

Commissioners' Corner

Vol. 11 No. 2
July/August, 2006

County Commissioners' Assoc. of WV ~ Karen Disibbio, President ~ Vivian Parsons, Exec Dir

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CCA BOARD & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2006

Commissioners' Corner
County Commissioners' Association of
West Virginia

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This is a monthly publication for county commissioners and their staff, Associate members and other interested parties.

Preston County Wins Thelma J. Stone Award...



Commissioners Vicki Cole, Darwin Wolfe, Dave Price

performance and extra ordinary achievement over the past year. The award goes to a county commission which has superior leadership qualities and has demonstrated a willingness to work as a team in achieving their goals.

Congratulations on a job well done!

This years recipient of the Thelma J. Stone Memorial Achievement award is the Preston County Commission.

Each year at the WV State Auditor's Annual In-Service Training for County Commissioners and Assistants, the State Auditor's office presents the achievement award to a county commission which exemplifies outstanding per-

Association Elects Leadership for 2006-2007...

The membership of the County Commissioners' Association met on July 31, 2006 and elected the following members to serve as the 2006-2007 Board of Directors for the Association:

President:

Karen Disibbio, Mercer County

Vice President:

Sam Hicks, Lewis County

Immediate Past President:

Jim Waybright, Jackson County

Ex Officio Members:

Jim Booton Wayne County
Joe Coburn, Mercer County

District 1:

Chair: Tim McCormick, Ohio County
Don Mason, Marshall County
Bob Bell, Monongalia
Ron Watson, Harrison County
Janice LaRue, Mineral County

District 2:

Chair: Charles Murray, Wirt County
Peter Triplett, Clay County
J.R. Keplinger, Hardy County
Kelly Hartman, Pendleton County
Bob Rinehart, Lewis County

District 3:

Chair: Mickey Brown, Boone County
Rick Wellman, Wayne County
Brad Tuckwiller, County
Reta Griffith, Pocahontas County
Chuck Armentrout, Webster County

2006-2007 Legislative Committee:

Co-Chairs: Jim Caruthers, Putnam County & Ron Watson, Harrison County

Asel Kennedy, Monongalia County
Jim Wilson, Grant County
Peter Triplett, Clay County
Reta Griffith, Gillmer County
Al Halstead, Boone County

2006-2007 CCA Board of Directors

President

Karen Disibbio, Mercer (487-8306)

Vice-President

Sam Hicks, Lewis (269-8200)

Immediate Past President

Jim Waybright, Jackson (372-2011)

Ex Officio Members

Jim Booton, Wayne (272-6350)

Joe Coburn, Mercer (487-8306)

District 1— Western Division

Chair: Tim McCormick, Ohio
(234-3628)

Don Mason, Marshall (845-0482)

Bob Bell, Monongalia (291-7257)

District 1 — Eastern Division

Ron Watson, Harrison (624-8500)

Janice LaRue, Mineral (788-3924)

District 2 — Western Division

Chair: Charles Murray, Wirt
(275-4271)

Peter Triplett, Clay (587-4259)

District 2 — Eastern Division

J.R. Keplinger, Hardy (538-2929)

Kelly Hartman, Pendleton (358-7573)

Bob Rinehart, Lewis (269-8200)

District 3 — Western Division

Chair: Mickey Brown, Boone (369-1561)

Rick Wellman, Wayne (272-6350)

District 3 — Eastern Division

Brad Tuckwiller, Greenbrier (647-6689)

Reta Griffith, Pocahontas (799-6063)

Chuck Armentrout, Webster (847-5780)

County Commissioners' Association

2309 Washington Street East

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Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

Jennifer Webb, Admin. Assistant

President's Perspective

By Karen Disibbio, CCAWV President

County Commissioners, Administrators and Staff completed a very successful Annual Training Seminar July 30-August 1st at the Radisson Hotel in Huntington. We sincerely appreciate the tremendous attendance from our county officials. The training opportunities provided by Auditor Glen Gainer, Chuck Kinder, Lavada Williamson and Vivian Parsons were excellent. Many thanks to Scott Bias, the Cabell County Commission and staff for their dedicated assistance in planning our meeting.



