



A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

April 2000

Volume 11 Number 4

Do You Know Your Political Activity Do's and Don'ts?

It's springtime in West Virginia! Flowers blooming, trees budding, birds chirping ... and you know the old saying: April showers bring May ... elections?

Yes, that's right ... elections. Tuesday, May 9, 2000 is Primary Election Day in the Mountain State. State workers must adhere to certain restrictions concerning political activity which are set forth by a variety of State and federal laws to prevent political pressure in the workplace.

State employees are encouraged to vote in all local, State, and federal elections. There are no restrictions on voting, expressing an opinion as a private citizen, attending political rallies as a spectator, or making lawful, voluntary political contributions. Before taking part in any other political activities, check to see if the activity falls within the acceptable guidelines below.

Cindy Smith of the Secretary of State's Office reminds us that polls

will be open from 6:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on election day. Offices on the ballot include: President, U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress (1 seat each), all State Constitutional Offices, State Senate (18 of 34 seats), State House of Delegates (all 100 seats), Supreme Court Justice (2 seats), and a variety of local offices and positions.

If you are unsure of your rights concerning political activity, call the Division of Personnel's Employee Relations Section at 558-3950.

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES MAY VOLUNTARILY:

- ✿ Campaign for a candidate or party during non-worktime, off of State property, and without use of State supplies or equipment within the provisions of Election Guidelines and Law, so long as they are not paid a fee other than actual expenses incurred.
- ✿ Sell tickets to political affairs to individuals other than employees of the classified service.
- ✿ Erect or post campaign signs on private property, as long as the property is not used as a State office in any way.
- ✿ Attend political dinners, rallies, and dances.
- ✿ Serve on campaign committees for a candidate as long as no compensation for the service is received.
- ✿ Be a candidate for local partisan or non-partisan elective office by taking a leave of absence without pay commencing with the filing date.
- ✿ Make a monetary contribution to a political party or candidate, not to exceed the limitations established by law.
- ✿ Place a campaign sticker on a personal vehicle as long as the vehicle is not used for State business.
- ✿ Wear campaign buttons, display bumper stickers, or wear apparel with political logos or endorsements during non-worktime, off State property, and out of State-issued uniforms.

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES MAY NOT:

- ✿ Serve as a ballot commissioner or election official working inside the polling place, or as a campaign financial agent or treasurer.
- ✿ Be a candidate for any national or State paid public office or court of record, or be a candidate or delegate to any State or national political party convention.
- ✿ Be a member of any local, State, or national political party committee, or hold any paid, elective public office.
- ✿ Solicit or receive any assessment, subscription, or contribution from employees in the classified service, or sell tickets to political affairs to classified service employees.
- ✿ Use any official authority or influence to interfere or influence an election or nomination for office.
- ✿ Post or distribute campaign literature in a State office building, including union bulletin boards.
- ✿ Directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command, or advise a State or local officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, organization, agency, or person for political purposes.
- ✿ Wear apparel with political logos or endorsements, or wear campaign buttons during work hours, if their position requires they be observed by or be in contact with the public.

MORE IMPORTANT POLITICAL ACTIVITY INFORMATION ON PAGE 3

Open Enrollment Begins for PEIA Insureds

Government elections aren't the only ones taking place right now. It's Open Enrollment time again at PEIA. There have been a number of changes made for Plan Year 2001, including the buyout of both Carelink and PrimeONE by Coventry. Open Enrollment began April 3 and extends through May 5, 2000.

PEIA'S Shopper's Guides were mailed in early April to *currently-enrolled* employees.

Those who may enroll in a PEIA program are current members, eligible non-members, eligible dependents, new dependents, new employees, retiring employees, and transferring employees.

Benefit Fairs are being conducted across the State. While some have already taken place, others will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

Monday, April 17

Huntington (9:00 – 1:30) Marshall University
Huntington (3:30 – 7:30) Best Western – Gateway

Tuesday, April 18

New Martinsville (3:30 – 7:30) New Martinsville Public Library

Wednesday, April 19

Weirton (3:30 – 7:30) Best Western Inn

Thursday, April 20

Wheeling (9:00 – 1:30) Northern Community College
Wheeling (3:30 – 7:30) Ramada Plaza City Center

Monday, April 24

Bluefield (3:30 – 7:30) Holiday Inn

Tuesday, April 25

Athens (9:00 – 1:30) Concord College
Beckley (3:30 – 7:30) Tamarack Park

Wednesday, April 26

Charleston (3:30 – 7:30) Civic Center

Thursday, April 27

Elkins (3:30 – 7:30) Days Inn

For more information about any of the insurance plans offered, contact PEIA at 558-7850 or visit their website (www.peia.state.wv.us).



