

New Voting Machines Making Powerful Impression

Contributed by Secretary of State Betty Ireland; photos courtesy of Heather Harper.

Power up and vote! This year, the polling places will look a bit different. All 55 counties have upgraded their voting equipment as a result of the 2002 federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

HAVA mandated that every state upgrade its voting equipment by 2006 as a result of the problems experienced in the 2000 Presidential Election. Part of HAVA's requirements were to replace all punch-card and lever voting systems, and to provide one handicap-accessible machine per precinct.

West Virginia was one of only 20-some states that met the 2006 deadline, but having new machines does no good if the people do not use them.

Therefore, the Secretary of State's Office has been conducting a statewide campaign to make citizens aware of the new voting equipment. VIP (Voting is Powerful) representatives from that office are traveling the State to conduct demonstrations for civic organizations, high traffic areas such as Wal-Marts, BB&T banks, and senior citizen centers.

Therese Cox, Senior Outreach Coordinator for the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office (WVSOS), has visited all 55 county senior centers demonstrating the new machines. County clerks are doing their part as well, teaching citizens how to use the new machines.

The response we've received to this new voting method has been overwhelmingly positive. In a March 3, 2006 article in the Register-Herald entitled *Senior citizens try out new voting machines*, one senior said, "... it's a lot easier than the old way."

The new voting machines are indeed easy to use. West Virginia Secretary of State Betty Ireland encourages all citizens to give them a try *before* Election Day by visiting their county clerk's office, looking for public demonstrations in their communities, or simply coming to the Secretary of State's Office during normal business hours.

Currently, there are three methods of voting, but these methods vary from county to county. Contact your clerk's office or visit the WVSOS website at www.wvsos.com to see what type of system you will use on Election Day.



ABOVE: Angie Brown of the Secretary of State's Office demonstrates one of West Virginia's new voting machines.

BELOW: A close-up view of a new voting machine.



Get Out and Vote! Early voting starts April 19 for the May 9 Primary

REMEMBER: VOTING IS POWERFUL!

Marshall University Offers Summer Sign Language Classes



The Marshall University Graduate College, in cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind, is offering graduate sign language courses to teachers, parents, or anyone else who desires to learn. Courses will be taught from June 18-30, 2006 at the School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, WV. For more information, call 1-800-642-9842, ext. 1957 (1-304-746-1957 TTY) or visit www.marshall.edu/gsepd/asl.asp on the web.

Musgrave Named President of Multi-State Lottery Association Board

Contributed by the West Virginia Lottery.

On March 15, a West Virginian took the lead of the country's largest lottery gaming organization, the Multi-State Lottery Association (MUSL), most commonly known for its multi-million dollar jackpot producing Powerball game.

State Department of Revenue Acting Cabinet Secretary and Lottery Director John C. Musgrave became president of MUSL Board of Directors, an organization comprised of the executive directors for 31 U.S. lotteries.

Musgrave has steadily advanced in the ranks of U.S. lottery directors since his appointment as Director of the West Virginia Lottery in 1997. Today, he serves as secretary of the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL), the largest lottery organization in the Western Hemisphere, consisting of all U.S. lotteries, all Canadian provincial lotteries, and three Caribbean lotteries, including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Aruba. Unlike MUSL, NASPL does not administer lottery games.

"This marks the first time that a West Virginia Lottery director has served as the president of the MUSL Board of Directors and as an officer of NASPL," Musgrave said. "I'm honored to have both the privilege and the responsibility to serve as a leader in an industry that provides billions of dollars of revenue for the well-being of others."

In the MUSL Association, Musgrave has served as chairman of several game groups including the Powerball Game Show group, the Video Lottery group, and the Powerball group. He was elected vice-president of MUSL in 2005, and he will continue to serve as chairman of the Powerball Game Group through June 30, 2006.

Under Musgrave's leadership, the West Virginia Lottery produced

sales of over \$7.6 billion and has generated over \$2.7 billion in State revenues dedicated to education, senior citizens, and tourism. Musgrave ushered in the full operation and regulation of the State's four licensed racetracks and the limited video lottery program, both of which have contributed to the State's revenues to fund projects such as the PROMISE scholarship program and the Homestead Exemption Act.

