



ACT OHIO QUARTERLY

Report from the Affiliated Construction Trades of Ohio

SUMMER 2017

Volume 2 Issue 2

Director's Report

By Matthew A. Szollosi



Szollosi

The Ohio Constitution requires the Governor and the Legislature to pass a balanced Operating Budget every two years. We are immersed in that process right now.

The budget bill has become a "Christmas Tree" of sorts – if you want something passed into law, get it into the budget! As such, the bill has grown to exceed 6,000 pages, and over \$60 billion in value.

It's also where a lot of deals get cut,

and traditionally where labor is most vulnerable. In years past, we've faced prevailing wage repeal, bans on project labor agreements, and other such non-sensical ABC-backed initiatives inserted into the budget.

Governor Kasich introduced his budget bill in February with no adverse language for the Building Trades. More recently, the Ohio House of Representatives passed its version with no harmful language as well. So far, so good.

The budget bill is now in the Senate for consideration, and is likely to pass during the third week of June. The last week of June will be set aside for the Conference Committee, a committee comprised of leaders from the House and Senate, whose job is to work out any differences between the House and Senate passed versions of the budget.

The Conference Committee is the last – and biggest – hurdle to clear. We will keep working to ensure the interests of the construction industry are considered.

Prevailing Wage under attack

ACT Ohio is vehemently opposed to SB 72 and HB 163, identical bills that would make prevailing wage optional for villages, townships, cities, counties, universities, and specialty districts.

Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) recently testified that local communities could expect a 9 percent to 37 percent savings on project costs if Prevailing Wage were repealed. Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) testified that there is absolutely no difference in quality or safety between union and non-union construction workers.

See REPORT page 2.

ACT Ohio hosts breakfast at NABTU Legislative Conference

In April, ACT Ohio and the Ohio State Building Trades Council hosted a breakfast for legislators and attendees at the National Building Trades Unions Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Duffey opened the breakfast by outlining some of ACT Ohio and the Ohio Building Trades' goals for the next year, including continuing to build a strong, bipartisan, building trades' majority within the Statehouse.

"Working with legislators on both sides of the aisle is so important for us," added ACT Ohio Executive Director Matt Szollosi. "Continuing to provide crucial information on the Building Trades and our economic impact throughout Ohio to both Republicans and Democrats helps

build support for our members and the work they do."

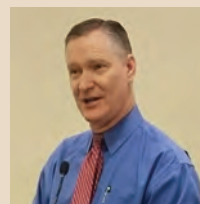
Breakfast attendees heard from Congressman Steve Stivers (R-Columbus), who expressed his strong support for the Davis-Bacon Act and protecting the Prevailing Wage for workers.

Stivers also encouraged participants to keep an open line of communication with their elected officials, both at the state and local levels.

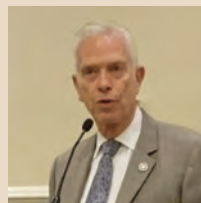
Congressman Bill Johnson (R-Marietta), also addressed the crowd of more than 80 Ohio Building Trades members, providing information on the infrastructure package being discussed by the current administration, and laying out possible funding sources for the initiative.



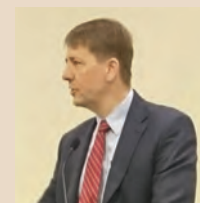
Duffey



Stivers



Johnson



Cordray

Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and former Ohio Attorney General, provided insight into the goals of the Bureau, including rooting out unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices by writing rules, supervising companies, and enforcing the law. ■

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A Message from the Legal and Research Department

By Rob Dorans



Dorans

The ACT Ohio Legal and Research Department provides annual training opportunities to union staff across the state to help equip local leaders with the right tools to put our members to work

and to hold cheating contractors accountable.

In April, ACT Ohio collaborated with the National Alliance for Fair Contracting (NAFC) and the Alliance for Labor Standards Education and Training to host a training event for union staff. The focus was learning how to crack down on non-union contractors that, “cheat to compete.”

More than 50 business managers,

business agents, and organizers were on hand for the event. Special thanks to the NAFC for providing a significant grant to offset the cost of this event.

The day-long training featured innovative strategies for local unions seeking to ensure that all contractors are competing on a level playing field on public works projects. These strategies included reviewing contractor’s compliance with bidding specifications and filing bid protests in the event a contractor fails to comply with any bidding requirements.

