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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Steve White, Director

WV State Building Trades Holds 2022 Convention

Last month on September 14, the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades held their annual convention in Roanoke, WV at Stonewall State Park.

More than 70 representatives from the Trades attended the event to conduct annual business, network, and hear from various speakers on industry issues.

During the business meeting, ACT Director Steve White was honored for his 30 years of service to the Trades. Outgoing Director White will be retiring at the end of the year and incoming Director Justin Williams will take over at the beginning of the year.

A special election was also held to fill the remainder of former Secretary-Treasurer Dave Efaw's term. Last year, Efaw retired a year into his 4-year term, and former IBEW 466 Business Manager John Epperly was appointed as acting-Secretary by the WWSBT executive board.

During the convention, John Ep-

perly was nominated to be confirmed as Secretary-Treasurer and was elected unanimously by all the WWSBT convention delegates. The next election for WWSBT Officers will be in

2024.

The speakers at the event included Dr. Peter Balash, Associate Director of the Strategic Systems Analysis and Engineering Directorate at the Unit-

ed States Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory; Curtis Wilkerson, Founder of Orion Strategies; Jeffrey Bruno, **Cont. on p. 2>>**



Outgoing Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT) Director Steve White speaks to attendees of the 2022 West Virginia State Building Trades Convention. White has served as ACT Director since 1992 and will be retiring at the end of this year.

West Virginia Selected to be Site for Multi-Billion-Dollar Natural Gas Power Plant

Last month, energy company Competitive Power Ventures announced it had selected West Virginia as the state it would build a new natural gas-fired, combined-cycle power plant with carbon capture and storage.

According to the company, the plant will produce about 1,800 MW

of electricity, with an approximate investment of more than \$3 billion dollars, and go into operation toward the end of the decade.

The construction will require more than 1,000 skilled tradespeople, and include prevailing wage labor and apprenticeships, to satisfy the requirements laid out in the Inflation

Reduction Act (IRA), which provides tax incentives for carbon sequestration and storage.

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin applauded the announcement, crediting the IRA, a bill he authored earlier this year, with helping to secure the company's decision to build in West Virginia.

"The Inflation Reduction Act is already having a positive impact for the people of West Virginia and carbon capture utilization efforts here in the United States," said Manchin.

"I'm pleased Competitive Power Ventures is investing in the Mountain State and look forward to seeing

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Trades Testify at the Capitol on Associate Degrees for Apprenticeship Programs

On September 13, West Virginia State Building Trades representatives were invited to the state capitol to speak about the future for apprenticeship training programs in the state.

One of the major topics of discussion was related to associate degrees for apprentices upon completion of their programs.

WVSBT Government Relations Director George Capel and WV Carpenters Training Coordinator Everett Johnson attended the Interim Committee on Labor and Workforce Issues to testify to lawmakers about the challenges faced by the trades and the importance of apprenticeship programs.

During the presentation, Capel gave an overview of how union craft apprenticeship programs operate and their significance in terms of West Virginia workforce development.

“These are timely conversations,”

said Capel. “With all of the federal infrastructure money coming into our state, apprenticeship programs are vital to ensure we maintain a skilled labor pipeline to the construction industry.”

Capel went on to explain that one way to increase interest in apprenticeship is to offer associate degrees to apprentices who complete their programs; an issue the trades have been working on for years.

“Our programs are truly the collegiate level of instruction in the construction industry,” said Capel. “There is no reason why apprentices should have to complete additional schooling upon completion of their apprenticeship programs to be awarded an associate degree.”

Everett Johnson of the West Virginia Carpenters shared his experiences directing the WV Apprentices Pathway Degree program and the obstacles he faced trying to get associate

degrees for his apprentices.

Johnson explained that requiring students to fill out Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms to qualify for state funding created an obstacle for the program.

“The biggest issue was with funding,” said Johnson. “Students were forced to fill out FAFSA forms to qualify for state funding, but many parents would not sign the forms for various reasons.”

The state funding went to paying apprentices’ tuition at Potomac State,

the college they were enrolled in to receive their associate degree. However, students under 25 must have the signature of a parent or guardian.

Because of this, many students were unable to complete the forms and were unable to receive funding to stay in the program.

