

Commissioners' Corner

Vol. 12 No. 1
May, 2007

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

INSIDE

Presidents Perspective	2
Director's Discussion.....	2
Director's Discussion Cont.....	3
Records Mgmt. Grant.....	4
NACO Steering Committee.....	4
CAWV Calendar	5
Courthouse Reflections.....	5
Spotlight on a County Commission	6



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!

Commissioners' Corner
County Commissioners' Association of
West Virginia

Karen Disibbio, President
Mercer County Commissioner
(304) 487-8306

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

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

CCA Holds Spring Board Meeting in Kanawha County...

The County Commissioners' Association held their Spring Board of Directors meeting May 20-21, 2007, at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. On Sunday there was a wrap-up of the 2007 Legislative Session and a discussion of future legislative issues for the Association.

On Monday the CCA Board held its meeting and the following items were discussed: CCA committee reports and appointments, future meeting topics and dates, regional jail costs and metro government. The CCA Budget Committee met on May 11th to put together the 2007-2008 budget. Their recommendation for the 2007-2008 budget was approved by the full Board of Directors.

Wayne Faddis from VACo Risk Management Program gave an update regarding West Virginia Counties Insurance Pool. Several questions were answered and many counties have already joined the pool.

Overall the meeting was a great success and there was great participation, support and feedback. Thanks to everyone who took the time from their busy schedules to attend.

Your participation is essential to the success of our Association.



Commissioners' Tim McCormick, Don Mason, Jake Padlow, Charles Murray, Roy Copen, & Bob Bell



Commissioners' Gordon Eversole, Mickey Brown, Reta Griffith, James Carpenter, Bernie Fazzini & Ron Watson

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)

Glen Stotler, Morgan (258-8540)

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

Charleston, WV 25311

(304) 345-4639

Vivian Parsons, Executive Director
Jennifer Webb, Admin. Assistant

President's Perspective

By Karen Disibbio, CCAWV President

The spring board meeting of the County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia was held on May 20th and 21st at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. Our discussion on the first day recapped the recent legislative session. Much of our discussion concerned regional jail bills and noted that our Executive Director, Vivian Parsons did an excellent job at representing our association during the legislative session.



During the second day of our meeting we recognized Kanawha County Commission President, Kent Carper, for his leadership during the legislative session. Also, plans for the CCA Annual Meeting on August 4-7, 2007 were made. Many interesting topics will be presented during this meeting and I encourage all commissioners to attend.

I would like to wish all of you a happy, safe summer season. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in August at Parkersburg.

Directors' Discussion

By Vivian Parson, Executive Director

On March 29, 2007, the CCAWV Board of Directors endorsed the West Virginia Group Self-Insurance Risk Pool as a viable option for County Commissions in their pursuit to provide cost-effective property and liability coverage for their counties. We have been working with the folks from Virginia to get the word out, so that the county pool can be come a reality. At press time, seventeen counties have committed to joining to pool. There has been much information flying on both sides of this issue, so if I, or any of our CCAWV interim board representatives, can answer questions or be of any help, please give us a call...



Vivian Parsons - 345-4639/ cell 415-1608

Chuck Armentrout, Webster County Commissioner - 587-4069 (wk)

Willie Parker, Upshur County Administrator - 472-0535 (courthouse)

Reta Kight, Gilmer County Commissioner- 462-7641 (county commission)

Brad Tuckwiller, Greenbrier County Commissioner 646-8095 (cell)

The 2007 legislative interim committees are studying several topics that are of interest to county government. Following is a list of this issues we will be watching:

Joint Commission on Economic Development

- SCR 83 Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study permitting public recreational use of certified managed timberland

(Continued on Page 3)

Director's Discussion

(Continued from Page 2)

- ▶ HCR 48 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study sustainable funding methods to conserve land important to West Virginia's natural resources and economy
- ▶ SCR 65 Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study developing tourism attractions in less developed counties
- Study the Tax Increment Financing for Class III and IV cities

Joint Standing Committee on Finance

- ▶ Study the Insurance Coverage for County Replacement Costs for Courthouses and Other Facilities – Sub-Committee B
- ▶ HCR 62 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study large land holdings, county by county, to determine the value taxation of deed holders of lands in excess of one thousand acres -- Sub-Committee C
- ▶ Study the GASB Implementation – Sub-Committee C

