

Personnel Listening Tours Proving Very Successful

State Personnel Director Nichelle Perkins and her senior staff have been conducting the second series of Listening Tours around West Virginia. The first series concluded last winter, and spanned 6 locations; the current tour encompasses 5 locations and will conclude on June 18.

The Listening Tours are being held to allow managers and employees of State agencies an opportunity to raise important issues and provide feedback to DOP senior staff. Conducting the tour in different locations was essential for the DOP to receive adequate information and feedback from outlying offices.

“We had heard comments that we didn’t leave the Capitol Complex, and that agency managers and employees would appreciate the opportunity to meet with us face to face. In response to that, and as part of our mission to bridge the gap between local and statewide offices, we are conducting the Listening Tours,” said Perkins.

Both tours have been educational and well-received. Those in attendance discussed concerns such as classification, compensation, employee evaluations, and training opportunities. In addition to expressing concerns, the agency and staff received a number of praising remarks. “We heard over and over again about the professionalism of our staff, and about how courteous and helpful we are to our customers,” she said. “No matter what area of the Division people contacted, they routinely told us that the person on our end of the phone made

every effort to provide an answer or find a solution. That speaks volumes.”

Customers at the tour sessions have applauded Personnel’s website. They were pleased with the information made available on the site and said that having it readily accessible made their jobs much easier. Keeping the website updated and posted with current, accurate information is an important task and the agency is constantly working to develop, maintain, and improve it.

Another DOP area receiving high marks was training. The Division’s Organization and Human Resource Development Section conducts a long list of training classes on a num-

ber of business, personal development, and procedural topics. Tour participants have talked about the benefits of the continuing education provided by the agency, especially the mandatory training. Perkins noted that, “People really enjoy the classes – even the mandatory classes because it forces them to do what they need to do, and that’s to take continuing training.” A good example is the *Drug-Free Workplace* course which is part of a mandatory training core requirement. It’s one of 2 classes to which thousands of dollars of federal grant money is ex-

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Division of Banking Nationally Reaccredited

Contributed by Grace Elkins of the Division of Banking.



Secretary Brian Kastick (R) presents Commissioner Larry Stark with the Banking’s reaccreditation certificate.

The West Virginia Division of Banking was reaccredited by The Conference of State Bank Supervisors on February 12, 2002. The agency was first accredited in 1996 and currently supervises 49 commercial banks with total assets of over \$11 billion.

The accreditation program is designed to recognize and enhance excellence in state banking supervision. In setting high standards, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors identifies banking departments that serve the citizens of their states

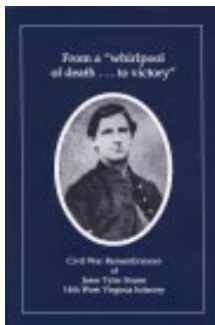
by operating capable and professional regulatory programs.

The Division operates under the direction of Commissioner Larry Stark. Tax and Revenue Cabinet Secretary recently made a formal presentation of the CSBS accreditation certificate to the agency’s employees.

New Book Features Remembrances of State Civil War Veteran

Article and photograph contributed by Ginny Painter of the Division of Culture and History.

The Civil War stories of Marion County native and Union veteran Jesse Tyler Sturm are now available in a new book. Published by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, *From a “whirlpool of death . . . to victory”: Civil War Remembrances of Jesse Tyler Sturm, 14th*



West Virginia Infantry, is the first book produced by the State’s West Virginia History Journal.

Born in 1844, Sturm was living in Harrison County when the Civil War began in 1861. After serving a year with a local militia company, he enlisted in Company H of the 14th West Virginia Infantry in 1862. He spent much of the next 2 years guarding the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad before participating in his first important action at Cloyds Mountain in southwestern Virginia on May 9, 1864. Over the next 6 months, the regiment fought at several places in the Shenandoah Valley, including Carter’s Farm, Fisher’s Hill, Winchester (Opequon) and Cedar Creek. Sturm saw his last action during a March 1865 skirmish near Patterson’s Creek in West Virginia.

