

# THE ACT REPORT

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A PUBLICATION OF  
THE AFFILIATED  
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TRADES FOUNDATION

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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## PLAN DEVELOPED TO ADDRESS DISAFFILIATES

# Building Trades Conference Talks Politics

The national Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO talked about politics and unity at the recent legislative conference in Washington, DC.

The conference, held April 3-5, focused on a number of legislative issues pending before Congress. However, with the March 1 disaffiliation of the Laborers and Operating Engineers, in addition to the Carpenters and Teamsters who had already left, the question about the future of the Building Trades was clearly on lots of minds.

In his keynote address Department President Ed Sullivan said he was disappointed, but not surprised, that the Laborers and Operating Engineers left.

Sullivan stressed the need for all unions to continue to work together.

"What's happening these days is not unprecedented or irreversible," said Sullivan.

Sullivan said talks among Building Trades leaders were on-going and announced a "Solidarity Agreement" had been recently reached with the Teamsters Union.

The agreement allows Teamsters Locals to have full participation in all State, Provincial and Local Building Trades Councils. In return, the Teamsters will pay

dues into the Building Trades Department, but not into the AFL-CIO.

In a meeting with State and Local Council leaders, held after the conference, details were spelled out regarding ways local unions who are members of disaffiliated Internationals could participate in local councils.

If locals pay their regular per-

capita fees they can participate in all Council functions except votes on officers, dues and by-law changes.

Resolution of internal issues was an important subject but legislative matters were the main focus of the event.

Pending legislation aimed at immigration reform was a hot

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MEMBERS OF THE West Virginia Building Trades visiting with Congressman Nick Joe Rahall are (from left), Roy Smith, Kenny Perdue, Mike Matthews, Cong. Rahall, Steve Burton, Bill Dean and Bryan Dierkes.

## WV AFL-CIO Endorsements Made

Area labor councils presented their 2006 Primary Election endorsement recommendations at the WV AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) meeting in late March.

The AFL-CIO's endorsement is a multi-step process. After the filing deadline, the AFL-CIO sends questionnaires to all candidates who must return them by a specific date. The completed questionnaires are then sent to

area labor councils.

The 13 central labor councils form a network to address issues involving their communities.

views with those who return the questionnaires. These talks with the candidates allow the councils to make their recommenda-

The councils' recommendation is then taken to the state COPE meeting for approval. Usually, but not always, state COPE accepts the local councils recommendations.

Sometimes COPE decides to take 'No Action' which allows individual unions to make their own choice. Other times a 'No Endorsement' is taken which asks all participating unions not to take a position.

All affiliated unions and councils can participate in the COPE endorsement process.

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**THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS WILL BE  
HELD ON MAY 9, BUT EARLY  
NONEXCUSE VOTING STARTS ON  
APRIL 19. VOTE EARLY AND MAKE  
SURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED.**

They can mobilize and organize members to help COPE-endorsed candidates win elections.

The councils schedule inter-

views to COPE based on the information they receive, the candidates voting record and the interview.

## GRANT COUNTY PROJECT WINS COURT FIGHT

# Hearings Set For Greenbrier Windmill Project

The application for a siting certificate from the state's Public Service Commission has been filed by Beech Ridge LLC, developers of a \$300 million wind farm in Greenbrier County.

Two public hearings for the proposed project are scheduled for Tuesday, April 25 at the State Fair Event Center in Lewisburg.

The project developer, Invenergy LLC, has already signed an agreement with the Charleston Building Trades committing that the contractors hired to build the project will use local union construction workers.

As part of the application process the ACT Foundation has filed a report detailing the economic impact created by the hiring of local workers.

In ACT's report the numbers add up quickly. Construction jobs during the nine month project are pegged at 215 which

will create an additional 104 jobs in other sectors of the economy.

In addition there is expected to be any where from \$14 to \$25 million of other private sector activity spurred on by the project and up to \$2.2 million in taxes.

The project consists of 124 windmills, each with a generating capacity of 1.5 megawatts for a total output of 186 MW.

There will also be a 13.5 mile transmission line that will connect the windmills to Allegheny Energy's transmission lines in Nicholas County.

"This project will mean good jobs with decent pay and benefits for local union construction workers," said Mike Matthews, Business Manager for the Charleston Building Trades.

However opposition to the project has been growing based

on two factors. There is a fear the windmills will drive down property values for some who

the clean energy provided is a plus to the environment."

A similar project has already

received PSC approval in Grant County and recently won a round in a Mineral County Court.

On April 11 Circuit Judge Phillip Jordan tossed out a

nuisance suit brought by citizens aimed at stopping the project.

Opponents to the \$300 million NedPower - Shell WindEnergy project had already gone to the state Supreme Court to stop the project and failed.

The developers have signed an agreement committing to use local union workers for the construction of the project.

According to news reports project opponents argued Grant County is experiencing development in second homes in the \$200,000 to \$500,000 range that is bringing new employment and a "cultural critical mass." They claim the wind project would hinder that continued development.

