The rescheduled 2020 primary election ends on Tuesday, June 9.

All registered voters should have received an absentee ballot application form from their County Clerk. Absentee ballots are available to anyone who wants one.

Clerks are to mail the ballots to voters within 24 hours of receiving the application but because of the high demand some are taking much longer.

You can request the absentee ballot thru June 3.

If you chose to vote in person there will still be an early voting period starting on Wednesday, May 27 and ending Saturday, June 6.

This usually takes place at a County Court House or Clerks office.

On election day polls will be open the normal times, 6:30 am to 7:30 pm.

This election is very different because of the covid-19 precautions.

Traditional door-to-door campaigning, rallies, meet-the-candidate events have all been derailed leaving many candidates scrambling to find ways to communicate with voters.

The delay from the May primary to June, and the availability of absentee ballot to all voters has lengthened the voting period.

Some people may have asked for and cast an absentee ballot before the original primary day of May 12.

“In prior elections the absentee
Cont. on p. 4>>
SMART Makes Aluminum Nose Bridges

Members of SMART (Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers), and partner contractors across the country have been supplying aluminum nose bridge material for free to people who are making covid-19 masks.

According to Jim King, Business Representative of Sheet Metal Workers Local 33, Charleston District, more than 12 million strips have been shipped nationwide.

“In our District, Tri-State Roofing, Dougherty and Air Systems have all been letting our members cut up aluminum strips, then I mail them out,” said King.

The nose pieces are 3” x 1/4” and made from .032 aluminum.

Requests are filtered through a national website.

King says the Charleston District has mailed out 4,100 pieces and the total from all Districts of Local 33 have passed 200,000.

Other WV affiliates, SMW 24 and SMW 100 have also been participating in the effort.

12+ Million Shipped

Longview Files Bankruptcy Reorganization - Says Gas Project Still on Schedule

Longview Power filed for bankruptcy protection on April 14 with plans to keep operating and reorganize its debt according to news reports.

Longview Power II, a separate but related entity, recently won approval from the state Public Service Commission to build a new gas and solar facility.

The company has said the new project is still moving forward and the reorganization will not affect it.

According to plant manager Jeff Keefer the combination of low energy prices and the covid-19 pandemic created an impossible situation.

However, Keefer said the company will keep on operating, pay all bills and basically needs to refinance its debt.

Keefer also made a point of saying the bankruptcy would not hurt plans for Longview II.

Longview II received approval from the state PSC on April 3 for a siting certificate to build a $1.1 billion, 1,200-megawatt combined cycle gas unit near the existing 710-megawatt coal unit.

A gas line and short transmission line will be required.

A 70-megawatt solar field is also planned with most of the solar panels to be in Pennsylvania.

The state-of-the-art coal-fired plant was built with local union trades and the company has committed to build the gas unit with local union workers.

Essential Workers at Cabell Huntington Hospital

Carpenters Local 439 members Gary Hall, Lenny McClary are among the many union construction workers providing essential services during the pandemic. They are working for MIRC Construction Services at Cabell Huntington Hospital building a new clean sterile department.
Building Trades Endorsements for Primary

**Bold** = Building Trades member

**1st Congressional District**
- David McKinley (R)
- Governor
- Ben Salango (D)
- State Treasurer
- John Perdue (D)
- Attorney General
- Isaac Sponaugle (D)

**Supreme Court**
- Richard Neely
- Joanna Tabit
- Secretary of State
- Natalie Tennant (D)
- State Auditor
- Mary Ann Claytor (D)

**Agriculture Commissioner**
- Bob Beach (D)

**State Senate**
- 1st Randy Swartzmiller (D)
- 2nd Josh Gary (D)
- 4th Bruce Ashworth (D)
- 5th Bob Plymale (D)
- 7th Rupie Phillips (R)
- 8th Ralph Rodigerio (D)
- 9th David ‘Bugs’ Stover (R)
- 10th Bob Lilly (D)
- 11th Denise Campbell (D)
- 12th Doug Facemire (D)
- 13th Mike Caputo (D)
- 14th David Childers (D)
- 15th Kenneth Mattson (R)
- 16th Pete Dougherty (D)
- 17th Andrew Robinson (D)

**House of Delegates**
- 1st Jack Wood (D)
- 2nd Phillip Disero (D)
- 3rd Shawn Fluharty (D)
- 4th Erika Storch (R)
- 5th Dave Pethel (D)
- 6th Ryan Crum (D)
- 7th Jerry Miller (R)
- 8th John Pitsenbarger (R)
- 9th David ‘Bugs’ Stover (R)
- 10th Vernon Criss (R)
- 11th Mark Pauley (D)
- 12th Scott Brewer (D)
- 13th Brian Scott (R)
- 14th Mark Bates (R)
- 15th Elizabeth Moore (D)
- 16th Chad Lovejoy (D)
- 17th Paul Ross (D)

**Paul Ross (D)**
- John Wood (D)
- Margaret Staggers (D)
- Brent Boggs (D)
- Mark Hurt (D)
- 22nd David ‘Woody’ Holmes (D)

**Anti-Union Gov. Candidate Thrasher Gains Anti-Union Contractor ABC-WV’s Support**

Woody Thrasher, a republican candidate for Governor, has been endorsed by the anti-union contractors group Associated Builders and Contractors of WV (ABC).

