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Inside

PA Study	Pg. 2
Operators	Pg. 2
Dominion Project	Pg. 2
Marshall Plan	Pg. 3
Plumbers 625	Pg. 3
Kentucky	Pg. 3
Ethane	Pg. 4

WORKERS WIN BIG IN OHIO VOTE

Ohio voters made it very clear they did not support an anti-union law passed by their legislature.

Results from the November 8 election showed 61% of voters rejecting a law pushed by Gov. John Kasich and passed by a Republican controlled legislature this year.

The law would have severely limited public sector workers rights to form unions and bargain collectively.

"Blaming the economic crisis on workers did not go over well in Ohio," said Bill Hutchinson, Business Manager of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Council.

According to Hutchinson, Building Trades unions across the state played a significant role in the election starting with the petition drive that was needed to get the issue on the ballot.

Labor and their allies collected 1.2 million signatures, five times more than they

needed to get the measure on the ballot.

Getting the issue on the ballot was just the first step. A grassroots effort to educate voters followed.

Known as Senate Bill 5 the 300 page legislation significantly weakened collective bargaining power for nearly

360,000 public workers, banned all strikes and eliminated binding arbitration for safety forces.

Instead, a new system was imposed that ultimately allowed the governing body to pick its own last offer to break a deadlocked negotiation.

The Ohio AFL-CIO and

public employee unions led the fight with Teachers, Police and Firefighters raising millions to educate voters.

"We did our part educating our building trade's members and even went door-to-door to let folks know this was a serious attack on working families," said Hutchinson.



HUGE RALLIES LIKE this one at the Ohio capitol did not stop legislators from voting for Senate Bill 5, a direct attack against workers and their right to join unions.

DOMINION AGAINST LOCAL JOBS

LOCAL HIRING GETS OPPOSITION

A representative from Dominion Resources went on record opposing local hiring on Marcellus Shale projects.

Harrison County Commission was considering a resolution to support local hiring and asked companies who had difficulty finding qualified workers to contact the Commission.

ACT Representative Matthew McComas made a presentation to the Harrison County Commission on Thursday, November 10.

Bob Orndorff, a representative of Dominion Resources,

was at the meeting and spoke against the local hiring measure.

Orndorff complained about ACT television ads and signs urging Dominion to hire locally. Dominion has hired a Texas general contractor for a \$500 million gas processing facility in Marshall County.

McComas pointed out the resolution before the commission had no company names and was simply to show support for local workers and businesses.

The resolution was first developed by the Marshall County Commission and speaks to their desire for Mar-

cellus related projects to go to local businesses and workers. Wetzel and Brooke County Commissions in West Virginia and Harrison and Belmont County Commissions in Ohio passed similar resolutions.

Marcellus Shale drilling, transporting and processing projects have brought a large increase in out-of-state companies and workers.

Wetzel County, in the heart of Marcellus activity, has the highest unemployment rate in the state.

Key to the resolution is a request from county commissions to be told by companies when they have difficulty

finding local workers to fit their requirements.

"I made it clear we were talking about the need for more local jobs for Marcellus projects," said McComas. "It was hard to understand why Dominion or anyone else would oppose the idea but Dominion certainly did."

Commissioner Mike Romano spoke in support of the resolution but Commission President Bernie Fazzini opposed the measure.

Ultimately Romano made a motion for the Commission to write its own resolution to support all local workers. The motion passed.

PA STUDY DEBUNKS MYTHS, CONCLUDES PREVAILING WAGE BRINGS MANY BENEFITS

A Pennsylvania research center has concluded laws that support area wage rates on public construction projects result in many benefits.

The Keystone Research Center published their study on October 3.

Prevailing wage laws are designed to prevent public funded projects from driving

down wage and benefit standards in communities.

In Pennsylvania a number of recent legislative attacks on prevailing wage laws promise significant project cost savings but the study concludes the evidence does not support these claims.

Instead the data shows that prevailing wage laws do not raise construction costs on public projects but do in-

crease investment in skills, improve health and safety, and lower dependence of construction workers on safety net programs.

