

Commissioners' Corner

Vol. 11 No. 3
September/October, 2006

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

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CCA Board Adopts 2007 Legislative Platform..

The County Commissioners' Association board met on September 25, 2006 at Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV for their fall meeting. The meeting was very well attended by both members and guests. We would like to thank everyone who attended for their time and efforts. Thank you to all of those Commissioner and Administrators who took the time to attend. We appreciate your support.



One of the priorities of this meeting was adopting an agenda for the 2007 session of the legislature. A meeting of the Legislative Committee was held on Sunday, September 24, 2006 to discuss the issues for the 2007 legislative session and determining priority issues. This year our three major issues are Regional Jail Costs, Annexation and Tax Issues. Of course this office will continue to monitor developments during the legislative session of issues that may affect County Government, in addition to promoting our platform. We will begin our Regional Roundtable meetings in October and would like to encourage everyone to participate in their regional meeting as we will be discussing legislative issues that are important to all counties. A copy of the Regional Roundtable schedule is enclosed. Please see the insert for the 2007 Legislative Platform. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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.



**ELECTION DAY
IS UPON US!**



**CCA WOULD LIKE TO WISH GOOD LUCK TO
ALL COUNTY COMMISSION INCUMBENTS
WHO ARE RUNNING!!**

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 (355-2613)

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 Rinchart, 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
Charleston, WV 25311

(304) 345-4639

Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

Jennifer Webb, Admin. Assistant

President's Perspective

By Karen Disibbio, CCAWV President

Hopefully West Virginia is filled with tourists since autumn is such a spectacular season in our wonderful state! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful scenery.



The County Commissioners' Association Board of Directors held our Legislative meeting and fall board meeting at Canaan Valley in Tucker County on September 24-25, 2006. The legislative agenda for the upcoming session was discussed and approved by both the Legislative Committee and the Board of Directors.

The agenda is enclosed in this newsletter along with the schedule for the Regional Legislative Roundtable meetings to discuss the enclosed agenda. Please make every effort to attend these informative roundtables so that you will be familiar with our legislative platform.

If you have any questions concerning this agenda or any other subjects, please contact Vivian at 345-4639 or me at 487-8306.

Directors' Discussion

By Vivian Parson, Executive Director

Fall is here and with it crisp cool mornings, beautiful foliage, and 10 regional roundtable meetings for county commissioners across the state! Yes, it's that time again and the schedule is set! Please check it out in this edition of the newsletter and make plans to join us in your area!



Also around the corner is the 2006 general election. Good luck to all those incumbents who are running and to each county as they conduct the voting process. Hopefully all the "kinks" of the new voting machines have been worked out and we'll see smooth sailing on November 7th.

Just a quick report on October legislative interims...

The committee on interstate cooperation reviewed proposed legislation for an electronic filing system for property tax. The committee is seeking feedback from counties and the bar association of the proposal.

First Lady Gale Manchin reported to the Joint Economic Development Committee on the work of the Governor's Job Council. Experts have been meeting to link education to economic development and progress is being made.

Judiciary Committee A heard further presentation from entities seeking legislation to allow the retail sale of liquor by the bottle on Sunday in West Virginia. Seems that all 5 surrounding states allow Sunday sales in some form or the other.

(Continued on page 7)

WEST VIRGINIA WELL REPRESENTED IN D.C. BY POCAHONTAS COUNTY COMMISSION...



Commissioners Reta Griffith, James Carpenter, Joel Callison were West Virginia's Representative in D.C. at NACO Forestry Conference. Sporting their uniform green shirts, members of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition are briefed for their upcoming visits to Capitol Hill. NACO Immediate Past President Bill Hansell, commissioner, Umatilla County, Ore., and more than 200 county and school officials and other allies with the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition visited Capitol Hill last week, pressing Congress to reauthorize the Forest County Safety Net. Officials visited every House and Senate office Sept. 13-14 to urge speedy passage of legislation that provides support for critical infrastructure in America's 400-plus forest counties.

NACO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM...



1,107,000 Prescriptions filled

\$12,519,000 in savings

21.3% overall average savings (Continuing to rise every month of the program)

450 Counties Participating

Press generated almost daily

Did you know that NACO gives incentives to county officials who recruit new member counties? Request your "recruiter pen" now and find out how you can benefit from this exciting program.

West Virginia County Records Management and Preservation Grants Program Accepting Applications for FY 2007-2008 Projects

The County Records Management and Preservation Grants Program, administered by the Records Management and Preservation Board (RMPB), mailed the grant package with the guidelines, priorities and grant applications to County Commission presidents September 1, and available on line at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpb.html> the same day. The RMPB will be accepting applications from county commissions in behalf of county offices for projects to implement records management programs, with the deadline being November 1. Grants are offered in support of the program's dual purpose of preserving the county records of West Virginia and of maintaining the accessibility of those records for the public. This is the fourth annual grant cycle. In the first three RMPB has made available \$1,156,595 for 63 records projects in 34 counties. Projects have provided funding for back-up preservation microfilm, proper disposition of many records exceeding the required retention period, new and improved filing and storage systems, improved preservation storage containers and binders, and the development of county records management plans.

