

*FIRST OF ITS KIND IN WEST VIRGINIA*

# ACT TV Show Will Air On Local Cable Stations

**O**ne of the newest projects on the ACT agenda is the introduction of a 30 minute television show which will be aired on local cable channels throughout the state.

The show will be targeted to the general public and the content will revolve around current issues facing working families.

The purpose of the program is to educate the public about labor issues and provide coverage of the issues to members.

Production on the first show has been completed and will air each Thursday night at 7 P.M. on Capitol Cable channel 16 in the Charleston area and channel 2 in St. Albans on Harmon Cable.

Other cable systems across the state are being contacted but the going is not so easy according to ACT director, Steve White.

"We are having a hard time getting cable stations to sell us time for the show and we need the help of ACT members," said White.

"If you subscribe to cable and want to see the show give us a call, and let your cable company know."

The TV idea grew out of ACT planning sessions last year.

The hope is to get a regular

show up and running and to try to make it pay for itself through advertising.

ourselves to the public and involve them in our issues," said White.

opment loans to two corporations.

Both had projected job growth three years ago that never materialized.

One company, Woodcraft Supply, wrote that they had projected an increase of 160 jobs but not for West Virginia.

"Our economic development folks are quick to give our money away but never ask for a commitment in return," said White.

"Local construction workers have learned that economic development

unfortunately means out-of-state workers and contractors."



PICTURED AT THE TAPING OF THE first show are State Senator Jon Blair Hunter, D-Monongalia, and show host, Wendy Radcliff.

"We feel television is an excellent way for us to market

The first show documented unaccountable economic devel-

## Al Marino, Inc. Faces NLRB Complaint

**T**he National Labor Relations Board has issued a complaint against Al Marino, Inc.

The complaint comes after a series of unfair labor practices charges were filed against Al Marino on behalf of Plumbers and Fitters Local 625.

Al Marino president, Jay Marino has been accused of interrogating and threatening

employees.

In Nov. of last year Local 625 business manager, T.L. Ranson and organizer Tim Jividen met with Marino about what the union could do for his company and employees.

After a few meetings, Marino decided he was not interested.

Jividen and Ranson had also begun meeting with employees who had expressed interest in joining the union.

Once they had enough cards

signed, Jividen went to Marino and asked that he begin negotiations with Local 625.

Marino refused and suggested Jividen speak to his lawyer.

A petition for an NLRB election was filed, but Marino challenged the petition.

He said his employees were multi-crafted, or both electricians and plumbers, and therefore could not join a plumbers

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# THE ACT REPORT

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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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# Elite Mechanical Signs With Plumbers & Fitters

**Elite Mechanical Contractors has become a signatory contractor with Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 521 after four months of meeting with owner, Tim Lasseter.**

Elite does mostly residential and light commercial HVAC work.

Plumbers and Fitters international representative Doug Keller, organizer Tim 'Squirrel' Jividen and Local 521 agents, Tim Arnett and Ed Montgomery, signed up Elite's ten employees on April 13 of this year.

The "top-down" campaign began in Dec. of '98 when Jividen first spoke with Lasseter about the possibility of becoming a union contractor.

Lasseter was interested because he was looking to expand his company and he would need

spend the time trying to find qualified people before I could take in more business," said Lasseter.

siastic because now they have a pension and retirement plan they did not have before," said Jividen.

"Mr. Lasseter is excited about getting free training for his employees.

"We now hope to supply men from Local 521 to help Mr. Lasseter in his expansion as well as draw people in from the non-union sector."

"Elite Mechanical is a quality company and Local 521 is proud to represent it's employees."

"We welcome the new members and look forward to working with them."



PICTURED ARE ELITE MECHANICAL EMPLOYEES, the newest members of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 521.

additional, well-qualified workers.

"We were looking to expand and I didn't want to have to

"I was interested in the well-trained and qualified people the union could offer."

"The employees are all enthu-

## AL MARINO FACES NLRB COMPLAINT

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union.

At an NLRB hearing on the matter, the NLRB ruled electricians and plumbers were separate crafts and the employees could be put into one category or the other.

The Board named which employees would be allowed to vote in the election which was held on March 25.

Local 625 lost by a 9-8 vote.

According to Jividen, from the time the petition was filed until the election date, Marino had threatened his employees with everything from loss of jobs

to complete closure of the company if they voted for union representation.

Marino also told the employ-

ees they could not have union stickers or other items with union reference at work.

