



Stateline

A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

July 2002

Volume 13 Number 7

State to Hold PSRW Celebration September 9-13

Get ready and gear up for West Virginia State Government's celebration of Public Service Recognition Week!

Local, state, and federal government agencies throughout the United States celebrate Public Service Recognition Week as a time to both honor those who have chosen careers in public service, and bring awareness to the public about the vital work they do and the rewards of choosing careers in public service.

The committee has been hard at work preparing the events for this year. During the week's activities in West Virginia, employees who have completed 20, 25, 30, 35, etc. years of service by June 30, 2002 will receive recognition certificates and lapel pins. Those in the 20 and 25 year categories will be honored at the agency level. Those who have 30 or more years of service will receive an invitation to attend an awards ceremony hosted by Governor Bob Wise. At that ceremony, which is scheduled for September 12, 2002 at 1:30 P.M. in the Cultural Center Theater, Governor Wise will personally present those in attendance with their recognition certificates (*please note: attendance at this ceremony is by invitation only due to capacity limitations*).

In addition, State agencies will participate in an Awareness Fair by setting up booths in the hallways of the Main Capitol Building. The public and news media are invited and encouraged to attend and visit with the employees to learn just how important government agencies and public servants are in their lives.

No celebration is complete without a little fun. Food vendors are scheduled to be in place around the Capitol Fountain daily during the lunch hours. We'll also have some entertaining music and with a little luck, some great weather!

Governor Wise will give the Opening Ceremony Address, which is set for Monday, September 9 at 11:30 A.M. on the North Capitol steps. All who are able are encouraged to attend (be sure to obtain approval from your supervisor).



On a beautiful, crisp fall morning, Governor Bob Wise greeted employees as they reported for work during last year's Public Service Recognition Week.

We bet you're wondering ...

"Will there be a Bake-Off this year?"

Find the answer on Page 2!

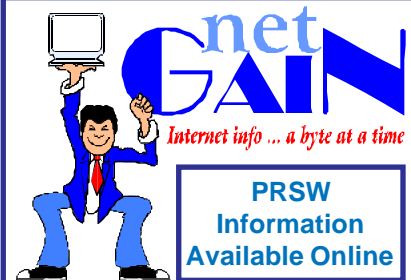


**CALL
YOUR
FRIENDS
TO
REMINDE
THEM
THAT**

Wednesday
September 11, 2002
is

**RED, WHITE,
and BLUE DAY**

Show your pride and patriotism
by wearing our nation's colors
on that day.



**PSRW
Information
Available Online**

If you'd like a quick source to check on specific activities regarding Public Service Recognition Week, visit:

<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/Empcom/psrw/default.htm>

You'll find agency and committee contacts, schedules, rain plans, and other information. The information is updated frequently, so be sure to refer back. Also, be sure to check each day during PSRW for the most current details.

The PSRW Bake-Off – 2001 and 2002

Yep, we're having a Bake-Off this year! The popular event has been part of West Virginia's celebration for many years, and both participants, judges, and samplers look forward to it. This year's Bake-Off is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10 in the Main Capitol Rotunda, with judging to begin at 9:30 A.M. and samples – yes, those wonderful, yummy, tasty samples – to be distributed once judging is completed and the samples are prepared, generally around 11:30 A.M.

As before, there will be 6 categories: brownies, cakes, candies, cookies, cream pies, fruit pies, and pastries. Pam Staats of the Division of Highways is this year's Bake-Off Chairman. For entry information, you can contact Pam at 558-2885 or pstaats@dot.state.wv.us or visit the Division of Personnel's website at www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel and follow the PSRW links.



PSRW Bake-Off judges (left) and servers (right) begin the judging process at the 2001 event.

BUT WHO WON LAST YEAR'S BAKE-OFF??

