



THE ACT REPORT

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 9

A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER, 1995

ACT Hosts Fourth Annual Conference

THE ACT FOUNDATION held its Fourth Annual Update & Planning Conference at the Charleston House Holiday Inn August 22. ACT President Bruce Tarpley governed the meeting in which ACT officers, staff, and attorney reported on programs and activities. Of note was a report on the ongoing efforts around the proposed pulp and paper mill in Apple Grove, COMET and Fight Back efforts across the state and new legislative initiatives.

ACT lawyer Stuart Calwell emphasized the importance of getting more members in ACT. "We just can't have half the state construction workers getting a free ride while ACT members carry the load," Calwell stressed.

Conference members agreed to work

on new membership activities including handbills for each ACT member to give to non ACT workers on the job.

The conference was held in conjunction with the

West Virginia State Building & Construction Trades Council's annual convention.

Between the ACT and Building Trades meetings seven of the top gubernatorial candidates for next year's election were interviewed. The interviews gave delegates the opportunity to question candidates about labor oriented issues. Candidates attending were Charlotte Pritt, Percy Ashcraft, Joe Manchin, Jim Lees, Lloyd Jackson, Lyle Sattes and Bob Henry Baber.

"Interviewing potential gubernatorial candidates was something we had never done before. The delegates to the convention enjoyed the candidates' presentations and

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LISTENING INTENTLY at ACT's 4th Annual Planning Conference held recently is (front left) Rick Williams of the North Central Building Trades Council among others. The one-day conference was held in Charleston.

ACT Gets Back Pay For Randolph Workers

STEVE MONTONEY, ACT's northern representative, recovered about \$2000 in wages for two workers on a bridge job in Randolph County. Both were paid incorrectly on a state prevailing wage job.

Montoney and ACT attorney Shirley Skaggs met in August with Roger Enslin, a compliance officer with the Division of Highways (DOH) to settle the problem with R.R. Dawson Bridge Co. of Kentucky.

Montoney and Skaggs were representing Clarence and Amos Flanagan who were employed by the company on the Tygart Valley Bridge on Corridor H.

"These two workers, as well as two others, were doing the work of a carpenter and ironworker, but were classified as laborers, which is a lower wage rate," Montoney said.

Montoney said the attorney had two other affidavits on work-

ers with the same problem, but they failed to have them notarized and returned and were therefore unable to participate in the negotiations for lost wages.

"We went out of our way to recover wages for these two," Montoney said. "The other two would have recovered money as well. Clarence will receive \$801.90 and Amos over \$1142.38 in back pay, but it required extensive negotiating on our part."

Montoney said the DOH was withholding payment to R.R. Dawson until the classification

case was settled.

"When we recover monies of this type the cost of the project goes up and delays the final close-out payment and release

of their wage bond," Montoney explained. "All in all this company will think twice before they decide to compete against our fair contractors in this state."

On the same project Montoney noticed the name on the painters' truck. After investigating he found out the com-

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Newspaper, Radio and Television

New Worker's Protection Fund Begins Workers Comp Campaign

THE WEST VIRGINIA Labor Federation, AFL-CIO has kicked off its campaign to inform the voting public about the destruction of our Workers

Compensation laws at the last legislative session.

Beginning the weekend of Sept. 8 through Sept. 11 the AFL-CIO launched a series of newspaper, television and radio ads highlighting the worst parts of the legislation and the legislators who voted for it.

The ads focussed on four major issues. First, it was shown that West Virginia has one of the highest state worker death rates.

This proves that our high disability rates are the result of un-

safe conditions.

It was also disclosed that many benefits were taken away by the legislation. Widows no longer get a 104 week transitional benefit when their disabled spouse dies.

Retirees are cut off workers compensation when they collect social security. And disability awards no longer take into account a persons occupation or retraining ability.

"A carpenter who loses a
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ACT Spreads Word On Labor Unions, WV Jobs Act & Workers Compensation

ACT SPONSORED a booth in the commercial exhibit area at the Barbour County Fair the last week of August in order to promote the West Virginia Jobs Act and the workers compensation fight, as

well as make local residents aware of ACT's work.

"We answered questions about how to get a contractors license, and things of that nature," said Steve Montoney, ACT's northern representative.

"Our booth looked really good. We had pictures blown up showing projects that union members had worked on including power plants, paper facilities and schools, with the slogan "Proudly built by union la-

bor." And we showed videos of Poison Promises (ACT's half hour television program about the pulp and paper mill slated for Apple Grove, Mason county) and our apprenticeship training video," he said.

Barbour county is close to the Trus-Joist MacMillan plant, Montoney said, and some people were leery about what to expect from ACT, but they warmed up.

"Several people wanted to know what's going on at TJM. They tried to get jobs there, but hadn't been able to," he said.

"We got to give our side of the story, and make them understand what it is we're doing, fighting for local jobs for local

workers."

The booth was advertised every hour on radio's WBUC asking everyone to stop by and get a free balloon. "We passed out more balloons than the hospital, who also had a booth, because ours were bigger and better," Montoney said.

