

Wise Announces September 11 Remembrance Plans

"The tragic events of September 11, 2001 will forever stay with all of us; we will never be the same."

So wrote Governor Bob Wise in an August 13, 2002 memorandum to State employees. On that same day, Wise also announced plans for West Virginia's September 11 Remembrance Ceremony to mark the one year anniversary of the terrorist events which shook us, individually and collectively, to our core.

A 2-hour ceremony will be held at the State Capitol on the stage in the courtyard area (the north side of the Capitol near the Division of Motor Vehicles Building). The event will be many-faceted, and include remarks from Governor Wise, readings and scriptures by several members of various religious faiths, and patriotic performances by the 249th Army Band out of Morgantown, the Appalachian Children's Choir, and Nicole Yonkosky. Many areas of public service will be represented, and a moment of silence will mark each separate attack. Additional plans will be announced through various news media as they are confirmed.

"This is a time for us to come together ... to remember the victims of the attack ... across lines that divide us, demonstrating to the world our courage and compassion."

These words are paraphrased from the Governor's press release announcing the ceremony. It is an event

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Although our lives were forever changed on September 11, 2001, Lady Liberty still stands majestically in New York Harbor (circled area). Photo from March 2002

Please share information about the Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony with your friends and relatives, and encourage them to attend. Those who come should arrive no later than 8:15 A.M. Free parking and shuttle service to the Capitol will be available at Laidley Field on a first-come first-serve basis. **RAIN LOCATION:** Upper Rotunda, Main Capitol Building, with no time changes.

Remember to wear red, white, and blue that day!

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS September 9-13, 2002

MONDAY

11:30 - NOON	Opening Ceremony: Speaker: Governor Bob Wise	North Capitol Steps
	Music:	
NOON - 12:30	A local high school band (group announced later)	North Capitol Steps
12:30 - 1:00	Anthony Thaxton & David Barker	North Capitol Steps

TUESDAY

9:30	2002 PSRW Bake-Off Judging (Samples will be distributed to public after judging)	Capitol Rotunda
11:00 - 1:00	Music: Wil Smith	North Capitol Steps
NOON	Bake-Off Awards Presentation (Samples will be distributed to public after awards)	Capitol Rotunda

WEDNESDAY

RED, WHITE, & BLUE DAY - please wear red, white, & blue today!		
8:30 - 10:30	Governor Wise's Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony	Courtyard Stage
11:30 - 1:00	Music: 249th Army Band	Courtyard Stage

THURSDAY

11:30 - 1:00	Music: Scotty Owens (www.scottyowens.com)	North Capitol Steps
1:30 - 3:30	Governor's Awards Ceremony (By invitation only)	Cultural Center

FRIDAY

11:30 - 1:00	Music: John Ross	North Capitol Steps
12:15 (approx.)	Drawing for Durbin - Greenbrier Valley Trip	North Capitol Steps

MONDAY through THURSDAY

11:30 - 01:00	Awareness Fair/Agency Exhibits	Capitol Corridors
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RAIN INFO: www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/psrw/default.htm

What would you do if someone said to you, “\$1646.40 for your thoughts ...”?

Employee Suggestion Program Wants Your Ideas!

Johnnie E. Withrow, a Maintenance Engineer with the State Treasurer’s Office, didn’t know exactly how much his thought was worth, but he had a cost-saving idea that he submitted to the State Employee Suggestion Program (SESP).

When all was said and done, the SESP Awards Committee approved Withrow’s idea for a cash award and on August 16, 2002, he received a check in the amount of \$1646.40. Jerry Simpson, Assistant Treasurer, along with some of the Suggestion Program committee members, made the presentation to Withrow in the Governor’s Reception Room. When asked if he had plans for the money, Withrow said, “The check came just in time. My family and I are going to Cincinnati for the weekend.”

The Suggestion Program has been around for several years, but there’s been a lull in activity. In these days of trying to save money while still providing outstanding service, our government leaders and managers are once again looking to a valuable

resource for cost-saving measures – and that valuable resource is YOU!

