



A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Bill Hutchinson, *President* | Dave Efav, *Secretary-Treasurer* | Steve White, *Director*

Dealer's Employee Offers \$1,000 to Beat Protestors

An employee of Bert Wolfe Toyota in Charleston posted a \$1000 reward to anyone who would assault union protestors holding a banner.

Members of the Charleston Building Trades were using the banner that said "Bert Wolfe Toyota Hurts Our Community" because of a construction project underway using a number of contractors who pay sub-standard wages and benefits.

The Bert Wolfe employee first confronted the union members who were on a main road near the project but not within sight of the dealership.

"He yelled at us and said he was offering a \$1000 reward to anyone who would knock us down," said Scott Brewer who is a member of the Carpenters.

The Bert Wolfe employee also said he posted his offer on the online service Facebook.

In addition another employee backed up to the banner, with what appeared to be a dealer car, and spun the tires spewing gravel at the union members.

\$1,000 discount on any pre owned vehicle on my lot to the first person to come out and knock these three idiots to the ground!!! They are out front of K-Mart on Patrick street...

A copy of the above posting was delivered to the Charleston Police.

"How are people to buy cars if they can't earn a decent wage," said Henry

Neal of the Laborers, another person who was manning the banner. "We have a right to hold a banner without being attacked."

Trades members have continued to man the banner since mid-June. ■



Members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 take their turn manning a banner, a duty that has been shared by many crafts affiliated with the Charleston Building Trades Council. On the first day the banner was up the car dealer's employee offered money to have a different group of workers beaten.

One of Three County Commissioners Plans to Vote Against \$615 Power Plant Project

One of three County Commissioners has stated publicly he will oppose a plan to build a \$615 million gas fired power plant in Marshall County threatening the jobs of hundreds of local union construction workers.

The project is dubbed Moundsville Power and developers have asked for and received tentative approval to ad-

just the property taxes paid, a common process used by dozens of major industrial projects in West Virginia over the years.

The PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement would bring in more than \$30 million of property taxes over the next 30 years, significantly more than the current \$2,500

collected from the former Allied Chemical site.

But County Commissioner Bob Miller in a June 29 letter to the editor stated he plans to vote against the PILOT agreement and potentially cost hundreds of local construction workers good paying jobs.

Miller's letter, published in the

Wheeling News-Register, claims the project "would utilize very few local construction workers" and also expressed concerns about future liabilities the county may be exposed to.

Both claims appear to be unfounded according to Steve White, Director of the Affiliated Construc-

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So-Called Right-to-Work Legislation Threatens West Virginia Workers

Opponents of unions many years ago crafted legislation to undermine and destroy labor organizations by requiring unions to provide services to workers who do not pay dues or fees.

The legislation was given the name "Right-to-Work" and with the name alone has caused much confusion.

"The name is deceptive because people think it is pro-worker when it is the opposite," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

In order to pass this destructive legislation corporations have used

many unrelated social issues that are important to union members as a way to gain support for candidates who oppose unions.

To counter this effort leaders of the Carpenters Union in West Virginia developed a short video for membership education about the issue.

The effort has proved popular and is now available to all building trades' members through the State Building Trades.

"Our Executive Board purchased the video and has made it available both online and on DVD's," said Efaw.

Electricians LU 466 has Inside Wireman Apprenticeship Opportunities

The Charleston Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for IBEW Local 466 will accept applications apprenticeship from 10:00am until 6:00pm on the THIRD Thursday of each month. Applications will be accepted at 316 Mercer Street Princeton and Charleston JATC Building, 810 Indiana Ave., Charleston.

To meet the minimum qualifications applicants must:

A. be a minimum of 17 years of age.

B. be at least a high school graduate, have a GED, or have a two-year Associate Degree or higher.

C. show evidence of successful completion of one full year of high school algebra with a passing grade or one post high school algebra course with a passing grade.

D. provide an official transcript of high school and post high school education and training. All GED records must be submitted if applicable.

E. submit a form DD-214 to verify military training and/or experience if a veteran and wish to receive consideration for such training/experience.

F. qualify for an interview using the electrical trade's aptitude test developed and validated by the American Institutes for Research.

G. present evidence they possess a valid driver's license.

H. prior to being indentured, applicants selected from the pool of interviewed applicants will be at least 18 years of age.

I. Individuals who can verify (proper documentation required) they have worked a minimum of four thousand (4000) hours specifically in the electrical construction trade do not need to meet the requirements of items (b) and (c).

J. At time of application there is an application fee of \$20.

Each applicant must provide the

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"When these so-called Right-to-Work laws pass, it is well documented they result in lower wages, less benefits, less training, and more

jobsite safety problems."

To view the video go to the ACT web site www.actwv.org and click the link on the home page. ■

Tri-State DAD's Day Event Net's \$13,600

For 20 years in a row the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council based in Ashland, Kentucky has sponsored annual Dollar's Against Diabetes events.

DAD's day events raise money for diabetes research and are sponsored by many building trades groups across the country.

This year the Council raised \$13,600 through a golf outing held in mid-June in Wayne County. 38 teams

of four participated.

"We had lots of help from folks like Operating Engineers 132 who provided food services and a number of retirees who came out to help," said Mark Johnson, Business Manager of Tri-State.

This year the Council received an award from the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO in recognition of their 20 years of participation. ■



A team from Prime Insulation came in with the best score during the Tri-State Building Trades 'Dollars Against Diabetes' charity event held in mid-June. From left: Tom Householder, Mark Reed, Bud Turner, and Scott Davis.

