

# THE ACT REPORT

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CONSTRUCTION  
TRADES FOUNDATION

The ACT Foundation is an association of West Virginia building and construction trades unions, with offices in Charleston and Clarksburg. Bruce Tarpley, President; Randy May, Vice President; T.L. Ranson, Secretary Treasurer; Roy Smith, Executive Director; Steve White, Director.

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# Local Workers Picket United Hospital's Bridgeport Project

**A**CT began a newspaper and radio ad campaign in the Clarksburg area on Thursday, June 25, exposing United Hospital Center's (UHC) use of out-of-state contractors and contractors who deny employees benefits.

The \$17.5 million Maplewood Retirement Community project is in Bridgeport.

The general contractor for the Maplewood project, Recco, Inc. is from Pittsburgh, Pa.

While some of the subcontractors are from the Clarksburg

area, most are not paying their workers pension or health care

benefits.

At least one of the subcontractors, Stiteler Contracting doing the masonry work, from Greensburg Pa., does not have a West Virginia contractor's license.

Stiteler has also written employees checks returned because of insufficient funds.

One Stiteler employee in particular, Marvin Dalton, said the unpaid check he received from Stiteler "... caused a lot of our other checks to bounce."

"We had to pay \$22 because our checks bounced" said Dalton.



PICKETING AGAINST STITLER CONTRACTING at the Maplewood Site in Bridgeport are members of the Bricklayers and Concrete Finishers.

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# Four Jeld-Wen Employees Get More Than \$10,000 Back Pay

**F**our construction workers for Jeld-Wen, Inc. of Oregon were awarded more than \$10,000 in back pay for their work at the Craigsville plant.

Jeld-Wen will be forced to post a notice to employees informing them of their rights for 60 days at all its job sites as well.

The unfair labor practice charges against Jeld-Wen were just another in a series of misdeeds caused by the company.

Construction began on the \$24 million Jeld-Wen plant in Craigsville last year, and there were problems with the company from the beginning.

The problems have included everything from poor working

conditions and poor management to no workers' compensation benefits and failure to obtain proper environmental permits.

For months it had seemed Jeld-Wen would get away with breaking the law because of the size of the company.

It also seemed no one with the authority to correct the problems with Jeld-Wen was doing so.

No one cared to enforce important laws like the National Labor

Relations Act, environmental protection, and workers' compensation.

Many of the people who were fighting the battle against Jeld-

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PICTURED AT THE JELD-WEN SITE in Craigsville are the employees who went on strike for better wages and working condition and received \$10,000 in back pay.

# Building Trades Raise 'Fathers Day' Money For Local Charities

**A**cross the country building trades councils chose Fathers Day as a time to raise money for the charities of their choice.

Many area Building Trades

treasury and some did both.

The Parkersburg Building Trades raised around \$1,400 for DAD's Day.

Eighty-four golfers participated for Parkersburg at the Lakeside Golf Club in Beverly,

Williams of the North Central Building Trades.

There were around 50 golfers who participated in this tournament made up of local union members, and contractors. The tournament raised \$4,900.

Members of Boilermakers Local 667 also showed support for the Children's Miracle Network by collecting donations during a telethon in Hurricane on the same day.

"I feel supporting charitable causes is important for local unions," said Ron Bush. "And it reassures the public that unions do good things for the community."

**"WE GET TOGETHER, LABOR AND MANAGEMENT, TO HELP OTHERS."**

**JIM CERRA**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRI-STATE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Councils participated in the annual Dollars Against Diabetes, or DAD's Day, to support the fight against diabetes.

The Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council organized a golf tournament with 172 participants made up of labor, customers, and contractors, and raised over \$10,000.

"This year's tournament was very successful," said Steve Burton, Business Manager for the Tri-State Building Trades.

"We had a lot of participants which made raising a substantial amount of money much easier."

"We get together, labor and management, to help others," said Jim Cerra, Executive Director of the Tri-State Contractors Association.

The Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council collected about \$4,500 in contributions from affiliated locals with more to come.

According to Charleston Building Trades Business Manager Mike Matthews, some locals collected money from the public, some donated from their

Ohio according to Sam Davis, Business Manager for Parkersburg Building Trades.

