



A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Bill Hutchinson, *President* | Dave Efav, *Secretary-Treasurer* | Steve White, *Director*

Kroger Survey Results In Strong Public Support

Dozens of craft representatives met shoppers at most of Kroger's 41 stores in the West Virginia region during the week of November 4.

The purpose was to get more public input on a simple question, do shoppers want to see local workers and contractors undertake the major renovation projects Kroger is about to take on?

The answer is overwhelmingly yes.

"The public understands our issue and is on our side," said Mark Johnson, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades. Johnson was at a Kroger store in Ashland, Kentucky.

"We could have got twice as many cards signed, the support for local workers is very strong."

Earlier in the year Kroger announced a \$200 million renovation and construction plan for all of their stores in a number of states.

As some projects got underway it became clear that local workers and contractors were not likely to do the majority of work.

Instead, contractors and sub-contractors from far away began to show up for projects local workers expected to do.

"We shop at Kroger, so we expect to build and renovate their stores," said Bert McDermitt, Organizing Coordinator for the IBEW.

McDermitt points to a Charleston store where the General Contractor Reece-Campbell Inc., along with Kerkan Roofing and Gems Interior, all traveled from Cincinnati and brought workers for the project.

Companies from North Carolina and Kentucky are also at the site.

"To be honest, there are a few West Virginia companies at the Charleston project mixed in, but there is no reason to bring in the amount of companies and workers we are seeing," said McDermitt.

According to McDermitt plans for more actions are being made. ■



Chuck Dolan of Cement Masons Local 132 in Ashland, Kentucky gets shoppers to sign a card signed in support of local workers at the Kroger Ashland Mid-Town store.

Explosion Rocks Dominion Natrium Plant

An explosion in the early hours of Saturday, September 21 at the Dominion plant built by Texas contractor CB&I has left the facility inoperable.

Fortunately nobody was injured when the explosion took place at the Marshall County site.

However Route 2 was closed and residents in the immediate area evacuated for a brief period of time.

An investigation into the cause of the explosion is under way.

The plant started production this summer, six months later than the original 15 months with a scheduled opening in early December of 2012.

CB&I imported most of their construction workers from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and others regions far from the area.

Local skilled workers applied for

work but for the most part were denied employment.

The National Labor Relations Board has charged CB&I with discriminating against union members in their employment practices. The charge has been challenged by the company.

After the plant was in operation a newly formed joint venture between Dominion Resources and Caiman

Energy called Blue Racer took possession of the facility.

The facility was designed to process 200 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to separate out (fractionate) valuable liquids. The output is 36,000 barrels of natural gas liquids per day.

But today the output appears to be zero, and that has to be costing the

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Labor-Management Oversight Stressed

Apprenticeship Training Discussed at Legislative Interim Education Meeting

At the October Legislative Interim meetings, representatives from the unionized sector of the construction industry were asked to talk about the apprenticeship method of training.

Education Committee members from both the House and Senate

“Our mission was to explain how we have the highly skilled local workers to take on any construction needs because our system of training produces the best.”

Dave Efaw

WV State Building Trades Council

wanted to learn more about how the craft apprenticeship system works.

Contractor representative Ted Brady, President of Progressive Electric in Charleston, Brett Matthews, Training Coordinator of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 625 in Charles-

ton, and Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades Council spoke to the committee.

The three stressed the basics in apprenticeship: earn-while-you-learn, joint oversight by labor and management, classroom plus hands-on training, and no tax funding required.

“My company depends on having

a well-trained and productive workforce,” said Brady.

“The apprenticeship system allows us the flexibility to provide the training we need.”

For the most part legislators, like the general public, have no idea how the apprenticeship system works.

Instead they believe vocational

schools or community colleges train craft workers.

“We hear too much talk about the lack of skilled workers,” said Efaw.

“Our mission was to explain how we have the highly skilled local workers to take on any construction needs because our system of training produces the best.” ■



Brett Matthews, Training Coordinator of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 625 in Charleston, talks with legislators about apprenticeship training at an October interim meeting of the West Virginia Legislature.

Painters and Allied Trades Apprenticeship

District Council 53 Painters and Allied Trades Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee will be accepting applications for apprenticeship in the areas of Painting, Drywall, Glaziers and Hydro Blaster/Vacuum Technicians. Applications are taken year round with the exception of holidays and weekends.

The program serves the state of West Virginia and a number of bordering counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia.

The three year apprenticeship teaches all aspects of the trade in both classroom and on-the-job settings.

Apprentices are paid while on the job and learn under the direction of journeyman. As they progress through the program their pay increases.

All Applicants must fully meet the following minimum qualifications to qualify.

1. Applicants must be at least eigh-

teen (18) years of age (with the exception of school to work students).

A birth certificate will be required for proof of age.

2. Applicants must possess sufficient educational knowledge to satisfactorily complete the on-the-job training and related technical instruction and be in possession of a high school diploma or GED.

3. Applicants must be physically capable of performing the essential functions of the apprenticeship pro-

gram without posing a direct threat to the health and safety of themselves or others.