Court Rulings Changing Elections Honest West Virginians

Labor has created a Super PAC. It is called Honest West Virginians.

Why?

Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have led to a flood of corporate funds into elections nationally and in West Virginia.

In addition, tradition limits on campaign contributions have been all but eliminated.

While a corporation is limited on how much they can give directly to a candidate there is no limit on how much it can spend independently.

These facts have given rise to the creation of Super PACs.

One such group called Americans For Prosperity has established a West Virginia chapter.

The head of the West Virginia branch is the former executive director of an anti-union contractors group in Charleston.

According to a Washington Post report AFP was among groups that

spent \$1.4 million in 2013 – a year before the election – running TV ads against Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, a longtime supporter of working families.

**“We are being forced
to raise funds to
survive”**

Josh Sword

*Secretary-Treasurer,
WV AFL-CIO*

Super PAC’s can raise unlimited funds as long as they do not coordinate efforts with candidates or political parties.

While some reports claim both business and labor have Super PAC’s creating some sort of balance, Josh

Sword, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV AFL-CIO, says that is simply not true.

“We are being forced to raise funds to survive,” said Sword. “We would agree to outlaw Super PAC’s today, but if the other side has them and we don’t, working class families will suffer.”

Sword is the Treasurer of the new Honest West Virginians PAC recently established by labor.

The Super PAC structure allows a union’s general fund to contribute in addition to a fund set up with dues check-offs for political purposes.

“Working families are faced with expensive and sophisticated campaigns funded by corporate money, perhaps even funding from foreign countries, and we really have very little to defend ourselves with,” said Sword.

“We will always be outspent, but that doesn’t mean we give up.” ■

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materials listed from A thru J at the time they come in to fill out an application.

Applicants, who meet all basic requirements and are residents of one of the counties listed below, will be interviewed by the JATC. Apprentices will be selected in order of their ranking.

In Zone 1 (Charleston area) Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Kanawha, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Webster and Wyoming Counties.

In Zone 2 (Bluefield/Princeton area) the counties of Monroe, McDowell, Mercer and Greenbrier in WV and in VA Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Giles, Grayson, Smyth, Tazewell and Wythe Counties.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices during their apprenticeship, shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or age. ■

Plymale, Burton Among Honorees

Labor Hall of Fame Honors Trades Leaders

The Southwestern District Labor Council based in Huntington held their annual Labor Hall of Fame ceremony on Saturday, June 21 and presented awards to two Building Trades leaders.

Tommy Plymale, Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 132 was inducted into the Labor Hall of Fame.

Steve Burton, former Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades Council and President of the WV State Building Trades Council received the Lafe C. Chafin Award, named after a longtime labor attorney from Huntington.

It was the 11th annual event to recognize not only leaders in the labor movement but business and political leaders as well.

“Our Annual Banquet honors individuals who have respected working families throughout their careers,” said Tim Millne, President of

the Labor Council. “These are union activists, politicians, as well as the business community.”

Also inducted in to the Hall of Fame was Joyce Gibson of the Service Employees. Ted Boettner, Exec-

utive Director of the WV Center on Budget and Policy received an Honorary Induction. ■



Congressman Nick Joe Rahall (from left), and Dave ‘Bones’ McComas congratulate Tommy Plymale of Operating Engineers Local 132 on his induction into the Labor Hall of Fame.

Operating Engineers Local 132 Holds Equipment Rodeo Event at Training Center

Around 400 members, family and friends of Operating Engineers Local 132 enjoyed the second annual 'equipment rodeo' held at the locals



This shot, taken from the tower crane on the Operating Engineers Local 132 training site in Medina, shows the set up for the equipment rodeo event held in mid-June.

training site in Medina.

The event was sponsored by the Operators Labor Management Corporation and held on Sunday, June 29.

According to Business Manager Tommy Plymale there was plenty of food and fun for all ages including play areas for children and five different competitions for members.

The competitions included five different pieces of equipment; crane, bulldozer, excavator, mini-excavator and rubber tire backhoe.

Each winner received a gift card. "The equipment rodeo allows our members and family to have a fun family event and get to know each other a little better," said Plymale.

Local 132 is statewide. ■

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Power Plant Project

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tion Trades.

"From the start, the project developers have said they will use local union construction workers to build the project and we are very close to formalizing that relationship," said White.

"That means hundreds of local jobs and millions of payroll dollars earned by local workers."

Regarding the liability issue White believes the PILOT agreement, a tool used by county commissions many times in the past, states the county has no liability for the project.

The two other county commissioners, Don Mason and Brian Schambach, are supportive of the project and are working hard to get all the details in place to make sure the county gets the maximum benefit.

"I can think of dozens of projects that have used the PILOT arrangement, some unfortunately went bankrupt, but never has the county been held liable," said Steve White, ACT Director.

White points to the Longview

Power project in Monongalia County which, even with a PILOT agreement, is the top property tax payer in the county.

That project is currently in bankruptcy but the county has no liability.

"I can give you a long list of project that use PILOT's like Weyerhaeuser, Trus-Joist McMillan, Quad Graphics, Macy's, Georgia Pacific, Essroc, and more," said White. "Power companies like AEP, Dominion, Constellation Power and every wind project in the state have also used it because these are projects with heavy equipment costs and the property tax bills are way higher than every other business sector."

Developers must still finalize the PILOT, arrange financing and obtain a number of permits before construction can begin in early 2015.

"We are very thankful for Commissioners Don Mason and Brian Schambach who support this project and local workers," said Tom Gray, President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council. "Our members very much want this project." ■

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