

150th Birthday Celebration Enjoyed Throughout West Virginia

There were bands, choirs, and dancers. There were movies, parades, and fireworks. Lectures, presentations, and outdoor dramas took place. Contests, exhibitions, and competitions were held. All across the Mountain State, especially during the month of June, it was an abounding atmosphere of pride and festivity as West Virginia celebrated her 150th anniversary of statehood.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin collaborated with numerous individuals and public and private agencies to create a statewide extravaganza of activities to honor West Virginia's past, present, and future.

It was on June 20, 1863 that West Virginia became the 35th state to join the union, and it all happened in Wheeling.

At that time, Wheeling was the second largest city in Virginia, next to Richmond. Dubbed the *Gateway to the West*, Wheeling played a highly prominent role in the industrial movement due to its central location to Virginia and the surrounding power states of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and also because of its prime location along the mighty Ohio River. The city was home to the Wheeling Custom House (known today as West Virginia Independence Hall), which served as the federal office headquarters for the Western District of Virginia. It soon became the site of many heated and intense meetings which ultimately led to the our statehood.

When speaking with West Virginia Metro News last month, Wheeling mayor Andy McKenzie said, "Without Wheeling and the actions that happened there 150 years



During West Virginia's numerous Sesquicentennial Birthday celebrations around the State, the sound of ooohs and aaahs were heard as the skies were illuminated by fireworks to commemorate our 150th anniversary of statehood. At the Capitol, the spectacular three-night display of 4,000 rounds per night, provided by world-famous Zambelli Fireworks, was befitting the celebration of our small but mighty place in our nation's past, present, and future.

Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office.

ago, we wouldn't have a State of West Virginia or clearly not the State we have today."

During the two-year process of seceding from Virginia, the name "Kanawha" was originally proposed for the new state. Other suggestions included Allegheny, Augusta, Columbia, New Virginia, Little Virginia, and Western Virginia. One argument against the name Kanawha evolved from the fact that Kanawha County was already a prominent State subdivision, and no other state name was the same as one of its subdivisions. Even

stronger were arguments among those present at the First Constitutional Convention that they desired to preserve “Virginia” as part of the new State name. In the end, when the vote was taken, the results were:

Augusta	1 vote
Allegheny	2 votes
Western Virginia	2 votes
Kanawha	9 votes
West Virginia	30 votes

Being that it all began in Wheeling, it’s only fitting that the first of the State’s Sesquicentennial events took place there on Wednesday, June 19. The evening featured a reenactment of the events from 150 years ago, with current Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and members of the current Legislature present. According to Mayor McKenzie, the same took place for the State’s Centennial in 1963, and it’s already on the agenda for the Bicentennial which will occur in 2063.

In Lewisburg, folks celebrated the milestone birthday at Carnegie Hall with live music and a cake in the form of the State flag. The Greenbrier Valley Visitor Center held an Open House and greeted visitors from home and far away.

Up in Parkersburg, there was sidewalk art, a community picnic, a birthday cake and outdoor music event at City Park, and a photographic history display in the City Building called *Snapshots in Time*. In close-by Vienna, they held a parade of antique cars and a ceremony in Jackson Park. Mayor Randy Rapp read a letter he received from Senator Jay Rockefeller, in which the Senator said he found both his life’s passion for public service and his forever home in West Virginia. A statement from Senator Joe Manchin was also read, affirming that West Virginia remains a state dedicated to the ideas of life, liberty, and fortunes in the united pursuit of justice and freedom for all.

Charles Town and Harpers Ferry boasted historical tours, a concert of historical stories and songs, and even a ghost tour! Residents in Martinsburg and Shepherdstown enjoyed cake and comradery, with cakes provided by the William Henshaw Daughters of the American Revolution and the Shepherdstown Sweet Shop Bakery.

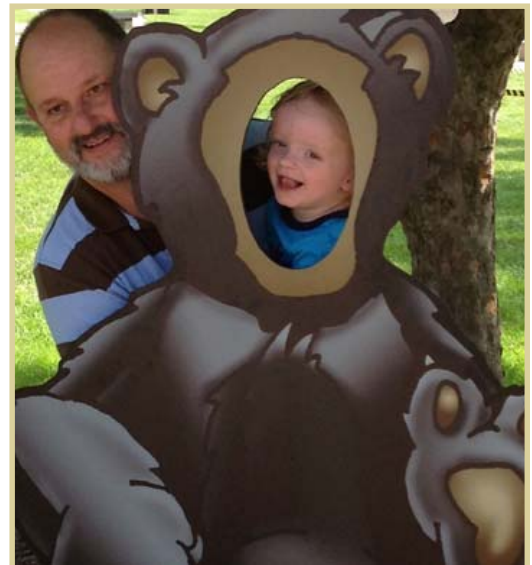
The Fayetteville Convention and Visitors Bureau was the site of a birthday bash that provided cake sampling and live music. The town of Summersville featured Civil War encampments, Appalachian dancing, activities for children, and fireworks.