“Our ultimate goal is for our apprentices to walk away with associates degrees,” said Johnson. “I believe the state shares that goal with us. However, issues like funding must be addressed for that to happen.” ■

WVSBT Convention

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Associate Attorney at the law firm of Macala & Piatt; Andy Walters, Secretary-Treasurer for the WV AFL-CIO; and Josh Sword, President of the WV AFL-CIO.

Dr. Peter Balash spoke about the outlook for Clean Hydrogen Energy in the state and the potential for a new Hydrogen Hub in the Appalachian Region.

Balash explained one of the major reasons the potential for a Hydrogen Hub is so promising is because of the major federal laws that have been recently passed to provide funding and tax incentives for this type of energy.

The Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law allocated \$9.5 billion for clean hydrogen.

This includes \$8 billion for at least four regional hydrogen hubs, \$1 billion for electrolysis research and development, and \$500 million for clean hydrogen technology manufacturing and recycling research.

The Inflation Reduction Act, passed earlier this year, also provides significant tax incentives to companies looking to develop our nation’s hydrogen infrastructure.

However, Balash explained he believes the timeline for construction is long-term.

“I believe even 2029 is somewhat ambitious as a timeline for the hub to be built,” said Balash. “The reason it

is taking so long is due to the permitting, which takes years to complete.”

Curtis Wilkerson spoke about competitive electric generation between states and the current status of the PJM project queue.

Wilkerson explained that as of 2019, West Virginia was behind Ohio and Virginia by about 10,000 MW and about 30,000 MW behind Pennsylvania in terms of total power generation.

Wilkerson explained projects like the gas-fired power plant with carbon-sequestration technology by Competitive Power Ventures, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act, will help to make West Virginia more competitive in the coming years.

Jeffrey Bruno spoke about issues related to Right-to-Work laws in the state and what they mean for the trade unions.

Bruno gave an analysis of the law and answered questions surrounding its implementation.

Andy Walters and Josh Sword spoke about the upcoming election and door knocking efforts coordinated by the Trades and the WV AFL-CIO for labor-endorsed candidates.

The location of next year’s convention will be announced following the meeting of a committee, appointed to select a venue for the event. ■

IUPAT DC 53 to Provide Elevated Tank Training



The Painters District Council 53 is preparing to start renovating this tank, located at their apprenticeship site in Weston, to offer elevated tank training as a part of their apprenticeship program.

The tank is the only elevated tank on-site at an apprenticeship training facility in the nation.

Once the tank preparation is complete, IUPAT DC 53 plans to offer training to other district councils and workers throughout the United States.

Building Trades General Endorsement List

State Senate

1 – Randy Swartzmiller (D)
2 – Eric Hayhurst (D)
5 – Mike Woelfel (D)
7 – Ron Stollings (D)
8 – Richard Lindsay (D)
10 – Stephen Baldwin (D)
11 – Bill Hamilton (R)
13 – Barbara Fleischauer (D)

2 – Ronnie Jones (D)
3 – Phil Diserio (D)
4 – Erikka Storch (R)
5 – Shawn Fluharty (D)
6 – Charlie Reynolds (R)
7 – Lisa Zukoff (D)
13 – Scot Heckert (R)
23 – Evan Worrell (R)
24 – Ally Layman (D)
25 – Sean Hornbuckle (D)
26 – Matthew Rohrbach (R)
27 – Ric Griffith (D)

House of Delegates

1 – Pat McGeehan (R)

29 – David Thompson (D)
32 – Rodney Miller (D)
33 – Jordan Bridges (R)
34 – Mark Dean (R)
35 – Adam Vance (R)
36 – Ed Evans (D)
43 – Chris Toney (R)
44 – Toney O. Martin (D)
45 – Christian Martine (D)
50 – Elliott Pritt (D)
51 – Gabe Peña (D)
52 – Larry Rowe (D)
54 – Mike Pushkin (D)
56 – Kayla Young (D)
57 – Doug Skaff (D)
58 – Walt Hall (R)
59 – Andy Shamblin (R)

60 – Dana Ferrell (R)
67 – Cody Thompson (D)
69 – Ron Watson (D)
70 – Ryan Deems (D)
71 – Laura Kimble (R)
72 – Derek McIntyre (D)
73 – Mike Mannypenny (D)
74 – “JohnBoy” Palmer (D)
75 – Stephanie Tomana (D)
76 – Joey Garcia (D)
77 – Benny Swanson (D)
79 – Evan Hansen (D)
80 – John Williams (D)
81 – Danielle Walker (D)
88 – Rick Hillenbrand (R)
90 – George Miller (R) ■

WV House Leaders Visit IUOE 132



Operating Engineers 132 Apprenticeship Training Coordinator Allen Nelson (right) gives a tour of the IUOE 132 training site to a delegation of WV House of Delegates leaders, led by Speaker Roger Hanshaw.

