



A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Steve Burton, *President* | Dave Efaw, *Secretary-Treasurer* | Steve White, *Director*

Marshall Report Looks at Marcellus-Utica Potential

A new report on the opportunities from Marcellus and Utica Shale development has been published by Marshall University.

The report looks beyond the already robust discussion on fracking and ethane cracking to chemical and plastics manufacturing, vehicle fuels and electric generation potentials for the local economy.

New technology has unlocked vast natural gas resources found a mile or more below the surface. Industry reports claim the Marcellus Shale gas region may be the largest natural gas source in the world. Utica Shale is also touted for its richness in gas and oil.

Although natural gas prices remain low the huge quantities being discussed in the Marcellus and Utica Shale layers is changing the way people think about the resource.

In addition, valuable “liquids” such as propane, butane and ethane found in the “wet” gas that is common in northern West Virginia and

northeastern Ohio makes the entire picture a potential “game changer” for the US economy.

Vision Shared, a nonprofit group including business and labor, com-

missioned the study to look at the potential these new natural resources offer for the region.

“A lot has been written about fracking and ethane cracking but the

biggest potential could be what’s not being talked about, and that is what this report focused on,” said Steve White, ACT Director and a member

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Williams Partners has hired union contractor URS to build this natural gas processing facility at Oak Grove, in the Wheeling area. This project employs hundreds of local union construction workers and is one of several natural gas processing facilities under construction to meet the needs of Marcellus and Utica Shale gas.

Automated Phone Calls to Be Used

Member Poll on Community College Classes

A poll of ACT members will soon be underway asking about interest in community college level classes.

The purpose is to see what interest members have to take college classes on construction safety management, starting a construction business, construction management and project tracking, and construction super-

vision.

“These classes are not offered through most apprenticeship and training programs and we want to see if members have an interest in taking them,” said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades Council.

The State Building Trades is work-

ing with the WV Council for Community & Technical College Education on the poll and possible future classes.

For many years members who have completed apprenticeship programs could get college credit to use towards an associate’s degree program.

This new effort is an attempt to provide more services to members and encourage college degree efforts.

The poll will also look at interest in compressed class schedules rather than traditional ones. A compressed schedule might meet on Friday evening and all day Saturday to get the

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Parkersburg UA Local 565 Taking New Applications for Apprenticeship Class

The Parkersburg Plumbers Joint Apprenticeship will be issuing applications from Monday, July 8 through Wednesday, July 31.

Applications will be available from 9:00am till noon each day, except not on weekends.

Those interested should go to 593 Cedar Grove Road, Parkersburg (two blocks from WVU-P).

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 216 hours per year.

To qualify an applicant must be at

least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, a valid 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 diploma or GED and if recently in the military a DD214 form will be requested at the time of application.

Completed applications together with all supporting documents must be submitted within the same time period of July 8 to July 31.

Applicants must reside in the area of Local 565 which includes Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Tyler, Wirt and Wood County in WV; and Morgan County south of Route 78, Meigs, Monroe, and Washington County in Ohio.

Applicants must pass an aptitude test administered by WV Workforce as well as an alcohol and 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 please contact 304-485-1565. ■

Union Trades Holds Huntington Open House



Members of the Building Trades and Union Trades Federal Credit Union pose outside the newly opened credit union office in Huntington.

From left: Doug Peele, Union Trades Manager; Robin Shanteau, Member Service; Terry Hudson, Board Member; Kaitlyn Stowers, Member Service; Mark Johnson, Assistant to the Business Manager, Tri-State Building Trades; Marlene Edwards, Branch Supervisor and Loans; and Shane Dillon, Organizer, Laborers 543.

An open house event was held at the site on Thursday, June 6.

Union Trades now operates at three locations with offices also in Parkersburg and Charleston.

As a member-owned organization, the credit union offers financial services for WV State Building Trades members and their families.

FirstEnergy Gets PSC Support from Trades



ACT attorney Vince Trivelli (left) talks to Gary Jack, Senior Corporate Counsel for FirstEnergy during WV Public Service Commission hearings held in late May. FirstEnergy wants to restructure ownership of their West Virginia plants making some subject to rate regulations and others not. The Trades supported the measure because FirstEnergy (formerly Allegheny Energy) is a big employer of craft workers. Testimony from Steve White, ACT Director, went into the record showing almost one million man-hours worked by union trades at FirstEnergy facilities between 2010 and 2012.

Marcellus-Utica

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of the Vision Shared Board which commissioned the study.

"I emphasize the word 'potential', because if local workers are not used in all phases of production, transportation and manufacturing West Virginia might simply go through another cycle as a resource colony where out-of-state interests get rich and citizens are left with the problem."

According to White, local union construction workers have been building much of the pipelines and gas processing facilities in the region.

However many workers are being imported by companies from places like Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana for the drilling and compression work.

