

# THE ACT REPORT

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The ACT Foundation is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, with offices in Charleston and Clarksburg. Steve Burton, President; Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

Charleston - (304) 345-7570  
Clarksburg - (304) 624-0682  
www.actwv.org



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# Critical Labor Issues Depend on 2nd Congressional District Race

The West Virginia 2nd Congressional District race between Democrat Jim Humphreys and Republican Shelley Moore Capito will make a big difference for construction workers.

At stake are prevailing wages, project labor agreements, a tumbling stock market and rising health care costs.

With only a six vote Republican edge in the House every seat is critical to maintaining Davis-Bacon protections in federal spending.

"The current Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives attacks Davis-Bacon wage protections on every spending bill," said Raymond "BB" Smith, ACT Legislative Representative.

Evidence of the attack can be seen in the debate over the Homeland Security bill.

"They stripped out Davis-Bacon protections and other longstanding workers right in the Homeland Security bill," said Smith.

"To use that bill to attack working families is wrong."

Senator Robert C. Byrd has pledged to stop the Republican power grab but in many instances it is already too late.

President Bush has already destroyed or weakened several laws designed to protect workers.

He signed an executive order banning project labor agreements on all federal projects and any other project involving federal funds.

The order stomps on the rights of workers to bargain



Volunteers from the trades help paint signs in support of Jim Humphreys 2nd Congressional District Race at the Operating Engineers training facility.

collectively provided by the National Labor Relations Act.

Bush has also suspended responsible contractor rules,

which would have clearly defined reasons why a contractor could be banned from bidding on federal contracts.

The suspension of these rules means criminal contractors who mistreat workers and mis-

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## ACCIDENT OCCURRED AT WILLOW ISLAND SITE

# Two Painters Members Die in Manlift Accident

Two members of Painters District Council 53 were killed in a construction accident at the Allegheny Energy's Pleasants Power Station at Willow Island on Friday, Oct. 4.

Fred Burkle, 55, and Joe Spiker, 26, an apprentice, fell 45 feet to the ground when the Genie Manlift they were operating tipped over.

According to a story in the Parkersburg Sentinel, State Troopers suspect the men were

moving the equipment to start painting a new section with the boom extended 45 feet in the air when the machine hit an incline making the manlift top-heavy, which caused it to topple over.

OSHA is also investigating. The accident occurred adjacent to the site where 51 workers lost their lives in 1978 at the Willow Island Power Station.

There were no witnesses to the accident, according to Stanley Elliot, area director for OSHA in Charleston. It may be hard to determine exactly

what happened.

The men worked for Universal Inc. of Moundsville, a painting subcontractor for Almega, Inc. based in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

"We are deeply saddened by this tragedy," said Clarence Mitchell, Business Manager of Council 53. "Our thoughts go out to the families of these members."

Contributions to the Burkle/Spiker Memorial Fund can be sent c/o Painters DC 53, 2301 7th Ave., Charleston, WV 25312 or call 304-343-8250.

## Around the State

*A new monthly news summary from local building and construction trades councils*

### Charleston Building and Construction Trades

• The Charleston Building Trades, in conjunction with Iron Workers 301, and Plumbers and Pipefitters 625, have agreed to help Kanawha County School children light up Coonskin Park this holiday season.

Union members will supervise the kids while they build the displays.

Before this project can get off the ground, construction materials are needed.

“We are asking our contractors and suppliers to donate the materials and funding for this project,” said Mike Matthews, Business Manager for the Charleston Building Trades.

• Members of the Charleston Building Trades are joining forces with West Virginia teachers and business leaders to support the Kanawha County Excess Levy.

The group has come together as the Kids Education Yes or KEY Committee.

According to the literature, KEY is going to dispel rumors about the levy and spread the word about how important it has been since 1937 and will continue to be in the future.

“The levy pays for school repairs and vital support staff that the regular budget will not cover,” said Matthews.

### North Central West Virginia Building and Construction Trades

• North Central is currently in negotiations to bring even more wind power construction jobs to its members.

North Central is talking with Dominion Power and Ned Power to work on each company's Grant County projects.

