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The ACT Foundation is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council. Steve Burton, President; Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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Klempa And Tillis Elected 2006 Labor Candidates Win Big!

The 2006 election proved to be very favorable to Labor endorsed candidates in West Virginia and elsewhere.

In the state Senate nine of eleven labor backed candidates won. And in the House, where the pending election of a new Speaker created a lot of attention, 49 of 59 endorsed candidates won.

Orphy Klempa, a member of the Carpenters Union, led the ticket in his bid for a House of Delegates seat in Ohio County.

Labor picked up eight new seats in the House increasing the likelihood that a labor endorsed candidate will be selected for the next Speaker of the House.

Current Speaker, Bob Kiss (D-Raleigh), chose not to run for office again.

When the December interim meetings are held a new Speaker will be elected.

The Speaker decides who will run the committees and has a huge influence on the legislation that will be voted on.

Rumors are also out that Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin will be challenged for his post.

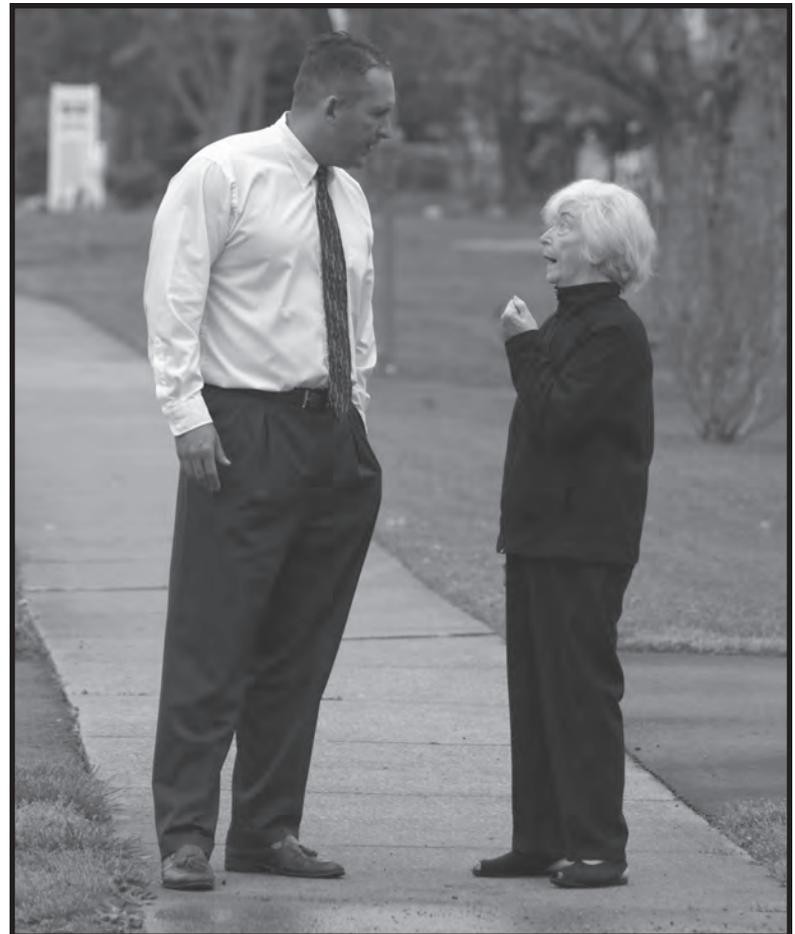
Coal Baron Don Blankenship, CEO of the anti-union Massey Energy Company, had tried to influence most of the House races by waging an expensive and dirty campaign against democratic candidates.

Press reports say Blankenship spent more than \$2 million for a campaign which included newspaper, radio and television ads, extensive phone polling and post card mailings, and hired door-to-door workers.

He also spent thousands in direct contributions to candidates as did many Massey executives and business associates.

At the end of the night Blankenship's efforts proved to be a total failure.

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GARY TILLIS TALKS with Putnam County resident Genevive Hedrick during his door-to-door campaign for County Commission.

Longview Wins Supreme Court Appeal

Appeals of the Public Service Commission's (PSC) final permit by opponents of the Longview Power project in Monongalia County, have finally ended.

The Supreme Court voted four to one on October 25 not to take the latest case.

Opponents to the project have tried a variety of legal challenges to stop the project including two attempts to challenge the PSC permit at the state Supreme Court.

But with the help of the Building Trades the project has moved forward slowly but steadily over the last five years.

What started as an \$850 million, 600 megawatt project in 2001 is now at \$1.8 billion and

Reserve Corporation, who will partner with the project developers GenPower to build and

a noise impact/mitigation study, evidence of financial viability, evidence of the taxes Longview would pay and a transmission line plan.

Longview complied with the requirements and in June 2006 the PSC granted approval for their coal-fired power project. Opponents then filed an appeal to the state Supreme Court of Appeals.