The North Central West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council held its annual golf tournament in Clarksburg on June 5 to benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

The Children's Miracle Network is an organization which helps fund the children's hospital in Morgantown noted Rick

## JELD-WEN EMPLOYEES GET BACK PAY

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Wen had become frustrated, but they never gave up.

"This has truly been a victory for Jeld-Wen employees and union members," said ACT's Wayne Rebich.

"Finally the company had to admit its wrongdoing. The men will not be denied their rights any longer."

Rebich plans to go to the Craigsville plant and hand out copies of the notice to make sure all the employees understand their rights.

Rebich also wants to let people know about Jeld-Wen's \$30,000 fine for violations of

Compensation Fund.

This payment caught the company up to what it should have

**I COULD NOT HAVE WITHSTOOD THIS BATTLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL 132"**

**MIKE BLANKENSHIP**  
JELD-WEN EMPLOYEE

state environmental laws.

In addition, Ben-Fab, a subsidiary of Jeld-Wen, has been made to pay \$12,000 past due to the West Virginia Workers'

been paying from the time construction began.

"We want the men to know the union will stand behind them," said Rebich.

## WV AFL-CIO Summer School Hears from Volunteer Organizers



**M**any union supporters and members spoke at the AFL-CIO Summer Schools, including Joe McAninich, an employee of Johnson Boiler Works in Wheeling, and Ian Davis, an employee of Ruskin Industries in Fairmont, who were fired for their organizing efforts.

McAninich is working with Pipefitters Local 83 in Wheeling and Davis is working with Sheet Metal Workers Local 33.

McAninich addressed the group on the ups and downs of volunteer organizing and shared his experience with the students.

"The West Virginia AFL-CIO has been very supportive of organizing efforts," said ACT's B.B. Smith. "The summer school teachers and students were interested in listening to Joe's story."

"We will fight to the end to protect members' rights as well as those of other workers."

Mike Blankenship, one of the Jeld-Wen employees who was fired for organizing, is grateful for the support of the Operating Engineers.

"I know I could not have withstood this battle without the support of Local 132," said Blankenship.

"I look forward to the opportunity to stand behind these men and the union as they did for me."

## MAPLEWOOD PROJECT

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

For a family like Dalton's which lives paycheck to paycheck, injustices like this one are devastating.

Union organizer for Bricklayers Local 15, Leroy Hunter said other complaints against Stiteler

ginia.

"A hospital is supporting this project, but the workers can't afford to be patients there.

"The workers are building a retirement community, but how could they ever live there without pension benefits?"

**"THE WHOLE SITUATION IS IRONIC. A HOSPITAL IS SUPPORTING THE PROJECT, BUT THE WORKERS CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PATIENTS THERE."**

**LEROY HUNTER, SR.  
BUSINESS MANAGER, BRICKLAYERS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF WEST VIRGINIA**

include poor working conditions on scaffolding, substandard wages and no benefits or hospitalization.

Hunter also alleges Stiteler discriminates against union members.

Hunter said Stiteler refused to hire anyone from the local unions.

Local 15 filed unfair labor practice charges against Stiteler and began picketing the Maplewood site earlier this month.

Workers who were not already union joined the picket line and decided become members of the Bricklayers.

A letter was given to Joe Pitts, the project foreman, letting him know the workers who were not already in the union wanted to join.

Hunter said the workers wanted Local 15 "... to represent them for wages, hours and working conditions."

"The whole situation is ironic," said Leroy Hunter, Sr., Business Manager of the Bricklayers District Council of West Vir-

The ad to the right was placed in the Clarksburg Exponent on Thursday June 25 and Sunday July 5. The ad was turned into a flyer and passed out at the site.

Radio spots were produced and placed on local country station WPDX. The issues of local hiring and fair pay and benefits are important to everyone. Advertising enables ACT to inform the public of important issues like these. More ads are planned.

"And local workers have always supported UHC,"

"We feel UHC has turned their backs on us."

