

Retirement Board Appoints New Executive Director

Article and photograph contributed by Diane Holley of the Department of Administration



Betty S. Ireland

The Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB) appointed Betty S. Ireland as its new Executive Secretary effective August 1, 1998.

Ireland, of Charleston, holds the designative Certified Pension Consultant (CPC) and has more than 20 years of pension consulting and administration experience, with 15 years successfully managing pension administrators. Prior to her appointment, she served as Pension Consultant/Manager for Jackson & Kelly, a Charleston law firm.

Ireland said she welcomes the challenges which the CPRB will

bring and looks forward to working with the agency's staff. "I am pleased to be able to take over the reigns of the CPRB and use my pension consulting and administration experience to advance the cause of serving the State's pensioners and beneficiaries," she said.

Ireland holds a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and English/Latin from the University of Cincinnati and completed graduate work at the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies and East Tennessee State University. She has also acquired numerous professional certifications from such organizations as the American Society of Pension Actuaries and the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Ireland is also very active in professional and civic associations, including the American Society of Pension Actuaries, Charleston Estate Planning Council, CPA/Law Forum, and USTA Women's Tennis. She was the first female ever appointed to serve on the City of Charleston Board of Zoning Appeals and was later elected to serve on the Charleston City Council as an at-large representative.

The CPRB's former Executive Secretary, Jim Sims, elected to play a different role within CPRB, and now serves as director of the Defined Contribution System for the agency.

Open Enrollment is Approaching

Compiled from information contributed by Jan Long of the PEIA.

*Have you reviewed your health insurance needs?
Here are some facts you'll need to know when
making your Open Enrollment decisions.*

The Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) is changing its plan year. Currently, the plan year coincides with the calendar year, January 1 to December 31, but beginning July 1, 1999, the plan year will change to match the State's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

Making the Change

To make this change, PEIA will have a Transitional Plan Year from January 1, 1999 to June 30, 1999. This Fall's Open Enrollment period will be for the Transitional Plan Year. In the Spring, another open enrollment will be held to get you ready for the new Fiscal Plan Year.



It's Been a Summer of Wellness, Fitness, and Fun for Many State Employees!

Various State and Local Government Groups Support American Cancer Society Fundraiser

State Agency Support Big Help in 'Relay for Life'

Contributed by Bob Coffield of the WV Health Care Authority and "Relay for Life" Corporate Sponsorship Chairperson

State and local government agencies and their employees participated in the American Cancer Society's "1998 Relay for Life" on June 26-27, 1998 at Laidley Field. Included were teams from the West Virginia Health Care Authority, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, the Governor's Office, the West Virginia State Police, and the Kanawha County Circuit Clerk's Office. With the help of these State and local government teams and 59 other teams from local groups and businesses, the 1998 event raised more than \$119,000 to fight cancer in the Kanawha Valley area.

The "Relay for Life" is a 24-hour walking/running team relay event consisting of local community groups, businesses, and organizations. It is conducted to raise money for the American Cancer Society and to raise public awareness of cancer related issues. More than 900 participants from the 64 teams walked or ran on the Laidley Field track during the 24-hour event.

Cancer survivors from around Kanawha County participated in the ceremonial opening lap on Friday evening at Laidley Field to kickoff the relay. Cancer caregivers were invited to participate in the second lap and all participants of the 64 local teams participated in the ceremonial third lap. Charleston Mayor Kemp Melton, Governor Underwood's Press Secretary, Wendy Griffith, and others spoke during the opening ceremonies. A candlelight service was held for those who have lost the battle against cancer, for those fighting cancer, and for those who are celebrating the defeat of cancer. Over 3,000 luminaries lined the track at Laidley field and were lit, each in the name of an individual person, during a special ceremony. Teams set up tent areas and stayed the night at Laidley Field. Activities were held throughout the event, including entertainment by local bands and musical groups, games for kids, a cancer education booth, late night videos, a Kids Care Relay, an auction, breakfast served by Topspot Country Cookin', and a picnic lunch by Outback Steakhouse. Closing ceremonies were held on Saturday.

The "Relay for Life" began in 1985 when Dr. Gordon Klatt, a Tacoma, Washington surgeon and American Cancer Society volunteer, ran and walked on a local track for 24 hours, traveling 81 miles. He raised \$27,000 for the Society that year. From that experience, the "Relay for Life" has grown into the American Cancer Society's signature fund-raising event across the county, raising \$83 million this year.



Pictured above are some of the "Along Came Mary" team members from the West Virginia Health Care Authority. The Authority's team raised a team total of \$5,193 and placed 3rd among the 64 teams in total team fundraising.

Photo courtesy of Bob Coffield.

Plans are already underway for the "1999 Relay for Life." The Corporate Sponsorship Committee has begun recruiting local corporations and businesses to become sponsors for the 1999 Relay. Also, the 1999 Relay for Life Planning Committee is looking for committee volunteers for next year's event. If you or your agency would like to become involved as a part of the planning committee or form a government team, you can contact Amy Atkins, Community Specialist with the American Cancer Society, at 746-9950. If you know a local business or corporation who wants more information about becoming a sponsor of the 1999 Relay, please contact Bob Coffield, Corporate Sponsorship Chairperson, at 342-6991.

Treasurer's Office Wins Capitol Cup Softball Title

The 1998 Capitol Cup Softball League Champs were determined Tuesday, August 11, when the State Treasurer's Office "Greenbackers" defeated the Governor's Office team, known as "The Unindicted", by 2 points, for a score of 15-13.

After regular season records of 6-1 for both teams, the championship proved exciting. Coaches for the winning team were Mike Buchanan and Walter Hoover.