According to ACT’s Steve White the two are a perfect fit.

“Woody Thrasher is anti-union and so is the ABC,” said White.

White points to recent comments made by Thrasher about so-called Right-to-Work (RTW) as an example.

Thrasher put out a press release praising RTW and said “… our Court boldly exercised sound reasoning to protect true workplace freedom.”

“Thrasher praised the recent WV Supreme Court’s unfair ruling on RTW that forces union members to pay the costs of service non-union workers can demand,” said White.

Governor Jim Justice vetoed RTW legislation in 2017, but the legislature overrode his veto.

Thrasher, owner of Thrasher Engineering, had been the Secretary of Commerce for Governor Justice before being ousted in 2018 for mishandled flood relief efforts.

Thrasher is now running against Justice for the Republican party’s nomination for governor.

The ABC of WV filed briefs in support of RTW.

They have also been the main proponents of prevailing wage repeal.

“The ABC promised great saving to taxpayers if our prevailing wage law passed, 25 to 33 percent,” said White.

“Now prevailing wage is gone there are no savings, but their low-wage contractors are getting more tax funded work, paying lower wages, making more money and ripping off the taxpayers with poor quality and delayed projects in the process.”

For more information about the disaster caused by repeal of the prevailing wage law go to www.wvbroke

**Note:** Candidate for the Supreme Court John Hutchinson had been endorsed by the WV AFL-CIO but was unendorsed as a result of his vote to overturn the Kanawha Circuit Court ruling that Right-to-Work violated the WV Constitution. The WV State Building Trades participate in the WV AFL-CIO endorsement process but may endorse additional candidates and at times picks different candidates.

**ABSENTEE BALLOT, VOTING DATES**

Thru June 3: Voters may apply for absentee ballot
April 24: County Clerks begin mailing absentee ballots
May 19: Voter Registration Deadline
May 27–June 6: Early Voting In-Person
June 3: Absentee Application must be received by County Clerk
June 9: Absentee Ballot must be postmarked by this date
June 9: Primary Election Day
Workers Memorial Day Honors 22 Who Died

April 28 was Workers Memorial Day; the day labor groups across the country remember those who lost their lives at work during prior year.

The tradition continued this year in a different way. The WV AFL-CIO created a Facebook live event which was held at noon on the 28th.

During 2019 22 workers lost their lives on the job. As each name was read a bell rang in their honor.

“While we couldn't gather in person as we have in the past, the West Virginia AFL-CIO held the 32nd annual Workers Memorial ceremony live on our Facebook page,” West Virginia AFL-CIO President Josh Sword said.

Workers Memorial Day is also a call for action to make workplaces safe.

“We will continue to work tirelessly in hopes that one day no one is risking their life to make a living,” Sword said. “And until every workplace is 100 percent safe.”

Anti-Worker Court

Continued from Page 1

soned disagreement that this is exactly what the West Virginia Legislature intended to do when it enacted a right-to-work law, and specifically when it enacted W. Va. Code § 21-1A-3, requiring unions to fulfill all of their existing duties to non-members – to represent their interests in contract negotiations, to represent their interests in all matters arising from administration of a collective bargaining agreement, and to represent them in grievance, disciplinary or termination appeals -- without compensation.

“Federal law imposes the duty on unions to represent the interests of non-union members in the bargaining unit without compensation, or don’t represent the bargaining unit at all.”

In the majority opinion many references were made to a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision called Janus.

The court ruled in Janus that a public employee union in California could not require a payment for services.

“Our case was based on the West Virginia constitution, and our case was about private companies and unions entering into agreements not the public sector,” said attorney Vince Trivelli who argued on Labor’s behalf.

“To say Janus decided everything is simply wrong,” Trivelli added. “It is only one of a number of issues the Supreme Court got wrong.”

“[RTW] serves no purpose other than to thrust a dagger into the heart of labor unions...”

Justice Margaret Workman
WV Supreme Court

Primary Election

Continued from Page 1

ballots were a very small number and the real start of voting was the two weeks of early voting before election day,” said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

“Now a lot of voting started when the absentee ballots started going out on April 24, that means people will be voting for five weeks leading up to election day.”

According to Efaw we have learned all too well, elections have consequences.

And the outcome of this round of elections will be no different.

Key defeats for labor during past legislative sessions like prevailing wage repeal and so-called right to work have severely hurt the construction industry.

At stake more recently have been licensing issues like weakening licensing for Plumbers, Sprinkler Fitters, Electricians, and Contractors.

“We have fought back attempts to weaken the WV Jobs Act but failed to add provisions to strengthen licensing laws by preventing illegal workers from getting licenses,” said Efaw.

To better educate the public about the importance of issues such as licensing and local jobs ACT and the WV State Building Trades have launched voter education efforts.

“We are educating the public in key races about who voted to weaken licensing,” said Efaw.

“Legislators should face consequences too.”

“We are educating the public in key races about issues important to communities and the Trades such as who voted to weaken licensing laws,” said Efaw. “Legislators should face consequences too.”