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

“Everybody from Mexico, only me from Honduras”

A video revealing imported construction labor at a Wayne County school has caused an uproar among local workers and taxpayers.

General Contractor Swope Construction from Bluefield was the low bidder for the Crum Elementary school late last year.

Laborers Local 543 Business Agent Shane Dillon, a Wayne resident, visited the job site with a vid-

“We don’t blame workers trying to feed their families, but we have families too, and we need the jobs right here in Wayne, after all we’re paying for these schools.”

Shane Dillon, Business Agent

Laborers’ Local 543

eo camera in May and learned that many of the workers were from far away, with some claiming to be from Honduras and Mexico.

“We asked one guy where he was from and he said he was from Honduras but that the others were from Mexico,” said Dillon.

ACT posted the video on the online site YouTube and the reaction was fast and

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When asked where he was from this worker at the Crum Elementary School said “Everybody from Mexico only me from Honduras.”

Judge Puts RTW on Hold!

Kanawha County Circuit Judge Jennifer Bailey granted a preliminary injunction of the so-called Right-to-Work law at a hearing held in Charleston on Wednesday, August 10.

The ruling stops implementation of the law until the case filed by unions can be decided.

Judge Bailey also agreed to consolidate all 11 cases filed and said she wants to resolve the issue within the next 90 days.

“This is great news protecting all workers constitutional rights,” said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of

the WV State Building Trades.

Key to the union argument is federal and state law requiring a union to represent all workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

A WVU study presented to the legislature predicted a 20 percent drop in union membership as a result of the law.

“It’s simple,” said Trades attorney Vince Trivelli, one of the two lawyers arguing the case.

“If a person gets the benefit without paying for something that others have to pay, you are taking their

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Teamsters Ken Hall answers question from union co-council Bob Bastress about on the negative effects the so-called Right-to-Work law has on workers.

Candidate Swope and Swope Construction

In a recent online interview about imported workers at the Crum School in Wayne County State Senate candidate Chandler Swope claimed he had little to do with the company that bears his name Swope Construction.

As Derrick Evans, a local teacher, asked Swope about the imported workers building the Crum School Swope is heard stating "I don't run that company anymore" and "I have not had anything to do with day to day operations for the last four years."

While it may be true Swope does not direct daily operations he implies he has little to do with the company.

However ACT has uncovered numerous documents showing a strong continued relationship between Swope and Swope Construction.

Perhaps the most telling is a filing at the West Virginia Ethics Commission by candidate Swope himself.

All candidates for public office must file a financial disclosure statement.

Candidate Swope filed his Financial Disclosure Statement on January 25, 2016.

The form asks a candidate to "List all names under which you and/or your spouse conduct or do business." The response includes Swope Construction Company.

When asked "List the name and address of each business in which, during the past calendar year, you or your spouse held an interest with a fair market value of \$10,000 or more." Candidate Swope listed Swope Construction.

When asked "List the names of all persons residing or transacting business in the state who you owe more than \$5,000 (in the aggregate) on the date of this Statement." Swope Construction is listed.

Chandler Swope lists William Chandler Swope as his legal name on the Candidate's Certificate of Announcement for 2016 Partisan Elections form.

The 2017 Corporation Annual

Report filed on May 18, 2016 lists William Chandler Swope as the Treasurer for Swope Construction.

The Treasurer for the Swope for Senate Committee is Ron Mallory who is the President of Swope Con-

struction Co.

"We understand Mr. Swope may not be punching the clock every day for Swope Construction but he appears to have a strong financial interest," said Steve White, ACT Director. ■



Shane Dillon talks to a group of concerned citizens in late July at the old Crum School in Wayne County next to the new project using imported workers.

Mexico, Honduras

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furious.

"Hundreds of thousands of people have seen the video, I am amazed at the numbers," said Dillon.

According to Dillon the Business Manager of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 152 Morgantown Bryan Raber had his son Bryson re-post the video and got more than 200,000 views.

Dillon points out he is mad at Swope Construction for importing the workers.

"We don't blame workers trying to feed their families, but we have families too, and we need the jobs right here in Wayne, after all we're paying for these schools."

Chandler Swope, Treasurer for Swope Construction, is also a candidate for the State Senate.

In an online interview Swope appeared to distance himself from the company that bears his own name.

He also implied the workers were employed by a subcontractor.

However on the mandatory sub-

contractor list filed by Swope they listed themselves for the concrete slab on grade work.

"Swope Construction filed as part of their bid a document spelling out who the subcontractors on that job would be," said Dillon. "They said they would use their own workers for the concrete slab not a sub."

According to the bid form Swope Construction "...agree[s] that if non-approved subcontractors or suppliers are used my company shall be placed on probation..."

During the interview Swope agreed to meet with concerned citizens at the Crum School site in late July to discuss the problem. He failed to show up.

Wayne voters had passed a school bond in 2014 to fund a number of much needed school projects.

The State School Building Authority also helped fund the projects.

Other projects built by the bond have all used local workers. ■

Remember In
NOVEMBER
PICNIC

SEPT. 25
SUNDAY

Laborers & Neighbors
HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
Inflatables by JK Tank Rental
DOOR PRIZES HALF PRICE WRIST BANDS
Cornhole Tournament

WHEELING PARK
10-6
AM PM

ADMISSION 2 Cans of Food
FOOD WILL BE DONATED TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES
& WHEELING SOUP KITCHEN

For More Information Call 304.541.9766 or Email emolz@wvdsi.net

UA Local 486 Accepting Applications for WV Apprenticeship

UA Local 486 Plumbers & Steamfitters Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee will be accepting applications for their Martinsburg, WV apprenticeship. Applications will be accepted through August 31, 2016.