Over the last two years, the Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT) has organized tours of apprenticeship training sites across the state to educate lawmakers and the general public about the benefits of apprenticeship programs.

“When legislators come out and see the programs in person, it gives them a better idea of what we are all about,” said Chuck Parker, President of the West Virginia State Building Trades and Business Manager for IUOE 132 in Charleston, WV. “If they are going to be voting on issues that affect us, we need them to understand who we are and what we do.”

The individuals in the picture (from left to right) are: Delegate Matt Rohrbach (R-Cabell); Bob Fehrenbacher, House candidate (R-Wood); Delegate Laura Kimble (R-Harrison); Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw (R-Clay); Delegate Dana Ferrell (R-Kanawha); Scot Heckert, House candidate (R-Wood); Chuck Parker, Business Manager IUOE 132; Delegate Evan Worrell (R-Cabell); and Allen Nelson, Apprenticeship Training Coordinator for IUOE 132.

Upper Ohio Valley Trades & BEST Hold Career Day



High school students visit craft exhibits at the 2022 Construction Job and Career Fair at the Wheeling Ice Rink on September 21.

Over 500 students were in attendance from across the Ohio Valley.

At the event, students had the opportunity to network with representatives from many different trades including electricians, iron workers, roofers, laborers, carpenters, plumbers & pipefitters, cement finishers, operating engineers, painters and others who were on hand to teach them about the construction industry.

Erikka Storch, WV House of Delegates member and Executive Director of Project BEST, explained the importance of this event to the construction industry.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase the building trades and educate people about the industry,” said Storch. “Connecting young people, who might be interested in taking on a career in the trades, with our current members helps us ensure there is a bright future for the industry.”

Historic Meeting Trades, Schools, and Lawmakers Partner to Strengthen West Virginia Workforce

For the first time ever, representatives from the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades, West Virginia lawmakers, representatives from community and technical colleges, as well as members of state and local school boards met in Huntington at IBEW 317 to discuss potential partnerships in strengthening West Virginia's workforce.

The meeting was held on October 4, along with a tour of the IBEW 317 apprenticeship training facility, as part of an ongoing effort to educate state leaders about the benefits of apprenticeship.

Following the tour, a planning

meeting was held to discuss multiple issues faced by the state, such as the need for labor on federally funded infrastructure projects, and how a partnership of everyone involved in the meeting would ensure best outcomes.

Other items of discussion included associate degree opportunities for apprentices upon completion of their programs and ways to promote pre-apprenticeship opportunities to strengthen the skilled labor pipeline to the trades.

"This was the first time a group like this was assembled under one roof," said Justin Williams, incoming

Director of the Affiliated Construction Trades.

"By bringing together our lawmakers, representatives from academia, and members of the trades,

we can work together to tackle the much larger issues facing our state regarding workforce development and strengthen the skilled labor pipeline to the construction industry." ■



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Tim Akers, Training Coordinator for IBEW 317, gives a tour of the IBEW 317 apprenticeship training facility to representatives from state and local school boards, the Higher Education Policy Commission, community colleges, and public officials on October 4.

WV Selected

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the benefits of this investment – including long-term, good-paying jobs and supporting our regional economies – for years to come."

According to West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades President Chuck Parker, the investment will help to ensure West Virginia remains competitive in the region.

"Pennsylvania and Ohio have built numerous combined-cycle natural gas power plants over the last few years," said Parker. "Now it is finally West Virginia's turn.

We have been training our members for a project like this and will be able to supply the workforce needed." ■

Trades Get Out the Vote



Senator Richard Lindsay speaks to a group of volunteers from various Charleston Building Trades crafts at the West Virginia State Building Trades headquarters in Charleston, West Virginia on Saturday, October 8.

This event is part of a larger, statewide effort by the trades to engage with community members to educate West Virginia voters about labor-friendly candidates running for the West Virginia House and Senate.

"Many of our members are busy working, and still find time to make sure people know to go vote for candidates who support working families" said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council.

Early voting in West Virginia begins on October 26 and runs through November 5. General Election Day is Tuesday, November 8.