ACT Ohio’s staff was joined by Nina Fendel and Patty Gates from the Alliance for Labor Standards Education and Training for the event. Fendel and Gates are nationally recognized experts in the field of public works compliance training, and have helped numerous state and local Building Trades councils develop and implement training programs specifically for union staff.

“ACT Ohio did such a quality job

putting together the Fair Contracting Program,” said attendee Brian Collier, Field Representative for Bricklayers and Tile Setters Local 8. “I learned skills to benefit my members and the contractors that they work for.”

In addition to learning about Ohio’s competitive bid laws and the basics of bidding specifications, attendees participated in interactive training sessions. These sessions allowed attendees to take on the role of a public service director, university trustee, or union staff to better understand how to interact, formulate and present a bid protest to a public body.

Collier acknowledged the value the interactive training brought to the program.

“I felt that the role-playing aspect gave those present good pointers on how to approach public entities and what kind of reactions to expect,” he said. ■



Participants take part in a role-playing scenario, preparing them for meetings and presentations.



ACT Ohio Executive Director Matt Szollosi addresses the more than 50 attendees at the April training.

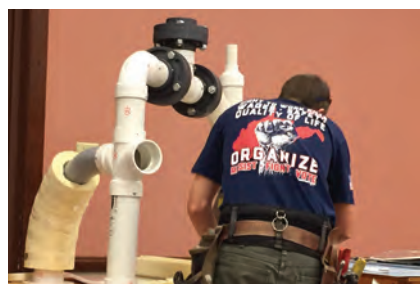
Apprentice competitions highlight the best of the Building Trades

ACT Ohio staff have visited several apprentice competitions this year to both congratulate the contestants and promote the work of the Building Trades.

“Publicizing the events, the contests involved, and the competitors to our Twitter followers – who include legislators and other elected officials – brings the training and hard work of the Building Trades to the forefront,” said ACT Ohio Communication

Specialist Chris Zimmer. “We’ve also used these opportunities to congratulate the winner in other media, like our blog posts and advertisement in The Labor Citizen.”

ACT Ohio Staff will continue to cover these events to promote the Building Trades. Is your local hosting an apprentice competition? Let us know via email at czimmer@actohio.org or 614-228-5446. ■



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 5 hosted the Central States Conference Master Apprentice Competition in Louisville on April 28, featuring apprentices from 14 different Locals.



Iron Workers Local 44 welcomed State Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) to their apprentice competition on April 7.

Report

Continued from page 1.

Our focus right now is two-fold: Keeping this out of the budget and educating legislators as to the falsehoods regarding the sponsors’ positions.

So far, our message has been well-received by our friends on both sides of the aisle in Columbus. Many thanks to our affiliates, industry

partners, and construction coalition representatives, all of whom are unified against these bills.

Unemployment Compensation

Meetings with the work-group assembled by the Speaker and Senate President to find a better solution for the state’s Unemployment Compensation are continuing, but little progress has been made.

I, along with Legislative Director

Mark Totman (Operating Engineers Local 18) and President Tim Burga (Ohio AFL-CIO), have been involved in the process. Business groups on the workforce are pushing for deep benefit cuts for workers, which we have adamantly opposed.

Tracking other bills of note

ACT Ohio is closely tracking bills involving energy production, commercial roofing license requirements, welding certification legislation, third

party building inspection allowance, and model elevator requirements.

The Executive Board and our affiliates deserve tremendous credit for making wise political decisions in recent years. By investing in building a strong bi-partisan majority in the Legislature, and by forging a strong relationship with Governor Kasich, our industry has avoided the destruction visited upon the trades in neighboring states. ■

Promoting apprenticeships starts with influencers

The Staff of ACT Ohio have been busy promoting the benefits of Building Trades Apprenticeship Programs around the state.

In April, Legal Counsel Rob Dorans and Communications Specialist Chris Zimmer gave four presentations at two high schools – one in Cincinnati and one in Milan – to interested students.

“I learned so much about the opportunities apprenticeship programs provide,” said Elisa Brown, School Counselor at

Edison High School in Milan.

Stepping up its efforts to help JATCs recruit more apprentices, ACT Ohio intends to launch a newsletter for school counselors, building trades’ instructors, and career tech centers. Dorans will also be speaking to both groups at their upcoming conferences.

“Making these influencers aware of their local apprenticeship programs and the opportunities they provide can be a real game-changer for a lot of kids,” said Dorans. “Many

students have been told that you need at least a four-year college degree to achieve any sort of success. That’s simply not true. Enrolling in and graduating from a building trades apprenticeship program is a direct path to Ohio’s middle class.”