More than 40 years later, Sturm, by then a longtime resident of Kansas, wrote several series of articles about his wartime service. The longest series, which focuses primarily on events of 1864, was brought to the attention of the Division’s West Virginia State Archives by Sturm’s descendants, who own the original

typed manuscript. A published version was located in a Kansas newspaper, and variations between it and the manuscript have been identified in this new book. In searching for the published version, Division staff discovered other Civil War stories Sturm wrote and have included most of those

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WV Lottery Releases *Songs of Home* CD

Contributed by Mike Ross of the West Virginia Lottery.

The West Virginia Lottery proudly announces that it has produced a compact disc (CD) composed of original songs by West Virginia singers and songwriters.

All songs on the *Songs of Home* CD are about West Virginia and the rich culture that it has offered residents and visitors for more than 180 years.

“West Virginians have a tradition and special pride in telling their stories through music,” said Lottery Director John Musgrave. “The individualism, integrity, and beauty of our State can be found in each of these special songs, which are written and performed by West Virginia artists.”


According to Musgrave, the CD offers a true taste of West Virginia culture and enables local artists to show their pride in the State to a broader audience.

The CD is available by sending in \$5 worth of non-winning Hot Lotto™ game tickets purchased after May 6, 2002. All orders must be received by June 28, 2002.

Additional information can be obtained in fliers available at West Virginia Lottery retail locations throughout the State or on the agency’s website at www.wvlottery.com.



The *Songs of Home* CD is a wonderful mix of our traditional folk and bluegrass music, coupled with some blues and other types. You can listen to sound clips on the Lottery’s website (see article for address). Use the order form below to submit with your request.



YES!! Please send me the *Songs of Home* CD from the West Virginia Lottery with my enclosed \$5 worth of non-winning Hot Lotto™ tickets.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: WV Artists CD • P. O. Box 993 • Charleston, WV 25324

Enclose this order form with your non-winning lottery tickets.
Please allow 1-3 weeks for delivery. Orders must be received by June 28, 2002.

DRS Communications Team Wins Top Honors

Contributed by Bill Rheinlander of the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The Communications Section of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) received 2 awards from the National Association of Government Communicators at its April 4 awards banquet in Arlington, Va.

“A lot of people contributed to this,” Public Affairs Manager Bill Rheinlander said. “With the help of many others at DRS, we’ve been able to accomplish a lot over the last few years. It’s great to be recognized by a national organization like NAGC for our work. And we hope to continue the tradition.”

Communications received the first place Blue Pencil Award in the Recognition Programs Category for its 2001 Rehabilitant of the Year program. Communications also received the honorable mention Gold Screen Award for the *Renaissance for Rehabilitation* fundraising video developed for the Rehabilitation Center Foundation. The section has also won Crystal Awards from the Public Relations Society of America for its work.

Each fall, the agency holds its annual Rehabilitant of the Year ceremony at the Rehabilitation Center Complex in Institute. Eight individuals with disabilities from across the State are recognized, and winners represent the accomplishments of all West Virginians with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Center Foundation’s *Renaissance for Rehabilitation* campaign is currently

raising funds to modernize the rooms in the center’s hospital unit.

Rod Woods, who produced both videos, said, “I spend a lot of time trying to make our video productions look as fresh as I can. There’s a little piece of me in all of them.”

NAGC, which it holds annually to recognize the best in government journalism and communications, received over 550 entries for the

awards program. Others receiving awards at the banquet included the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Census Bureau, Smithsonian Institution, Texas Lottery Commission, U.S. Department of Transportation, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and other federal and state agencies from across the nation.

Senate Bill 592, which will take effect on June 6, 2002, amends the word “plan” in reference to the Public Employees Insurance Agency. The new legislation redefines the word “plan” to include the medical indemnity plan, any offered managed care plan, and the group life insurance plan. The change allows employees who began work before July 1, 1988 and carry basic life insurance only to continue in that status and still be able to apply their unused accrued sick and annual leave toward benefits when they retire.

Controlled Access to Begin Soon for State Capitol Buildings

The tragic events of September 11 brought about many changes in security measures around the world and here at home. Among these measures was the almost immediate issuance of identification badges for State employees. Soon, employees and visitors to the Capitol Complex will find access to State office buildings more controlled.

