

# Commissioners' Corner

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July 2008

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

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**CCAWV ANNUAL MEETING**  
**"A WINNING TEAM"**  
**AUGUST 3-5, 2008**  
**MOUNTAINEER PARK, CHESTER**

**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.

## More than 3,000 County Officials Gather for NACO's Annual Conference...

More than 3,000 elected and appointed county officials representing nearly every state and the District of Columbia adopted resolutions on national issues facing counties — such as emergency preparedness, infrastructure funding and access to healthcare — participated in educational seminars and workshops, and elected a new executive team to lead NACO, at the association's 2008 Annual Conference & Exposition in Jackson County (Kansas City), Mo.

Delegates elected Maricopa County, Ariz. Supervisor Don Stapley as NACO's 2008–2009 president. Also elected and joining him on the Executive Committee are Sonoma County, Calif. Supervisor Valerie Brown, president-elect; Gloucester County, Va. Supervisor Teresa Altemus, first vice president; Tarrant County, Texas Judge Glen Whitley, second vice president; and Oakland County, Mich. Commissioner Eric Coleman as immediate past president.

As president, Stapley will lead initiatives on green government and immigration, and has appointed a new task force, chaired by San Diego County, Calif. Supervisor Greg Cox, to review NACO's bylaws, governance and structure. In his inaugural remarks, Stapley said he would build upon the successes of the Green Government Initiative, begun in 2007, with a special focus on "greening" the fleets of America's counties. "We can lead this nation in moving away from gas guzzlers," he said. (Continued on Page 3)



**West Virginia Delegation of County Officials**



## 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

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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,

Summer is in full swing-hot & muggy. Hope everyone is enjoying the season with a super vacation or a special station. We the price of gasoline, a station in wild & wonderful West Virginia seems very appropriate.



Getting down to business, SCR 74 & SB 585 (Property Tax Assessment Review), Is something that should be on everyone's mind. We hope that any changes made in the current appraisal process would be of benefit to the Commission and not a step backwards. Those of you who attended the July 21st meeting are certainly highly capable of representing the CCAWV. The results of this study will be of great interest to all Commissioners.

It was great seeing everyone at the CCA Annual Training in Chester. I hope everyone had a great time and learned something to take back to their county. I would like to wish Rick Wellman well as he takes the lead of CCA as President. I know he will do his best to lead the Commissioners' in the right direction. I would like to thank everyone for their support during my time as President and have enjoyed the privilege.

Continue to enjoy the summer. Stay Safe and God Bless!!

## Director's Discussion...

Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

At Press time we just got back from our Annual meeting and things are a little crazy. I will update you next month on the interims and anything else of interest. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves at our Annual Meeting in Chester. We had a great attendance this year!

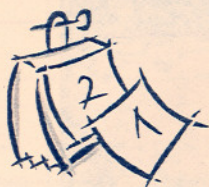


We would like to thank Danny Greathouse for all the effort he put into the planning of this meeting he did a great job as usual. We would also like to thank Sharon Ulbright and Cindy Jones for helping with the registration and decorating for the party they really helped Jennifer and I tremendously.

It's time to get ready for the Spring Board Meeting in Weston, WV. Look for information to arrive soon! Hope to see you there!



## CCAWV Calendar of Events



**August 24-26, 2008**

Interims  
Charleston, WV

**September 7-9, 2008**

Interims  
Bridgeport, WV

**September 28-30, 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 22-24, 2009**

CCA Legislative Association Meeting &  
Educational Training Series  
Charleston, Marriott

## Important information about new area code implementation

Because of the exhaustion of available numbers in the 304 area code, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia recently approved the implementation of a new area code, 681. If you currently have a telephone number with the 304 area code, your telephone number will not change. New numbers assigned in West Virginia after **March 28, 2009**, will be given the 681 area code. Permissive dialing begins **July 26, 2008**.

