

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



Quarter 4 2019 www.ccawv.org 304-345-4639

Collective County Voices

2019 CCAWV Annual Meeting Held at Canaan Valley Resort



CCAWV hosted the 2019 Annual Meeting at Canaan Valley Resort August 4-6. The quarterly board meeting was followed by the Business Association meeting, where Jack David Woodrum of Summers County and Agnes Queen of Lewis County were elected as President and Vice President respectively.

The Early Bird Award was presented to Wirt County and the James H. Booton Rising Star Award was presented to Rod Wyman of Lewis County at the Association Business Meeting. Commissioners and staff participated in a Roundtable Discussion on various topics and the Welcome Reception sponsored by Global Science & Technology Inc. provided networking opportunities and beautiful views of Canaan.

Monday's Keynote Speaker was Hoppy Kercheval of Metro News, and following his remarks he broadcast his live radio program from Canaan, featuring interviews with several county commissioners. Other presentations included topics on Cybersecurity, USDA programs, WVU Extension Office programs; Ethics; Benefits of NACo Membership; County Project Financing; and Dealing with Opioid Issues.

The afternoon rounded out a full day of information with a series of breakout topics including WVFCIA grants; WVCORP programs and support; Economic development site selection; and programs that deal with homeless populations. Lunch was sponsored by **ZMM Architects and Engineers** and the morning break by **WV American Water** and afternoon break by **Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC**. A big thank you to our sponsors who helped make this a very successful conference!

The Monday night closing reception and dinner sponsored by **Silling Architects** and **WVCORP** featured live music sponsored by the **Tucker County Chamber of Commerce** and the **Tucker County CVB**, cornhole and a tailgate theme were attendees wore their favorite team gear! Special thanks to **Country Roads Leasing** for hosting our Networking Hour.

The combination of speakers, camaraderie and breathtaking Tucker County views provided a perfect background for a very successful conference! We look forward to 2020!



Directors Discussion - Jennifer Piercy

As this is my first *Director's Discussion* I want to first thank all of our members for your involvement and dedication to CCAWV.

I also want to thank everyone for your support of me as the new CCAWV Executive Director and I am excited to have the honor of leading such an outstanding group of county leaders. Counties are the heart and soul of West Virginia and the work that you do everyday makes a difference. Our work is not always popular, not always liked and not always supported, but nonetheless the impact your service makes on local government is vital to county survival and growth.

My hope for CCAWV in this next year is to build upon the successes we've experienced over the past two decades and continue to grow our association as a strong, influential organization who always has a seat at the table and a voice in state and local government. **Counties are strong. Counties are leaders. Counties matter.**



President's Message - Jack David Woodrum

As the newly elected President of CCAWV, I am honored to serve not only this organization but all of our counties.

We are experiencing many exciting changes, including a new Executive Director who I am working with closely to improve our existing program and services. My goals in this role for 2019-2020 include working to further improve communication, providing more educational and training opportunities, fostering participation from more of our counties, providing representation not only during the Legislative Session but year-round and establishing CCAWV as an even more proactive, strong and successful organization.

One of our goals is to offer more educational opportunities to our membership while keeping in mind cost and time spent out of the office. We are working with the Auditor's Office to bring our meetings back together and offer the Auditor's Training during our Annual Meeting timeframe. More information on this cooperative effort will be sent out in the new few weeks. I welcome your comments, suggestions and recommendations on how CCAWV can assist counties and help commissioners in their day to day duties serving their constituents.

I encourage you to engage with us and help build on our ongoing successes to provide a bright future for our counties.



2019-2020

Board of Directors

President: Jack David Woodrum | Summers County

Vice-President: Agnes Queen | Lewis County

Immediate Past President: Tim McCormick | Ohio County

Ex-Officio: Nancy Cartmill | Cabell County

District 1:

- Chair: Dr. Richard Lechliter, Mineral County, Eastern Division
- Dave Price, Preston County, Eastern Division
- Bob Tebay, Wood County, Western Division
- Scott Varner, Marshall County, Western Division
- Lisa Heasley, Wetzel County, At Large

District 2:

- Chair: Dick Waybright, Jackson County, At Large
- George Skidmore, Braxton County, Western Division
- Rod Wyman, Lewis County, Western Division
- Terry Cutright, Upshur County, Eastern Division
- Mark Scott, Randolph County, Eastern Division

