

THE ACT REPORT

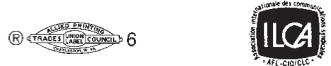
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The ACT Foundation is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council. Steve Burton, President; Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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Setting the Bush Record Straight on Jobs

Estimates range from 700 to 1,200 people who together in Huntington's Harris Riverfront Park to ask President George W. Bush one question: "Where are the jobs?"

Either number puts the count of those opposing Bush greater than those showing support during Bush's April 2nd visit to Marshall University.

The Southwestern District Labor Council, AFL-CIO,

put the rally together with less than a weeks notice, and despite rain and cold the event was very successful.

According to Tim Millne, secretary-treasurer of the Labor Council and assistant business manager for the WV Laborer's District Council, "Our message was heard throughout Huntington, most of West Virginia and even across the country. Different people representing different agendas came together to make their voices heard about

what is going wrong in America."

According to Millne Bush repeatedly says the country is in a recovery. However, the working families who attended the rally have a different reality.

Speakers talked about the need for better employment opportunities and the hardship caused by plant closings, down-sizing and cut-backs.

Over the past three years, America has lost 2.6 million private-sector jobs. President

Bush is now on track to become the first president since the Great Depression to preside over net job losses during his term.

Construction workers are among the hardest hit. While the nation's overall unemployment remains high at 5.6 percent in early 2004, more than 9 percent of all construction workers were jobless during those months, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The elimination of 'Responsible Contractor' rules was one of the first actions Bush did when he came to office. Outlawing project labor agreements, eliminating Davis-Bacon protection from Homeland Security spending and cutting important infrastructure spending have all added up to bad news for construction workers and their families.

"Working families are tired of being lied to by Bush. We need a President who will fight for us," added Millne.

The rally started at Huntington's Harris Riverfront Park and after speeches from a wide variety of groups the crowd then marched to the Marshall Campus across from where the President was to speak.



HUNTINGTON MAYOR David Felinton (right) along with Tim Millne (center) and WV AFL-CIO President Jim Bowen welcome rally participants. "Mayor Felinton chose to be with working folks instead of the President," said Millne. "He's the kind of politician we need."

More Than 200 Supporters At Longview Public Hearing

Supporters of the \$950 million Long-Longview Power Plant made their voices heard loud and clear at a March 31st public hearing in front of the Public Service Commission.

The PSC is considering an application from the 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant

developers GenPower who want to build the project north of Morgantown.

The large majority of the 200 supporters on hand came from members of the North Central WV Building Trades.

Union construction workers came to speak in support of the project during two meetings that lasted until late in the evening.

"Once again our local work-

ers have answered the call," said Darwin Snyder, president of the Trades Council. "We've called on local workers at least ten times, and each time they have answered our call."

"The dedication of our members continues to amaze me. Almost everyone spoke at the hearing; even people who have never spoken in public before," said Snyder.

The meeting was not without some opposition but the topic had more to do with environmental issues than what the PSC came to hear.

"Our folks outnumbered any opposition," said Ed Boone, Business Manager, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 152. "But it still made me mad to sit and listen to the Sierra Club and

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Primary Election Nears

Tuesday, May 11 is primary election day in West Virginia.

Of the many important contests the race for Supreme Court is key for workers.

Justice Warren McGraw is seeking re-election to the Supreme Court of Appeals and has the backing of every labor organization plus a variety of other groups.

His primary opponent has been picked by big business as their best chance to defeat McGraw who has a reputation for caring about workers and their families.

The race received national attention when the U.S. Cham-

ber of Commerce vowed to defeat state judges with massive advertising campaigns.

McGraw was pictured as one of those targets on the cover of Forbes, a national business magazine.

"We must do whatever we

"WE MUST DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO SUPPORT JUDGE MCGRAW."

**STEVE BURTON, PRESIDENT
WV STATE BUILDING TRADES**

can to support Judge McGraw," urged State Building Trades President Steve Burton.

"We need to have someplace to turn to for fairness and if business has their way the Supreme Court will be off-limits to working families."

Many doctors have attacked McGraw, believing he is responsible for all of the states problems. Some have sent letters to patients; others posted flyers, some illegal, in their offices.

Insurance companies have blamed raising rates on McGraw as well.

"You have to wonder about these Doctors who believe the insurance companies in their tales about why

insurance premiums have gone up," said Roy Smith, State Building Trades Secretary Treasurer.

"What business wants is to take away our right to a jury, and that is about as un-American as you can get."

Bricklayers Win Three International Awards

Leroy Hunter, Jr., Bricklayers District Council of WV, recently returned from Bal Harbor, Florida where he picked up three awards.

The International Masonry Institute (IMI) gave the awards.

The first award presented to the WV District Council was the Western Pennsylvania Golden Trowel Award.

Bricklayers Local 15 won this award for its work on the Life Science Building at West Virginia University.

The award category was "Higher Learning and Education Projects."

Best Brick Project, 2003, Region 5 was the 2nd award the District Council received.

This award was for work on the Clay Center in Charleston.