This is a time for West Virginia telephone users to become accustomed to using 10-digit dialing (304-xxx-xxxx) for local calls, although not yet required. Beginning **March 28, 2009**, 10-digit dialing must be used for all local calls. It is important to remember that a local call will still be a local call regardless of the area code. The way you dial for long distance calls will not change. If you have questions, please contact the PSC at 1-800-642-8544 or go to [www.psc.state.wv.us](http://www.psc.state.wv.us)

## NACO Conference

(Continued from page 1)

His goal is to promote higher fuel efficiency and alternatively powered vehicles as products with a purpose that can help counties save money, increase U.S. energy independence and improve the environment.

Stapley's second focus, on immigration, calls for a "civil dialogue" on the topic. "We're damaging our economy by ignoring this unresolved issue."

During the conference's three general sessions, attendees heard from political leaders, noted authors and experts, including HUD Secretary Steve Preston, Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker and Doris Kearns Goodwin, best-selling author.

Conference attendees also had a full schedule of educational sessions to attend, ranging from discussions on the ethanol debate to preventing the sexual exploitation of children to budget tips in tight times.

The All-Conference Event, a traditional social night out sponsored by the host county, took advantage of Kansas City's Union Station — a fully restored 1914 landmark which now houses a permanent rail exhibit with vintage rail cars, an interactive science center, live theater, restaurants and shops. Kansas City barbeque topped the menu; a strolling Harry Truman impersonator entertained guests (Harry Truman, the nation's 33rd president, once served as a Jackson County, Mo. commissioner.); and the evening ended with a spectacular fireworks display.

Next year's Annual Conference will be held July 24-29 in Davidson County (Nashville), Tenn. Registration for the 2009 Annual Conference & Exposition will open in late January 2009.



# SPOTLIGHT ON A COUNTY COMMISSION



## NICHOLAS COUNTY COMMISSION



**Commissioners Tom Blankenship, Birl O'Dell, Jinks Hinkle  
Patty Neff, Administrative Assistant**

**Crowning Achievement:** Continuance of water expansion projects to our citizens.

**Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment:** No one in particular stands out.

**Best advice for other County Commissions:** Listen to your citizens

**Funniest thing to ever happen at a commission meeting:** Regarding an estate matter-an individual wished they could dig up the descendent and kill that person.

**Commission Staff:** Patty Neff

### Tom Blankenship

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

**Real Life Occupation:** Full time  
County Commissioner

**Years Experience as a County  
Commissioner:** 11 years

**You would be surprised to know that  
I:** Was a coalminer & President of Local 2059 of UMWA.

**My personal philosophy:** I never met a meal that I didn't like.

**What I like most about being a  
County Commissioner:** Being able to  
help our citizens.

**What I like least about being a County  
Commissioner:** Not having enough  
funding to assist communities.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to  
the next County Commission meeting  
and what I would discuss:** My youngest  
sister Carol. Childhood Memories.

### Birl O'Dell

**Place where I grew up:** Leivasy, Nicholas  
County

**Real Life Occupation:** Merchant

**Years Experience as a County  
Commissioner:** 13 years.

**You would be surprised to know that I:**  
Drove a school bus for 32 years.

**My personal philosophy:** Live life each  
day as if it were your last.

**What I like most about being a County  
Commissioner:** Infrastructure Development-water, sewer, etc.

**What I like least about being a County  
Commissioner:** Lack of funding to help  
our citizens.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the  
next County Commission meeting and  
what I would discuss:** Those who drafted  
the Constitution to see if their intentions are  
being fulfilled today.

### Jinks Hinkle

**Place where I grew up:** Richwood,  
Nicholas County

**Real Life Occupation:** Self-employed  
& elected official for 30 years.

**Years Experience as a County Com-  
missioner:** 9 1/2 years

**You would be surprised to know that  
I:** Operate Heavy Equipment

**My personal philosophy:** Be a good  
listener.

**What I like most about being a County  
Commissioner:** Working with the citi-  
zens.

**What I like least about being a County  
Commissioner:** Unfunded Mandates

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to  
the next County Commission meeting  
and what I would discuss:** The evil  
Adolf Hitler-How did you make gas from  
coal to fly your planes and operate your  
military in 1944?