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TRADES

ACT is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Steve Burton, President; Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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100% LABOR VOTING RECORD KEY

WV AFL-CIO ENDORSES THOMPSON

The WV AFL-CIO voted overwhelmingly to endorse Rick Thompson (D-Wayne) for Governor at the upcoming special election.

The State COPE Committee (Committee on Political Education) met in Charleston on Saturday, March 19.

Members of the committee heard from all six Democratic candidates in the day-long session before making their choice.

Candidates also filled out a questionnaire prior to the meeting regarding their position on labor issues.

In the end it came down to Thompson's perfect vot-

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ELECTRICAL WORKERS SHOW their support for Labor Endorsed candidate Rick Thompson by donating funds for membership education efforts. On April 6 members of the IBEW presented a \$20,000 check to the WV AFL-CIO from IBEW COPE. From left are Mark Fetty, Business Manager LU 596 Clarksburg; Joe Samples, Business Manager LU 466 Charleston; Lyn Lovell, Business Manager LU 968 Parkersburg; IBEW International Representative Greg Gore; WV AFL-CIO Secretary/Treasurer Larry Matheny; LU 317 Huntington Business Manager Jim Gillette and Assistant BM Shane Wolfe; and LU 246 Steubenville President Phil Diserio.

JOBS GOING TO TEXAS, OKLAHOMA AND FLORIDA

TRADES PROTEST OUT-OF-STATE FIRM TAKING MARCELLUS JOBS

Members of the Laborers and Operating Engineers are protesting an out-of-state company giving away local jobs.

Their complaint is with Holloman Corporation from Texas who has been hired by Dominion Transmission to run a pipeline in Wetzel County.

The 24 inch line starts at Dominions Hasting facility and will go approximately one mile. The project started in early March.

The protest began April 5 and had around 22 union members present.

Trucks from Texas, Oklahoma and Florida are among the many seen going to and from the project.

According to Laborers Representative Joe Bowen the Wetzel County area is known

for having highly skilled local pipeline workers. And to make matter worse

unemployment in Wetzel County is high.

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MEMBERS OF THE Laborers and Operating Engineers protest the use of out-of-state contractors and workers at a Dominion Transmission plant in Wetzel County. Holloman Corporation from Texas is importing workers from Texas, Oklahoma and Florida for the pipeline project.

STATE WINNERS TO COMPETE IN REGIONAL EVENT

PIPE TRADES HOLD APPRENTICE CONTEST

Apprentices from six West Virginia Pipe Trades locals including Baltimore competed in Morgantown April 6 - 9.

The annual state apprenticeship contest challenges the skills of fifth year apprentices in four categories; welder, pipefitter, plumber and HVAC.

Each Local sent four competitors for a total of 24 contestants.

Winners in each category were; from Local 625 in Charleston Tony Toler for pipe welding; Wayne Mosser of Parkersburg Local 565 for pipefitter; best plumber

went to Eric O'Donnel out of Wheeling Local 83; and the HVAC winner was Joe Keller also from Local 83.

Plumbers and Fitters Local 152 in Morgantown hosted the event.

"All the apprentices who competed did a great job," said Ed Boone, Business Manager of Local 152.

"And the staff and volunteers who put the event together deserve a lot of credit."

Winners received a \$750 award and will go on to compete in a regional contest to be held in Charleston on June 14 - 17 at the Civic Center.

Contestants from eight states and the District of Co-

lumbia will compete for the rights to go onto the UA's

International Apprenticeship Contest which will be held

in Ann Arbor, Michigan this August.



GEORGE LAWSON FROM Local 625 Charleston is soldering refrigeration piping as part of the HVAC contest.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS GRANT MAKES PURCHASES POSSIBLE

VIRTUAL WELDING IMPROVES TRAINING

More than 20 apprenticeship instructors and coordinators from across the state recently attended a two day training session on how to use new virtual welding training equipment.

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for Green-Up training, nine West Virginia Apprenticeship and Training sites have purchased virtual welding equipment.

Construction Works, an educational nonprofit arm of the Building Trades, was able to secure the funding together with the state agency Work-Force WV.

At a little more than \$46,000 each, the nine virtual welders cost \$416,000.

"These programs simply could not have afforded this equipment without the grant," said Sheryl Johnson, Executive Director of Construction Works.

Construction Works organized the virtual welding training event hosted at the WV State Building Trades.

The two day training was put on by Lincoln Electric Company, the manufacturers of the virtual welders.

According to the participants virtual welders provide a very realistic feel without wasting energy and equipment.

"The instant feedback you get from the display inside the welding hood on things like angle and speed really helps," said Jim Lewis, an instructor with Plumbers and Fitters Lo-

cal 565, Parkersburg.

Delivery of the equipment

started in April and should be

complete by the end of May.

The virtual welders are all made in the USA.



DON YOHO, OF Ironworkers Local 787 in Parkersburg practices welding on a virtual welding machine. Looking on (from left) is Carp Dierkes, Apprenticeship Coordinator for the Wheeling Ironworkers Local 549, Jeff Greathouse, welding instructor for Plumbers and Fitters Local 565 Parkersburg and Johnny Prowse, welding instructor for Boilermakers Local 667.

TRI-STATE BUILDING TRADES RAISE \$17,000 MORE FOR CABELL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Billed as a 'Hospital within a Hospital' the Cabell Huntington Children's Hospital is \$17,000 closer to being built thanks to a joint Labor-Management effort of the union construction industry.

The Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council teamed up with Neighborgall Construction to host a fundraising bowling tournament held on Sunday, March 27 in Huntington.

The event attracted 104 people participating in 26 four-person bowling teams made up of craft union representatives and members as well as many local contractors.

