

# PRIMARY ELECTION ENDS MAY 11

The West Virginia Primary election concludes Tuesday, May 11.

And with less than a month to go, efforts are now in full swing.

Four members of the Building Trades are running for re-election.

Dave Walker is an Operating Engineer and is running in the Counties of Clay, Gilmer and Calhoun. Walker was elected two years



David Walker

ago for the first time and knows he has a tough race to get re-elected this time.

"I'm working hard to talk

to working families about who I am," said Walker.

Orphy Klempa, a member of the Carpenters, has served two terms in the House of Delegates and is now trying

to get elected to the State Senate in the Counties of Ohio, Brooke and Hancock.

Klempa will face Hancock County Commissioner Dan Greathouse in the primary.

Dan Poling is a member of the Painters and is trying to get re-elected to the House of Delegates in Wood County.

Poling has no challenger  
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DEL. DAN POLING (D-Wood) attends a picnic while on the campaign trail in Wood County. The Parkersburg Area Labor Council hosted the picnic on Sunday, April 11 in Parkersburg City Park. According to Brian Stanley, President of the Council, around 50 people attended to meet endorsed political candidates.

## HEALTH CARE REFORM NOW LAW

After much debate Congress has passed, and President Obama has signed, health care reform legislation.

The new law will be phased in over many years and has many components.

For those who have employer-sponsored health care coverage won at the bargaining table, the good news is you'll keep it.

And perhaps just as important, companies who do not provide health care benefits to employees will be required to pay an additional tax starting in 2014.

One last minute adjustment that favored union construction workers was a change to the tax on high dollar plans.

The tax won't start until 2018 and the limit was raised to only cover those plans worth more than \$30,950 per year for family coverage and \$11,850 for individuals. The amounts will increase with inflation. Stand-alone dental and vision plans are excluded from the tax.

For most other industries the tax is on plans costing \$10,200 for individuals and \$27,500 for family coverage.

Key to the legislation is the end of discriminatory practices by insurance companies. Denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions and coverage caps have been eliminated or severely limited.

While the plan is estimated to cost \$940 billion over 10 years the same estimates call

for savings due to increased participation in health plans.

An additional 30 million people will end up with insurance coverage ending one of the biggest factors in increased premiums for existing plans - paying for uncompensated care.

A tax credit will be available to small businesses who provide employee coverage starting in 2010. The credits are equal to 50% of the amount paid by a small employer for employee health coverage.

In 2014 both individuals and employers must meet certain requirements.

Individuals must obtain minimum essential coverage effective 2014 —hardship and religious exemptions are

permitted.

Failure to obtain minimum essential coverage will result in a tax as follows: \$325 in 2015; \$695 in 2016 and beyond (indexed by a cost-of-living adjustment). The penalty amount will also be applied for any dependents that do not have minimum essential coverage.

Employers are not required to provide health insurance, but they are hit with a fee if the government subsidizes their workers' coverage. The \$2,000-per-employee fee would be assessed on the company's entire workforce, minus an allowance.

Most small companies with less than 50 employees will be exempt from the tax, but in  
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# THE ACT REPORT

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

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# PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS APPRENTICESHIP CONTEST HELD IN HUNTINGTON

The West Virginia State Pipe Trades held their sixteenth annual apprenticeship contest in Huntington on April 5 – 8.

Apprentices from West Virginia and Maryland competed in welding, plumbing, pipefitting and HVAC categories.

The event was held at the training center of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 521 in Huntington.

The winners go on to the regional contest held in Washington, DC later this year.

Apprentices who are in their fifth and final year of the program are eligible to compete.

The competition includes both hands-on challenges and written examinations.

Fourteen contestants from five locals, including Baltimore were at the event.

Also at the event were a number of industry displays including Lincoln Electric and retired member Scott Webb who had a display about backflow prevention and water-hammer arresters.

The general public was invited and a number of people from local area businesses stopped by.

Also in attendance was Labor Commissioner Dave Mullins and UA International Representative T.L. Ranson.

An awards banquet was held on the last day where the winners were announced.

For overall best Plumber the award went to Shawn Senopole of Local 625, Charleston.

The overall best Welder was Jason Barton, Local 486 Baltimore.

Best Pipefitter was William Webb, Local 152 Morgantown.

And best in HVAC Jacob Ehmman from Local 486 Baltimore.

Winners were awarded a \$750 prize.

“We had a great group of

apprentices who represented their home locals well,” said Tim Rucker, Apprenticeship Coordinator for Huntington Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 521.

“Events like these also show the public how highly trained our membership is.”

According to Rucker next years contest will be held in Baltimore.



WORKING ON A Plumbing module are (from left) Thomas Barnett, from Local 565 Parkersburg; Chris Sexton, from Local 521 Huntington; Shawn Senopole, Local 625 Charleston; and Lee Fultz, Local 152 Morgantown.

## APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR NEW MILL- WRIGHT LOCAL 1755 APPRENTICE CLASS

Millwright Local #1755 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee is recruiting for a new class of Apprentices.

The five year/10,000 hour program has paid on-the-job training as well as classroom instruction.

Included in the training are courses in mathematics, welding, a working knowledge of hand tools, power tools, bench & machine tools, training in engineering principles, optical instruments, safety and blueprint reading.

Bridgeport at 609 Broadway

Monday, May 3

1 pm - 7:00 pm

Monday, May 10

9 am - 1:00 pm

Charleston at 205A Tennessee Ave.

Tuesday, May 4

1 pm - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 11

9 am - 1:00 pm

Parkersburg at 4600 Camden Ave.

Wednesday, May 5

1 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 12

9 am - 1:00 pm

Applications must be filled

out at one of the above dates, times and locations ONLY and in person. A \$10 application fee is required.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, satisfy the Committee they have sufficient education to take the related instruction, be physically able to perform the work of the trade and have proof of residency (i.e. drivers license or utility bill) within the jurisdiction of Local #1755, which includes: Wetzell, Tyler, Pleasants, Wood, Wirt, Ritchie,

Calhoun, Jackson, Roane, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, Barbour, Harrison, Tucker, Lewis, Upshur, Gilmer, Webster, Marion, Doddridge, Mason, Putnam, Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Wyoming, Mercer, Summers, Monroe, Greenbrier, Raleigh, Fayette, Nicholas, Boone, Kanawha, Clay, Braxton, Pocahontas and Randolph; and in Ohio: Washington and Athens.

Applicants need to bring a birth certificate, school transcript, resume and (for those with Military Service) a DD214.

All applicants will be required to pass a qualifying math and mechanical aptitude test in order to be scheduled for an interview.

A physical examination and substance abuse test will also be required.

All applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, national and ethnic origin or sex.

For more information call Training Director Bill Boso at 304-422-7637, check their web site [www.millwright1755.com](http://www.millwright1755.com) or call the Local at 304-422-1593.

# WEST VIRGINIA AFL-CIO COPE ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE MAY 11, 2010 PRIMARY

## Supreme Court of Appeals

Thomas E. McHugh

## U.S. House of Representatives

1st Congressional District:  
Alan Mollohan

3rd Congressional District:  
Nick Joe Rahall

## State Senate

1st Orphy Klempa

2nd Larry Edgell

5th John Cummings

6th H. Truman Chafin

7th Jeff Eldridge

8th Richie Robb

9th Mike Green

10th Ronald Miller

11th C. Randy White

12th Joe Minard

13th Ron Justice

14th Steven Shaffer

16th John Unger

17th Brooks McCabe

## House of Delegates

1st Marilyn Boyd, Randy Swartzmiller

2nd Roy Givens, Alan Klein

3rd Shawn Fluharty, Erikka Storch

4th Michael Ferro, Scott Varner

5th Dave Pethtel

9th Jim Marion

10th Dan Poling, John Ellem

12th Jo Boggess Phillips

13th Dale Martin, Brady Paxton

14th Darrell Black, Cathy Larck

15th Carl Eastham, Jim Morgan, Matthew Woelfel

16th Doug Reynolds, Dale

Stephens

17th Don Perdue, Richard Thompson

18th Larry Barker

19th Greg Butcher, Ted Ellis, Ralph Rodighiero, Josh Stowers

21st Harry Keith White

22nd Daniel J. Hall, Linda Goode Phillips

23rd Clif Moore

25th John Frazier

27th Mel Kessler, Virginia Mahan, Ricky Moye, Sally Susman, Bill Wooton

28th Thomas Campbell, Ray Canterbury

29th David Perry, Margaret Staggers

30th Bonnie Brown, Nancy

Guthrie, Bobbie Hatfield,

Mark Hunt, Doug Skaff Jr., Sharon Spencer, Danny Wells

31st Meshea Poore

32nd Scott Lavigne

33rd David Walker

34th Brent Boggs

35th Sam Argento

36th Joe Talbott

37th Paul "PJ" Louk

39th Bill Hamilton

40th Mary Poling

41st Frank "Chunki" Angotti Jr., Ron Fragale, Richard Iaquina, Tim Miley

42nd Michael Manypenny

43rd Mike Caputo, Linda Longstreth, Tim Manchin

44th Stephen L. Cook, Barbara Fleischauer, Charlene

Marshall

45th Larry Williams

46th Stan Shaver

49th Charles Messick

50th Ruth Rowan

52nd Mike Roberts

53rd Robert V. Mills

54th Walter Duke\*

55th Donn E. Marshall

56th Terry L. Walker

57th Lorraine M. Rea

58th Tiffany Lawrence

## County School Boards

Jackson County Board of Education – Steve Wedge\*

Preston County Board of Education – Jason Hershman\*

\*No action was taken by COPE, however the Building Trades have endorsed.

