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

Prevailing Wage Repealed, RTW Passed in Kentucky

Kentucky legislators wasted no time repealing the state's prevailing wage law and passing so-called Right-to-Work.

The new Republican majority rammed both bills through in a special Saturday, January 7 session. Governor Matt Bevin (R) signed the laws almost immediately.

"So much for facts about the true benefits prevailing wage offers," said Bill Finn, State Director of the Kentucky Building Trades.

Finn had been trying to get legislators to read a recent study detailing the devastating consequences repeal will mean for Kentucky workers, contractors and the economy.

The study was released in a December 15, 2016 report called The Economic, Fiscal, and Social Effects of Kentucky's Prevailing Wage Law.

Authors Kevin Duncan, Professor of Economics at Colorado State University and Frank Manzo IV, Policy Director at the Midwest Economic Policy Institute highlight a number of areas repeal will hurt the state.

According to the report, repealing Kentucky's prevailing wage law will cause a \$248 million net leakage of construction business out of Kentucky's building industry each year.

This loss of construction business and spending will ripple throughout Kentucky's economy and reduce

economic activity by approximately \$400 million.

The corresponding total employment loss could be 2,900 jobs – including 1,800 direct construction jobs and 1,100 jobs in other industries, such as retail, service, and restaurants.

The reduction in economic activity might lead to around \$13 million less in state and local tax revenue each year.

The impact of repeal will hurt young workers and veterans the hardest. According to the report, research indicates repeal of the wage policy reduces apprenticeships by approximately 40%.

Applying results from a first-of-its-kind national study commissioned by VoteVets.org reveals military veterans will be particularly negatively affected by repeal.

Blue-collar construction occupations will become less attractive to veterans because these middle-class careers will likely be converted into low-wage, low-benefit jobs. Repeal of prevailing wage in Kentucky may result in 1,500 blue-collar veterans separating from their construction jobs.

Additionally, the total income of all veterans employed in construction jobs could decline by \$80 million

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Industrial Construction Management Class Underway at WV Northern in Wheeling

The second of a newly developed industrial construction management program is two-thirds of the way complete at West Virginia Northern Community College in Wheeling.

Recently completed is a class on time management principles, cost management, earned value analysis, human resource management, and safety and quality management.

The third and final class will start on January 19.

Dr. Sam White of WVU Institute for Labor Studies and Research is leading the program which is being delivered in a blend of classroom and online formats.

The online component is being

tested as a way to streamline class time.

Trades members took a similar course of study in Parkersburg last year when the program was first developed as a collaborative effort between the West Virginia State Building Trades and the Appalachian Construction Users Council.

Students will receive a 12-credit hour certificate in construction management upon successful completion of the program.

Student sponsors include the Steubenville Electrical Labor Management Cooperation Committee, Williams Companies Inc., and JD&E. Funding to develop the program was

provided by the Bridging the Gap Consortium of West Virginia. ■



From left: Dr. Sam White, WVU; Lance Lucarelli, Ryan Omaitis, Stephen Badgley, Corey Smith, IBEW Local 246; Heather Bywaters, Williams; Keith Hughes, JD&E; Sam Bailey, IBEW 246; Dr. Gary Winn, WVU; David McQuire, IBEW 246. Not pictured, Joe Tweedlie, UA Local 83.

Permit Challenge Still Blocking \$615 Million Job

Moundsville Power Gets OK to Increase Output from Public Service Commission

The WV Public Service Commission updated a permit allowing an increase in the electricity produced by the proposed Moundsville Power gas fired electric plant.

The order was issued December 19, 2016.

At the same time the PSC rejected an attempt by the Ohio Valley Jobs Alliance (OVJA) to intervene in the project.

Moundsville Power LLC was granted a siting permit back in February of 2015 for a 549 Megawatt plant. Since that time Moundsville learned AEP would be upgrading the substation where the grid connection will be made to input electricity.

The upgrade will allow Moundsville to produce up to 673 MW with basically the same facility already permitted running at a higher capacity.

The PSC noted the key characteristics for the facility remain the same as what had already been approved.

Issues of noise and visibility were reviewed and found to be basically the same. The exhaust stack and cooling towers, footprint, turbines, equipment, feedstock, transmission lines etc., are unchanged.

However the increased output means more air emissions leading to the need for a revised air permit. The state Division of Environmental Protection approved the updated permit on August 14, 2015.

OVJA asked the PSC to look at an issue they have raised regarding the project's air permit. The PSC rejected their attempt to intervene.

However the PSC noted in their order the permit is conditional on the developer receiving all other needed permits including an air permit.

Moundsville already went through a similar permit update regarding the increased output for their air permit. The state Division of Environmental Protection updated their permit recognizing the increased power gener-

ation and resulting emissions would still be in compliance with existing regulations.

OVJA appealed that permit to the state Air Quality Board (AQB) and lost.

