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

# Prevailing Wage Repeal Hurts Economy, Training

Two recent studies combined show the decline in apprenticeship, caused by prevailing wage repeal, is hurting West Virginia's economy.

In Minnesota a study published in September shows for each dollar invested into apprenticeship programs \$21 in economic value is produced.

In West Virginia a study completed in May, 2019 showed the repeal of the state prevailing wage law has led to a 28 percent decline in apprenticeship numbers relative to neighboring states with prevailing wage laws.

"There is no reason to believe the connection found in Minnesota be-

tween apprenticeship and a healthy economy is any different in West Virginia," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades Council.

The Minnesota study showed over the long run the 10 largest joint programs (a joint program is one where

labor and management are partners) in Minnesota's construction industry provide \$617 million in economic value – a return on investment of \$21 per dollar invested.

Written by associates of the Illinois University of Illinois at Urbana-

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## Nonunion Job Year Late, Millions Over Budget Union Contractor Sets Record Completing Highway Bridge Re-decking Project

Riddle – one large bridge re-decking project was ahead of schedule the other smaller job took an extra year to complete – why?

Answer – the project ahead of schedule was Brayman Construction Corporation using local skilled union labor, the project that took an extra year and cost millions more was Kanawha Stone Company, a nonunion contractor.

This may have been an easy question for ACT Report readers but for those who are not in the industry the answer may be harder to see.

The projects are the Tom Williams Family Bridge re-decking done by union contractor Brayman Construction in Kanawha County and the Bonds Creek Bridge project in Ritchie County done by nonunion Kanawha Stone.

Bonds Creek bid on November 15, 2016, Kanawha Stone was low bidder at \$4,479,590. In second place was union contractor Kokosing Con-

struction at \$4,749,495.

The Bonds Creek project had two years to be completed by September 28, 2018. However according to a DOH website the project only reached the substantial completion point by September 25, 2019 – a year after the scheduled completion – and was at a whopping \$7,927,218 price tag, 77% more than their bid. The project still is not complete.

Most contracts have a clause calling for penalties when a project does not meet the completion time.

ACT has sent a series of Freedom of Information requests to the WV DOH asking if penalties have been imposed and for change order information but DOH is refusing to comply. The only information ACT did receive from DOH was a change order extending the time.

Kanawha Stone also was fined by OSHA in March of 2019 after a site inspection noted five violations and a penalty of \$34,100 was levied.

Comparing the Bonds Creek project with the Tom Williams Family Bridge project tells a story.

The Tom Williams Family Bridge project which was a series of bridge re-decking along I-64, with six and at times eight lanes. The Bonds Creek

project was one bridge with four lanes on route 50.

Brayman Construction's low bid on May 22, 2018 was \$19,555,555. Because it was a design-build project the company had to do the design

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Union construction workers at the Danner Bridge portion of the Brayman Construction I-64 bridge re-decking project completed this section 24 days ahead of schedule.

# Painters Bring Focus to Infrastructure

Painters District Council 53 assembled an impressive group of state and private agencies to bring focus to the huge needs our state has for water and sewer infrastructure funding.

An event called “Imagine a Day Without Water” was held at the state capitol on Wednesday, November 13 and is part of a national effort to raise awareness and educate America about the value of water.

Painters DC 53 Business Manager Dan Poling opened the event noting corrosion prevention is an important and often overlooked part of the solution to infrastructure needs.

Senators Glenn Jeffries (D-Putnam) and Corey Palumbo (D-Kanawha) delivered a proclamation from Governor Jim Justice which recognized the national event and West Virginia’s need to be involved.

Speakers included Amy Swan of the WV Rural Water Association who emphasized the need for more

skilled water and sewer plant operators and noted apprenticeship as an avenue to train people.

Marie Prezioso of the WV Water Development Authority, recognized much more needed to be done, but outlined programs in place to tackle the difficult problems the state faces.

Prezioso talked about the efforts she oversees through the Infrastructure and Jobs Council to coordinate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, DEP, Small Cities Block Grants, Abandon Mine Lands, and related agencies to combine resources and provide focus to funding problems.

According to Brian Stanley of Painters DC 53 the problem is not just in WV but across the country.

“There is \$4.8 trillion in unmet needs for water and sewer projects across the country,” said Stanley. “This is a problem we need federal, state and local officials plus the private sector to work together on.” ■

## WV Laborers Want New Apprentices

The West Virginia Construction Craft Laborers’ Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee is accepting applications year round.