"The research shows that there's one surefire way to lower public construction costs," said KRC labor economist and briefing paper co-author Dr. Mark Price.

"When the market is soft, contractors bid 20% or more below prices at the market peak."

Price explained the myth that prevailing wage laws raise costs is perpetuated by flawed cost accounting studies that assume nothing else changes when wages

and benefits on projects are slashed sharply.

Price pointed to actual data from various states with and without prevailing wage laws to explain there is no mystery about what the law does and does not do.

For example, comparing school construction costs before and after Michigan's suspension of its prevailing wage law revealed no difference in costs.

Numerous other studies in many states show the repeal of the prevailing wage law leads to less workforce training; a younger, less educated and less experienced workforce; higher injury

rates; lower wages; and lower health and pension coverage.

Research also reveals that prevailing wage laws do not raise costs.

In Pennsylvania, when prevailing wage levels were lowered substantially in rural areas during the second half of the 1990s (a period of declining unemployment and rising prices), school construction costs went up more in areas where prevailing wage levels fell the most.

The study concludes that any potential cost savings of paying lower wages and benefits are eaten by lost productivity or by higher company profits.

APPRENTICE CANDIDATES WANTED FOR IUOE LOCAL 132

Operating Engineers Local 132 wants qualified candidates for their heavy duty equipment operator apprenticeship program.

The three year program focuses on all aspects of operating heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes, cranes, and excavators.

"We focus on safety and productivity," said Charles Parker, Training Director.

Each year an apprentice spends five weeks at the training center located south of Parkersburg, most of which is during the winter months.

Apprentices must also get at least 1,000 hours of paid on the job training each year.

Applications will be accepted at any Workforce West Virginia Center starting December 5 through December

16, between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

In order to qualify a person must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED and have been a resident of West Virginia for at least one year.

In addition, a successful applicant will have a valid WV drivers license, and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

An aptitude test will be given at the Workforce Center and a drug test may be required at a later date.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of age, race, color, religion, national origin, or sex and will conform to ADA regulations.

For more information call Parker at (304) 273-4852.

HIRING AT \$500 MILLION DOMINION PROJECT AT ISSUE



SIGNS LIKE THIS one urging Dominion Resources to support local hiring are going up in the northern part of the state.

Dominion has hired a Texas contractor to build their \$500 million gas processing facility in Marshall County.

Two initial subcontracts for site preparation and piling have gone to local union contractors.

However Texas contractor CB&I Lummas still plans to import workers for much of the job.

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES \$114 MILLION CONSTRUCTION PLAN

Marshall University received state approval last month to move ahead on a \$114 million construction plan including new and renovated facili-

ties.

The new facilities include a \$50 million biotechnology incubator and applied engineering complex; a \$7 million parking garage; \$5.4 million for a soccer stadium

complex; and \$14 million for a modern academic instruction facility.

Also included is \$25 million for an indoor sports practice facility, a sports medicine translational research center and a student athlete academic center.

About half of the project funding will come from a bond issue and the rest from public and private donations.

The first project to be built will be the parking garage next to the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center which should start in early 2012. The project will be a design-build contract and has

not been bid yet.

Once complete, the engineering complex site work can start with completion scheduled for March 2014.

Renovations to a former Stone & Thomas building for a fine arts incubator and graphic design programs are scheduled to start in 2012 for a January 2014 completion date.

The future building plan was announced in October, but there are currently a number of projects underway according to Tri-State Building Trades Council Business Manager Steve Burton.

"We are just completing

work on a pharmacy school," said Burton.

He noted MIRC Construction employed many members of the Tri-State Council on \$9 million in renovations to the Robert W. Coon Medical Education Building preparing it for the newly established Marshall University School of Pharmacy.

"Marshall University projects have been life-saving job creators in these tough economic times," said Burton.

"And the investment in our community with this quality infrastructure will pay off for our kids in the very near future."

PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 625 TAKE APPLICATIONS

The Charleston Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 625 will take apprenticeship applications until the end of the year.

The five year program teaches all aspects of the plumbing and pipefitting trade including, pipe fitting and welding, medical gas, CAD, instrument technician, blue print reading, plumbing, heating and cooling.

