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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 Prepare for 2025 WV Legislative Session

Last month, West Virginia Building and Construction Trades leaders from across the state met in Charleston at the state headquarters to discuss plans for the upcoming 2025 legislative session.

This year's session will begin on February 12th, but the trades are already making preparations in order to hit the ground running.

As a part of the day's events, an analysis of the 2024 election cycle was presented to members as well as a briefing on the trade's support in the legislature and the issues the trades plan to support during the upcoming session.

George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council, said that a majority of the trades' legislative support is now coming from the West Virginia Republican Labor Caucus, a group that was founded in 2021.

"We have made significant progress in getting labor-friendly Republicans elected over the course of the

past four years," said Capel. "Now, the Republican Labor Caucus will be helping to lead the way on our is-

ues."

Capel says among those issues are prioritizing local labor on public

construction projects, giving cities and counties more freedom when it

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George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council (WVBCT), gives a presentation on the outcome of the 2024 election and the outlook for the 2025 West Virginia Legislative Session to WVBCT leaders in Charleston, WV on November 13.

National Apprenticeship Week Celebrated Nationwide November 17 – 23

Last month, from November 18-22, our nation celebrated National Apprenticeship Week (NAW).

NAW is an annual, nationwide celebration where industry, workforce, education, and government leaders host events to showcase the successes and value of Registered Ap-

prenticeship.

The Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT) have been holding tours of apprenticeship training facilities and meeting with lawmakers and public officials to educate them about the benefits of craft apprenticeship throughout the year and contin-

ued to do so throughout the NAW.

"This year, we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week by holding tours and events across the state to showcase what our programs have to offer," said Justin Williams, Director of ACT WV.

NAW also serves as an opportu-

nity to highlight how Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, provides a critical talent pipeline that can help to address some of our nation's pressing workforce challenges such as rebuilding our country's infrastruc-

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Pre-Apprenticeship Program West Virginia Women Work Holds Ribbon-Cutting for New “Step-Up Hub”

On November 22, the West Virginia Women Work Pre-Apprenticeship Program held a ribbon-cutting for their new training center in Dunbar, West Virginia.

During the day’s events, a graduation ceremony was also held for individuals who had completed the training course, with friends and families members in attendance.

Attendees of the event were able to gain an inside look at the new training center, which will now become the new, first-of-its-kind home for women’s construction pre-apprenticeship training in West Virginia.

According to their website, West Virginia Women Work has been dedicated to providing women with the training and skills they need to succeed in nontraditional careers for more than 25 years.

Through their “Building Careers, Building Communities” campaign, they help women break into skilled trades and manufacturing, opening doors to rewarding careers that ben-

efit both individuals and the communities they live in.

Their “Step-Up for Women” program offers a 12-week pre-apprenticeship curriculum in construction, giving individuals an overview of the major construction crafts.

The Step-Up for Women program is the only Department of Labor-recognized program of its kind for women in construction in the state of West Virginia.

In addition to the introduction to construction trades, graduates also come away with multiple certifications at the end of the program. These include: OSHA 10 certification, plumber-in-training license, HVAC trainee license, First Aid/CPR/AED certification, and a forklift operator certification.

Throughout the 12-week program, students cycle through training in Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, & Welding during either the fall or spring semester.

West Virginia Women Work is

a tuition-free, nonprofit organization based out of Morgantown and Charleston that teaches women ages 18 and up skilled trades through hands on instruction.

For more information on the West

Virginia Women Work organization and the Step-Up for Women construction pre-apprenticeship, log on to www.westvirginiawomenwork.org on Trillium H2 Power, log on to www.trilliumenergy.com. ■

Apprenticeship Week

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ture, addressing critical supply chain demands, supporting a clean energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, and responding to care economy issues.

Throughout the week, the U.S. Department of Labor has designated each day to highlight a specific theme.

The following themes were set for this year: Monday, Nov. 18 -- Youth and Young Adult Apprenticeship Day; Tuesday, Nov. 19 -- Registered Apprenticeship in New and Emerg-

ing Industries and Around the Globe; Wednesday, Nov. 20 -- Expanding Registered Apprenticeship to Underserved Populations ; Thursday, Nov. 21 -- Women in Apprenticeship; Friday, Nov. 22 -- Federal Apprenticeship and Veterans in Apprenticeship.

For more information on National Apprenticeship week, log on to www.apprenticeship.gov.

For more information on apprenticeship opportunities in West Virginia, log on to the website at www.WVtrades.org. ■



WV Women Work (WWW) construction pre-apprenticeship students and their families sit for a graduation ceremony, held at the new WWW training center in Dunbar, West Virginia on November 22.



Dustin Vaughan, Training Coordinator for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 466 speaks to a group during an event held at their training center, in Charleston, for National Apprenticeship Week. Those in attendance included individuals from Carver Career Center, Benjamin Franklin Tech Center, and the Putnam Career and Technical Center.