"In other words, rich people from DC and Pittsburgh don't want our members to work on these good paying, clean energy jobs," said Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary of the North Central WV Building Trades.

**"THIS PROJECT WILL MEAN GOOD JOBS WITH DECENT PAY AND BENEFITS FOR LOCAL UNION CONSTRUCTION WORKERS," MIKE MATTHEWS, BUSINESS MANAGER, CHARLESTON BUILDING TRADES**

see tourism vacation homes someday driving up land prices. Others simply don't like the look of the huge 400 foot towers.

"The towers are big," said Matthews. "But the windmills are an attraction in some areas and

### McCoy Construction Signs Union Contracts



THE OPERATING ENGINEERS AND LABORERS both signed McCoy Construction Company, of Salt Rock in Cabell County, to full union agreements in early April.

McCoy had worked a number of jobs under project agreements to see how well the union work force performed.

Satisfied with the quality of workers McCoy signed the agreement while working on this \$2.5 million waterline extension project in Wyoming County.

According to Tom Plymale of the Operating Engineers, McCoy also believes the union pension and health insurance plans are important for his work force.

**BEECH RIDGE PUBLIC HEARING**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006**

**1:30 PM AND 7:00 PM**

**STATE FAIR EVENT CENTER**

**CECIL UNDERWOOD YOUTH CENTER**

**ROUTE 219 SOUTH, LEWISBURG**

**WRITE LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**PO Box 812**

**CHARLESTON, WV 25323**

**CASE No. 05-1590-E-CS**



## Cement Masons Apprenticeship Program

Applications Accepted Now-April 20, 2006  
 Time: 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.  
 Interviews on April 27, 2006

Location: 3130 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Charleston, WV  
 304-744-8389

### Minimum Qualifications:

1. You must be of Legal Working Age
2. You must have a High School Diploma or GED
3. You must take the TABE test at your local Work 4 WV Center
4. You must reside within the Jurisdiction of Local 887
5. You must have a valid Driver's License and Transportation

To expedite your application, please bring a copy of your birth cert., Drivers License, Diploma/GED when applying.

#### Jurisdictional Counties in West Virginia:

Boone	Braxton	Cabell	Calhoun	Clay	Fayette
Gilmer	Greenbrier	Jackson	Kanawha	Lincoln	Logan
Mason	McDowell	Mercer	Mingo	Monroe	Nicholas
Pleasants	Putnam	Raleigh	Ritchie	Roane	Summers
Tyler	Wayne	Wirt	Wood	Wyoming	

#### Jurisdictional Counties in Virginia:

Alleghany	Augusta	Bath	Bedford	Botetourt	Charlotte
Craig	Floyd	Franklin	Henry	Highland	Mecklenburg
Montgomery	Patrick	Pittsylvania	Prince Edward	Pulaski	Roanoke
Rockbridge					

All Applications are received without regard to Race, Color, Religion, National Origin or Sex

# Iron Workers Apprenticeship

**Iron Workers Local 787, Parkersburg, will be accepting applications for their apprenticeship program in May.**

Applications will be taken May 1, 3 and 5 between 9:00 & 11:30 a.m. and on May 9 & 11 between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Iron Workers Union Hall, 303 Erickson Blvd., Parkersburg.

The program will train workers in all aspects of the Iron Worker trade over a four year term.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, capable of doing work of the iron worker trade and be a high school

graduate (or have a GED).

A math and reading test will be required and, if selected as a candidate, a substance abuse test will also be required.

Applicants must have lived within the following area for at least one year. In Ohio: Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties. In West Virginia: Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Lewis, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Upshur, Wirt and Wood Counties.

No applicant will be rejected because of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.

For more information call 304/485-6231.

# WV AFL-CIO Endorses Candidates For May 9, 2006 Primary Election

## UNITED STATES SENATE

Robert C. Byrd

## U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st - Alan B. Mollohan

2nd - Mark Hunt

3rd - Nick Joe Rahall, II

## SENATE

1st - Edwin J. Bowman

2nd - Larry J. Edgell

4th - Jim Lees

6th - H. Truman Chafin

7th - Josh Stowers

8th - Erik Wells

10th - Frederick L. Parker

11th - C. Randy White

12th - Joseph Minard

17th - Brooks McCabe, Jr.

## HOUSE OF DELEGATES

1st - Joe DeLong

2nd - Jack Yost

3rd - Orphy Klempa

4th - Kenneth Tucker

7th - John Bumgardner

9th - Jim Marion

10th - John Ellem, Steven D. Whitehair, Sr.

