



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*

# Brooke Project Gets City of Follansbee Approval

Developers of a gas-fired electric power plant received the go-ahead from the City of Follansbee to use a negotiated tax structure for the project.

Approval came at a Monday April 6 meeting. The site is an alternate to an earlier Brooke County location at Beech Bottom which ran into difficulties.

Also at the meeting were members of the Trades in support.

“The public had a lot of questions but in the end there is good support for this project,” said Fuzz LaRue, ACT Representative. “We appreciate the City Council of Follansbee acting in a quick and positive way.”

The city council agreed to work with the developers on a negotiated tax structure that will help the project advance and is common to most industrial projects.

The project is still in very early stages of development and has a long list of hurdles before a final decision can be made whether to build.

They are also looking at a site in

the Clarksburg area, as well as others in the region.

The size of the plant, and whether more than one location will move forward, depends in part on applications to be submitted to PJM, a

regional electric grid operator. PJM evaluates electric needs for the region on a routine basis; the end of April is the start of the next review process.

The plant developers are the same group who are currently working

on the Moundsville Power project which is much further along in the process.

That \$615 million project should start at the end of this year if all goes as planned. ■



John Black (center right) of Energy Solution Consortium turns to answer questions from the public at a Follansbee City Council meeting while another principal of the firm Jon Williams (left) stands to the left.

## ***Much Confusion about Changes to Law***

# **\$500K Prevailing Wage Threshold in Place**

As of April 13 all construction projects valued at less than \$500,000 and funded by state, county or city funds are no longer protected by the state prevailing wage law.

Any private project that receives less than \$500,000 in state, county or city funds, regardless of the project

total cost will also be exempt from prevailing wage.

These sweeping changes are just some of many resulting from passage of SB361.

The law also removed the Division of Labor from the prevailing wage calculation process and gives

that responsibility to WorkForce West Virginia.

WorkForce currently handles many work related tasks such as unemployment compensation, work force training, and tracking data on state employment and trends.

WorkForce has also been tasked

with devising a new methodology for determining prevailing wage rates. Collective bargaining agreements, used as important data in the past, are now banned from being used under the new law.

The law requires WorkForce to

***Continued on p. 4>>***

# Painters District Council 53 Holds Third Annual Coatings and Corrosion Expo

More than 300 people gathered at Painters District Council 53 training center in Lewis County for the third annual Coating and Corrosion Expo.

The event was held on April 1 with 40 vendors on hand.

The expo had many different sta-

other sealants.

“We do more than paint, we apply coatings that protect material from corrosion and save money when done properly,” said Dan Poling, Business Manager for District 53.

“We had material and equipment suppliers who teach about coatings

which attracted architects and engineers for continuing education.

Brian Stanley, Marketing Representative for DC 53 also points to the great exposure the event gives to the benefits of having skilled labor performing the tasks required for coatings.

“We showcase the skilled manpower produced at the training center, people who actually do the work,” said Stanley.

“It takes knowledgeable and skilled people applying these coatings to ensure their effectiveness.” ■

“We do more than paint...”

**Dan Poling**

*Business Manager,  
Painters District Council 53*



More than 300 people attended the third annual Coatings and Corrosion Expo sponsored by Painters District Council 53 at their Weston training facility in early April.

tions set up for contractors and others to learn about preventing and treating corrosion.

Among those in attendance were engineers, bridge inspectors, energy company representatives, and folks from the Division of Highways as well as Department of Environmental Protection.

In a virtual reality room people in attendance could learn how to properly spray and not waste paint and

## Right-to-Work Study Ordered by Leaders

Republican leaders of the House and Senate directed WVU to conduct an economic impact study of the so-called Right-to-Work legislation.

While the measure was not advanced during the most recent legislative session it appears it will be a major topic for next year.

In their March 6 letter to WVU's Bureau of Business and Economic Research the two leaders invoked a new rule created by the legislature that allows them to request a study without a vote of legislators. In the past a study resolution would have been presented for a vote.

“We certainly hope WVU looks at the significant amount of data showing Right-to-Work laws have hurt economies and families rather than

helped,” said Kenny Perdue, President of the WV AFL-CIO.

Perdue points to a number of facts the WV AFL-CIO has gathered about so-called Right-to-Work.

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 7 out of the top 10 highest unemployment states are right-to-work -- Mississippi, Georgia, Nevada, Louisiana, Arizona, Tennessee and South Carolina.
- Job creation and manufacturing employment actually fell dramatically in the 10 years after Oklahoma adopted right-to-work. In addition, the total number of new companies coming into Oklahoma dropped by fully one-third after the adoption

of right-to-work.

- According to Area Development, a site-selection specialty publication that regularly surveys manufacturers on the most important factors for their location decisions, whether a state has adopted “right to work” legislation has never even ranked in the top 10.
- Economic analysis published in the Review of Law & Economics in 2009 shows there is no greater business capital formation in right-to-work states than in free-bargaining states. Instead, the most significant effect of right-to-work laws was to drive down wages and median personal income, while widening the in-

come inequality gap.

