



A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

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

2014 Session Underway

January 8 marked the beginning of West Virginia's 60 day legislative session for 2014.

On the agenda for the Building Trades will again be a safety measure to require OSHA 10 hour training, a new bill to make sure contractors in the gas fields are set up to pay taxes, support for more infrastructure funding, assisting the Sheet Metal Workers with their HVAC/Fire Damper certification effort, and a proposed middle-class tax cut.

A new bill being proposed is to require those who get air permits for drilling a horizontal gas well or building compressor stations to keep track of the contractors who are on their site.

"Too many out of state companies are bringing in workers without pay-

ing their fair share of payroll taxes," said Del. Phill Diserio (D-Brooke) and a representative of Electricians Local 246 in Steubenville. "Making sure companies get licenses and follow the same rules that local companies and workers do will create a level playing field."

Enforcement agencies don't have the manpower to chase after these companies but the permit holder knows exactly who is on the job. The bill would require a monthly report be sent to the Division of Environmental Protection and that in turn be made available to other government agencies and the public.

Representatives from the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning industry along with representatives of the Sheet Metal Workers are looking

to pass legislation to create a certification process for HVAC and Fire Damper Technicians.

The effort has already cleared a major hurdle, a review from state auditors which concluded the work performed is complex and certification would be a benefit to the public.

A bill to add two seats to the state fire commission will be proposed. The effect will be to allow electricians and sprinkler fitters, who are licensed by the fire commission, to each have a voice on the board.

A bill to update the state income tax code and increase the tax rates paid by the wealthiest one percent while giving a slight break to those in the middle is another initiative supported by the trades.

The tax code is old and those

at the very top, earning more than \$250,000, have been paying at the same rate as middle income families. The bill would create a new bracket for the wealthiest and allow those in the middle to pay a bit less.

Passing legislation is only part of the mission for Building Trades members, protecting members and the industry is the other.

"We see attacks on working families with the infamous 'right-to-work' legislation every year," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the State Building Trades. "Some don't know what a terrible idea it is because it sounds nice, but when you explain the concepts behind it we have been successful in stopping its passage every year."

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Transportation Day Rally Held at Capitol

More than 200 people attended a rally and press conference marking the annual Transportation Day event at the state capitol in Charleston on Thursday, January 9.

The event's purpose is to bring attention to the many transportation needs facing the state and the decrease in funding from state and federal sources.

As part of the event a new report by the national transportation research group TRIP was released.

The report notes that West Virginia has the second highest traffic fatality rate in the nation.

Increased investment in transportation infrastructure would improve road and bridge conditions, boost safety, improve efficiency and support long term economic growth in

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Members of Operating Engineers Local 132 are among the 200 who attended Transportation Day at the state capitol on Thursday, January 9. Carpenters and Laborers District Council members can also be seen to the right of the sign "Roads = Jobs."

State Asked to Follow Private Sector

Promoting Construction Worker Safety

On the 2014 legislative session agenda for the Building Trades will be another attempt to pass legislation promoting construction workplace safety.

The new version of the bill, which has been proposed for a number of years, would promote safety training in the dangerous construction industry by requiring workers to take OSHA's 10 hour construction safety training.

During Interim meetings of the legislature the bill was a topic of discussion and a modified version was drafted based on legislator's questions and suggestions.

"We've lowered the penalties and propose phasing in implementation over a two year period," said Del. Dan Poling (D-Wood) lead sponsor and head of Painters District Council 53.

"We also included private sector work because some of the opponents said leaving out private jobs bothered them."

The measure has been opposed by the Contractors Association of West Virginia which claims the training is not needed.

However statistics tell a different story.

For 2011, the most recent data available, West Virginia construction fatalities tied the transportation and warehousing sectors for the second highest fatality rates among industries with seven deaths each, mining was first with ten.

Injury data is not much better. State breakdowns are not available but when looking at occupations,

construction laborers have injury rates 250% higher than the average of all occupations.

The rate for carpenters is double the national average.

"We won't give up on safety," said Scott Brewer, Service Representative for the Carpenters Local 302 and 1207.

"We will compete against anyone, but letting unsafe companies have a competitive advantage sends the wrong message, if big corporations require the OSHA 10 so should the state of West Virginia."

The safety measure is something private industry is already doing.

"We won't give up on safety."

Scott Brewer

*Service Representative,
Carpenters Local 302 and 1207*

Any major industrial owner will insist all construction workers have the OSHA 10 training before coming on site.