Each team paid an entry fee and most participated in a raffle drawing.

Jeff Clendenen of Carpenters Local 1159 Point Pleasant donated \$300 of his raffle winnings to the cause.

C.R. Neighborgall organized corporate lane sponsors for additional funds and Colonial Lanes offered reduced rates to help the effort.

Last year Tri-State and its affiliated unions raised \$86,000 for the project and with the funds from this recent event has passed the \$100,000 mark.

"Kids from this area currently have to go far away to get the hospital care they need," said Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades.

"When this project is built they will be able to stay closer to home and family, that's important to us."

Both Burton and Neighborgall made a point of thanking

the many participants who showed up at the event.

"Their generosity will make a difference in the lives of many children."

According to Burton, about \$10 million of the \$12 million needed for the project has been raised so far.

The entire fourth floor of

Cabell Huntington Hospital will be devoted to the Children's Hospital.

Burton believes the project will start sometime in 2012.



MARK JOHNSON (left) and Ron Bush (center-right) take raffle donations from a team of Bricklayers that came from Cleveland, Ohio to participate.

ATTACKS ON WORKERS' RIGHTS IN OHIO

The most significant attacks on the rights of American workers in decades continue in Ohio.

On March 31, Republican Gov. John Kasich signed a bill that prohibits public worker strikes, bans binding arbitration, and restricts the right to bargain over health and pension benefits.

Kasich is also on the attack against Building Trades workers. Inserted in the state budget bill are severe restrictions on the state Prevailing Wage law.

If approved the Kasich budget will eliminate prevail-

ing wage requirements for construction projects at colleges and universities as well as K-12 schools.

For all other projects the Governor has proposed eliminating prevailing wages for public projects worth less than \$5 million.

In addition H.B. 102 has been introduced to ban Project Labor Agreements in the state.

Throughout America, workers are being unfairly blamed for state budget woes. Partisan governors in Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio have exploited the fiscal crisis to try to balance budgets on the backs of working fam-

ilies.

"The Ohio law lets bean counters sit comfortably in their offices behind a desk and make decisions that affect not only worker safety, but also public safety," said Steve Keller, Business Manager for Insulators Local 80.

"The assault on unionized workers' rights affects every worker in America," Keller continued, "not just union workers."

Local 80, like a number of Craft Unions affiliated with the WV State Building Trades, has jurisdiction in Ohio as well as West Virginia. Keller and a number of his members have traveled

to Columbus to participate in rallies and lobbying events to make sure workers voices are heard.

"We owe our public servants more," Keller added. "Firefighters and police officers put their lives on the line every day, and they deserve a say in their working conditions."

According to Dennis Duffey, Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio State Building Trades a number of actions are being taken to counter the anti-union efforts.

To reverse the public employee bill the Ohio labor movement is preparing to go to voters with a referendum

this November. They must first get approval from the Secretary of State on ballot language and then within 90 days get more than 231,000 signatures from voters.

To counter the anti-prevailing wage measure Duffey is coordinating an effort to get the attack removed from the budget bill. "This is a policy issue not a budget issue and any prevailing wage legislation should stand on its own."

Duffey also is looking at ways to challenge the anti-PLA bill based on legal problems he sees in the language.

"This is an attack on all workers," said Duffey. "We need to stick together."

NORTH CENTRAL SIGNS WIND AGREEMENT

An agreement has been reached for the construction of the Pinnacle Wind project in Mineral County.

According to Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary of the North Central WV Building Trades, the project agree-

ment was reached on March 29th.

Called the Pinnacle Wind Farm at New Page the 23 wind turbine project should start in May and be completed by the end of the year.

White Construction is the General Contractor, they were also the GC on the Beech

Ridge project in Greenbrier County that completed phase one last year.

In addition subcontractors All Construction, C&G Solutions, Davis/Stresscon JV, and Aldridge have all signed onto the agreement.

Developer U.S. Windforce put the project together and

then sold it to Edison Mission Energy who is now hiring the contractors.

Trades members supported the project at public meetings and through the Public Service Commission regulatory process.

“Our negotiations were very productive and we look forward to a great project and some much needed jobs for

our members,” said Stone.

Monthly labor-management meetings will be held to help make sure the job runs smoothly and safely.

When completed the wind farm will generate approximately 55 megawatts of electricity, enough power for over 14,000 households.

Total cost for the project is estimated at \$130 million.



REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE Crafts and Contractors to be working at the Pinnacle Wind project pose after concluding successful negotiations on March 29.

North Central Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

North Central WV Building Trades will hold their Annual Sporting Clay Shoot at Hunting Hills on Sunday, May 15, 1:00 pm. All are welcome, RSVP by May 5, call Natalie Stone 304-626-3882

THOMPSON

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

ing record as a state legislator and Speaker of the House.

“We had a number of good candidates and the choice was not easy,” said Kenny Perdue, President of the WV AFL-CIO. “In the end we felt it was important for this election that we take a stand, and Rick Thompson has a proven track record as a friend to

working families.”

Thompson has a solid record on issues of concern to the Building Trades including strong support for prevailing wage laws, local hiring laws, unemployment funding and safety legislation.

In addition Thompson has opposed anti-worker efforts such as right-to-work.

The Special Primary election will be held on Saturday, May 14 with early voting al-

lowed from April 29 through May 11.

The General Election will be held on October 4.

COPE is made up of representatives from each International Union affiliated with the WV AFL-CIO.

Local and State Councils as well as Local Central Body Area COPE’s may also send representatives.

Endorsement takes a two-thirds vote of those present.

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PROTEST

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The US Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Wetzel County had 15.9% unem-

ployment in 2010.

“We have the local workers who can do this job,” said Bowen. “There is no reason to bring in workers from out of the area.