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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Brad Winans, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Justin Williams, Director

Trades Hold 2025 Annual Convention in Morgantown

On September 17, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council (WVBCT) held their annual convention at the Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center in Morgantown, West Virginia.

More than 70 representatives from all WVBCT-affiliated craft organizations attended the event to conduct annual business, network, and hear from various speakers on industry issues.

In addition to the normal business of the convention, a special election was held for WVBCT President to fulfill the remaining 3 years on former WVBCT President Chuck Parker's term.

Parker, who also serves as Business Manager for IUOE 132, stepped down as WVBCT President earlier this year to take on an expanded role with the International Union of Operating Engineers.

After the special election, Brad Winans, Business Manager for Iron Workers 787 in Parkersburg, West Virginia, was elected to the position of WVBCT President.

"I truly appreciate all of our folks who put their faith in me," said Winans. "I'm proud of what we have accomplished over the past few years, and I look forward to continuing

that work and representing all of our members."

During the convention, several speakers were also in attendance to talk about various construction-re-

lated topics.

Convention speakers and topics included: Andy Walters - Secretary Treasurer, WV AFL-CIO (Topic:

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Justin Williams, Director of ACT West Virginia, speaks at the annual West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Convention on September 17 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

WVBCT Wins National Construction Award for STAND Associate Degree Program

Earlier this month, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades were awarded the Workforce Development Award from the Construction User's Roundtable (CURT) for their work on the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional De-

gree Program (STAND).

The STAND program allows West Virginia residents who have completed a Department of Labor (DOL) registered apprenticeship program (or West Virginia residents who are currently enrolled in a DOL appren-

ticeship program) to complete an Associate of Applied Science degree at a West Virginia public community and technical college by taking only the general education courses that are needed—all covered at no cost to the student apprentice.

The CURT Workforce Development Award is given annually to celebrate extraordinary or innovative training and educational programs.

The award is meant to recognize those individuals and construction

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Trades, Project BEST Hold Career Fair at Wheeling Ice Rink for High School Students

Earlier this month, the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades joined with Project BEST to hold the 2025 Construction Job and Career Fair at

the ice rink in Wheeling Park.

More than 1,000 students from 31 school districts in Ohio and West Virginia were in attendance from all

Annual Convention

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State of the WV AFL-CIO & 2026 Election cycle); Jeff Bruno – Partner, Macala & Piatt (Topic: NLRB & MOA/PLA Practices); Torie Jackson – President, WVU Parkersburg (Topic: Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree Program); Josh Sword – President, WV AFL-CIO (Topic: 2026 Election Strategies); and Evan Worrell – WV House of Delegates (Topic: WV Legislature and WV Republican Labor Caucus).

After the conclusion of his speech, Delegate Evan Worrell (R-Cabell), was honored by WVBCT leaders with the Legislative Champion Golden Helmet award, for his work in founding and growing the West Virginia Republican Labor Caucus to fight for the members of the trades.

For more information on the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades affiliates and their programs, log on to www.WVtrades.org. ■

around the greater Ohio Valley.

Students could meet with representatives from many different trades including electricians, iron workers, roofers, laborers, carpenters, plumbers & pipefitters, cement finishers, operating engineers, painters and others who were on hand to teach them about the construction industry.

Doug Giffin, Business Manager of IBEW Local 141 and trades rep to Project BEST, explained that holding this annual career fair is vital to the construction industry in West Vir-

ginia.

“I think it’s important to let kids know what careers are available to them,” said Giffin. “Not everyone is able to go to college for various reasons, and events like these show how you can make a great living working with your hands in the trades.”

Giffin said the event grew twice in size this year and the organizers plan to build on that progress for next years event.

“We’re proud of this event and look forward to continue holding it in years to come,” said Giffin. ■



A high school student learns about conduit from a member of IBEW Wheeling Local 141 at the annual Project BEST Career Fair at the Wheeling Ice Rink in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Career Technical Ed Admin Conference



Jacob Hively, Legislative Assistant for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council, hosts a table at the 2025 Career Technical Education (CTE) Administrators' Conference, held in Roanoke, West Virginia.

The conference served as a chance for CTE administrators from across the state to share success stories, exchange ideas to strengthen programs, and recognize achievements from administrators, career centers, and industry partners.

Attendees included representatives from The EdVenture Group, the WV Association of Career and Technical Education, the Greenbrier Culinary Program, and Marshall University's Advanced Manufacturing Center.

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Trades, Hope Gas, and WVU Partnering to Refurbish Landmark Evansdale Water Tower

The West Virginia Building and Construction Trades, Painters DC 53, and Hope Gas are partnering to refurbish the landmark WVU Water Tower, which stands on the hill above the WVU Evansdale Campus in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Work to clean the tank surface will begin soon followed by painting and sealing to protect against the weather elements while keeping in place the well-known “Flying WV” logo at the top. The tank was last painted in 2007.