ACT Ohio is in the process of reaching out to high schools around Ohio to begin scheduling fall presentations to students. If you know of a high school group that could benefit from this program, please email Chris Zimmer at czimmer@actohio.org. ■



Study finds Prevailing Wage repeal provides no savings

A new study completed by professors at Bowling Green State University, Kent State University, Colorado State University, and the Midwest Economic Policy Institute, concludes that Ohio’s Prevailing Wage law is key to a successful construction market and helps build the middle class.

The recently completed study reveals that weakening or replacing Ohio’s Prevailing Wage standards would not result in taxpayer savings, but would actually increase taxpayer burdens to offset the significant reductions in construction wages.

The study concludes that in states without Prevailing Wage laws, construction workers earn 16 percent less, placing many below the poverty line; increasing reliance on entitlements like food stamps and Earned Income Tax benefits.

“The notion that significant savings can be derived by cutting workers’ pay is false,” said ACT Ohio Executive Director Matt Szollosi.

The study concludes that in addition to reduced wages, repeal of prevailing wage regulations would eliminate employer-sponsored healthcare for nearly 4,000 Ohio craftsmen and women and the loss

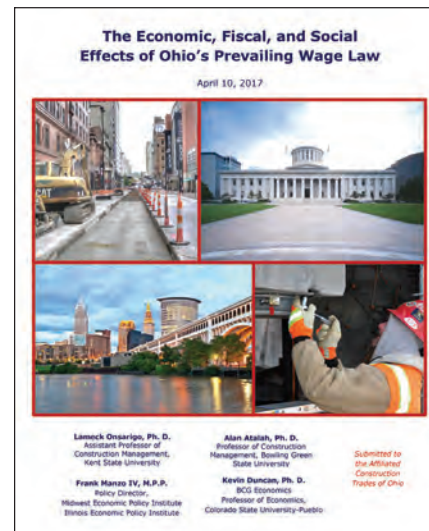
of employer-paid pension plans for more than 21,000 Building Trades’ workers.

“Attacks on prevailing wage will result in significant wage reductions for construction workers. The quality of taxpayer-funded work will decline, and the door will be kicked wide open for even more abuse of the system through the use of undocumented workers,” Szollosi said.

ACT Ohio has strongly encouraged Ohio’s leaders to reject any legislative efforts to weaken or repeal Ohio’s Prevailing Wage law, and supports the efforts of our Building Trades affiliates to contact their elected officials to add their opposition to changes to the prevailing wage law.

In addition to negatively impacting current construction workers, passage of these bills would be devastating to the pipeline that trains and prepares the next generation of Building Trades workers: Apprenticeship programs.

Based on Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services’ records, the study finds that in 2015, 83 percent of Ohio’s construction apprentices were enrolled in Building Trades training programs. This includes 94



percent of all female apprentices and 88 percent of minority apprentices.

Further, the Building Trades and their signatory contractors contributed \$1.75 billion in worker fringe benefits and training in 2015.

“The Building Trades invested nearly \$50 million in training last year,” said Szollosi. “These are private dollars invested in workforce development by our members and contractors. We have opposed, and will continue to oppose, efforts that require taxpayers to subsidize construction apprenticeship training.”

Currently, the Building Trades

have more than 80 apprenticeship training centers across the state, many of which have partnered with local community colleges. An analysis of other states within the study found that apprenticeship training falls by 40 percent after prevailing wage repeal.

Ohio already faces a tight market for professionally-trained construction craftsmen and women. To meet increased market demands, the Building Trades invested over \$48 million in apprenticeship training last year – 100 percent private dollars comprised of employee deductions and employer contributions.

Given the fact that the Building Trades have 83 percent of Ohio’s construction apprentices in their Joint Apprenticeship Training programs, a similar reduction in training would be a devastating blow to Ohio’s ability to compete on a national and international scale for high-level industrial and commercial investment.

In light of the study’s findings, two anti-Prevailing Wage bills (SB 72 and HB 163) would absolutely cripple one of the state’s most successful workforce development programs at a time when investors contemplating Ohio are concerned about the availability of qualified, skilled manpower. ■

IUPAT 'Day of Action' fixes treatment centers

The IUPAT District Council 6 "Community Day of Action" encouraged Locals throughout Ohio to volunteer in their communities on April 22. As is often the case, Local members came through.

In Columbus, members helped rehab a donated house to create an organization's first brick and mortar treatment facility for victims of sex trafficking, called The Freeman House. Once completed, the Freeman House will be home to six to eight women who will receive the necessary supportive services to ensure they don't have to return to their old lifestyle to survive.

