



A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

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

SB 361 Amended in Senate

Prevailing Wage Repeal?

A Republican led bill to repeal the state prevailing wage law was amended in the state Senate to allow some sort of prevailing wage law to remain.

However the House of Delegates must not only agree to the changes but resist making further changes before trades members will know the extent of wage cuts proposed.

The amendment creates a threshold of \$500,000 to exempt projects that are values below this amount from the wage requirements.

In addition, the amendment moves the responsibility for calculating the prevailing wage each year to WorkForce.

By June 1 of this year WorkForce, working with Marshall and WVU, must develop a new methodology for calculating the prevailing wage that does not rely on collective bargaining agreements.

“We won’t know the full extent of

the changes until we see what method WorkForce comes up with,” said

Steve White, ACT Director.

“However there will be wage cuts

in many parts of the state, that much

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Hundreds of construction workers and many contractors line the hallway outside of the packed Senate Government Organization Committee room where a prevailing wage repeal bill was on the agenda in early February. The repeal bill passed out of the committee on a party line vote but negotiations led to changes short of full repeal.

New Report - Prevailing Wage Law Good

A new report studying thousands of construction projects in and around West Virginia shows construction costs in the state are cheaper than those without a prevailing wage law.

The report looked specifically at schools because of claims that more schools could be built in West Virginia if the prevailing wage law was repealed.

In fact the opposite was found.

Schools in North Carolina and Virginia cost taxpayers more when looking at per square foot costs.

Neither state has a prevailing wage

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Even with bad weather and terrible road conditions thousands of workers showed up at the state capitol on Monday, February 16 for a rally called by Senate Minority Leader Jeff Kessler (D-Marshall) to protest the direction many Republican legislators have been taken. Workers are concerned about wage cuts from prevailing wage repeal, the roll back of safety laws and the interference of government with union contracts with so-called Right-to-Work measures.

Moundsville Power Gets OK from PSC

The state Public Service Commission has granted a siting certificate for Moundsville Power LLC's \$615 million natural gas-fired power plant.

The order was issued on February 13 and puts the 549 megawatt plant one step closer to reality.

Another major advancement to the project took place in January when the construction and engineering company Black & Veatch was selected to build the project.

Company officials say they hope construction can begin in December of 2015 or early 2016 and that the plant could be in operation by August of 2018.

The plant will be located three miles south of Moundsville in Mar-

shall County, on a portion of the former Allied Chemical site.

The Allied site has been designated as a Superfund site due to polluted areas however the Moundsville Power portion is not on the polluted section.

The plant will have two GE combustion turbines that can burn not only natural gas but up to 25 percent ethane.

In addition there will be a single steam turbine to generate electricity.

There will also be cooling towers, a switchyard, a water treatment building, a maintenance building, 500 foot 138 kV transmission line, and other auxiliary structures.

Last year after much deliberation

a deal was struck with the company and the Marshall County Commissioners regarding property taxes.

The company will pay up to \$40 million over 30 years, a big improvement from the \$2500 per year currently paid on the property.

In June of 2014 the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council along with the WV State Building Trades

signed a memorandum agreement with Moundsville Power ensuring local construction workers would build the plant.

"Our members are anxious to get started on this project and every step towards that start is a great thing," said Tom Gray, President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council. ■

WV Laborers Offer Apprenticeship Opportunities

The West Virginia Construction Craft Laborers' Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee accept applications year round.

Those interested can apply at any WorkForce WV Employment Services Office.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old; have a high school diploma, GED or pass a test administered by WorkForce (if you are to test check times with WorkForce); have a valid driver's license; and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

A substance abuse test will be required at some point in the process.

Documents such as a copy of a birth certificate, a valid driver's license, transcripts of grades and proof of a high school degree or GED will be requested at a later date.

The apprenticeship program consists of a combination of on-the-job training and hands-on classroom training.

The WV Laborers' Training Center in Mineral Wells provides 408 hours of classroom and hands-on training free of charge including

meals and lodging.

Apprentices will also learn on the job in their home areas while earning a paycheck, for a total of 4000 hours, approximately two years.

Upon completion of the program apprentices will have earned Journeyman status and receive a certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The areas of training provide a wide variety of skills to ensure highly productive workers will have successful careers.

