



Stateline

A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

May 2004

Volume 15 Number 5

State Government Leaders Receive National Honors

Two ranking State government employees have been rewarded for their excellence and expertise. **Department of Education (DOE) Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin** has been awarded a 2004 National Public Service Award, and **Nancy Atkins, Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Resources' (DHHR) Bureau for Medical Services** has been elected Chairperson for the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD).

Goodwin received her award on March 29 from the National Academy of Public Administrators. Her award, known as the "Nobel Prize

for Public Service," honors individuals who make outstanding contributions, and whose accomplishments can be viewed as models of public service both within and outside of the work environment.

Prior to becoming DOE Cabinet Secretary, Goodwin held a variety of higher education positions and received a number of awards. In 1990, she was appointed by President George H. Bush to the National Independent Commission to Review the Grantsmaking Procedures of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Atkins is a registered nurse practitioner who holds a Master's Degree in Nursing Administration and is working on a doctorate in Holistic Health Services. She has more than 30 years of experience in the health care field, and has been DHHR's Medical Services Commissioner since May of 2001.

Medicaid is the largest purchaser of health care for families and children in both West Virginia and the U.S., and the NASMD Executive Committee has an active role in the development of national health policy. Atkins will represent NASMD at meetings and by correspondence with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



2004 VANDALIA GATHERING MAY 28-30

On the grounds of the State Capitol Complex

For a schedule of events, directions, a sampling of the music, and more, visit www.wvculture.org/vandalia/index.html

The skies may have been overcast on April 7, 2004, but it was a bright day for members of the 1092nd Engineer Battalion's Alpha Company as they returned home to West Virginia after a 14-month deployment to Iraq. Helping to light the way were 58 yellow ribbons and two American flags placed along the Division of Highways' District 7 Office fence. The ribbons and flags were purchased and posted by DOH employees as a "Welcome Home" tribute and could be seen by the soldiers as their bus passed by. Information provided by Nancy Gissy; photograph by Gaylene Hacker.



CDC/DHHR Recommend Suspension of Vaccine Doses

Contributed by Joe Thornton of the Dept. of Health and Human Resources.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in conjunction with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Public Health, is recommending temporary suspension of the third and fourth doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7), currently marketed as Prevnar. This action is due to a limited vaccine supply nationwide, and will remain in effect until the quantities necessary to meet the demands of the four-dose series can be restored by the manufacturer.

According to the CDC, the production of Prevnar has been much less than expected and shipments of the vaccine have been delayed, resulting in vaccine shortages. It's estimated that the shortage will continue into, and possibly beyond, the summer months of 2004.

The vaccine is designed to prevent serious diseases such as meningitis and certain blood infections. Though not routinely recommended for children over age two, those under age two are considered at the highest risk for developing complications from the diseases associated with pneumococcal infection. Children who do not receive their recommended third and fourth doses due to the shortage should resume their immunization schedule once the vaccine levels return to normal; however, **children at increased risk of severe disease such as sickle cell anemia or immune system disorders should continue taking the full four-dose regimen.**

DOA Conducts BusinessFirst Seminars to Target State Companies

Acting Cabinet Secretary of Administration Tom Susman and Purchasing Director Dave Tinchler are pleased to announce the successful presentation of a new seminar program called *BusinessFirst*, which was designed to attract small businesses and inform them of why and how to do business with State government.

The seminar series was administered through the New Business Development Office of the Purchasing Division and was presented in the following cities during the month of April, 2004: Beckley, Clarksburg, Elkins, Fairmont, Kingwood, Lewisburg, Logan, Martinsburg, Morgantown, New Martinsville, Ripley, Weirton, Weston, Wheeling, and Williamson. The seminars consisted of two individual workshops – *Opportunities* and *Mechanics* – and all were delivered in a standardized format so that the same information was provided at each location.

The workshops emphasized the State's various needs for goods and services, and how these needs may be met by small West Virginia businesses. The *Opportunities* portion explained why businesses should target the State of West Virginia as a potential customer. In the *Mechanics* segment, participants reviewed the steps for conducting business with State government, including specifics on how to become a registered vendor and the procedures for participating in the competitive purchasing process.

According to Tinchler, the seminar series was a success. "We presented the seminars in 15 cities across the State and had active participation at each site. State facilities were used for these seminars, demonstrating that State government is visible throughout West Virginia. We're confident that we can help both our State economy and the needs of State government by working with small West Virginia businesses."

'Grateful Life Blood Drive' Set for June 9

The American Red Cross is sponsoring a special blood drive at the Capitol on June 9, 2004. Dubbed "The Grateful Life Tour," the goal is to receive 100 usable pints of blood. In order to achieve this goal, 130 presenting donors are needed. **As an incentive, each presenting donor will receive a "groovy, tie-dyed t-shirt."**

Donation eligibility rules require that you must be:

- + At least 17 years old
- + At least 105 pounds
- + In good health
- + Feeling good that day

In addition, you cannot have donated during the previous 56 days.

There is always a critical need for blood. If you meet the criteria, come to the Capitol Conference Center (Building 7, Room C) on June 9 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.



NIGHT VISION FIX

If you're having trouble seeing at night when driving, it may not be your eyes. Check your headlights. Are they dirty? Clean them and see if it makes a difference. Dirty headlights can reduce visibility by up to 75%!

YOUR FOOT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!

While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and begin making clockwise circles.

Now raise your right hand and "draw" the number 6 in the air. What happens?

Your foot will change directions, and there's nothing you can do about it!