Even in Washington, D.C., the event was marked, thanks to our Congressional Delegation. Speeches and statements were prepared and read by Senators Jay Rockefeller and Joe Manchin, as well as Congressmen Nick Rahall and David McKinley, and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito. Capito conducted the *150 Reasons to Love West Virginia* project, and highlighted entries in her speech on the House floor.

The Capitol City of Charleston was the site of a four-day celebration that featured events of every possible genre. An opening ceremony was held at the State Capitol on Thursday, June 20 and began with 35 rings of the bell from the U.S.S. West Virginia submarine by West Virginia’s 35th gover-



Governor and Mrs. Tomblin greet visitors and introduce a member of the Zambelli Fireworks crew. Photo courtesy of the Governor’s Office.



Mason Ball is all smiles as he enjoys family time at the Capitol. Mason is the son of Division of Highways employee Matt Ball and his wife, Michelle. Pictured with him is his grandfather, Ron McCartney, who visited from Pittsburgh to take in the festivities.

Photo courtesy of Matt Ball.

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nor, Earl Ray Tomblin. Marc Harshman, West Virginia's Poet Laureate, read an original poem and Thomas Marshall, Executive Vice President of the U.S. Postal Service, joined Tomblin and photographer Roger Spencer to unveil the new 150th anniversary forever stamp, which features an early morning mountain photo by Spencer. The Governor and other State leaders were joined by the 249th West Virginia Army National Guard Band and the Cabell-Midland High School Show Choir.

Rounding out the day, the Charleston Light Opera Guild performed *The Civil War— the Broadway Musical* at the Culture Center Theater; the West Virginia Symphony and the Appalachian Children's Chorus performed an outdoor concert; and the first showing of the fabulous 3-D video, *150 in 3-D: A Century and a Half of WV Pride*, was projected directly onto the Main Capitol Building. The evening ended with a magnificent fireworks display. The musical was performed again on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and the video and fireworks were repeated on Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday, citizens were able to enjoy a WV150 History and Art Parade; free sternwheeler rides; and Family Fun Celebration activities that included the Smoke on the Water Chili Cook-Off, a Classic Car Cruise-In, food and craft vendors, and Civil War reenactors.

And there was cake – a spectacular replica of the State Capitol that measured eight feet long by four-and-a-half feet high. The non-edible building portion was fabricated from styrofoam by father and son team David and Darren Husband. It was covered with 900 pounds of fondant by Sara Lane. Lane also prepared the edible part – the lawn – or should we say “lawns” – a new lawn was added each day to serve 1,600 people per day. Other establishments provided additional cakes so that a total of 15,000 total pieces of cake were served.

These are just a sampling of what took place in our cities, towns, and villages. No matter where you were during this special time, it was abundantly clear that mountaineers and visitors love West Virginia!



Don't let the picture fool you. This cake was no small feat! Standing 8 feet by 4½ feet, the edible lawn portion, which was replaced daily, served a total of 4,800 pieces. Other accompanying cakes served another 10,200 people.

Photo courtesy of Matt Ball.

KNOW YOUR STATE SYMBOLS

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SYMBOL</u>	<u>ADOPTED</u>
Animal	Black Bear	1973
Bird	Cardinal	1949
Butterfly	Monarch	1995
Firearm	Hall Flintlock 1819 Rifle	2013
Flower	Rhododendron	1903
Fruit	Golden Delicious Apple	1995
Insect	Honeybee	2002
Tartan	West Virginia Shawl	2008
Tree	Sugar Maple	1949

SALES TAX ON FOOD? IN WEST VIRGINIA, IT'S A THING OF THE PAST!

July 1 is always the signal for a new fiscal year, and the start of this fiscal year marked a better financial outlook for West Virginia families and their wallets. The sales tax on food is officially gone!

According to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, consumers have saved \$162 million a year overall since the phase-out of the tax began. He estimates that a family of four will realize a savings of \$52 annually with the elimination of the final one percent.

The phase-out began back in 2005, when the food sales tax was six percent. At that time, Governor Tomblin was president of the State Senate, and by working together with then-Governor Joe Manchin, they began the process of the tax elimination to provide a more level tax system and to help the businesses in and around our border counties become more competitive.

The tax is eliminated on food and food ingredients. Prepared food, items from vending machines, and soft drinks are not included. For more information, visit www.wvtax.gov.



Buying healthy food and snack choices at the grocery store became easier and less expensive as of July 1, 2013. That's when the State's sales tax on food was completely eliminated.

Governor Tomblin Named One of Ten People Who Made a Difference in the South

Magazine recognizes the governor's impact on State's economy

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin was highlighted in the article *Ten People Who Made a Difference in the South* by Southern Business & Development magazine. The article cites Governor Tomblin's economic know-how, as well as his popularity.