With ACT's assistance, Local 625 filed unfair labor prac-

tice charges with the NLRB and a complaint was issued against Al Marino on April 29.

"By fighting this in court we

**"WE HOPE THE COURT WILL ISSUE A BARGAINING ORDER GIVING US A CHANCE TO BARGAIN A CONTRACT"**

**T.L. RANSON  
BUSINESS MANAGER, LOCAL 625**

tees they could not have union stickers or other items with union reference at work.

With ACT's assistance, Local 625 filed unfair labor prac-

hope to show Al Marino employees the support system that comes with joining a union," said Jividen.

"We want them to understand

they shouldn't be in fear of losing their jobs for wanting what the union can offer, and the law allows.

Al Marino is fighting the NLRB complaint which will go before an administrative law judge later this month.

"We believe the election was unfair because of the many violations made by Jay Marino," said Ranson.

"We are not sure if a new election will fix the damage already done.

"We hope the court will issue a bargaining order giving us a chance to bargain a contract."

## Conference Brings Together Construction Industry

**Bringing the three parts of the construction industry together - contractors, workers and customers - is the goal of the first Construction Coalition Conference.**

The conference is being organized by union contractor associations, building trades councils and owner representatives

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for the three main facets of the construction industry to discuss their common goal: cost effective construction.

The idea is patterned after the Boilermakers successful tripartite conferences.

For a number of years the Boilermakers have brought together contractors and customers from their segment of the construction industry.

The outcome has been a very successful series of meetings that involve a lot of problem solving and an excellent opportunity for people to meet, learn and simply talk.

Key to the process is for each group to meet independently to identify top issues they want addressed.

Then the issues are conveyed to the entire group and a process is started to resolve issues where possible.

"By meeting together we have put a stop to the finger pointing and focused on problem solving," commented Ron Bush, business manager for Boilermaker Local 667.

"It's worked for the Boiler-

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# 'SAK Is Back' Despite President's Guilty Plea And Federal Conviction

**J**ust when it looked like SAK Environmental could no longer work on asbestos abatement projects, legal loopholes opened up.

SAK President Fred Blizzard, who was convicted of dumping asbestos illegally, recently had his license revoked for performing and supervising asbestos abatement work.

However, SAK simply got an

employee to take Blizzards place on the company license for abatement and SAK is back in business.

The WV Department of Health and Human Resources has the authority to take any asbestos license from either a company or an individual who fails to meet federal or state standards for asbestos abatement.

Yet the Indoor Air Division Director for the DHHR told the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* the

agency lawyers advised him the law did not give him the authority State Health Department from acting," said ACT's Jim Lewis.

**"APPARENTLY THESE COMPANIES THAT VIOLATE THE LAW CAN JUST REARRANGE THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE AND CONTINUE 'BUSINESS AS USUAL.'"**

**JIM LEWIS  
ACT REPRESENTATIVE**

to revoke SAK's license.

"State Code doesn't stop our

"I think this time they are being to cautious with SAK and

leaving the public in danger."

The company is working on asbestos jobs in two states right now.

Since ACT's initial discovery in 1996 that SAK was improperly removing and disposing asbestos containing materials, the story has taken many turns.

But all along SAK has continued to stay in business.

The company and Blizzard were indicted and then pled guilty to conspiracy to violate the Clean Air Act.

In September 1998, Blizzard was sentenced to one year and one day in jail, two years supervised release.

Blizzard eventually lost his license to perform or oversee asbestos projects.

The company paid a \$15,000 fine.

Last December, ACT Representative Jim Lewis found SAK working on a HUD project in Wheeling even though the company appeared on the Federal Contractor Debarment List.

The company was eventually removed from the job.

However, SAK can continue to bid on and receive work from state, county or municipal agencies, even though the federal government forbids such action on its projects.

Also in December of 1998 SAK was working on a project at Steel of West Virginia in Huntington.

While on this job, the company was investigated and cited yet another time for improper removal of asbestos.

A formal notice of the latest

## Building Trades Councils Get Ready For 'DAD's Day'

**N**ext month Building Trades Councils all over the country will be organizing fund-raisers, golf tournaments, and hitting the streets asking for donations to raise money to help find a cure for Diabetes.

In West Virginia the annual DAD's Day (Dollars Against Diabetes) events will take place in most areas sometime during the weekend of Father's Day (June 18-20).

There are many ways to participate individually and each Local has the opportunity to participate as a group.

