

## State of State Address Provides Powerful, Positive Message



*Governor Bob Wise greets those in attendance at his second State of the State Address on January 9, 2002.*

*Photo courtesy Steve Rotsch.*

“Despite all that we faced, we are better off today than a year ago.”

Although made toward the end of Governor Bob Wise’s second State of the State Address, it was a powerful statement which offered both hope and confirmation that West Virginia is strong.

Wise began by recognizing members of West Virginia’s National Guard units that have been activated in our nation’s war against terrorism. He praised the units for their outstanding service and thanked legislators for taking action to preserve benefits for guard members. He went on to thank employers for their roles in assisting guard members and their families. The colors from these units have been posted in the Governor’s Reception Room as a daily reminder of the protection provided by our brave men and women.

The Governor recalled how we have been tested over the past year by floods, fire, malpractice insurance collapse, terrorism, and other

devastating events; yet he emphasized how we have continually moved forward to make West Virginia an outstanding place to live and work. He stated that *his* goals and *our* goals are one in the same – good-paying jobs, a superior educational system, excellent health care, safety, and above all, to bring those who have left the State back home.

Stressing that the first priority of government is to protect public safety, Wise has proposed funding for additional State troopers. “Many counties are without State Police coverage. They need - and we need - more troopers to provide for the safety of 1.8 million people.”

In an effort to help West Virginia families curtail back-to-school expenses, Governor Wise told lawmakers he is requesting a Sales Tax Holiday on school supplies and clothing for three days prior to the beginning of school in August.

In his speech, Wise reiterated that West Virginia is moving ahead by attracting new business interest and investment. He cited Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, a San Francisco-based international law firm that desired a global operations center. Ralph Baxter, Jr., the firm’s chairman and CEO, and native Mountaineer, found West Virginia perfect for its hard-working, skilled workforce and available resources. OH&S will invest \$10 million and create 250 high-paying jobs. Baxter has also graciously agreed to head the Governor’s Ambassador Council, a group comprised of business leaders from across the nation who have strong West Virginia ties. They will advise State leaders on strategic issues, give objective external reviews of our business policies, and advertise our strengths to business decision makers.

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### NEW EEO DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Earlier this month, Governor Bob Wise announced his appointment of Anthony D. Eates, II to the position of State Equal Employment Opportunity Director.

Eates is a former assistant attorney general in the Legal Division of the Department of Health and Human Resources, and a former assistant public defender for Kanawha County. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from West Virginia University and a law degree from the West Virginia University College of Law.

“I am extremely pleased that Anthony has agreed to serve as EEO Director,” said Wise. “He will be an asset to the office.”

### IT’S A NEW YEAR!

IF NEEDED, HAVE YOU:

- ✓ Updated your tax withholding info?
- ✓ Updated your address/phonewith your employer?
- ✓ Updated your beneficiary info?
- ✓ Checked your contact information in the State’s online directory?



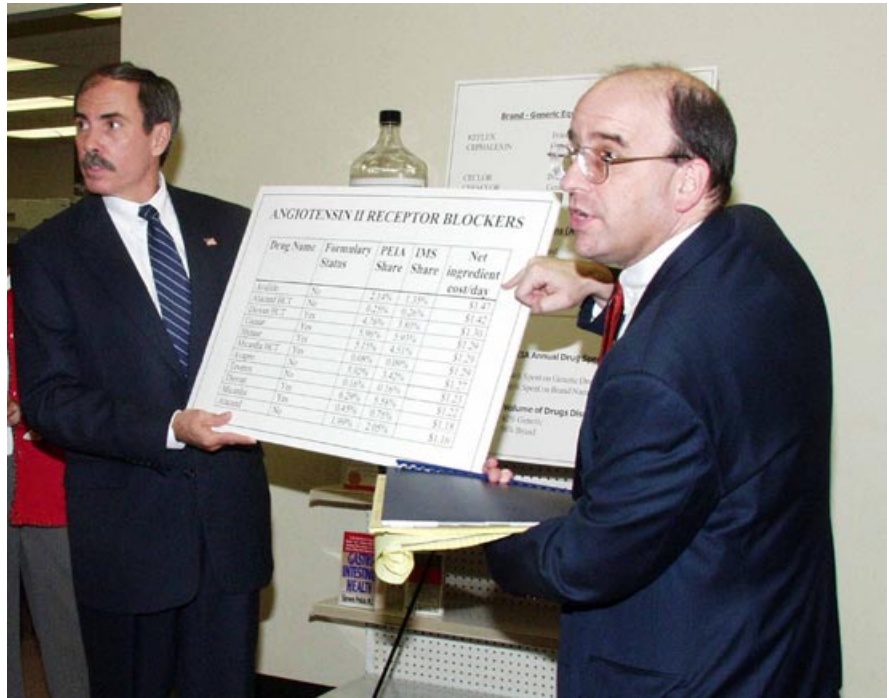
# PEIA PPB Members Receive Antibiotic Copay Break

During the months of January and February 2002, the copay for generic antibiotics will be waived for employees enrolled in the Public Employees Insurance Agency's (PEIA) PPB Plan (after meeting the required annual deductibles).