Those interested can apply at any WorkForce WV Office between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old; have a high school diploma (or equivalent) or pass a test administered by WorkForce; have a valid driver’s license; and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

A substance abuse test, including random tests, 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 will be requested but at a later date.

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

The WV Laborers’ Training Center in Mineral Wells provides 400 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 earn 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 more.

For more information visit their web site [www.wvcccl.org](http://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. ■



Senators Corey Palumbo (from right) and Glenn Jeffries present a proclamation from Governor Jim Justice on the importance of funding water infrastructure to Amy Swan of the WV Rural Water Assoc. and Marie Prezioso of the WV Water Development Authority.

## Apprenticeship Week

In recognition of National Apprenticeship Week held November 11-17 Painters District Council 53 held a Contractors’ Appreciation Open House at their Finishing Trades Institute (FTI) Training Center in Weston on November 12

“Key to apprenticeship is having contractor partners,” said Dan Poling, Business Manager of Painters DC 53. “Without on-the-job training

apprenticeship does not exist.”

National Apprenticeship Week is a nationwide celebration that gives businesses, labor organizations and communities the opportunity to showcase their apprenticeship programs and apprentices while providing information to career seekers.

Contractors were given a tour of the training center and shown new renovations and equipment. ■



(From left): FTI Training Director Tony Phillips; John Raddish and Tim Gooden (Easley & Rivers); Dan Poling and David Bland (DC 53) at National Apprenticeship Week event.

# Black Rock Wind Project Gets PSC OK

The State Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the siting certificate for the Black Rock Wind project on November 19.

That puts the \$146 million project one step closer to a start date which hopefully will be early to mid-2020.

The project will start with 23 turbines in Grant and Mineral Counties. Each turbine has a potential to create around 4.8 megawatts, so the maximum capacity is rated at 110 megawatts if the wind was always perfect.

An additional six turbines could be installed at a later date but were not part of the approval.

The PSC order did contain a number of conditions which must be met both prior to construction and during construction of the project.

Several other permits must first be approved by various government agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the Army Corp of Engineers, WV Division of Culture and History, and others.

During construction restrictions on noise, hours of operation, and

lighting, were among 12 conditions outlined.

Black Rock filed their initial application in May of this year.

Public hearings were held in Grant County in July.

One of those testifying was Cliff Wendricks, Business Manager for Iron Workers Local 568 and a local landowner.

"I fully support the project not only because of the jobs it will bring local construction workers but also as a local landowner," said Wendricks.

In their order the PSC noted a number of supporters from the crafts attended the meeting and many also sent in written support letters.

A formal hearing was held in Charleston in September.

ACT and the WV State Building Trades intervened at the hearing in support of the project.

One of the key considerations for the PSC regarding the siting permit is the economic impact from the project, including construction.

The projects developers Clearway

Energy and the North Central WV Building Trades have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) requiring any construction contractors to use local union workers to build the project.

The MOA along with an economic impact study produced by Marshall University's Center for Business and Economic Research became important evidence at the hearing.

ACT's Steve White testified on behalf of the Trades during the hearing

that approximately \$9.6 million in wages and benefits will be paid to local union construction workers.

In addition, a study from Marshall University's Center for Business and Economic Research showed the local dollars spent in the local economy create significant additional "spin-off" value.

Any legal appeal would have to be filed within 30 days of the order and would go directly to the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. ■

## Insulators 80 Extend Application Date

**PROGRAM NAME:** Heat & Frost Insulators Local 80 JATC.

**WHERE TO APPLY:** Any WorkForce WV office.

**WHEN TO APPLY:** Extended until December 27th, 2019.

**HOURS TO APPLY:** Monday thru Thursday: 8:30 – 5:00, Friday: 9 – 5. Check your local WorkForce WV Office for TABE testing times.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

**AGE:** At least 18 years of age.

**EDUCATION:** High School Diploma or equivalent.

**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 WorkForce WV.

**RESIDENCY:** Must reside in one of the following counties at least one year prior to applying.

**Ohio:** Gallia, Meigs, Washington, Jackson, Pike, Lawrence or Scioto.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**DOCUMENTS:** Certified Birth Certificate, Copy of High School Diploma or GED/TASC Certificate, copy of Valid Driver's License, Certified High School Transcript of Grades, must be mailed c/o JATC, P.O. Box 806, Winfield, WV 25213 and received no later than December 27, 2019.

