

ANTI-UNION GROUP UNDER INVESTIGATION

ABC to Dismantle Apprenticeship Program

After ten years of disastrous results the anti-union WV Associated Builders and Contractors Apprenticeship Program is soon to end.

According to Ken Milnes, State Director, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training for the U.S. Department of Labor the WV ABC Chapter Program is being voluntarily dismantled.

A number of the companies involved will be given the opportunity to register their own apprenticeship program. And, after this takes place, the WV ABC Chapter will no longer be a sponsor of a registered

apprenticeship program.

"I expect the transformation to be complete by December," said Milnes.

Milnes emphasized the change is voluntary and that the ABC will continue to assist any

fire from apprenticeship advocates who point to the ABC's terrible intake and completion numbers over the last decade.

Recent questions regarding state and federal grants for training have added to the de-

on prevailing wage jobs," said Carl Reynolds, Training Director for the WV Laborers Training Trust Fund.

A benefit to companies who have a federally registered apprenticeship program is they can pay apprentices less than the journeyman rate on tax funded projects.

A study published by WVU's Institute for Labor Studies in 2002 documented the ABC training program's poor performance for ten years.

Not one person had ever completed the program.

Not one minority had ever been accepted and the num-

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"WE'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THEIR PROGRAM WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A WAY TO CHEAT WORKERS ON PREVAILING WAGE JOBS,"

**CARL REYNOLDS, TRAINING DIRECTOR
WV LABORERS TRAINING TRUST FUND**

remaining programs with regulatory compliance and curriculum support.

The program has come under

bate.

"We've always thought their program was nothing more than a way to cheat workers

Glade Springs Effort Brings Jobs

Glade Springs Resort near Beckley, West Virginia is undergoing some major construction projects.

Recent organizing efforts by the Carpenters has paid off, but not exactly as expected.

Last September union organizer Luke Begovich was able to salt a residential job, and start an

organizing campaign.

The contractor was TM Contracting, a subsidiary of the Glade Springs Resort, and they had just finished one new house and were starting another.

Through the campaign Begovich was able to get support on the job, workers wanted better pay and benefits.

In October the company held meetings and threatened workers jobs. The day Begovich filed for an election in November the company laid-off seven people, including Begovich.

Charges were filed at the National Labor Relations Board claiming the company's actions were aimed at breaking the union organizing drive.

After much discussion, a settlement was reached with TM Contracting/Glade Springs. Back pay was negotiated for the seven laid off workers in the amount of \$12,000.

TM Contracting/Glade Springs will no longer be building houses; they are just going to sell lots. And they agreed not to discriminate against union contractors or union workers.

While the settlement didn't

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NOW WORKING AS union carpenters building houses at the Glade Springs Resort are (from left) Josh Boyed, Bill Wagner, Arlus Sluss and John Wills.

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Painters DC 53 Register Members

Our goal is to register every member to vote," said Clarence Mitchell, Business Manager, Sec.-Treasurer for Painters District Council 53.

And with the 2004 presidential race heating up DC 53 is taking action to achieve their goal.

After researching voter registration records and comparing to membership rolls, DC 53 is sending out letters to all unregis-

tered members, starting in late June.

The letter points out some key issues for members to consider like sky rocketing health care costs and the loss of jobs due to out-sourcing.

Each member got a letter explaining why it is important to vote with a voter registration card.

"We made it easy, they just need to fill out the form and send it in," said Mitchell.

Letters were also sent to

members who have post office boxes. The Council is urging those with P.O. boxes to update their registration to include their physical address because new registration laws require physical addresses.

And the effort does not stop there.

Mitchell has required each local within the council to set up a political action committee and appointed Service Representative Dan Poling as Political Action Director for the Council.

Among the duties of committee members is to contact unregistered members and encourage them to register.

"We are making member-to-member contacts," said Poling.

The results so far have been encouraging. As of the first week in July the Council has registered 97 new voters.

"People are more concerned about jobs," said Poling. "Getting members to register is not the hard sell as four years ago."

A general membership education effort is also underway.

All members will get a monthly mailing about the importance of the election. Issues such as health care, second amendment rights, and the loss of industrial jobs will be covered.

"I know when our members get the information, and take a little time to look it over, they will be better informed on how to vote to protect their jobs, health care and families," said Mitchell.

Longview Transmission an Issue

The proposed billion dollar Longview power plant project in Monongalia County must have access to transmission lines to sell their pow-

er.

Once the power is on the grid Longview can sell in the wholesale market.

One of the attractions for Longview developers is that transmission lines run right past

the proposed construction site.

However, the owner of the transmission lines, Allegheny Energy, and Longview have not been able to make a deal for the use of those lines and that is holding up the permitting process.

