



A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

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MAPS Saves State Taxpayers Nearly \$2 Million



Kudos to the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (MAPS) for saving nearly \$2 million since May 2005!

MAPS Secretary Jim Spears established cost-saving directives which were implemented in each agency under that Department. Examples include increased use of e-mail over mail through the U.S. Postal Service and the State Police use of salvaged parts from wrecked vehicles. Utilizing the salvaged parts has saved more than \$12,000.

During the month of December 2005, MAPS saved over \$130,000

combined from its various agencies, including \$43,777 in the Division of Corrections and just under \$4,200 in the Division of Protective Services. The Division of Juvenile Services saved more than \$29,000 during this period by performing some of its own maintenance and landscaping tasks.

One of Governor Joe Manchin's first undertakings at the start of his administration was asking each State agency to find ways of saving money and operating more efficiently. Manchin is very pleased with the results of MAPS' efforts. "I applaud

Secretary Jim Spears and all of the personnel working within the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety for their dedication to making responsible decisions with taxpayer money. Through our responsible government initiatives, we have eliminated redundancy while maintaining the high level of customer service that West Virginians expect from their government." Manchin further stated that agencies throughout State government have produced over \$450 million in taxpayer savings during the past several months.

Put Your College Student to Work This Summer!

2006 Governor's Internship Program Accepting Applications

Do you have or know of a college student who will be returning to class in the fall and is currently seeking summer employment? The West Virginia Governor's Internship Program (WVGIP) may just be the answer!

WVGIP assists college students who are looking for meaningful employment during their summer breaks. Eligible students are afforded the opportunity to work in 9-13 week paid internships and are paid minimum wage. The program strives to place students in internships by matching their interests with the needs of private businesses and State agencies.

The program is open to students of accredited West Virginia colleges/universities and West Virginia residents who attend accredited colleges/universities elsewhere. Students must have completed at least one academic year of accredited study by June 2006 and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students selected for interviews MUST present a current transcript (official or unofficial) and **two letters of recommendation** from people who can provide program suitability recommendations. These documents will be submitted at the time of interview.



Don't wait! The intern process is highly competitive. Students interested in summer employment through WVGIP should **visit the WVGIP website as soon as possible** for complete program guidelines and to submit an application. Applications must be submitted **online** no later than June 1, 2006. Please note that not all students will be interviewed, nor does an interview guarantee employment.

For more information **and to apply**, visit the WVGIP website at:

www.wvgip.org

Need more details? Call or e-mail Patrick Quinlan, Program Coordinator, at 304-558-3950 Ext. 241 or pquinlan@wvadmin.gov.

Survey Responses Reveal WV Jury Composition

Contributed by Jennifer Singletary of the West Virginia Supreme Court.

The Administrative Office of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals has released data detailing the demographic composition of West Virginia juries. This release of information coincides with what is traditionally designated as *Juror Appreciation Month* by the Supreme Court.

Regarding *Juror Appreciation Month*, West Virginia's Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis said, "The people are at the heart of our system of government. Nowhere is this more evident than when juries render decisions in courtroom after courtroom throughout the nation. Indeed, juries are the people in action, case by case, delivering some of the most important decisions that make our country truly a government of the people, for the people, and by the people."

Justice Larry V. Starcher added, "During my 20 years as a West Virginia trial judge, I've never doubted the wisdom of entrusting decisions to juries. The collective wisdom and conscience of a group of ordinary citizens is fairer than any expert or judge. I salute our juries and our jury system."

Whether performed manually or electronically, West Virginia juries are chosen at random from lists of registered voters and licensed drivers. In 2004, more than 66,000 West Virginians drawn from the jury pool completed juror qualification questionnaires. Not all respondents ultimately served on juries, but those participating made it as far as the jury selection process for trials. Participants answered questions regarding race and ethnicity, gender, and age. The survey results closely reflect the demographic makeup of the State itself.

Estimated data released by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2004 indicate that West Virginia's population the previous year comprised approximately 95% Caucasians, with the remaining 5% being less than 1% each of African-Americans, Native Americans, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Of the West Virginia juror qualification survey respondents, 65.4% reported their race as white; black respondents comprised 1.3%, and Asians comprised 0.2%. Adding these percentages results in a less than 70% response rate on the question of race.