A number of appeals had already been won by Longview including a challenge to the property tax deal made with the county commission, and appeals to both air and water permits.

"After five years of waiting and many hours of hard work,

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"AFTER FIVE YEARS OF WAITING AND MANY HOURS OF HARD WORK, WE ARE ECSTATIC," NATALIE STONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

695 megawatts due to major increases in materials, turbines and coal.

The project has recently received another major boost by attracting a large funder, First

operate the power plant.

Longview was awarded a partial certificate from the PSC, with conditions, for the site and construction in 2004. The PSC requested more detailed plans,

Carpenters Charter New Residential Local #1070

A charter establishing Carpenters Local 1070 as a residential construction union in West Virginia has been granted by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

The viability of an independent WV residential local was established under the direction of Bill Halbert, head of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters (MARCC) in conjunction with a lot of work from several staff members of the WV District.

“The trend nationally has been consolidation of locals, but we were able to persuade our International that there is a viable market capable of supporting an organization representing work-

ers in the residential market,” said Mark Estlack, West Virginia District Manager of MARCC.

The addition of this new local will make a total of ten that he supervises across the state.

According to Estlack, convincing the International took a dedicated team effort. Viability studies, outlines of organizational structure, and sources of projected funding, to name just a few of the issues that had to be resolved, with the goal being to prove this new local worthy of the commitment of a full time Service Representative/Organizer, Secretarial, and Organizational staff.

Estlack said there is an enor-

mous residential market that is almost totally non-union with both the worker and employer needing to be educated about the benefits of working union.

“WE HAVE A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AND TO REPRESENT PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE...A CONTRACT.”
MARK ESTLACK, DISTRICT MANAGER, MARCC

We have positioned ourselves to be competitive in the residential market while providing the benefits of working union. This is not an easy task but it can be done with the assistance of our talented staff.

The new local will be based in Parkersburg, representing workers state wide, while focusing primarily on single and multiple-family homes.

We currently have several carpenters that have been working in the residential market under present residential agreements as members of the existing locals. Fifty of these members will become charter members of the new Residential Local 1070, said Estlack

There is a residential training program in place right now, which will be expanded to accommodate more specific residential training and expected growth.

“We have a real opportunity to grow and to represent people who, more than likely have none or very little in the way of benefits, fair pay or access to a workplace with a contract pro-

tecting the conditions they work under,” said Estlack. “Everyone is really excited.”

The new officers have been appointed by General President McCarron and will be sworn in November 18.

The Service Representative/Organizer for the local is Paul Shaffer II, a union carpenter with broad experience in the traditional and residential market.

Sahffer has been serving as an instructor in the carpenters training program, and was chosen as the result of a very competitive selection process.

“We want to bring in as many non-union workers as we can,” said Shaffer. “Good framers, carpenters and drywall men in the residential market should be in the union.”

Bricklayers and Carpenters Handbill at Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in Parkersburg

Members of the Bricklayers and Carpenters Unions distributed flyers in Parkersburg to let the public know how bad Texas Roadhouse can be.

At issue is the many illegal contractors and workers used to build the new restaurant in Parkersburg.

According to Department of Labor records seven contractors working at the project were cited for license violations and five for wage bond violations.

The contractors were also cited for having numerous

undocumented workers on the job.

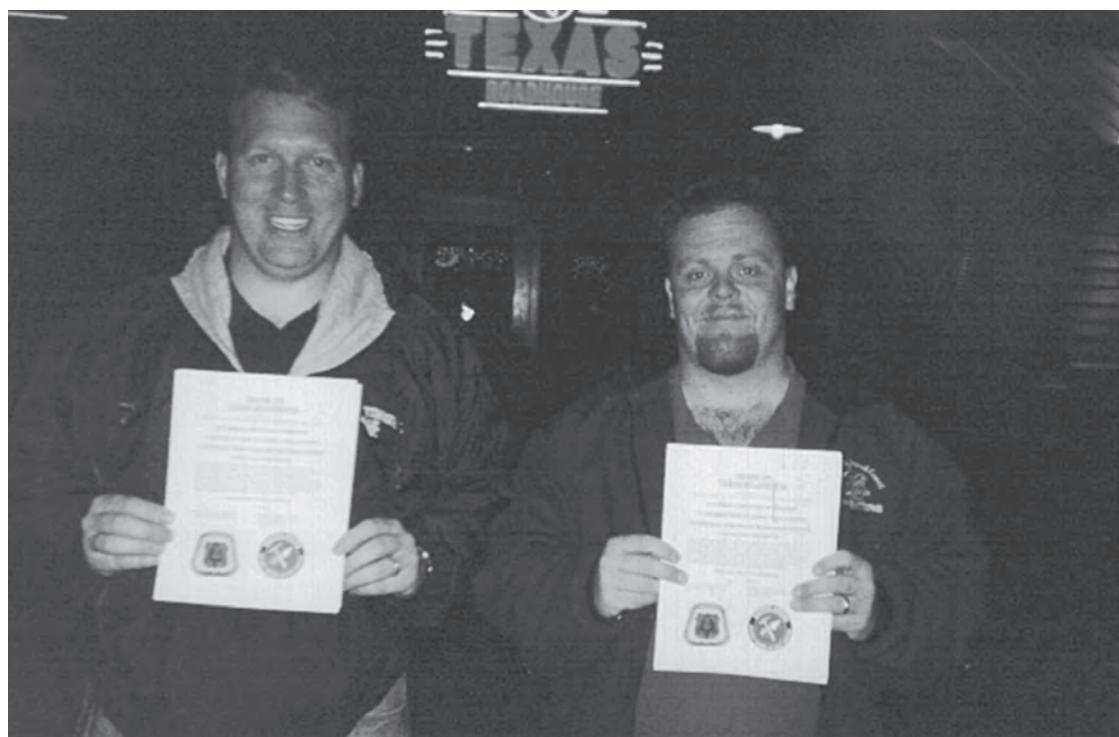
At least 25 workers without identification were found.

