

# Commissioners' Corner

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**Watch your fax machine for our  
2008 Legislative Updates!!!**



### 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 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.

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

## **2008 CCA LEGISLATIVE ASSOCIATION MEETING AND LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION WAS A BIG SUCCESS...**

Over 50 counties were represented by some 110 County Commissioners & Staff at the recent CCA Legislative Association Meeting held January 28th at the Charleston Marriott. On Monday morning the attendees took busses to the Captiol and visited their legislators in order to promote CCA's legislative agenda. We would like to thank the Kanawha County Commission for providing the busses we appreciate your support. At the Legislative Association meeting Monday afternoon attendees were briefed on CCA's Legislative Priorities and proposed legislation by Vivian Parsons & Paul Hardesty. CCA's priority issues are Regional Jail Costs, Annexation and Tax Issues. There were also discussions regarding bills that have been introduced that are relevant to counties.

Monday evening a Legislative Reception was held and over 250 legislators and elected officials attended. This was our first reception held in a ballroom instead of the hospitality room and it was a great success. All five of the State Constitutional Officers attended as well as the Governor. We would like to thank everyone who attended for coming out and supporting our Association and making our reception a success.

On Tuesday was CCA Educational Training Series XXXII and there were three training sessions held: Property & Fleet Management, Treasury Investments and Personnel Law & County Government. These sessions were well received by the attendees and the speakers were very informative.

At the Training Series Luncheon Governor Manchin was the keynote speaker. He spoke to the Commissioners about legislative issues that will be coming forth in the session as well as thanking the Commissioners for their work at the local level.

Thanks to everyone  
for your support!!!!





## 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 Rinchart, 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 Commissioners,

It was good to see all of you in Charleston for our annual Legislative Meeting. We had a full schedule that proved to be informative and productive. I think everyone was delighted with the Legislative Reception. It was well attended by many legislators, state department heads and Governor Manchin, who graciously visited with everyone. With the legislative session in full swing, Paul, Vivian and Jennifer are busy keeping up with the bills and keeping us all informed. As we all know, it is sometimes as important to attempt stopping a bill as it is to promote passage of a bill. They are doing a great job defending our positions. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the session will be nearly over so next month a better assessment of our accomplishments can be more specific. I hope all is well in each of your counties and please remember to stay in touch with any concerns you may have. Best wishes to those who are in the midst of campaigning. Soon we can all focus on the promise of spring. God Bless. Thanks for your support!



## Directors' Discussion

By Vivian Parson, Executive Director

As I write this message we are beginning the final week of the 2008 legislative session. Things are hectic as usual, but we are doing our best to keep you informed week by week, day by day, and soon minute by minute!!! So far it has been a rather trying session -- one for "protecting county resources" more so than achieving new & additional money. I am constantly reminded of the fireman's rule... "stop, drop, and roll!" Seems that has been our mantra for much of this session with regards to dodging reduction of local property taxes revenues! Paul and I continue to do our best to represent and protect your best interests. And speaking of Mr. Paul Hardesty... working with him has been wonderful.....he is a master at his trade, loyal to those he represents, and is highly respected by legislators, Governor & staff, and fellow lobbyists alike. Paul is a valuable enhancement to CCAWV's legislative program and I look forward to a continued relationship.

Bringing Paul onboard is financially possible, in large part, because of our partnership with the WVCORP. Not only does the insurance program provide superb insurance benefits and excellent cost savings on premiums to those counties who participate in the pool .....the revenue provided to the Association for our marketing efforts, benefits all counties, thru the enhancement of our legislative program! So to the 20 county commissions that are members, as you renew your policy, you can feel good that you are saving taxpayer dollars in multiple ways, just by participating in the insurance pool!

And now for the big finish....."If you are one of those counties who have not yet decided to jump into the pool...there have never been more proven, good reasons for doing so than now!" Just give me a call and I'll hook you up with the "guys" and you'll start saving also!!!!