"... when Earl Ray Tomblin stepped into the West Virginia governor's office, the state's economy took off," Mike Randle writes. "In 2011, West Virginia was home to the second-best job growth in the U.S. and No. 1 in the South and first in export growth nationwide."

Also included in the article are Dan DiMicco, executive chairman of Nucor steel; John Correnti, an Arkansas entrepreneur; J. Wayne Leonard, a Louisiana energy innovator; Michael Hecht, the President and CEO of Greater New Orleans Inc.; Mike Eades, a Louisiana economic developer; Agnes Zaiontz, a major part of the Mississippi-based Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority; Glen Fenter, the president of Mid-South Community College; Texas Governor Rick Perry; and Missouri Governor Jay Nixon.

To read the excerpt, [click here](#).

Reprint courtesy of the Governor's Office.



*Governor Earl Ray Tomblin
Photo courtesy of the
Governor's Office.*

Governor Tomblin Recognizes Juneteenth Participants

On June 19, 2013, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin recognized West Virginians who participated in Juneteenth as part of the State's 150th birthday celebration. Sponsored by the Tuesday Morning Group, Juneteenth is the oldest known event which celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. It serves as a remembrance of both the journey and the achievements of African-Americans.

"I'm grateful our forefathers stood up for what was right 150 years ago, dedicated our great State to the Union, and embraced the principle of freedom for all," Governor Tomblin said.

It was on September 22, 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The proclamation became official as of January 1, 1863; however, it took until June 19, 1865 – nearly two and a half more years – for the announcement to reach Galveston, Texas. For the relatively new state of West Virginia, which was the last slave state to become part of the Union and the first to leave the Confederacy, it was February 3, 1865 that the first Governor, Arthur I. Boreman, signed the document that emancipated all slaves in the State.

A four-day-long celebration of Juneteenth began with an opening program on Sunday, June 16 at the West Virginia Culture Center. The program included a reflection of African-Americans in West Virginia history as well as a discussion regarding the challenges they face today. Those in attendance enjoyed performances by instrumental and choral groups.

David M. Fryson, Esq., served as Keynote Speaker. Fryson is the Chief Diversity Officer for West Virginia University. Other speakers over the course of the event included Dr. Ancella Bickley, former Vice President of Academic Affairs for West Virginia State University; Dr. Charles Ledbetter, Vice Chair of the Archives and History Commission for the State of West Virginia; and Dr. Joe William Trotter, Jr., Giant Eagle Professor of History and Social Justice at Carnegie Mellon University.

The event concluded with the Juneteenth Revival Celebration which took place at First Baptist Church in Charleston on June 19, and featured speaker **Arley Ray Johnson**, Executive Director for Advocates of the Other America.

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. (Harriet Tubman)

History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again. (Maya Angelou)

WV Privacy Awareness Training Wins International Award

By Sallie Milam of the West Virginia Executive Branch State Privacy Office.

In the fall of 2012, the West Virginia Executive Branch State Privacy Office, a division within the West Virginia Health Care Authority, developed a new privacy awareness training entitled *Privacy Rocks!* This course is required for all Executive Branch employees. It covers privacy basics, including helping employees understand their responsibilities with respect to privacy, the importance of privacy, how to safeguard personal information and how to report an incident.

Privacy touches the entire life cycle of information management, from data collection and vendor management to records manage-



ment, information and technology security, and on through to records destruction.

“Privacy is vital to every State agency’s mission, and this training helps to ensure that our workforce understands how to safeguard the personal information of those we serve,” states John Street, the Department of Health and Human Resource’s Privacy Officer.

Debe Browning, the Department of Commerce’s Privacy Officer, emphasizes the importance of training and the role that privacy plays in risk management when she says that “no privacy plan or computer security system is picture perfect. Therefore, every employee must be mindful of the data they collect, who has access to that data, and where and how long that data is stored. By simply limiting the collection or storage of sensitive data, you limit your organization’s level of risk. In other words, if you don’t have sensitive data, you can’t lose it!”

The training is delivered through the Office of Technology’s Learning Management System (LMS) which allows all employees with a computer to be able to complete the training at their own desks, and when it fits into their schedule. For employees without access to computers, completion of the training course is confirmed in the LMS system as well. We’ve heard from many of you that you enjoyed the training!

Privacy Rocks! won the bronze award in the “Training/E-learning” category from Horizon Interactive Awards. Horizon Interactive Awards is a prestigious international competition that recognizes outstanding achievement for interactive media producers. Entries are judged on solution creativity and originality, overall graphic design, appearance, user experience, communication of message, technical merit, and the effectiveness of solution.

We’re excited that WV received this recognition. Perhaps the artwork depicting our parks and natural wonders will entice others to visit us!

For questions about this training or about your privacy responsibilities, please contact your privacy officer or Sallie Milam, WV’s Chief Privacy Officer: smilam@hcawv.org or 304-558-7000.

News From the Medical Front

The Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) website contains many helpful links. Below is an item from the ‘Health Tips’ tab on the site. For this and other helpful links, go to www.peia.wv.gov.

