

Commissioners' Corner

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

INSIDE

Presidents Perspective	2
Director's Discussion.....	2
Legislative Summary.....	Insert
CAWV Calendar	3
WVCorp Update.....	3
Spotlight on a County Commission	4



Good Luck at the Polls!!!

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.

Summing up the 2008 Session with Vivian & Danny...

Calling the shots...

Dan Greathouse, CCAWV Legislative Chairman



For election year antics, the County Commissioners' Association fared well in the first regular legislative session for 2008. As sometimes happens, it was a session for executing a good defensive game more so than offensive attacks. Through many attempts to give away county revenues in some form or fashion, our defensive strategies for the most part, prevailed. When the dust settled and the game was over, our team was still standing and the injuries were minor.

As your legislative chairman, (one who is currently running for re-election) I'd like to thank those of you who were able to participate in the weekly conference calls and those who were able to spend some time at the Capital and on the phone promoting and/or defending our legislative positions. I was, unfortunately, not able to be there as much as needed. Thanks to Vivian, Paul and Jennifer for keeping the ship afloat! At the spring board meeting, we will regroup, put together some new plays and get ready for the interim study season! Good job to CCAWV's legislative team.

Stop, Drop, and Roll.....

Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

The 2008 1st Regular Legislative session is finished and not a moment too soon! "Stop, drop, and roll".....seems a fitting battle cry for CCAWV's legislative team, as it turned out to be a session for dodging bullets and protecting "what 'cha already got!" I was very thankful to have the support and guidance of CCAWV's legislative committee and our assisting lobbyist, Paul Hardesty, as we maneuvered the legislative battlefield.



At the end of the day, when the losses were tallied, CCA had avoided serious injury and will live to fight again!

(Continued on Page 2)

2007-2008 CCA Board of Directors

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Sam Hicks, Lewis (269-8200)

Vice-President

Rick Wellman, Wayne (272-6350)

Immediate Past President

Karen Disibbio, Mercer (487-8306)

Ex Officio Members

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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

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Charleston, WV 25311

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Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

Jennifer Webb, Admin. Assistant

President's Perspective

By Sam Hicks, CCAWV President

Hello Fellow Commissioners, Many thanks are extended to Paul Hardesty, Vivian Parsons and Jennifer Webb for all their hard work during the busy legislative session. I've heard many positive comments about their professional efforts. According to news reports, Governor Manchin has signed numerous new bills while vetoing several due to legal technicalities so we will continue to wait for a final assessment of the session. Upcoming local, state and national elections are proving to be interesting. Those of you campaigning are in our thoughts and prayers. In my opinion, the voters are worn out from the national presidential campaign since the media has continued such massive coverage for the past 2 years. I can't imagine campaigning on a national level when the local level is trying enough. I've always said that everyone should run for public office just once. It's quite an experience, as you well know. I encourage every county to promote voter registration and publicizing the early voting and the formal election date, May 13th. The right to vote is so important and a privilege but exercising that right is our patriotic duty. Have an enjoyable Spring! God bless.



Stop, Drop, and Roll.....

Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

(Continued from Page 1)

Several bills were active in the final weeks that would have reduced counties' already scarce resources. At the top of the hit list, SCR 12 was a constitutional amendment that, if passed would have given the legislature the ability to eliminate the property tax on manufacturing inventory, an act that would have cost counties over \$22 million in revenues state-wide. At one point, the resolution was amended to allow the removal of all personal property tax. In some counties, personal property taxes account for over half of the county's budget. SB 782 was a second attempt to deal with manufacturing inventory. This bill would have reduced the inventory to salvage (5%) values and would have cost the counties approximately \$21 million state-wide. CCAWV is appreciative of the Governor's office and the State Tax Department's willingness to recognize the county concerns and to work together to formulate a new approach to the manufacturing inventory dilemma, one we could all agree on. Local government, manufacturers, labor, and education all supported the Governor's compromise. That came in the form of a tax credit for property taxes paid on manufacturing inventory against business franchise and corporate net state taxes in SB 680.



Of the 246 bills that completed legislative action, I have summarized 44 bills that are of interest or will have an impact on county government. If there are other bills of concern, or if you have further questions about the ones here, please give me a call @ (304) 345-4639. We will soon send you a list of the study topics for the 2008 interim meetings, and an interim schedule. Alas, a new battle begins.....