The third award, the District Council received on behalf of Jeffery Ball, Bricklayers Local 9. Ball won the IMI 2003 Craft Award for Outstanding Craftsmanship in Stone Masonry. Ball was recognized for his work on the addition of Sacred Heart.

"These awards prove what we've been saying all along: the quality of workmanship and workers in West Virginia cannot be beat," said David Carte, Business Agent for

Bricklayer Locals 5 & 9.

"We were very excited to work on the Clay Center. The Bricklayers set the marble, stone, granite and did the fancy brickwork."

The competition includes all of the United States and Canada. According to Hunter, there were over 400 nominations this award cycle. This is the largest number of entries the IMI has ever had.

"This is the first time in my recollection that West Virginia has received any awards of this caliber," said Hunter.

Early Voting Starts April 21

Take advantage of new rules that allow early voting. The election is May 11 but you can start voting as early as April 21. Just see your county clerk for details. Don't be caught out of town on election day.

WV AFL-CIO Endorsements

Justice of the Supreme

Stephens

Court of Appeals

17th: Richard Thompson; Don Perdue

Warren McGraw

U.S. House of Representatives

18th: Earnie Kuhn

19th: Greg Butcher; Lidella Wilson Hrutkay; Jeff Eldridge; Bill Wright

First Congressional District:

Alan Mollohan

Third Congressional

District: Nick Joe Rahall

21st: Harry Keith White

22nd: Richard Browning; Eileen Schlager

Attorney General

Darrell McGraw

23rd: Emily Yeager

25th: Michael Magann

State Senate

1st: Andy McKenzie (R)

2nd: Jeff Kessler

4th: David Mullins

5th: Bob Plymale

7th: Bruce Hobbs

8th: Margaret Workman

10th: Anita Skeens Caldwell

11th: Shirley Love

12th: Bill Adler

14th: Jon Blair Hunter

15th: Bruce Lee Bennett

16th: Gregory Lance

27th: Virginia Mahan; Kevin Maynus; Sally Susman; Clyde McKnight, Jr.; John Wooton

28th: Tommy Scarles

29th: Tom Louisos

30th: Bonnie Brown; Bobbie Hatfield; Mark Hunt

31st: Carrie Webster

32nd: Jon Cain, Sr.; Curtis Robinson; Brian Casto (R)

34th: Brent Boggs

35th: Sam Argento

39th: Bill Hamilton (R)

40th: Mary Poling

41st: Ron Fragale; Tony Barberio; Richard Iaquina; Tim Miley

42nd: Diane Parker

43rd: Mike Caputo; Tim Manchin; Linda Longstreth

44th: Barbara Fleischauer; Gene Claypole; Charlene Marshall

46th: Stan Shaver

53rd: Jerry Lynn Burton

54th: Walter Duke (R)

16th: Susan Hubbard; Dale

57th: Rod Snyder

Pile Drivers Hold Training Marmet Lock & Dam Project

The demand for Pile Drivers has been high for the past year.

But supply of local skilled workers has not kept up. To meet that challenge the West Virginia Carpenters put together one of the largest training ventures they have attempted.

On April 5th, 40 members of the WV District of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters came to Parkersburg for a week long session.

Service Representative Scott Brewer, an accomplished Pile Driver himself developed the curriculum to introduce interested members and hone the skills of those already adept at the task.

From the basic rigging skills needed for the job to the actual application of driving piles, the forty hour course introduced members to the work in a controlled environment.

Previously, rudimentary Pile Driving training had been

performed for a small group of members.

This time however, the Carpenters purchased a large quantity of sheet piling and z-piling and constructed a twenty foot circular template that is very similar to that which may be used on an actual piling job.

While the class alone does not make an experienced pile driver, it will ensure that everyone in attendance has a basic understanding of the work.

Everyone had hands-on time working with H-beams, Z-piling, and sheet piling.

This was performed with both pneumatic and vibratory hammers.

Members from all locals in the state were in attendance, from Wheeling to Huntington.

"We hope contractors notice the emphasis we put on this training, it's all in an effort to make our members more productive and efficient and will therefore increase the contrac-

tors' productivity and marketability" says Dick Ullum, District Manager of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters, West Virginia District.

According to Carpenter Apprenticeship Coordinator Odie Parkins the course would not have run nearly as smoothly without the help of the Operating Engineers Training Program.

With the help of Operator Coordinator Dave Mullins, and instructor Gary McCale, the Carpenters were able to produce the class with some of the best operators available.

"Throughout the entire planning and scheduling of the class the Operators helped out as much as they possibly could, it really shows how training programs can work together and how much training means to all of the trades" said Parkins.

Federal funding has been pulled from the Marmet Lock and Dam project.

At least 200 union construction workers will lose their jobs, and commerce will be negatively impacted.

In a March 22 letter to local workers, James Hansen, Project Executive for the general contractor Kokosing/Fru-Con LLC, said current funding for the project is \$16 million short for the year.

Next year is \$22 million short, or almost half of the \$52 million needed.

Hansen explains that peak employment at the site for 2004 and 2005 would be "approximately 330 to 400 personnel. With the current funding, the anticipated employment will be **reduced** by a minimum of 200 personnel."