**DO NOT MAIL UNTIL AFTER YOU APPLY AND MEET TESTING REQUIREMENTS.**

**THE RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRAINING OF APPRENTICES SHALL BE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR SEX.**

For more info contact (304) 586-4780. ■

## Chapman has Safety Awareness Day at MPLX



A group of craft workers watch a presentation about fall-protection during Safety Awareness Day sponsored by Chapman Corporation.

Around 170 craft union workers participated in the day long training at the new Smithberg site of MPLX (formerly MarkWest) in Doddridge County on Thursday, November 21.

According to Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary of the North Central WV Building Trades Council, craft workers spent the day listening to presentations from four safety experts, heard some words of appreciation from MPLX, and lunch was provided. Local union representatives from participating crafts also attended.

# Union Team Wins \$224 Million Bridge Job

A team of two union contractors were the low bidders on a much-anticipated new bridge project on I-64

over the Kanawha River.

The \$224,480,422 bid by partners Brayman Construction and Trum-

bull Corporation was opened on October 22.

The bid was a design-build approach so the team must now design the bridge. Construction is expected to start in the Fall of 2020.

Brayman Construction has been recognized recently for being ahead of schedule on bridge re-decking work in Kanawha County on I-64.

They had 100 days to get to substantial completion – meaning no traffic interruptions – and they accomplished the job in 91 days.

“This is a great team, both use all local, skilled craft union workers for their projects,” said Chuck Parker, Business Manager for Operating Engineers Local 132 and President of the WV State Building Trades. ■

## Economy

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Champaign School of Labor and Employment Relations and the Illinois Economic Policy Institute the study found for many young Minnesota workers, enrolling in a registered apprenticeship program is a better option than attending college.

The study also found:

- The annual income gain from participating in a registered apprenticeship program is about \$4,700, greater than the effect of having an associate's degree and many bachelor's degrees.

- 96 percent of all apprentices are training for careers in the skilled construction trades.

- Construction programs in Minnesota invest over \$30 million in upgrading worker skills each year.

- 93 percent of all active construction apprentices are enrolled in pro-

grams sponsored jointly by unions and contractors.

- The 10 largest joint programs invest 100 times more in worker training than the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Efaw estimates apprenticeship programs in West Virginia spend about \$10 million per year.

Using the Minnesota ratio to estimate the WV economic impact results in \$210 million per year.

But in West Virginia that number is dropping fast.

“While West Virginia is seeing a decline in apprenticeship numbers, which is bad for our young people, our industry and the economy, states like Minnesota are adding more apprentices and boosting their economy,” said Efaw. ■

## Highway

**Continued from Page 1**

work before construction could get started in May of 2019.

The main section of the project had a 100-day schedule which was actually completed by the end of August in 91 days – nine days ahead of schedule. Most importantly they had no lost time accidents.

Joe Elliott, a Representative of the Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional Council of Carpenters, drove past the Bonds Creek job for two years.

“I don't understand why the

Bonds Creek job took so long and why the contractor got paid almost twice what they bid,” said Elliott.

“How does DOH allow one company to take three years for a project when another company gets a much bigger job done in a few months' time?” asked Elliott.

“The public benefits when a union contractor and skilled local union labor get a project because they get the job done on-time and within budget.” ■

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## Tri-State Trades Host Customer Appreciation



Jay Richart, Plant Manager for Marathon Petroleum's Catlettsburg Refinery was among the many speakers at the annual Tri-State Building Trades Customer Appreciation Breakfast. Held in Ashland, KY on December 6 the event this year focused on jobsite safety and included a wide range of speakers representing owners who hire union contractors and local union workers affiliated with the Tri-State Building Trades. “We in the Building Trades truly appreciate the partners we have among the owners and contractors not just once a year but throughout the year,” said Mark Johnson, Business Manager for Tri-State.

### Longview Public Hearing

*Support a \$1 Billion Project*

**Monday, January 6, 2020 Starts at 5:30 p.m.**

**Monongalia County Courthouse**

**243 High Street, Second Floor, Morgantown**

The Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed \$1 billion Longview-2 Project. Longview has committed to using local union construction workers to build this project.