Across the state on Sat. June 19<sup>th</sup>, Building Trades members will be soliciting donations, either at street corners with DAD's Day buckets or

ness manager for Painters Local 804 at 304/592-3550.

For the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades anyone who wants to help with the

ter for \$60.00 or foursomes can enter for \$240.00 total.

Both individuals and groups may sponsor a tee or green for \$100 or donate a gift to the prize table. (monetary and/or other gifts accepted.)

Spots are limited for this event and early registration is appreciated.

Contact Steve Burton at Tri-State Building Trades (606/324-9880) for more information.

Participation is encouraged so this year's event is just as successful as last year.

**LAST YEAR DAD'S DAY EVENTS IN WV RAISED MORE THAN \$15,000 FOR DIABETES RESEARCH.**

through membership contributions.

For more information in the Charleston area please contact Jerry Huffman, 304/343-7413 business agent for Painters Local 970.

For the North Central area please contact Bob Parrish, busi-

ness manager should contact Sam Davis at the Building Trades office, 304/424-6443.

Tri-State Building Trades will be holding its 5<sup>th</sup> annual DAD's Day golf tournament on Friday, June 25, 1999 at Lavalette Golf Club in Lavalette, WV.

Individuals may en-

## OUTSIDE THE STATE CAPITOL

## WVCCC Workers Protest For Back Wages

**Workers for WV Citizen Conservation Corps protested at the state capitol on May 10 wanting to know when their back pay would arrive.**

Dozens of workers have been illegally paid on state funded projects while working for WV CCC.

WV CCC claims to be a charitable organization trying to get welfare recipients into jobs.

They also claim to have vocational training programs which allow them to get state money without bidding or paying prevailing wages.

ACT has been able to prove that WV CCC's workers are not on welfare and are not in a training program.

"It's all illegal as far as we are concerned," said ACT's Wayne Rebich.

"These men resent the implication they

are on welfare, they are hard working construction workers who just want to get paid fairly."

Dept. of Labor audits show workers were shorted \$185,000 on a project in Oak Hill.

The total may reach more than \$500,000 when all audits are complete.

But even though the first set of audits were completed back in February no checks have been issued.

"We want to know when we will get our money," said Greg Jones one of the dozen workers who protested outside of the Department of Highways.

The Department of Highways has given WV CCC more than \$6 million in contracts.

Contracts that were never put out for public

bid. Now they say those contracts will be canceled.

"If they cancel the contracts we

lose our jobs," said Jones. The least they can do is make sure we get wages we are owned by law."



PROTESTING OUTSIDE THE CAPITOL ARE WVCCC employees who are entitled to more than \$500,000 in back wages.

## CONFERENCE

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makers nationally, I think it can work for West Virginia too."

Bush has been designated chairman of the effort.

A committee has been established with representatives from customers, contractors and labor from across the state.

Heading up the effort are three co-chairmen, Roy Smith of the WV State Building Trades represents construction workers, Jim Cerra of the WV Construction Council represents contractors, and Tom Householder of American Electric Power represents owners.

"We are looking forward to this opportunity to listen to the concerns of the contractors and owners and for them to hear the concerns of the construction workers," said Bush.

"One of our main goals is to improve the relationships between the

parties and work on the flow of communication."

Contractor representative Jim Cerra is also enthusiastic about the program.

"We want to showcase all the programs that we've got going like the drug screening and safety programs (LEAD/MOST), apprenticeship and training, and the project agreements used to target jobs.

"We want construction users to understand what we have in the organized segment. Particularly those users who don't use building trades contractors, both industrial and commercial."

Details of the conference and registration information will be available as the date approaches.

Representatives from all segments of the construction and related industries are encouraged to participate.

The conference will be held at the McLure Hotel in Wheeling, Sept. 19-21, 1999.

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## SAK

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violation was issued by the DEPOffice of Air Quality in February.

In another interview with a *Charleston Gazette-Mail*, Blizzard disputed the charges and said 'various regulatory agencies were out to get him.'

"It's a shame that West Virginia tax payers are not permitted the same protection for our state and local tax dollars

that we get with our federal taxes," said Lewis.

"SAK can't bid federal work, but our legislature rejected a bill that would stop this company from getting local tax funded projects.

"We thought a guilty plea and a conviction would take care of things.

"Apparently these companies that violate the law can just rearrange the people in charge and continue 'business as usual.'"

"Something needs to be done."