WHAT IF TYPE 2 DIABETES RUNS IN YOUR FAMILY?

By Karen Collins, MS, RD, CDN

Q: Type 2 diabetes runs in my family – what can I do to avoid getting it?

A: People with a family history of type 2 diabetes do have greater odds of developing the disease, but research is clear that a healthy lifestyle can substantially cut risk, or at least help people live more years without diabetes. One of the most important steps for preventing type 2 diabetes is to reach and maintain a healthy weight. Excess body fat around your waist seems particularly linked with increased risk, even if you are not extremely overweight. Even modest weight loss reduces risk if you are overweight now. Type 2 diabetes stems from insulin resistance which is the body’s inability to use insulin effectively, despite producing plenty of it. Regardless of your weight, do enough physical activity so it adds up to 30 to 60 minutes daily. Daily physical activity seems to directly reduce insulin resistance in addition to reducing or preventing weight gain. Tobacco avoidance and healthy food choices also probably help: Vegetables, fruits, whole grains and dried beans contain antioxidants that fight inflammation linked to this disease, and provide fiber that may also help reduce risk. Aim for at least two-and-a-half cups (preferably three-and-a-half to five cups) of vegetables and fruits daily, and at least three to four servings of whole grains. Limit processed meat and sugar-sweetened drinks, since evidence suggests frequent consumption may increase risk of diabetes. And choose lowfat dairy, fish, poultry and limited lean red meat. All of these recommendations help you stay lean and also decrease risk for other chronic diseases like cancer and heart disease. Our genes can make us more vulnerable to diseases like diabetes, but the importance of lifestyle choices means there’s no reason to feel doomed.

Personnel Employee Benefits from Two Treasurer's Programs

By Greg Stone of the State Treasurer's Office.

Of the more than 11,000 new enrollees who have signed up for the State Treasurer's Office 457 supplemental retirement program, it's hard to find a happier camper than Christy Romeo.

She is pleased with the earnings, the support, and the customer-friendly nature of West Virginia Retirement Plus, the State's officially sanctioned program for public employees.

Romeo, 39, a Personnel Specialist with the Division of Personnel's Applicant Services unit, said she first enrolled in West Virginia Retirement Plus during the 2007 to 2012 fiscal year matching period. In that time frame, participants could gain a 25 percent match per year, provided they contributed throughout the duration.

She says the resources provided by both the Treasurer and ING – which manages the funds – are important.

"It made investing seem less intimidating," she said. "I knew if I had questions or something I didn't understand that there would be someone to explain things along the way. The Treasurer's staff has been there for me and I appreciate it."

Romeo recently attended the Treasurer's Women & Money Conference series in South Charleston, in which featured speaker Dee Lee assured her she was on the right savings track.

"I've been thinking of diversifying my investments and (Lee) pointed out that if you're looking at the stock ticker every day you're going to see sharp gains and losses," said Romeo. "But she also pointed out those things are cyclical and you have to ride them out over a long period of time."

For more information about West Virginia Retirement Plus or to enroll in the program, call Steve Kerns of ING at 1-877-786-2982 or go to www.wv457.com.



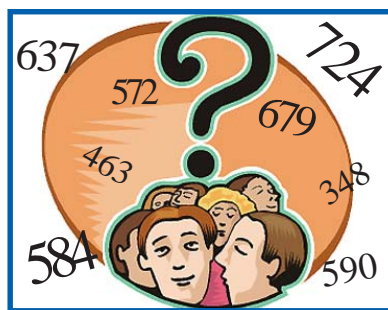
The DOP's Christy Romeo says that the Treasurer's Office 457 Supplemental Retirement Program makes investing less intimidating.

Photo courtesy of the State Treasurer's Office.

Having and Maintaining a Good Credit Rating Can Score Good Savings

The maximum FICO credit score is 850, but only 18 percent of FICO's 200 million consumers were rated 800 or higher in 2011. People with a score of 780 may search for ways to get a higher number. It's the latest fashionable status symbol.

If you have a credit score between 620 and 690, there are big benefits in doing all you can to increase it, such as paying bills on time and reducing debt to keep your ratio of debt-to-credit limit at 30 percent (or preferably less). Anything under 30 percent is a very good debt-to-limit ratio.



With each 10 points your FICO score increases between 620 and 690, you get better loan and mortgage interest rates, and lower car insurance premiums.

When your credit score reaches 750 to 760, there are fewer benefits to making it any higher, because you are assumed to be a good credit risk. The national median credit score is 711 (in 2010, it was 732).

The acronym FICO comes from the Fair Isaac Corporation, an organization that computes and publishes credit scores for viewing by consumers and creditors.

The Fair Isaac Corporation is one of the leading providers of predictive analytics and decision-management products worldwide. In fact, FICO is now a trademarked brand name, and thus, people use the terms "credit score" and "FICO score" interchangeably.