District 3:

- Chair: Denise Scalph, Fayette County, Eastern Division
- Tammy Tincer, Greenbrier County, Eastern Division
- Rick Handley, Mason County, Western Division
- Nancy Cartmill, Cabell County, Western Division
- Greg Puckett, Mercer County, At Large

Jennifer Piercy, Executive Director

Contact Us

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 **Priorities**

- Support legislation that will allow counties to enact a local 1% county sales tax.
- Support legislation to allow county commissioners an ongoing mechanism to consider compensation increases for elected county officials every two years in an amount up to the increase in the annual Consumer Price Index published in the United States Department of Commerce over the prior two years or three percent, whichever is greater.
- Support legislation to eliminate the property roll back tax calculation. This would eliminate the section of code that requires a reduction (roll back) in the regular current expense level rate when the appraisal of property values results in a tax increase of more than 110% of the prior year projected property tax revenues.
- Support legislation that would allow for collection and distribution of hotel motel taxes from AirBnB lodging.



 **We Support**

- Amending of HB2654 to specifically add "community or senior center organizations" regarding disposal of community property.
- Support adequate state funding for fully staffing the West Virginia State Police Lab.
- Legislation allowing County Commissioners to be a member of PSD Board.
- Support reduction of time limit on properties disposed for unpaid taxes from 18 months to 12 months.
- Support the addition of Lewis County to the Mountaineer Trail Network.
- Support of 5 year timeframe on municipalities to reapply for annexation in a county.
- Exemption of agricultural buildings from state building codes.

 **We Oppose**

- Shifting of PSC Rate Regulation from PSC to County Commissioners



Community Focal Point

Substance abuse is an extremely critical problem and impediment to the workforce in WV and a major factor in the escalating burden on our criminal justice system.

CCAWV supports efforts to increase and enhance available treatment.

CCAWV Announces Partnership for Training with State Auditors Office



After hearing from many counties regarding the Annual State Auditor's Training, representatives of both CCAWV and the Auditor's Office sat down and worked on bringing the training back in with the CCAWV Annual Meeting.

Both organizations have become very cognizant of not only costs, but of time constraints for county commissioners. By working together to bring this training back with the CCAWV Annual Meeting, we are able to offer one location for our members and reduce travel out of the office.

We are looking forward to working together to offer solid programming for our commissioners and county staff. If you have suggestions regarding programming, please reach out to our office.

Our tentative date for the **2020 Annual Conference** will be August 2-5, 2020 at **Canaan Valley Resort** in Davis, Tucker County.

2019 Board Meeting

CCAWV hosted its 2019 Fall Board and Legislative Committee meeting on September 22-23 in Morgantown. This meeting helps determine legislative priorities for the upcoming session along with identifying issues that the CCAWV membership will support or oppose.

Counties bring forth potential legislative issues that are evaluated and recommended for adoption by the CCAWV Legislative Committee to the Board of Directors. Once those are adopted, they are communicated out to the CCAWV membership, lawmakers, and other organizations. CCAWV works hard to not only engage our membership in determining legislative priorities but to also educate the public on county issues. It is important to our organization that the public understand county issues and how legislation potentially impacts county operations.



Upcoming Events

Legislative Session Begins
January 9, 2020

CCAWV 2020 Legislative Meeting
January 26-28, 2020,
Embassy Suites, Charleston,
Kanawha County

WVACo Conference of Counties (60th Anniversary) February 9-12, Location TBD

Legislative Session Ends
March, 9 2020

CCAWV Spring Board Meeting
May 17-18, 2020 at Blennerhassett Hotel In Wood County.

CCAWV Annual Conference
August 2-5, 2020
Canaan Valley, Tucker County

NACo Membership:

A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS



The National Association of Counties (NACo) is your organization, representing counties in Washington, D.C., just as your state association represents you in the state capital.

Build a stronger county with NACo

Our Goal:

- To engage members with resources to achieve healthy, vibrant and safe counties across the United States.

NACo provides value to our members through:

- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Cost-Saving Solutions
- County Centered Research
- Best Practices & Networking



Learn more at www.NACo.org/membership

**STRONGER COUNTIES.
STRONGER AMERICA.**