PUBLIC EMPLOYEES:
Working for America

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK
MAY 1-5, 2000

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
(Subject to change; last updated 04/07/00)

MONDAY through THURSDAY		
11:30 - 1:00	Awareness Fair/Agency Exhibits	Main Capitol Corridors
MONDAY		
11:00 - 11:30	Opening Ceremony	North Capitol Steps
11:30 - 1:00	Keynote Address: Gov. Cecil Underwood Herbert Hoover H.S. Band & Show Choir	North Capitol Steps
TUESDAY		
9:30	2000 PSRW Bake-Off Judging	East Wing Rotunda
11:30 - 1:00	WQBE Radio and the WQBE Rabbit	Courtyard Stage
NOON	Bake-Off Awards Presentation <small>(Samples will be distributed to public)</small>	Main Rotunda
WEDNESDAY		
11:30 - 1:00	Pitch Hitters Barbershop Quartet	North Capitol Steps
11:30 - 1:00	V-100 Radio	Courtyard Stage
	Line Dancing by the Circle J. Dancers	Courtyard Stage
THURSDAY		
11:30 - 1:00	The John Ross Band	North Capitol Steps
11:30 - 1:00	Super 102.7 Radio	Courtyard Stage
1:30 - 3:30	Governor's Awards Ceremony <small>(By invitation only)</small>	Cultural Ctr.Theater
FRIDAY		
11:30 - 1:00	To Be Announced at a Later Date	North Capitol Steps

PSRW Comes to WV May 1-5

Plans for the 2000 Public Service Recognition Week celebration are well under way.

Employees are invited and encouraged to attend the Opening Ceremony at the Capitol Complex to hear Governor Cecil H. Underwood provide the keynote address.

As in past years, our regular features will take place, including the always yummy Bake-off, informational Awareness Fair, Governor's Awards Ceremony, and a little lunch-time recreation consisting of various food vendors and entertainment. Many agency offices that are located away from the Capitol Complex are holding their own celebrations, including picnics, luncheons, etc.

Got an idea for improving things? Be sure to write it down - we'll be asking for your suggestions in the future.

Okla. City Community Foundation Sends Thanks

Information contributed by Clarence Bess of the Bureau of Employment Programs.

Five years ago this month, on April 19, 1995, an explosion rocked the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 men, women, and children, and injuring another 759. In the months to follow, many individuals and organizations came to the aid of those affected. To coordinate the receipt and distribution of contributions, officials turned to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (OCCF). The OCCF, founded in 1969, is a non-profit, public foundation which serves as a channel through which donors can build endowments to support charitable causes.

State employees in West Virginia were among those who contributed to the relief efforts through a program called the Oklahoma City Help Fund (OCHF). These contributions were handled by Clarence Bess of the Bureau of Employment Programs, who organized the OCHF.

Recently, Bess received correspondence from the OCCF staff thanking everyone for their support. It reads:

TO: Donors to Oklahoma City Bombing Fund
FROM: Oklahoma City Community Foundation

It has been almost five years since the tragic bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. In the weeks and months following the bombing, more than 13,000 individuals, organizations, and corporations made contributions to help with the recovery of those who were impacted by this event. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation worked with several different fund sponsors to acknowledge and account for the contributions and to coordinate the distribution of funds to assist the survivors.

Your contribution to this effort is very much appreciated. The attached report is provided to let you know how the funds were utilized, what efforts have been made to provide assistance, and what is still being done. Your contributions have made it possible for large numbers of people to work toward restoring their lives and recovering as much as possible. On behalf of all of the people and groups who have worked with the survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing, we want to thank you for your generosity, your concern, and your help for our community. We will continue to be good stewards of these funds and to work with those still in need of assistance and support.

The letter is signed by Nancy B. Anthony, Executive Director; Carla Pickrell, Director of Administration; Susan Elkins, Grants Administrator, Disaster Relief Fund; and Anna-Faye Rose, Scholarship Coordinator, Survivors' Education Fund.

The report mentioned above states that there was a total of \$14.5 million received into separate types of funds, with the Survivors' Education Fund being the largest education fund resulting. This fund has been very effective, coupling financial assistance with crucial counseling. Since the bombing, the fund has produced the following:

Total contributions received for the fund:
 \$7.3 million (\$7,300,000.00)

Projected life of fund:
 Through the year 2016, when the youngest eligible child turns 21.

Total children eligible for assistance:
 213

Total who received scholarship assistance to-date:
 98

Total who have completed college degrees:
 23, with 10 more expected in May, 2000.