FICO scores range from a low of 300 to a top score of 850. Generally, creditors view a FICO score of 650-699 as moderate and regard scores of 700 or better as good-to-excellent. When creditors look at your credit file, they find three scores – one from the three major credit bureaus – Experian, Equifax, and Transunion. The creditor takes the score that falls in the middle as the

DHHR Ensures Safe Quality Milk for Consumers

CREDIT – Cont. from Pg. 6

We're all familiar with the catch-phrase, "Milk ... it does a body good" from commercials sponsored by the National Dairy Farmers and National Dairy Board. The phrase is true. Good, fresh milk is a source of calcium, Vitamins A and D, protein, riboflavin, and a host of other nutrients. But how do you know the milk you drink is safe?

If you purchase milk at a West Virginia location, you can thank the sanitarians who work for the Department of Health and Human Resources' Milk Sanitation Program. With a small staff of seven sanitarians, these men and women monitor the Grade A Milk Program statewide.

According to DHHR's website, 75 percent of the milk consumed in West Virginia is actually supplied by out-of-state processors. Our sanitarians inspect producer dairy farms, bulk milk tanks, pasteurization plants, and distribution stations. They also conduct pasteurizing equipment testing, State surveys, and United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) check ratings.

To ensure a supply of good, quality milk, samples are taken at every step from the time it's produced at the farm to the moment it hits the store.

Regular testing includes Raw Producer, Bulk Milk Tanker, Pasteurized Plant, Pasteurized Field, Plastic Jug, Farm and Plant Water, and Added Vitamin. Samples are analyzed for bacteria count, somatic cell count, temperature, coliform, phosphates enzyme, and antibiotics.

What happens if something's amiss in the results? Let's say a sample tests positive for an antibiotic. In that case, the whole load is dumped. The producer's permit is then suspended, and appropriate owners and employees are required to complete a program with a veterinarian.

The staff at the Milk Sanitation Program take great pride in the fact that there have been no major milk or food-borne disease outbreaks, resulting in high ratings and commendations from the FDA.



OTHER GREAT USES FOR MILK:

Yes, it's true that milk does do a body good ... and it's in more ways than just by drinking. It can heal, improve your food, and even keep your clothes from being ruined. The following unconventional uses for milk are provided from different sources and are for informational purposes only.

Soothe a Sunburn or Bug Bite: Make a compress of milk and hold it on the burn/bite, or run a tepid bath and add milk (liquid or powdered) to the water.

Refresh Frozen Fish: Frozen fish thawed in milk will have an improved, fresher flavor and texture.

Remove Blood Stains: If you have a fabric item with a blood stain, pre-treat it with milk. The enzymes help break down the stain. You may also use it for other stains, perhaps in combination with other substances. Check on the internet before you throw out that favorite shirt.

As a Facial: Powdered milk works great - mix powdered milk and water to form a paste, apply it to your face, wait for it to dry, and wash off with warm water. This is also great for sunburned faces and some people claim success in the treatment of acne.

Sweeten Corn on the Cob: Add milk to the water. Recipes differ. Some say add a half-cup, others say use half milk and half water, and yet others say use powdered milk. Some even say to add sugar, salt, or honey. Check out recipes online and try ones that sound good.

score on which to base your approval, interest rate, and account terms. For example, if you have scores of 565, 650, and 701, the credit evaluator will use the middle score of 650 to evaluate your application and decide your credit worthiness. About a fourth of those who have open credit files have less than desirable scores 600 or lower, while the median score falls somewhere in the low-mid 700's.

Even if you've made financial mistakes and "ruined your credit," you're not doomed forever. It's entirely possible to boost your FICO score, but it will require time, patience, and above all, commitment and consistency.

The first thing to do is review your credit reports from the three credit bureaus named previously. You can do so free of charge at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index>. Note that only your credit report is free - you will have to pay a small fee if you request your actual credit score. Print out each report and review them. Dispute any incorrect data reported by creditors. If you have charge-offs or unpaid accounts listed on your report, call the creditor directly to negotiate a payment plan or settlement. Once these are paid, the creditor updates the file with that information, which could raise your score. For your active accounts and loans, continue to make on-time payments to improve your score over time. Other actions you might consider are closing accounts that are unused; paying off credit cards if you have multiple of the same types such as Visas, MasterCards, etc. (especially those with high interest rates); and setting up automatic payments for current accounts to eliminate the chance of missing or paying late.

How about another big benefit? Getting your finances in order could also have a positive impact on your ability to save or invest!

Make Time to See 'Quilts and Wallhangings 2013' at Culture Center

One of the Division of Culture and History's most popular exhibitions, which showcases one of West Virginia's most well-known art forms, began on May 24, 2013.

Quilts and Wall Hangings 2013, on display in the Great Hall and the south wing of the Culture Center, features 62 quilts and wall hangings made by 57 West Virginia folks from 23 counties.

