

THE ACT REPORT

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The ACT Foundation is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, with offices in Charleston and Clarksburg. Steve Burton, President; Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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Trades To Reconstruct Historic Martinsburg Roundhouse Site

Rebuilding the historic Martinsburg railway roundhouse will continue a union tradition started 125 years ago.

Thanks to recent cooperative efforts by the North Central West Virginia Building Trades and the Berkeley County Roundhouse Authority the \$82 million roundhouse restoration project is expected to create 300 jobs over 5 years for building trades workers in the eastern panhandle.

"The roundhouse restoration project is especially important because the old B&O roundhouse is being turned into a union movement museum," said Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary for the North Central Building Trades. "The Martinsburg roundhouse was the site of the first company-wide and eventually nationwide railroad strike."

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad workers staged the first strike at Martinsburg because the company had continually cut wages since the "panic" (the old term for economic depression) began in 1874.

By 1877 wages had been cut by 50 percent and on July 16 B&O announced another 10 percent cut.

This was enough to convince the small railroad unions, which were divided by craft lines to join together and fight for a livable wage and safer working conditions.

Workers started the strike by taking over the roundhouse at Martinsburg, vowing not to let any freight trains pass through in either direction until wages

were restored.

The strike ended up festering into a national class war in which many workers and civilians died because the railroad owners convinced the president to send in federal troops to ride the trains and protect

the cargo.

Although federal troops crushed the strike and the immediate goals were not accomplished, the uprising did show workers they could unite against these large corporations.

"We would like to thank Larry Young of ACT for his efforts," said Bill DuVall Business Representative for Carpenters Local 1024. "He did an outstanding job helping us forge a good relationship with

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4TH ANNUAL ROUNDHOUSE Rail Day Celebration draws a crowd at the historic B&O Roundhouse in Martinsburg.

State Building Trades Pass Resolutions During Recent WV AFL-CIO Convention

The recent WV AFL-CIO Convention saw the WV State Building Trades pass some key resolutions.

One of three resolutions passed was to support Amendment One.

Amendment One will create a financing tool for economic development.

On the ballot in November, Amendment One will allow companies to use new property taxes they pay the county or municipality to finance new construction for business start-up or expansion.

The law has provisions ensuring any project getting this economic development assistance will be treated as public

money; therefore it will be subject to competitive bid, prevailing wage laws and the West Virginia Jobs Act.

"Those provisions will ensure economic development efforts deliver good paying jobs for local workers," said BB Smith, ACT Legislative Representative.

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North Central WV Trades Sign \$280 Million PLA with Hospital

If built, a new hospital construction project in Clarksburg will provide good work opportunities for members of the North Central West Virginia Building Trades.

According to Darwin Snyder, President of North Central, his council has worked out a Project Agreement with United Hospital and is fully supporting the hospital replacement project.

The \$280 million hospital project will provide 1,000 to 1,200 union jobs over a two to three year period.

Work could begin on the

project as early as Spring of 2003.

"I would like to thank Bruce Carter of United Hospital and the committee for their joint effort in getting this cooperative agreement put together," said Snyder.

The new hospital is being built to replace the old United Hospital Center.

According to hospital officials the old building will be sold.

The project is not finalized yet. The West Virginia Health Care Authority must approve the expenditure before the project can proceed.

"The members of North Cen-

tral will support United Hospital at any and all levels of the approval process," said Tom Halfin, Business Agent for Operating Engineers Local 132.

"We know that United is going to support our members and the local community."

The new hospital will not only provide jobs but also a new advanced surgery center where state of the art organ transplants can be performed.

"This and other recent projects that North Central has signed shows the members' commitment to looking ahead and secure work for the future," said Snyder.

Gov. Wise Visits Paden City Labor Day Celebration



On Labor Day Gov. Bob Wise signed a proclamation making the week of Sept. 2 Union Label Week. (from left:) Kenny Perdue, BB Smith, Gov. Bob Wise, Karen Shipley, and Bill Ruther.

PRES. BUSH ACTIONS HELP CRIMINAL CONTRACTORS

State Debarment Law Keeps Convicted IPI Inc. From Winning DOH Bridge Painting Contracts

Thanks to the ACT supported debarment law, IPI Inc. will not be painting bridges for the Division of Highways, at least for the next few years.

That's because IPI is not allowed to bid on federal projects, and West Virginia law says if you can't bid on federal projects you can't get a state, county or municipal project.

Now someone just needs to tell the West Virginia DOH.

Despite convictions and debts owed to the DOH, Workers Compensation, and Unemployment, the DOH could find

no reason to withhold the bid from IPI, according to a June 26 memo sent by Carl O. Thompson Deputy State Highway Engineer for the DOH to David Tincher, Director of Purchasing Division.

Fortunately, the state Purchasing Division did find reasons to stop these criminals from earning tax dollars. Those reasons were the new debarment law and unpaid debts.