“We think both of these companies will support our local workers,” said Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary for the North Central WV Building Trades.

“In return we will provide the highest quality work for them.”

• North Central has moved to another office -- in the same building. According to Stone, the new office space is bigger, and has a conference room.

• The leadership would like to thank all of the members who participated in this year's clay shoot.

“Our members are the reason we are here,” said Darwin Snyder. “We're glad to provide an event where we can come together and have some fun.”

### Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades

• The Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades office has a new home at 3100 Dudley Ave. in Parkersburg.

The new office has eight rooms instead of two like the previous one, According to Sam Davis, Business Manager, Parkersburg Marietta Building Trades.

It also has a more central location between the Interstate and downtown.

“It is the first building the Trades has ever owned and we love it,” said Davis. “It is brighter and bigger with a

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## Union Members Assist Labor-Friendly Candidates

**The general election is just around the corner and many building trades unions are doing their part to help labor-friendly candidates.**

The tasks are many including voter registration, door-to-door campaigning, making and placing signs, manning phone banks and educating members.

For example, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters (MARRC) is doing several things to get the endorsed candidates' names out so the public can make an informed decision on November 5.

MARRC members have planned to go door-to-door informing the public in targeted areas of Kanawha County about endorsed candidates such as Jim Humphreys, who is in a fierce battle with Republican incumbent Shelley Moore Capito, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> district congressional seat.

The Carpenters also want to ensure their members are fully informed about the candidates.

“We invite candidates to speak at union meeting, according to Scott Brewer,” Business Representative for MARRC.

“In addition to educating our members and the public about the candidates we are also going to make sure all of our members who wish to register to vote do so.”

The Carpenters are not the only ones preparing for the election. Members of the Parkersburg Area Labor Council are also very busy this time



**In the State's tenth Senatorial District Mary Pearl Compton is in a tough race. Carpenter Local 1911 member Dexter Bragg is helping place signs in Greenbrier County made by Painters District Council 53.**

of year.

The labor council didn't waste any time getting started. A reception for the endorsed candidates was held in September.

The members were able to meet the candidates and the leadership of the council presented each one with a \$250 campaign contribution.

The council has also scheduled going door-to-door in selected areas in support of the endorsed candidates.

They are going to put up signs and send a mailing to all of the members with a list of endorsed candidates.

“We will be available for anything a labor-friendly candidate may need whether it be pounding the pavement talking about the candidates or manning a phone bank,” said Dick Schaffer, President of the

Parkersburg Area Labor Council and Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 565 member.

Everything is tied to politics,” said Schaffer. “If you aren't active in the political process you have no influence on issues that will without a doubt affect you.”

Many of the locals around the state are doing their part to help the AFL-CIO endorsed candidates. Another good example is Iron Workers Local 301, which had Jim Humphreys as a guest speaker at its September meeting.

Humphreys talked to the members about his agenda and disproved the myths that Capito has been spreading with her campaign commercials, according to Bubby Casto, Business Manager for Iron Workers Local 301.

*Continued on p. 4*

# Say Yes On One!

## Dear Members:

The Executive Board of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades would like to take this opportunity to urge you to **vote yes on Amendment One**.

We support Amendment One because it means good construction jobs and no tax increases.

Amendment One guarantees prevailing wages so our local contractors have a level playing field to compete.

And Amendment One also has the West Virginia Jobs Act requirements, favoring local workers.

Equally important are provisions for public input and knowledge of all deals – before they are made. No secret economic development deals allowed.

The bottom line is Amendment One will give our local communities a tool that 46 other states have.

Too often we just don't have the resources needed for water, sewer or other utilities to make an industrial site available to new or expanding businesses. Amendment One will allow counties to use the taxes earned from a new project to help finance the project.

If a company does not build, they get no break.

The ACT Foundation had a big hand in defeating a similar measure in 1998. Why? Because prevailing wage, local jobs, and public input were not part of the deal.

Too many economic development efforts promised to local workers instead go to low wage, out-of-state companies.

This time around it's a different story.

When you **vote yes on Amendment One** you are voting:

- Yes on new construction jobs that pay decent wages.
- Yes on revitalizing economically depressed areas.
- Yes on creating new permanent jobs.
- Yes on adding to the tax base to fund our local schools and other public entities.