Way to go, Greenbackers! If your agency or section would like to form a team, call Carl Gunnoe of the West Virginia Development Office at 558-2234.



Pictured above, from the left (front) are Hoover, Nikki Little, Leah Welsh, and Buchanan; (back) Greg Sizemore, Bill Manley, Ed Withrow, Patty Loos, Connie Simpson, Mark Ryan, Gwen Page, Chris Sands, Greg Hodge, Bobby Johnson, and Jack Pauley.

Congratulations to State Agency Corporate Cup Winners

The 1998 Charleston Family YMCA Corporate Cup competition ended Saturday, August 22 with a strong showing by several State government teams.

The Corporate Cup is a fitness challenge to local organizations and businesses. Teams competed in 22 different events including softball, tennis, swimming, and track and field. Horseshoes, billiards, and

bowling, as well as a bed race, were thrown in for good measure.

In Division I, which is for organizations with 1-80 employees, **1st PLACE (out of 15 competitors) went to our own Information Services and Communications (IS&C) Division!**

In Division II, (81-299 employees) 5th PLACE (out of 17 competitors) went to the Department of Tax

and Revenue, and 7th PLACE went to the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

In Division III (for organizations with more than 300 employees) 6th PLACE (out of 17) went to the Division of Environmental Protection.

If you are interested in forming a team for next year's Corporate Cup, call Dave LaMaster of the Charleston YMCA at 340-3527.



STATE TRAVEL UPDATE

In July, 1998, a change went into effect for the State Travel Regulations concerning rental vehicles. Authorization for reimbursement was required from the Travel Management Office (TMO) when vehicles were not rented from the State contracted car vendor (Avis).

However, effective immediately, State employees who travel are no longer required to obtain a waiver from the TMO when renting a car from a company other than Avis. The TMO is relying on National Travel and the Travel Coordinators to pass along this information to new employees and first-time renters.

If you have any questions or if you need a complete record of the State Travel Regulations, call Catherine Bryan, Travel Manager, at 558-2613. You can also visit the TMO's homepage on the Internet at <http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/tm1.htm>

WVSECC CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF ON SEPT. 30



Governor Cecil Underwood invites State employees to join in the Kickoff for the West Virginia State Employees Combined Campaign.

Festivities will take place at the Capitol on:
WED., SEPT. 30, 1998 - 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

COME ENJOY GOOD MUSIC, FOOD, & FUN

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Transitional Plan Year Benefits vs. Upcoming Changes

Since this shortened plan year is only half as long as a normal plan year, PEIA is lowering Indemnity Plan deductibles for this period to half of their current levels. The same managed care plans are being offered for the Transitional Plan Year as were offered for 1998; however, premiums for managed care plans may be adjusted, and they may not follow PEIA's lead in adjusting benefits and deductibles for the Transitional Plan Year.

The new Fiscal Year Plan will bring some new benefits. Beginning July 1, 1999, managed care plans will offer a standard package of benefits, similar to those they offer to commercial customers. This means that there will be differences in the benefits offered from plan to plan. Starting next Spring, you'll be able to comparison shop and buy the benefits that are best for you and your family. PEIA will no longer dictate the plans' benefits packages.

An Open Enrollment will be held in April and May 1999 for the benefits that take effect on July 1, 1999. Of course, you'll get a great deal more information about the Spring Open Enrollment as it approaches.

Employee-Spouses To Be Eligible as Policyholders

Beginning with the Fall 1998 Open Enrollment, employee-spouses may participate as policyholders in all plans offered by PEIA. This policy applies to all situations in which both spouses are public employees and eligible to participate in the PEIA plan.

When both individuals are eligible for PEIA coverage, there are 4 available choices:

- 1 Each employee may enroll as a policyholder in the Indemnity Plan;
- 2 Each employee may enroll separately, with one being a policyholder in the Indemnity Plan and one being a policyholder in a managed care plan;
- 3 Each employee may select a different managed care plan. *Please note that both spouses can't be policyholders in the same managed care plan.*
- 4 The family coverage with employee spouse option may be selected, with one spouse as the policyholder in either the Indemnity Plan or a managed care plan, and the other spouse covered as a dependent for health insurance and carrying "life insurance only."

When dependent children are involved, spouses must decide which one will be the policyholder who covers the children. This decision must be made at the time of enrollment, and all eligible dependents must be enrolled under one policyholder only.

You should note that if you both enroll as policyholders in the Indemnity Plan, you will have to meet 2 out-of-pocket maximums, and deductibles for a family may exceed \$200 for health and \$100 for prescriptions.

During the year, if there is any qualifying event, the policyholder designated to enroll eligible dependents may add an eligible dependent or delete one who no longer meets PEIA's guidelines.

You can expect to see your Shopper's Guide in your mailbox sometime in mid-October. Benefit Fairs will once again be offered. Don't wait until the last minute to evaluate your situation – begin now so that you can make an informed choice that will meet your needs.


Pencil In ...



Hasbro, Inc., makers of the popular board game **Monopoly**, has announced a nationwide vote to pick the first new game piece in almost 50 years. Voters can choose between a bi-plane, piggy bank, or money sack. You can also vote for your favorite of the 10 current game pieces. Call 1-888-818-6536 or visit their website at www.monopoly.com. The favorite current token will be announced this fall; the new token will be announced sometime next year. The deadline is September 30, 1998.

A make-up teleconference on the new statewide **Employee Performance Appraisal System** is set for September 25, 1998 at 1:00 P.M. The session will be hosted live from Charleston with remote sites around the State. Seating is limited. Fax a DOP Program Enrollment form to 558-3327 ASAP to attend.



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