The program teaches pipefitting, plumbing, welding, and HVACR skills. Starting pay is \$15.21 plus benefits.

Applications can be submitted at Borlie Mechanical, 5521 Tabler Station Road, Inwood, WV 25428 (see Robert Parker), Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is a \$75.00 non-refundable processing fee, payable by money order only, due at time of application.

If you would like an application mailed or have any questions, please call 410-866-5313 and press

“0” for the operator. Their website is www.486school.org.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license, and be eligible to work in the US. Applicants must be able to obtain a Maryland Plumber and HVAC apprentice license, and WV Plumber and HVAC 'in-training' license. A drivers license or valid government issued ID is required at time of application. Applicants should live in Allegany, Washington, or Frederick Counties in MD or Berkeley, Jefferson or Morgan Counties in WV.

A math test, as well as a physical and drug screening will be required.

No applicant shall be rejected because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin. ■

WV Laborers Offer Apprenticeship Opportunities

The West Virginia Construction Craft Laborers' Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee is accepting applications year round.

Those interested can apply at any WorkForce WV Employment Services Office.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old; have a high school diploma, GED or pass a test administered by WorkForce (if you are to test check times with WorkForce); have a valid driver's license; and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

A substance abuse test will be required at some point in the process.

Documents such as a copy of a birth certificate, a valid driver's license, transcripts of grades and proof of a high school degree or GED will be requested at a later date.

The apprenticeship program consists of a combination of on-the-job training and hands-on classroom training.

The WV Laborers' Training Center in Mineral Wells provides 408 hours of classroom and hands-on training free of charge including

meals and lodging.

Apprentices will also learn on the job in their home areas while earning a paycheck, for a total of 4000 hours, approximately two years.

Upon completion of the program apprentices will have earned Journeyman status and receive a certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The areas of training provide a wide variety of skills to ensure highly productive workers will have successful careers.

Topics include pipelaying, mason tending, instrument reading, environmental remediation and much more.

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

For more information visit their web site www.wvcccl.org or to receive a free brochure send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: West Virginia Laborers' Training Center, P.O. Box 6, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. ■

Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades



Members of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Council met with State Senate candidates Bradley VanZile and Greg Smith during a July Council meeting. Both candidates are running for Senate seats in the Wood, Pleasants, Wirt, and Roane areas. Vanzile, a member of Plumbers and Fitters Local 565 is running for the four year term and Smith a former Blue Cross Insurance executive is running for the two year term. Both are strong supporters of restoring the prevailing wage law.

RTW on Hold

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money in violation of the West Virginia Constitution.”

Lawyers for Attorney General Patrick Morrisey argued against the injunction claiming state and federal law does not compel unions to represent all workers.

That claim was sharply challenged by the only witness at the hearing, International Brotherhood of Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer and Local 175 President Ken Hall.

Hall explained that so-called Right-to-Work laws lead to lower wages and benefits for all workers and increase costs union members must pay for union related services.

The injunction means the law will not take effect until the case is heard and a ruling is made.

An injunction is only granted when a party demonstrates they will be harmed, and that their case has merit and a likelihood of success. However it does not guarantee a win.

During the proceedings lawyers for the Attorney Generals Office said they planned to appeal the injunction at the WV Supreme Court.

The law was passed in February during the regular legislative session. Although Governor Tomblin vetoed it, the Republican led legislature overrode his veto. ■

Trades, Contractors Give \$4.5K to Hospice

Members of the Kanawha Valley Builders Association (KVBA) along with representatives from the

Charleston Building Trades raised \$4,500 for HospiceCare at a mid-July golf outing.



Paul Breedlove (left) Business Manager of the Charleston Building Trades, along with Jim Cerra (right) of the KVBA present a \$4,500 check to HospiceCare Executive Director Larry Robertson. They stand in front of The Wallace Grief Support & Education Center, a new program designed to expand grief support services to adults and children.

The annual event not only promotes a very worthy cause but also fosters better labor-management relations in the construction industry explained KVBA Executive Director Jim Cerra.

“We’ve supported HospiceCare for many years because it provides an excellent service for end-of-life care in our communities,” said Cerra.

HospiceCare serves 16 counties in central and southern West Virginia with a variety of services aimed at improving care for those who have terminal or life ending illness.

The organization has been in existence since 1979.

For more information go to www.hospicecarewv.org. ■

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Remember November



Sen. Jack Yost (D-Brooke) speaks at a ‘Remember in November’ rally in front of the Brooke County Courthouse in Wellsburg. The rally was held on July 16 to bring attention to failed policies of current legislative leaders who rammed through harmful prevailing wage repeal and so-called Right-to-Work but failed to pass a budget during the regular session.

Paden City Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 5, 2016 - 1:00pm
(12:00pm line up at the South end of town)

“Free” 7:30pm Jimmy Fortune Concert
(A former member of the Statler Brothers)

Brought to you by the Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Contact BB Smith: (304) 545-7781 or bbsmith667@hotmail.com


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