Apprentices are paid while on-the-job and also go to school for a minimum of 144 hours per year.

Applications were open June 1 and will be taken though December 30 of this year.

Applications are reviewed once a year and applicants are notified by mail of their status.

Those interested should go to 3601 James Avenue in Charleston between the hours of 8:00 am and noon or 1:00

pm and 3:30pm, Monday through Friday.

A \$35 application fee will be required.

To qualify an applicant must be at least 17 years old and 18 when actually in the program. They also must have a high school diploma or GED, a driver's license and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

A copy of the applicant's birth certificate, driver's license, high school transcripts, high school diploma or GED and if recently in the military a DD2-14 form will be requested at the time of application.

Applicants must pass an aptitude test administered by WV Workforce as well as a drug test.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

For more information contact Brett Matthews, Director of Training at 304-744-6188.

LABORS' CANDIDATE FOR KENTUCKY GOVERNOR WINS



CECIL FERGUSON (left) of Painters District Council 53 hands Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear a campaign contribution during a labor rally as Tri-State Building Trades Business Manager Steve Burton looks on.

More than 200 people attended Tri-State's labor rally held in early November to educate members about election issues.

Beshear, who was the endorsed candidate of the KY AFL-CIO won re-election for Governor on November 8.

"Governor Beshear has a track record of fairness," said Burton. "And his opponent is as anti-union as they get. This is an important victory for working families in Kentucky."

ETHANE CRACKING UNIT UNCERTAIN

Prospects for a multi-billion dollar ethane cracking unit are very much uncertain for West Virginia.

The state sits on top of some of the richest areas of Marcellus Shale, gas that has a high concentration of ethane that makes it extra valuable.

The state is a logical place to build a facility known as an ethane cracker, which would take ethane, after it is separated from the gas, and then convert it into material used by both chemical plants and the plastics industry.

It had been projected the Marcellus region will produce enough ethane in West Virginia to support four world-class ethane cracking plants.

However a recent news

report about Chesapeake Energy making a deal to sell 75,000 barrels of ethane a day to a group that plans to ship the chemical to the Gulf Coast has rocked the economic development community.

The deal has raised concerns that major industrial development from the Marcellus Shale gas may pass West Virginia by.

The Chesapeake deal apparently will only use a portion of the pipelines total capacity of 125,000 barrels per day.

That amount is equal to what two ethane cracking units might need.

The Gulf Coast is already home to almost all the ethane cracking units in the U.S.

Earlier this year a 30,000 barrel a day deal was struck

by another developer that would send the ethane to Sarnia, Canada.

The Chesapeake deal caught state economic development leaders by surprise.

The state had been working with Chesapeake officials to help attract companies to build the ethane cracking plant.

If one or two ethane cracking plants were built the economic impact for West Virginia would be huge.

Each project itself would create more than a thousand construction jobs for at least two years.

Industry experts say the plant would in turn attract a number of other industrial facilities that would use the ethane output for their own products.

One newspaper reported

the Chesapeake deal was only for five years and would leave the company able to make local sales after that time.

Currently there is more ethane coming online that producers can sell so they are scrambling for a market.

The rapid exploration of Marcellus Shale, and now Utica Shale in Ohio, is leading to many opportunities,

but these opportunities might pass the region by.

"We all know the history of timber and coal operators from far away who enriched themselves on West Virginia's natural resources and left us with little more than the mess," said Walter "Fuzz" LaRue, ACT's representative in the northern part of the state.

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TRADES VOLUNTEER WITH PLAYGROUND INSTALLATION



MEMBERS OF THE Tri-State Building Trades Council volunteer their time to install playground equipment at the Kenova Elementary School in Wayne County. Construction is underway for a temporary school at the location following the condemnation of the old Kenova Elementary School earlier this year. Neighbor-gall Construction is building the temporary school.

Visit

www.jobsforlocalworkers.com

to support **local jobs** for **local workers** and sign the **Marcellus Shale Principles.**



The Principles urge businesses to employ workers from the community to fill all industry jobs.