13th - Dale F. Martin,

Brady R. Paxton

14th - Gene Estel

15th - Jim Morgan, Matthew James Woelfel,

Pam Carden

16th - Dale Stephens

17th - Don Perdue,

Richard Thompson

18th - Larry W. Barker

19th - Jeff Eldridge, Lidella

Wilson Hrutkay, Ronnie

Ooten, Ralph Rodighiero

21st - Harry Keith White

22nd - Mike Burdiss

23rd - Clifton Moore

24th - Molly Lohr-Robinette

25th - Anita Skeens

Caldwell, Paige Flanigan

27th - Melvin R. "Mell"

Kessler, Kevin L. Maynus,

Clyde D. McKnight Jr.

28th - Tommy Scarles, Ray

Canterbury

29th - Tom Louisos

30th - Bob T. Anderson,

Ted Boettner, Bonnie

Brown, Nancy Guthrie,

Barbara Hatfield, Sharon

Spencer, Danny Wells

31st - Carrie Webster

34th - Brent Boggs

35th - Sam Argento

36th - Joe Talbott

39th - Bill Hamilton

40th - Mary M. Poling

41st - Anthony J. Barberio,

Ron Fragale, Richard J.

Iaquinto, Tim Miley

43rd - Mike Caputo, Linda

Longstreth, Tim Manchin

44th - Barbara

Fleischauer, Charlene

Marshall, Alex Shook

46th - Chris Cooper

50th - Ruth Rowan

53rd - Jerry Burton

54th - Walter Duke

58th - Locke Wysong

## Endorsement

*CONTINUED FROM P. 3*

"I think it's a great way to tie local candidates to local labor people," said Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council.

"It's one of the few times local people have an opportunity to interface with these folks — how they think and feel on a particular issue."

According to Smith, some candidates choose to not fill out the questionnaire because they don't want the endorsement of labor and some feel they are not likely to get one.

"It may not be a perfect process, but it's the best we've come up with," said Smith.

COPE encourages workers to register and vote, to exercise their full rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and to perform their rightful part in the political life of their communities.

# Trades Win Kentucky Prevailing Wage Fight

**K**entucky Governor Ernie Fletcher's hopes to repeal the state's prevailing wage law were dashed last month as the House Committee on Labor and Industry voted to table two anti-worker bills.

Fletcher had also proposed enacting an anti-union Right-to-Work law for the state.

On the same day 6,000 union members marched and rallied on the streets of Frankfort and on the steps of the State Capital.

The Kentucky AFL-CIO's March for Working Families marked a historic moment in Kentucky's long and rich labor

history as thousands came to Stand Up and Fight Back against the Fletcher Administration's anti-worker, anti-union agenda.

After the rally the House Labor and Industry Committee voted to kill right-to-work-for-less (11-3) and repeal of prevailing wage (11-2) during a single committee meeting.

The Kentucky Chapter of the

Associated General Contractors (AGC) was also working with Fletcher to repeal prevailing wage. The Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) is the AGC chapter in WV. The CAWV opposes most legislative efforts of the building trades in West Virginia.

Coupled with Fletcher's loss on medical malpractice caps, his

administration struck out this session of the general assembly.

"Attacks on prevailing wage are attacks on our communities," said Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council.

"Labor was united on stopping these terrible bills, and our unity paid off."



THOUSANDS OF UNION members rallied in Kentucky to stop the dual attacks on working families, right-to-work and repeal of prevailing wage.

## Politics

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

topic during the session. Bills in both the House of Representatives and the Senate took aim at the growing problems caused by 12 million illegal aliens currently in the United States.

A new "guest worker" program was created in the Senate version of the bill which would allow 400,000 new work visas each year.

The Building Trades were insisting any expansion of work visas must include two conditions. First they proposed, before new

visas were issued, employers must advertise the jobs to US workers.

Second, if workers are allowed in they should be paid the prevailing wage rate to insure guest workers aren't simply cheap labor.

"Everyone knows cheap labor is what the new guest worker program is all about," commented Dan Poling, Service Representative for Painters Council 53.

"I'm tired of hearing politicians say there are jobs Americans won't do. It's not true."

In fact when Senator John McCain addressed the confer-

ence he was booed for saying immigrants do the jobs Americans won't.

"Not at \$3 an hour," yelled out an audience member.

A bill to strengthen multi-employer pension funds was also discussed. Two bills, aimed at allowing multi-employer pension funds more flexibility regarding tax issues, S. 1783 and HR. 2830, have both passed.

When the stock market was going strong a few years ago some funds were faced with a choice, raise benefits and/or cut contributions, or be forced to pay taxes on pension contributions.

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Many funds raised benefits, then got caught in the stock market downturn.

The bills would allow funds to be more than 100% funded and still be tax free.

Since the Senate and House versions are different, the bills must go to a Conference Committee, to see if a compromise can be reached.

A bill to help states fix their crumbling water and sewer infrastructure has been around for

many years.

There is some hope it might move this year.

If passed, \$36 billion would go to help states meet the Clean Water mandates.

Unfortunately Davis-Bacon coverage, the federal prevailing wage law, has been left out of some versions of the bill.

According to Building Trades leaders Davis-Bacon coverage has to be fought for in every spending bill.