## ELECTION

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

in the primary but will face three opponents in the Fall. Last time he only won by a few votes and knows he has a tough race again.

Greg Butcher is a member of the Operating Engineers and is running in Logan and Lincoln County



*Orphy Klempa*

for the House of Delegates.

"Having members of the Building Trades in the legislature is very important to all working families but especially to other Trades workers," said Steve White, ACT Director.

"When issues about the construction industry are discussed, these individuals do a great job of explaining a worker friendly position."

Apr- il 20 is the last day to register to vote for the primary and can be done at the county clerk's office at your county courthouse.

Early voting starts April 21 and ends May 8. Voters can go to their county clerks office and cast their vote during this time.

Tuesday May 11 is the final voting day when all precincts are open.

Make sure you are registered, informed and counted.



*Greg Butcher*

## CRAFTS SHOW SKILLS AT EXPO



USING A WELDING simulator at the WV Construction & Design Exposition, better known as Expo, are members of the Iron Workers from West Virginia and Kentucky. The trade show event was held in March in Charleston. A number of crafts set up booths at the Expo to talk about training and apprenticeship.

# SHEET METAL 33 APPRENTICE EDUCATION

Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 held an all day training for their first through fourth year apprentices in Morgantown last month.

The Apprentice Orientation was not the typical craft training but instead focused on other ways to be a successful and productive Sheet Metal Worker and union member.

Approximately 70 apprentices from the Charleston, North Central, Parkersburg and Wheeling Districts were in attendance along with Business Agents, Executive Board members and Organiz-

ers from Local 33.

The day long session is held each year and covers a variety of topics.

Contractor representatives John Kalkrueth and John Trifonoff of Kalkrueth Roofing and Sheet Metal Inc., based in Wheeling, talked to the group about what it takes for both contractors and workers to be successful.

They went over expectations both sides have from collective bargaining agreements to job sites.

Congressman Alan Mollohan (D - First Congressional District) gave a presentation about a variety of important

political issues including health care reform, the Employee Free Choice Act, the current jobs bill and the difficulties he faces when trying to extend unemployment benefits.

Kenny Perdue, President of the WV AFL-CIO and a Sheet Metal Worker, talked about the importance of being involved in local politics.

Sheet Metal apprentices are in a five year program where they get classroom training three times a year in one week blocks at the Parkersburg facility.

This program is in addition to their regular craft training

but no less important.

“Our constitution requires an orientation for all aspects of membership,” said Randy Gombos, Organizer for Local 33. “To be well rounded you need to understand a contractor’s point of view as well as the politics that effect your job.”

Other topics covered were organizing, labor law and la-

bor history.

According to Gombos the program was well received by the apprentices and he commended the Agents and Organizers for all of their hard work in putting together a successful Orientation.

Next year the training will focus on explaining benefit funds and how to manage personal finances.

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CONGRESSMAN ALAN MOLLOHAN talks with Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 apprentices at a Saturday, March 27 training session held in Morgantown.

## HEALTH

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

the construction industry the definition for small employer is those ‘who employed an average of at least 5 full-time employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and whose annual payroll expenses exceed \$250,000 for such preceding

calendar year.’

Part-time workers are included in the calculations, counting two part-timers as one full-time worker.

“We have been trying to pass legislation requiring contractors on tax funded projects to show their employees have health care,” said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State

Building Trades. “The construction employer provision is key to help level the playing field for our contractors.”

A tax increase for individuals earning over \$200,000 and joint filers earning over \$250,000 will start in 2013.

The increase will effect the hospital insurance payroll tax by 0.9% and a 3.8% Medicare tax on investment

## Workers Memorial Day

Wednesday, April 28 at 6pm

At the offices of the WV AFL-CIO

501 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston

The event will honor those who died on the job in 2009 and the 29 miners from Upper Big Branch Mine.

For more information call 304-344-3557.

income from interest, dividends, royalties, rents, gross income from a trade or business, and net gain from disposition of property.

In addition, the new law:

- Ends insurance companies’ most abusive practices, including denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, beginning in 2014 for adults, and this September for children.
- Eliminates annual and lifetime limits on benefits and ends discriminatory premiums for women and requires government review of excessive rate

increases.

- Lowers health care costs for working families by creating new health insurance exchanges to increase competition and provides tax credits and cost-sharing assistance for middle- and lower-income families to purchase insurance.
- Helps seniors purchase prescription drugs, closes the Medicare prescription drug “donut hole” and ensures seniors get free preventive care.
- Allows dependent children to remain on their parents’ policies until age 26.