Winners were selected in four categories:

- Pieced Quilts
- Mixed/Other Quilts
- Appliqued Quilts
- Wall Hangings

Awards were presented on May 24, during the Vandalia Gathering Friday evening concert. Winners in the Quilts category received \$750 for first place, \$400 for second place, and \$300 for third place. In the Wall Hanging category, awards were \$400 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place.

"The quilt exhibition in the Great Hall is one of our most popular and colorful exhibitions," said Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith of the Division. "Visitors enjoy the fine handiwork of West Virginians whose creativity and appreciation of tradition are showcased in the quilts and wall hangings we feature."

Serving as judge for this year was Beverly Fine, a National Quilting Association Certified Judge from Haymarket, Va. Fine made her first quilt for a friend when she was in high school; she became a dedicated quilter in 1996. Fine's focus is on monoprinting, or using an etching press and/or fabric marbling, as well as dye-painting and shibori techniques. Her work

has been exhibited in many juried shows, including the Fitchburg Art Museum and the Johsonia Gallery in Fitchburg, Mass.; and the Whistler House Museum of Art, the Brush Art Gallery and Studios, and the New England Quilt Museum, all in Lowell, Mass. She recently co-authored the book *Guide to Judged Quilt Shows* (available for purchase at www.nqa.org or through www.amazon.com).

The Division of Culture and History also made two purchase awards, one quilt and one wall hanging, and the judge designated a Best of Show prize of \$100. In addition, eight non-monetary honorable mention distinctions and a Judge's Choice award were made. A complete list of exhibitors and winners, as well as high resolution photographs are available at www.wvculture.org/museum/Quilts/quilt2013/2013quiltphotos.html.

The exhibit will remain on display through September 2, 2013.

The Culture Center is open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 5 P.M. on Sunday. For more information about the Quilts and Wall Hangings 2013 exhibit, contact Caryn Gresham, Deputy Commissioner for the Division, at 304-558-0220.

Ethics Update: State's Open Meetings Law Revamped

Changes in law define emergency, regular, and special meetings, and make filing meeting notices easier for State agencies

DEFINITIONS

As a result of the 2013 Regular Legislative Session, the Open Governmental Proceedings Act (Open Meetings Act) will now contain definitions of emergency, regular, and special meetings, effective July 12, 2013.

Until now, governing bodies relied on the West Virginia Ethics Commission's Committee on Open Governmental Meetings to define these terms, in response to requests for formal advisory opinions. As a result, at times there was confusion as to what constitutes an emergency for purposes of the Open Meetings Act. The purpose of the amendment was to establish specific guidelines for determining what constitutes an emergency. Moreover, while the Open Meetings Act uses the terms emergency, regular and special meeting, they were not defined anywhere in the Act. In the past, when public servants asked whether an emergency exists based on particular facts, staff counseled them to ask themselves if the governing body could wait two business days to address the issue. If so, then it didn't constitute an emergency. Nonetheless, not everyone knew to consult the

Ethics Commission for advice, or to read relevant advisory opinions for guidance.

House Bill 2747 defines a regular meeting as a meeting of a governing body at which the regular business of the public is conducted. By contrast, a special meeting is a meeting of a governing body other than a regular meeting or an emergency meeting. Emergency meeting means any meeting called by a governing

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Public Comments Sought for 2014 State Historic Preservation Annual Work Program

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History’s proposed Annual Work Program for its 2013-2014 Historic Preservation Program is now available for public review and comment. The work program describes the activities and programs the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will undertake to assist communities and residents in preserving the physical evidence of the State’s history.

Copies of the proposed work program have been made available to public libraries in each of the State’s 55 counties. The plan also may be reviewed at the SHPO located at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston, W.Va., 25305-0300. In addition, the plan is posted on the Division’s website at www.wvculture.org/shpo.

Those who review the proposed work program may submit comments by completing a “Work Program Comment Form,” available at public libraries and on the website. Send the completed form to Susan M. Pierce, SHPO Director, at the Culture Center’s address above, or email it to her at susan.m.pierce@wv.gov. The deadline for public comment is Aug. 15, 2013.

Activities in Elkins are prime examples that reflect the various program areas of the WV State Historic Preservation Office offered throughout the State. The local historic landmark commission received an \$11,200 matching grant to complete a cultural resource survey of the Graham District, which is located in the southwestern area of Elkins. A consultant was assisted by local volunteers who performed field research, archival research, and graphic design. Nearly 200 resources that were 50 years or older were documented during this effort. The First Ward School, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was converted to apartment space using the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit and a State development grant. The HLC also hosted a workshop which provided training to realtors about historic resources and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

For more information, contact Pamela Brooks, Grants Coordinator for the SHPO, at 304-558-0240, ext. 720. A list of public libraries that have the proposed work program can be found at www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Division&Id=2308.

