

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

INSIDE

CCA Legislative Meeting and Educational
Training Series to be held January 27-29, 2008...

Presidents Perspective	2
Director's Discussion.....	2
2008 Legislative Platform	3
NACO Update.....	4
Director's Discussion (Cont.).....	5
Savings Initiative.....	5
Spotlight on a County Commission	6

The County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia invites and encourages you to attend the CCAWV Legislative Association Meeting / County Commissioners' Continuing Educational Training Program. The meeting is scheduled for January 27-29, 2008 at the Marriott Hotel, Charleston, West Virginia.

At 9:00 a.m. we will be holding "Commissioners' at the Capital" we would like to have as many of our members attend as possible. This is your chance to help promote our Legislative Agenda.

Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon. Monday evening CCA will host our Legislative Reception beginning at 6:00 p.m. **Please be sure and invite your legislators.**

Tuesday, January 29th will be the CCA Educational Training Series. Topics will include Property & Liability Risk Management, Personnel Law & County Government, Treasury Investments. The Governor has been invited for lunch.

The CCA Membership will elect their members to serve on the 2008 WVACO Board of Directors at the Legislative Association Meeting on January 28th. Please, mark your calendar now and plan to join us!

Remember...

January 27-29, 2008

Charleston Marriott Hotel

CCAWV Legislative Association Meeting and Training Series

The CCA Board will have a meeting on
January 27, 2008 from
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Marriott

Please call if you have questions (304) 345-4639. We look forward to seeing you there!



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

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

It was good to see all of you at the Fall Board Meeting in Morgantown. We accomplished many things including what I consider a very aggressive and doable legislative agenda.



I would like to thank all the host counties for allowing us to use your facilities for the CCAWV Regional Roundtable Meetings. I would also like to thank all of the Commissioners' who attended these meetings help us promote our legislative agenda. Vivian and Jennifer were well organized and the meetings proved to be successful. We look forward to working with our lobbyist, Paul Hardesty. He has been well received and seems to be an energetic, sincere and positive person.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the CCAWV Legislative Meetings, January 27-29, 2008. This year we are expanding our reception on Monday night to a ballroom. This should give you plenty of room to talk to your legislators and promote our legislative agenda.

Please stay in touch with any concerns you might have. We will make every effort to assist you and your county. If nothing else, we can discuss past experiences and together offer new ideas.

Happy New Year!!! See you all soon.

Directors' Discussion

By Vivian Parson, Executive Director

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and that your New Year is going well. (How about those Mountaineers...Fiesta Bowl Champs 2008...Awesome!) Now that's the way to begin a New Year!



I can't believe it's **JANUARY** and time for the 2008 Legislative Session to begin! But it is and we are gearing up to represent your interests and keep you informed. As most of you are aware, Paul Hardesty will be helping with our legislative efforts this year and we are very excited about that. As always, our legislative committee will meet by conference call each Friday afternoon and we will fax the *Legislative Lineup* to you weekly to keep you up to date on bills introduced and actions taken.

Please make plans to join us at the Charleston Marriott, January 27 - 29, 2008, for our Legislative Association meeting. The room reservation cutoff is January 11th. We've got some good stuff planned...Paul will be helping with the legislative briefing; we've got some good training topics lined up; we've reserved time to go to the capital and be seen and heard; and we are expanding our legislative reception into one of the Marriott's ballrooms! We hope you will come out and support this expanded effort! We'd like the legislature to know that the County Commissioners of West Virginia are concerned and dedicated public officials! Following is a brief rundown of the planned schedule; (Continued on page 5)

County Commissioners' Association Of West Virginia 2008 Legislative Priorities

Annexation

*Sub-Committee Chair:
Commissioner Brad Tuckwiller,
Greenbrier County*

CCAWV supports legislative changes that would add accountability and planning for the transfer of public services.

Regional Jail Costs

*Sub-Committee Chair:
Commissioner Ron Watson, Harrison County*

"Tough on Crime" —Keeping drunk drivers off the road and locking up those who commit serious crimes is important to CCAWV and the constituents we represent, but the cost of housing inmates in regional jails is quickly surpassing the counties' budgetary limits. CCA supports all methods of jail cost containment and relief, including the creation of a new funding source for this purpose.

Tax on Managed Timberland

*Sub-Committee Chair:
Commissioner Roy Copen, Wirt County*

CCAWV supports changes to current managed timberland tax laws that would be fair and just to all county taxpayers.

County Government Home Rule

*Sub-Committee Chair: Commissioner
Asel Kennedy, Monongalia County*

Home Rule would allow Commissioners to address local needs at the local level. CCA supports home rule for counties.

2008

National Association of Counties Achievement Award Program

Applications are available for the 2008 Achievement Award Program, a non-competitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs initiated by county governments and personnel.

Who is eligible to submit applications?

County governments and state associations of counties are eligible to apply. There is no limit to the number of applications one can submit.

What are the criteria?

Applications are judged solely against the criteria standards, listed in the applications and available online at www.naco.org.

Where can I get an application?

Applications are available by mail or on the NACo Web site, www.naco.org. You can also call Deseree Gardner, research associate, at 202/942-4228 or e-mail at dgardner@naco.org for additional applications.

What do I win?