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

- ▶ HCR 82/SCR 69 Requesting that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance conduct a study of municipal annexation under article six, chapter eight of the West Virginia Code to facilitate a more effective and responsive annexation process – Sub-Committee B
- ▶ HCR 83 Requesting that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance conduct a study of the impact of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Granholtz v. Heald* and *Costco v. Hoen* on West Virginia's regulatory system with particular emphasis on the effect the decision will have on the operation of farm wineries in this state – Sub-Committee B
- ▶ HCR 86/SCR 76 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to conduct a study of the criminal laws and administrative procedures relating to drunk and drugged driving on the roadways of our state – Sub-Committee C

Legislative Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority

- ▶ HCR 54 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the provision of medical care to inmates of the Regional Jails and the Department of Corrections
- ▶ HCR 79 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study West Virginia's costs for incarceration

Select Committee E - Broadband

- ▶ Study and review the practices, policies and procedures used to expand broadband infrastructure and other issues identified in §5B-4-11 of Enrolled Senate Bill No. 748

Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on State Water Resources

- ▶ SCR 85/HCR 55 Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study acquisition of failed water or sewer utility
- ▶ HB 3210 Protecting consumers of failed water or sewer utilities by authorizing the Public Service Commission to order a capable water or sewer public utility to acquire the failed utility

Records Management & Preservation Board Grants Available...

The Records Management and Preservation Board (RMPB) has awarded \$292,457 in grant funds to twenty-two West Virginia county commissions for county records management and preservation projects through its County Records Management and Preservation Grants program. The board reviewed submissions and made its recommendations in January for projects to improve management, storage conditions, access, and preservation of public records held in several county offices. Following official letters announcing the successful grants in March, RMPB staff began conducting courthouse site visits to provide technical assistance in setting up the grant project, which officially begin with the new fiscal year July 1. Grant awards range from \$2,250 to \$36,388. Five of the twenty-two counties receiving funds are fourth-time grant applicants; three counties are third-time grant applicants; nine counties are second-time grant applicants; and five counties are first-time grant applicants. A complete list of recipients is attached.



The RMPB, with its continuing interest in addressing records storage and management issues in the court houses, announced three grant criteria in its invitation to applicants last September. The three criteria were: conduct a total records inventory and condition assessment, and develop a master records management plan for county records; remove non-records and accumulations of records having reached or exceeded required retention periods; and provide proper and improved storage of and access to permanent records or records with a required retention periods in excess of twenty-five years. The latter will include physical storage to provide proper shelving and/or archival records boxes (10"x12"x15"), and security/preservation microfilm, with a digital imaging combination for enhanced access.

Funding for the County Records Management and Preservation Program is from the filing fees collected by county clerks and deposited in the special Public Records and Preservation Revenue Account. The funds serve as an incentive to equip county officials to improve the management and conditions for the preservation of their public records. The RMPB was created by the West Virginia Legislature in 2000 to develop uniform county records management programs. Its primary focus is to establish guidelines and provide technical assistance to address the needs of the records of county governments through a uniform records management system, and to further encourage adoption of these goals through the county records grant program. In pursuit of these goals the RMPB has authorized a statewide survey and report on the current state of county records, developed rules and a County Records Management Manual for county offices, and sponsored records management workshops for county officials and staffs. The next grant cycle and priorities will be announced September 1, for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

For more information about the Records Management and Preservation Board's annual grant program or the work of the RMPB, contact Fredrick H. Armstrong, state archivist with the West Virginia State Archives, by phone at (304) 558-0230, ext. 164, by e-mail at fhamstrong@wvculture.org, or by mail at Records Management and Preservation Board, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Building 9, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25305-0300. Information can be accessed electronically at www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmbp.html.

NACo Steering Committee Nomination Information....

Do you want a voice in creating the national legislative policies of the National Association of Counties? Then consider filling out a NACo nomination form to be appointed to one of their eleven steering committees, (Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Community and Economic Development; Environment, Energy and Land Use; Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs; Health; Human Services and Education; Justice and Public Safety; Labor and Employment; Public Lands; Telecommunications and Technology; and Transportation).

The nomination process for membership on NACo policy steering committees is underway. As a NACo steering committee member, you are responsible for debating and creating national policies and priorities affecting counties and serve as NACo's front line in their grassroots efforts. Committees meet at the NACo legislative and annual conferences and one other time during the year. You will be responsible for your own travel.