Electronic door locks are being installed on all external door. In order to gain entry to a building, employees will be required to use their employee identification card and visitors will enter through specific locations only. Public access points will be equipped with walk-through metal detectors and x-ray scanners. Employees who have their State-issued ID cards will be able to enter without passing through the public access locations.

The Division of Protective Services and the Division of Personnel will be providing training to all employees who work at the Capitol Complex on the Controlled Access Program. Employees will be required to attend training which is being conducted to explain and orient them to the new system and procedures. Training sessions will be conducted in the Senate’s Committee in the Judiciary Room, located in Building 1, on the following dates:

JUNE: 14, 17, 18, 19, 24, and 25 Each day will host 4 sessions:
 JULY: 8, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 23, 29, and 30 9:00, 10:30, 1:00, and 2:30

At each training session, employees will be instructed on the proper procedures for entering and leaving State office buildings, and on the provisions and recent amendments to the State’s Workplace Security Policy (Policy DOP-P15). *Employees will be notified soon of the dates and times they are to report for training.*

During the March 2002 sign-up, more than 450 State employees took advantage of the discount membership partnership deal between the Public Employees Insurance Agency and the Charleston Family YMCA and Tri-County YMCA to offer PEIA insureds discounted memberships.

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articles in the book. His reminiscences are supplemented by an introduction, annotations, illustrations, and an index.

The 175-page, softbound book is available for the retail price of \$12.95 and may be purchased at the Archives and History Library in the Cultural Center, State Capitol Complex, Charleston. Books may be ordered by mail for \$15 per copy, which includes postage and handling. For more information, call 304/558-0230.

West Virginia History, the State’s journal of history, biography, genealogy and bibliography, is published by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Issued annually, it features articles, documents, book reviews, and notes on the economic, political, social, and cultural history of West Virginia and the Appalachian region.

The Division of Culture and History, an agency of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, brings together the State’s past, present, and future through programs and services in the areas of archives and history, the arts, historic preservation, and museums. Visit their web site at www.wvculture.org for more information.

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posed and violations are subject to crippling fines. Perkins explained that, “The *Drug-Free Workplace* class is required and we are upholding our obligation to the State to receive federal funds.” She continued, “The fact that it’s mandatory doesn’t mean it has to be lifeless and dull. From the comments I heard, our trainers do an excellent job of getting the information across in a fun, interesting manner – and the same holds true for our voluntarily-attended classes.”

The Listening Tours are a commitment which are being integrated into the Division’s Strategic Plan. The last session in the Spring tour will be held at the Department of Health and Human Services Office in Wheeling on June 18. If you are interested in attending, please call 558-3950, ext. 275 for information.

Pencil In ...



DHHR reminds it’s employees who are also nursing mothers that the Department will lend them **electric breast-pumps** to aid in efforts to return to work and still provide babies with the benefits of breastmilk. Call 558-0030 for info.



The Public Employees Retirement System will conduct a **workshop for agency personnel/payroll employees** on Monday, July 1 from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. in Conference Room C at the Capitol Conference Center. For registration information, call Tina Holmes at 558-3570 or e-mail her at tholmes@wvretirement.com.

Want something close to home to do on West Virginia Day (June 20)? **Try whitewater rafting!** Visit the Division of Tourism’s website at www.callwva.com/whitewat/default.cfm or call them at 1-800-CALLWVA for information.



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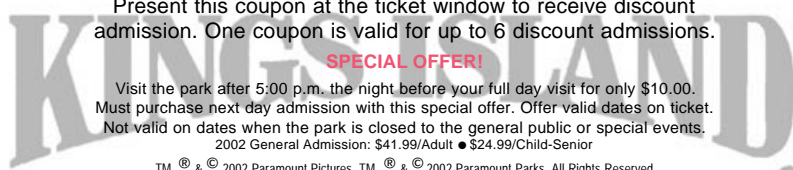
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MLB®

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

Bob Wise, Governor
Gregory A. Burton, Cabinet Secretary
Nichelle D. Perkins, Director of Personnel

Tari McClintock Crouse, Editor
Jane S. Fouty, Assistant Editor

State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 416
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0139
Telephone: 304/558-3950, ext. 206
E-Mail: jfouty@gwmail.state.wv.us
www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/