



Newsletter

Contractors Association of West Virginia

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE FOR 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CAWV Legislative Chairman Scott Pierson has called a meeting of the CAWV Legislative Committee on Tuesday, November 17, at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CAWV Headquarters at 2114 Kanawha Boulevard, East. Members will discuss the association's legislative network as well as legislative issues affecting members. Attached with this week's Newsletter is a questionnaire seeking members' recommendations for issues the CAWV should consider for the 2016 legislative session. Funding for infrastructure projects is always a priority and it will be even more so as the state's general fund revenues continue to decline. The Governor's office projects a \$250 million shortfall resulting in the recent 4 percent reduction in state spending and a 1 percent reduction in the education budget.

The CAWV met this week with Secretary of Revenue Robert Kiss and state budget officials to get an understanding of what impact the reductions could have on construction spending. The budgets for the School Building Authority and WV Infrastructure Council were cut \$8 million and \$10 million, respectively, to help offset this year's budget shortfalls. The association noted that these programs create jobs and tax revenue and should not be considered in the budget reduction process. The CAWV also noted that West Virginia continues to lead the nation in the largest percentage of construction employment decline (see article below) and that investing in infrastructure is a jobs bill. The secretary stated he does not want to see cuts in these programs this year if it can be avoided.

WEST VIRGINIA TOPS NATION IN LARGEST DECLINE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

West Virginia continues to lead the nation with the largest decline of construction workers on a year-over-year basis. The 16.9 percent drop from September 2014 to September 2015, which equates to 5,800 jobs, ranks West Virginia 51st out of 50 states and the District of Columbia, based on an analysis of U.S. Department of Labor data by the AGC of America. West Virginia has ranked dead last in the rankings for nearly 15 months.

Construction employment expanded in 35 states and the District of Columbia between September 2014 and September 2015 yet only 23 states added jobs between August and September. Fourteen states shed construction jobs during the past 12 months, while construction employment was unchanged in Oregon. West Virginia (-16.9 percent, -5,800 jobs) lost the highest percent of construction jobs. Other states that lost a high percentage of jobs for the year include Rhode Island (-10.9 percent, -1,800 jobs), Ohio (-6.3 percent, -12,400 jobs) and Mississippi (-5.1 percent, -2,400 jobs). The largest job losses occurred in Ohio, West Virginia, Minnesota (-2,700 jobs, -2.5 percent) and Mississippi.

CLOWSER GUEST ON MIKE QUEEN RADIO SHOW

CAWV Executive Director Mike Clowser was the guest Wednesday, Oct. 28, on the Mike Queen Radio Show, which is broadcast across the northern part of the state on the AJR News Network - a network covering 14 counties in Central West Virginia. Clowser spoke on the decline in construction employment, as the state continues to lead the nation in the largest percentage of construction decline. He noted a number of reasons, including declining revenues for highway, school and water and sewer construction projects.

“Construction generates many jobs throughout the economy,” he said. “I think what we are seeing, on a positive note, is a lot of legislators realize the conditions of our roads and we realize we must repair them or we’re going to have to start rebuilding them if they get in further disrepair,” stated Clowser. He also noted that with the recent Public Private Partnership (P3) projects on Coalfields Expressway, Route 35 and Corridor H (which opened bids Thursday at \$209.7 million), future WVDOH projects will decline if additional highway funding is not made available (see this week’s Highway Bulletin for details). He did note that state legislators he has spoken to recognize there is a problem, which he said he hopes is the first step toward finding a solution.

The interview was picked up by MetroNews. Click [here](#) to view the article “Contracting jobs hurting from lack of long-term highway bill.”

YOUNG CONTRACTORS FORUM MEETING – NOVEMBER 18

It’s time once again to get together for the Young Contractors’ annual planning session. Chairman Josh Booth will hold the event on Wednesday, November 18, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Buffalo Wild Wings located at 2501 Mountaineer Boulevard at the Southridge Shopping Center in Charleston. The meeting will be held in the private room behind the bar area of the restaurant.

The meeting will feature guest speaker, Patrick Kelly, CEO of the West Virginia Health Care Association. Kelly was the keynote speaker at the 2013 CAWV Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier where he outlined the motivating characteristics of each generation, focusing on how the older generation can better deal with the younger generation. This time he’s turning the tables, with the focus being on how the younger generation can better deal with the older generation. It’s sure to be an interesting event.

This is a great time to bring new faces from your companies whom you see becoming more involved in the CAWV and the industry. Appetizers and drinks will be provided in exchange for your good ideas for this year’s social events, education training, and volunteer work. Please RSVP by sending an email to Pat McDonald at pmcdonald@cawv.org, or you may also call (304) 342-1166, if you plan to attend.

VOLUME DUES REPORTS MAILED

Third Quarter volume dues reports have been mailed. Please make every effort to return the report in a timely manner to the CAWV office at 2114 Kanawha Blvd, East, Charleston, WV 25311. For questions, please contact Wendy Long at (304) 342-1166 or email long@cawv.org.

ACA'S AUTO-ENROLLMENT PROVISION REPEALED IN BUDGET ACT

An AGC-supported provision within the Bipartisan Budget Act repeals the mandatory auto-enrollment of employees in employer-provided health care coverage. The provision originated in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and forced employers with more than 200 full-time employees to automatically enroll a new full-time employee in a health plan within 90 days if he or she fails to choose or decline coverage. Employers would have also been required to continue to enroll current employees in a health plan. The requirement was in addition to the ACA's individual and employer mandates, and other employee benefit laws.

For over four years, AGC has advocated that this provision should be repealed because enrolling employees automatically into coverage they did not select could result in unexpected payroll deductions for employees who can't afford it, or already have secured health care through other avenues like a spouse's employer, a parent's employer or an exchange. The Senate could vote on the Budget Bill with the auto enrollment provision repeal as early as tomorrow. It is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law. *(Reprinted from October 29 AGC Construction Legislative Week in Review).*

THE CAWV/WVDOH 2016 TECHNICIAN AND INSPECTOR COURSES INCLUDE SEVERAL CHANGES

The CAWV is pleased to announce Certification Training Courses, which are offered annually to help individuals prepare for WVDOH certification examinations required under their Quality Assurance Program. Thousands of individuals have attended courses in Compaction, Aggregates, Asphalt and Portland Cement Concrete over the last several years. Test comparisons prove that those persons who attend the CAWV/WVDOH courses have a higher success rate for passing the exams. This year's courses include several changes and attendees should read the registration forms carefully to make sure they are attending the correct course to fit their needs. See this week's Heavy/Highway Bulletin for the complete schedule and information on how to obtain the registration forms.