As we enter another year, I would like to thank our retiring board members and legislative committee members for their service to our organization. We also welcome our new members who are starting their terms this month. I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve as your President for this coming year along with the new board.

Remember we need your participation in the Association. We encourage everyone to become actively involved in your County Commissioners' Association.

Please contact the Association Office at 345-4639 or me at 487-8306 if we may be of assistance in any way!

Directors' Discussion

By Vivian Parson, Executive Director

Wow!.....Another great annual meeting behind us! On Saturday evening, Deputy Assistant to President Bush and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in Washington D.C, Ruben Barrales, spoke by teleconference with the CCAWV Board of Directors offering his assistance and a phone number when we might need the assistance of the federal government. We were further, fortunate to have both the President of the National Association of Counties, Hon. Bill Hansell and the President of the National League of Cities, Hon. Jim Hunt spoke to our group. President Hansell is a County Commissioner from the State of Oregon and President Jim Hunt is City Councilman from our own Clarksburg, West Virginia! We appreciate their efforts to visit and share information with us. Also, thanks to each of you who took time from your busy schedule to join us, we had 50 of 55 counties represented!



During the annual meeting, attendees had the opportunity to participate in round table discussions with experts on various issues including the Tax Modernization Project. As the project continues, the Secretary of the Department of Revenue has assembled the "Tax Modernization Work Study Group, a team of individuals from the Office of the Governor, the Department of Revenue, which includes the Office of the Secretary, the State Tax Department and the State budget Office and economists from Marshall University and West Virginia University in their continued efforts to thoroughly review the current tax structure. They have also formed a subcommittee for the purpose of focusing on Local Taxation/Property Tax. Pocahontas County Commissioner Reta Griffith, CCAWV Board member will represent CCAWV on this subcommittee. The sub-committee focus will be to determine methods of generating additional or new revenue sources for local governments.

(Continued on Page 7)

CCAWV Rising Star Award Winner!!!



Cabell County Commissioner, Scott Bias was selected as the fourth annual recipient of the CCAWV Rising Star Award. Commissioner Bias has excelled in each of the award's criteria categories and is

extremely deserving of this honor. He goes beyond the call of duty to actively participate in and advance the goals of the County Commissioners' Association and vigorously works to preserve the responsibilities of the office of county commissioner!

POCAHONTAS COUNTY WINS EARLY BIRD AWARD!!!



The County Commissioners' Association of WV would like to thank the Pocahontas County Commission for being the first to pay their Association dues for 2006-2007. They are the CCAWV Early Bird Award Winners! Commissioners Reta Griffith and James Carpenter received the award on behalf of the Commission. Congratulations and thank you for your support!

Commissioners hold roundtable discussion with NACO President Bill Hansell.



Commissioners discuss Ordinance Authority Issues at a Roundtable Discussion!



We were honored to have 2 Presidents: Jim Hunt, NLC, Bill Hansell, NACO and WV NACO Bd. Member Tim McCormick!

Who are these people to your right??? Maybe you should look in Jackson and Grant County for a clue!!!



The fifties crew-Jennifer, Vivian, Chris Tatum & Reta Griffith!



This table is eating up before they hit the dance floor!!!

West Virginia University Extension Service will hold Economic Development Training for elected officials...



The WVU Extension Service is again co-sponsoring the Community Development Institute (CDI) East. This training helps participants develop the knowledge and skills needed to facilitate community planning and development.

The Grass Roots Economic Development and Community Capacity Building Training program for Community Development will be held September 24-29, 2006 at the Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV. The Rooms are \$109 per night. Reservations must be made prior to August 28, 2006.

If you would like to register for this training please call our office for a registration form.