During a July 1 hearing before the state Public Service Commission (PSC) Allegheny Energy requested and received permission to intervene in the permit procedure regarding the plant.

Allegheny stated they are concerned about transmission capacity in the area and how Longview might impact their operations.

Longview's first proposal for a transmission line was rejected by Allegheny, but the alternative offered by Allegheny was acceptable to Longview.

Then Allegheny changed their mind.

Federal law requires Allegheny to grant access to their transmission lines, but the terms of the deal are not mandated by law.

Allegheny and Longview continue to negotiate regarding the transmission line access.

To make matters worse lawyers for a local citizens group asked PSC commissioners to invalidate the entire permit based on the transmission issues.

On July 9 the PSC staff again called on the PSC Commissioners to toss out Longview's permit application citing the problems with the transmission line

and some difficulty concerning parts of the permit that regulate noise.

The noise issue is somewhat undefined in regulations and lawyers for a local citizens group and the PSC staff have not been satisfied with the noise information presented by Longview.

The PSC had already ruled in June that the transmission issue could be dealt with in a separate application. Longview was allowed to move forward with their application for the plant but have a second application for the transmission line.

The North Central WV Building Trades and the ACT Foundation have already weighed in on the issue. Briefs have been filed that urge the PSC to stick with their prior decision to allow the two applications to move forward.

"As we've worked with Longview to make this project a reality we've overcome many obstacles," commented Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary for the North Central WV Building Trades. "While Allegheny's entry to the fray adds a new wrinkle we remain hopeful the deal will move forward."



PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS Local 565 College Scholarship Fund, through committee member Brad Statler, recently awarded \$1000 each to (from left) David Timothy Staats, Patrick Michael Weaver and Carrie Laine Mason to assist with their college expenses.

This scholarship was instituted 11 years ago and obtains its funding through personal contributions and an annual golf outing, which will be held this year at South Hills Golf Course on July 24. For information regarding the event please contact Local 565 at 485-5202 or Brad Statler at 665-2782.

Smartest Bridge in the World

The "Smartest Bridge in the World," the Star City Bridge in Morgantown, opened last month.

The project took more than three years, and the expansion replaced a 50 year old two lane bridge with a four lane structure.

It was a \$21 million project, and there were 130,793 total man hours worked. There were a total of 380 working days on the bridge.

According to Laborers Local

379 Business Manager, Jason Hershman, the bridge has the latest technology including 770 sensors and 28 data-collection boxes that are part of a WVU research effort.

These sensors will report vehicle weights, vibrations, cracks and strains, temperature and a variety of other sophisticated data making it the 'smartest bridge in the world.'

The data received from the sensors will be used to evaluate design elements of the bridge.

The goal is to use the data to develop more cost efficient and safer structures.

The Star City Bridge is actually the fourth project, and second bridge, in WV to get the built-in sensors, but it has the greatest amount of sensors to date.

"There were several obstacles to overcome while completing the project," said Hershman. "But the general contractor, National Engineering, did a wonderful job and the project was completed successfully."

Painter's Local 93 Joins SBT/ACT

Distict Council 53 Painters Local 93 has re-affiliated with the WV State Building Trades and the ACT Foundation.

The Marietta based local is part of Painters DC 53 which is based in Charleston and covers all of West Virginia and portions of surrounding states.

"ACT has been helping out in the Marietta area," said Denver

Abicht, Business Representative/Organizer for Local 93.

Abicht has come to appreciate the support work ACT Representative Fuzz LaRue offers the trades in the region. He also notes the TV ads run by ACT are seen in his area.

The local has 85 members including apprentices and covers seven counties in Ohio.

The re-affiliation began June 1, 2004.

ABC

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

bers on women were well below Building Trades levels.

Furthermore an investigation by the ACT Foundation earlier this year uncovered \$155,622 in state and federal grants for the training program. The grants lacked required documentation regarding purpose and receipts.

The state development office has asked the Federal Department of Labor to investigate.

A state investigation has been requested from legislative committee chairmen that oversee government operations.

Local Building Trades Councils in Wheeling and Parkersburg contacted co-chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Organization asking for an investigation.

"We want to know why the state gave away tax payers money but can't tell us what the money was to be used for," said Sam Davis, Business Manager of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades.

"And we want to know what the ABC did with public money. If they didn't train workers they should pay the money back."

The WV State Building Trades

Will be holding its ANNUAL CONVENTION on Wednesday July 21, 2004 10 a.m. at

Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park Lewis County, WV

For more information, contact your Local Union.

Glade Springs

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

put people back to work it did create a work opportunity.

Already on the Glade Spring project site was a local union company. The company decided to expand their scope of work and signed a residential agreement with the Carpenters.