The census report further indicates that 15.3% of West Virginians that year fit into the "65 years and over" age category. Of the juror qualification survey respondents, 13.7% marked their age as falling in the "Over 70" block.

Throughout the year, although expressly during *Juror Appreciation Month*, the Supreme Court recog-

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Mountain Stage Hosts "NewSong Contest"

ATTENTION ASPIRING SONGWRITERS!
Visit www.newsongfestival.com/contest/index.htm to enter Mountain Stage's 2006 NewSong Contest.

The NewSong Contest is offered to recognize and support the best unsigned performing songwriters, bring people who love to perform their own songs together, help build a supportive community of performers, and to encourage and showcase outstanding work.

Twelve chosen finalists will perform two songs of their choice before a live audience and panel of judges. Five co-winners will be selected and one will be hand-picked by Mountain Stage host Larry Groce to perform live on the globally broadcast Mountain Stage radio program.

Entrants can submit songs by sending a CD (one song per CD) or through the sonicbids website (www.sonicbids.com). Entries submitted by April 15, 2006 are eligible for "Early Bird" consideration, in which two of the 12 national finalists will be announced May 15. Submission deadline is June 15, 2006.

Images of Freedom Photo Contest

Contributed by Kandi Greter of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

Founded in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Law Day Celebrates the American heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law. When President Eisenhower established Law Day, Americans were made more aware of our Constitution's promise of equality. This awareness played a part in launching the civil rights movement.

The Supreme Court of Appeals invites **kindergarten through high school students across the State** to submit their original photographs depicting the theme for **Law Day 2006, Liberty Under Law: Separate Branches, Balanced Powers**.

You may interpret this theme however you like. Be curious, be critical, be serious or humorous, but most of all be creative! The photo contest will be judged by the five justices of the Supreme Court, and the winners announced on Law Day, Monday, May 1, 2006, during the Law Day festivities planned by the Supreme Court at the Capitol Complex.

For more information on Law Day and to download the photo competition entry form, please visit www.state.wv.us/wvsca/lawday/covercss.htm or contact Julie Palas (juliepalas@courtswv.org or 304-558-0145).

The photo competition deadline is March 31, 2006.

FSU Master's Program Has Emphasis on Online Learning

Reprinted from Fairmont State University's website (www.fairmontstate.edu).

Fairmont State University (FSU), a leader in the field of online learning and an institution with a long history of educating teachers, is becoming the first university in the State to offer a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Online Learning.

"As more and more non-traditional students enter college, the need for online courses is going to continue to increase, as will the need for more faculty and teachers with online teaching skills," said Dr. Roxann Humbert, Associate Professor and Director of Learning Technologies for Fairmont State.

The degree offers an emphasis in online learning for those seeking a Master's Degree in Education and is also offered as a stand-alone certificate program. Graduate students may choose this 18 graduate credit emphasis as part of FSU's existing Master of Education degree.

Teachers, faculty and others interested in teaching online may acquire a certificate as a Master Online Instructor (MOI). The certificate, which is being issued jointly by Fairmont State University and the West Virginia Virtual Learning Network, can be earned through a one-

year fast-track program. The coursework focuses on the best practices in online learning as identified by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the American Higher Education Association (AHEA) and the SLOAN Foundation.

"The master's degree program will benefit K-12 teachers and community college faculty who want to teach virtual classes, and the certificate program will benefit faculty who have a terminal degree and employers who want to develop online teaching skills," Humbert said.

All faculty members teaching the courses in the program have at least five years of online teaching experience. Fairmont State now offers about 100 online course sections each semester through WebCT/Vista, one of the most widely used course management systems.

Those who wish to enroll in either the master's degree program or the certificate program must first be admitted to Fairmont State's School of Graduate Studies. To download an application or obtain more information (courses being offered, online payment system, transfer credit, etc.), visit www.fairmontstate.edu/graduatestudies.

For more about the Online Learning Program, contact Dr. Roxann A. Humbert, Graduate Associate Professor, at (304) 367-4160 or by e-mail at rhumbert@fairmontstate.edu.

Congratulations ...

to Concord University, for celebrating its 134th year on February 28. The University received its charter from the West Virginia Legislature on that day in 1872. Celebration plans by the University include a special Charter Day Convocation, enjoyed by university staff, students, and the general public.