4. Proof of valid driver's license is required.

5. Those applying for the Glazier trade must take a Reading and MC/AP test at Job Service locations.

All applications will be received without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

Please contact 304-343-8250 ext. 302 to obtain an application. ■

Iron Workers 787 Taking Apprenticeship Applications In Parkersburg On Wednesdays

Iron Workers Local 787 Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) will be accepting applications for their apprenticeship program each week on Wednesdays (excluding holidays).

Those interested must fill out the application at 303 Erickson Boulevard, Parkersburg in person, during regular business hours; 8:00 am – noon and 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.

Applicants must provide proof they are at least 18 years old, be capable of performing work of the Iron Worker trade, be a high school graduate or have equivalent certification,

have a valid driver's license and pass an aptitude test given by the Parkersburg Workforce office.

In addition an applicant must live within Local 787's area for at least one year prior to applying.

Local 787's area in Ohio includes the Counties of Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, and Washington; in West Virginia Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Lewis, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Upshur, Wirt and Wood Counties.

If selected a candidate must pass a substance abuse test paid by the JAC.

The Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Program teaches in the classroom as well as on the job.

Classes are held evenings and Saturdays, allowing on-the-job learning while getting paid.

The goal is to educate new workers how to safely, efficiently, and effectively perform all aspects of the trade including structural, ornamental, and reinforcing iron work, as well as mathematics, welding, and rigging.

The Apprenticeship is a four year program with starting wages set at

50% of Journeyman scale with full benefits. Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

Applications will be kept on file for a year.

No applicant will be rejected because of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

Iron Workers Local 787 JAC will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunities in apprenticeship.

For more information contact Brad Winans, Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 304-485-6231. ■

WV AFL-CIO Election of Officers Held



Pat Maroney, (right) General Council of the West Virginia AFL-CIO, swears-in new officers at the group's convention held in Charleston on October 23 – 24.

Kenny Perdue, a member of the Sheet Metal Workers, was re-elected as President and Josh Sword who had been appointed earlier in the year to fill the Secretary-Treasurer post was also elected.

Fourteen Vice-Presidents were re-elected, four from the Trades including Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades; Dan Poling, Business Manager of Painters District Council 53; Gary Tillis, Business Manager of the WV Laborers District Council; and Tommy Plymale, Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 132.

The term for all offices is four years.

The WV AFL-CIO represents 43 national and international unions, 569 local unions, 13 central bodies, six building trades councils and 22 miscellaneous district councils.

In total more than 64,000 workers are affiliated.

Dominion Plant

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company and their customers millions of dollars in lost production.

A second line to process another 200 million cubic feet of gas per day is currently under construction.

CB&I was denied the second

phase of construction which instead went to Chapman Construction, a union contractor from Washington, PA. Chapman is also performing the construction repair at the explosion site. ■

Craft Organizers Meet



Ted Linscott, Recording-Secretary of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades and a Bricklayer representative based in Athens, Ohio, presents ideas for membership education to a group of craft organizers and business agents from West Virginia and surrounding areas.

The meeting took place in Parkersburg and was focused on how organizers can be more effective representing their crafts.

WVU's Institute for Labor Studies helped put the session together which was held in late October.

Doddridge County Gas Facility to Expand

MarkWest Energy Partners has announced an expansion to gas processing capacity at their Doddridge County Sherwood complex.

A fifth unit with capacity to process 200 million cubic feet of gas per day will be added to the location.

Union trades have built two, 200 million cubic feet per day units at the Sherwood complex and are currently working on the third and fourth units.

General contractor Chapman Construction from Washington, PA has been in charge of construction from the start.

According to news reports total capacity at the site will reach 1 billion cubic feet per day when the new plant begins operation in late 2014.

Natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation in West Virginia has been rich in valuable liquids like propane, butane and pentane.

Processing facilities like the Sher-

wood complex use cold temperatures to separate the liquids in bulk form from the methane.

Once the liquids are removed the remaining gas can go into a pipeline and be used for home heating, power generation and other uses.

The removal of the liquids is not only valuable but essential to the safe use of the gas for home and other purposes.

Gas would burn too hot and could

damage equipment otherwise.

Once removed the bulk liquids are then sent to a fractionation facility which uses heat to separate out the different chemical compounds.

MarkWest has a fractionation facility in Houston, PA.

The announcement noted the expansion was part of a deal that had been reached with Antero Resources, a major driller and producer of natural gas in the region. ■

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News Reports

Sheet Metal Workers Hold Open House



Scott Newell (center with back to camera) gives a tour of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 training center in Parkersburg to a group of women from the West Virginia Women Work program.

According to Misty Mayville, Job Developer with Women Work, the tour was an excellent way to get familiar with "more than just duct work" when talking about the Sheet Metal trade.

The Sheet Metal Workers held the Open House event on Monday October 14 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of their union.

"We had a steady flow of guests all day from City Councilmen and WVU-P Vice Presidents to new applicants," said Newell who is the Apprenticeship Coordinator.

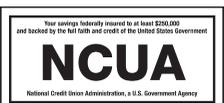
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