## Governor's WVRx Plan Available to West Virginians...

Low-income West Virginians soon will be able to receive free prescriptions at the click of a mouse. West Virginia Rx (WVRx), announced in January by West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, is an electronic free medicine distribution system for uninsured, underinsured and indigent West Virginians. WVRx will debut in March and allow West Virginia physicians to prescribe name-brand pharmaceuticals online for eligible patients. Prescriptions are filled by a WVRx distribution center at Charleston's West Virginia Health Right and mailed to patients within 24 hours. Patients will be able to register for the WVRx program in participating physician's offices. Prescribers will be able to access the WVRx system via any Internet-enabled computer system.



WVRx is designed to provide a continuous stream of medication for chronic illness and make medication easily accessible to people who have no health insurance and those who live in even the most remote areas of West Virginia. The program requires a \$30 application processing fee with each new or renewed application, and there is never a charge for the medication. It will NOT replace existing individual patient assistance programs; rather, it will augment them. It will also assist volunteers and medical staff who currently help patients with individual prescription programs and to speed up the process of accessing much-needed medication using a web-based portal.

In West Virginia approximately a half- million residents--or nearly 30 percent of the state's residents--lack prescription drug coverage. Many West Virginians are too young for Medicare and can't afford health insurance, but aren't poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. All it takes is one chronic illness to destroy a household budget or lead to job loss.

West Virginia Rx is sponsored the office of West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, the Heinz Family Philanthropies and the Benedum Foundation. Two of the state's premier free health care clinics, West Virginia Health Right in Charleston and Beckley Health Right, are administering the project. The WVRx database and website were developed and are hosted by the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) at Wheeling Jesuit University.

For more information on WVRx and eligibility, call 304-414-5935 or visit [www.wvr.org](http://www.wvr.org).



- Representing you before Congress and the Administration
- Helping you better serve your residents
- Saving you and your taxpayers' money
- Raising public understanding of county government, and
- Restoring the Federal - County Partnership

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**[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)**



## President & Exec. Director Travel to Washington D.C...

In January, CCAWV President Sam Hicks and CCAWV Executive Director Vivian Parsons traveled to Washington D. C. to attend the "2008 President and Executive Directors Meeting," sponsored by the National Council of County Association Executives. This is an annual meeting which focuses on the challenges and opportunities involved in serving a state-wide organization as President and Executive Director and also the working relationship between the two positions.



It was an excellent 3-day meeting that began with a tour of the D.C. area for the State Presidents, followed by an evening reception at the newly finished NACo headquarters at 25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. During the next 2 days, attendees were briefed by NACo staff on the wide variety of NACo services available to state associations from the five NACo county services departments including, community services, research, conferences and meetings, education services and the center for sustainable communities. We were also presented with legislative briefings regarding county issues on capital hill and NACo's involvement and progress with the issues. The second morning was impressive with a visit to the "Old Executive Office Building" hosted by the Ms. Maggie Grant, Deputy Assistant to the President, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. While there we enjoyed an informative White House briefing by federal housing department heads concerning the national housing market.

The highlight of our adventure was dinner at the National Press Club and a visit to the historic **Willard Intercontinental Hotel**. It is among the most splendid and renowned hotels in the city. Lincoln resided here before he assumed the presidency, as have other presidents-elect. Graced with mosaics, marble, fabulous chandeliers and majestic columns, the building offers unmatched elegance. This is also where the term "**lobbyist**" was actually coined many years ago when interested parties hung out in the "lobby" of the hotel to catch members of the U.S. Congress and Senate who stayed there.

The Press Club dinner speaker was a publisher for Forbes Magazine. He spoke about the "perceived" national recession and how this phenomenon may be more about the media's coverage rather than facts. Very interesting and thought provoking!

While the entire meeting agenda was worthwhile and productive, sometimes the best part is just meeting and talking with other folks who do the same job in other states. Sam and I spent a couple of enjoyable evenings getting to know the folks from Oklahoma, Ms. Gayle Ward, Executive Director and Mr. Kenneth Eggleston, President of the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma.