Reprint courtesy of the Division of Culture and History

Indian Creek Covered Bridge Part of WV Transportation History

One of the most photographed in the State, this Monroe County span is located not far from the Laurel Creek Bridge, north of US 219. Owned by the county historical society and open to pedestrians, it was part of the White and Salt Sulphur Springs Turnpike. A Long truss, built in 1903 by Ray and Oscar Weikel (ages 16 and 18 years old) and E.P. and A.P. Smith, it is more than 11.5 feet wide and 49.25 feet long. There are six covered bridges in West Virginia with this truss engineering—Philippi, Hokes Mill, Sarvis Fork, Statts Mill, Center Point, and Indian Creek. The completed bridge cost Monroe County only \$400 and was used continuously for about 30 years.

The interior of the Indian Creek Bridge contains notes and plaques from previous visitors. Now only pedestrians use the bridge, which also houses antique vehicles from the 1900s, adding to the history of this unique structure.

The bridge was rehabilitated approximately 10-12 years ago by Hoke Brothers Construction, Inc. of Union, WV in 2002 at a cost of \$334,446. Renovations included timber roof trusses, a new glue-laminated timber deck, new wooden exterior siding, and a new roof of split shakes.

Indian Creek Bridge is a tribute to the ingenuity and hard work of two young builders who had a vision of what transportation could be in Monroe County.

Reprint and photo courtesy of the Division of Highways



The Indian Creek Covered Bridge was built in 1903 at a cost of \$400.

Home Oxygen Safety Shouldn't be Overlooked

The following information is provided by the San Diego Hospice and National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) and distributed by the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office.

It is important for people using home medical oxygen and for their caregivers to practice oxygen safety. It is a necessary task to prevent injury to the oxygen user. Although oxygen in and of itself is a non-flammable gas, learning how to properly store and use your home oxygen system is vital because *oxygen can accelerate burning during a fire.*

During 2002-2005, oxygen equipment was involved in an estimated average of 209 home fires reported to local fire departments per year.



Never smoke within 15 feet of an oxygen setup or a person using oxygen. The gas itself isn't flammable, but it can cause things to burn faster and ignite easier.

These fires caused an average of 46 civilian deaths and 62 civilian injuries per year. One of every five such fires resulted in death.

Smoking is by far the leading cause of burns, reported fires, deaths, and injuries involving home medical oxygen.

Contrary to popular belief, oxygen is not a flammable gas and will not explode. However, oxygen can cause fires to burn things faster and ignite easier.

- **NEVER** use or store oxygen in a confined space such as a cabinet or closet.
- **DO NOT** use petroleum-based ointments or lotions in or around your nose, such as Vaseline, Vicks, Chapstick, etc. Oxygen can react violently with these oily substances and can cause burns.
- Keep all oxygen equipment at least 15 feet from any type of open flame. Take care to avoid open flames while using oxygen. This includes matches, fireplaces, barbecues, stoves, space heaters, candles, etc.
- **DO NOT SMOKE** within 15 feet of the oxygen set-up or an oxygen patient.
- Have working smoke alarms installed throughout your home.
- Prepare a home escape plan for you and your family in the event of a fire.

OXYGEN STORAGE and HANDLING

- Oxygen tanks should be stored in a stand or cart to prevent tipping and falling.
- Store extra, unsecured tanks by placing them flat on the floor. Do not allow tanks to stand or lean in an upright position while unsecured.
- **DO NOT** store oxygen systems in unventilated areas such as closets or cabinets.
- **NEVER** drape clothing over oxygen systems.
- **DO NOT** store oxygen systems in the trunk of your car.

For more information on Home Oxygen Safety and Handling visit:

www.usfa.fema.gov

www.nfpa.org

www.armscare.com



2013 ANNUAL EEO CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2-4, 2013 – STONEWALL JACKSON RESORT

TOPICS and SPEAKERS:

Americans with Disabilities Act	Zach Abraham (DeemHR)
Investigation Interviews	Zach Abraham (DeemHR)
Investigator Training	Michelle Crew (EEOC)
Mediation	Debra Scudiere



COST: \$230 – visit www.eeo.wv.gov for more information and updates

Red Cross Still Needs Your Blood Donations

The American Red Cross (ARC) Blood Services unit has issued an apology to State workers who were unable to donate during the June 10 State Government Workers Blood Drive due to understaffing. In addition, the agency is asking for your understanding, and hoping you'll sign up again for the next session.

The message from the Red Cross indicated that 59 employees had scheduled appointments, and another 10 employees were walk-ins; however, only 39 pints were collected. This was in part due to the fact that the Red Cross was unforeseeably short-handed that day, which created a backup, and employees were unable to wait.

According to the Red Cross, the appointment system they use actually works well; it was the understaffing that created the problem. Both the national and local levels have been made aware of the situation. While they cannot absolutely guarantee the situation will not happen again, everything possible will be done to avoid a repeat.

The need for blood is critical and constant. The ARC is requesting that those who were able to give continue to donate when they are again eligible, and that those who were unable to donate (whether due to the staffing issue or temporary deferral) not be reluctant to try up again.