Look around. Are your thought wheels in motion? If you come up with an idea that can significantly reduce costs, write it down. Research and calculate the savings to the best of your ability (if possible), then submit it to your agency’s Idea Counselor, who will research the idea’s feasibility with appropriate staff and agencies.

Suggestions that make it to final approval by the Awards Committee are worth up to 20% of the first year’s savings to the employee.

Who’s eligible? Where do you get a form? Essentially, any current State employee, or any former employee who submitted an idea prior to leaving State employment, is eligible, including those employed on a part-time or temporary basis. Exceptions are some supervisory personnel, elected officials, and employees who serve on the Awards Committee.

An SESP informational website is in place (www.legis.state.wv.us/



Johnnie E. Withrow (left center) receives his award from Assistant Treasurer Jerry Simpson. Also pictured are Harriett Fitzgerald and Debbie Jones.

[legishp.html](#)) but is being revised and enhanced. For now, you have to navigate through the Joint Committee link to find the page, but that will soon change. You can also call Belinda Eggleston at 347-4800 for forms and details. Good luck!



Net Gain
Internet info ... a byte at a time

IS&C’s New Website; PSRW Info Online

The Information Services and Communications Division has updated and overhauled its website.

<http://www.state.wv.us/scripts/admin/isc/>

And don't forget ... you'll find the most current info on Public Service Recognition Week activities at the Division of Personnel's website:

<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/psrw/default.htm>

IS&C Conference/Expo Set for October

The Information Services and Communications (IS&C) User Conference and Expo is scheduled for October 16-17, 2002 at the Holiday Inn - Charleston House in Charleston.

The 2-day event will begin on Thursday, October 16, with registration starting at 7:30 A.M. and the welcome at 8:30. A guest speaker is scheduled for the first day, and lunch and breaks will be provided on both days.

The Expo will host booths for those vendors that provide information technology-related services via statewide contracts. The Conference will feature 45-minute information sessions that will be available on a first come-first serve basis.

Cost for the Conference and Expo is \$75 per person for early registration (prior to September 30, 2002); the late registration fee is \$100. There is no charge for persons who attend on the Expo portion, but **only those who pay the fee are entitled to attend the sessions, meals, etc.**

You can register online at IS&C’s new and improved website (see Net Gain at the left of this article for the website address).

Call the IS&C Help Desk for more: 558-1257 or 1-800-982-2472



Controlled Access Training has been ongoing for Capitol employees since June. Workers are learning proper procedures for entering State office buildings, and what items are not permitted.

Above, Officer Bob Long of Protective Services and Jim Wells, Assistant Director for the Division of Personnel's Employee Relations Section, demonstrate proper use of one of the screening devices that will be available to security staff.

State Receives Anti-Terrorism Grant from Justice Department

The Department of Justice has awarded West Virginia \$1.3 million in grant money to be used in responding to terrorist attacks. Six regional teams will be formed and trained to respond to situations involving biological, chemical, nuclear, radiological, and explosive weapons. The money will also be used to purchase necessary equipment.

Neal Sharp, Hazard Technology Director for the Office of Emergency Services feels the use of regional teams is the best approach. In an online article at PoliceOne.com, Sharp said, "it would be impossible to give every fire department money ... These regional teams can draw on a variety of resources that can address weapons of mass destruction."

Sharp also stated that some of the funds would be used to provide equipment needs for both the State Fire Marshal's Office and the West Virginia State Police.

SCU Requires New Routing Number

Taken from The State Credit Union's newsletter, Summer 2002 edition.

State Credit Union (SCU) checking account holders who order checks from somewhere other than the credit union, or who have checks that were purchased a while back, need to review the routing numbers printed on their checks.

In September 1999, the State Credit Union (formerly the Public Employees Credit Union) switched processors for check clearing. This resulted in a change of the routing number.

The routing number is found on the bottom left corner of your checks. You need only review one check on each pad. The correct routing number is 251984467.

Beginning in September 2002, checks with incorrect routing numbers may be delayed in processing, or even not processed at all. If you have a number different from the one stated in the previous paragraph, you should discard those checks and order new ones. **The State Credit Union will pay for an order of 25 checks from its supplier, Liberty, to get you a supply to use until you can obtain a larger order from the supplier of your choice.** It is, however, recommend by the Credit Union staff that you NOT purchase your first set of checks from anyone other than the SCU. The State Credit Union is not responsible for your checks not clearing if you do not order your first set from them, nor are they responsible for checks that do not have the correct information on them.