Eleven of the 20 workers involved in the TM/Glade Springs campaign eventually joined the Carpenters Union.

Now some of the eleven new members are working at Glade Springs building the remaining houses, and some are on other

jobs.

"Some of these same workers who stuck with us on the TM campaign are right back in on the same project working union," said Begovich. "We didn't get the first target but we got new members a new contractor and increased market share."

According to ACT Representative Wayne Rebich the Glade Springs area has quite a lot of construction activity planned.

More housing, water and sewer line expansions are at the bidding stage. A possible new 400 room hotel is being talked about.

Apprenticeship Applications Wanted

The Charleston Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Committee is accepting applications for three types of apprenticeship opportunities.

On the third Thursday of each month between noon and 8 p.m. the program is taking applications for their Inside Journeyman Wireman, Residential Wireman, and Telecommunications Installer-Technician apprenticeship programs.

Applications are accepted at the Charleston JATC building, 810 Indiana Avenue.

Candidates must be at least 17 years old and meet a series of qualifications including a drivers license, high school or GED completion with proof of one (1) credit of Algebra or at least 4000 hours specific work experience. A \$20 application fee is also required and at a later date an aptitude test.

For more information contact the program administrator Linda Hamilton at 345-5166.



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Protest at Marietta Hospital Project

Substandard labor conditions was the source of protest at Marietta Memorial Hospital in early July.

Asbestos Workers Local 80 protested the use of a sub-contractor working at the \$25 million expansion project where Duke Construction is the general contractor.

"The union mechanical contractor Sauer sub-contracted our work to a nonunion company, Dreeseco from Columbus, Ohio," said Steve Pigg, Business Manager for Local 80.

"We don't believe this sub pays their workers fair pay or benefits."

Adding to the message were the many workers who refused to work while the protest was taking place.

After the protest started, as is often the case, some entrances to the work site were set up for union contractors and others for

the contractor in dispute.

"We got a lot of support from local workers and we appreciate it," said Pigg. "We didn't ask people not to work, we simply

been resolved yet and it appears that Dreeseco may be back on the job.

"Hospital's like having union members with insurance as customers but complain about having to treat people who don't have insurance," said Pigg. "We want them to think about requiring workers who have insurance."

Sam Davis, Business Manager of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades points to the business not only from union paid insurance but the local drug testing program which uses

**GOOD UNION
BUILDING TRADESMEN
DO NOT WORK
BEHIND BANNERS
NOT EVEN WITH 4 GATES**



**IF IN DOUBT ABOUT PICKETS,
DON'T CALL YOUR BUSINESS AGENT...**

Read the Following:

Which side are you on?

Picketing has been described by the Supreme Court as "the working man's means of communication." A picket is a message to you that some of your fellow workers are engaged in a labor dispute and need your help. It is your constitutional right as an American citizen to decide how you will respond to the picket. Under the law your union cannot help you make that decision. You can seek guidance only from your conscience and then decide.

"Which Side Am I On?"

wanted to get our message out about sub-standard conditions."

Local support translated into the project grinding to a halt.

Work resumed to normal at the site after the sub-contractor left the job. But the issue has not

the hospital exclusively.

Davis also points out another irony.

Over the years the difference between pickets and protests have blurred and many complex legal issues have come

up.

Huge financial liabilities can cripple local unions if pickets are ruled illegal.

This confusion and potential liability have limited pickets and protests and in many ways weakened unions.

"That's a big factor we often forget," said Davis.

Davis points to a card he

behind a Double Gate"

"A good union member is extremely careful when confronted with a picket line situation."

"He does not talk."

"He does not hang around near the job."

"He reads the picket signs as he leaves."

"He knows that once a

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STANDING IN FRONT of the new South Pavilion expansion projects at Marietta Hospital are Asbestos Workers Local 80 members (from left) Andy Keffer, Bud Tippie, Chris Marshall, Organizer Steve Keller and Brian Hunt.

has passed out at dozens of work sites to union workers that explains their rights during a picket. It also sends a message.

"Sometimes we have to tell people to work behind a picket line, but I'm not going to do it unless I must," said Davis.

Here is some of the advice Davis passes out.

"You do not have to work

picket line is established his business agents and other union officials are legally gagged and handcuffed from offering advice pertaining to that job."

"A good union member knows his rights."

"He has the right not to work behind any picket line."

"He has the right to decide for himself whether to walk off a job being picketed."

WOAY 4

Oak Hill

Sundays @

11:00am

WCHS 8

Charleston,

Huntington, Parkersburg,

Beckley, Bluefield

Sundays @ 11:00am

WDTV 5

Clarksburg &

Morgantown

Sundays @ 11:00 am

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