Montoney manned the booth as did his assistant Linda Daugherty. Chad Turner of Parkersburg and Mike McClanahan of Charleston, both members of Sheetmetal Workers Local 33's Youth to Youth apprentice program, also took over one evening.

All in all over 28,000 people attended the fair.



USING BALLOONS TO SPREAD THE WORD about labor unions to families in Barbour county is Linda Daugherty, staff member at ACT's Clarksburg office.

Workers Protection

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hand no longer has a career but he can't even apply for a permanent total disability," said Steve White, ACT director. "A lawyer who loses a hand can continue his career. Under the new law both are treated the same by workers compensation."

State officials admit hundreds of employers owe the Workers Compensation Division millions in unpaid premiums.

The AFL-CIO raised over \$130,000 to form the Workers Protection Fund by requesting donations of \$5.00 per member across the state.

Approximately half of the amount raised has come from building trades locals and councils. ACT contributed on behalf of all its locals and members.

"ACT continues to support the AFL-CIO's advertising efforts," said White.

"We're probably going to make some politicians very angry for these advertisements, but we intend to show them the labor movement is alive and well in West Virginia," he said.

White said the West Virginia

Chamber of Commerce has pledged to raise \$500,000 in order to fund its own campaign in support of legislators who voted in favor of the workers compensation reform.

"They can inform the public all they want. I think it will only further our cause if someone else brings up the workers comp issue," White said.

Joe Powell, president of the West Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said response to the advertising campaign has been very positive so far.

"We had several people call up and say they had seen it on TV or read it in the newspaper or heard it on the radio and overall we've had a very favorable report from all of them," Powell said.

Powell said he has heard primarily from union members but has also heard from others not in the labor movement.

"Some of the ads ended with a number to call for more information and we got calls from five or six people not in the labor movement. We know our message is getting out."

On Parkersburg's WTLP AM 1450
Listen to

Spotlight On Labor

Hosted by Sam Henry
"Labor's Voice"

Saturdays from 8 to 9 a.m.

Sam's guest for the first show, September 16, is Joe Powell, President of WV Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Sponsored by:

Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 347, West Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
Parkersburg Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO



State Leaders Attend National Convention

National Building Trades Elects Head

WHAT MAY have been a hard fought election turned into a unanimous victory for incumbent National Building Trades president Bob Georgine.

The national arm of the building trades holds a convention every five years to elect officers, according to Roy Smith of the West Virginia Building Trades.

This year Painters Union President Mike Monroe had been nominated to challenge Georgine at the Aug. 29 election.

However, right before the

voting was to take place Monroe withdrew his candidacy leaving Georgine unopposed.

A major issue was Georgine's position as both building trades president and chairman of Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

Delegates adopted a resolution restricting building trades officers from serving in any other

full time paid position beginning in the year 2000.

the past twenty years announced his retirement and was replaced

by Paschal McGuinness of the Carpenters Union.

McGuinness will officially take office beginning next Jan. 1.

The 15 international unions which make up the Building Trades Depart-

ment get votes based on their union membership and each state and local council get one vote each.

"I'm very hopeful the national building trades is becoming more modern, are going to move on with new strategy by getting more involved with state and local issues, Smith said.

"They've done their best to raise the councils' awareness of political issues in DC.

"I'm very hopeful that the 'half new' team will be progressive and move us forward."

'I'm very hopeful the national building trades is becoming more modern, are going to move on with new strategy by getting more involved with state and local issues.'

Roy Smith, Secretary State Building Trades

Joe Maloney, Secretary-Treasurer of the Department for

international unions which make up the Building Trades Depart-

ACT Legislative Committees Grow

ACT GOT a good response to the Taking ACTION brochure mailed to all members living in West Virginia the first week of August, according to Raymond "B.B." Smith, ACT's legislative representative.

"We now have a network of volunteers across the state to help with lobbying and other legislative issues," Smith said.

Smith said more responses continue to trickle in.

"If someone lost their bro-

chure, or didn't get around to mailing their card in, I want to ask them to take the time to fill out the coupon we've included in this issue of the ACT Report.

"We want to encourage others to volunteer. If each member will do just a little we can do a lot," Smith said.

"Right now, we're working on getting sample letters to those who volunteered to write letters and getting voter registration cards to those who volunteered

to register voters, and so on.

The committees will remain focussed on two issues for now: workers compensation and the West Virginia Jobs Act. "Those are the really hot issues now," he said.

The Jobs Act is gaining momentum. The latest to pass the resolution was Ritchie county in early September. Wirt and Preston both passed in mid-August. Smith was accompanied by Boilermakers Kenny and

Rick Chevron at the Wirt County Commission meeting and Delmer Hershman, business agent for Laborers Local 379 in Morgantown, attended the Preston County Commission.

"Boone and Putnam county are still considering our proposal, as are Cabell and Raleigh, but it looks pretty good."

Smith said although the Marion county commission meeting was cancelled because two members failed to show up, the

evening wasn't a total loss.

"A television reporter showed up to tape the meeting and since it was cancelled, they interviewed us about the Jobs Act, which was really good exposure," he said.

The counties Smith is planning on visiting next are Doddridge, Fayette, Pleasants, and Marion. Any member who can attend those commission meetings with Smith should call him at 455-5500.