You may receive a form by calling our office. Please be as thorough as possible in completing the nomination and grassroots forms and send it to us by (?) (You fill in the date). The nominations are processed in our office and will be forwarded to NACo by June 30, 2007 for approval by the incoming NACo President after the NACo Annual Conference in August. NACo will announce your appointment in September 2007.



CCAWV Calendar of Events



June 3-5, 2007
Interims, Charleston, WV

July 8-10, 2007
Interims, Charleston, WV

August 4-7, 2007
CCA Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn, Parkersburg, WV

August 19-21, 2007
Interims, Charleston, WV

August 24-25, 2007
Local Government Leadership Academy
Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV

September 9-11, 2007
Interims, Charleston, WV

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

**Registration for the
CCA Annual Meeting
to be held at the
Holiday Inn in
Parkersburg will be going
out in the mail soon!!!**



**Look for the bright envelope
in your mailbox!!!**

Courthouse Reflections

Sketches by Larry McCallister



UPSHUR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Upshur County's first Courthouse was completed in 1854 and was situated on the same two lots as the present one. Robert Maxwell was the architect and the building cost \$7,300.00 to construct. The Courthouse was damaged by fire three times in the first six months and saw heavy abuse during the Civil War. The remains of the building were removed in 1898 and replaced with the current Courthouse. The current Upshur County Courthouse was built in 1899 at a cost of \$37,650.00. Harrison Albright of Charleston, WV was the designer. Following a \$2.3 million dollar bequest from Judge Jack Dowell Jennings, the Upshur County Courthouse Annex was constructed in 1994. Chapman Technical Group with offices in Buckhannon and St. Albans, WV was the architect, and Breckenridge Corporation of Buckhannon, WV was the general contractor.

NACo DISASTER/TERRORISM TOOLKIT AVAILABLE

The toolkit includes a CD with software to enable good decision-making by elected officials in times of catastrophic disaster, a CD with useful preparedness documents, and a DVD entitled, "The Seven Signs of Terrorism" that is customizable for local communities. Supplies are limited. One copy per NACo member county will be mailed free of charge on request. NACo developed the kit with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Request your copy from Rocky Lopes, NACo Project Manager, Community Services, via email: rlopes@naco.org. Please be sure to include a street address where the kit can be mailed; it is not available electronically.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION



KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION



Commissioner
W. Kent Carper



Commissioner
David "Dave" Hardy



Commissioner
Henry "Hoppy" Shores

Crowning achievement: Toss Up: Preventing the dismantling of State Government with lottery relocation, passing toughest ATV ordinance in state, helping to save the 130th Airwing and our public nuisance "meth" ordinance.

Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment: Rescheduling the Table Games Election.

Best advice for other County Commissions: Plan your work and work your plan.

Commission Staff: County Manager, Brent Pauley; Deputy County Manager/ Comptroller, David Fontalbert; Assistant to Commissioner Carper: Rachelle Morrison; Assistant to Commissioner Shores: Dottie McCray; Assistant to Commissioner Hardy: Susan Dunn; Assistant to County Manager: Leslie Downey; Grant Coordinator and Executive Assistant to the County Manager: Jennifer Herral.

W. Kent Carper

Place where I grew up: Clendenin

Real Life Occupation: Lawyer

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 11 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Am a Ham Radio Operator.

My personal philosophy: Since nothing is happening, nothing is going to happen.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Every day is a new adventure.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: The slow pace of Government.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: Franklin Roosevelt, he created the world we live in today.

David "Dave" Hardy

Place where I grew up: Pratt

Real Life Occupation: Lawyer, CPA

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 7 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Study Baseball History.

My personal philosophy: Follow the Golden Rule.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Meeting citizens from all aspects of life.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Petty Court-house Politics.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: Billy Graham, Ethics, Honesty and Morality.

Henry "Hoppy" Shores

Place where I grew up: Charleston

Real Life Occupation: Developer

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 30 years.

You would be surprised to know that I: Won the Kennedy Award.

My personal philosophy: Always have a positive attitude.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Involvement with people and the community.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Being unable to solve the problems within the community.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: President George W. Bush and discuss how to restore the values of our Nation.