



Stateline

A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

March 2003

Volume 14 Number 3

WVECN Provides Avenue for Your Ideas/Suggestions

Think. Contemplate. Ponder. Whatever it takes to develop and implement cost-saving ideas for State government. That's the basic premise behind the West Virginia Employee Communication Network (WVECN), a State-sponsored employee suggestion program designed to take YOUR ideas and recommendations for making State government more efficient.

On December 10, 2002, Governor Bob Wise, in an unprecedented move by a West Virginia governor, held an employee Town Hall Meeting that was simulcast from the Cultural Center Theater to 14 other locations around the State. The purpose was to talk first-hand and interactively with employees about the financial crisis West Virginia faces in the coming years.

The telecast, titled *Working Together for a Common Cause*, had two segments. In the first, Wise outlined the State's situation in four parts that dealt with our present reality, the challenges ahead, how we can work smarter, and using a community of ideas. In the second segment, the Governor fielded questions asked by the audience at the Cultural Center and e-mailed and faxed in by those in attendance at the 14 outlying locations.

During his presentation, Wise detailed how in April, 2002, it became clear that a shortfall was inevitable for Fiscal Year 2004 and that changes had to be made. Wise had already requested a 10% cut in every agency, and as last summer went on, the economy worsened. It soon became a realization that not only were deeper cuts needed, but significant change in the manner in which we do business had to occur.

"It's not a question of *if* we change," said Wise. "Without change, our State will not remain financially solvent. Without change, we will not serve our individuals, our families, or our communities in the way we should."



State employees watch Gov. Wise's Town Hall Meeting telecast on December 10, 2002 at the Moundsville Public Library.

Careful evaluation by all involved in preparing and administering the State budget found the projected shortfall for Fiscal Year 2004 to be \$200-250 million. Why? Among other reasons, the Governor cited two primary causes: significantly

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Sunset Over the West Wing



This stunning sunset over the West Virginia State Capitol's West Wing was captured on the evening of February 25, 2003.

Protecting You and Your Family

In this time of increased awareness, it pays to be ready for any type of disaster. The WV Office of Emergency Services' website hosts a booklet from the American Red Cross on how to prepare for a number of emergencies and disasters. VISIT:

www.state.wv.us/wvoes/Getting%20Ready%20Information/index.htm



National Problem Gambling Awareness Week Observed March 10-17

Lottery Funds Programs to Help Problem Gamblers

West Virginia Lottery Director John C. Musgrave has announced that an additional \$500,000 of lottery administrative funds will be spent to help maintain and support programs to help West Virginians who may have gambling problems.

The Lottery has provided over \$1 million to fund the Problem Gamblers Help Network of West Virginia since its inception in March 1999. This month, a grant worth approximately \$500,000 in Lottery funds was awarded to maintain problem gambling programs and to extend services. The State Department of Health and Human Resources will administer the grant.

“The Lottery not only funds the programs, but provides thousands of dollars worth of materials such as stickers and signs with the toll-free

number for machines at racetracks and other retail locations,” Musgrave said. “We are currently working on an additional plan for prevention aimed at West Virginia’s teen population.”

The week of March 10-17 commemorated National Problem Gambling Awareness Week. The West Virginia Lottery is a supporting member of its sponsors, the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators and the National Council on Problem Gambling. The initiative not only strives to increase awareness for problem gambling, but also celebrates the men and women who are overcoming problems associated with gambling.

“A primary focus is to promote the fact that help is available for persons with gambling problems

here in West Virginia,” Musgrave said. “Lottery games are fun and harmless to the majority of players, but for some, the games create problems.”

Musgrave said that persons who think that they may have a gambling problem could reach qualified professionals at the program’s 1-800-GAMBLER hotline.

“The hotline is not just for individuals who have a problem, but also serves the family members, friends, or significant others of those who have problems,” he added.

Anyone who lives outside of West Virginia may call a national helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

CAPITOL MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR INFO

If you discover any of the following: gas/water leak, electrical problem, no gas/water/electricity, or weather-related issue, please report the problem to the General Services Division according to the cut-out telephone index card below:

GENERAL SERVICES REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK



REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

should be reported
through your
agency coordinator

558-2317

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

evenings (5 PM - 7 AM),
weekends, and
State-observed holidays

558-3517

Don't know the name of your agency General Services contact person? Call 558-2317 to find out. If a name is available, report the problem to that person, not directly to General Services.

A Reminder ...

Use State Government Mail System for Work-Related Mail Only

Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Greg Burton reminds us that:

“State government employees must do their part to protect homeland security by staying alert, taking note of anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, and reporting incidents to their supervisors who will determine if 911 should be called.” In addition, he reiterates that: “At no time are you permitted to use the State’s mail system for personal incoming or outgoing mail.”

This is a security measure -- please use U.S. Postal Service mailboxes for personal outgoing mail and have incoming mail delivered to your home or other appropriate location.

WVECEN - Continued from Page 1

reduced tax revenues and substantial increases in health care costs.

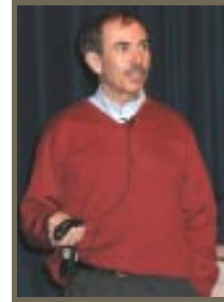
According to Wise, “... we’ve seen our personal income tax reduced below what was projected. Our severance tax revenues are below what was coming in... our sales tax revenues, for the first time, have been coming in lower than projections.” He went on to say that for these reasons, we would realize a \$30 million shortfall for the balance of this fiscal year. To meet this need, he ordered an additional 3.4% spending reduction.