To help publicize the problems the two unions placed a full page ad in the Sunday paper.

Starting last May, and through September, the crafts were at the site with a banner reading “Shame on Texas Roadhouse.”

“They had contractors from Texas and workers we believe were illegal taking the jobs local workers want and need,” said Steve Ruble, organizer for the Bricklayers.

“That’s not good business for our community.”



HANDBILLING AT THE TEXAS ROADHOUSE restaurant in Parkersburg are (from left) Steve Ruble, Bricklayers and Joe Elliott, Carpenters.

9 of 11 In Senate, 49 of 59 In House

November 7, 2006 General Election Results for the West Virginia AFL-CIO State COPE Endorsed Candidates

U.S. SENATE

Robert C. Byrd

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st - Alan B. Mollohan

2nd - Michael O. Callaghan

3rd - Nick Joe Rahall, II

STATE SENATE

1st - Edwin J. Bowman

2nd - Larry J. Edgell

4th - Jim Lees

6th - H. Truman Chafin

8th - Erik Wells

9th - Mike Green

10th - Frederick L. Parker

11th - C. Randy White

12th - Joseph Minard

16th - John Unger

17th - Brooks McCabe, Jr.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

1st - Joe Delong

2nd - Jack Yost

3rd - Orphy Klempa,

Tal Hutchins

4th - Kenneth Tucker

9th - Jim Marion

10th - John Ellem,

Steven Whitehair

13th - Dale F. Martin,

Brady R. Paxton

14th - Gene Estel

15th - Pam Garden,

Jim Morgan

16th - Eric Anderson, Doug

Reynolds, Dale Stephens

17th - Don Perdue,

Richard Thompson

18th - Larry W. Barker

19th - Jeff Eldridge, Ted

Ellis, Lidella Wilson Hrutkay,

Ralph Rodighiero

21st - Harry Keith White

22nd - Mike Burdiss

23rd - Clifton Moore

25th - Paige Flanigan

27th - Melvin R. "Mel"

Kessler, Kevin L. Maynus

28th - Ray Canterbury

29th - Margaret Staggers,

David Perry

30th - Bonnie Brown,

Nancy Guthrie, Barbara

Hatfield, Sharon Spencer,

Danny Wells

31st - Carrie Webster

34th - Brent Boggs

35th - Sam Argento

36th - Joe Talbott

37th - Joan Hinzman-Sharp

39th - Bill Hamilton

40th - Mary M. Poling

41st - Ron Fragale,

Richard J. Iaquinto,

Tim Miley

43rd - Mike Caputo,

Linda Longstreth,

Tim Manchin

44th - Barbara Fleischauer,

Charlene Marshall,

Alex Shook

46th - Stan Shaver

50th - Ruth Rowan

51st - Gary Nelson

53rd - Jerry Burton

54th - Walter Duke

58th - Locke Wysong

Labor Wins Big

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

In fact many believe his efforts helped rather than hurt Labor's candidates.

"The best news of this election was the clear message sent by the voters of West Virginia to Don Blankenship," said Steve Burton, President of the WV State Building Trades.

"We were not fooled by his trickery."

A few Labor groups, including the WV State Building Trades, also funded a few smaller but more effective independent campaigns.

On the national scene Senator Robert Byrd, and Congressmen Rahall and Mollohan easily won their bids for re-election.

However Mike Callaghan was unable to unseat Congresswoman Shelly Moore Capito.

With Democratic control of the U.S. House and Senate West Virginia's delegation will reclaim top committee positions.

Senator Byrd will likely become Chairman of the Appropria-

tations Committee and Senator Rockefeller is the ranking Democrat on the Intelligence Committee.