To all who were able to donate, thank you! The next blood drive at the State Capitol Complex is scheduled from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. on September 9 in Building 7.

It's not too early to sign up! Go to www.redcrossblood.org and follow the links to schedule a donation.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Only 38% of the population are eligible to give blood. If you're one of them, you're needed!

KC-911 System Keeping Kanawha County Residents Safe and Informed

Kanawha County Metro-911 has a tool in place whereby residents can receive phone and text alerts for certain types of serious and/or widespread emergencies.

The KC-911 System is a mass notification system that sends out automated phone calls, text messages, and emails when public officials need to provide warnings or distribute emergency information as quickly as possible. Messages can include crucial information on such things as:

- + Floods, fires, or evacuation orders
- + Weather alerts
- + Shelter-in-place alerts
- + Notifications for missing persons or Amber Alerts
- + Major traffic emergencies

In addition, there will be a monthly test of the email and text message systems.

Currently, the system only has access to landline phone numbers that are published. People who have unlisted landlines or cell phones are not automatically included; however, they can "Opt In" by completing the online form on the Charleston Fire Department's website. Email addresses can also be added on the form. The web address to opt in is:

<http://charlestonfire.org/alerts>

Generally, the system will make phone calls to landlines and cell phones for local emergencies. For more widespread issues, text messages and emails will be added to the phone calls. The system will show up on caller ID features as "Kanawha County."

If you do opt in, be sure to update your information if your email, mobile phone number, or unlisted landline phone number changes. Also note that customers will incur any regular, standard charges related to their individual call or data transmission services.

If you have questions or wish to provide your information by phone, please call Metro-911 Community Support at 304-744-6843.

When You Have a Question, Do You Know Where to Turn?

Employees have a variety of questions that arise over the course of their careers. As an employee of the State of West Virginia, do you know where to turn for answers?

It's a primary goal to make information available to State employees, and the State of West Virginia homepage is a great place to start! There's an entire area devoted to assisting employees. Head to www.wv.gov and you'll find a section called 'State Employees.' Click on the 'Employee Services' link under the picture, and you'll arrive on a page with dozens of other helpful links. You'll be able to access information on topics such as retirement, pay information, the Parental Leave Act, the U.S. Social Security Administration, training, human rights information, wvOASIS, and a host of other relevant subjects.



MEETINGS – Continued from Page 8

body for the purpose of addressing an unexpected event which requires immediate attention because it poses either an imminent threat to public health or safety; an imminent threat of damage to public or private property; or an imminent material financial loss or other imminent substantial harm to a public agency, its employees, or the members of the public which it serves. The full text of the Open Meetings Act is on the Commission's website.

These specific definitions will assist governing bodies in complying with the Open Meetings Act and in promoting accountability and transparency in government. Members of a governing body will be able to determine whether a true emergency exists by asking whether the perceived emergency presents an imminent threat requiring immediate action.

FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AGENCIES

House Bill 2747 also changes the filing requirements for State agencies. The paper version of the State Register will be eliminated and governing bodies of the executive branch of the State will only need to electronically file notice of each meeting by posting it on the Secretary of State's website.

Each notice of a special meeting or a regular meeting shall be filed in a manner to allow each notice to appear on the Secretary of State's website at least five business days prior to the date of the meeting. The notices must state the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting. The date of the meeting is not counted, and if the notice is filed outside regular business hours it will be deemed to be filed the next business day.

In the event of an emergency, a governing body may call an emergency meeting and file the notice of the meeting as soon as practicable prior to the meeting. The emergency meeting notice must state the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting and the facts and circumstances of the emergency.

If a meeting notice is not filed correctly, any adversely affected party may petition circuit court to invalidate any action taken at any meeting not properly noticed.

In conclusion, the Ethics Commission is confident that these two amendments will better serve the public and governing bodies throughout the State. The Ethics Commission continues to encourage public servants to contact staff any time they have questions regarding the application of the Open Meetings Act.

The complete text of the Open Meetings Law, W. Va. Code § 6-9A-3 and HB 2747 are available on the Commission's website www.ethics.wv.gov.

Reprint courtesy of the West Virginia Ethics Commission

Pencil In ...



Take a few moments to read the **WV Ethics Review**, the official newsletter for the West Virginia Ethics Commission. Head to www.ethics.wv.gov and click on the newsletter link on the right-hand side. Be sure to bookmark the site!



ATTENTION ALL STATE AGENCIES: The State EEO Office reminds everyone that **Affirmative Action Plan Reports are due September 3, 2013**. Call 304-558-0857 for more information.



Gather up the family to enjoy **two FREE Labor Day weekend concerts at Chief Logan State Park's Museum in the Park**. The August 31 and September 1 shows will feature Logan native Roger Bryant, grandson of WV folk legend Virginia Myrtle "Aunt Jennie" Wilson and several other familiar performers. For information, go to www.wvculture.org and click on the "Events" tab.



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