Topics include pipelaying, mason tending, instrument reading, environmental remediation and much more.

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

For more information visit their web site www.wvcccl.org or to receive a free brochure send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: West Virginia Laborers' Training Center, P.O. Box 6, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. ■

Prevailing Wage

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is certain."

White was involved in a series of negotiations between key Senators and the anti-union association Associated Builders and Contractors.

"We were told a threshold had to be \$5 million at one point and that any city, county or school project would be exempted," said White.

The bill now goes to the House Government Organizations Com-

mittee where labor representatives working closely with contractors hope to get some changes to improve the bill.

"Our local contractors have really stepped up and fought hard to stop this terrible bill," said White. "And our members have been showing up every day as well to explain that prevailing wage benefits the state, we have to keep up the fight." ■

Charleston Building Trades Volunteers



Standing in front of a new picnic shelter built for the Salvation Army are members of the Charleston Building Trades (from left) Randy Gwinn, Carpenters 1207; Mike Roop, Jeff Mullins and Tony Chapman, Roofers 185; and Paul Shaffer, Gary McCallister, Terry Rowh, Scott Brewer and Dave Smith from Carpenters 1207.

The 20x24 shelter is located in St. Albans.

According to Charleston Building Trades Business Manager Paul Breedlove a number of crafts participated at each stage of the project. Walker Machinery, Arrow Concrete, Trinity Rebar and Oval Construction also helped with various donations of equipment and materials.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA AFL-CIO

CORPORATE SCHEME TO GUT THE MIDDLE CLASS

CEOS CARE ABOUT: Profits, Bonuses, Stock Prices, Shareholders, Bottom Lines, etc.

UNIONS CARE ABOUT: Wages, Benefits, Health and Safety, Workers' Rights, etc.

Don't Be Fooled. "Right to work" is a power grab by CEOs and their allies to make our jobs part time, send our jobs to low-wage countries, gut our health and safety protections, and pay us less.

It's Not What It Seems. Extreme politicians in the state legislature want to gut unions in West Virginia. They care about profits, big bonuses, stock prices and their wealthy corporate campaign donors—not working people.

\$5,000 Pay Cut for Workers. The average worker makes about \$5,000 less each year in states with these laws. It is harder to form unions and to collectively bargain for better wages and benefits. The pay gap between men and women is worse in these states. Of the 10 states with the lowest minimum wages, eight have enacted similar laws. (U.S. Census State Median Household Income; American Association of University Women)

This Is Not About Freedom. We already are free to work wherever we want, and no one can be forced to join a union. That's already protected by law. We need the right to a voice at work, to have our opinions heard and to bargain for better wages and benefits. Our unions offer that freedom, but extreme politicians in the state legislature and their corporate allies want to take it away.

Make No Mistake: Right to work legislation will gut our union's ability to fight for us, our jobs and our families. Our union endorses candidates who support workers, not laws like these.



New PW Report

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law, both states have much lower construction wage rates.

The report was conducted by Dr. Michael Kelsay from the University of Missouri and funded by the Affiliated Construction Trades.

Kelsay has done similar work in other states and is known as an expert in the field.

In addition the report shows significant losses to West Virginia if repeal takes place.

Local contractors will be severely undercut by companies from outside the region who import cheap labor leading to significant economic losses to the state.

A total of \$55 to \$84 million per year in lost wages and taxes were estimated.

Other losses to health, pension and training funds were noted as well as the likely rise in safety problems due to experienced workers leaving public works jobs for better pay elsewhere.

"Low wages mean low productivity and hurt our existing companies who are doing a better job for the taxpayers than those from the low wage states," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

Legislators in support of repeal quote a 2009 report done by a WVU graduate student (funded by the billionaire Koch brothers) that only looked at lower wages of the residential industry and predicted these workers could do public projects with the same efficiency as more skilled workers.

For a summary go to the ACT web site actwv.org or to read the full report faircontracting.org. ■

PROTECT WEST VIRGINIA'S WORKING FAMILIES

Tell Your Representatives to Oppose Right to Work Legislation

For more information, contact the West Virginia AFL-CIO at (304) 344-3557.