In their July 18, 2016 order issuing the air permit the AQB wrote "it was somewhat concerned by the OVJA's apparent lack of knowledge about the contents of the appeal, lack of a cognizable purpose related to the environment, and overall express intent

to stop the construction of the plant solely to benefit another industry."

OVJA has now appealed the AQB ruling at the Kanawha County Circuit Court. The effect is to prevent hundreds of local construction workers from getting much needed jobs in the area.

Exactly such a point was made in numerous letters to the PSC in support of the project from a variety of local construction unions in the region. ■

Parkersburg Iron Workers 787 JAC Takes Applications

Iron Workers Local 787 Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) takes applications for their program each Wednesday (excluding holidays).

Those interested must fill out the application at 303 Erickson Boulevard, Parkersburg in person, during regular business hours; 8:00 am – noon and 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.

Applicants must provide proof they are at least 18 years old, capable of performing work of the Iron Worker trade, be a High School Graduate or have an equivalent certificate, have a valid driver's license, and pass an aptitude test given by the Parkersburg Workforce office.

In addition an applicant must live within Local 787's area for at least one year prior to applying.

Local 787's area in Ohio includes the counties of Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, and Washington; in West Virginia Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Lewis, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Upshur, Wirt and Wood Counties.

If selected a candidate must pass a substance abuse test.

The Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Program teaches in the classroom as well as on the job.

Classes are held evenings and Saturdays, allowing on-the-job learning while getting paid.

The goal is to educate new workers how to safely and efficiently perform all aspects of the trade including structural, ornamental, and reinforcing iron work, as well as mathematics, welding, and rigging.

The Apprenticeship is a four year program with starting wages set at 50% of Journeyman scale with full benefits. Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

Applications will be kept on file for a year.

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

Iron Workers Local 787 JAC will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunities in apprenticeship.

For more information contact Brad Winans, Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 304-485-6231. ■

2016 BEST Breakfast



Hundreds of community leaders attended the annual Project BEST Christmas breakfast in Wheeling held on December 7. The premier Labor-Management organization once again showcased many construction accomplishments from the year. BEST has a long history of highlighting the positive contributions made by the unionized sector of the construction industry.

2017 Legislative Session Starts in February

The 2017 legislative session will begin February 13, a month later than usual due to the election of a new governor.

Representatives from the Trades are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.

Critical infrastructure investment is needed and could boost the ailing state economy.

That could be good news for local workers if funds can be dedicated toward much needed projects. However the state budget is expected to be \$400 million in the red so finding new funds for infrastructure will be a challenge.

Restoring the state prevailing wage law will also be on the agenda of building trades representatives and legislators; however with the current legislative make-up success is unlikely.

“We will show, with facts and figures, that promised savings from prevailing wage repeal have not materialized,” said Steve White, ACT Director.

Instead the evidence points to the problems predicted – lost jobs from

imported workers and contractors, lower wages, decline in benefits, and construction quality problems.

“The repeal of prevailing wage is really hurting our local workers, contractors and economy,” said White.

Working families are also expecting another round of attacks from Republican legislative leaders similar to the last two years of Republican control.

News stories about the possible repeal of decades old wage bond laws have surfaced. These laws require companies new to the area to put up a bond to make sure wages are paid.

In the 1970’s and 80’s, particularly in the coal industry, many workers got stiffed by companies who would delay paychecks for weeks and then close their doors or leave town.

The wage bond protects workers from such actions.

In Kentucky the fight has already started with a new republican majority passing Right-to-Work, Prevailing Wage Repeal, and a new anti-union measure dubbed the Paycheck Protection Act.

“We call it Paycheck Deception,”

said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

“It’s another bill from the right-wing think tank ALEC that’s sole purpose is to gut unions and take away the only protection working families have.”

The bill creates a huge paperwork

burden on unions, especially around any political speech, while leaving corporations free to spend unlimited funds.

“These bills will take us back to the 1920’s when corporations made all the rules and workers had to obey or else,” said Efaw. ■

Apprenticeship Opportunity for Inside Wireman

The Charleston Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee is accepting applications from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The application must be filled out in person at the JATC office located at 810 Indiana Ave. Charleston, WV.

The deadline to apply for the 2017 Charleston Electrical Apprenticeship will be Thursday, February 16th, 2017.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 466 and the Charleston Division of the WV-Ohio Valley National Electrical Contractors Association work together to deliver the highest quality training available for our electrical apprentices in all phases of work in commercial, industrial, instrumentation, and tele-data.

Apprentices receive five years training with a total of 900 hours of classroom instruction and 8000 hours of on-the-job training.

This provides affiliated contractors with craftsmen who have the knowledge, skills, and attitude to remain competitive with honest wages and benefits.

Starting apprenticeship pay is \$14.51 per hour plus benefits.

Copies of a High School diploma, equivalency (GED or TASC) diploma, a two-year Associate Degree or higher must be submitted.

In addition all applicants must provide either an official high school transcript showing successful com-

pletion of one full year of algebra or a college transcript showing credit for an algebra course.

