

# Commissioners' Corner

Vol. 12 No. 3  
SEPTEMBER 2007

County Commissioners' Assoc. of WV ~ Sam Hicks, President ~ Vivian Parsons, Exec Dir

## INSIDE

Presidents Perspective .....	2
Director's Discussion.....	2
Pic's from Annual Meeting .....	3
Pic's from Annual Meeting .....	4
CAWV Calendar .....	5
Courthouse Reflections.....	5
Spotlight on a County Commission .....	6



### CCA BOARD & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2007

**Commissioners' Corner**  
County Commissioners' Association of  
West Virginia

Sam Hicks, President  
Lewis County Commissioner  
(304) 269-8200

Vivian Parsons  
Executive Director  
2309 Washington St. East  
Charleston, WV 25311  
(304) 345-4639  
Fax (304) 346-3512  
E-Mail ccaavv@citynet.net  
www.polsci.wvu.edu/ccavv/

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

## Berkeley County Wins Thelma J. Stone Award...



WV State Auditor Glen B. Gainer

This years recipient of the Thelma J. Stone Memorial Achievement award is the Berkeley 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 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 Berkeley County on a job well done!

## Association Elects Leadership for 2007-2008...

The membership of the County Commissioners' Association met on August 6, 2007 and elected the following members to serve as the 2007-2008 Board of Directors for the Association:

**President:**  
Sam Hicks, Lewis County

**Vice President:**  
Rick Wellman, Lewis County

**Immediate Past President:**  
Karen Disibbio, Mercer County

**Ex Officio Members:**  
Jim Waybright, Jackson County  
Jim Booton, Boone County  
Joe Coburn, Mercer County

**District 1:**  
**Chair:** Tim McCormick, Ohio County  
Don Mason, Marshall County  
Ron Watson, Harrison County  
Bob Bell, Monongalia County  
Janice LaRue, Mineral County

**District 2:**  
**Chair:** Peter Triplett, Clay County  
Charles Murray, Wirt County  
Bob Rinehart, Lewis County  
J.R. Keplinger, Hardy County  
Jinks Hinkle, Nicholas County

**District 3:**  
**Chair:** Mickey Brown, Boone County  
Scott Bias, Cabell County  
Chuck Armentrout, Webster County  
Reta Griffith, Pocahontas County  
Brad Tuckwiller, Greenbrier County

**2007-2008 Legislative Committee:**  
**Chair:** Danny Greathouse,  
Hancock County  
Asel Kennedy, Monongalia County  
Cindy Pyles, Mineral County  
Frances Morgan, Jefferson County  
Roy Copen, Wirt County  
Mickey Brown, Boone County  
Reta Griffith, Pocahontas County

## 2007-2008 CCA Board of Directors

### President

Sam Hicks, Lewis (269-8200)

### Vice-President

Rick Wellman, Wayne (272-6350)

### Immediate Past President

Karen Disibbio, Mercer (487-8306)

### Ex Officio Members

Jim Waybright, Jackson (373-2220)

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:** Peter Triplett, Clay (587-4259)  
Charles Murray, Wirt (275-4271)

### District 2 -- Eastern Division

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

Jinks Hinkle, Nicholas (872-7830)

Bob Rinehart, Lewis (269-8200)

### District 3 -- Western Division

**Chair:** Mickey Brown, Boone (369-1561)  
Scott Bias, Cabell (526-8634)

### 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 Sam Hicks, CCAWV President

Hello, Fellow County Commissioners,

I hope you've had an enjoyable summer. Now that fall is fast approaching, it's time to focus on our Fall Board and Legislative Meeting. Our legislative priorities may be few but very important (annexation, regional jail costs and metro government). The Legislative Committee is well qualified and capable of addressing and accomplishing our goals.



I am very pleased that 50 counties have already paid dues to the CCAWV and the remaining 5 counties are committed. 100% membership will make us strong and effective. Although each county has its own issues, we all have many common concerns. Working together with positive attitudes, we can make the 2007-2008 a great year for all 55 West Virginia counties.

Many thanks are extended to Vice-President, Rick Wellman, and all Board members for their commitment to serve. It's a great group to work with! A heartfelt thank you is definitely due Past President, Karen Disibbio, for her excellent and dedicated leadership. Her involvement promoted professionalism in the CCAWV.