Winning applications receive a certificate and national recognition in our *Model County Programs* database. In addition, your program is eligible to receive a *Best of Category* plaque and will be highlighted in NACo's *County News*. All winners are invited to attend our awards ceremony during the NACo Annual Conference in Jackson County (Kansas City), Mo. in July 2008.

All applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2008 to be eligible for consideration.



If you have any questions about the Achievement Award Program, please call Deseree Gardner, research associate, at 202-942-4228 or e-mail at dgardner@naco.org, or fax your inquiry to the NACo Research Division at 202-737-0480. More information and additional copies of the application may also be obtained from the NACo Web site, www.naco.org.

Directors Discussion

Continued from page 2

Sunday, January 27, 2008

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm CCAWV Board of Directors Meeting
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration.
7:00 pm – Welcome Reception/
Networking Room

Monday, January 28, 2008

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Commissioners' Day at the Legislature (go to Capital & visit with Legislators / get introduced during 11:00 am floor session)
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm CCAWV Legislative Briefing at the Marriott
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm CCAWV hosted Legislative Reception at the Marriott (remember to invite your legislators/we'll also give you invitations to take to them Monday morning when you visit)

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

9:00 am – 2:00 pm CCAWV Educational Training Series
Topics: *Risk Management Issues; Personnel Law; Treasury Investments; and others*
TBA

We look forward to seeing you at the end of the month!
Call if we can be of help

Savings Initiative

By Donna Lipscomb, Executive Coordinator
Department of Administration

The Employee Suggestion Award Board recently received a suggestion from an employee recommending that the central mailing office use electronic signature and delivery confirmation for mail that needs special handling. The postage savings for using electronic services is currently \$1.30 per piece. Although the State's central mail office was already utilizing electronic signature and delivery confirmation, the Board wanted to assure that other governmental entities were aware of this method of handling mail so they could take advantage of the cost savings as well.

If you have any questions contact Donna Lipscomb at 558-2999.

CCA Welcomes Paul Hardesty...

Paul Hardesty is the owner and managing member of Capitol Concepts, LLC, a Government and Public Affairs Consulting Firm, with offices in Charleston and Logan West Virginia.



Capitol Concepts represents numerous publicly and privately held companies in West Virginia with an emphasis on Governmental, Energy, Utilities, PBM's, and Insurance issues.

Paul has over fourteen years experience in State and County Government. He served as the executive director of the Public Energy Authority and director of the Office of Coalfield Community Development. Paul was also a member of the Legislative Team for Governors Joe Manchin and Bob Wise.

Paul has served on a variety of boards and commissions including Workers Comp, the Coal Truck Advisory Board, National Coal Heritage Board, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors and the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

Paul has extensive experience in County Government, having served as Logan County Administrator as well as a two-term elected member of the Logan County Board of Education.

You can reach Paul at 304-752-1333 or on the web at capitolconcepts@verizon.net

A Note from Jim Waybright...

I wanted to write this note to let my friends know about my health. As most of you know I was in CAMC hospital for 19 days for internal bleeding. I received 16 units of blood while I was in there. This illness has taken real toll on me.

The main reason I wrote this note is to thank you for all of you cards and prayers. God honored all of your prayers by letting me live. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of my friends at CCA. Thank you for your prayers!

CCA WV sends our deepest sympathies to Hampshire County Commissioner Steve Slonaker regarding the recent passing of his father.



Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION



BROOKE COUNTY COMMISSION



Marty Bartz, Jr.



Norma Tarr



Bernie Kazienko

Marty Bartz, Jr.

Place where I grew up: Wellsburg, WV

Real Life Occupation: Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Technology and Attendance at Brooke County Bd. of Ed.

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 1 year

You would be surprised to know that I: Do Magic Tricks

My personal philosophy: As an educator I feel that the understanding of a child's mind must be based upon the analysis of his needs stemming from the conditions of his existence.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Helping people in the community and enhancing the Economic Development of Brooke County.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Having a full time job, I can't spend as much time as I would like being a county commissioner.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: My grandfather Bartz. We would discuss who I am now and what kind of person I have become.

Norma Tarr

Place where I grew up: Weirton, WV.

Real Life Occupation: Serving the people of Brooke County for over 55 years.

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 5 years

You would be surprised to know that I: Went to the University of Nevada Law School with Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 1980.

My personal philosophy: See all people for the good in them. Do your very best, treat everyone the same and be truthful and honest.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: Being helpful and trying to make our county beautiful and make the county grow.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Trying to get projects finished and trying to get monies and always getting the run around.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: Att. Richard Neeley, Charles C. Donlely, Roy Given & Elmer Vincent. Probably gambling...back in the early 70's the state would not even go for scratch off tickets, now we are into table games.

Bernie Kazienko

Place where I grew up: Wellsburg, WV

Real Life Occupation: Full time County Commissioner

Years Experience as a County Commissioner: 3 years

You would be surprised to know that I: am the father of 4 children.

My personal philosophy: Think deeply, speak gently, love more, laugh out loud, work hard, give freely, and be kind.

What I like most about being a County Commissioner: I enjoy working with other elected officials and being able to provide the best possible service to the people of Brooke County.

What I like least about being a County Commissioner: Probably the large number of extra meetings to attend.

Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss: My deceased mother and brother. I would discuss my change in careers and what my position entails, along with the responsibility.