**Steve Burton Re-Elected as President**

**EFAW Elected State Building Trades Secretary-Treasurer**

Dave Efaw has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Efaw, a member of IBEW Local 466 Charleston, was chosen during the Council’s constitutional convention held on September 10.

Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades Council, was re-elected as President of the Council, a position he has held since 1999.

The four year terms start the first of October.

“I appreciate the confidence and support the crafts have given me and pledge to work hard for the membership” said Efaw.

Efaw has been a member of Local 466 for 26 years. He has held numerous offices including a term as Business Manager from 2001 to 2007.

Roy Smith, who held the Secretary-Treasurer post since 1994, decided not to run this year as he looks forward to retirement.

“I’ve always been proud to represent this Building Trades which I consider the best in the nation,” Smith told the delegates.

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**PLUMBER LICENSE LAW UNDERWAY**

Effective January 1, 2009, anyone working as a plumber in West Virginia must be licensed.

To beat the deadline about 2000 plumbers have already gotten their license since July 1 of this year.

Those who get their license now only have to show they have experience.

But after July 1, 2009 new licenses will only be issued to those who pass a test and certify work experience.

This new West Virginia code is intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, as well as public and private property by assuring the competence of those who perform plumbing work in the state.

“Prior to this law, anyone could do plumbing whether they were qualified or not,” observed Ed Boone, Business Manager for Plumbers & Fitters Local 152.

“The public had absolutely no protection from those who did not know what they were doing. Now, there is some degree of security because of the extensive training and experience a licensed plumber must have.”

According to Tim “Squirrel” Jividan, Organizing Director for the West Virginia Pipes Trades Association, the licensing effort took five years at the legislature.

“Our Training Coordinators and Business Managers kept at it and one by one we got people on board,” said Jividan.

A big selling point was the competitive disadvantage West Virginia workers have compared to those of other states.

“When we go to states like Kentucky and Maryland, or cities like Pittsburgh or Cleveland we have to get a license,” said Jividan.

“But when workers from those states come here they don’t need a thing.”

Three types of licenses will be available, master, journeyman, and plumber-in-training.

“Journeyman” plumber means a person with at least 8,000 hours of plumbing or related experience and who is competent to instruct and supervise the work of a plumber-in-training.

A person is considered a “master plumber” when they have at least 12,000 hours of plumbing work experience and are competent to design plumbing systems, instruct and supervise the plumbing work of journeyman plumbers and plumbers-in-training.

A plumber-in-training must work under the supervision of a

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Boilermakers Local 667 took in 40 new apprentices in late August bringing the total number of apprentices in the Local to 309.

According to Business Manager George Pinkerman the local has grown tremendously in recent years.

“We’ve doubled our membership in the past five years,” said Pinkerman.

“It’s because we have more work than ever, and we are committed to manning our work.”

In the last two years Local 667 has worked 2.2 million manhours each year.

The bulk of their work has been in the power industry.

Due to increases in energy prices and changes to environmental regulations construction in the electric power generating industry has been booming.

To accommodate the new apprentices the Local recently spent around $750,000 on an addition to their building.

The project was completed on July 1.

The four year apprenticeship program has a three week classroom training session each year.

Apprentices learn a wide range of skills including various welding techniques, drafting and rigging.

Approximately 20 percent of the new apprentices came through the Helmets-to-Hardhats program that assists veterans who are leaving the armed services and entering civilian employment.

Local 667 currently has about 900 members and provides Boilermakers for work in all of West Virginia except three counties, and three counties of Ohio.

In addition to new apprentices the local has increased membership through a restructuring from their International.

Earlier this year the Boilermakers International disbanded their National Transient Lodge (NTL) local and merged members into area locals.

Starting in February Local 667 got 42 of the NTL members and then another 111 members in August.

The NTL local members were often referred to as the ‘Tankies’ because they worked on all sorts of tanks, like water tanks and tanks in chemical, food and beverage plants.

They also install liners in stacks at power plants.

“They also install liners in stacks at power plants.”

“I think we can better service the membership and the various agreements under this new structure,” said Pinkerman.

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There are a number of exemptions to the licensing requirement.

People who perform plumbing in their home or their immediate family members home do not need a license.

Maintenance and utility workers don’t need a license to work on the premises of their employer.

Licensing only covers people working inside a building, it does not apply to outside waterlines or process piping.

And plumbing work only refers to serious plumbing, not changing a washer or washing machine.

There are penalties for those who perform plumbing work without a license.

A first offense violation will result in a Cease and Desist Order from the Division of Labor. Additional violations can result in more severe penalties from a $200 misdemeanor to $10,000 fines and imprisonment.

Applications are available at the West Virginia Division of Labor offices and on its Web site at www.wvlabor.org.

For additional information, call the West Virginia DOL at 304-558-7890.