Our organization continues to be fortunate to have Vivian Parsons as our Executive Director and Jennifer Webb as the Assistant. They continue to prove that their quality and quantity of hard work is paramount to the CCAWV's success.

As your President, I look forward to getting to know and work with each of you. I strongly encourage your input and involvement as together we serve our counties, our state and our organization. Best Wishes 'n God Bless!!!

## Directors' Discussion

By Vivian Parson, Executive Director

**2007 Annual Meeting...** The 2007 meeting is over! Even though we were a little concerned about the hotel closing its doors a few days after our meeting, all went well and the hotel staff and accommodations were great! We had a wonderful turnout. Attendance at its peak, was around 180! Congratulations to Asel Kennedy, Monongalia County Commissioner chosen as the CCAWV Rising Star. We appreciate Asel's hard work and dedication to the association's goals and endeavors! Congratulations are also in order for the Berkeley County Commission, chosen as the winner of the Thelma J. Stone Memorial Achievement Award. Unfortunately, no one from Berkeley County was able to attend the awards ceremony, so we do not have a picture to feature, but we're proud all the same. This year, State Auditor Glen Gainer, announced he would exercise his privilege of naming a county to receive honorable mention in the Thelma J. Stone Memorial Achievement Award contest. One county was nominated for this award by their peers, rather than entering themselves. Feeling that this was an impressive endorsement, Auditor Gainer recognized Nicholas County Commission to receive Honorable Mention. Congratulations are much deserved by Nicholas County Commissioners.



**Update on WVCORP Self-Insurance Pool...** After a shaky beginning, much "due-diligence" by skeptical CCAWV representatives and recognition that CCAWV's participation was critical, the county self-insurance pool for property & liability insurance has been created! Congratulations to the founding member counties of the WVCORP.

(Continued on Page 5)

# "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WOODY!"

Who: **Thanks! Plain and Simple, Inc. with Various Partners, who now include:**

- 1) South Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau,
- 2) RAIL (Rural Appalachian Improvement League), Mullens
- 3) Marble King, Inc., Paden City, featured on the History Channel (Made in America)
- 4) Others, including those you may suggest

**Thanks! Plain and Simple's Second Annual Event**  
**Two birthday parties for Woody Williams, one day, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> – WV, city and town**

**"Thanks! Plain and Simple, Woody & HAPPY BIRTHDAY"**

**Sat. October 6<sup>th</sup>**

## **Celebration 1:**

**South Charleston:** Late morning till early afternoon. Together, we will:

1. Thank Woody! Say: "We value you! You are VITAL at HOME"
2. Announce two important gifts for Woody and for West Virginia.
3. Play Marbles! Thanks! Plain and Simple's first marble ring will be "unveiled" and champion players will be there. Do you want to compete in the "amateur" contest?
4. Hear Woody tell what is most important to him.

## **Celebration 2:**

**Mullens:** Late afternoon until early evening. Together, we will:

1. Thank Woody! In Mullens' extraordinary VFW, with a dozen murals including one of Iwo Jima (Woody's Medal of Honor for here).
2. Announce two important gifts for Woody and for West Virginia.
3. See the place of a memorial they plan.
4. Hear Woody tell about Iwo Jima.

Why? **Thanks! Plain and Simple** cares about our sons and daughters before, during and after military experience, and especially while they are gone and when they need help as they need hope as they come home. We try to give them hope, not hype, and help them to plan with us to serve West Virginia, so they can come home and contribute to our communities. We have two phases now. "We value you!" and VITAL at HOME (Veterans in Transition and Leadership).

## **WOODY WILLIAMS: A SPECIAL CASE OF WEST VIRGINIAN'S STRENGTHS AND UNPRETENTIOUS PRIDE**

Support Woody as he helps West Virginia. *Show you know the value of home.*

1. **Care about our sons and daughters, our communities and our state.**
2. **Encourage our young to continuously contribute**, by finding ways for them to transfer the discipline, cooperation and other positives of military training to improving our communities, **case by case, across the state.**

Show that Woody is a true American who has given for 65 years. Be there to hear:

**WOODY'S DREAM THAT WE COMMIT TO BRINGING TRUE**

**REMEMBER: WOODY WILL BE ON KEN BURNS' WORLD WAR II, SEPT. 27<sup>TH</sup>, PBS.**

## **"T h a n k s !"**

**"Thanks!" to Keli Sobonya, Doug Stephens and Doug Reynolds, District 16,**  
**for their award to help up-grade and up-date our web site.**

