



## Director's Report

By Matthew A. Szollosi



Szollosi

Labor Day exemplifies courage, sacrifice and accomplishment. It serves as an acknowledgement of the efforts of our predecessors in the labor movement, and all

that they achieved in order to galvanize working people for better terms and conditions of employment.

Can you imagine nearly 150 women perishing in a factory fire because management locked the doors to prevent them from taking a break? Or strikers and their families being gunned down or burned to death, or beaten with clubs and baseball bats? This sounds more like a third-world country than

the United States of America.

These events helped give rise to the union movement in this country in order to provide workers with living wages, health benefits and decency in retirement. While different in form, many of these conflicts and challenges remain in today's workplace. In many instances, these battle lines are drawn by elected officials doing the bidding of fiercely anti-union interests.

As has been stated numerous times, never underestimate the impact of public policy on your daily lives. For the past 18 months, special interest groups in Columbus have been pushing the Legislature for "unemployment compensation reform." As proposed, many of our members would have realized reductions of up to \$150 per week, with the total number of allowed weeks reduced from 26 to as low as 12.

Bills have been introduced to severely curtail Prevailing Wage.

Additionally, once again both public and private sector right to work bills have been crafted as well. Through hard work and significant investments in building relationships, we have been able to stop these initiatives from getting traction.

The ACT Ohio Executive Board deserves tremendous credit for investing in those who stand up for our industry and our members, regardless of political party.

Given today's challenges, as well as those certain to be on the horizon, it is imperative that we maintain focus and continue to educate decision-makers and the public about the benefits of the Building Trades.

These efforts to maintain and build upon our predecessors' accomplishments represent this generation's courage, sacrifice, and commitment to the labor movement.

Please work safe. ■

## Oregon Clean Energy plant launched

Gov. John Kasich attended the official ribbon cutting for Oregon Clean Energy Center in Oregon, Ohio on Aug. 21. When speaking to the crowd at the \$860 million power plant, Kasich said, "This is a big deal – this is the future."

In 2013, Northwest Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary Shaun Enright and ACT Ohio Director Matt Szollosi met with William Martin, Managing Partner for Clean Energy LLC, to discuss the firm's manpower needs. The meeting led to a luncheon hosted by ACT Ohio with the project development team and leaders of the NWOBTC.

ACT Ohio and the NWOBTC partnered to provide significant



support at Ohio EPA and Ohio Power Siting Board hearings to help streamline the permitting process for construction of the facility. As a result, the project was completed pursuant to a Project

Labor Agreement with the NWOBTC.

"Bill Martin and Bill Siderewicz have been great to work with, and we are proud of what our members

See CLEAN ENERGY page 3.

## ACT Ohio Executive Board



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# A Message from the Legal and Research Department

By Rob Dorans



Protecting Ohio's Prevailing Wage law is a fundamental tenet of the Building Trades. The Prevailing Wage law sets area wage and benefit standards for public construction projects. Without this law, we would see a race to the bottom in construction standards and wages in the public construction market.

Dorans

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ACT Ohio, the Ohio State Building Trades, regional Building Trades councils, and our affiliate unions vigorously lobby state officials to protect the Prevailing Wage law from legislative attacks. While these efforts are extremely critical toward the protection of the law, union staff are also engaged in the important task of enforcement at the local level.

Unfortunately, the Ohio Department of Commerce, the agency which enforces the Prevailing Wage law, has fewer than 10 inspectors on staff to enforce the law on thousands of public works projects in Ohio.

Without meaningful Prevailing Wage enforcement, low road contractors will seek to violate the law to increase their profit margins, and will put union contractors at a competitive disadvantage. This is why local unions

prioritize Prevailing Wage enforcement. ACT Ohio's Legal and Research Department works closely with Local Union staff daily to assist them in these efforts.

In order to help local unions and Building Trades councils in their Prevailing Wage enforcement campaigns, ACT Ohio will be hosting training seminars on Sept. 20 and 21. The training will provide union staff with the tools to more effectively enforce the Prevailing Wage law and protect the wage

and benefit standards fought for by our Local Unions.