## WHY?

**WHY WON'T THE WORKERS BUILDING MAPLEWOOD SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY EVER BE ABLE TO LIVE THERE?**

**UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER IS BUILDING THE \$13 MILLION MAPLEWOOD SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY IN BRIDGEPORT**

### WE WANT TO KNOW:

- ◆ Are any contractors paying employees retirement benefits?
- ◆ Are any contractors providing employees with health insurance?
- ◆ Will these workers ever be able to live in a retirement community?
- ◆ Will workers be able to afford health care at UHC without health insurance?
- ◆ Why have some out-of-state contractors, using out-of-state workers, been hired?
- ◆ How does this benefit our local work force?

**LOCAL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE SUPPORTED UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER.**

**WHY DOESN'T UHC CARE ABOUT WORKING FAMILIES?**



**AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES FOUNDATION**  
BRUCE TARPLEY, PRESIDENT

*You are invited to attend...*

## ACT'S 7TH ANNUAL UPDATE & PLANNING CONFERENCE



*Date:* **Wednesday, August 12**

*Time:* **10:00am**

*Place:* **Radisson Hotel,  
Huntington, WV**

Please contact your agent for more information.

# SAK Environmental Returns After Guilty Plea & Conviction on Clean Air Violation

**In 1996 when SAK Environmental Inc. was investigated by the FBI and faced charges from the EPA it looked like a bad contractor was going out of business.**

Unfortunately SAK Environmental Inc. has surfaced again in the Fairmont and Clarksburg areas.

A recent newspaper article said SAK had been praised for its work and was awarded two new jobs, one in Clarksburg and one in Fairmont.

ACT's first encounter with SAK came in 1996 when Kenny Perdue, Business Agent for Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 at the time, told ACT's Northern Representative, Steve Montoney, he believed a church razing was contaminating the air in his neighborhood.

SAK was working on the project.

Montoney called the EPA to come in and conduct an investigation.

He was suspicious of asbestos contamination and asked the EPA to test the particles which were being released into the air.

The investigation revealed the church razing was polluting the air with four percent asbestos. The legal limit is one percent.

The investigation also found SAK's president Frederick Q. Blizzard was under indictment for violations of the Clean Air Act regarding asbestos removal and disposal.

Blizzard and SAK Environmental, Inc. were indicted on three counts including conspiracy to violate the clean air act, violation of the clean air act regarding proper disposal of Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM) waste, and

violation of the clean air act regarding the proper removal of RACM waste.

"Naturally I was concerned when I saw the newspaper article given SAK's record," said Montoney.

"So I started asking questions again."

Montoney called the EPA and was told SAK and its president, Blizzard, plead guilty on one of the first count of the indictment.

The EPA said they were waiting for

sentencing even though it could revoke SAK's abatement license now.

Montoney also received a call from a Marion County commissioner saying SAK would no longer be used for the project in Fairmont.

The call came after Montoney told the commissioner of Blizzard's conviction.

There has been no word so far as to whether or not SAK will still be used for the project in Clarksburg.

## Labor In The Pulpits

**O**n the Sunday before Labor Day 1997, hundreds of union members across the nation spoke to the congregation of their churches about shared values between organized religion and the American worker.

This year on Labor Day weekend we have the opportunity for religion and labor to reach out to each other and we encourage your participation.



A Spirit of Power for Justice

If you are interested in speaking at your church or would like to have a speaker from the movement speak at your church, contact B.B. Smith at (304)-455-5500 or the Charleston ACT office at 1-800-930-WORK.

ACT has sample presentation and other information available.

Let's bring the church family and the working family together on Labor Day 1998.

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## Attention Veterans!

All veterans are being encouraged to contact their VA hospitals to register to receive a health card.

Veterans need to make sure they do this before October 1, 1998, due to changes resulting from the federal Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform ACT of 1996.

Veterans can register after this date, but funding issues will be decided upon the number registered before Oct. 1, 1998.

**Last Month We Published The Wrong Telephone Numbers For The Martinsburg And Clarksburg VA Offices**

**These Are The Correct VA Numbers:  
Beckley - 1-800-606-4573, Ext. 4246**

**Huntington - 1-800-827-8244, Ext. 3541**

**Martinsburg - 1-800-817-3807**

**Clarksburg - 1-800-733-0512**

**We Apologize For The Error**