Sam Hicks & Vivian Parsons at the White House



Mr. Kenneth Eggleston & Ms. Gayle Ward



## CCAWV Calendar of Events



**April 12-13, 2008**

Local Government Leadership Academy  
Hotel Morgan, Morgantown, WV

**June 8-10, 2008**

CCA Spring Board Meeting  
Chief Logan State Park  
Logan, WV

**August 3-5, 2008**

CCA Annual Meeting  
Mountaineer Racetrack & Resort  
Chester, WV

**September 21-22, 2008**

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

**February 22-24, 2009**

CCA Legislative Association Meeting &  
Educational Training Series  
Charleston, Marriott

## Courthouse Reflections

*Sketches by Larry McCallister*



## NICHOLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Nicholas County Courthouse is located in the center of the Town of Summersville. The Courthouse and additions encompass an entire city block. The original building is a good example of early Colonial Revival Style of Architecture in Central West Virginia. It's progressive position in the history of West Virginia Architecture is probably due to the fact that the original architect was from Baltimore, Maryland.

Nicholas County was formed in 1818 and a five member Commission from Greenbrier, Kanawha and Randolph counties was established to locate the new county seat. Thirty acres of land was donated by John Hamilton for the public square. On this square the first county edifices were constructed, including a log jail 1819-1824, a stone jail 1826-1906 and the first courthouse which was a 30x40 two story frame structure in 1820.

In 1892 plans were adopted for a new courthouse. The new courthouse would cost \$22,000 and the deadline for completion was set for March 10, 1896. The new courthouse was dedicated on April 13, 1898. The present jail was constructed in 1910.

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# SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION



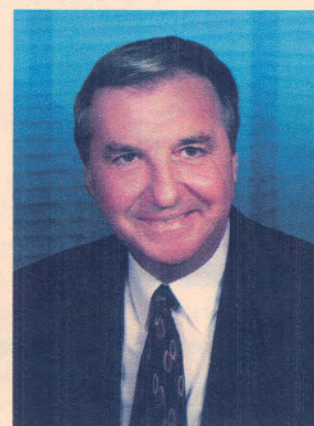
## GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION



**Charles Goldizen, Jr.**



**Jim Wilson**



**Jim Cole**

**Crowning Achievement:** Implementation of 911 for the county, Wind Tower Project Implementation, and a major new business in the county.

**Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment:** Trying to extend Infrastructure throughout the county.

**Best advice for other County Commissions:** Listen carefully to others; Be open to change if it benefits everyone.

**Funniest thing to ever happen at a commission meeting:** A company seeing a Franchise Renewal realized an hour into a public hearing they were before the wrong body.

**Commission Staff:** Cindy Whetsell-County Administrator

### Charles Goldizen, Jr.

**Place where I grew up:** Arthur, WV

**Real Life Occupation:** Electrical Contractor/Farmer

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 5 years

**You would be surprised to know that I:** Love to work and serving as a Commissioner.

**My personal philosophy:** Treat everyone equal and with respect.

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Serving all the people of Grant County.

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

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** My dad who passed away ten years ago. We always worked hand in hand and would be able to discuss all the good things I could do for our county.

### Jim Wilson

**Place where I grew up:** Mannington, WV.

**Real Life Occupation:** Manager Social Security Administration, Retired.

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 3 years

**You would be surprised to know that I:** Am a woodworker; and build model airplanes.

**My personal philosophy:** Treat everyone fairly and listen to their point of views.

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Being able to held the residents of our county.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** Dealing with other agencies and the State for funds or other help.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** My Grandmother-she always had faith in me and we would discuss all the changes in society over the last 20 years.

### Jim Cole

**Place where I grew up:** Gassaway, WV

**Real Life Occupation:** Retired Exec. V.P. Allegheny Wood Products.

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 1 year

**You would be surprised to know that I:** Spent a week in Siberia.

**My personal philosophy:** Be Fair, loyal and work hard.

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Challenge of improving our county.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** Dealing with self-serving people.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** My Mom, Dad & Brother who are deceased. Talk about my children and grandchildren that they have never seen.