To read the full report log onto www.visionshared.com/ ■

\$1.7 Billion Per Year Funding Gap Identified

Six Public Meetings Planned on Future of West Virginia Highway Funding

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's Blue Ribbon Commission on Highways will be holding six public hearings in the state to get input on highway funding issues.

The Commission, including representatives from a variety of business and labor groups, has already determined the many needs of the state far outweigh available funding.

“We have also been looking for ways to save expenses and be more efficient.”

Gary Tillis

*Business Manager
WV Laborers District Council*

Looking at all funding needs, both to maintain the current transportation system and for expansion, the Commission has found a \$1.7 billion per year funding gap.

The gap is caused by many things including less federal funding, increased costs, higher gasoline prices and less revenue from the gas tax.

Recognizing that such a large number would be too difficult for the state to fund, the Committee identified a variety of ways to raise a portion of the needed funding so as to focus on the most pressing issues.

For example a recent news report shows nearly 1,000 bridges in the state are structurally deficient.

The backlog for repairs and maintenance will increase costs because the delay can allow simple fixes to turn into big problems.

The Committee came up with a list of funding suggestions to be considered including:

- Increasing the sales tax from

6 to 7 percent, providing \$200 million in annual revenue.

- Raising Division of Motor Vehicle registration fees from \$28.50 to \$49, and increasing titles from \$5 to \$40, for additional annual revenue of \$64 million.
- Increasing the automobile privilege tax from 5 to 6 percent to raise \$37 million annually.
- Boost the cigarette tax by

50 cents a pack, with the increase dedicated to the Road Fund, raising \$37 million.

- Increasing the excise tax on diesel fuel, which would raise \$14.5 million.
- Setting a special registration fee for alternative-fuel vehicles at \$200 a year, which would raise \$1.1 million.

If all proposals were adopted, state Road Fund revenues would increase by \$419 million a year.

“We are looking for public sup-

port to increase funding, and the Committee is offering a number of ways to get there,” said Gary Tillis, Business Manager for the WV Laborers District Council and a member of the Committee.

“We have also been looking for ways to save expenses and be more efficient.”

“But at the end of the day it is our families, friends and neighbors traveling on the roads and we must find a way to keep them safe and our economy moving.” ■

Operators 132 Equipment Rodeo



Members of Operating Engineers Local 132 along with families and friends participated in the Operator Rodeo event held on Sunday, May 19.

More than 300 people attended and, according to Training Coordinator Chuck Parker, a good time was had by all! Five competitive events were held for operating an excavator, mini-excavator, backhoe, crane and skid steer loader.

The event was held at the Operating Engineers statewide training site in Ravenswood.

“This is the first year we had the competition and we plan on doing it again,” said Tommy Plymale, Business Manager for Local 132.

“It is a good way for our members to get together and for us to show off the training site.”

Bankruptcy Laws Also Hurt Construction Workers

Judge Allows Patriot Coal to Break Promise

A Missouri bankruptcy judge has approved Patriot Coal's plan to break their union agreement regarding benefits for retirees.

The effects of the coal giants broken promises will likely extend far beyond the miners and their families.

The May 29 ruling will permit Patriot to eliminate healthcare benefits for more than 20,000 retired miners and family members.

The costs associated with the broken promises will likely be felt by the general public when those who thought they had health coverage cannot pay their related health care bills.

That means higher costs for other

health funds that get stuck with the bills.

"When companies like Patriot turn their backs on promises to workers who do you think pays the cost?" asked Kenny Perdue, President of the WV AFL-CIO.

"If retirees don't have health care coverage they are devastated and once they can't pay anymore then we all get stuck with the bill."

In addition, the trend for employers to use bankruptcy law to break union contracts and increase corporate profits is troubling.

Recently union contractor Chapman-Martin Excavating & Grading Inc., declared bankruptcy owing

the state of West Virginia as well as numerous union benefit funds hundreds of thousands of dollars. One of the owners, Brian Hinkle, simply started bidding with a newly established nonunion company called Cherry River Construction LLC.

State law blocks owners of a new company from getting public contracts when their old company owes

the state more than one thousand dollars. But bankruptcy protection often gets in the way.

"When bankruptcy laws allow the owners of companies to hide from their obligations and keep doing business then our fair contractors may be put out of business," said Tom Plymale, Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 132. ■



Members of the Laborers join other union workers at a UMWA rally held in Charleston earlier this year to protest Patriot Coal's bankruptcy plan.

Member Poll

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required class time rather than once or twice a week in the evenings.

Online classes are also being considered to accommodate workers who want the training but find it difficult to keep to a weekly class schedule because of overtime or out-of-town work.

If enough interest is expressed then courses in the relevant area can be developed.

The poll will be done through an automated phone service and take place around June 20.

"The 'robo-calls' keep costs low and should give us the information we need to decide if further action is needed," said Efav.

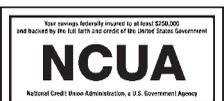
Members who are interested in taking the short, nine question poll can call toll-free 1-800-735-1274 through Tuesday, June 25. ■

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