Election Results

2024 General Election Endorsements

	<u>US Congress</u>	26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R) ✓
	Riley Moore (R) ✓	27th	Michael Amos (R) ✓
	<u>State Treasurer</u>	28th	Ryan Browning (R) ✓
	Larry Pack (R) ✓	29th	Wayne Bug Williamson (D) ✓
	<u>Attorney General</u>	30th	Jeff Eldridge (R) ✓
	John "JB" McCuskey (R) ✓	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R) ✓
	<u>State Senate</u>	34th	Mark Dean (R) ✓
2nd	Chris Rose (R) ✓	35th	Adam Vance (R) ✓
5th	Ric Griffith (D) ✓	40th	Roy Cooper (R) ✓
9th	Brian Helton (R) ✓	43rd	Chris Toney (R) ✓
13th	Joey Garcia (D) ✓	44th	Carl Bill Roop (R) ✓
	<u>House of Delegates</u>	46th	Jeff Campbell (R) ✓
1st	Pat McGeehan (R) ✓	47th	Ray Canterbury (R) ✓
4th	Bill Flanigan (R) ✓	48th	Thomas Clark (R) ✓
5th	Shawn Fluharty (D) ✓	49th	Stanley Adkins (R) ✓
7th	Chuck Sheedy (R) ✓	50th	Elliott Pritt (R) ✓
8th	David Kelly (R) ✓	51st	Marshall Clay (R) ✓
9th	Trenton Barnhart (R) ✓	53rd	Tristan Leavitt (R) ✓
12th	Vernon Criss (R) ✓	54th	Mike Pushkin (D) ✓
13th	Scot Heckert (R) ✓	55th	JB Akers (R) ✓
14th	Dave Foggin (R) ✓	56th	Kayla Young (D) ✓
15th	Erica Moore (R) ✓	57th	Hollis Lewis (D) ✓
20th	Sarah Drennan (R) ✓	58th	Walter Hall (R) ✓
23rd	Evan Worrell (R) ✓	59th	Andy Shamblin (R) ✓
25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D) ✓	60th	Dana Ferrell (R) ✓

67th	Cody Thompson (D) ✓
68th	Chris Phillips (R) ✓
70th	Shannon Welsh (D) ✓
71st	Laura Kimble (R) ✓
73rd	Bryan Smith (R) ✓
75th	Stephanie Tomana (D) ✓
76th	Rick Garcia (D) ✓
77th	Joe Statler (R) ✓
78th	Diane Market-Gaston (D) ✓

79th	Evan Hansen (D) ✓
80th	John Williams (D) ✓
81st	Anitra Hamilton (D) ✓
88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R) ✓
90th	George Miller (R) ✓
96th	Lisa White (R) ✓
97th	Lucia Valentine (D) ✓
99th	Wayne Clark (R) ✓
100th	Maria Russo (D) ✓

Trades Prepare

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comes to the public bidding process, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are protected.

"At the end of the day, all of our issues stem back to a single idea: Local Jobs for Local Workers," said Capel. "We know we have the most highly trained, skilled workers in the industry. If contractors hire local, not only will they have a great workforce, but the public will enjoy higher quality infrastructure as well."

Capel says the trades have high hopes for the future with the incoming legislature.

"It goes without saying that there will always be certain issues we have to defend against. However, we have gained enough ground in the last few years that we are able to go on the offense a little bit more," said Capel. "We look forward to working with all of our friends in the legislature—on both sides of the aisle." ■

Road Trippin to the Trades



(Left) Terry Burhans, Host of the WCHS-TV program "Road Trippin" interviews Chuck Parker, Business Manager for Operating Engineers 132.

(Right) The WCHS-TV News Van arrives at the IUPAT DC 53 Training Center in Weston, WV.

Last month, the WV Building and Construction Trades entered into a partnership with WCHS-TV to sponsor their "Road Trippin" program.

Over the course of the next several months, a team with WCHS will go "Road Trippin to the Trades" and visit training sites and halls to feature aspects of every building trades craft. The spots will be played on WCHS-TV digital media platforms.

"This is another opportunity for us to showcase the benefits of organized construction, and our apprenticeship programs, to a wider audience," said Justin Williams, Director of ACT WV.

To stay up to date on the progress and watch previously filmed segments of "Road Trippin to the Trades," log on to www.wchstv.com/community/road-trippin right now!

+\$10,000 in gifts and funds raised Charleston Building Trades Partner with Salvation Army on Angel Tree Program

For the second year in a row, the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council partnered with the Salvation Army for the Angel Tree Program to raise funds and collect gifts for families in need during the holiday season.

The trades collected Angel Tree gifts for 77 children in the greater Charleston area, and check presentations were held as well.

The gifts collected for the children amounted to more than \$10,000 and the checks presented totaled \$7,700.

The check donations will contribute to the next, ongoing fundraiser being held with the Salvation Army: The Red Kettle Drive, which will con-

tinue through Christmas eve.

In addition to all fourteen construction craft organizations under the Charleston Building Trades umbrella, the donation drive was funded in part by the Kanawha Valley Builders Association, Elco Mechanical, Hatzel & Bueller, West Virginia Heating and Plumbing, and the Kanawha Valley Labor Council.

Capt. Mike Michels
Area Commander

Salvation Army Charleston WV Area

Charleston Building and Construction Trades Business Manager

Fred Chandler says the annual partnership is very important to them.

“We look forward to working with the Salvation Army every year. It gives us an opportunity to give back and volunteer to help folks in need around the area,” said Chandler.

“These gifts are substantial in helping us provide toys, clothing, and food to over 1000 children...”

“We appreciate the people in this community and all they have given us. We try to take every opportunity we can to give back to them.”

“These gifts are substantial in helping us provide toys, clothing, and food to over 1000 children this Christmas season and toward achiev-

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Members of the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council and officials with the Charleston WV Area Salvation Army pose for a photo in front of the gifts collected as a part of the 2024 Angel Tree Program.

Officials at the Charleston Area Salvation Army also expressed their gratefulness for the ongoing partnership with the trades.

“We at The Salvation Army of Charleston want to share our appreciation for all the trade groups that participated in the outpouring of generosity at the Trades Office Building,” said Salvation Army Charleston WV Area Commander Captain Mike Michels.

ing our \$250,000 fundraising goal to allow us to continue to serve families in the seven-county region throughout the year.”

The gifts collected will be donated to children and families in the greater Charleston area on December the 19th ahead of the Christmas holiday.

For more information on how you can donate or volunteer with the Salvation Army, log on to www.salvationarmyusa.org. ■

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