The bill is not as strong as these private sector requirements with a

grace period built in so people have some time to get the training and exemptions for very small projects.

"We don't like weakening the bill but we have tried to find ways to get this passed," said Brewer. ■

Doesn't Del. Scott Cadle Care About Worker Safety? Voters in His District DO!

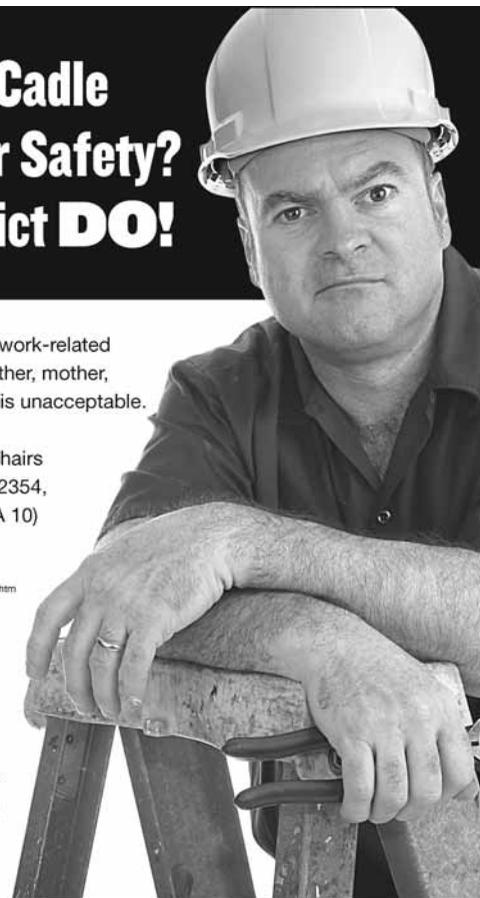
Nearly 50 West Virginians lost their lives in work-related accidents in 2011. We believe even one father, mother, son or daughter not coming home at night is unacceptable.

Isn't Del. Cadle bothered by those empty chairs at the dinner tables? He voted against HB 2354, a bill requiring proper safety training (OSHA 10) for workers on public projects.

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, latest data available. <http://www.bls.gov/ro3/cfovwv.htm>

Delegate Cadle Voted Against Safety Training

Paid for by West Virginia State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO



Versions of this ad were placed in a number of areas where Delegates voted against the OSHA 10 legislation. Cadle is from Mason County.

Transportation Day

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the state.

The TRIP report, "West Virginia Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility," details the condition of local roads and bridges in the state.

The TRIP report finds that 12 percent of West Virginia's major roads have pavements in poor condition and an addition 24 percent are in mediocre condition.

Driving on rough roads costs the average West Virginia motorist \$333

annually in extra vehicle operating costs – a total of \$400 million statewide.

Costs include accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

According to the TRIP report, 13 percent of West Virginia's bridges are structurally deficient, meaning there is significant deterioration to the bridge deck, supports, or other major components.

These bridges are often posted for

lower weight or are closed to traffic, restricting or redirecting large vehicles, including commercial trucks, school buses and emergency service vehicles.

Traffic crashes in West Virginia claimed the lives of 1,820 people between 2007 and 2011, an average of 364 fatalities per year.

West Virginia's overall traffic fatality rate of 1.78 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2011 is the second highest in the nation, behind only Montana.

A 2007 analysis by the Federal Highway Administration found that every \$1 billion invested in highway construction would support approxi-

mately 27,800 jobs.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission to look at transportation needs and funding last year and the group has amassed plenty of needs and suggestions on where to get additional funding.

Gary Tillis, Business Manager of the West Virginia Laborers' District Council is a member of the Commission.

"It is now up to the legislature to decide how they want to meet the many challenges we face," said Tillis.

"We need to find additional funding not just for the construction jobs but to keep our economy alive." ■

Iron Workers 301 Takes Apprenticeship Applications for New Class

The Iron Workers Local 301 Apprenticeship Training Program in Charleston is accepting applications for a new class.

Applications are taken year round at 2425 Hampshire Drive in Charleston, from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

To be considered in the upcoming class you must submit your application no later than 4:00pm on Friday, January 31, 2014.

An aptitude test will be given on Saturday, February 1 and interviews on Saturday, February 8.

Apprenticeship is not a job application; it is a training program that will include paid on-the-job training.

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

Classes are held two nights a week, allowing on-the-job learning while getting paid.