- The top 5 states ranked by the State New Economy Index in a non-political survey for suitability for high-tech companies are all “free bargaining” states, not right-to-work states.
- Proponents of right-to-work in West Virginia have not cited a single example that backs up their claim that companies won't locate here because we're a free-bargaining state.
- The scientific analysis of right-to-work laws shows that right-to-work laws lower wages and benefits for both union and non-union workers alike, while having no positive impact whatsoever on job growth. ■

## \$5 Billion Project

# Atlantic Coast Pipeline Public Hearings

A \$5 billion pipeline project that will start in West Virginia and travel 550 miles south is moving through the regulatory approval process.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission held a series of public hearings along the pipeline route including a March 23 meeting in Elkins and March 24 in Bridgeport.

On hand at both meetings were members of the Trades to support the project which will be built under a union agreement.

“We talked about the jobs building the pipeline and the opportunities the pipeline will create to create more jobs,” said Matt McComas, ACT Representative.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will start in Lewis County as a 42 inch line and end up at 36 inches in North Carolina. A 20 inch line will split off to bring gas to the Southeast Virginia area.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a joint venture including Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources.

The line will carry 1.5 billion cu-

bic feet of dry gas per day.

Dry gas is the type used for typical consumption by homeowners and businesses and is different than the valuable liquids separated from much

of the Marcellus and Utica wells. Ethane, one of the liquids found, is a raw material for the ethane cracker. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be used for dry gas only.

Approval from FERC is expected later this year with construction hopefully to begin by mid-2016. The project construction will take two years to complete. ■



Discussing the Atlantic Coast Pipeline at a March 24 public hearing at Bridgeport High School are (from left) Shane Dillon and Rob Richards, with the Laborers; Steve McDiffitt Operating Engineers 132; and from Dominion Greg Park, Manager of Pipeline Construction and Bob Orndorff, Senior Policy Advisor for State and Local Affairs, WV.

## Labor-Management Event

# Tri-State Bowling Tournament Raises \$7,000 for Cabell Children's Hospital

Ryan Kilgour (holding trophy) along with Dustin, Alex and Bob Kilgour are among the many winners at the Tri-State Building Trades Bowling Tournament held on Sunday March 22 at Colonial Lanes in Huntington.

Ryan, a member of Boilermakers Local 105, bowled the highest individual game of 258, besting his brother who bowled 257 in the same game.

Boilermakers Local 105 won the best team score. Fourteen teams participated in all.

But the biggest winners, according to Tri-State Business Manager

Mark Johnson, are children who find themselves at Cabell Huntington Children's Hospital.

All of the \$7,000 in proceeds were given to the non-profit hospital's Foundation.

“We appreciate Neighborgall Construction and the Tri-State Contractors Association along with all of the crafts for participating and helping sponsor the event as well as contributing to an important cause,” said Johnson.

Johnson also credits volunteers Jewell Burton and her granddaughter Madison who provided refreshments. ■



## Winners to Compete in Indianapolis

# WV State Pipe Trades Contest Held

The West Virginia State Pipe Trades held their annual apprenticeship contest during the week of April 6 in Parkersburg.

Local 565 hosted the event which

tests apprentices in four areas; welding, pipefitting, HVAC and plumbing.

Thirteen contestants from four local unions participated.



Heather Murphy from Local 152 Morgantown is seen competing in the Pipefitter portion of the competition. She ended up winning in that category and will go on to compete at the district level in Indianapolis in June.

## PW Threshold

**Continued from Page 1**

coordinate their actions with Marshall University and WVU. The new methodology must be reviewed by legislators not later than June 1 and then new rates will be calculated based on the methodology.

"We hope to see an actual survey of contractors to get the best data on what is being paid to construction workers," said Bill Hutchinson, President of the WV State Building Trades Council.

Hutchinson says he has received

many questions about the new law that are difficult, if not impossible, to answer.

"Our industry is in some turmoil because of these changes, people are not sure what it all means and are having a hard time getting answers they can rely on."

Projects funded by the federal government are unaffected by the state change because they are still covered by the federal Davis-Bacon statute. ■

Winning the welding event was Jon Renner, Local 83 Wheeling; Heather Murphy, Local 152 Morgantown won pipefitting; HVAC first place was Jonathan Oxyer of Local 625 Charleston; and plumbing top honors went to Nicholas John, Local 83 Wheeling.

"We had a great competition and also some good public exposure,"

said Brad Britton, Training Coordinator for the Parkersburg program.

"Students from our local vocational school and WVU-P came by, as well as the local TV station."

The winners in each category will go on to the regional competition in Indianapolis in June. A national event will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. ■

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## Worker's Memorial Day Tuesday, April 28 Noon at the State Capitol

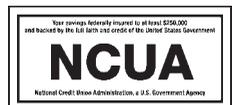
April 28th will mark the 27th annual observance of Worker's Memorial Day by the West Virginia AFL-CIO.

This day is set aside nationwide by unions to remember workers who have lost their lives on the job.

The 2015 observance will be held in Charleston on the State Capitol grounds at the Miner's Memorial beginning at noon, Tuesday, April 28.

For more information contact 304-344-3557.

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