**Thanks! Plain and Simple**, 304/776-4743, 545-9818 [thanksplainandsimple@earthlink.net](mailto:thanksplainandsimple@earthlink.net); Dr. Norma Winter, VISTA and previous principal St. Albans and Sissonville H. Schools, a/o Sept. 1. **South Charleston:** Betty Monnig 744-4185; CVB 746-5552. **Mullens:** Dvon Duncan, [dduncan@railwv.org](mailto:dduncan@railwv.org).

# 2007 CCAWV Annual Meeting

Some 180 folks attended the 2007 CCAWV Annual Meeting in Parkersburg, August 5-7, 2007. We worked hard by day and played hard in the evenings. Just a few pictures to verify both!

Asel Kennedy -- Rising Star 2007



Picnic in Boreman Park



Go Man...Gooooo!



Workin' 9:00 - 5:00!



2007 Early Bird Award  
Barbour County Commission



Playin' Hard...



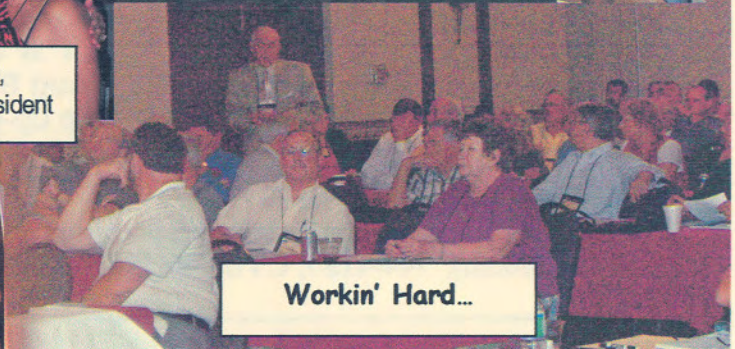
Gettin' the Jungle Fever!



Karen Disibbio,  
CCA Past-President



Workin' Hard...



## CCAWV Calendar of Events



**September 23-24, 2007**  
Fall Board & Leg. Meeting  
Waterfront Place, Morgantown, WV

**October 7-9, 2007**  
Interims, Charleston, WV

**November 16-18, 2007**  
Interims, Charleston, WV

**December 9-11, 2007**  
Interims, Charleston, WV

**January 6-8, 2008**  
Interims, Charleston, WV

**January 27-29, 2008**  
CCA Legislative Association Meeting &  
Educational Training Series  
Charleston, Marriott

## Directors' Discussion (Continued)



It is your courage and forward-thinking, as county financial decision-makers, that has allowed this "concept" to become a reality! Your persistence and commitment to step-up to the plate and take this first "leap-of-faith into insurance pooling," will benefit local governments in West Virginia for many

years to come.

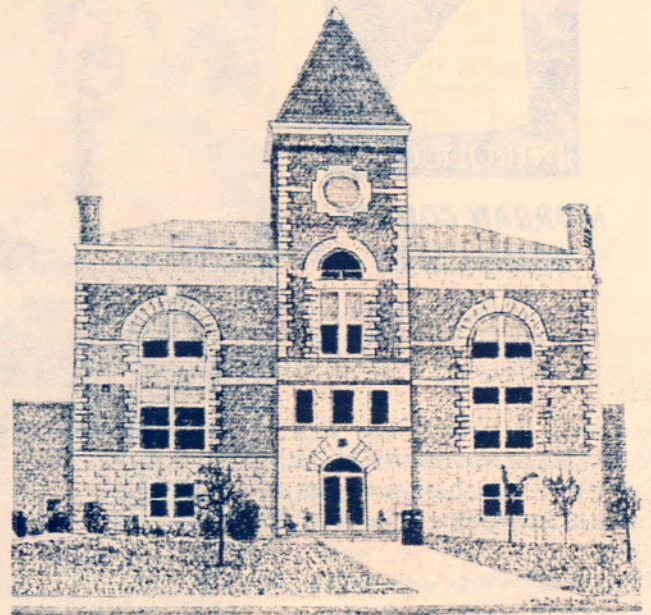
For those counties that are still reviewing or for valid reasons, have chosen to remain with an insurance company this year, we hope you've benefited from the increased pricing competition the pool has triggered and that you will continue to consider the pool as an option for meeting your needs in the future.