If you are involved with Prevailing Wage enforcement on the local level and would like to attend one of the training seminars, please contact ACT Ohio at 614-228-5446. ■

## Hurricane Harvey: Another Good Reason for Northeast Petrochemical Expansion

By Greg Kozera,  
Shale Crescent USA

For over 75 years, if you wanted to build or expand a petrochemical facility in the United States you wouldn't be wrong if you located it on the Gulf Coast. Access to cheap, abundant energy and petroleum feedstocks -- the building blocks of petrochemicals -- made this strategy a sound one. Access to world markets through Gulf Coast ports was another good reason.

That conventional wisdom is getting challenged today. The northeast U.S., "The Shale Crescent," now has the cheapest, most abundant natural gas in the industrialized world because of the Marcellus and Utica shales.

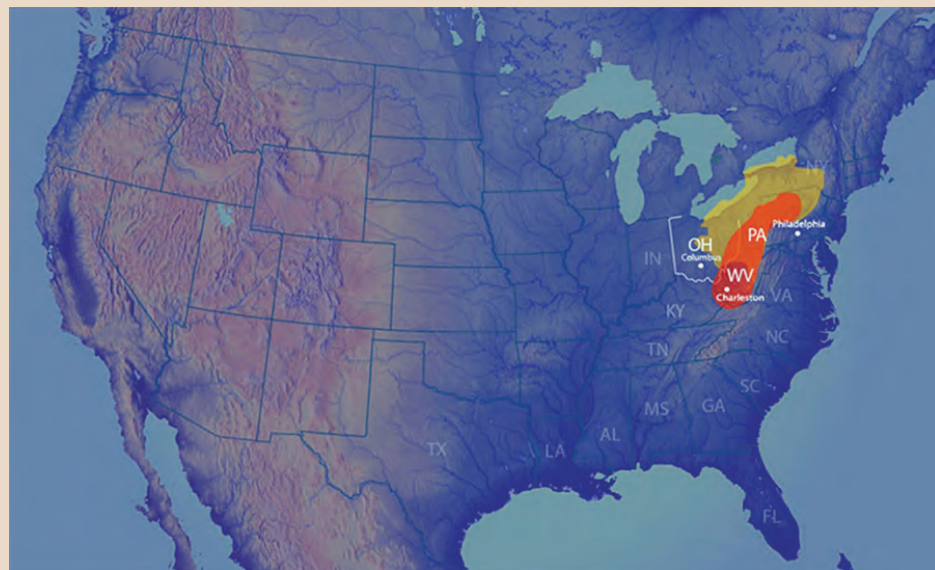
If eastern Ohio, southwestern Pennsylvania, and northern West Virginia were a country, they would be the third largest natural gas producer in the world. This region produced 5 percent of U.S. natural gas in 2010. Today, that number is in excess of 30 percent, and by 2020 the northeast will be producing 35 percent of U.S. natural gas supply.

Currently, natural gas liquids (NGLs) - primarily ethane, propane,

and butane -- are being shipped via pipeline to Marcus Hook, Pa. for shipment to Europe. Eastern Canada and the Gulf Coast are served via other pipelines.

A recent study said that despite these shipments out of the region, the northeast still had enough NGLs to supply at least 5 ethane crackers. This is important because ethane comes from natural gas that is priced domestically, currently at \$18 per BOE. Most crackers around the world use naphtha from crude oil that is priced globally, currently around \$50 per barrel. This gives the Shale Crescent a big cost advantage.

Shell is currently the only company building a cracker plant in the northeast. That could change as companies begin to realize the advantages the Shale Crescent has. In addition to cheap, abundant energy and feedstocks, the Shale Crescent also offers proximity to 50 percent of the U.S. and Canadian markets, abundant fresh water like the Ohio River, and an experienced petrochemical and construction workforce with training programs. Ohio ranks #1 in U.S. Plastics Manufacturing employment. The region also has good rail and river access to ocean ports.



The Potential Productive Area of the Utica and Marcellus Shales in the Mid-Ohio Valley is Nearly the Size of Germany.

Hurricane Harvey pointed out another advantage. The Shale Crescent doesn't get hurricanes that shut down refineries and petrochemical plants. It makes sense to diversify petrochemical production so that a major hurricane can't seriously damage or shut it down.