RMPB funding priorities in this cycle are for projects to:

1. Conduct inventory of records and remove non-records and accumulations of records, such as justice of peace books, personal property books and duplicate land books, having reached or exceeded required retention periods from file rooms, vaults and storage areas, particularly attics and basements.
2. Conduct complete records inventory and condition assessment of all county records and storage areas, and develop a master records management plan for the county, under the direction of a certified records manager.
3. Provide for the proper and improved storage of and access to permanent records or records with required retention periods in excess of twenty-five years.
 - A. Physical storage: Provide proper and improved storage units and systems, such as mobile track shelving systems, steel shelving, and/or standard archives records boxes (10"x12"x15").
 - B. Security/preservation microfilm, with digital imaging combination for enhanced access: Create microfilm, the preservation eye-readable format, which will be required as the security backup to be maintained offsite in proper environmental conditions. Projects to reformat original paper records to digital image must also include creation of preservation/security backup microfilm to be maintained offsite in proper environmental conditions.

The grant program does not provide grant funds for electronic/computer equipment purchases. Funds available for grants in the fourth cycle are estimated to be between \$250,000 and \$300,000. The RMPB will make no more than fifty percent of the available grant funds or \$150,000 for reformatting projects in the third priority.

For more information about the RMPB, the annual grant program and grant package, visit the RMPB section on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpb.html>. Those interested in the program are encouraged to contact Fredrick H. Armstrong, Director of Archives and History, by phone at (304) 558-0230, Ext. 164, or by e-mail at fharmstrong@wvculture.org, or Denise Ferguson, County Records Archivist, Archives and History, by phone at (304) 558-0230, Ext. 150.

You may write to:

Records Management and Preservation Board
Building 9
The Cultural Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia Legislative Platform 2007

Annexation

The changes made to the annexation laws in 2001 with respect to the election and petition methods of annexing have had negative results for counties and the constituents they represent. CCA supports legislative change that would add accountability and cooperative reasoning to the process.

Regional Jail Costs

The cost of housing inmates in regional jails is rising and requiring more and more taxpayer dollars. CCA supports all methods of jail cost relief, from reviewing management practices to cost-sharing by all arresting entities.

Tax Issues

CCA will watch the Governor's Tax Modernization Project initiative very carefully and will continue to participate in discussions. CCA will support changes to current tax laws that have a positive affect on County Government and the taxpayers we represent.

Schedule for CCAW Legislative Roundtable Meetings – 2006

Region/Host County/Contact	Date, Time & Location	Invited Counties
Region 1 Upshur County Commission Contact: Terri Jo Bennett	November 27, 2006 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Upshur County Courthouse	Gilmer, Barbour, Lewis, Tucker & Upshur
Region 2 Pleasants County Commission Contact: Tina Oldfield	December 6, 2006 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm (Lunch will be served) Pleasants County Senior Center 209 2 nd St., St. Mary's	Doddridge, Calhoun, Wirt, Pleasants, Wood, Ritchie, & Tyler
Region 3 Greenbrier County Commission Contact: JoAnn Jackson	December 13, 2006 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Greenbrier County Courthouse	Nicholas, Webster, Fayette, Clay, Greenbrier, & Braxton
Region 4 Cabell County Commission Contact: Stephen Zoeller	December 7, 2006 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm (Lunch will be served) Cabell County Courthouse	Logan, Wayne, Mingo, Cabell, Lincoln, & Boone
Region 5 Mineral County Commission Contact: Mike Bland	November 30, 2006 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Mineral County Courthouse	Grant, Mineral, Hampshire, Hardy, Pendleton, Randolph, & Pocahontas
Region 6 Berkeley County Commission Contact: Deborah Hammond	October 26, 2006 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Berkeley County Judicial Bldg.	Berkeley, Morgan & Jefferson
Region 7 Mercer County Commission Contact: Vicky Reed	November 28, 2006 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm Ryan's Princeton (Lunch will be served) (Exit 9 off I-77 then left)	Raleigh, Summers, Mercer, Monroe, Wyoming, & McDowell
Region 8 Monongalia County Commission Contact: Diane Demedici	December 1, 2006 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Monongalia County Courthouse	Harrison, Monongalia, Preston, Marion & Taylor
Region 9 Mason County Commission Contact: John Gerlach	December 5, 2006 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Mason County Courthouse Annex	Roane, Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, & Jackson
Region 10 Ohio County Commission Contact: Greg Stewart	November 1, 2006 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Wheeling Downs Conference Center	Marshall, Brooke, Ohio, Hancock, & Wetzel

Director's Discussion

(Cont' from page 2)



The Regional Jail Oversight Committee heard from Fayette County Sheriff Bill Laird regarding Fayette County's 10 month old Community Corrections Day Report Center. RJA Oversight Committee Chairman Senator Shirley Love complimented Sheriff Laird and Fayette County for creating a model program for the rest of the state. While Sheriff Laird could not give a specific dollar amount for the savings to Fayette County, he assured that the overall results have been very positive and the program has had an 80% success rate of participants. RJA executive director Wyetta Fredericks reported to the committee that the stakeholders interested in maximizing the fee collections and contain jail costs were continuing to meet and come up with ideas and proposed legislation. (CCAWV has been participating in these meetings.)