"Companies like IPI are the

reason ACT members supported the state debarment law," said Gerald McMillian, Business Representative,

' COMPANIES LIKE IPI ARE THE REASON ACT MEMBERS SUPPORTED THE STATE DEBARMENT LAW.'

GERALD McMILLIAN, BUS. REPRESENTATIVE, PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 53

Painters District Council 53. "Criminals convicted at any level don't deserve the chance to earn any of the law abiding public's money."

As previously reported, IPI

has been convicted of violating several federal laws including the Clean Water Act and Mail Fraud.

As a result of the convictions, IPI has been debarred from bidding on federal projects until 2004.

The state law mandates

that any company debarred by the federal government can't bid on public projects in West Virginia.

"I am glad the new law was in place to guide the Purchas-

ing Division to the correct decision," said Dan Poling, Business Representative for Painters District Council 53.

"Had it not been for the state debarment law IPI would be working for the DOH and responsible contractors would be left out."

Poling also points to actions taken by President George W. Bush that weaken laws aimed at stopping companies like IPI from bidding federal projects.

"Federal law says contracts should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder but President Bush eliminated rules that defined the term "responsible bidder."

Proposed Power Plant Bids for Federal Funds

An environmentally friendly power plant is trying to get off the ground in Greenbrier County.

Western Greenbrier Co-Generation wants to construct a 75 mega-watt coal waste fired power plant that will become part of an environmentally friendly industrial park.

Western Greenbrier is competing with 34 other proposals totaling about \$2 billion.

The funding may come from the DOE's Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI), which has been allocated \$330 million this year.

The CCPI is a government/business partnership created to promote cleaner burning coal

'WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DOE FUND MORE POWER PLANTS IN WEST VIRGINIA.'

JEFF PERRY, BUS. MANAGER, UA LOCAL 625

Other potential tenants of the industrial park would include producers of products from fly ash, which is a by-product of the power plant.

The \$215 million project is still in the planning stages. Company officials are seeking \$107.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

The DOE's decision is expected in December.

"We would like to see the DOE fund more power plants in West Virginia," said Jeff Perry, Business Manager for Plumbers and Fitters Local 625, Charleston. "Power plants provide our members with a lot of opportunities to work."

power plants.

The agency is planning to allocate \$2 billion worth of 50/50 matching funds to companies who want to implement clean coal technology in existing or new power plants over the next 10 years.

"West Virginia is the perfect place for much of that money to be spent for several reasons," said Wayne Rebich, ACT Representative. "We have the coal, the land, rail and waterways, as well as easy access to the power grid, but most importantly we have a highly skilled union work force with a lot of power plant construction experience."

Roundhouse

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

the Berkeley County Roundhouse Authority."

Young, ACT's eastern Panhandle representative, is glad union workers will be a part of preserving history for future generations to see what the brave workers of the past did

so they could have safe, fair working conditions.

"Credit goes to Clarence Martin, Chairman of the Berkeley County Roundhouse Authority, for setting out to do this project and making sure that local skilled workers do the job right," said Young.

WV AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidates

AMENDMENT ONE:
Vote Yes ✓

U.S. Senate

Jay Rockefeller

U.S. House of Representatives

First Congressional District: Alan Mollohan

Second Congressional District: Jim Humphreys

Third Congressional District: Nick Joe Rahall

State Senate

1st: Ed Bowman

2nd: Larry Edgell

3rd: Jim Ball

4th: Oshel Craigo

5th: Thomas F. Scott (R)

6th: Truman Chafin

7th: Tracy Dempsey

8th: John Mitchell

9th: Bill Wooton

10th: Mary Pearl Compton

11th: Randy White

12th: Joe Minard

16th: John Unger

17th: Brooks McCabe

House of Delegates

1st: Joe DeLong; Randy Swartzmiller

2nd: Jack Yost

3rd: Rick Altman; Tal Hutchins

4th: Scott Varner; Ken Tucker

5th: Dave Pethtel

7th: Paul Janes

9th: Kenny Brown

10th: Shuan Butcher; John Beary; John Ellem (R)

11th: Bill Groves

12th: Carroll Jett

13th: Dale Martin; Brady Paxton

14th: Jim Ferguson

15th: Margarette Leach; Kevin Craig; Jim Morgan

16th: Susan Hubbard; Dale Stephens; Karen Nance

17th: Richard Thompson; Don Perdue

18th: Earnie Kuhn

19th: Greg Butcher; Lidella Wilson Hrutkay; Bill Wright

21st: Harry Keith White

22nd: Rick Staton; Richard Browning

23rd: Emily Yeager

25th: Mark Wills

26th: Gerald L. Crosier

27th: Virginia Mahan; Randolph McGraw; Sally Susman

28th: Tom Campbell; Ray Canterbury (R)