In addition to giving members a break, PEIA officials also hope the move will introduce members to the benefits of generic medicines. The FDA requires that generic drugs contain the same *active* ingredients and be equivalent in strength and dosage to brand name medicines, and the difference in price is quite significant. An example cited in a letter sent to PEIA PPB Plan members stated that a brand name antibiotic with a cost of \$69.44 has a generic equivalent with a cost of only \$16.46 – a difference of just under \$53! Copays for generic antibiotics are \$5 as opposed to copays of \$15-25 for brand name drugs.

Not all antibiotics have generic equivalents, but for those that do, the cost savings for PEIA is tremendous. PEIA Director Tom Susman tells us that every 1% of the PPB Plan membership who opts for the use of generics saves the agency \$500,000 – money which directly translates to insurance premiums.

Since January and February are the months when upper respiratory infections are more prevalent, this waiver should benefit more people and also expose more employees to the value of using generic antibiotics. For a list of generic equivalent antibiotics, visit PEIA's website at [www.wvpeia.com](http://www.wvpeia.com).



*Governor Bob Wise and PEIA Director Tom Susman announce the generic antibiotic copay waiver for PPB Plan members at a Morgantown press conference this past December. Photo by John Bright and provided by the Governor's Office.*

## FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Log on to [www.onelife.americanheart.org](http://www.onelife.americanheart.org) for steps to better health



PEIA PPB Plan members have a fantastic benefit available to them, yet too few enrollees use it. The CareWise Nurseline is a 24-hour service staffed by licensed nurses to help determine if medical situations are simple ailments or more serious conditions that require the attention of a doctor. Using the CareWise Nurseline can be a tremendous cost-saver for the employee and PEIA.

Did you know recent studies indicate that 53% of emergency room visits are non-emergencies? By preventing unnecessary,

lengthy, and expensive trips to the emergency room, employees and PEIA save by not paying the higher costs and copays associated with emergency room treatment.

Using the nurseline is free, and so is the phone call. When you have a medical situation for which you have questions, the CareWise Nurseline is a valuable resource to help determine the appropriate level of care you need.



Giving flowers on Valentine's Day follows a tradition dating back to the time when, according to folklore, Cleopatra gave a feast for Mark Anthony and covered the floor with a carpet of fresh roses. Poets have long used the connection between love and flowers in their work. Shakespeare mentions roses more than 60 times.

## New Year, New Classes, Lots to Learn

Contributed by Marilyn Padon of the Information Services and Communications Division.

Information Services and Communications' Technology Learning Center (TLC) has begun the new year with a series of exciting new classes. Beginning with Microsoft's release of Office XP (also known as Office 2002), the TLC will offer upgrade classes as follows:

Upgrade from Word 97 to Word 2002 - Basic Features  
 Upgrade from Word 97 to Word 2002 - Advanced Features

Upgrade from Excel 97 to Excel 2002 - Basic Features  
 Upgrade from Excel 97 to Excel 2002 - Advanced Features

Upgrade from PowerPoint 97 to PowerPoint 2002 - Basic Features  
 Upgrade from PowerPoint 97 to PowerPoint 2002 - Advanced Features

For new Microsoft Suite 2002 users, the following classes are now available:

Introduction to Word 2002  
 Introduction to Excel 2002  
 Introduction to PowerPoint 2002

In addition, other classes are offered. Current users of Microsoft Word 97 can take a Microsoft Word 97 Super User class, and in March, a new PageMaker series will begin. The PageMaker courses will be a series of 8 classes designed to feature a publishing project and related new PageMaker skills. The series will meet once a month. Participants may take and complete as many projects (sessions) as they wish. Each is considered an individual class.

Other classes are in the development stage and will be announced later this spring. **Also, prerequisites are required before taking any upgrade classes.** As always, the TLC enjoys working with State agencies to develop and customize classes that meet specific needs. To discuss prerequisites, schedule a class (after following your agency and supervisory protocol), or request a topic, call Mary Cummings at 558-6384.



## New State Telephone Directories Available

Adapted from an article in *Quotes, Notes, and Anecdotes*, the Department of Administration's newsletter.

The 2001-2002 West Virginia State Government Telephone Directory is now available for purchase through the West Virginia Correctional Industries Print Shop.