The goal is to educate new workers how to safely, efficiently, and ef-

fectively perform all aspects of the Iron Worker trade.

Classes consist of a variety of applications including structural, ornamental, and reinforcing, as well as mathematics, welding and rigging.

The Apprenticeship is a three year program starting out at 60% of Journeyman wage scale with full benefits.

Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

When applying please bring copies of documents, including a birth certificate and social security card, needed to show you meet the following requirements.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and live, for at least the last year, in the area covered by Local 301 which includes the WV Counties of Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Webster, Wyoming and the southern half of Randolph.

Also included are the Virginia Counties of Buchanan, Dickerson, Russell, Tazewell, Wise and Washington, and Pike County Kentucky.

If selected, a drug test will also be required.

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

For more information call 304-342-5343 or visit their web site at ironworkers301.com. ■

Operating Engineers #132 Apprenticeship

Operating Engineers Local 132 wants qualified candidates for their heavy duty equipment operator apprenticeship program.

The three year program focuses on all aspects of operating heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes, cranes, and excavators.

"We focus on safety and productivity," said Charles Parker, Training Director.

Each year an apprentice spends five weeks at the training center located south of Parkersburg, most of which is during the winter months.

Apprentices must also get at least 1,000 hours of paid on the job training to advance each year.

Applications will be accepted at any WorkForce West Virginia Center from February 3 through 14 between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm,

Monday through Friday.

In order to qualify a person must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED and have been a resident of West Virginia for at least one year.

An aptitude test will be given at the Workforce Center.

In addition, a successful applicant will have a valid WV driver's license, be physically able to perform the work of the trade and pass a drug test.

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 call the Operator's Training Center (304) 273-4852. ■

Tri-State Building Trades Customer Appreciation



Mark Johnson, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades Council talks to members and guest at their annual Christmas appreciation event held late last year in Ashland, Kentucky.

Representatives from the crafts joined contractors and business leaders from AEP, Marshall University, Braskem, M&G Polymers, Marathon Petroleum and more.

"We appreciate the opportunities for our members that our area owners provide," said Johnson. "By working together as a team with our contractors we get the job done."

Session Underway

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So called 'right-to-work' laws try to force unions to provide services for free.

Another area of concern according to Efaw is a variety of attacks on construction workers wages by trying to weaken or eliminate the state prevailing wage law.

The law requires tax funded projects pay construction workers the "going rate" determined by an annual survey.

Opponents of the law say cutting

wages will bring savings to tax payers. "We don't think the way to prosperity is cutting wages," explains Efaw.

Competition based on productivity, good management, and running an efficient project serve the public much better than allowing competition on wages, safety and quality.

In the end the public has never seen savings from the elimination of prevailing wage laws, just lower wages for workers and more profits for out-of-state contractors. ■

Apprenticeship Open for Bricklayers

The Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers District Council of West Virginia Apprenticeship Program has a year round application process.

Those interested in applying can go to any WorkForce WV Job Service office on the Third Friday of each month.

The Western Maryland One Stop Job Center will also process applications Monday through Friday.

Both agencies are open 8:00am to noon and 1:00pm to 4pm.

The program teaches brick and block laying, as well as all aspects of the trade.

It takes 6,000 hours of on-the job training plus related classroom training to complete the program.

Apprentices begin with an eight week training session at the Council's

statewide facility located in Ritchie County.

During the training session apprentices from out-of-the area are provided local housing.

For the remainder of their apprenticeship they attend monthly meetings closer to their home area.

The program provides opportunities for those who reside in any West Virginia County as well as the Counties of Allegheny, Garrett and Washington, MD.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

All applicants will take a standard written aptitude test at the WV Job Service or the Western Maryland One Stop Job Center.

In order to be accepted you must provide copies of your birth certifi-

cate, high school diploma or equivalent. A copy of your driver's license will also be required.

Only copies will be accepted please do not bring originals.

A drug test will be required at a later date.

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

The Bricklayers Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunities in apprenticeship and training and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 30.

For more information contact Apprenticeship Coordinator Brian Greynolds at 304-363-9250 or bricklayerwv@gmail.com. ■

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New Marshall Complex Means More Local Jobs



Marshall University's new Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex is well underway and that means jobs for local union construction workers.

BBL Carlton, based in Charleston, is the general contractor and started the project late in 2012. The completion date is set for spring of 2015.

The 145,000 square foot building will host Marshall's College of Information and Technology.

The project is one of many at Marshall University in Huntington which is creating much needed jobs for local union construction workers.

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