The Governor discussed increases in Medicaid (projected to go up 7% in West Virginia, compared to 12-15% in most other states), a \$42 million infusion into the Public Employees Insurance Agency, and an additional \$50 million in funds for the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB). Rapidly rising health costs have resulted in employees incurring an 80/20 ratio for their health premiums. The \$42 million is needed to keep the plan at its current level. Because of the decline in the stock market, the CPRB did not realize

the returns they had projected. Even though West Virginia was the fourth best performer in the nation, we still lost like everyone else. The \$50 million won’t offset all losses, but it will keep the fund sound.

As he detailed the situation in depth, Governor Wise continually noted that in order for the State to remain viable and solvent, we have to make changes. Duplicate programs need to be consolidated, technology must be used to cut costs and improve efficiency, and we must listen to our employees. That’s where the WVECEN comes in.

Wise and State leaders want your input. “You are the key to what it is that needs to be done,” said the Governor. You can submit your ideas in all possible ways: phone, fax, e-mail, regular mail, hand-delivered, or by online form. A team has been established to field incoming ideas and suggestions. You can also read the text or view the video of the entire Town Hall Meeting through links on the site. Type www.wv.gov/wvecn/ in your internet browser and help make our State government the best in the nation!



Gov. Bob Wise runs through a sound and equipment check for his December 10 Town Hall Meeting.

Your Local In-House Printing/Copying Shop ...

WV Quick Copy Makes an Impact

The Quick Copy Convenience Center can meet most of your printing and copying needs. We accept jobs in both hard copy form and digitally, in a variety of computer programs, and we can do your job in color or black and white. Our prices are competitive for both copying or offset printing, as well as for letterhead, envelopes, forms, etc. We’re located within five minutes of the Capitol Complex on the corner of Piedmont Road and Leon Sullivan Way across from Dohm Cycles. Entry to Quick Copy is from the gravel lot at the ‘downriver end of the building’ and there’s ample parking available. See our discount coupon below, then call or e-mail us with any questions at:

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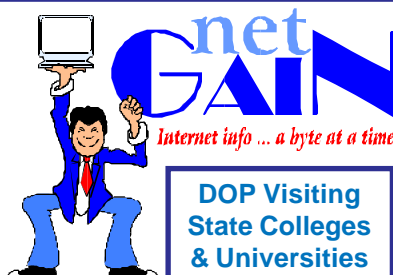
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DOP Visiting State Colleges & Universities

The Division of Personnel is participating in recruitment activities at State colleges and universities. For the latest dates and locations, visit:

www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/college/default.htm

Students unable to attend recruitment activities can find application info at:

www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/jobs/default.htm

Special Education Students Explore Opportunities at Annual Job Fair

Contributed by Jeff Seager of the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

More than 500 students from schools in Kanawha, Boone, Clay, and Putnam counties learned March 20 how rehabilitation services can give them the boost they may need to get jobs and gain independent living skills.



Attendees at the 2003 Life Choices/Job Fair eagerly gather information and materials. The event took place on March 20 at the Division of Rehabilitation Services in Institute, WV.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Seager.

Special education students traveled by school bus with teachers, counselors, and aides to the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center in Institute for the annual Life Choices/Job Fair, co-hosted by The West Virginia Rehabilitation Center, the West Virginia Career and Technical Institute at WVRC, and the Regional Education Service Agency III (RESA III).

The purpose of the fair was to inform high school students and their parents about resources available for making the transition from secondary school to work or post-secondary work-related training, according to Bill Tanzey, WVRC administrator.

The job fair was conceived in 1992 by the RESA III Interagency Planning Council, which comprises helping organizations and special education representatives from the four counties. The council now is chaired by Ron Cyrus, Director of RESA III Special Education.

“This annual event is important to these students because it exposes them to many different government and private agency services they may need, now or later in their lives,” explained John Riffe, Principal of the West Virginia Career and Technical Institute. “They may also identify job opportunities that we can help them realize.”

The mission of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services is to enable and empower people with disabilities to work and to live independently. For more information about rehabilitation services available in West Virginia, call the DRS at 766-4600 (in the Kanawha Valley) or toll-free at 800-642-8207, or visit the division’s website at www.wvdrs.org.

Pencil In ...



The WV Department of Environmental Protection’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) division will have **public meetings** as follows: For citizens living in the **Potomac Direct Drain Watershed** (Berkeley, most of Morgan, and parts of Jefferson and Hampshire counties) – Monday, May 5, at 7 P.M. at the Martinsburg Public Library. For citizens in the **Gauley River Watershed** (a major part of Nicholas and Webster counties, and parts of Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Pocahontas, and Randolph counties) – Tuesday, May 6 at 7 P.M. at the Summersville Public Library. The meetings are being held to introduce citizens to the TMDL program beginning this summer, and to tell them which rivers/streams/tributaries were selected for clean up in the areas to bring these waters back up to water quality standards.




Trolley Schedule Revised

As of March 31, 2003, the shuttle service between the State Capitol and the Laidley Field parking lot will be as follows:

MONDAY thru FRIDAY 7 A.M. to 9 A.M. – and – 3:35 P.M. to 5:15 P.M.



STOPS: Laidley Field Parking Lot, State Parking Building on Piedmont Rd., Building 5 (Piedmont Rd.), Building 6 (California Ave.), State Capitol East Wing (California Ave.), State Capitol Main Building (California Ave.), and the Governor’s Driveway (Greenbrier St.).

 **Stateline** is a publication of the West Virginia Department of Administration, Division of Personnel

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