We hope you will tell your family and friends to **vote yes on Amendment One** on Tuesday, November 5.

Sincerely,

Steve Burton, President  
Roy Smith, Secretary/Treasurer  
Steve Pigg, Asbestos Workers  
George Pinkerman,  
Boilermakers  
Leroy Hunter, Jr., Bricklayers  
Dick Ullum, Carpenters  
Mark Smithson, Cement  
Masons  
Jim Ross, Electricians  
Willard 'Bubby' Casto, Jr., Iron  
Workers  
Mark Estlack, Millwrights  
Ronnie Burdette, Operating  
Engineers

Dan Poling, Painters  
Ed Boone, Plumbers and  
Fitters  
Clyde Rose, Jr., Roofers  
Randy Atkins, Teamsters  
Mike Matthews,  
Charleston BCTC  
Natalie Stone, North  
Central WV BCTC  
Bill Dean, Upper Ohio  
Valley BCTC  
Sam Davis, Parkersburg-  
Marietta BCTC  
Dale McCorkle, Tri-State  
BCTC

## WV AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidates

**AMENDMENT ONE:**  
Vote Yes ✓

### U.S. Senate

Jay Rockefeller

### U.S. House of Representatives

**First Congressional District:** Alan Mollohan

**Second Congressional District:** Jim Humphreys

**Third Congressional District:** Nick Joe Rahall

### State Senate

**1st:** Ed Bowman

**2nd:** Larry Edgell

**3rd:** Jim Ball

**4th:** Oshel Craigo

**5th:** Thomas F. Scott (R)

**6th:** Truman Chafin

**7th:** Tracy Dempsey

**8th:** John Mitchell

**9th:** Bill Wooton

**10th:** Mary Pearl Compton

**11th:** Randy White

**12th:** Joe Minard

**16th:** John Unger

**17th:** Brooks McCabe

### House of Delegates

**1st:** Joe DeLong; Randy Swartzmiller

**2nd:** Jack Yost

**3rd:** Rick Altman; Tal Hutchins

**4th:** Scott Varner; Ken Tucker

**5th:** Dave Pethtel

**7th:** Paul Janes

**9th:** Kenny Brown

**10th:** Shuan Butcher; John Beary; John Ellem (R)

**11th:** Bill Groves

**12th:** Carroll Jett

**13th:** Dale Martin; Brady Paxton

**14th:** Jim Ferguson

**15th:** Margarette Leach; Kevin Craig; Jim Morgan

**16th:** Susan Hubbard; Dale Stephens; Karen Nance

**17th:** Richard Thompson; Don Perdue

**18th:** Earnie Kuhn

**19th:** Greg Butcher; Lidella Wilson Hrutkay; Bill Wright

**21st:** Harry Keith White

**22nd:** Rick Staton; Richard Browning

**23rd:** Emily Yeager

**25th:** Mark Wills

**26th:** Gerald L. Crosier

**27th:** Virginia Mahan; Randolph McGraw; Sally Susman

**28th:** Tom Campbell; Ray Canterbury (R)

**29th:** Tom Louisos; David Perry

**30th:** Bonnie Brown; Bobbie Hatfield; Ray Keener; Priscilla M. Haden (R)

**31st:** Carrie Webster

**32nd:** Jon Cain; Derek Walker

**34th:** Brent Boggs

**39th:** Bill Hamilton (R)

**40th:** Mary Poling

**41st:** Ron Fragale; Richard Iaquina

**42nd:** Tom Coleman

**43rd:** Mike Caputo; A. James Manchin

**44th:** Barbara Evans Fleischauer; Gene Claypole; Nancy Houston

**46th:** Stan Shaver

**54th:** Walter Duke (R)

**55th:** Vince George (M)

**57th:** John Doyle

**58th:** Dale Manuel

**What's Amendment One?**

**See related story left.**

# Local Boilermaker Wins National Competition

**West Virginia proves to be the best in the nation when it comes to training skilled Boilermakers.**

Jerry M. Fulk of Boilermakers 667 has won the Boilermakers 15<sup>th</sup> National Apprenticeship Competition.

