



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 'WV STATE BUILDING TRADES' - FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @WVSBT

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

Parker, Epperly Elected at 2024 Annual Convention

Earlier this month, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council (WVBCT) held their annual convention at the Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center in Morgantown, West Virginia.

More than 70 representatives from all WVBCT-affiliated craft organizations attended the event to conduct annual business, network, and hear from various speakers on industry issues.

In addition to the normal business of the convention, an election was held for the two elected leadership positions at the head of the trades on the state level.

Nominations were held for the role of President and Secretary-Treasurer and Chuck Parker and John Epperly were unanimously reelected to those positions, respectively.

The two will serve a four-year term in their positions, with the next election to be held in 2028.

"I truly appreciate all of our folks who put their faith in me," said Parker. "I'm proud of what we have ac-

complished over the past four years, and I look forward to continuing that work for our members during the

next four."

Secretary-Treasurer Epperly also expressed gratitude to the members

that reelected him.

"I want to thank everyone for giving me the honor of being reelected to these positions. I will do my best to continue to serve the members of the trades and the community. **Cont. on p. 2 >>**



Chuck Parker (left) and John Epperly (right) are sworn-in during the annual WV Building and Construction Trades (WVBCT) Convention, after being reelected as WVBCT President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. The two will serve a four year term as the elected leadership of the trades at the WV state level.

Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) Opens Office in Morgantown, WV

On August 21, a ribbon-cutting was held for the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) at the West Virginia University Innovation Corp. office park in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The event marked a major milestone for the creation of a hydrogen hub and industry in the greater Appalachian region, sparked by the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), spearheaded by US

Senator Joe Manchin.

The ARCH2 organization is a public-private consortium that was awarded up to \$925 million from the federal government for projects in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The opening of the hydrogen hub office in Morgantown comes a month after the Department of Energy announced an initial round of \$30 million would go to planning the hub during Phase 1 of the hub timeline.

Cont. on p. 4 >>

Trades Hold Apprenticeship Facility Tours for Lawmakers and ARCH2 Developers



(Top left) Mike Hines, Project Manager for the Appalachian Regional Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2), speaks to members of the trades as well as lawmakers and industry officials about the progress made so far in the creation of a hydrogen industry in West Virginia.

The presentation was held as part of an apprenticeship training facility site tour given to officials at the Millwrights Training Facility in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

(Top right) West Virginia statehouse lawmakers attend a tour at the Operating Engineers 132 training facility in Medina, West Virginia as a fact-finding field trip held as a part of the monthly legislative interim committee meetings.

The September interim meetings were held nearby in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

(Bottom picture) Jason Fridley, Training Director for Plumbers and Pipefitters 152, gives a tour to developers from EQT as well as representatives from West Virginia University and the WV Economic Development Authority.

The tour included an overview of the classroom instruction curriculum as well as views of the outdoor rigging training area and the weld shop.

The tours are part of a larger initiative by the Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT) and the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council to educate lawmakers, industry officials, and the general public about the benefits of organized construction craft apprenticeship programs.

“The apprenticeship tours we have been holding over the last few years have been extremely effective in terms of developing relationships with legislators and potential developers,” said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades.

“Those of us in the trades have always known the value of what our programs have to offer. Now, everyone else is seeing it as well.”

For more information on West Virginia Building and Construction Trades apprenticeship programs, log on to www.WVtrades.org.



Parker, Epperly Elected

Continued from Page 1

ing me this opportunity,” said Epperly.

“It is my honor to work for you and help promote all our affiliates and their programs. We have a great team here, and we will work tirelessly to produce results for all our mem-

bers.”

During the convention, several speakers were in attendance to talk about various construction-related topics.

Convention speakers and topics included: Bill Monterosso, Mid-

Ohio Valley Workforce Development Board (topic: Apprenticeship Readiness programs); Shamus Quinn, Indiana/Iowa/Illinois Foundation for Fair Contracting (topic: Construct Connect); Andrew Robinson, Office of Senator Joe Manchin (topic: En-

ergy Permitting Reform Act of 2024); and Andy Walters, WV AFL-CIO (topic: 2024 Election Cycle).

For more information on West Virginia Building and Construction Trades affiliates and their programs, log on to www.WVtrades.org. ■