MEMBERS OF CARPENTERS Local 1159, Point Pleasant, volunteered to help repair bleacher seating at their local football field. The group replaced 200 boards last month, just in time for football season.
2008 GENERAL ELECTION NEARS

The November elections mean important choices for voters including President of the United States and closer to home selection of two key Supreme Court Justices.

In August the West Virginia AFL-CIO finalized their endorsements for the upcoming general election in November. The process includes candidate questionnaires and interviews and a review of voting records and positions effecting workers.

Candidates must gain at least two-thirds approval at local Labor Councils and final approval by the WV AFL-CIO’s Committee on Political Education (COPE).

The WV State Building Trades encourages member locals to participate in the WV AFL-CIO process and urges full consideration for endorsed candidates.

Voter registration ends Tuesday, October 14.

Early no-excuse voting starts at your County Clerks offices on October 15 and continues through Saturday, November 1.

Absentee ballots can be obtained from your County Clerk until October 29 and must be received by November 5. Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

Make sure you vote.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT UPPER OHIO VALLEY TRADES

Tom Gray, Business Manager of Laborers Local 1149, is the new President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building and Construction Trades Council.

Gray replaces Bill Dean who has taken a new job as General Organizer for the Ironworkers International Union.

The Council covers eight Counties in West Virginia and Ohio.

Gray is a 24 year member of the Laborers Union and has been Business Manager of Local 1149 for 10 years.

One of Gray’s first tasks has been to lead negotiations on a new $800 million project proposed by CONSOL.

Gray is also working to get crafts to coordinate their organizing efforts more.

“I have been active in the Council so this is really nothing new for me,” said Gray. “I was Vice President when Bill left and hope to continue his good work for our members,” said Gray.

Gray will hold the office until the end of the year when new elections will be held for all officers.

The full term of office is three years.

Dean had been President of the Council since 1999.

He also was Business Manager of the Ironworkers Local 549 since 1994.

In May he was selected for the position of General Organizer for the Ironworkers.

In this new position Dean is responsible for seven local unions in three states. His appointment is a recognition by his peers of his abilities representing his membership.

“I’ve enjoyed working with the Council,” said Dean. “Even though I now cover a larger area I plan to stay involved in the future and help out in any way I can.”
MEMBERS OF THE BRICKLAYERS, CARPENTERS AND MILLWRIGHTS IN WEST VIRGINIA HAVE REJOINED THE WV AFL-CIO.

The move for the Carpenters and Millwrights was made by WV Locals of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters (MARCC) and was effective as of August 1.

“We felt this was an appropriate time to re-affiliate,” said Mark Estlack, head of the West Virginia District of the Council.

“Being united is essential to making us stronger.”

MARCC is based in Washington, DC and represents 11,000 Carpenters and Millwrights in Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC and West Virginia.

“The Council has about 825 members residing in the state. The re-affiliations are good news to the WV AFL-CIO.

“We welcome the Bricklayers, Carpenters and Millwrights back into the WV AFL-CIO,” said President Kenny Perdue, West Virginia AFL-CIO.

There are approximately 2500 Carpenters and Millwrights who are members of the Council’s West Virginia District.

Carpenters Local 3 in Wheeling had been re-affiliated for about three years.

Bricklayers in the state also returned earlier this year as part of an effort by their International to become more involved in state AFL-CIO councils.

“Our members are glad to be back in the WV AFL-CIO,” said Leroy Hunter Jr., Business Manager for the Bricklayers District Council of WV.

“This is the time to be united.”

The five year program teaches Bricklayers, Carpenters and Millwrights to become more involved in state AFL-CIO councils.

“They need to stand together if we want to get the best representation for working families.”

The WV AFL-CIO represents about 60,000 active union members in West Virginia. Construction Trades members make up approximately 25 percent of that membership.

Members of both groups, with the exceptions of a few locals, have remained affiliated with the WV State Building Trades and ACT.

THE CHARLESTON JOINT ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE TAKES APPLICATIONS YEAR ROUND, BUT ONLY ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Those interested should go to the training site at 810 Indiana Ave. in Charleston between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

The five year program teaches all aspects of the electrical trade including general wiring for receptacles, switches, and breaker boxes, working with conduit, motor controls and fire alarms, providing a complete understanding of the trade.

Apprentices learn on the job under the direct supervision of journeymen and attend classes on Saturdays.

Applicants must be at least 17 years old and have a high school degree or GED and show they have passed a full year of high school algebra, unless they have worked more than 4000 hours specifically in the electrical construction trade.

Transcripts or GED records will be required or acceptable documentation of electrical work experience.

Credit for military experience may be available if a DD-214 form is filed.

A drivers license is mandatory as well as a $20 application fee.

In addition applicants must reside in Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Kanawha, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Webster, or Wyoming County.

Applicants who meet the basic requirements will be scheduled for an interview by the committee.

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

For more information call Becky Combs, Administrator, at 304/345-5166.