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

2020 Legislative Session Underway with Bad Start

West Virginia's 60-day legislative session began on Wednesday, January 8.

As with the last few sessions Trades representatives are prepared to defend important laws such as craft licensing and the West Virginia Jobs Act but have little likelihood of passing anything to help local construction workers.

"Unfortunately, the people running the Senate and House are more focused on hurting workers than helping our communities," said Chuck Parker, President of the WV State Building Trades.

"But there are still plenty of legislators who we can work with so our

mission is to explain why laws like the West Virginia Jobs Act and licensing should stay in place."

The WV Jobs Act requires projects funded with state, county or city tax dollars look for local construction labor before anyone else can be imported.

Enforcement is based on payroll documents which have been the target of Republican legislative leaders for the prior legislative sessions.

The attack on occupational licensing is not new but appears to be a focus for this year's session.

The issue appears to be a priority not because of problems found in current license laws but rather because outside right-

wing groups are promoting the topic as another way to weaken workers and unions.

"The attack on licensing and certification if successful will hurt the public, jobsite safety and those work-

ing in the occupations," said Parker.

Other areas of concern for the Trades include the elimination of any contractor standards for public construction projects.

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WV State Building Trades*



Senator Glenn Jeffries (D-Putnam) (left) talks with Justin Williams, attorney for Operating Engineers Local 132, about new bills introduced at the 2020 Legislative session. "Having someone who understands the construction industry like Senator Jeffries (owner of union construction company Cornerstone Interiors) is a big plus for our members," said Williams.

PW Repeal Hurts WV Apprenticeship

Illinois Study Shows Apprenticeship Rivals College, but in WV Numbers are in Decline

A new study found Illinois' joint-labor management construction apprenticeship programs are rivaling—and in some cases exceeding—the performance of the state's colleges and universities.

The study from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI) and the Project for Middle Class Renewal (PMCR) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was published in early January.

Some key findings include:

- Despite a higher likelihood of suffering an unemployment spell, a union journeyworker earns about as much over a career (\$2.4 million) as a worker with a bachelor's degree

(\$2.5 million after student debt).

- More than 85% of all apprenticeship enrollment in Illinois is in the construction sector, making the industry's apprenticeship system

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\$1 Billion Project

PSC Holds Public Hearing on Longview-2

The WV State Public Service Commission, as part of the siting certificate application process, held a public hearing in Morgantown on Monday, January 6 regarding the proposed expansion at Longview Power.

Leaders and members of various crafts affiliated with the North Central WV Building Trades Council attend the meeting to show support.

“We focus on construction because all too often it is dismissed as unimportant”

Natalie Stone

*Executive Secretary
North Central WV Building Trades*

Longview Power 2 will be both a 1200-megawatt gas-fired electric generating facility estimated to cost \$900 million and a 50-megawatt solar field plus pipelines valued at \$100 million.

Longview and the Trades have signed a Memorandum of Agreement which ensures local union construction workers will build the gas project.

The solar project is primarily located in Pennsylvania, outside of the jurisdiction of North Central.

“We had a great showing of members and speakers at the hearing,” said Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary of the North Central WV Building Trades.

“Our folks are excited about this project.”

The public hearing will be followed by an evidentiary hearing in Charleston later in the month.

At those hearing ACT and the State Building Trades have intervened in support of the project.

ACT has commissioned a report to examine the positive economic impact from construction of the project when local workers are used.

Preliminary results show construction workers stand to gain more

than \$100 million in wages and benefits during the construction phase of the project.

“When you look at the impact to the local economy when more than \$100 million is earned and spent by construction worker it is huge,” said Stone.

Approximately 1.5 million man-hours are estimated and a peak employment of 600 workers.

Not in the report are non-construction workers such as supervision, engineers, delivery, security, office staff and others.

“We focus on construction because all too often it is dismissed as unimportant,” said Stone. “The truth of the matter is the impact from lo-

cal construction is the biggest impact from the project.”

Getting a siting certificate from the PSC is just one of many permits needed for the project.

A variety of state and federal agencies will review details such as the environmental impact, the impact on nearby cultural and historic sites, the effect on wildlife, the view from surrounding residences, traffic, noise, and many other areas.

“Many projects such as these have been built in nearby Pennsylvania and Ohio so there is no reason they can’t meet similar requirements here,” said Stone.

Construction hopefully will start later this year. ■



Around 80 members of Locals affiliated with the North Central WV Building Trades attended the public hearing in Morgantown on January 6 to support the \$1 Billion Longview Power-2.

Plumbers & Pipefitters 625 Apprenticeship

NAME OF PROGRAM: Charleston JATC of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 625.

WHERE TO APPLY: 3601 James Ave, Charleston, WV 25387.

WHEN TO APPLY: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, February 11, 12 and 13, 2020 and Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, February 18, 19 and 20, 2020.

HOURS TO APPLY: 2:00 PM to

3:00 PM - (\$35 Application fee, when you return your application).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
AGE: 17 years of age at the time of application, and must be 18 prior to being indentured by the JATC.

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 valid Driver's license.

APTITUDE: Must score standard level on TABE test administered by WorkForce WV.

APPLICATION RETURN: All applications must be returned by March 13, 2020. No applications will be accepted after the cut-off date.