Make Sure the Grass is Greener on *YOUR* Side!

You've heard the saying, "The grass is always greener on the other side," but there are steps you can take to make sure it's *YOUR* side that's looking best.

It's easy to spend a lot of money on grass and still not have the lawn of your dreams. Perhaps if you follow these tips, you'll move closer to your goal without spending a lot.



STEP ONE: Have your lawnmower professionally sharpened twice a year, or whenever you develop nicks in the blade. You can tell that it's time to sharpen when you see dry, stringy tops on grass that was mowed the day before.

STEP TWO: Mow in the morning or in the evening, and mow to a height of three inches once grass has reached four-and-a-half inches. Take time to measure it ... three-inch grass will look lush and thick, and have a better root system.

STEP THREE: Water your lawn well once a week, and don't walk on freshly watered grass because it compacts the soil. Also, less water is needed in humid weather.

STEP FOUR: Make spot repairs as follows:

-  Find an area in your yard where you can grow grass that can be cut to fill bare spots.
-  Once your replacement "patch" has grown, take up the damaged area, including a few inches on all sides.
-  Make sure the soil underneath is NOT compacted. Agronomists at Purdue University recommend that soil should be workable down to three inches. Mix compost into the soil and water it.
-  Cut a piece of the sod, leaving about a 3/4-inch patch of dirt below the grass, and fit it into the area you previously removed.
-  If you're repairing a large area, stagger the ends from row to row. Don't kneel on the fresh sod, and use a lawn roller if necessary.

Finally, check with your local lawn and garden supply store for good weed control and fertilizer products, and you'll end up being the envy of your neighborhood!

West Virginia Quarter Design Unveiled

By now, everyone has run across the quarters that depict various U.S. States on the backsides. These quarters are part of the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters Program – a 10-year initiative to commemorate each state in the union with its own specific quarter design.

In 2003, the Governor's Office accepted design submissions for West Virginia's quarter. More than 1800 entries were received, and the field was narrowed to five by students from the Governor's School for the Arts. Those top five designs were sent on to the United States Treasury for consideration, where two were recommended by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and recreated for coinability before being returned to the Governor's Office for final selection.

At a ceremony held on March 17, 2004, Governor Bob Wise revealed the two finalists with the assistance of students from The Bible Center, Capital High School, Dunbar Middle School, George Washington High School, John Adams Middle School, and Ruffner Elementary. These students were the first to cast votes for their choice of the quarter design.

The citizens of West Virginia were urged to vote for their choice over the next several days. Residents cast more than 79,000 ballots through the deadline of March 26.

Wise was pleased by the pride shown for our State. "Votes were cast by all walks of life – young and old ... men and women. Some teachers even made it a school project."

The West Virginia quarter will be minted and released in 2005.

Governor Bob Wise reveals the two finalist designs for the West Virginia quarter, as students from area schools look on. Students in attendance made history by being the first to cast their votes for their favorite design.

Wise unveiled the winner at a press conference held on March 31. To see the design selected from over 79,000 cast votes, see [Page 4](#) of this issue.



To see the winning design, turn to [Page 4](#).

AND THE WINNER IS ...



The West Virginia quarter, set to be minted and distributed in 2005, will feature The New River Gorge Bridge.

After completion of the voting process, the winning design was unveiled by Governor Bob Wise at a press conference on March 31.

"I want to thank everyone for participating in this process," said Wise. "It was important to me that this design was chosen by the people of West Virginia because it showcases how we feel about our beautiful state."

Pencil In ...



The United States Department of Transportation has fined several airlines and is investigating others for **misleading ads**. The law requires that airfare ads show the purchase price and **all** required conditions in readable type size. Some online ads don't point out all taxes, surcharges, or other fees.



State employees who have **travel reimbursements pending** can check on the status of them by visiting the following internet website: <https://www.wvauditor.com/vista/login.asp>



Looking to learn a new skill? **Consider studying sign language!** Classes are being offered this summer (June-August) and fall (September-November) at the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center in Institute, WV. For more details, go to www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh/sign_language_classes.htm or call 1-866-461-3578 (voice/TTY).



13TH ANNUAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9, 2004

FOR AN ENTRY FORM OR INFO, CONTACT:
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Shotgun Start - 10 A.M.
Entry Fee, Greens Fee & Cart: \$45
Deadline: May 30, 2004 - First 140 Golfers
Discount Lodging: \$54 (Double Occupancy)

PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK

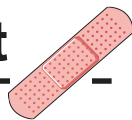
PRIZES ● PRIZES ● PRIZES

- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Low Gross - Men's
- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Low Gross - Women's
- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Low Gross - Net Scores (Callaway System)
- Closest to Pin and Long Drive Contest
- Door Prizes

HOW ABOUT A PRACTICE ROUND ON JUNE 8?

Greens Fee & Cart: \$22.50 - Tee Times start at 1 P.M. - 1-800-CALL-WVA

News From the Medical Front



TANNING BEDS:

The American Cancer Society has issued a warning that tanning indoors is just as bad as outdoors. There is a growing body of evidence that tanning beds may actually **increase** the risk of melanoma and skin cancer in general.

ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP:

Scientists have previously placed part of the blame for antibiotic-resistant bacteria on antibacterial soaps; however, a study from Brigham Young University now concludes this isn't the case. The real culprit is the overuse of antibiotics. And, although the antibacterial soaps don't hurt, they don't help much either. Their study concluded that plain bathroom soap and warm water are just as effective in killing germs. The study was published in the Journal of Applied Microbiology.

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