The petrochemical industry was born in the early 1920s by Union Carbide near Charleston, W.V. That changed the world and brought the petrochemical industry to the Kanawha

Valley and the Mid-Ohio Valley.

The world has changed again. Abundant energy and feed stocks, water for processing and transportation, proximity to markets, an experienced work force all make it time for industry to take another look at this forgotten part of the country and consider a return.

Greg Kozera is the Director of Marketing for Shale Crescent USA [www.shalecrescentusa.com](http://www.shalecrescentusa.com). ■

# NEXUS Pipeline Receives FERC Approval

The NEXUS pipeline project received its certificate of public necessity and convenience from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") in late August. The approval came after several months of waiting due to vacancies on the FERC Board, as well as legal challenges from opponents of the project.

The NEXUS pipeline will deliver approximately 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from receipt points in eastern Ohio to existing pipeline system interconnects in southeastern Michigan.

The more than \$2 billion project is a joint venture between Detroit-based DTE Energy and Calgary-Alberta-based Enbridge. It includes approximately 255 miles of pipeline, along with four compressor stations.

Initially, the project looked to be completed 80 percent union, with a roughly 50-mile stretch in eastern Ohio going to a non-union company called MJ Dyess. Through months of effort by the Laborers District Council of Ohio and Operating Engineers Local 18, the project is now scheduled to be completed

100 percent union.

"We were able to impress upon them the quality of our workforce," said Laborers District Council Business Manager and ACT Board Member Ralph Cole. "When it came down to it, our opposition could not come close to matching our investments in training and safety, or the experience of our members."

In his position statement submitted to FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee urging immediate issuance of the certificate to proceed, Executive Director Matt Szollosi stated, "The NEXUS

pipeline project is specifically the type of initiative that ACT Ohio was created to support. It is my understanding that the construction phase of the project will generate 5,325 jobs, more than \$565 million in wages."

The FERC approval was the last major hurdle before construction can begin. ■



Cole

## Time period reduced for filing injury claims

The two-year state budget bill was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. John Kasich earlier this summer.

Simultaneously with the state budget bill, the legislature also passes a transportation budget (HB 26) and the Bureau of Workers Compensation budget (HB 27).

A change to the statute of limitations for claims with the Bureau of Workers Compensation will impact our members' ability to file injury claims.

The new standard requires that injured **workers must file a claim with the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation within one year**

**of the injury.** If the injured worker fails to file the claim within this period, they will be ineligible for any state benefits.

"We'll need to get the word out to our councils and members not to wait to file a claim with The Bureau if they are injured on the job," said Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio State Building and Construction

Trades, Dennis Duffey.

While safety is a top priority of our members, Local Unions, and signatory contractors; accidents unfortunately can happen in our industry. It is vital that any injured member promptly files a claim with the Ohio BWC to ensure they receive the benefits available to them. ■

## Columbus Building Trades Council takes a shot at a diabetes cure

On Aug. 11, the Columbus/Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council hosted their annual Dollars Against Diabetes (DADs) Day Sporting Clay Shoot.

This year's nearly 40 participants raised \$5,000 to benefit the Diabetes Research Institute and their "Blueprint for a Cure" campaign, said Dorsey Hager, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council.

According to the American Diabetes Association, more than 1.3 million Ohioans have diabetes and another 3 million are pre-diabetic. Together, diabetes and pre-diabetes treatment costs Ohioans more than \$12 billion per year.



Dorsey Hager takes aim during the Annual DADs Day Shoot.

The burden of this disease – both physical and financial – takes a toll on many blue-collar families, many of them in the Building Trades.

"This is an annual opportunity for members and friends of the Building Trades to get together and spend an afternoon having fun and raising money for a good cause," said Hager. ■

## Clean Energy

*Continued from page 1.*

were able to accomplish on their behalf," said Enright. "We are looking forward to similar success on Phase II."

Groundbreaking for Phase II of the project is anticipated early next year.

Also attending the ceremony were Senators Randy Gardner, Cliff Hite, David Burke, and State Representatives Mike Sheehy and Theresa Gavarone.