We're Taking ACTION

Taking ACTION is a program that asks ACT members to get more involved in the legislative process. Taking ACTION provides ACT members with the information and strategies needed to impact legislators and the decisions they make. Taking ACTION needs your voice to develop successful strategies and win.



- Jobs
- Fair Contracting
- Workers Comp
- Public Health
- Safety

Yes, I want to Take ACTION to protect my rights. Please contact me about how I can participate in the following areas:

<input type="checkbox"/> Letters to Legislators	<input type="checkbox"/> Register Voters
<input type="checkbox"/> Letters to Newspaper Editors	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Candidates
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Training Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/> Lobby
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Relative Will Volunteer	

Name _____ Local _____
 Address _____ Day Phone _____
 City State, ZIP _____ Evening Phone _____

✂ clip and mail to ACT, 523 Central Ave. Charleston, W. Va. 25302 ✂

ACT Conference

Continued from page 1
the open discussions," said Steve Burton, Business Manager for the Tri-State Building Trades and Vice President of the West Virginia Labor Federation. **Pritt** At Convention



The interviews were an educational process to prepare the delegates for the West Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO convention beginning Oct. 3, he said.

"We purposefully refrained from making an endorsement for

any particular candidate. We simply wanted this process to be an educational one for our members -- so they could learn about who is running for governor and to make them more prepared to be a delegate to the AFL-CIO convention, where the endorsement issue will be decided," he said.

Each building trades local has the right to delegates, depending on its membership total.

"Anyone who has been selected as a delegate should make every effort to attend the AFL-CIO convention because it could prove to be very interesting," Burton said.



ADDRESSING CONCERNS at the West Virginia State Building & Construction Trades Council Convention is Congressman Bob Wise, D-WV. To his left are Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer of the State Building Trades and Joe Powell, President of the West Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

City, Labor Officials Work Together

Apprentices Donate River Museum Labor

THE CITY of Point Pleasant will enjoy a new river museum thanks to the efforts of a group of apprentices volunteering to build it.

Point Pleasant city leaders met

The ACT Report

A monthly publication of the Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation, an association of West Virginia building and construction trades local unions, with offices in Charleston and Clarksburg.

Officers: Bruce Tarpley, President; Dave McComas, Vice President; Willard "Bubby" Casto, Financial Secretary; Roy Smith, Executive Director; Steve White, Director.

Charleston Phone (304) 345-7570
Clarksburg Phone (304) 624-0682

with union officials at the Tri-State Building & Construction Trades Council and worked out an agreement to get the project going.

It is estimated that over 6,000 labor hours will go into the construction of the facility.

The city will provide the supervision and materials, while apprentices from 11 local construction unions will provide the manpower.

The unions participating are Bricklayers Local 5 of Huntington, statewide Operating Engineers Local 132, Cement Ma-

sons Local 887 of Huntington/Charleston, Iron Workers Local 787 of Ashland, Ky., Laborers Local 543 of Huntington, Sheetmetal Workers Local 33 of Huntington, Electricians Local 317 of Huntington, Glazers Local 1195 of Charleston, Carpenters Local 1159 of Point Pleasant, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 521 of Huntington, and Painters Local 813 of Kenova.

"The apprentices will get valuable on-the-job training where they can use what they've learned in the classroom," said

John Samples, director of Construction Trades Training & Advancement Program of the State Building Trades Council.

"The city will benefit by the many hours of free labor. Many of these apprentices can use the

experience as a stepping stone from the classroom to a job."

The museum will house city memorabilia as well as river-related artifacts. The city of Point Pleasant is at the junction of the Kanawha and Ohio rivers.

AFL-CIO Message Spread State-Wide

The Workers Protection Fund paid for its first advertising which ran on television stations in Bluefield, Charleston/Huntington, Clarksburg/Fairmont/Weston, Clarksburg/Mor-

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gantown/Fairmont, Hagerstown MD (which services the Eastern Panhandle), Oak Hill/Beckley/Bluefield, Parkersburg and Wheeling/Northern Panhandle.

Half-page ads in Sunday newspapers ran in Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Clarksburg, Fairmont, Huntington, Lewisburg, Logan, Martinsburg, Morgantown, Parkersburg Weirton and Wheeling.

Radio ads were aired on 60 radio stations in Beckley/Mt. Hope, Berkeley Springs, Bluefield, Buckhannon, Charleston, Clarksburg, Elkins, Fairmont, Fisher, Grafton, Hinton, Huntington, Keyser, Kingwood, Logan, Madison/Danville, Martinsburg, Matewan, Montgomery, Morgantown, Mullens, New Martinsville, Parkersburg, Rainelle, Richwood, Ripley, Ronceverte, Salem, Spencer, Summersville, Sutton, Welch, Weston, Wheeling and Williamson.

Back Pay

Continued from page 1
pany didn't have a contractor's license.

"I contacted Bill Armentrout, Randolph County compliance officer, who issued a cease and desist. The job was shut down for two days and was finished by a different painter."

"Every day we find problems big and small. It's just part of what ACT is here to do," said Montoney.

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
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