The week-long competition, held in Kansas City, Missouri, included written tests on blueprint reading, math and welding as well as other subjects.

This competition held in September was not just a written

exam; the participants also had hands on tests including welding skill.

"We are very proud of Jerry's winning effort," said George Pinkerman, Business Manager for Boilermakers Local 667. "We always tell companies that our union workers are the best at their trade. This win drives the point home."

Fulk not only took the top individual honor but also took first place in the team competition with his partner John McWhorter of Local 105 in Ohio.

"Jerry worked hard during his training and it paid off," said Jim Dingess, Boilermakers 667 Training Coordinator.

Fulk took home a plaque, two crystal trophies and \$1,000 for his winning effort.

"I was glad to win the competition," said Fulk. "It reflects well on my Local's top notch training program and West Virginia as a whole in the Boilermaker community."

The competition is an annual showcase where graduate apprentices gather to see who is the best at their trade.

Only the top two 4<sup>th</sup> Year Apprentices from each of the four areas of the country are eligible to compete at the national level.

Fulk and McWhorter placed first and second at the Southeast Area Competition to reach the Nationals.

"I would like to thank the

people at Local 667 for supporting my effort to compete. Without their support I wouldn't have been able to do it," said Fulk.

Fulk is now a journeyman in Boilermakers Local 667 and he passes his proven skill on to new recruits as an apprentice trainer.

## 2nd District Congressional Race

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

use tax dollars can continue to win federal projects.

This leaves honest contractors at a disadvantage at the bid because they are not shaving cost by cutting corners or avoiding taxes.

The President has also thwarted several attempts to strengthen the Davis-Bacon Act, which is the law that mandates prevailing wage on federal projects.

Capito has voted the Republican party line on all of the important decisions she has had

to make so far.

Humphreys, who is endorsed by the WV AFL-CIO, has vowed to fight for working families if he is elected.

"Support for Jim Humphreys is critical," said State Building Trades President Steve Burton.

"Look at the losses our pension funds have had and the increases in our health premiums.

"Failed policies of the Bush administration have led to real problems for our members.

"This will be a close race and

it is within our means to elect a candidate that will protect working families.

"We have to do our part by volunteering, voting and urging our friends and families to vote for Jim Humphreys and other supportive candidates."



## Around the State

*CONTINUED FROM P. 2*

friendly atmosphere."

"There is also an extra office that we would like to let any of the statewide union reps use while they are in town who don't already have a Parkersburg office."

**Tri-State Building and Construction Trades**

• Members can look forward to some work in Huntington,

according to Steve Burton, Business Manager for Tri-State Building Trades.

"Marshall University is planning an expansion project and so are the hospitals in the area," said Burton. "Our members will hopefully get some additional industrial work with the power plant expansions."

• In its eleventh year the LEAD program has been

proven successful.

"We have drug tested more than 50,000 workers over the years," said Burton. "In addition, about 6,000 of our members have taken their personal time to participate in OSHA training.

"We thanked them for their commitment to a safe work environment by giving each participant new \$150 boots."

ACT Foundation  
600 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301  
(304) 345-7570

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## Election

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"We pretty much help any AFL endorsed candidate with whatever they need," said Casto.

The members of Local 301 are also putting up signs, working phone banks and sending out mailings.

"For us the most important reason for our action is to support Humphreys in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district congressional race," said Casto.

"If the Republicans go unchecked, Davis-Bacon laws will be taken off federal jobs and the state may follow."

CABLE CHANNEL 9  
Steubenville, Follansbee &  
Wellsburg  
daily @ noon

CABLE CHANNEL 10  
Wheeling, St. Clairsville &  
Moundsville  
daily @ noon

### WEST VIRGINIA WORKS SHOWTIMES



New Station & Time

WOAY 4  
Oak Hill  
Sundays @ 11:00am

WCHS 8  
Charleston,  
Huntington, Parkersburg,  
Beckley, Bluefield  
Sundays @ 11:00am

WDTV 5  
Clarksburg &  
Morgantown  
Sundays @ 11:00am