CCAWV Calendar of Events



May 18-20, 2008

Interims
Charleston, WV

June 8-10, 2008

CCA Spring Board Meeting
Chief Logan State Park
Logan, WV

June 22-24, 2008

Interims
Charleston, WV

July 27-29, 2008

Interims
Charleston, WV

August 3-5, 2008

CCA Annual Meeting
Mountaineer Racetrack & Resort
Chester, WV

August 24-26, 2008

Interims
Charleston, WV

September 7-9, 2008

Interims
Bridgeport, WV

September 21-22, 2008

Fall Board & Leg. Meeting
Holiday Inn, Weston, WV

October 12-14, 2008

Interims
Charleston, WV

November 16-18, 2008

Interims
Charleston, WV

December 7-9, 2008

Interims
Charleston, WV

January 11-13, 2009

Interims
Charleston, WV

February 8-10, 2009

Interims
Charleston, WV

February 22-24, 2009

CCA Legislative Association Meeting &
Educational Training Series
Charleston, Marriott

WVCORP Update

by Steven L. Rawlings
Member Services Director
West Virginia Counties Risk Pool

Property appraisals for all founding members of the West Virginia Counties Risk Pool have been completed. New members who have recently joined the Pool and those who will do so this year will have their properties appraised later in the fiscal year. The property appraisal, completed by a third party professional valuation group, is just one service offered by the Pool to its members.

Preliminary reclamation reports, showing both initially reported values and new appraised values, are reviewed with each of the members to ensure all applicable buildings have been appraised prior to the official binder completion. At the report presentation, Pool staff reviews structure and content numbers and addresses any concerns commissioners might have.

The Pool accepts the appraisals as the structures' replacement costs. Should a loss occur, the appraised value will be applied; neither a coinsurance provision nor margin clause is used by the Pool: a member's structure that suffers a covered loss will be replaced with another of like kind and quality with no financial penalty to the member.

As a result of the appraisals, member counties now are fully aware of their buildings' values and costs of replacement. And that isn't all; some of the information contained in the final appraisal binders that each county receives includes the following:

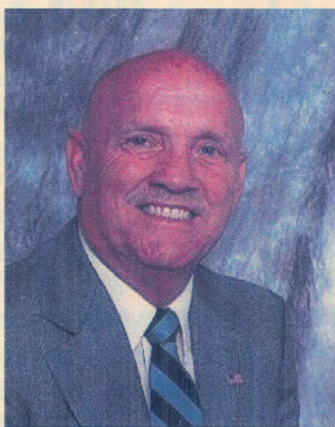
- Building Photographs
 - GPS Coordinates
 - Plot Maps and square footage layouts
- Building materials, condition, etc.

Binders will be updated over time for the members, and buildings acquired during the fiscal year will be appraised where appropriate with the information being added to the binders. West Virginia County Risk Pool members are sure to find this a valuable tool in the future when considering renovation or expansion and as a general reference to county-owned properties.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION



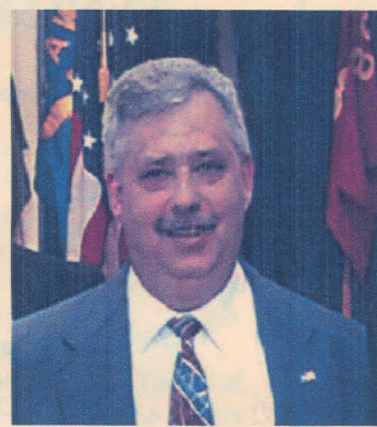
RALEIGH COUNTY COMMISSION



John Aliff



Pat Reed



John Humphrey

Crowning Achievement: Keeping Raleigh County financially sound, successfully providing 95% of the citizens of Raleigh County with water and 60% with public sewage treatment. 251 new jobs in the Raleigh County Airport Industrial Park in the past five years with Klockner Pentaplast Company being the largest Pentaplast company in the world. Raleigh County's 80 mile ATV Trail attraction.

Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment: During the demolition of buildings in downtown to make space for the new Judicial Annex, a wall blew out and destroyed an adjacent building.

Best advice for other County Commissions: Listen to all constituents, no matter how trivial the subject.

Funniest thing to ever happen at a commission meeting: Appointment of a board member for a local committee and later found out he was deceased.

Commission Staff: Dennis Sizemore, County Administrator, Clayton Terry, Asst. Administrator, Detlef Ulfers Engineers, Ida Hill, Office Manager

John Aliff

Place where I grew up: Odd, WV

Real Life Occupation: Retired UPS Deliveryman.

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 7 years.

You would be surprised to know that I: Was a drill instructor in the Army.

My personal philosophy: Speak well of others or not at all.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: The opportunity to make changes that effect our citizen's lives in a positive way.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Not having enough funds for the needs.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: My father to discuss the changes that have taken place over the years.

Pat Reed

Place where I grew up: Elkins, Randolph County

Real Life Occupation: Insurance Agent

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 5 Years

You would be surprised to know that I: Am a Shag Dancer.

My personal philosophy: "Always behave like a duck; be calm and unruffled on the surface but paddle like the devil underneath."

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Being effective in moving Raleigh County to a new level.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Not being able to fund all requests.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: Senator Byrd regarding funding of the new Judicial Annex in Raleigh County.

John Humphrey

Place where I grew up: Beckley Area

Real Life Occupation: Self-employed

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 15 Years

You would be surprised to know that I: Have owned my own business since age 17.

My personal philosophy: Treat everyone like I would like to be treated.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Making progress for Raleigh County in infrastructure and economic development.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Dealing with negative rumors.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: My father and both Grandfathers to discuss the comparison of today and yesteryear.