This valuable resource offers a variety of information relating to State government, including agency addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Information is categorized in tabbed sections, and a "Quick Reference Guide" is available in the beginning of the directory for at-your-fingertips-ease in finding needed information.

State agencies may purchase the new directories through the Quick Copy Center using the State Purchasing Card (P-Card). They're available in spiral binding for \$9 each or in 3-hole punched form (shrink wrapped) for \$7.50 each. These costs are reduced from the previous directory costs due to utilization of a more efficient, cost-saving method provided by Correctional Industries.

Agencies wishing to purchase directories should call the Quick Copy Center at 558-2136.

Members of the general public (including State employees) who want to purchase directories may do so by calling Debbie Watkins at 558-3568. The cost is \$12 each (spiral bound only).





**SCU means for SECURITY for YOU**

THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION  
is now  
**THE STATE CREDIT UNION**

*On January 1, 2002, the Public Employees Credit Union became The State Credit Union.*




*It's a name change only – you'll still have the same great products and services. And don't worry about your checks, credit cards, check cards, etc. – they'll still be accepted and the new name will be incorporated when these items are replaced after depletion or upon expiration and reissuance. The internet and email addresses will remain the same.*

*If you haven't updated your credit union web address bookmark, it's:  
<http://sp3a.cunetbranch.com/wvpecu>*





An updated edition of Publication 17, the IRS' general guide to individual income tax preparation, is available free online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

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Other economic initiative proposals included:

-  Creating a \$3 million Sunny Day Fund to assist the Governor's Office in recruiting new businesses to the State.
-  Eliminating 11 ineffective tax credit programs, including the "Super Credit," which requires a 16-page application and a minimum of 50 jobs. It's cumbersome and detrimental to small business. Wise's proposal would replace the ineffective programs with four new ones that are simpler and easier for businesses to use, making them more accessible to small employers.
-  Directing the West Virginia Investment Management Board to move ahead with a \$25 million plan that will attract \$75 million additional money in federal funds, for a total of \$100 million in new investment capability.

Stating that, "Education is economic development," Wise reaffirmed his commitment to our children. He reminded parents of the PROMISE Scholarship program and unveiled several ideas to strengthen our educational system and retain our students upon graduation. Among the proposals are:

-  Funding an effort to get children thinking about college as early as 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
-  Requiring students to spend 180 days in the classroom.
-  Passing a tax credit to help individuals paying off student loans.
-  Stabilizing college budgets, limiting tuition increases, and expanding educational opportunities to non-traditional locations (for example, classes will be held at the State Capitol Complex and other locations) to help enhance career opportunities for working adults.

Pay raises for teachers and State employees are included in the budget Wise presented to the legislature, equaling an average of \$1200 for teachers and \$804 across-the-board for State employees. The Governor is also asking for removal of the 20-year cap on the annual increment, allowing employees to be compensated for ALL qualifying years of service (within the annual increment guidelines).

To read the full text of Governor Wise's 2002 State of the State Address, visit [www.state.wv.us/governor/2002sos.htm](http://www.state.wv.us/governor/2002sos.htm).

## News From the Medical Front

Acetaminophen (such as Tylenol) is one of the best and safest over-the-counter pain relievers, but it also has one of the smallest margins for error. Taking the medication according to the manufacturer's dosage and usage instructions - that is, the appropriate number of pills in the appropriate time frames for appropriate reasons - is a low-risk way to ease minor pain and inflammation and reduce fever. However, exceeding the dosage amount and/or shortening the length of time between doses, especially when done over several days in a row, can cause serious liver damage.

Another dangerous practice is combining acetaminophen with alcohol. Using it with any amount of alcohol is risky, but the more acetaminophen you take and the higher your alcohol consumption, the higher your risk of developing liver disease.

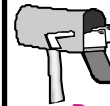
The bottom line: used correctly and wisely, acetaminophen is safe and effective.

## Pencil In ...



### PHONE FIX

The phone number listed for the **WIC Program** in the Hotlines article that appeared in the December 2001 *Stateline* should be changed to 1-800-WV-FAMILY.



### ON THE MOVE

#### Board of Risk & Insurance Mgt.

Suite 203  
90 MacCorkle Ave., SW  
South Charleston, WV 25303  
PH: 766-2646 or toll-free  
1-800-345-4669  
FAX: 766-2653

#### Prosecuting Attorneys Institute

Suite 202  
90 MacCorkle Ave., SW  
South Charleston, WV 25303  
PH: 558-3348  
FAX: 558-3360

#### Taxpayer Services Division

1206 Quarrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25301



### CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Chinese calendar follows the moon, dividing years into groups of 12, each named for an animal. This means the new year date is different each year. For 2002, **Chinese New Year 4699** is The Year of the Horse and falls on Feb. 12.