Addressing the Finish Line

BY: Jim Caruthers, Putnam County Commissioner

The West Virginia Statewide Addressing and Mapping Board (WVSAMB) presented its plan for completion of the statewide addressing project. The board had previously terminated its addressing contractor for the project.

County 9-1-1 directors, addressing coordinators and county commissions from all 55 counties were invited to the meeting. Over 100 attendees filled the meeting room to capacity at the Days Inn in Flatwoods. Featured speakers included Brigadier General Ralph Pasini USAF (retired), a West Virginia University graduate who is currently Assistant Vice President at Michael Baker Jr., Inc., and Stan Cavendish, President of Verizon West Virginia. Verizon provided \$15 million to fund the project beginning in 2001.



Craig Neidig, WVSAMB Chairman, emphasized the Board's commitment to finishing the project. "The counties and 9-1-1 directors are to be commended for their efforts to get the project to the stage it is at today. But there is still a lot of hard work to be completed and continued participation by local government is essential to achieve success. All those involved in this project are deeply dedicated to finishing what we started. That is no less than the world-class, state-of-the-art mapping and addressing system for West Virginia that we originally envisioned." The draft plan documents and other project information is available on the WVSAMB website at www.addressingwv.org

CCA Would like to welcome our new Associate Member Software Computer Group, Inc.

W.A.R.N.
GeoPowered

The key to effective public safety is "communication" -- both within your organization and out to the public.



We're all about I.T.

The use of GIS - Geographic Information Systems - has evolved into being a key ingredient to completing the proper communication loop. Providing a spatial perspective for an emergency situation has proven very beneficial to Police, Fire, and E-911 applications.

W.A.R.N. offers services to assist your organization in maintaining up-to-date GIS information, such as GIS Data Conversion, GPS Data Collection, and professional user GIS Training for every application including tax maps, facility maps, public works mapping as well as public safety.

W.A.R.N. (Wide Area Rapid Notification)

With "rapid notification" in mind, W.A.R.N. partnered with the leading web-based ESRI GIS Service Providers to develop a Geographic Rapid Mass Notification System. The resulting W.A.R.N. GeoPowered product gives the emergency user the ability to geographically draw an area on a map and quickly spawn mass emergency notifications - based on that location or point on the map - calling at a rapid rate up to the phone company's capacity in that area. Emergency situations such as chemical spills, severe weather alerts, missing children, and growing uses for homeland security are just a few growing uses of this powerful system.

NACo closes 71st Annual Conference in Cook County, Illinois with news of all-time record membership

More than 3,500 county officials participate in workshops and seminars; exchange ideas to strengthen their leadership and public service skills

CHICAGO – West Virginia Delegates participated in the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 71st Annual Conference in Cook County, Ill., held Aug. 4-8 at the Lakeside Center at McCormick Place, Chicago. More than 3,500 elected and appointed county officials from around the country participated in workshops and educational seminars and heard from experts discussing numerous key issues facing county governments and effective solutions to the challenges they face.

The purpose of NACo's Annual Conference is to set official association policy, elect executive committee officers, attend to association business and financial matters and provide county officials with a variety of opportunities to enhance their leadership and public service skills. With headquarters on Capitol Hill, NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments. With an all-time record of 2,173 member counties, the association serves as a national advocate for counties, acts as a liaison with other levels of government and provides counties with resources to help them find innovative methods to serve the public.

Throughout the conference, county officials participated in educational seminars and workshops on a variety of topics including: universal health care, regional interoperability, economic development, Indian law, emergency communications, balancing county budgets, managing county court and criminal justice costs, tax and finances, voting rights, smart growth, land conservation, methamphetamine abuse and risk management. A full listing of the sessions is available at www.naco.org.

WV Delegation Dinner at Harry Caray's in Chicago



Harry Caray "or" Harrison Cty Commissioner Ron Watson???