Prior to Musgrave's appointment as Director, the Lottery's 1996 fiscal year sales were a mere \$210 million.

As director of one of the lottery industry's great success stories, Musgrave said that he has always understood the responsibilities that come with success. "It was clear to me, from the beginning, that we needed

a much stronger, more proactive program for persons with gambling problems," he said. "Today, \$500,000 a year from racetrack video lottery revenues and \$1 million a year from limited video lottery revenues fund one of the nation's most recognized programs for problem gamblers."



WV Lottery Director John Musgrave has steadily advanced in the ranks of U.S. lottery directors. In addition to his new role as President of the Multi-State Lottery Association, Musgrave has been and is currently involved in leadership with several prominent lottery organizations.

PEIA's Michael Harmon Wins National Award

Congratulations are extended to Michael Harmon of the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA)! At the Business and Health Administration Association (BHAA) Conference (held in Chicago on March 16-17, 2006), Harmon received the distinguished honor of Best Paper in the Ethical and Legal Issues track.

Harmon's winning eight-page paper, *Applying the HIPAA Privacy Rule's Disclosure Requirements to State Government Employee Health Plans and State Government Employees*, took six months to compose and finalize, and dealt with the ethical and legal issues surrounding the privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and how they affect the disclosure of information. He said he was inspired to write the submission after a former professor who is associated with the BHAA reminded him that there was a call for papers.

The paper's topic came to him as a result of a situation he encountered during the course of his work as the Compliance Officer for PEIA. Agencies often request information regarding the amount of money they pay out with regard to health claims. According to Harmon, providing this type of information could lead directly or indirectly to violations of employees' privacy rights under HIPAA.

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Children with Asthma Experience Poor Health

Contributed by Amy Wenmoth of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

Asthma is the most common chronic condition among U.S. children. It's the leading cause of school absenteeism and the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15. A new statistical brief released by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, *Asthma Among West Virginia Children: Brief No. 16*, presents the most recent statistics about childhood asthma in West Virginia.

According to the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), West Virginia had the fourth highest rate of childhood asthma in the nation in 2003. More than one in 10 West Virginia children had asthma, compared with 8.9% nationwide. Asthma symptoms can be managed with medication and avoidance of triggers; however, unmanaged asthma can result in symptoms leading to poor health and hospitalization.

Children with asthma were more likely than those without asthma to miss school, have fair or poor health, and visit the emergency room.

This statistical brief presents additional information on childhood asthma prevalence, symptoms and disease management, hospitalizations, and health care access and utilization. It can be obtained from the WV Health Statistics Center at (304) 558-9100 or online the internet at www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/hsc/vr/publicat.htm. Also, the West Virginia Asthma Education and Prevention Program (WV-AEPP), funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is working to reduce the burden of asthma in West Virginia. For additional information about asthma, contact WV-AEPP at (304) 558-0644 or online at www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/asthma/default.htm.

It's the Rainy Season ... Are You Prepared?

April showers bring May flowers, and how we're all longing for that! But, we're in West Virginia, and sometimes those showers bring rising water in unwanted locations. Be prepared and take proactive measures! Read the following, heed its advice, and take necessary precautions so that if you are unfortunate enough to be the victim of a flood, you can recover more quickly.

The following information is taken from the West Virginia Insurance Commission website (www.wvinsurance.gov/press/flood.htm).

"Flood" is defined in the Standard Flood Insurance Policy (SFIP), in part, as, "A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from overflow of inland or tidal waters from the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source."

DO HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE POLICIES COVER FLOODING?

Most homeowners' policies **DO NOT** cover damage from flood. Read your policy or contact your insurance agent if you have any questions.

HOW DO I REPORT A FLOOD CLAIM?

