ACT AFFILIATES consider a new approach to organizing presented by Jeff Grabelsky (left), of Cornell University. Grabelsky has worked with the IBEW to develop "Construction Organizing Membership Education Training", COMET. The program explores new approaches to organizing, as well as old methods like job salting.

**Charleston Trades Begin Organizing Drive At B&R**

When Brown & Root first came to West Virginia about three years ago, picket lines for Brown & Root. For years walk away from these plants," industrial legislation.

But the story that has been told and retold so many times previously across the nation came true here in West Virginia as well.

The power of the picket line wasn't enough. Work that once couldn't be done without local union construction trades suddenly was being done by non-union workers.

It's three years later and the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 565 recently voted to join the local, said members joined for construction Trades Council is Affiliated Construction Trades several reasons.

"We felt we needed to join ACT has added two new pipefitters local union also voted nearly unanimously to Cement Masons Local 887 join ACT, and the United Association of Randy Henderson, business manager of the pipefitters Legislative Rule Making & Review Committee backed ACT's stand on Cancer Creek.

ACT Battling Cancer Creek Fight In Media

In what may be the most costly legislative public relations effort in state history — the Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation (ACT) is battling the proponents of the Cancer Creek Bill at the State Capitol and in West Virginia's media.

Picking up where a then newborn ACT and Steve Burton's Tri-State Building & Construction Trades Council left off at the end of the 1992 legislative session, ACT is explaining to West Virginians statewide probably for the first time what will be the real effects of special interest groups and also what will be the real effects of special interest groups.

The Cancer Creek Bill was originally sought by Gov. Gaston Caperton's administration as a lure to Alabama Pulp & Paper Co. to cheaply build and operate a non-union paper mill at Apple Grove, Mason County. To achieve that Alabama P&P would have to be permitted to dump more dangerous chemicals into the Ohio River than modern paper mill technology requires.

Of course, the state can't pass a law just to favor one industry. So to make matters better.

**Inside The ACT Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cheaters</th>
<th>Pg. 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarpley</td>
<td>Pg. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid Protest</td>
<td>Pg. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT Video</td>
<td>Pg. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT Poll</td>
<td>Pg. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poll Results</td>
<td>Pg. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasterers</td>
<td>Pg. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bricklayers</td>
<td>Pg. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV Ad</td>
<td>Pg. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial</td>
<td>Pg. 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finally Cheaters Getting Caught

ACT Fights Bid Award

Finally... some of the cheaters are beginning to be caught.

And ACT is catching them.
The Highgate Carriage House project in Fairmont is the renovation and restoration of a historical site.

Before the bid opening date of Jan. 8, ACT sent a standard letter to all of the bidders — including Mid-Eastern Construction of Fairmont — letting them know they would be monitored for compliance with the prevailing wage requirements of the federal Davis Bacon Act.

According to Tim Milline, the ACT Fair Contracting Representative, when the contract was awarded to Mid-Eastern, ACT moved into high gear and protested.

"We protested on the grounds that Mid-Eastern had falsified certified payrolls and not responsible bidders. Not lied to a judge about that only did we have Mid-Eastern falsification on a previous project," Milline said.

Later Milline met with Fairmont City Planner Dave Marino. Milline said he was told Mid-Eastern had been returned its bond money, and was no longer contracted to do the work.

The contract then went to the next responsible bidder, the Brothers Corporation.

Although Brothers is a non-union company, Milline remains optimistic about keeping it in line.

"The over-all goal of ACT in situations like this is to create a level playing field for all contractors," he said.

Trades Beginning
Brown & Root Drive

(Continued From Page 1)

Construction Trades Council Business Manager Bubby Casto have said that they support the Trades organization efforts of Brown & Root.

"These workers need to be organized and they want to be organized by the building trades."

The building trades has responded to that need by hiring an organizer to take on this project.

According to ACT Director Steve White, "We will do whatever we can to assist in this effort. If the building trades can succeed, the message to all companies will be clear that the construction unions are unified in their fight to provide a trained, as well as other company skilled, and safe workforce."

Local unions 498 and 656 of safety in the plants are the International Machinists regularly received in the ACT and Aerospace Workers (IAM) office.

Two Locals Join ACT

(Continued From Page 1)

"People need to know what the unions are doing and how well our members are trained."

Henderson said ACT will be a useful tool in getting that message out. "We feel ACT is the new vehicle to get the union's point across to the public," he said.

ACT President Bruce Tarpley welcomed these two new affiliates, commenting:

"We are getting the job done and simply need more participation to do more."

Adding Cement Masons Local 887 and Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 565 certain greatly contributes to this goal."
**New Video Explains Whys, Hows Of ACT**

Over the months of November, December and January, ACT's Bill Thomas became a television director.

Thomas ordinarily is ACT's industrial sector representative. But on-and-off during the last months of 1992 and early 1993 Thomas spearheaded the taping of a video production telling ACT's story and goals from its beginning in December, 1991, to the present.

The actual taping was performed by Chris Bedford of Organizing Media Project in Maryland. Thomas set up the interviews and meetings with members of ACT's participating local unions.

The video explains the why, where, and how things are done at ACT, and why other local unions should join the effort.

During the taping, Thomas had a unique opportunity to meet a lot of people who earn their living in the trades — some union, some non-union. And he said one fact became clear to him in these meetings.