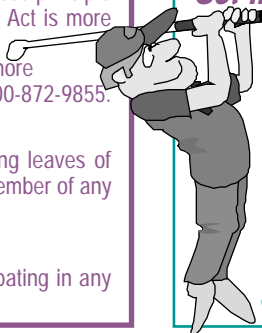
Once again, the compassion of people in the Mountain State has touched the lives of others in need. Many thanks to all who contributed. For more on the OCCF, you can visit their website (www.occf.com).

More on Political Activities for State Workers ...

Other laws related to political activities for those who work in federally-funded programs or certain State agencies are outlined below:

- Federally-Aided Programs (Hatch Act for State and Local Government Employees):**
 The Hatch Act applies to individuals employed by State or local agencies whose principle employment is connected to a federally-aided program. Because The Hatch Act is more restrictive than State law, employees covered by this legislation cannot be a candidate for any public office in a partisan, primary, or special election. For more information about the Hatch Act, call the U.S. Office of Special Counsel at 1-800-872-9855.
- Division of Highways Employees (WV Code § 17-2A-5):**
 Employees of the Division of Highways are specifically prohibited from taking leaves of absence without pay to be a candidate for or hold any public office, or be a member of any political party committee.
- Division of Rehabilitation Services Employees (WV Code § 18-10A-11):**
 Division of Rehabilitation employees are prohibited by State law from participating in any activity relating to a political campaign.

Get into the swing of things!



9th Annual Public Employees Golf Tournament
 Monday, May 22, 2000
 Pipestem Resort State Park
 Shotgun start at 10 A.M.
 Fee: \$35/person - includes greens fee, cart, and cookout.
 Entry deadline: May 12, 2000
 Call Ed Henderson at 558-2764

Thanks Extended to Health Fair Providers

Information contributed by Becky Haley of the Division of Highways.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (DOT/DOH), a recipient of the Gold Well Workplace Award by the Wellness Councils of America and the West Virginia Wellness Council, concluded another successful health fair on March 31, 2000.

Over 200 employees took advantage of the opportunity for free health screenings and examinations.

The Health Fair was organized by Becky Haley, DOH Wellness Coordinator; Mary E. Perry, DOH Wellness Co-Coordinator; and Joanna Issac, Director of Community Services. Through their efforts to coordinate the event with Thomas Memorial Hospital, employees were provided with cancer and bone density screenings, as well as a variety of other tests.

The DOT/DOH Wellness Program wishes to thank the following doctors and other health care professionals who took time away from their extremely busy schedules to participate in this year's Fair:



A health fair participant undergoes one of the many health screenings offered at the DOT/DOH 11th Annual Health Fair.

- Oral Cancer Screening:** Dr. John B. Haley, Jr.
- Colon Cancer Screening:** Kay Trent, who represented the gastroenterology practice of Drs. Timothy Harper, Walter Zajac, Richard B. Peterson, and Emily Battle
- Bone Density Screening:** Novartis Pharmaceuticals
- Hearing Screening:** The Hearing Place, who provided free screening coupons

Sincere thanks are also extended to the employees of Thomas Memorial Hospital for their valuable assistance in the Health Fair effort, and to The Public Employees Insurance Agency Pathways to Wellness Program which provided crucial support and assistance as the DOT/DOH pursued the coveted Gold Well Workplace designation.

Pencil In ...



The **free shuttle service** between the State Capitol Complex and Laidley Field has changed hours of operation to Monday through Friday, 7-9 A.M. and 3:35-5:15 P.M. The shuttle runs approximately every 10-15 minutes between Laidley Field, Buildings 5 and 6, the Main Capitol Building, and the Governor's Drive. The shuttle does not operate on State holidays.



**A New Beast ...
Unleashed
in 2000!**

**Son of Beast is the
Tallest, Fastest,
Only Looping
Wooden Roller Coaster
on the Planet!**



West Virginia Spring Days

**April 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 & 30; May 6, 7,
13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 2000**

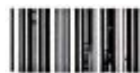
Purchase up to six (6) admissions
at the reduced rate.

**DISCOUNT COUPON (\$38.99 Value)
\$20.99 per ADULT (ages 7-59)**

**DISCOUNT COUPON (\$19.50 Value)
\$17.99 per CHILD or per SENIOR
(ages 3, 4, 5, 6, or under 48" or 60 or over)**

SPECIAL OFFER!

Visit the park after 5:00 p.m. on the night before your full day visit for only \$10.00 per person. (Must purchase next day admission at the same time).



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Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal.

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