Don't forget to set your clocks to account for daylight savings time on October 28th! Happy Halloween!

CCAWV Calendar of Events

November 13-15, 2006
Interims, Charleston, WV

December 10-12, 2006
Interims, Charleston, WV

January 7-9, 2007
Interims, Charleston, WV

January 10-12, 2007
CCA Basic Training
Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV

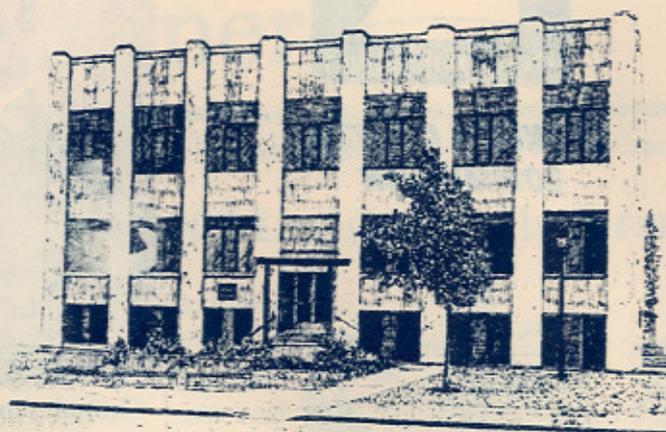
January 28-30, 2007
Legislative Association Meeting &
Educational Training Series
Marriott, Charleston, WV

April 14-15, 2007
Local Government Leadership
Academy
Historic Clarion Hotel Morgan,
Morgantown, WV



COURTHOUSE REFLECTIONS

Sketches by Larry McCallister, Calhoun County Commissioner



PRESTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Preston County Court House is located off U.S. Route 7 in Kingwood, West Virginia. The contract for construction of the courthouse was awarded to the P.W. Johnson Construction Co. in October, 1933. The new building was built on the site of the former Court House which burnt, and as such much of the salvageable material from the old building was used and most of the furnishings refinished and used in the new building. The total cost, including building, equipment and ground work, was near \$113,500. It was built with buff-colored Indian limestone. The style is Art-Deco. The dedication day of the new Court House was held on Saturday, August 25, 1934.

Mark your calendar now for the

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SPRING 2007 CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 14, 2007

&

Sunday, April 15, 2007

*****NEW LOCATION*****

Historic Clarion Hotel Morgan

<http://www.clarionhotelmorgan.com/>

Morgantown, West Virginia

(304) 292-8200

Reserve your room NOW!

A block of rooms are available for a limited time at a special conference rate of \$75/night. Refer to the "WVU Leadership Conference" when making reservations. Additional information about the conference will be posted as it becomes available on the WVU Institute for Public Affairs' Local Government Leadership Academy web site at

<http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/ipa/academy.html>



SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION

BERKELEY COUNTY COMMISSION



Commissioners Steve Teufel, Howard Strauss, Ronald Collins

Crowning achievement: The opening of the Berkeley County Judicial Center.

Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment: Budget Discussions.

Best advice for other County Commissions: Plan long-term.

Commission Staff: Deborah Hammond, Sherry Cain, Pamela Swartwood, Betty Swartz

Howard Strauss

Place where I grew up: Laurel, MD

Real Life Occupation: Property Manager

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 6 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Love Country Music

My personal philosophy: Live by the Golden Rule

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: The ability to help plan long-term for the County.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: I love it all!!

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: Abraham Lincoln-Effective Government

Steve Teufel

Place where I grew up: Martinsburg, WV

Real Life Occupation: Management Specialist for Parsons/Brinckerhoff

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 4 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Was the largest pork producer in the state of WV in the 90's.

My personal philosophy: Treat others as you would treat yourself.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: The resolution that occurs from all the issues that arise, finishing projects that support the good of Berkeley County.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: The Father of our Country, George Washington. To discuss the changes over the last 200 years.

Ronald Collins

Place where I grew up: Inwood, WV

Real Life Occupation: State Farm Insurance Agent

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 1 year

You would be surprised to know that I: Collect Classic Cars & Baseball Cards.

My personal philosophy: Golden Rule

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Being in a position to help my County.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Dealing with people that make statements about County Government that they do not research.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: John Kennedy-Philosophy of his famous saying.