In Florence, Ky., members patched and painted the bathrooms and common areas, including the living and dining rooms, at the Brighton Recovery Center for Women. The Center is a 100-bed facility located in Boone County that utilizes recovery dynamics curriculum and is a peer-driven model of recovery. The program helps women recover from chronic substance abuse and addiction, and move toward a life of sobriety and productivity.

In Cleveland, IUPAT members

rehabbed suites with drywall and paint to convert a former convent into a sober living facility for The Absolute House, whose mission is providing the education, housing, and employment resources that empower men struggling with alcohol and drug abuse to conquer addiction and maintain sobriety. ■

Bricklayers open new training center



The Ohio-Kentucky Administrative District Council of Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers completed construction on their new training center, which opened April 3 in Amherst.

The new center has the space to train both apprentices and journeymen, and the equipment to incorporate the latest technologies into classes.

Tammy Tansey, Administrator of Apprenticeship and Training, said the District Council has a lot of people to thank.

"We had a lot of help with the training center construction, including both employed tradesmen and volunteers who helped with different stages of the construction," Tansey said. "We now have a

state-of-the-art training center worthy of the talented workers of all of our Locals across Ohio and Kentucky." ■

Apprentice competition winners honored by UA



Congratulations to the first-place finishers at the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Apprentice Competition, held in March at Local 189 in Columbus.

The winners in the categories are: MES: Robert Conley, of Local 392 in Cincinnati; Pipefitter: Andrew Kramer, of Local 396 in Youngstown; Plumber: Roy Stimpert, of Local 42 in Norwalk; Sprinklerfitter: Joshua Strunk, of Local 669 from Omaha, Neb.; and Welder: Gabe Hershberger, of Local 50 in Toledo. ■

Insulator fundraiser helps find cure for mesothelioma



Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 50 and the Central States Conference will

host its 5th Annual Breath of Life Motorcycle and Classic Car Rally on July 29. The event starts at noon at the IBEW Local 82 Hall in Dayton and includes a group ride at 2 p.m.

The Motorcycle fee is \$45 per rider and \$60 per couple. Anyone that registers by July 1 will be entered into a special drawing.

Money raised from the annual event goes to The Breath of Life Foundation, a non-profit organization with a mission to prevent and cure mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases by providing critical funding, monitoring, early detection and cutting-edge research at leading medical and academic institutions. ■

Laborers welcome 2 female apprentice coordinators

LiUNA! Molly Shipe and April Ogden, both of Rayland, have earned their LiUNA Apprenticeship Coordinator Certification. The first females to earn the certification, Molly and April were accredited through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Congratulations to them both! ■

UA Local 168 opens expanded training center

On May 12, The United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 168 officially cut the ribbon to open a state-of-the-art addition to their training center.

The new \$1 million plus expansion houses 22 welding booths with the latest equipment, which will help the area keep up with a growing demand for skilled welders.

Training Coordinator Jeff Smith was proud to show off the work of his fifth year apprentice class – new signage in front of the training center. The sign was created entirely by the fifth-year apprentices during their Construction Project Management Class.

"The fifth-years did everything for this sign, from conception, to design, to engineering, to permitting, to bidding, inspection, and fabrication," said Smith.

Fifth-year apprentice Mark Sampson was grateful for the experience – an eight-month project, from

beginning to end.

"It was eye-opening to realize how much work goes into the project before you can even start fabrication," he said.

The Training Center hosted local and state officials for the opening.

"Economic development depends on workforce development," said

Ohio Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville), while presenting a proclamation to Smith and the center.

Marietta Mayor Joe Matthews agreed.

"Union members are the best-trained," he said. "I always have and always will support local union labor." ■



ACT Ohio Board member Bill Hutchinson and Ohio House Rep. Jay Edwards chat at the opening of UA Local 168's Training Center addition.



The group that officially opened the new UA local 168 Training Center (from left to right): Local 168 member and JATC Trustee Tim Brooker; Local 168 Business Manager and JATC Trustee Jeff White; Local 168 member and JATC Chairman Tim Zoller; Morrison Inc. V.P. and JATC Secretary David Haas; Local 168 Member, Pioneer Pipe Founder and JATC member Dave Archer; and Marietta Mayor Joe Matthews.



Fifth-year apprentices from UA Local 168 designed, engineered, permitted, and fabricated the new training center sign as their final project in the Construction Project Management Class.