A copy of the applicant's birth certificate, high school transcript

of grades, high school diploma or Equivalent and scores, DD2-14 Form *if former Military, and valid driver's license will be requested at the time of application. {ONLY COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED}

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

One Million Manhours

Safety Milestone Reached at John Amos

Representatives from AEP's John Amos Plant, Construction Contractors and the Trades met to recognize a major achievement at the Putnam County coal-fired power plant – 1,040,704 construction manhours worked without a lost-time accident.

Enerfab & Industrial Corporation led the effort over the past 828 days performing the in-plant maintenance at the John Amos plant.

The key to success according to Charleston Building Trades Business Manager, Paul Breedlove is the Tripartite approach where the owner, contractors and labor work together to focus on safety.

“Tripartite means a team effort on safety and we appreciate the leadership and effort from the plant, contractors and our members to reach this significant goal,” said Breedlove. ■



Celebrating one million manhours worked without a lost time accident at the John Amos Power Plant in Putnam County are members of the Trades, John Amos, and participating contractors led by Enerfab.

Illinois Study

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one of the state's largest privately-financed post-secondary institutions.

- Of those apprentices, 97% are enrolled in programs administered jointly by labor unions and their signatory contractors (“joint labor-management programs”), and fully funded by privately negotiated cents-per-hour contributions from employers.

in the labor-management programs pay nothing for their education and get paid on-the-job training. Taxpayers also pay nothing because these programs are funded by contractors and workers.

However, apprenticeship enrollment in West Virginia is on the decline since the repeal of the state prevailing wage law.

low wage contractors on bid day,” noted Efaw.

“And the current attack on occupational licensing may put the nail

in the coffin for many training programs.”

The Illinois report can be found on the ACT website. ■

Active Apprentices After Repeal in West Virginia, Illinois, and the United States

Fiscal Year	Dates Covered	West Virginia	Illinois	United States*
2016	10/1/2015 to 9/30/2016	5,413	13,754	371,591
2017	10/1/2016 to 9/30/2017	5,487	15,186	439,266
2018	10/1/2017 to 9/30/2018	4,358	15,905	472,248
Numerical Change: 2016-2018		-1,055	+2,151	+100,657
Percent Change: 2016-2018		-19.5%	+15.6%	+27.1%

Source(s): “Data and Statistics: Registered Apprenticeship National Results” (DOLETA, 2019). *Excludes apprentices in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP).

According to Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades there are many parallels in West Virginia.

Most apprenticeship programs in WV are in the construction trades and almost all the programs are joint labor-management programs.

Efaw points out that apprentices

US DOL data shows West Virginia has seen a 19.5 percent decrease in apprenticeship while during the same period Illinois has seen a 15.6 percent increase.

“Instead of encouraging apprenticeship in West Virginia our legislative leaders have hurt contractors who invest in training by rewarding

Active Apprentices After Repeal in West Virginia and Neighboring Prevailing Wage States

Fiscal Year	Dates Covered	West Virginia	Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland
2016	10/1/2015 to 9/30/2016	5,413	42,168
2017	10/1/2016 to 9/30/2017	5,487	44,087
2018	10/1/2017 to 9/30/2018	4,358	45,596
Numerical Change: 2016-2018		-1,055	+3,428
Percent Change: 2016-2018		-19.5%	+8.1%

Source(s): “Data and Statistics: Registered Apprenticeship National Results” (DOLETA, 2019).

2020 Session

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Current law allows a public agency to ask for a contractors’ track record on prior projects including their record on quality, on-time completion, legal, and regulatory issues.

The Senate has repeatedly pushed for, and passed, a law banning any standards, but their bill has not passed the House of Delegates.

Similarly bills to weaken Crane Operator certification have also

passed the Senate but not the House.

Most if not all of the bills attacking workers were reintroduced on the first day of the 2020 session.

“We would like to work with the legislature to improve funding for water and sewer projects, schools and other important infrastructure needs but it is hard to do when the leaders are more focused on destroying our unions,” said Parker. ■

Partner with Pantry Plus More Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Hold Holiday Food Drive

Members of Carpenters Local 436 help load food donations for Pantry Plus More, a Monongalia based non-profit organization that operates free

school pantries, food giveaways, and health and wellness programs.

According to Council representative Nate Beha (fifth from right)

the food was donated by members throughout the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (formerly the Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional Council).

Amanda Bolyard (fifth from left) with Longview Power came to pick up the food during a local union meeting held on Thursday, December 12. ■



Members of Carpenters Local 436 prepare to load up food that will go to Pantry Plus More in Monongalia County.

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Charleston Area Trades Ring Bell for Christmas



Members of Roofers Local 185 Zack Wilson (left) and Bruce Hysell at Kroger's in Kanawha City were among the many Charleston Building Trades affiliates who volunteered to help the Salvation Army raise funds for Christmas.

The participating locals were the top volunteer group for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season raising \$8,681.93 at 11 locations in the Charleston area.

"All the crafts have participated in this event for many years and are happy to help out especially at Christmas time," said Paul Breedlove, Business Manager of the Charleston Building Trades.

U.S. Cong. Bill Johnson attends PMBTC Meeting



Congressman Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) (left) with House of Delegates Candidate and Millwright Local 443 Representative Kerry Murphy at the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Council meeting in December held at the Pipefitters Hall in Marietta.

Johnson has been a friend of the Trades in Congress and a diehard supporter of the Davis-Bacon law.

He has helped bring other congressional republicans to support Davis-Bacon as well.

In addition, Johnson has been instrumental in Ohio's efforts to bring the \$10 Billion PTT Cracker to Belmont County.