A huge thank you goes to the folks at the Virginia Risk Management Pool for their help and expertise all along the way. Without their skilled staff and collective experience, the "pooling concept" would not be a choice for us. We look forward to a long and productive working relationship!

The permanent board of WVCORP will hold its first meeting on September 18, 2007. Board members will begin to acclimate themselves with pool management operations as they lookout for your best interests. If you have questions or concerns, or would like to join, please call a board member. The 2007-08 board members are: Willie Parker, Upshur County, Chairman; Brad Tuckwiller, Greenbrier County, Vice-Chairman; Chuck Armentrout, Webster County; Bernie Fazzini, Harrison County; Blair Couch, Wood County; Ron Collins, Berkeley County; and Don Stephens, Jackson County. Ex-officio, non-voting members are Vivian Parsons, CCAWV and Patti Hamilton, WVACO.

## Courthouse Reflections

*Sketches by Larry McCallister*



### Mineral County Courthouse

The Mineral County Courthouse, as it appears today, is the compilation of three eras of construction. The original section of the courthouse is a two-and-one half story, brick building completed in 1868. The original section once featured a front-gable roof with cornice returns and a centered entrance, raised above grade. The rear elevation gable end is still visible with a centered, exterior chimney raised above the roof line. The side elevations feature tall, arched window openings (now filled with glass block) as well as brick paneled pilasters and corner quoins.

A stone veteran's memorial situated on the front lawn commemorates local veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. A memorial dedicated to the memory of local law enforcement officials is also situated to the front of the courthouse building.

### CCAWV needs your legislative Issues....



Please send your county's legislative issues in no later than September 20th. The Legislative Committee will meet on Sunday, September 23rd to review all issues and decide on CCAWV's legislative platform for 2008.

# SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION



## MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION



### Commissioners: Glen Stotler, Brenda Hutchinson, Thomas Swaim

**Crowning Achievement:** Maintaining the level of services in a county that is the smallest in the region and has a lot less economic opportunity than the others to our east, south, and north. The County's reaction to the Courthouse fire and our ability to stay operational in the days that followed. The staffs and officials worked together for the good of the county.

**Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment:** The courthouse fire itself-no one feels too good after a fire.

**Best advice for other County Commissions:** Always remember who you work for.

**Commission Staff:** Administrator and EDA Director Bill Clark; Administrative Assistant Bette Kidwell; Assistant Peggy Oakes; Assistant Maxie Maggio; Planner Alma Gorse; Maintenance-Ken Easton, Perry Gloyd, Robert Snidemiller and Dan Crosby.

### Glen R. Stotler

**Place where I grew up:** Berkeley Springs, WV

**Real Life Occupation:** Lawyer

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 23 years

**You would be surprised to know that I:** am a former national weightlifting champion and still hold a national record.

**My personal philosophy:** always remember that this job is not about us but the people we serve.

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** being able to accomplish things that make the county a better place to live.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** dealing with people who are against everything.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** Abraham Lincoln-at a time when this country was in such turmoil, how he was able to hold it together and preserve the Union.

### Brenda Hutchinson

**Place where I grew up:** Laurel, MD

**Real Life Occupation:** Real Estate Paralegal.

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 7 months.

**You would be surprised to know that I:** love spending a day on the river fishing.

**My personal philosophy:** Leave your "personal comfort zone" and jump into life with both feet!

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Giving a voice to people in our county who felt left out prior to my election.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** Dealing with the slow pace of bureaucracy.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** Susan B. Anthony to discuss how far women have come in politics since getting the vote.

### Tommy Swaim

**Place where I grew up:** on a farm at the bottom of Sleepy Creek Mountain in Morgan County

**Real Life Occupation:** Building Contractor.

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 10 years.

**You would be surprised to know that I:** was the youngest person to ever be elected Sheriff of Morgan County.

**My personal philosophy:** Be yourself. Be honest. Don't put on the dog.

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Meeting new people of the county and to sometimes be able to help them with a problem.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** The slowness of getting things completed compared to the private sector.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** George Washington and Abe Lincoln to discuss how our country was founded on our faith in God and how it has drifted away from that faith in God.