According to Ronnie Burdette, Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 132, the Marmet Lock and Dam project is a key infrastructure project for the state. "This job needs to be done for the state and nation," said Burdette.

"Not only does the project create good jobs for local workers now, it will lead to more jobs

for the area by improving transportation. It currently takes more than six hours for a barge to get through."

In contrast it only takes 45 minutes for barges to travel though Winfield.

Unless Congress is able to re-appropriate funds, the project will shut down June 1st and will begin again October 1st when a new federal fiscal year starts. How long the money will last for next year or the year after is unknown.

"At this rate the improvements that are so badly needed won't ever be complete. If work could proceed without all the delays, it would take 5 or 6 years," said Burdette.

The crisis in spending can be linked to the policies of President George Bush and Republican control of both the U.S. Senate and House.

"Our members were counting on these jobs," said Gary Tillis, Business Manager for the WV Laborers District Council.

"The Bush Administration is so busy giving tax breaks to rich contributors they've forgotten the working person. We're spending billions on infrastructure overseas but cutting projects here, it's just not right."



MEMBERS FROM CARPENTER Locals 3, 302, 476, 604, 899, 1207, and 1159 listen to veteran pile driver Scott Brewer. "I start and end with safety," said Brewer.

UNION TRADES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

April is National Credit Union Youth month.
We are inviting all youth (ages 13-18) to stop by one
of our offices to sign up for a drawing to win \$100.

Charleston - M-F 8:30 - 4:30, Sat. 9:00 am to Noon
344-0194 or toll free 1-800-450-8530

Parkersburg - M-F 8:30 to 4:30, Thursday until 6:00 pm.
485-1421 or toll free 888-524-1421

Labor & Management Get Things Done

Being union is being community minded.

A perfect example is a recent volunteer effort in March by the Kanawha Valley Builders Association and the Charleston Building Trades.

Labor and management joined together to put in playground equipment at the Salvation Army on Charleston's West Side.

Mike Matthews, Business Manager for the Charleston Building Trades also sits on the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army.

Steve Ellis, owner of ELCO Mechanical Contractors, is also on the board.

Together they teamed up to make sure the playground equipment project got done.

Ellis coordinated the contractor's side. He was able to get all the supplies, materials, and equipment donated for the project. "I called local companies, like Pfaff & Smith for the concrete, to help us out and they responded without question," said Ellis.

According to Matthews, Scott Brewer and Odie Parkins with the Carpenters helped

coordinate the volunteer labor and worked with a number of crafts.

Ronnie Russell with Maynard C. Smith Company coordinated with the many local general contractors involved including Wiseman Construction, RC Contractors, BBL-Carlton, Plott and Holbrook and Agsten Construction, to help with the layout and installation.

City Electric and Stealth Electric also played important roles according to Ellis.

"We appreciated all of the crafts efforts and the con-

tractors who made this project happen," said Matthews.

"It's great to see the kids playing on the playground. They have this opportunity because of contractors and workers working together."

The Salvation Army playground project is just the latest in a history of volunteer work done by the Labor-Management

group. At Camp Happy Valley, the Salvation Army's campy near Teays Valley, the group has updated cabins, installed lighting, and even built new structures.

"When people hear the word union they should think about the many positive contributions made by both labor and management," said Ellis.

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A LONG LIST of volunteers from both labor and management made the Salvation Army's playground project possible. "Just another way we contribute to our community," said Jim Cerra with the Kanawha Valley Builders.

Workers' Memorial Day

On April 28th at 6:00 PM, join the West Virginia AFL-CIO at the Veterans' Memorial, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston, to observe the 16th annual Workers' Memorial Day.

This day is set aside by the unions to remember workers who have suffered and died because of workplace hazards. This is also a day to renew the fight for safe workplaces.

Stronger job safety laws must be passed in order to insure a safer work environ-

ment. Workers' Memorial Day will help focus greater attention on workplace conditions and further our efforts to enact job safety legislation.

For further information, call 304.344.3557 or visit www.wvaflcio.org and follow the link on the Action Update page.

WOAY 4 Oak Hill Sundays @ 11:00am	WCHS 8 Charleston, Huntington, Parkersburg, Beckley, Bluefield Sundays @ 11:00am	WDTV 5 Clarksburg & Morgantown Sundays @ 11:00am
WEST VIRGINIA WORKS SHOW TIMES SUNDAYS AT 11 AM		
CABLE CHANNEL 9 Steubenville, Follansbee & Wellsburg daily @ 11:00am & 11:00pm	CABLE CHANNEL 10 Wheeling, St.Clairsville & Moundsville daily @ 11:00am & 11:00pm	

Longview

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

others go on about issues they have already lost before state and federal environmental agencies."

On April 27 the PSC will begin a three day evidentiary hearing in Charleston.

Representatives of the North Central WV Building Trades will be testifying about the use of local

union workers on this project.

ACT will have an expert witness on hand to testify about a study ACT had done to detail the positive economic impact of the project.

There is still time to send your statement of support to: Ms. Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary, PSC, P.O. Box 812, Charleston WV 25323 - mention Longview Power.