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TRADES

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

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Inside

Conference	Pg. 2
Wind Project	Pg. 2
Ohio Race	Pg. 3
Cement Masons	Pg. 3
Apprenticeship	Pg. 4
LU 132 Picnic	Pg. 4

MANCHIN, RAHALL, McHUGH TOP ENDORSED TICKET

2010 GENERAL ELECTION HEATS UP

Early voting for the November election has already begun and final balloting closes on Tuesday, November 2.

Efforts are underway by organized labor to educate members about job related issues and encourage everyone to vote.

Voter discontent appears to be the big story on the national scene and many are wondering if the Democratic majority in the US House and Senate will hold up.

On the State level Governor Joe Manchin is facing much tougher than expected competition from Republican challenger John Raese. And long time Congressman Nick Rahall is under attack by former Supreme Court Justice Elliot Spike Maynard.

Maynard lost his bid for reelection to the State Supreme Court in 2008 after it was learned he vacationed in the French Riviera with Massey Coal CEO Don Blankenship.

At the time Massey had a \$70 million case before the court. Maynard ruled in favor of Massey but then had to remove himself once the vacation became public.

Key issues for the Trades include support for job creating infrastructure measures,

protection of prevailing wage laws and enforcement of existing bidding and employment laws.

Building Trades members Dan Poling (D-Wood), Dave Walker (D-Clay) and Greg Butcher (D-Logan) are all trying to get re-elected to

their House of Delegates positions. Walker and Butcher appear secure in their bids, but Poling faces stiff competition in Wood County.

He only won in the last election by only nine votes.

"If you don't think every
Continued on p. 3



UNION MEMBERS PROTEST at the Republic Party headquarters in Charleston because of their call for "hick looking" actors to produce TV ads in West Virginia in support of Republican Senate Candidate John Raese. Gov. Joe Manchin is the labor endorsed candidate for the U.S. Senate seat held by Sen. Robert C. Byrd.

FRYE ROOFING ID'S QUESTIONED

Twenty five of 31 worker identification numbers used by employees of Frye Roofing came up with serious problems according to ACT Director Steve White.

White explained the discovery at the September 20 meeting of the State School Building Authority, the same agency that has been funding school roof projects performed by Frye.

The issue of Frye Roofing was already on the agenda because of issues White had raised at the prior meeting.

SBA Executive Director Mark Manchin was asked to take a harder look at the lack of enforcement of contractor qualification standards and report back to the September meeting.

Right after Manchin gave Frye a clean bill of health at the September meeting, White asked to speak.

"Our research shows that of 31 employees we could find some sort of identification for, 25 of them had ID's that either belonged to another person or were simply not valid," said White.

White was joined by rep-

resentatives from the roofing industry from both labor and management.

White shared the information with SBA staff and asked them as funders of the projects to make sure the situation was investigated. The data came from payroll records ACT had discovered using the Freedom of Information Act.

For example, one worker had the social security number of an 83 year old woman, another used the identification of a person who was dead.

"It could be identity theft

or fraud or a number written down incorrectly, we really don't know," said White. "But 25 out of 31 is too many for a simple mistake."

News reports quote the owner of Frye Roofing disputing ACT's claim and stating a recent Division of Labor investigation as evidence there was no problems with Frye workers identification.

However DOL officials told ACT they have no authority or ability to check whether a workers identification is fake or not.

"The legislature has not
Continued on p. 2

WEST VIRGINIA STATE BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council held their annual conference on September 15.

Two conferences are held each year, one in the summer and another during the winter legislative session.

The purpose of the conference is to inform delegates of the activities of the Council and ACT and to discuss whether new directions are needed.

One main focus this year was the construction activities related to the Marcellus Shale natural gas discovery.

Guest speakers included Secretary of State Natalie Tennant and new OSHA Area Regional Director Prentice Cline.

Every four years officers

are elected but this was not an election year.

In addition to the conferences the State Building Trades holds monthly executive board meetings where each craft has a representative as a Vice-President. Local Building Trades Councils also have a voice.

At the legislative conference, usually held in early January at the start of the state Legislative Session, the Council goes over the legislative agenda and then hosts a reception for attending delegates, legislators and state agency leaders.

"We have one of the best working building trades groups in the nation," said Dave Efav, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council.

"These meetings help us explain what we are doing

and get input from leaders across the state on what else needs to be done."

Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades, is President

of the Council.

"It's simple, we take care of business."



SECRETARY OF STATE Natalie Tennant addresses delegates at the WV State Building Trades convention and talks about her duties as chief elections officer and the keeper of corporation records.