The winners in the 2001 PSRW Bake-Off were:

★ BROWNIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 st Carla Savage, Bd. of Risk & Insur. Mgt. | Chocolate Chocolate Chip Brownies |
| 2 nd Amy Balog Fairchild, Purchasing Div. | Carmel Brownie Delight |
| 3 rd Linda Middleton, Dept. of Education | Absolutely Delicious Brownies |

★ CAKES

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 st Shonnette Koontz, WV State College | Yellow German Chocolate Cake |
| 2 nd Sherlene Jones, Div. of Personnel | Pumpkin Roll |
| 3 rd Cheryl Durgin, Water Devel. Auth. | Raspberry Waldorf Cake |

★ CANDY

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 st Marie Edwards, Div. of Personnel | Christmas Fudge |
| 2 nd Diana Holcomb, Treasurer's Office | Cream Cheese Mints |
| 3 rd Amy Balog Fairchild, Purchasing Div. | Never Fail Peanut Brittle |

★ COOKIES

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 st Laura Jane Bittle, Dept. of Education | Hidden Treasure Cookies |
| 2 nd Susan LeFew, Mil. Affairs & Pub. Safety | Pudding & Chips Marble Swirls |
| 3 rd Amy Balog Fairchild, Purchasing Div. | Chippy Chewy Bars |

★ CREAM PIES

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 st Margaret LeRose, Water Devel. Auth. | Coconut Cream Pie |
| 2 nd Shonnette Koontz, WV State College | Graham Cracker Pie |
| 3 rd Eva Pettry, Mil. Affairs & Pub. Safety | Frozen Peanut Butter Pie |

★ FRUIT PIES

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 st Kathy Hughes, Culture & History | Autumn Leaf Apple Pie |
| 2 nd Stephanie Proctor, Natural Resources | Red, White, and Blue Celebration |
| 3 rd Shonnette Koontz, WV State College | Pecan Pie |

★ PASTRIES

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 st Donna Barnhart, Bur. for Public Health | Chocolate Chip Cannolis |
| 2 nd Carleen Wilkerson, Div. of Personnel | Chocolate Chip Pie w/Bourbon Cream |


ALL RECIPES AVAILABLE IN AN ONLINE BOOKLET – VIEW AND PRINT IT AT:
<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/Empcom/psrw/Recipe01.pdf>


CAR-BUYING INFORMATION FROM THE STATE CREDIT UNION

You've seen the ads ...


0% FINANCING!
NO MONEY DOWN!
\$3000 REBATE ON SELECT MODELS

The automobile manufacturer's ads seem great - but are there drawbacks? Plenty if you take a closer look.

 If you take the special financing, you'll most likely lose the rebate.

 Low interest rates are often available only to those with top notch credit ratings. One blemish and you could be disqualified.

 Many companies offer low rates for short terms, such as 36 months or less.

 The rates sometimes apply only to certain slow-selling vehicles and not more popular models.

Additionally, consider the total cost of the loan. Will you be charged an application fee? Is there a pre-payment penalty? Would you be required to pay off more of the interest earlier in the loan (front-loaded interest)? If so, you may carry a larger principal balance longer, meaning at some point the car could be worth less than the balance of the loan.

Susman Appointed to Lead New Division

From the Department of Administration's website (www.state.wv.us/admin).

In an effort to improve the efficiency of State government, Governor Bob Wise and Secretary of Administration Greg Burton announced the establishment of the position of



Tom Susman

Insurance and Retirement Services Director.

Wise appointed Tom Susman to fill the position. As provided for in the *West Virginia Code*,

Susman will continue to serve as director of the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA).

Susman will be responsible for the oversight of PEIA, the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, the Board of Risk and Insurance Management and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

"Each of these agencies within the Department of Administration is a risk bearing entity," Wise said. "They perform many of the same functions that can be streamlined with the proper coordination. I have instructed every member of this administration to eliminate waste and improve customer service. This position will help us achieve our goal of a more efficient State government."

According to Burton, the position was created by the Legislature several years ago but has never been filled. "With shrinking resources we must find ways to better manage our

State programs. Each of the agencies included in this section uses actuaries and consultants and some perform similar functions," Burton said.

For example, PEIA performs many of the same functions as CHIP in terms of claims processing. At the same time, CPRB serves the same clientele as PEIA. BRIM and all of the other agencies have the need of

actuaries and consultants. "This concept will allow us to reduce costs and develop quality measures that will assure more accurate projections," he added.

Susman assumed his new duties June 1. "Tom's governmental and private sector experience will bring an approach to the position that will serve the State and the customers of each of these agencies," Wise said.

Deadline for Buying CETA Time Extended

Information provided by Terasa Robertson of the CPRB.

During the 2002 Legislative Session, lawmakers passed House Bill 4658 which allows certain employees the option of purchasing retirement service credit for periods of employment with the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, commonly known as CETA. To qualify, a Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) member must:

- ★ Be a current, active PERS member.
- ★ Have moved from temporary employment with the participating employer to permanent, full-time employment with the same participating employer within 120 days following the termination of the member's CETA employment.
- ★ Provide evidence that establishes, to a reasonable degree of certainty, that the member previously worked under CETA.