What some are calling "Right to Work" or "Workplace Freedom" (SB337) is a law that actually ties the hands of employers by taking away some of their rights and options in dealing with their employees. This legislation is often promoted as pro-business, when instead it restricts the options available to businesses, and infringes on voluntary negotiations between private parties.

Fact or Fiction

Fiction: Workers can be required to join a union.

Fact: No individual can be forced to join a union. Additionally, workers can't be fired if they opt out of joining the union. In lieu of paying dues, non-members may be required to pay an "agency fee" or "fair share fee" that defrays the costs of representing them in contract negotiations, grievance resolution, and more.

Fiction: Unions are not required to provide representation to all workers in the bargaining unit.

Fact: Current law requires unions to represent all workers in their unit, including those who opt out of union membership. In fact, beyond basic representation in negotiations over wages, working conditions, benefits and safety, the union must represent all workers in individual grievance procedures and due process rights.

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WV State Building Trades

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Construction Management Class Starts

After more than a year of planning the first construction management class at WVU at Parkersburg is underway.

The class is the result of a combined industry effort that involved contractors, labor, WVU and the West Virginia Community and Technical College System.

This first pilot class has 15 individuals signed up, 9 of which are being sponsored by their employers.

Represented in class are folks from a wide range of companies and crafts including Murray Sheet Metal, JD&E, Grae-Con Construction, Specialty Piping Co., IBEW 317 & 141, Sheetmetal 33, Carpenters 899, Insu-

lators 80, and Pipefitters 565.

The first class began on February 5th and will conclude on April 16th. All three pilot classes will be completed by November 12, 2015. Students who complete the program will receive a construction management credit certificate from WVU-P and will be prepared to sit for the exam required to receive a Certified Associate in Project Management credential.

Instructors for the program in-

clude WVU in Morgantown faculty Dr. Sam White, Dr. Jessica Ice, and Dr. Gary Winn along with Dr. Chip Pickering of Pickering & Associates.

The curriculum is designed to take experienced construction personnel and provide them with the knowledge, skills, and capabilities to plan, execute, and control large industrial and commercial projects.

Future versions of the class will include an online program scheduled to be available in 2016. ■



Dan Poling, Business Manager for Painters District Council 53, talks to the Construction Management class during a February session covering labor agreements, tri-partite efforts and legal and regulatory issues.

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Insulators Local 80 Apprenticeship Opportunities Available in March

NAME OF PROGRAM: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 80 JATC

WHERE TO APPLY: Charleston, Huntington or Parkersburg, WV WorkForce

WHEN TO APPLY: Monday March 16 – Friday March 20

HOURS TO APPLY: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

AGE: At least 18 years of age

EDUCATION: High School Diploma or GED

PHYSICAL: Must be physically able to perform the work of the trade. A drug test will be required

DRIVERS LICENSE: Must have a valid Driver's License

APTITUDE: Meet testing requirements administered by WV

WorkForce

RESIDENCY: Applicants must be a resident of one of the following counties at least one year prior to applying:

Ohio – Gallia, Meigs, Washington, Jackson, Pike, Lawrence or Scioto
Virginia – Allegheny, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Charlotte, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Halifax, Henry, Highland, Montgomery, Nelson, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell,

Washington or Wythe

Kentucky – Bath, Carter, Floyd, Knott, Letcher, Martin, Owsley, Rowan, Boyd, Elliot, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Menifee, Pike, Wolfe, Breathitt, Estill, Johnson, Lee, Magoffin, Morgan or Powell

West Virginia – Boone, Calhoun, Fayette, Jackson, Lincoln, Mason, Monroe, Pleasants, Raleigh, Roane, Webster, Wyoming, Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Summers, Wirt, Wayne, Cabell, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Lewis, McDowell, Mingo, Pendleton, Putnam, Ritchie, Kanawha, Logan, Mercer, Wood or Upshur.

Copies of your certified Birth Certificate, High School Diploma or GED Certificate, a valid Driver's License, your Social Security card and a certified High School/GED Transcript of grades will be requested at a later date.

THE RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRAINING OF APPRENTICES SHALL BE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR SEX. THE JOINT APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE WILL TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING AND WILL OPERATE THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AS REQUIRED UNDER TITLE 29 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 30. ■