- ◆ Protect your property from further loss, then report the flood loss immediately to the insurance company or agent who wrote your flood insurance policy **OR** call the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Claims Department at 1-800-767-4341.
- ◆ You must file a "proof of loss" within 60 days of the loss. Prepare a detailed inventory and locate sales receipts for damaged property.
- ◆ A claims adjuster will be assigned the loss and will contact you within 24 hours to make arrangements to inspect your property. Work closely with and cooperate with the adjuster to ensure all paperwork is completed in a timely manner.
- ◆ You may clean up the damage, but make sure to document damaged property before you discard it. Take photographs of damaged property. Take close-up photos of items such as electronic appliances and equipment to show the brand name and features. If your sofa bed was damaged, take a photograph with the bed unfolded to prove it was a sofa bed. Videotape may be acceptable but photos may expedite the handling of your claim. If your carpet was damaged, save a 2x2 foot square of the carpet and pad before discarding the rest of it.
- ◆ There may be limitations on property covered under flood insurance, so read your policy. Flood policies **DO NOT** provide coverage for additional living expenses.
- ◆ If you have filed a prior claim for flood damage, you will have to provide the adjuster with receipts to document that the prior damage had been repaired.



Documenting flood damage is an important step in filing a claim, and photographs can help immensely. EDITOR'S NOTE: Consider taking photographs of your home before a flood hits and keeping them in a safe place. They may come in handy. Photo courtesy of Jeanie Bowe of the Division of Personnel.

In all, 48 papers were presented to the BHAA for consideration. Before receiving the best paper honor, Harmon's submission was subjected to, and examined during, a double-blind competitive review. **Also, as a direct result of Harmon's success and impressive subject knowledge, he was elected to serve on the BHAA's Board of Directors.**

Mike Adkins, PEIA Deputy Director of Operations, states that Harmon's award and his election to BHAA's board are both exceptional honors. "It recognizes that we here in West Virginia are right on top of things nationally." He had further praise for Harmon. "Since arriving at PEIA, Michael has displayed an energy that is infectious to the staff. He's demonstrated that he has a strong command of privacy issues, HIPAA regulations, civil procedures, and protections that is respected by the PEIA staff, our private vendors, and other agencies that we deal with. He has been called upon by the Secretary of Administration to be the Department Privacy Officer, and he's also a member of a variety of multi-agency committees dealing with privacy rights and electronic health records."

Harmon has been with PEIA for three years and looks forward to continuing the effort to keep both the State of West Virginia and PEIA as national leaders in regulatory and privacy compliance.



Michael Harmon looks forward to continued progress in keeping West Virginia and PEIA known as national leaders in regulatory and privacy compliance.

WV to Require Licenses for Car Salespeople

During the last legislative session, lawmakers passed **House Bill 4490** which requires that anyone selling vehicles at dealerships in West Virginia, whether new or used, be licensed. The move is a proactive endeavor designed to protect everyone - customers, banks, the State, and even the dealerships themselves - from incurring financial losses due to fraud or deceit.

Many workers who deal with the public - real estate agents, hair stylists, physicians, social workers, etc. - are required by law to be licensed, so it makes sense that car sales personnel should be too. Car salespeople generally have access to customers' insurance and bank information when dealing with financing, titling, registration issues, etc. By requiring licensure for these employees, especially since dealerships themselves must be licensed, it's hoped that unscrupulous salespeople will be screened out.

The measure takes effect in January 2008. Until then, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will be designing its procedure and specifics. Essentially, the licensing process will require employees to apply with the Division of Motor Vehicles for the license. After applying, they will be subject to a background check (conducted by the West Virginia State Police) and must pass an examination. Once an individual earns a license, it will be good for a five-year period. Applicants will incur a cost of \$25 for the background check and must pay \$7 per year for the initial license. The renewal fee is \$10 for a five year license.

According to Steve Dale, assistant to DMV Commissioner Joseph Cicchirillo, "West Virginia has nearly 2,000 licensed dealerships. Although the DMV revokes licensure for several dealerships each year, the majority of them operate fairly and employ honest, hardworking people. Licensing car sales staff will help screen out individuals who have been convicted of fraud or related crimes, and keep them from moving between dealerships."

Governor Joe Manchin signed the bill into law on April 3, 2006. To read it in its entirety, visit www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Text_HTML/2006_SESSIONS/RS/BillInformation.cfm?input=4490.

Pencil In ...



You can use the national Do Not Call Registry to **stop annoying telemarketer calls on your cell phone**. Log on to www.donotcall.gov and register. Remember that your numbers, whether land lines or cell lines, are blocked from telemarketers for one year and you must renew your registry each year.