Congressman Rahall could chair the powerful House Committee on Resources, and Mollohan will likely be a subcommittee chair of appropriations.

These key positions will help West Virginia get much needed federal support for many pressing infrastructure projects.

On the county level Labor won some key races as well.

Gary Tillis, head of the WV Laborers unseated Jim Caruthers for the Putnam County Commissioner seat. Caruthers had held the seat for 18 years.

Labor backed school bonds saw success and failure.

In Marshall County their school bond passed by a slim margin.

Passage of the \$28 million bond mean an additional \$8 million from the State School Building Authority will go towards a \$36 million building program.

Unfortunately in Jackson County their bond failed by 3 to 1 margin.

Insulators Local #80 Accepting Apprenticeship Applications

The Asbestos Workers Local 80 Joint Apprenticeship will accept applications on Saturday, November 18 from 8:00am until 2:00pm at the Cabell County Career Technology Center, 1035 Norway Avenue in Huntington, WV.

To qualify for an application you must be at least 18 years of age, a high school graduate with diploma or have a GED equivalent certificate, reside within Local #80 jurisdiction, (Southern WV, Southeastern Ohio and western Virginia) be physically able to perform the work required and willing to submit to a physical and drug

test.

Testing will be conducted upon completion of application.

Applicants will be accepted without regard to race, color, religion, age, national origin or sex and will conform to ADA regulations

For more information contact Ann Pollard at 740-843-1017.

Open: Heavy Duty Equipment Operator Apprentice Program

Operating Engineers Local 132 will be accepting applications for their apprenticeship program in December.

From December 4th to the 15th application can be made at any Workforce WV Center, Monday through Friday be-

tween 9:00am and 3:00pm.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of WV for the last year, have a high school degree or GED, a drivers license and be physically able to perform the work of a heavy duty equipment operator.

An aptitude and drug test will be required.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of age, race, color, religion, national origin or sex and will conform to ADA regulations.

For more information contact David Mullins or Kathy Gwinn at 304-273-4852.

November Special Session on Taxes Called

Governor Joe Manchin called a special session of the legislature right after the November 7 elections.

The session started on Thursday, November 9, and was still underway when the ACT Report went to press.

The Governor is proposing cuts in the food tax, a low income family tax credit, and a reduction in the corporate net income tax and business franchise tax that amount to approximately \$75 million in revenue cuts a year.

About \$40 million of the cuts

will be paid for by closing some business loop holes and promises of an improved tax department due to a new computer system that will soon be in place.

"We met with the Governor and told him our biggest concern was the lack of enforcement for such things as tax collection, illegal workers, licensing requirements and the entire Underground Economy," said Steve White, ACT Director.

"We got a commitment that more resources would be put toward enforcement efforts and that it will be a high priority."

Governor Manchin has also committed to supporting the renewal of a five cent gas tax ear-

marked for highway construction and maintenance project. The tax is set to expire next year.

While Building Trades leaders have agreed to support the Governor in most of his tax package there remains one area where the two sides are at odds.

Still unresolved is a debate over windmill projects and the taxes they should pay.

Current law grants wind projects favorable tax rates, the same as pollution control equipment like scrubbers on power plant. Manchin feels the tax rates are too low and is proposing significant increases of both property and production taxes.

Wind developers have

agreed to some increases but not to the level the Governor wants.

At stake are at least three projects valued at more than \$1 billion, and several more proposals still in early stages of development.

"We're at a stalemate," said White. "We have firm commitments from three current developers that all construction jobs will go to local union members,

we want these projects built."

Negotiations have been underway for weeks and it remains unclear what the outcome will be at press time.

During a special session held earlier this year a proposed ban on wind projects was dropped after ACT and WV AFL-CIO representatives came out in opposition to the bill.

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Delegate Bobbie Hatfield (D-Kanawha) and Steve White, ACT Director, talk during the opening of the November Special Session.

Longview Wins

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

we are ecstatic," said Natalie Stone, Executive Director of the North Central West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

"We want to thank everyone who helped for years to get this accomplished."

According to Stone, the plant will provide 1,200 union jobs to the area for more than three years. She said Longview will hire local workers for the con-

struction project and will provide them with livable wages, health insurance, and pension benefits.

Negotiations are currently taking place with a general contractor, Aker Kvearner USA, for the project. Construction is

expected to start early next year.

The power plant will use approximately two million tons of coal per year and will employ 60 full-time workers when it is in operation.

"I would like to thank all of the members who showed up at all the meetings over the last five years," said Darwin Snyder, President of North Central

Building and Construction Trades Council. "I'd like to thank the ACT Foundation and their lawyer Vince Trivelli. Without them we couldn't have won the court battles.

"I'd also like to thank Natalie Stone who attended countless meetings to represent us exceptionally well whenever we were unable to attend."

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