29th: Tom Louisos; David Perry

30th: Bonnie Brown; Bobbie Hatfield; Ray Keener; Priscilla M. Haden (R)

31st: Carrie Webster

32nd: Jon Cain; Derek Walker

34th: Brent Boggs

39th: Bill Hamilton (R)

40th: Mary Poling

41st: Ron Fragale; Richard Iaquina

42nd: Tom Coleman

43rd: Mike Caputo; A. James Manchin

44th: Barbara Evans Fleischauer; Gene Claypole; Nancy Houston

46th: Stan Shaver

54th: Walter Duke (R)

55th: Vince George (M)

57th: John Doyle

58th: Dale Manuel

What's Amendment One?
See related story on
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8 Workers Get Almost \$80,000 From 3D Corp.

3D Enterprises Contracting Corp. of Lexington, KY has paid eight union workers almost \$80,000, between \$2,000 and \$25,000 each, after a three year court battle.

Former ACT Representative and current Director of Organizing for Operating Engineers Local 132, Donnie Huff, received a total of \$24,911 be-

cause he was discriminated against while salting a project for West Virginia American Water Company in Lewis County in 1999.

3D, the General Contractor on the Weston project, violated several workers rights under the National Labor Relations Act by refusing to reinstate them after they offered unconditionally return to work.

"I am glad this case is finally settled," said Huff.

"One of these days these law-breaking companies will learn. No matter how long it takes, union members, with the ACT Foundation backing them, will see that justice is done."

Huff's original estimated settlement was around \$60,000, but after National Labor Relations Board negotiations and a recent court decision, which limits the company's liability, the amount dwindled.

This recent 4th Circuit Court decision said union salts were not eligible for as much settlement money because they are seldom on a job for long periods of time.

"The decision is a bad one. It will hinder and maybe even decrease the number of union salts, and therefore decrease

the number of workers who get the opportunity to see the living wages and the benefits the union has to offer," said Huff.

"This was a long hard fight, it takes a tremendous amount of dedication to stick with these cases and ensure that justice is done," said Huff.

Federal Legislation May Ensure West Virginia Wind Power Boom

New federal legislation may ensure the potential power plant boom in West Virginia doesn't fizzle out.

Both the house and the senate have approved a "Renewable Energy" bill, which is now in a conference committee to iron out a law both sides can agree on.

As of right now the senate bill mandates that 10 percent of all power must come from renewable resources, such as wind or biomass by the year 2020.

If this legislation passes it could boost West Virginia's economy because the landscape makes the state a prime location for wind power generation.

The wind power industry rates wind patterns much like the rafting industry rates whitewater.

For example, class I water is a mild flat rapid that is not hard to navigate, where as a class V rapid is big, fast, and can be

treacherous.

Wind is measured in Categories.

Category 1 winds are too weak and inconsistent for wind power generation.

Category 5 winds are strong consistent winds that can keep windmill turbines moving most of the time.

The consistent category 5 winds sweeping across the hill-tops, and easy access to the power grid make West Virginia a prime location for increased power production from the wind.

Along with the natural elements that make the mountain state desirable is the fact that local union workers are already getting experience building these facilities.

Members of the North Central West Virginia Building Trades are already building a windmill project in Tucker and Preston County for Florida Power and Light.

The general contractor is M.A. Mortenson out of Minnesota.

This project, which began in August, is the first windmill project in West Virginia and it is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

About 200 craft workers will have worked on the 44 windmill project by the time it is complete.

Plans to start constructing a 250 mega-watt wind plant in Grant County for U.S. Wind Force hopefully will begin later this year. In addition, at least two more wind projects have filed with the PSC.

"If this bill passes it could mean billions of dollars worth of good construction jobs for a long time to come," said Mick Malone, Business Agent for Iron Workers Local 568, Cumberland Maryland.

"However, we must keep making an effort to open communication with these power companies early in the planning stages. They should know that when local communities give up their natural resources they expect good construction jobs for local workers."

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Resolutions

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Another key resolution is to support the continuation of the West Virginia Jobs Act at the upcoming legislative session.

The act was signed into law during the 2001 legislative session, but it runs out next year.

Last but not least a resolution was passed to support leg-

islation creating public/private partnerships on road projects.

"The advantages of the bill would be two fold," said Smith

"One, roads would be improved much quicker.

Two, it would create good highway construction jobs, which would provide good benefits for our members."

CABLE CHANNEL 9
Steubenville, Follansbee &
Wellsburg
daily @ noon

CABLE CHANNEL 10
Wheeling, St. Clairsville &
Moundsville
daily @ noon

WEST VIRGINIA WORKS SHOWTIMES

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Oak Hill
Sundays @ 11:00am

★ New Station & Time
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Charleston,
Huntington, Parkersburg,
Beckley, Bluefield
Sundays @ 11:00am

WDTV 5
Clarksburg &
Morgantown
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