

# THE ACT REPORT

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TRADES

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SAFETY, SUB-BIDDING, INFRASTRUCTURE, JOBS ON TRADES AGENDA

## 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO START IN MID-FEBRUARY

The 2013 legislative session begins on February 13, a month later than usual.

The reason is a constitutional provision that provides for an extra month preparation when there is a newly elected Governor.

Building Trades efforts during the 60 day session will focus on passage of a bill to improve safety on public construction projects, renew legislation aimed at preventing sub-contractor bid shopping, encourage more local hiring around

Marcellus Shale and related projects, and more funding for infrastructure projects including roads, schools, water and sewer.

The safety effort is aimed at requiring workers on public construction projects to have completed OSHA's 10 hour safety training.

Industrial companies have had this requirement in place for many years and other states have adopted the same rule for public projects.

However some contractor groups have opposed the measure saying the safety

provision was too expensive and too difficult to comply with.

Last legislative session a bill was passed that provided for a one year test of anti-bid-shopping legislation. The bill used language similar to a long held practice by the State School Building Authority to require the low bidders on a public project to submit a list of the sub-contractors they intend to use.

Once the low bid is established some companies shop the prices their sub-contractors gave to others hoping

to drive down pricing. This leads sub-contractors to undercutting each other which may provide more profit to the prime contractor but adds no benefit to the owner since the price has already been established.

Last year's bill was only for a one year period and must be renewed or it will expire.

The topic of Marcellus Shale development and the jobs potential it might hold will continue to be a topic of debate at the legislature. Some argue incorrectly that

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## TRADES GIVE MARSHALL \$63K

Members of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council met with Marshall University President Stephen Kopp in mid-December to present checks totaling more than \$63,500.

The fund raising effort is aimed at a number of projects Marshall in undertaking.

Currently underway is the \$30 million Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex.

MIRC Construction Services is building the first phase which is a \$6.5 million soccer field and facilities such as locker rooms, press box, lighting and seating for 1,500.

In the spring three additional buildings are planned, an indoor practice facility, a sports medicine resource center and a student-athlete

academic center.

BBL Carlton recently broke ground on a \$46 million 140,000 square foot building that will be part of the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Com-

plex.

The new building will allow students to develop concentrations in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and bioengineering.

Downtown Visual Arts Center located at the old Stone and Thomas department store will provide 10,000 square feet on seven floors for state-of-the-art

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DR. STEPHEN KOPP, (left center) President of Marshall University shakes hands with Steve Burton, of the Tri-State Building Trades Council, and is surrounded by representatives from member crafts who gave donations to help build numerous Marshall University projects.

# BAD IDEA GAINS GROUND: "RIGHT-TO-WORK" ATTACKS WORKING FAMILIES

Legislation aimed at denying workers the right to have unions and collective bargaining has gained ground on the state level.

Michigan was the latest state to pass this misleading law that prevents union from collecting dues from workers who benefit from union activities and contracts.

Indiana passed a Right-to-Work law in February of 2012.

"Right-to-Work" might sound good but the name hides the true intent of the legislation, to cripple work-

ers efforts to have any collective voice and bargaining power.

The "Right-to-Work" movement grew up in the 1930's on the heels of recently won rights by workers to form unions.

The founder of the "Right-to-Work" movement Vance Muse explained

why he did not like the newly legalized labor movement.

Muse is quoted as stating "From now on, white women and white men will

be forced into organizations with black African apes whom they will have to call 'brother' or lose their jobs."

Not surprisingly Muse also lobbied against women's suffrage, against the child-labor amendment, and

"Right-to-Work" laws make less on average than workers in Free states.

Small businesses that depend on local sales also are hurt by "Right-to-Work" legislation because lower wages mean a poorer economy. For every \$1 million in wage cuts, six jobs are lost in the service,

retail, construction, real estate, and other local industries.

The Economic Policy Institute has a number of studies available online at [epi.org](http://epi.org) that show the promises

of "Right-to-Work" supporters are never realized.

Instead worker and communities are left with lower family earnings, less health care and pension benefits, more on-the-job safety problems, and many more problems.

With the current make-up of the West Virginia legislature "Right-to-Work" legislation is not expected to pass.

However proponents are growing stronger and with a slight shift in numbers "Right-to-Work" attacks may become a serious threat to West Virginia's working families in the future.

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*"RIGHT-TO-WORK" ATTACKS MAY BECOME A SERIOUS THREAT TO WEST VIRGINIA'S WORKING FAMILIES IN THE FUTURE.*

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against the 8-hour workday.