"Non-union contractors are scared of ACT!"

For Thomas, the highlight of the project was when he and Bedford went to a scab job with their camera rolling.

"Tim Milline had targeted this job and was making a stop to check to see if all federal regulations were being complied with," Thomas explained.

"The scab contractor objected strongly to our presence but we kept filming anyway."

Thomas believes the result of his visit was positive. "The contractor sent his undocumented foreign workers packing and when the local Painter's Union business agent made his visit two days later, he was treated very cordially," he said.

Tim Milline is following up on this project by reviewing the certified payrolls.

Thomas added that something not so positive also was uncovered by his interviews. He said he video in your local union hall learned many union workers in early March.

**ACT Protests Road Contract**

Last November the was dissolved. Yet he was Department of Highways still allowed to obtain the awarded the $27 million job," Milline said.

Crawley Creek highway Hallinan asked the project contract in Logan County to either be re-bid or awarded to Elmo Greer & Sons Inc.

But Greer & Sons may have trouble keeping that contract. But when Division of Highways Commissioner Fred Van Kirk was presented with this plan he rejected it. Van ACT representative Tim Milline found discrepancies he felt might affect the award.

Milline obtained a copy of a court decision showing that the Circuit Court of Kanawha County dissolved Greer & Sons' corporate charter on April 24, 1991. The charter authority," he said. "We want our state agencies to be able to take contracts away from Greer."

Milline took this information to Jackie Hallinan, a lawyer in The Secretary of States office of ACT Attorney office has contacted ACT for Stuart Calwell, and asked her help in drafting new to protest Greer's bid to the legislation to prevent this type Division of Highways in the event from occurring again.

**Get Active With ACT**
ACT Conducts Public Opinion Poll
State Says Worker Training Is Necessary

The results of a public opinion poll conducted by ACT were released to the public at a news conference Feb. 17 in the rotunda of the State Capitol. Copies of the poll were also presented to all 132 members of the Legislature and Gov. Gaston Caperton.

The conference was conducted by ACT President Bruce Tarpley. Tarpley discussed the attitudes of West Virginians toward construction, the environment and the chemical industry.

"The public overwhelmingly agrees that construction workers in dangerous plants should be skilled," Tarpley said. "This is an issue of public safety as much as worker safety."

Also attending were Joe Powell, president of the West Virginia Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, and Allen Fisher, secretary of the West Virginia Building & Construction Trades Council. State Senators James Humphreys and David Grubb, both of Kanawha, have agreed to introduce the legislation which will require skill certification.

Training Benefits Plasterers, Masons

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 249, based in Huntington, has 53 members. The jobs they do vary — but most of their work is on bridges, buildings and inside plants.

Business Manager Leonard Romans says unfortunately membership has decreased recently, largely due to the lack of work and the "non-union element doing most of the construction work."

The local has four apprentices, Romans said. They benefit the local by keeping new members trained and help contractors "by giving them someone qualified to train."

Romans' members are concerned about health care costs and "the non-union element."

On his local's relationship with ACT, Romans believes "it puts us closer with other crafts involved in all aspects of the building trades."

"Also, it keeps us on a first name basis. We're more friends than foes," he concluded.

The president of OPCMA Local 249 is Dave Furgeson and the vice president is Glen Romans II.

Bricklayers Grow Despite Economy

Charleston-based Bricklayers Local 9 was organized in 1921 and currently has 13 apprentices. Smith said he's a fan of the apprenticeship program because it "perpetuates itself, it gets us more skilled journeymen."

Charleston-based Bricklayers Local 9 had 210 members, according to Business Manager Herb Smith. He said this increase in membership is due to various reasons.

"There has been more work available and the jobs have been better," Smith said. "When these conditions arise, people tend to become more involved in union activities."

When asked what type of work his members prefer, Smith answered "everyone prefers long-term jobs."

The local boasts 13 apprentices. Smith said he's a fan of the apprenticeship program because it "perpetuates itself, it gets us more skilled journeymen."

The fact that ACT is in existence means jobs down the road because it (ACT) has the potential to make the trades' voice heard," said Smith.

Alphabetical Construction Trades

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The Poll Results

- 97% believe workers should receive at least a fair amount of training before being allowed to work in chemical plants which produce highly dangerous chemicals.
- 73% believe chemical companies would risk hiring people with little or no job training to work around dangerous chemicals if those companies believed they could make bigger profits.
- 92% would be somewhat fearful of their health and safety if they lived near a chemical plant that didn't require its construction workers to be trained in their jobs before building facilities to produce dangerous chemicals.
- 69% believe chemical plants are potentially the most dangerous industries to the health of the general public.
- 46% believe jobs are most important to them and their families in their daily lives (compared with 32% who said the environment and 13% who said schools).
- 53% believe an accidental release of an unknown gas or chemical into the air is the most dangerous of industrial accidents to the general public.
- 56% believe the government's environmental controls on industrial air and water pollution are not sufficiently strong.
- 75% believe air and water pollution produced by chemical companies affect their health and that of their families.
- 79% believe there are health considerations for them and their families in deciding whether to live near a chemical plant.
- 89% believe chemical companies should tell the public when they're producing highly dangerous chemicals.