BEECH RIDGE FINISHES PHASE ONE

NEW WIND FARM PROJECT A GO

Work is underway on the Laural Mountain Wind Farm in Barbour and Randolph Counties.

The project, consisting of 65 wind turbine along eight miles of ridgeline, is being built by local union workers.

The 92-megawatt, \$250 million project will produce enough electricity to power up to 135,000 homes.

Developers AES say the project will be fully operational by spring of 2011.

The project survived a number of challenges includ-

ing a permit appealed to the state Supreme Court.

As the Laural Mountain project gears up the Beech Ridge project in Greenbrier County announced completion of their first phase.

AEP will purchase the power produced by 67 1.5 megawatt GE turbines. A second phase consisting of 33 turbines is being planned but the developer, Invenergy, must first get approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to disturb some habitat area of the endangered Indiana bat.

FRYE

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

given us the authority nor the tools to verify a person's ID," said David Mullins, Commissioner of Labor.

"Our job is to make sure everyone has an ID and we know who their employer is."

White insists the issue is not about the workers or immigration. "Our focus is on the company," said White. "We don't go after workers who are trying to make a living, and we all recognize our families were immigrants at one time as well."

"But we won't stand by and let a company destroy our industry and drive down local living standards so they can make huge profits."

The SBA asks contractors to show they have a track record of completing jobs successfully, compliance with laws and regulations, and participation in training, health and pension programs.

ACT research had already identified a number of reasons Frye Roofing should be investigated. The evidence was presented to Manchin a number of months ago.

Documents showed two roof projects scheduled for 90 day completion that took approximately 300 days to complete.

Payroll records showed no deductions for state or federal income tax, or social security.

Earlier this year Frye entered into a settlement with the DOL for not paying the

proper wage rates on tax funded projects.

They are still paying off a \$113,000 back-wage settlement agreement in installments.

Records also show a lack of participation in any benefit plans or training programs.

In August, after Manchin refused to take any action, White spoke to SBA board members about Frye specifically and the lack of enforcement of contractor qualification issues in general. The board directed Manchin to review the situation and report back to the September meeting.

At the September meeting a special SBA committee was appointed to investigate the issue further.

BUILDING TRADES ENDORSE TED STRICKLAND**OHIO GOVERNORS RACE CRITICAL**

In Ohio the race for Governor is reportedly a dead heat.

The Building Trades groups are supporting current Governor Ted Strickland because he supports their key agenda items such as prevailing wage, infrastruc-

ture spending and a workers freedom to join a union. Strickland grew up in a union family and has brothers in the Building Trades.

As Governor, Strickland has been a strong supporter of working families.

Since winning the Governor's seat in 2006, Strickland has extended collective bargaining rights, supported the right of workers to form unions and fought to enforce prevailing wage laws in Ohio.

As a congress member, he voted against NAFTA and other trade deals - supported

by his opponent John Kasich - that shipped jobs out of Ohio.

Kasich worked for the bankrupt Lehman Brothers investment firm and made millions from workers pension funds.

"With Governor Strickland

we were able to get prevailing wage laws back on many of our school projects," said Bill Hutchison, Business Manager of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades.

"We could lose ground and face serious attack if we lose."

"Informed voters should know the WV AFL-CIO endorsement means a candidate has passed many tests about his or her commitment to working families," said Kenny Perdue, President of the group. "We do not give our endorsement lightly or for any other reason than protecting and furthering the interests of workers and their families."

Early voting will continue until the last Saturday before the election. Check your county Clerk's office for times and locations.

ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

vote counts - think again," said Poling, a representative for the Painters District Council 53.

Poling is going door-to-

door to get out his message. And he relies on help from volunteers.

"I couldn't run if I didn't have help from local folks who care about issues," said Poling.

Orphy Klempa, a member

of Carpenters Local 3 and currently in the House of Delegates from Ohio County, is running for the State Senate position in the Northern Panhandle.

If successful, Klempa would be the first Building

Trades member elected to the State Senate, at least in current history.

"I'm campaigning hard," said Klempa. "I am working to introduce myself to voters from Brooke and Hancock County where I have not run for election before."

The WV AFL-CIO is sending out their endorsed candidate list to members. They want people to know the process for getting an endorsement starts with local Labor Councils and is driven by candidates' records and comments on Labor issues.