Tower additions will include the installation of LED lighting around the University’s logo to allow for illumination for all to see for miles during sporting events, special University

events, and other occasions.

“There are so many things to celebrate in Morgantown and across West Virginia,” Morgan O’Brien, Hope Gas president and CEO, said. “Hope Gas is proud to support Presi-

dent Benson’s vision of refurbishing an already recognizable fixture in Morgantown to visually celebrate the big wins of Mountaineers.”

O’Brien noted the work would not be possible without partnerships with the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades and the International Union Painters and Allied Trades Dis-

trict Council 53.

“Skilled trades are an essential part of the everyday work conducted

“Skilled trades are an essential part of the everyday work conducted at Hope Gas and play an important role in countless projects,”

Morgan O’Brien
President and CEO
Hope Gas



The landmark WVU water tower, which stands above the Evansdale campus in Morgantown, West Virginia, was last painted in 2007. Now, WVBCT, Painters DC 53, Hope Gas, and WVU are partnering to refurbish the structure.

at Hope Gas and play an important role in countless projects,” O’Brien said. “The hard work and expertise of our skilled trades partners will bring this project to life and I would like to thank them for their support.”

A water tower has been part of the landscape for the Evansdale area of campus since the 1960s.

At one point, the 80,000 gallon storage tank served as a “surge tank” for fire suppression systems and drinking water.

“The work of our highly skilled trades men and women will be show-

cased as we help turn the WVU Water Tower into an asset that will celebrate University successes for many years to come,” said Justin Williams, director of the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades.

“This project highlights the real value partnerships among industry, labor and education can bring to communities across the Mountain State.”

The projected timeline for the completion of the upgrade work on the WVU water tower is weather dependent. ■

Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly Raises \$4,500 with Charity Dunk Tank



Joe Canestraro, Former WV Delegate and current Marshall County Prosecuting Attorney, sits in the charity dunk tank, while Marshall Tyler Wetzlar Labor Council President Sonny Oakland looks on.

The Dunk Tank for Charity Event is held each year by the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly as a part of the Undo’s Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival.

This year, the event raised more than \$4,500 for charity organizations.

Participants in the dunk tank included local public officials, workers, and members of the trades. Participants were asked to choose their charity of choice, to which the funds from their time slot would be donated.

IUOE Local #132 Accepting Applications December 1 - December 31, 2025

Operating Engineers Local 132 wants qualified candidates for their heavy-duty equipment operator apprenticeship program in Medina, WV.

The three-year program trains in all aspects of operating heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes, cranes and excavators.

Applications will begin to be accepted starting December 1 and will continue to be accepted through December 31, 2025.

"We want members to be well versed in all types of equipment," said Brian Board, Training Director for IUOE 132. "We focus on safety and productivity."

Each year an apprentice spends

five weeks at the training center located south of Parkersburg in Medina, West Virginia.

While most of the training takes place during the winter, apprentices must complete at least 1,000 hours of paid on-the-job training to advance each year.

Interested individuals can submit an application to the program online at www.iuoe132.org or by calling 304-273-4852 from December 2, 2024 through January 3, 2025.

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

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 (304) 273-4852 or visit the website at www.iuoe132.org. ■



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related entities that have gone above and beyond to create a program that benefits the larger construction industry.

"We are very proud of the work our members and partners have completed to make the STAND Program possible," said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

"I truly believe this program is going to help strengthen the pipeline of skilled leaders to the construction industry."

During the 2025 West Virginia Legislative Session, new funds were made available to cover tuition costs for associate degrees at WV community and technical colleges for members of the trades.

HB 2026, also known as the Budget Bill, included a \$1,033,650 budgetary appropriation to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, which covers associate degree tuition costs for individuals who are currently enrolled in or have completed a Department of Labor-registered apprentice-

ship program.

West Virginia resident DOL apprenticeship completers who enroll in the program have six years from the date of enrolling to complete their associate degree of applied sciences.

The list of colleges where the STAND funding can cover the tuition for trades members include: West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Mountwest CTC, West Virginia Northern CTC, New River CTC, Pierpont CTC, Blue Ridge CTC, Southern West Virginia CTC, Eastern West Virginia CTC, and BridgeValley CTC.

Representatives from the trades are set to attend the CURT Awards Ceremony in Florida next month to formally accept the Workforce Development Award for the STAND program.

For more information about the STAND program log on to www.cfww.com/STAND and email georgecapel@actwv.org to be placed on a mailing list to keep you updated on the STAND program going forward. ■

Labor Day Cookout Held at Trades HQ



Members of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council, friends, and family attend a cookout on Labor Day Weekend, prior to attending the annual Labor Day at the Ballpark event at the Charleston Dirty Birds Baseball Stadium in Charleston West Virginia.

"I want to thank everyone who helped make this event a success," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council. "Our members work hard all year and it was great to hold an event where we could all get together and celebrate the great work they do."