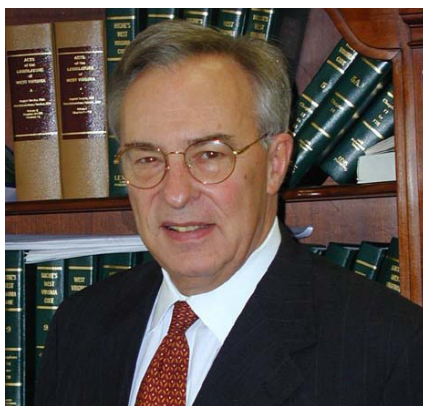


John Poffenbarger Featured in National Publication

Edited and reprinted from an article in the September 2004 issue of Quotes, Notes, & Anecdotes, the Department of Administration's newsletter. Photo courtesy of Diane Holley.

Acting Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary John T. Poffenbarger was recently featured in *The Bond Buyer*. This daily Washington, D.C. publication is committed to serving the municipal bond industry and reaches more than 40,000 finance professionals, bond issuers, government officials, and investors.

Poffenbarger's interest in bond issues was highlighted, as well as his role in two of West Virginia's largest bond possibilities – a prolonged pension bond issue and a pro-



*Acting Secretary
John T. Poffenbarger*

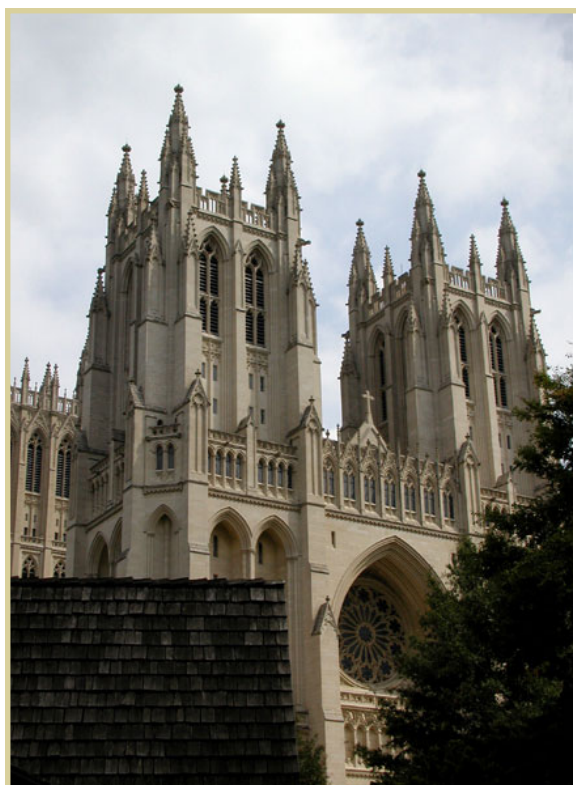
posal to secure the State's revenue from the Master Settlement Agreement with the nation's major tobacco manufacturers.

While the proposed sale of \$3.8 billion in pension bonds won't cover the entire shortfall, Poffenbarger indicated the bonds could help keep the pension program funded at 75 percent. "The pension bond issue is one of the biggest challenges facing the department. We'll have to wait and see what the Supreme Court's going to do," he said.

Arguments before the Supreme Court were set for September 1, which exceeds the 90-day minimum requirement for the bond issue to go before voters in November, should the Supreme Court rule as such.

Poffenbarger said if the pension bond deal fails, there is a Plan B that was set up by the 1994 Legislature, implementing a 40-year outline to fill in the unfunded gap with annual contributions of more than \$200 million. He added that Governor Wise may call a special session in September to revisit the tobacco bond issue, which could generate an estimated \$630 million in revenue, and to address the State's pension systems.

Additionally, Poffenbarger says several State offices are considering improvements or expansion to their facilities which may require debt financing. This may mean that the State's Economic Development Authority will soon be planning a new lease revenue bond sale.



For many years, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. has individually honored each state in the union. In 1996, the third Sunday of each month was designated Major State Day. On September 12, 2004, the Cathedral celebrated West Virginia Major State Day.

Governor Bob Wise attended and participated in the service. He was joined by officials from several West Virginia churches, a number of State citizens, and the Appalachian Children's Chorus (which also participated in the service).

For photos and more, visit:

www.cathedral.org/cathedral/programs/westvirginia/1.shtml

www.cathedral.org/cathedral/programs/stateday.shtml

Rise to the Challenge and Raise the Literacy Level

Contributed by Lori FitzGerald of the West Virginia Library Commission.

If you're able to read this article, count yourself among those fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to learn to read and write at a pace in which you could readily learn, and to have done so in your native language. Literacy probably isn't an issue you think about daily, but for seven out of 10 Americans, it can lead to poverty, illness, welfare, loss of income, and even crime.