PERS Members Can Purchase Out-of-State Public Service Credit

Are you a member of the Public Employees Retirement System who has worked as a public employee in another U.S. state? If so, did you know that you may be able to purchase credit for up to five years of out-of-state service?

To be eligible, you cannot be vested in the other state's retirement system, which means you must have withdrawn your contributions from that state's program. You also cannot be receiving an annuity from the other state's program. Federal government service and private employment are not eligible for purchase.

Buying out-of-state time can be a bit expensive. If approved for purchase, the employee must pay all actuarial contributions (employer and employee shares) plus interest. Once the time is paid for and added to the employee's credit, it cannot be used to qualify the employee for retirement – it merely helps to increase the individual's annuity at retirement.

Retirement Issues *For State Employees*

Are you a State employee who is nearing retirement within the next few years? Maybe you're a State employee who still has many years to go before retirement? In either case, there's a lot to be done ahead of time. To find out details, consider attending the **FREE Retirement Issues for State Employees** seminar offered by State Treasurer John Perdue. Speakers will be Kerry Jones of the West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board and Robert Jefferies of the Social Security Administration.

Where and when? March 23, 2006 in the Department of Transportation Conference Room (Building 5, First Floor), from Noon to 12:45 PM.

Bring your lunch; seminar staff will supply cookies and drinks. To register or for more information, call or e-mail Cindy Garrett at 340-2711 or cgarrett@wvsto.com.

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nizes the sacrifices West Virginia jurors make of their time and, often, their finances, to perform this civic duty. For instance, in West Virginia, while employers must allow employees to be excused from work for jury duty, they are not required to pay employees' wages while they serve. Although jurors are paid a \$40 per day stipend, they are responsible for their own meals as well as parking expenses and any other incidental spending that arises.

From an administrative perspective, the West Virginia Supreme Court's Administrative Director Steven D. Canterbury explained, "I won't pretend that the administration of the Courts is easier due to our system of jury trials. But it is a labor of love: everyone involved with the Court administration knows how important it is to provide judges with what they need to have the most seamless system possible in the impaneling of juries - difficult, yes, but vital, fundamentally vital."

Detailed information regarding jury service in West Virginia is available at www.state.wv.us/wvsca/, the West Virginia Court System's Supreme Court page. Follow the "Jury Information" link for a jury duty handbook, frequently asked questions, previous years' summary reports on West Virginia juries, and other information relevant to *Juror Appreciation Month*.

2 More Days!

★★★★★ *Midnight, April 17, 2006*



*First Lady Gayle Manchin
Continues to Promote
West Virginia as a
Must-See Place to Be!*



First Lady Gayle Manchin enthusiastically invites and encourages the Travel South Showcase audience of over 600 to both visit West Virginia personally and recommend us to everyone.

Once again, West Virginia First Lady Gayle Manchin presented a splendid program promoting tourism for the Mountain State.

At the Travel South Showcase held during the latter part of February in Richmond, Virginia, Mrs. Manchin narrated a moving historical account of West Virginia (prepared by the Division of Tourism) that began with the Native American and pioneer years. The program progressed gracefully through the Civil War and Civil Rights eras, and ended with today's rich and wonderful opportunities to experience the past along with the present.

Mrs. Manchin's presentation was perfectly accented with music performed by West Virginia's Official Ambassadors of Music, The Appalachian Children's Chorus, as well as a living history drama of Mary Draper Ingles' capture by, and escape from, the Shawnee Indians in the mid-1700s, eloquently delivered by veteran character actress, West Virginian Karen Vuranch.

Pencil In ...



You can find an **official certified list of candidates** for the upcoming May primary election on the Secretary of State's website at www.wvsos.com. Click on the "candidate filings" link.

March 14 – that's the date of the next **blood drive by the American Red Cross at the Capitol Complex**. Staff will be available from 9 AM to 3 PM to take your valuable and needed blood donations. Contact your agency coordinator for more.



The April 2005 issue of **National Geographic Traveler Magazine** features an interactive Appalachia map which includes **over 40 West Virginia sites**. Check out the map to find fun things for you and your family to do: www.nationalgeographic.com/appalachia/map.html.



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Joe Manchin III, Governor
Robert W. Ferguson, Jr., Cabinet Secretary
Max Farley, Acting 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@wvadmin.gov

www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/