If you qualify under these provisions and wish to purchase this service credit, you must pay **BOTH** the 4.5% employee contribution **AND** the 9.5% employer contribution that would have been made during that time to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB), plus interest compounded annually at the rate of 4% through June 30, 2000 and 7.55% thereafter. Only a maximum of 2 years may be purchased, and the money must be paid to the CPRB **no later than March 31, 2003**. The actual amount you pay will be determined by several factors such as how much time you are purchasing, your wages during the period of time in question, and the date by which the money is paid. Terasa Robertson of the CPRB gives the following example:

To purchase credit for CETA employment under PERS from January 1976 through June 1977 (18 months), at a salary of \$700 per month, an employee would have to pay \$5,363, if the amount is paid by December 31, 2002.

Anyone who wishes to pursue purchasing CETA time for their retirement can obtain a CETA Service Request Form from his/her agency payroll coordinator. Also, for your convenience, a printable version of the form is available on the CPRB website (www.state.wv.us/admin/cprb/formindex.htm#pers) and click on the CETA form link). If you need more information, give the CPRB a call at 558-3570 or 1-800-654-4406 (within West Virginia).

You can open accounts for your children and grandchildren at

The State Credit Union

Call 558-0566 for information



Red Cross Continues Call for Blood

Contributed by Cheryl Gergely of the American Red Cross.

In the first week of July, the Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), America's Blood Centers (ABC), and other national health agencies teamed up in an unprecedented joint urgent appeal for blood donations. Prompting this appeal are increasingly significant blood shortages, leaving certain parts of the country with less than a one-day supply. **State employees can respond to the appeal by donating at the Capitol Complex, Building 7, Conference Room C on August 19, 2002 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.**

According to Tim Miller, Senior Director, Donor Services, Greater Alleghenies Region, recent hot, humid weather has impacted donor turnout in many locations. "While a number of our bloodmobiles have done well since our appeal, others have not. We want to assure the public that wherever possible we use air-conditioned donor sites. So take a break from the heat for an hour or so and please give blood to help someone in need."

He stated that the 100-county Red Cross region's inventory currently stands at a 1½-day level for nearly all blood types, well below the desired 5-day level. The region needs to collect an average of 1,050 units of blood each weekday, requiring almost 1,200 individuals to present to donate each weekday to compensate for anticipated donor deferrals, often due to temporary reasons, such as a low red cell count.

"As many as 3 patients can benefit from each blood donation. Everyone is a potential recipient. Yet just 5% of the public donates each year, about a tenth of the number who could donate," Miller commented.

He added that just 24,623 individuals presented to give blood during June, short of the region's goal of 25,200; 107,000 individuals are needed to present to give blood from June through September 2002. During June, there were 19,956 productive donors, 96.2% of goal.

To be eligible to give blood, you must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 105 pounds, and be in generally good health. Normally, individuals can give blood every 56 days. Individuals with specific eligibility questions should contact the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

Pencil In ...



Want information on the **Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad** trip offered in the PSRW drawing? You'll find it at www.mountainrail.com. For information on **other West Virginia rail adventures**, visit The Division of Tourism's website at www.callwva.com/travelplanner/attractions.asp?func=search. Scroll down and search for the word *railroad*.



The West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing (WVNET) is hosting a **computing and technology conference** Sept. 23-25 at the Lakeview Scanticon Resort in Morgantown. For details, call 293-5192 or visit www.wvnet.edu/conf2002.



The WV Lottery reminds everyone to play and gamble responsibly. If you or someone you know needs **help with a gambling problem**, call 1-800-GAMBLER for a free confidential consultation.



In honor of

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

a random drawing will be held on Friday, September 13, 2002
for 2 Coach Class Tickets on the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad

(Drawing open to all State employees except those of the State Rail Authority)

ENTRY FORM FOR PRIZE DRAWING

Entries must be received (not postmarked) by September 5, 2002

Name _____ Work Ph. _____
 Agency _____
 Work Address _____


Mail form to:

One entry per employee -
you do not need
to be present to win

Pam Staats
Division of Highways
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston, WV 25305

OR

Jane Fouty
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1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
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