Why should you rise up to the challenge and volunteer to help the literacy movement during West Virginia Literacy Month this September?

Chances are you have already met the people who need assistance, but you may not recognize them. They are your neighbor trying to read a medication bottle and hospital discharge orders, the single parent in the grocery line trying to calculate if there is enough money for the food in the shopping cart, the job applicant muttering in another language with eyebrows knitted in confusion, and the unemployed teenager contemplating stealing just enough gas to keep searching for work.

Since literacy is a battle so often fought with insufficient funding, we are forced to rely heavily on volunteers. **Of course, volunteers are needed year round,** but for one month out of the year, West Virginia recognizes those who need literacy assistance and those who provide and support it.

In 1991, literacy was defined by Congress as "an individual's ability to read, write, and speak in English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential." However, to simply classify an individual as literate or illiterate is an impossible task, so the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) de-

veloped a classification scale to address the congressional definition.

Each of the three scales (prose literacy, document literacy, and quantitative literacy) reflects a different type of real-life literacy task. For example: finding information in texts, completing forms, and interpreting graphs and charts. Among the scales, there are also five Levels of literacy with Level 1 being the lowest.

Currently, West Virginia has an average of 20% of its population at Level 1. McDowell County has the highest rate with 37% of its population at Level 1, while Putnam County has the lowest with only 14%. A map of each county's literacy level is available through the West Virginia Library Commission at http://librarycommission.lib.wv.us/PDF/WV_Lit_Map.pdf.

The figures on the map only represent individuals at Level 1 and do not begin to address those individuals performing on Levels 2-5. The International Adult Literacy Survey of 1995 found that 47.5% of Americans are functionally illiterate. Put quite simply, almost 1 out of every 2 Americans. Therefore, the challenge has been raised to volunteer, support, and explore literacy.

On September 2, 2004, Susan Hayden, Adult Services Consultant for the West Virginia Library Commission met with a panel of specialists for an open forum at the WVLC Reference Library in the Cultural Center to discuss the difficulties and needs associated with literacy issues.

For additional information on literacy in your area, and how you can help, visit your local public library or one of the following websites:

The West Virginia Governor's Council on Literacy:	www.wvliteracy.org/
ProLiteracy Worldwide:	www.proliteracy.org/
The West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc.:	wvabe.org/wvaea.htm
The National Institute for Literacy:	www.nifl.gov/lincs/

For specific questions or more information, contact Susan Hayden at haydens@wvlc.lib.wv.us or 1-800-624-9021, or the Adult Education Hotline at 1-800-642-2670, ext. 212.

New Digital Format for Talking Books in the Works

Nearly 3,000 blind and physically handicapped West Virginia citizens are eagerly anticipating a coming improvement in talking books.

Talking books allow these individuals access to the reading materials by providing audio versions. These audio versions are usually recorded on four-track cassette tapes which can be played only on specific players that people with certified disabilities possess. The number of cassettes required for each piece of material depends on its length; therefore, only one may be required for some pieces, or perhaps as many as four are needed for others.

To make access easier, the United States Library of Congress is in the process of researching the conversion of talking books from the current cassette format to a digital format. By 2008, they hope to have a digital format that will be slightly larger than a credit card (but smaller than the current cassettes). According to Donna Calvert, Director of Special Services for the West Virginia Library Commission, the medium used will be some sort of flash memory technology. Compact discs (CDs) have already been ruled out.

Culture and History Announces Archaeological Collections Facility to be Built at Grave Creek

Contributed by Ginny Painter of the Division of Culture and History.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) has announced plans to build a facility to house the State's archaeological collections. The new facility will be constructed over the next two years at Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex in Moundsville.

Currently, there are no State or federal repositories in West Virginia suitable for storing archaeological materials. According to Troy O. Body, WVDCH Commissioner, the new one-story, 9,000-square-foot wing will be added to the northeast corner of the complex's museum. In addition to a state-of-the-art collections storage area, Body said the new facility will feature conservation labs for curators and a study area for researchers.

"This new wing at Grave Creek will address the urgent need for a facility to properly store the State's archaeological collections," said Body. "We have an obligation to protect these priceless artifacts for future generations, and have carefully planned the new addition to accommodate both the current collection and its anticipates growth over the next 20 years."

The West Virginia Legislature has allocated \$2.1 million for the facility, which is slated for completion in 2006.

To find out more information about the archaeological collections facility at Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex, contact Dee DeRoche at 304/843-4128.

Operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex features one of the largest and most famous burial mounds built by the prehistoric Adena people. A massive undertaking, construction of the mound took place in successive stages from about 250-150 B.C., and required the movement of more than 60,000 tons of earth. Exhibits and displays in the complex's museum interpret what is known about the lives of these prehistoric people and the construction of the mound.

Grave Creek Museum hours are:

Monday-Saturday 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Sunday 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.

*There are flowers enough in the summertime,
More flowers than I can remember.
But none with the purple, gold, and red,
That dyes the flowers of September!* – Mary Howitt



Breast Cancer on the Rise ... in Men

Breast cancer in men is still relatively rare; however, a study authored by Sharon Giordano, M.D., of the University of Texas' MD Anderson Cancer Center found that the breast cancer rate for men is rising. Giordano studied data from 1973-1998 and discovered a 25% rate increase during that time.

During the 1990's, there were just shy of 11 cases per one million men. In 2002, 1,500+ U.S. men were diagnosed with breast cancer. Survival rates for men are lower due partly because many men don't believe they can get breast cancer or they don't spot the disease soon enough. As for a cause, researchers are looking at the obesity factor.

Guys: take a hint from the women. Check yourself regularly. For more, visit www2.mdanderson.org/depts/oncolog/articles/04/4-apr/4-04-3.html

WV Recovers Funds from Claritin Settlement

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' (DHHR) Medicaid Fraud Unit has successfully reached a settlement agreement with Schering Plough, maker of the prescription drug Claritin. The settlement will bring nearly \$1.3 million back to the State.

West Virginia's portion of the multi-state settlement is \$5,111,854.05. With the amount of money deducted that the State gets in match from Medicaid, West Virginia will receive a check for just of \$1 million to be reallocated to the Bureau for Medical Services, which operates the Medicaid program.

West Virginia currently receives a three-to-one match in Federal versus State funds for the State's Medicaid Program. We are required to return the portion of the money provided by the settlement that was initially provided to the State by the federal government.

The settlement involved numerous other states working together to secure the best settlement for all involved parties.

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit within DHHR works to investigate issues which affect Medicaid payments to businesses and organizations that provide services to the State's Medicaid population. Last year, the unit was responsible for recovering over \$7 million (State and federal share).

Don't Get Caught by 'Phishing' Phonies

Well, they're at it again. Those annoying pests known as computer hackers have come up with a new way to "hack" into your personal information called Phishing. This time, however, they make the victim part of the plan.

Phishing (pronounced just like the word 'fishing') occurs when these cyber criminals create fake/imitation e-mails which may contain copies of legitimate webpages and send them to you in an attempt to get you to provide sensitive or personal information. The phony e-mails may ask you to reply back or click on a website link in order to provide information such as PIN numbers, accounts numbers, social security numbers, passwords, user names ... any type of information that should be protected.

The key factor is that the e-mails may look completely on the up-and-up. They may indicate the sender is a bank, credit card company, online payment service, online retailer, mortgage company, or any other type of authentic business. The e-mails may contain threats about account closure/suspension, indications of urgency to reply, or offers of reward in order to entice the recipient to respond immediately without thinking.

If you receive an e-mail as described above, be sure to check out its authenticity by calling the institution or company. If you've already received and responded to an e-mail that you are now suspicious of, call the institution or company to check your status.

If you'd like to read more information about phishing, visit www.antiphishing.org on the internet.



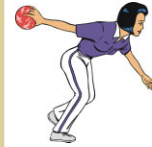
Cisco Systems, the company which supplies the State with standardized equipment for its wide area network, brought its traveling Government Solutions Showcase Truck to the Capitol on September 16, 2004.

The 18-wheeler is filled with hi-tech demonstrations of what the company feels are its



"best practices" applications and equipment. Those fortunate enough to tour the showcase were able to view state-of-the-art features like video conferencing, wireless LAN solutions, host-based intrusion protection against computer viruses/worms, and even a bicycle mounted with a mobile router that allows the user mobility in order to assess and access systems, including the ability to view security cameras.

Pencil In ...



Looking for something to do on Monday nights? Give a try to the **State Employees Mixed Bowling League**. Teams are currently meeting at Ventura Lanes for 32 weeks. Additional and substitute bowlers are needed for all skill levels. Call Jackie Browning at 558-3650, ext. 11, for more information.

CAMC Health Information Center

All PEIA members (PPB Plan and managed care) may use CAMC's **Health Information Center** by calling 1-888-432-5849 or visiting the center's webpage at <http://healthinfo-center.org/>. It's staffed by registered nurses and is open Mon.-Fri., 8:30-4:30.



The **WV Adult Education Association** will hold its first regional institute and its eighth annual adult education and family literacy Conference October 24-27, 2004. If interested, visit www.wvaea.org/general%20information.html.