WV AFL-CIO COPE Endorsed Candidates**U.S. Senate Special Election**

Joe Manchin III

13th Dale Martin,

Brady Paxton

Sharon Spencer,

Danny Wells

U.S House of Representatives

2nd District..... Virginia Graf

3rd DistrictNick Rahall

14th Cathy Larck

15th Jim Morgan,

Matthew Woelfel

31st..... Meshea Poore

32nd..... Scott Lavigne

33rd David Walker

34th Brent Boggs

35th Sam Argento

36th Joe Talbott

37th Denise Campbell

38th Peggy Donaldson Smith

39th Bill Hamilton

40th Mary Poling

41st..... Richard Iaquina,

Ron Fragale,

Tim Miley

Supreme Court of Appeals

Thomas E. McHugh

16th Doug Reynolds,

Dale Stephens

17th Don Perdue,

Richard Thompson

18th Larry Barker

19th Greg Butcher,

Ralph Rodighiero,

Josh Stowers

21st..... Harry Keith White

22nd..... Daniel J. Hall,

Linda Goode Phillips

23rd Clif Moore

25th John Frazier,

Bill Morefield

27th Mel Kessler,

Virginia Mahan,

Rick 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,

42nd..... Michael Manypenny

43rd Mike Caputo,

Linda Longstreth,

Timothy Manchin

44th Anthony Barill,

Steve Cook,

Barbara Fleischauer,

Charlene Marshall

45th Larry Williams

46th Stan Shaver

49th Charles Messick

50th Ruth Rowan

52nd..... Mike Roberts

53rd Robert V. Mills

55th Donn Marshall

56th Terry L. Walker

58th Tiffany Lawrence

State Senate

1st Orphy Klempa

2nd..... Larry Edgell

6th H. Truman Chafin

9th Mike Green

10th Ron Miller

10th Mark Wills

12th Joe Minard

14th Steven Shaffer

16th John Unger

17th Brooks McCabe

House of Delegates

1st..... Randy Swartzmiller

2nd..... Tim Ennis,

Roy Givens

3rd Shawn Fluharty,

Erikka Storch

4th Michael Ferro,

Scott Varner

5th Dave Pethtel

9th Jim Marion

10th John Ellem,

Dan Poling

12th Jo Boggess Phillips

Take advantage of early voting now!

Last day for early voting - Saturday, October 30

**CEMENT MASONS
887 VOLUNTEERS**

MEMBERS OF CEMENT MASONS Local 887 Charleston (from left) William Schultz, Gary Casdorff and Sallie Shultz, volunteered to pour concrete for a 16' x 52' batting cage for the softball team at Charleston's Capitol High School. The effort took place in early October. Not pictured are Chris Womack (Business Manager) and Anthony Farber, a Local 39 representative from Wheeling.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIP THEME**STATE APPRENTICESHIP CONFERENCE HELD**

Apprenticeship and vocational education leaders met to discuss ways to improve craft training programs.

The annual event was held September 15 – 16 in the northern panhandle Mountaineer Hotel.

Topics included new technology, defining green construction, and a new OSHA 10 hour training for the Oil and Gas industry.

According to Odie Parkins, Training Director for the Carpenters and one of the conference organizers the main theme of the conference was 'Building Partnerships.'

"We are looking at ways to work more closely with

our education systems," said Parkins. "And we also want to work with government groups like the Workforce Investment Board, when it makes sense."

Another part of the program is keeping up with regulatory compliance. All apprenticeship programs are regulated by the Federal Department of Labor. Training directors must keep up to date on a variety of issues from applications to training materials.

The Center for Economic Options gave a presentation about their 20 year effort to assist small businesses connect with market opportunities.

Professor Mark Herron

from WVU talked about a new OSHA 10 hour class specifically designed for the Oil and Gas industry. With the huge increase in construction around the Marcellus Shale gas fields the need for more safety measures has increased.

Dr. Kathy D'Antoni from the State Department of Education talked about what Career and Technical programs are doing to empower students.

Discussion followed about how apprenticeship programs may partner with these programs.

The week after the conference a number of the participants went on to a special Apprentice Action Team pro-

gram held in Boston, Massachusetts.

The three day clinic focussed on ways people from across the country were partnering on apprenticeship issues.

These groups have recognized the need for and benefit of Registered Apprenticeship and are actively seeking new

ways to improve marketing, recruitment, financing, and other issues concerning apprenticeship.

The Team found that most of the organizations involved were duplicating processes when they could all be working together for the benefit of their own organizations and the workers/apprentices.

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OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 132 HOSTS MEMBERSHIP PICNIC



OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 132 hosted a membership picnic on Sunday, September 12th in Petersburg, WV. The event took place at Echo Park and about 100 members and their families attended. "The staff prepares this meal," said newly elected Business Manager Tommy Plymale. "And our members really enjoy getting together each year for this event." This is the 12th year the gathering has been held.

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