
<u>Governor</u>	5th	Shawn Fluharty (D)	35th	Adam Vance (R)	70th	Morgan Earp (D)	
Moore Capito (R)	6th	Jeffrey Stephens (R)	40th	Roy Cooper (R)	71st	Laura Kimble (R)	
<u>Secretary of State</u>	7th	Chuck Sheedy (R)	43rd	Chris Toney (R)	73rd	Bryan Smith (R)	
Doug Skaff (R)	8th	David Kelly (R)	46th	Jeff Campbell (R)	75th David Kennedy (R)	Stephanie Tomana (D)	
<u>State Treasurer</u>	9th	Trenton Barnhart (R)	47th	Ray Canterbury (R)	76th Toby Heaney (R)		
Larry Pack (R)	12th	Vernon Criss (R)	48th	Thomas Clark (R)	77th	Joe Statler (R)	
<u>Attorney General</u>	13th	Scot Heckert (R)	50th	Elliott Pritt (R)	79th	Evan Hansen (D)	
John "JB" McCuskey (R)	14th	Dave Foggin (R)	51st	Marshall Clay (R)	80th	John Williams (D)	
	15th	Erica Moore (R)	52nd Greg Ingram (R)		81st	Anitra Hamilton (D)	
<u>State Senate</u>	19th Debbie Deweese (R)		53rd	Tristan Leavitt (R)	82nd	David McCormick (R)	
2nd	Chris Rose (R)		54th	Mike Pushkin (D)	84th Justin Hough (R)		
5th Joshua Mathis (R)			55th	JB Akers (R)	88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R)	
Ric Griffith (D)	23rd	Evan Worrell (R)	56th	Kayla Young (D)	90th	George Miller (R)	
9th	Brian Helton (R)	25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D)	57th	Hollis Lewis (D)	97th	Lucia Valentine (D)
13th	Joey Garcia (D)	26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R)	58th	Walter Hall (R)	99th	Wayne Clark (R)
<u>House of Delegates</u>	27th	Michael Amos (R)	59th	Andy Shamblin (R)	100th	Maria Russo (D)	
1st	Pat McGeehan (R)	29th Nate Randolph (R)	60th	Dana Ferrell (R)			
		30th	David "Flimsy" Adkins (R)				

West Virginia State Pipe Trades Apprentices Contest Held in Morgantown, WV

Last month, the West Virginia State Pipe Trades held their annual Apprenticeship Contest in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The event took place at Morgantown Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 152 training center, with fifth-year apprentices competing from all five local unions based in West Virginia.

Contestants competed in four categories: Plumber, Pipefitter, Welder, and HVAC Technician.

During the events, apprentices were given hands-on tests in a variety of skill areas including solder, braze, isometric drawing, welding, rigging, tube bending, plumbing, pipe layout, screwed pipe, builders level and un-

derground layout. In addition, apprentices were given a written test.

"This event really gives our apprentices an opportunity to display their high level of skills," said Bryan Raber, Business Manager for Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 152.

"This event really gives our apprentices an opportunity to display their high level of skills"

Bryan Raber

Business Manager

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 152

derground layout. In addition, apprentices were given a written test. "This event really gives our apprentices an opportunity to display their high level of skills," said Bryan Raber, Business Manager for Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 152. "I want to thank the event judges, all the volunteers, and our sponsors who helped make the event happen this year."

At the end of the contest, an awards banquet was held at Touchdown Terrace at Mountain-er Field to recognize the winners in each category.

The winners in each category are as follows: Robbie Swiney (local 565), Pipefitting; Trenton Hoser (local 565), Welding; Calvin Valentine

(local 565), Plumbing; and Tylar Griffith (local 152), HVAC.

The winners will take part in the district competition, which will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania this

summer.

Winners from the regional competition will then move onto the national competition held later this year in Ann Arbor, Michigan. ■



A fifth-year apprentice takes part in the Welding competition, held as a part of the annual WV State Pipe Trades Apprentices Contest. This year's Contest was held in Morgantown, WV.

Annual Tax Fraud Days of Action Held by Eastern Atlantic States Carpenters

Last month, the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC) held their annual Tax Fraud Days of Action to educate the public and protest construction employer tax fraud, wage theft, and abuse of workers in the United States and Canada.

According to a press release circulated by the Carpenters International, "state and federal tax losses reach at least \$8.4 billion a year due to schemes by perpetrators of fraud and...many employers deliberately misclassify workers as independent contractors or pay them off the books to avoid paying employment taxes."

Throughout the week, Carpenters locals across the country held rallies, lobby days at their legislatures, and other public events to inform officials and the public of the growing issues related to tax fraud and wage theft.

However, there are solutions to the issue.

According to their website, recommendations include: better enforcement of IRS tax laws already on the books; strengthening and expanding existing laws to ensure contractors who cheat are held accountable for their actions; comprehensive immigration reform to bring construction workers out of the shad-

ows; and requiring state and federal agencies, as well as banks and private sector entities, work together to address tax fraud and wage theft.

To learn more about this year's

events, and data surrounding tax fraud and wage theft in the United States and Canada, log on to www.stoptaxfraud.net for additional information. ■



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Laborers Hold Annual Career Week Event



West Virginia public school students are given a demonstration of drone work by a representative of the WV Laborers' District Council. The demonstration was part of a larger event, the WV Laborers Annual Career Week, which was held for the second time this year at their training center in Ravenswood, West Virginia.

Members of the WV Laborers' District Council hosted more than 100 students from 13 different West Virginia schools, to give them an overview of the work done by WV Laborers.

"This is a great avenue for us to reach out to the next generation of WV construction craft Laborers," said Jessie King, President of the WV Appalachian Laborers District Council.

"We look forward to this event every year. I want to thank our members who helped make this event a success, and all the students who participated in this year's event," said King.

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