Election Day: November 5

2024 General Election Endorsements

<u>US Congress</u>		20th	Sarah Drennan (R)	55th	JB Akers (R)	76th	Rick Garcia (D)
Riley Moore (R)		23rd	Evan Worrell (R)	56th	Kayla Young (D)	77th	Joe Statler (R)
<u>State Treasurer</u>		25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D)	57th	Hollis Lewis (D)	78th	Diane Market Gaston (D)
Larry Pack (R)		26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R)	58th	Walter Hall (R)	79th	Evan Hansen (D)
<u>Attorney General</u>		27th	Michael Amos (R)	59th	Andy Shamblin (R)	80th	John Williams (D)
John "JB" McCuskey (R)		28th	Ryan Browning (R)	60th	Dana Ferrell (R)	81st	Anitra Hamilton (D)
<u>State Senate</u>		29th	Wayne Bug Williamson (D)	67th	Cody Thompson (D)	88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R)
2nd	Chris Rose (R)	30th	Jeff Eldridge (R)	68th	Chris Phillips (R)	90th	George Miller (R)
5th	Ric Griffith (D)	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R)	70th	Shannon Welsh (D)	96th	Lisa White (R)
9th	Brian Helton (R)	34th	Mark Dean (R)	71st	Laura Kimble (R)	97th	Lucia Valentine (D)
13th	Joey Garcia (D)	35th	Adam Vance (R)	73rd	Bryan Smith (R)	99th	Wayne Clark (R)
<u>House of Delegates</u>		40th	Roy Cooper (R)	75th	Stephanie Tomana (D)	100th	Maria Russo (D)
1st	Pat McGeehan (R)	43rd	Chris Toney (R)				
4th	Bill Flanigan (R)	44th	Carl Bill Roop (R)				
5th	Shawn Fluharty (D)	46th	Jeff Campbell (R)				
7th	Chuck Sheedy (R)	47th	Ray Canterbury (R)				
8th	David Kelly (R)	48th	Thomas Clark (R)				
9th	Trenton Barnhart (R)	49th	Stanley Adkins (R)				
12th	Vernon Criss (R)	50th	Elliott Pritt (R)				
13th	Scot Heckert (R)	51st	Marshall Clay (R)				
14th	Dave Foggini (R)	53rd	Tristan Leavitt (R)				
15th	Erica Moore (R)	54th	Mike Pushkin (D)				

Election Information

Early Voting: Wednesday, Oct. 23 – Saturday, Nov. 2

General Election Day: Tuesday, November 5

Find your Polling Location: www.GoVoteWV.com

Upper Ohio Valley Trades, Project BEST Hold High School Career Fair at Wheeling Ice Rink

Earlier this month, the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades joined with Project BEST to hold the 2021 Construction Job and Career Fair at the ice rink in Wheeling Park.

More than 900 students from +30 high schools were in attendance from all around the greater Ohio Valley.

Students could meet with representatives from many different trades including electricians, iron workers, roofers, laborers, carpenters, plumbers & pipefitters, cement finishers, operating engineers, painters and others who were on hand to

teach them about the construction industry.

Doug Giffin, Business Manager of IBEW Local 141 and trades rep to

“We’re proud of this event and look forward to continue holding it...”

Doug Giffin

Business Manager

IBEW Local 141

Project BEST, explained that holding this annual career fair is vital to the construction industry in West Virginia.

“I think it’s important to let kids know what careers are available to them,” said Giffin.

“Not everyone is able to go to college for various reasons, and events like these show how you can make a great living working with your hands in the trades.”

Giffin said the event grew twice in size this year and the organizers plan to build on that progress next year.

“We’re proud of this event and look forward to continue holding it in years to come,” said Giffin. ■



West Virginia State Pipe Trades Hold Annual Convention at Stonewall State Park

On August 28 and 29, the West Virginia State Pipe Trades held their annual convention at Stonewall Jackson State Park in Roanoke, West Virginia.

During the event, members of the plumbing and pipefitting industry gathered to discuss a wide variety of industry and political issues faced by the organization.

In addition to the normal business portion of the convention, multiple speakers were invited to discuss the current state of the industry including the United Association International General President Mark McManus.

Other speakers included: Riley Moore, West Virginia State Treasurer; Delegate Evan Worrell (R-Cabell),

Chairman of the West Virginia Republican Labor Caucus; Justin Williams, Director of the West Virginia Affiliated Construction Trades; and George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia

According to their website, the WV Pipe Trades recommend legislation to protect the trades and public health, provide support to Locals in organization efforts, prevent members from unjust and injurious



Bryan Raber, Business Manager for UA 152, calls the 2024 West Virginia State Pipe Trades Convention to order on August 29 at Stonewall Jackson State Park in Roanoke, WV.

 Like Us on Facebook!
"WV State Building Trades"

 Follow us on Twitter!
@WVSBT

Affiliated Construction Trades

600 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 345-7570
www.actwv.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 1374
Charleston, WV 25301

Labor Day Cookout Held at Trades HQ



Members of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council, friends, and family attend a cookout on September 1st, prior to attending the annual Labor Day at the Ballpark event at the Charleston Dirty Birds Baseball Stadium in Charleston, West Virginia.

"I want to thank everyone who helped make this event a success," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council. "Our members work hard all year and it was great to hold an event where we could all get together and celebrate the great work they do."

Building and Construction Trades Council.

The West Virginia Pipe Trades is an organization dedicated to promoting the interests of the plumbing and pipefitting industry.

competition, and cultivate feelings of friendship and good will among those in the industry.

For more information about the West Virginia Pipe Trades, log on to www.wvpipetrades.com. ■

ARCH2 Opens Office

Continued from Page 1

Manchin had been instrumental in steering federal dollars to his home state for the hydrogen hub through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and developer tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act.

The BIL gave the Department of Energy \$7 billion to create hubs around the country that would produce and consume hydrogen, a key industrial product that is also on a shortlist of potential clean energy sources.

"It's a transition we're going into. We need horsepower," said Manchin. "One of the hubs had to be in Appala-

chia. It was just common knowledge. If you've got the amount of energy that we have available to us, why not be able to produce the energy?"

ARCH2 will produce what is known as 'blue hydrogen.' This is a method by which hydrogen is extracted from natural gas, and the CO2 pollution created in the process is captured and buried in deep underground wells.

The hub currently includes nearly a dozen projects that will produce, store and use hydrogen.

For more information on the BIL, IRA, and the ARCH2 organization, log on to www.ARCH2hub.com. ■