From L to R - back row: Betty Riffe, Raleigh County Clerk, John Humphrey, Raleigh Cty Commissioner, Pat Reed, Raleigh Cty Commissioner, Drema Evans, Assessor Raleigh Cty, Danny Moore, Sheriff Raleigh Cty, Patti Hamilton, WVACO, John Aliff, Raleigh Cty Commissioner, Kelvin Holliday, Fayette County Clerk, Cody Starcher, Marion Cty Commissioner, Randy Elliott, Marion Cty Commissioner, Alan Parks, Marion Cty Commissioner, Dee McCormick, Tim McCormick, Ohio Cty Commissioner, Brent Pauley, Kanawha County Manager. **Front row:** Janice Cosco, Marion County Clerk, Vivian Parsons, CCAWV, and Reta Griffith, Commissioner Pocahontas Cty. **Also attending but absent from picture:** Danny Greathouse and Mike Swartmiller, Hancock County Commissioners, and Roger Diaz, Ron Watson and Chucky Angotti, Harrison County Commissioners.



West Virginia Delegates "Chow Down"



County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia

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August 15, 2006

Dear Board and Legislative Committee Members:

Please mark your calendar for the County Commissioners' Association's Fall Board & Legislative Committee Meeting scheduled for September 24-26, 2005, at Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV (Tucker County).

Thirty-five sleeping rooms have been set aside for our meeting. **Our block of rooms rates are \$72.00 Single, \$92.00 double per night.** (Also available are the following room rates: \$112.00 triple, \$132.00 Quad, \$119 King, and \$144 efficiency per night)., Reservations should be made **ASAP, by calling Canaan Valley Resort at 1-304-866-4121.**

PLEASE NOTE HOTEL POLICY: A guarantee by credit card is required at the time the individual reservation is made. **The cut-off date for sleeping rooms is September 1, 2006. There are only 35 rooms in our block so please make your reservations ASAP.** Check in time on Sunday is 5:00 p.m. unless they have rooms available and check out on Tuesday is 12:00 noon.

Following is the "tentative" schedule of events...

Sunday - September 24, 2006

4:00 pm Legislative Committee Meeting
7:30 pm Dinner
Hospitality Room open following dinner

Monday - September 25, 2006

8:30 - 9:00 Coffee & Danish
9:00 - 12:00 noon CCA Legislative Committee Meeting Continued
12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 - 4:30 pm CCA Business Meeting and Legislative Endorsements
Dinner on your own
8:00 pm Hospitality

Tuesday - September 26, 2006

9:00 - Unfinished Business (if any)

The registration fee will be \$100.00 per county attendee. As always we encourage all interested county commissioners to participate, so please share this information. Please clip the registration form below and return it to this office via fax (304) 346-3512 or mail **by September 9, 2006.**

Name	Title	County
_____	I will attend the Fall Board & Legislative Meeting - Bill my county	\$100.00 Registration Fee
_____	I will attend/ Check enclosed for \$100.00 Registration Fee	
_____	I am unable to attend	

The following Guest(s) will be attending with me _____

_____ I will pay at door (\$25.00 dinner & \$15.00 Lunch)
_____ Check for guest(s) enclosed (\$25.00 dinner & \$15.00 lunch)

Local Government Leadership Academy



The Local Government Leadership Academy will be meeting August 25-26, 2006 at Embassy Suites in Charleston.

Please contact Lucinda Potter, Program Coordinator, Institute for Public Affairs', WVU, Local Government Leadership Academy
P.O. Box 6317, Morgantown, WV 26506.
E-mail: lpotter@mix.wvu.edu

Director's Discussion

(Continued from page 2)

As those attending the annual meeting are aware, Secretary of State Betty Ireland announced that the Regional Jail Authority has rescinded their request for approval of "emergency rules." This is good news for county government. Although we understand that some rule changes may be necessary, there is no "emergency situation." Emergency rules should not be pushed through quickly, but rather legislative rules should go through the legislative process of open and extensive debate and the opportunity for counties to participate in the discussion.