Today economic benefits are often claimed but serious studies show the opposite.

Workers in states with

## THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

# ACT STARTS NEW TV AD CAMPAIGN

New ACT Television ads highlight the skills and positive attitude of union construction workers.

The ads are meant to help the public understand the commitment the Trades and their Contractor partners have to a highly skilled workplace that is drug and alcohol free.

"The public wants local workers on local projects," said Mark Estlack, Executive Secretary for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters. "We just need to make sure they know we have the most highly skilled workers around."

Estlack also notes the ads are meant to educate the public about the extra effort union construction workers

have made to insure a drug and alcohol workplace.

He points to recent articles about serious problems about illegal drug use in communities.

"The problem is real, that is why we have real testing that is enforced and not phony paper program like other industries," said Estlack.

"But some industry people who want to import cheap labor try to convince the public all of West Virginia workers can't pass a drug test – and it's just not true."

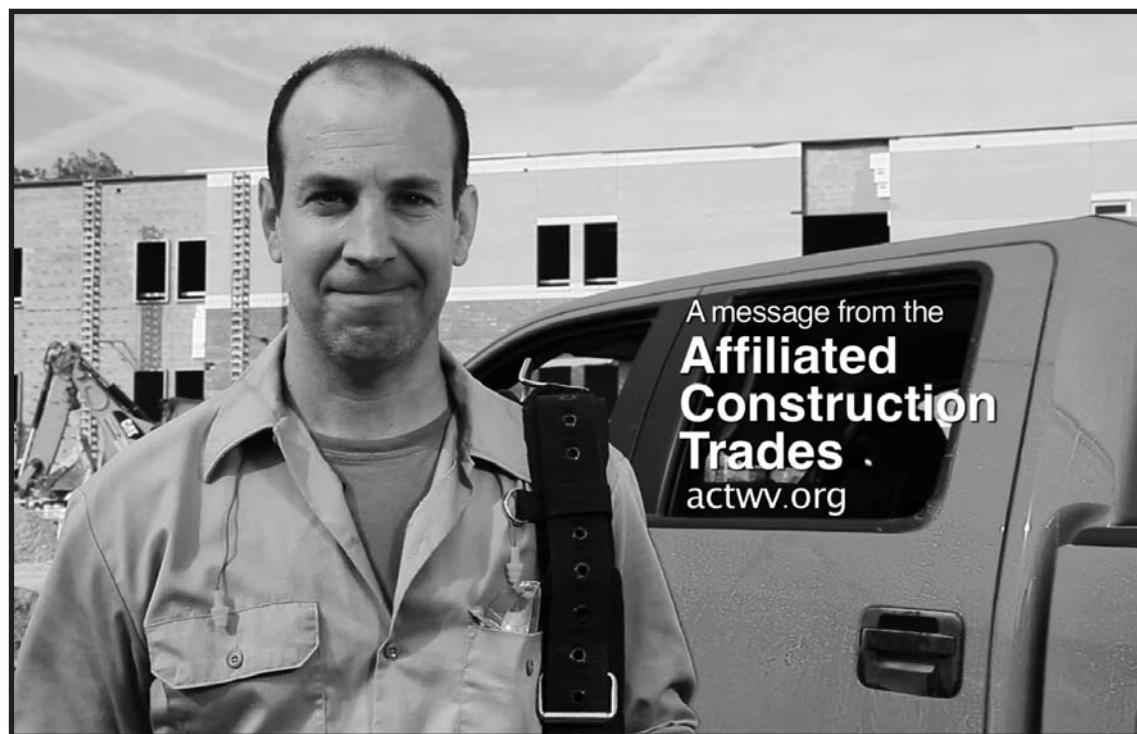
The ad campaign is part of ACT's ongoing mission to inform the public about the positive contribution made by the men and women of the Building Trades.

The ads were produced by the Charleston firm Im-

age Associates and are running on major network stations across the state.

They also can be seen on YouTube or through the ACT web-site, just go to

[actwv.org](http://actwv.org) and click on the link on the front page, lower right.



NEW ACT TV ads highlight the skills of local union construction workers. Also promoted is the commitment made by the Trades for a drug and alcohol free workplace.

# HIGHLAND HOSPITAL STARTS NEW \$34 MILLION PROJECT IN CLARKSBURG

Highland Hospital has begun a \$34 million renovation project at the old United Hospital Center location in Clarksburg.