If you have a different routing number than the one above, or if you have questions, please contact the Credit Union at 558-0566 or by email at wvpecu@aol.com.

PEIA ANNOUNCES:

Around this time each year, the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) requests the recalculation of Optional Life premiums based on policyholders' ages as of September 1 of the current year.

PEIA is in the process of awarding a new life insurance contract and will hold a **life insurance open enrollment September 25 through October 25, 2002**. Since all premiums will change on January 1, 2003 based on the new contract, PEIA **WILL NOT** do the updates for September 2002; therefore, no changes will be made to employee premiums for policyholders who are enrolled in Optional Life coverage until January 1, 2003.




If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact your agency Benefits Coordinator.

No Optional Life Premium Changes Until January 2003



BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

By the time you read this, your kids will be back in school. When you finish jumping for joy, take a moment and read the following to see if you need to address these issues:

-  Many children who would otherwise do well in school get poor grades because they can't see properly. When was the last time you had your child's eyes tested?
-  Do your child's tennis shoes fit? Kids always grow over the summer, and that includes their feet. Make sure they have shoes that fit correctly.
-  Do all you can to ensure your child eats a good breakfast before heading off to school.

REMEMBRANCE – Continued from Page 1

for all citizens and Wise has issued an open invitation to come for any and all who wish. Because of the significance of the event, the Governor has joined with our State Constitutional Officers in granting State employees time off work *without charge to leave* from 8:00 A.M. through 10:30 A.M. specifically to attend the ceremony. Agency heads are to ensure that essential personnel and sufficient staff remain on the job so that government operations and services are maintained and available. *In addition, employees are reminded to consult with their supervisors about specific procedures and instructions for attending.*

For those unable to attend who wish to conduct their own remembrances and moments of silence, we solemnly provide the following times of events:

- 08:48 A.M. American Airlines Flight 11 strikes the World Trade Center's North Tower.
- 09:05 A.M. United Airlines Flight 175 strikes the World Trade Center's South Tower.
- 09:43 A.M. American Airlines Flight 77 strikes the Pentagon.
- 10:00 A.M. United Airlines Flight 93 crashes in Pennsylvania.

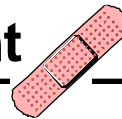
In the event of rain, the Remembrance Ceremony will take place in the Upper Rotunda of the Main Capitol Building.



Thank You!

A big thank you to the student interns who provided great assistance to several State agencies this summer. Good luck in your endeavors as you return to school!

News From the Medical Front



Millions of Americans have damaged the cartilage that keeps their knees operating smoothly. Major surgery to install an artificial knee is often the recommended cure. But there may be another 'best' treatment! A new disc made of cobalt chrome could help postpone knee replacement surgery for years.

The Unispacer System spacer is set between the knee bones in an hour-long surgery. About 400 spacers have been installed so far with no complications.

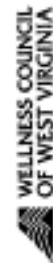
ALSO ...

Walking helps to prevent osteoporosis, but it does little to build bone. According to studies at the University of Cambridge in England, to make bones stronger, it takes 2 hours a week of higher-impact activity such as step aerobics, jogging, tennis, or weight training.

Pencil In ...



The WV GIS Coordinator's Office is hosting the 2002 **West Virginia GIS Forum and Exhibition** at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston on October 2-4, 2002. For information, go to www.wvgs.wvnet.edu/www/gisforum2002/gis2002htm on the internet or call Craig Neidig at 558-4218.



The **16th Annual Governor's Conference on Worksite Wellness** will take place at the Charleston Marriott on October 21-22, 2002. For information, contact the Wellness Council of West Virginia at 766-2686.

West Virginia **hunting and fishing licenses** are available online at anytime of the day or night. Go to www.wvhunt.com or www.fish.com, select your license, pay with your credit card, and print out your license. No lines, no hassles, and the site is secure!



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