Veterans who submit a DD-214 form will receive consideration for military training and experience.

Applicants must have a valid driver’s license.

There is an application fee of \$20.

Before admission and during the program a substance abuse test will be administered at random times.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices during their apprenticeship, shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or age--except the applicant must be at least 17 years of age to apply and 18 years of age at time of indenture. The JATC does not, and will not, discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability.

Applicants who meet all basic requirements and are a resident of one of the counties listed below will be interviewed and selected in order of their ranking: Zone 1 (Charleston area) Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Kanawha, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Webster and Wyoming Counties. Zone 2 (Bluefield/Princeton area) in WV; Monroe, McDowell, Mercer and Greenbrier and in VA; Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Giles, Grayson, Smyth, Tazewell and Wythe Counties.

For more information check out their web site www.ibew466.org. ■

Atlantic Coast Pipeline One Step Closer



Miles of pipe wait to be turned into the Atlantic Coast Pipeline by union workers. The stockpile is in the Morgantown area. The pipe pictured is 42 inches in diameter.

Staff from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently gave approval for the project. FERC Commissioners must now review the recommendations. Construction of the \$5 billion project is expected in 2018.

Plasterer & Cement Mason Apprenticeship

The West Virginia area Plasterers and Cement Masons 926 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee will be accepting applications from Monday, January 23rd through Friday, February 3rd, 2017, during weekdays.

Applications will be accepted at four locations during normal business hours.

OVCEC

21 Armory Drive
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-0520

CEA-NCWV Inc.

2794 White Hall Blvd.
White Hall, WV 26554
304-367-1290

OP&CMIA Local 926

3130 7th Ave.
Charleston, WV 25387
304-744-8389

OP&CMIA Local 926

Training Center
720 Staunton Turnpike
Parkersburg, WV 26104
304-865-8389

If accepted into the program you will learn all aspects of the Plasters

and Cement Masons trade including a variety of methods to finish concrete surfaces, an understanding of the properties of concrete curing, the effects of temperature and different compositions of product, the application of stucco and similar exterior products, and more.

Apprentices will have classroom training along with paid on-the-job training and depending on work availability usually complete the program within three years.

Applications must have the following documentation to be eligible.

- a copy of your birth certificate
- a copy of your High School Diploma or equivalent (GED)
- proof of residency such as: Driver's License, utility bill or rent receipt in your name.

You must reside within the jurisdiction of OP&CMIA Local 926: (All of West Virginia: Belmont, Jefferson, and Harrison Counties in Ohio: Allegheny, Garrett, and Washington Counties in Maryland.)

In addition you must be physically capable of performing the work of the trade and be able to pass a pre-employment drug screening.

You may bring certificates for vocational/technical school or college if applicable.

Veterans can bring a form DD-214 for consideration of military ser-

vice.

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

The JATC will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship. ■



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www.actwv.org



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Sheet Metal Workers' #33 Apprenticeship

The WV Sheet Metal Workers' Local 33 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program accepts applications for their apprenticeship program year round.

Applications are taken at all Work-Force WV offices Monday – Friday.

Applicants must reside within the jurisdiction of Local 33 and indicate which of the following districts they are applying for.

Charleston District which includes the following counties: Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming Counties of West Virginia.

Clarksburg District includes: Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, Webster and Wetzel Counties of WV.

Parkersburg District: Calhoun,

Gilmer, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt and Wood counties in WV and Washington County in Ohio.

Wheeling District: Brooke, Hancock, Marshall and Ohio Counties of WV and Belmont, Jefferson, Harrison and Monroe Counties of Ohio.

Applicants must:

- be at least 18 years old.
- be physically able to perform the work of the trade.
- have a High School diploma or equivalent (GED).
- have a valid driver's license.

This program teaches all aspects of the Sheet Metal trade including HVAC, duct installation and fabrication, smoke and fire damper installation, and many more skills important for a great career.

Starting apprentices earn 40-45 percent of a journeyman's wage with regular increases and benefits depending on hours worked.

The program takes five years to complete and is of no cost to the apprentice.

Before admission and during the program a substance abuse test will be administered at random times.

Veterans who submit a DD-214

form will receive consideration for military training and experience.

All applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex. For additional information visit their web site at www.wvjatc33.com. ■

Kentucky

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in the state and at least 600 veterans may lose their employer-provided health coverage.

The market share of veteran-owned construction companies will also decrease.

The report challenged false estimates of construction savings from the repeal of prevailing wage. In West Virginia there has yet to be one documented case of any savings from the repeal of prevailing wage but many documented losses in jobs, wages,

benefits and quality of work.

Like West Virginia two years ago, changes in the make-up of Kentucky's legislature puts prevailing wage in real jeopardy according Finn.

"We tried hard to educate legislators that prevailing wage is not a political issue, it's an economic issue which brings great value to the state," said Finn.

A report summary and link to the full report can be found on the ACT web site actwv.org. ■