Additionally, dozens of Building Trades representatives were there



Gov. John Kasich addresses the crowd at the Oregon Clean Energy Center ribbon cutting.


to show support for the project, including NWOBTC President and UA Local 50 Business Manager Scott Lopez.

"Our members delivered the project on time and on budget, and the quality of their efforts helped lead to the announcement of Phase II," said Lopez. ■







## Local 105 hosts certification testing

 Boilermakers Local 105 in Piketon held their Annual Common Arc Contractor Certification testing in August. The weld shop hosted 30 Boilermakers from around Ohio for their annual Common Arc multi-employer weld test. Representatives for 20 contractors were on hand to certify each weld. To help prepare participants for the certification testing, Local 105 opened its doors to all Boilermakers a week prior to the exam, and had instructors on hand. All costs associated with the testing are covered by the union. ■

## Local 109 accepting apprentice applications

 Local 109 in Akron is seeking apprentices. Members are encouraged to refer anyone interested to call the Union Hall at 330-724-1221. ■

## HB 236 seeks licensing of elevator constructors


 HB 236, to enact the Model Elevator Law, has been referred to the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee.

The bill was co-sponsored by Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) and Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima). The bill seeks to bring licensing of elevator constructors to Ohio. ■


## Local 45 apprentice competes in Canada

 Third generation Insulator Apprentice Brandon Shammo competed in the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Master Apprentice Competition in Toronto in June. Shammo is a fifth-year apprentice from Local 45 in Toledo. Congratulations to Shammo and Local 45 for representing the region well! ■

## JATC announces staff retirement

 Kevin Evans is retiring from the Strongsville JATC after 10 years of dedication and service. Jason Liskai will be joining the training staff to instruct journeyman upgrade training and the Glazier apprenticeship program in Toledo. Matt Graff also joins the staff to fill the Northern Ohio and Toledo Painter Taper Coordinator position. ■


## Brother, Business Manager Herzog retires

 Congratulations to Brother Dale Herzog on his retirement on July 31. Dale has been a member of the Bricklayers and Allied Craft workers since 1979. He became a Business Agent for the Bricklayers in 1996 and in 2012 became Executive Director of the Dayton Building Trades Council. ■


## Laborers enjoy family picnic in Akron

**LiUNA!** Local 894 in Akron hosted their family picnic on Aug. 6 at Clay's Park Resort. Swimming, kayaking, canoeing, ziplining, human foosball, and mini golf were just some of the activities enjoyed by members and their families. Lunch was provided, as was the opportunity to dunk an E-Board member in the dunk tank! ■

## Local 17 welcomes new training staff

 Local 17 in Cleveland welcomed Brian Murray in June as the new Apprenticeship Coordinator and Dan Strimpel as an Apprenticeship Instructor. ■

## Nicodemus retires, Local 8 helps the community

 Congratulations to IBEW Local 833 President Dennis Nicodemus (directly below, center) on his recent retirement. After serving as president for 12 years, Dennis retired on July 13.



In July, IBEW Local 8 conducted its Route 66 trash pickup in Defiance (pictured below), a tradition they have carried on for 24 years. In fact, retiree Wally Westrick has participated in every single pickup since the beginning. Another trash pickup on Route 66 is scheduled for October. Check [ibew8.org](http://ibew8.org) for more information. ■



## Apprentice Ohio at the State Fair

Ohio's Building Trades were well-represented at ApprenticeOhio's booth during the 2017 Ohio State Fair.

Patrick Reardon, ApprenticeOhio's Executive Administrator, said he was pleased with both the participation from the Trades and the



number of people who stopped by the booth.

"We got a chance to talk to about 5,000 to 6,000 people," Reardon said, "Governor Kasich even stopped by to thank us for our participation."

The booth was staffed on July 27, 29, 30 and Aug. 5 and 6, and featured hands-on demonstrations from many of the Building Trades.

In addition to the popular Virtual Welder, Sheet Metal Workers Local 24 mocked up tool boxes on the spot, while IBEW Local 683 brought an electrical mock up, enabling visitors to connect circuits and wires to make the board light up.



"The best part of this event is making connections," said Reardon. "We were able to connect a student with the Sheet Metal Workers in

Dayton to get him more information on the apprenticeship program there. They made the call right from the booth." ■