RC General Contractors of Charleston is the Construction Manager for the project which is being built by local union construction workers.

United Hospital donated the building to Highland in 2010 when United moved into their new hospital built just a few miles away.

Highland is converting the old medical facility into a new state-of-the-art psychiatric hospital. Plans are for two distinct facilities, one to serve adults and another for children. Combined the facility will add 150 beds of capacity to the area.

The project should be completed by early 2014

and employ up to 200 construction workers. Once up and running it will need 294 workers to serve 150 patients, split between 115 adults and 35 children.

Financing includes a \$13.8 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$21 million in loans from two local banks.

Ultimately the facility will have the capacity to serve more than 350 patients.

The West Virginia Health Care Authority approved a certificate of need for Highland in December of 2011 but legal challenges have stalled the project.

“People have to travel to other parts of the state or out-of-state for services, this project will let families stay together,” said Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary of the North Central WV Building Trades Council.

Highland recently com-

pleted a major addition to their Charleston facility last year using all local union

construction workers.

“We appreciate Highland’s commitment to the

local community and to using local labor to build their projects,” said Stone.



THE FORMER UNITED Hospital Center located in Clarksburg is being transformed - by local union workers - into the new Highland Hospital. Work starts in late January and should complete in early 2014.

## MARSHALL

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

student programs in graphic design, art history, painting and more.

“We’re excited by the many projects underway and by the vision Dr. Kopp has for making Marshall a great place for our young people to learn,” said Steve Burton, Business Manager for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council.

In total more than \$114 million will be spent in the near future on projects.

“The community thanks you for your generous contributions to Marshall University, and it truly is the gateway to a better future for our students,” said President Kopp. “We are very pleased to have such a fantastic working relationship with the men and women of the Trades who give us an outstanding value and quality construction.”

## BEECH RIDGE PHASE TWO



Members of the Carpenters, Operating Engineers and Laborers showed up in support of the Beech Ridge Wind project in Greenbrier County. The addition of 30 new wind turbines is being proposed. The event was a public hearing held by the WV Public Service Commission at the Rainelle City Hall the evening of Thursday, January 10.

### ACT Report Address Corrections Wanted

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# DOMINION ANNOUNCES PROJECT DELAY

Just two months after saying their project was on schedule Dominion did an about-face and announced their Natrium project would not be completed on time.

The \$500 million natural

gas processing facility has been the center of controversy because of the hundreds of local jobs lost to out-of-state workers who were imported by Dominion's contractor CB&I.

"Early 2013" is the new completion date according to news reports.

No more detail was given but ACT has been saying for months the project was way behind schedule.

"They have turned away many local skilled workers who tried to get jobs," said Donnie Huff, ACT Representative.

"It's no surprise they

can't get the job done on time."

A Dominion spokesman noted only one third of the workers at the site were local.

Also announced recently is a joint venture between Dominion and Caiman Energy to form Blue Racer LLC.

The effort will focus on processing liquids from the Utica Shale being found nearby in Ohio.

Caiman built a number of processing facilities in West Virginia – on time - using almost all local union workers, before selling their WV holdings and focusing on Ohio gas production.

## PROJECT BEST BREAKFAST



Approximately 400 guests filled Glessner Auditorium, Wilson Lodge at beautiful Oglebay Park in Wheeling, WV on December 5 celebrating the Annual Project BEST Holiday Breakfast. Awards were distributed to construction customer BEST projects, and scholarship monies were awarded to area colleges and universities. Leaders in education, industry, institutional and construction management and labor as well as various local, state and federal elected officials enjoyed an inspiring address by United States Senator Joe Manchin.

## LEGISLATIVE

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

West Virginia does not have skilled workers to perform the tasks needed in building the Marcellus infrastructure.

Others point out that companies are often importing cheap labor for construction needs leading to lost job opportunities to local workers.

Funding for traditional infrastructure is another important topic because Federal dollars are shrinking while needs are growing.

A Blue Ribbon Commission has been established by Governor Tomblin to look for solutions and may have recommendations in time for legislative action.

Unfortunately the recent election of many legislators

unfavorable to Labor will make passage of positive bills less likely.

"We may be facing fights on anti-worker bills like Right-to-Work and challenges to our prevailing wage laws rather than accomplishing anything helpful for our state," commented Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

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### New ACT Design

You may have noticed the ACT Report is a slightly different size. This is because of new Postal regulations. We are going to take the opportunity to redesign the ACT Report. Look for a new ACT design in February.