Close on the heels of the CCAWV annual meeting was the National Association of Counties meeting in Chicago! West Virginia has a good number of delegates attending. Hope all of you are enjoying the "dog days" of summer.

CCAWV Calendar of Events

August 25-27, 2006

Local Government Leadership Academy
Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV

September 24-26, 2006

CCA Board Meeting
Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV

January 10-12, 2007

CCA Basic Training
Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV

January 28-30, 2007

Legislative Association Meeting &
Educational Training Series
Marriott, Charleston, WV

COURTHOUSE REFLECTIONS

Sketches by Larry McCallister, Calhoun County Commissioner



JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The first courthouse built on this site in 1803 was destroyed by fire. In 1836 a new and larger building was erected. It was in this structure that the famous abolitionist, John Brown, and his associates were tried and sentenced to be hanged for treason in 1859. During the Civil War the building was partially destroyed by shell fire. When it became evident that Jefferson County would be part of the Civil War battleground, valuable papers and records were sent to Lexington, VA. The county records were thus preserved almost intact. In 1865 the county seat was moved to Shepherdstown where it remained until 1871 when it was returned to Charles Town. Authorities then decided to rebuild the Courthouse and the work was completed in December of 1872, at a cost of \$18,500 but additional furnishing increased the total to \$21,179.18.

Colonel Charles Washington, brother of George Washington, gave the land on which the courthouse stands as a gift to the town. A metal tablet on one corner honors the memory of Colonel Washington, for whom Charles Town was named. Today the courthouse contains wills, deeds, and papers of many of the Washington family.

Legislative Issue Deadline

The Deadline for receiving legislative issue nominations is Thursday, September 21st. We will be putting together our legislative agenda at our Fall Board and Legislative Meeting, Sept. 24-26, 2006 at Canaan Valley Resort. If you need a nomination form please contact our office.

Thank you.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION



Commissioners Bob Bailey, Nancy Cartmill, Scott Bias

Crowning achievement: Obtaining water service for over 95% of Cabell County residents.

Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment: Commission office flood of 2006. Just 3 weeks ago all of our offices had flooded and our offices were devastated.

Best advice for other County Commissions: Beware of the State bearing gifts.

Funniest thing to ever happen at a commission meeting? The day the Commission and staff pledged allegiance to the window. After our flood all of our furniture had been moved, including the WV State flag and the United States flag. When everyone turned to give the pledge the Commission found themselves pledging allegiance to the window during a public meeting.

Commission Staff: Stephen Zoeller-County Manager, Chris Tatum-Assistant County Manager, Sharon Ross-Assistant County Manager, Rita Adkins-Executive Secretary, Connie Gray-Grants, Planning and Permits.

Bob Bailey

Place where I grew up: Huntington

Real Life Occupation: Teacher and Coach, but now a full time public servant

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 12 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Have been in politics for 40 years.

My personal philosophy: To serve the people that pay my salary. Be nice to everyone. Nothing is a bargain if you don't need it!

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: I can help people and their families. I can give advice that doesn't cost anything but a handshake.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Sometimes not being able to satisfy the public and their needs.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: John Kennedy-I would discuss the state of affairs in Cabell County.

Nancy Cartmill

Place where I grew up: Barboursville

Real Life Occupation: Executive Director of WV Assisted Living Association.

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 3 1/2 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Was the first woman to run for mayor in Barboursville, WV and was the first mayor to serve four consecutive terms.

My personal philosophy: Enjoy life to the fullest and always be honest and fair.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Making sure that taxpayer money is used wisely and trying to make life better for county residents.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Lack of cooperation and working together.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: My brother who is deceased. I would like to discuss current issues and get his opinion. He was always my closest confidant and friend.

Scott Bias

Place where I grew up: Milton

Real Life Occupation: Electrician and Human Resources.

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 2 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Ride Motorcycles

My personal philosophy: Do what is Right!

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Being involved in decisions effecting government.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Arguing and Bickering.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: My dad who is deceased. I would ask him if I am doing a good job.