

## Manchin Wants WV to Be the Best It Can Possibly Be

At the end of his third State of the State Address on January 10, 2007, Governor Joe Manchin stated that his main goal as Governor is to make West Virginia the best it can possibly be – summarizing in one statement his vision for the future. To highlight progress, and to accomplish this overall primary goal, Manchin delivered in his speech a number of ideas, initiatives, and recommendations.

Several minutes of his speech were dedicated to remembering the heart-break and sadness surrounding the 24 State mining deaths recorded in 2006, and outlining what has taken place to impose safeguards and the further steps he would like to see taken. He described how a mine safety bill passed on one day during the legislative session was a catalyst for the first national mine safety legislation to come out of the U.S. Congress in over 25 years, and how the State’s Office of Miners’ Health, Safety and Training has been able to double its mine rescue capabilities. Among his outline for further improvements in the coming years, the Governor has planned to direct \$4 million to next year’s budget for the hiring of additional inspectors and safety instructors and to improve the salary levels of these positions in order to attract the best available workers, purchase additional mine rescue equipment, and continue the abandoned mine mapping project.

Safety in many areas was a topic that received much attention.

“... this year has also taught me that we can’t, and shouldn’t, take the safety of any of our West Virginia workplaces for granted,” said Manchin.

He acknowledged the accomplishment of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for receiving the Disaster Recovery Award from the All-Hazards Consortium, and the naming of its



*Governor Joe Manchin III*

*Photo by Steve Rotsch.*

grants monitoring system as a “Best Practice” by the national Criminal Justice Association. He related three important emergency response projects being developed in collaboration with Verizon: expansion of the Mine and Industrial Accident Rapid Response System for every mine/industrial site in West Virginia, development of an electronic reporting system for hazardous chemicals by businesses/industries, and connection of all Emergency Operations Centers throughout the State through a dedicated system.

Manchin has proposed drug testing for all new Executive Branch hires, and urged the Legislative and Judicial Branches and Constitutional Officers to do the same. In addition to hiring drug-free employees to ensure the safety of co-workers and citizens, this measure could also assist in the State’s pointed efforts to eradicate illegal drug usage.

### STATE EMPLOYEE INFO LINE

To ensure that all State employees have access to vital information in a timely manner, the West Virginia State Employee Information Line is now available. Should an emergency arise, such as an evacuation or severe weather conditions, this information line will provide you with guidance. In addition, it may be used for general information affecting State employees.

The West Virginia State Employee Information Line is easy to use. Please be sure to keep the telephone numbers below with you and/or at your residence:

Employees calling from local Charleston area ..... 558-9117

Employees calling from outside Charleston area ( toll-free) ..... 1-888- 558-9117

**A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE:** As part of our continuing goal to enhance our communication efforts, this telephone number should prove beneficial to State employees as a reliable source for information and instruction. Your service and dedication to the citizens of the State of West Virginia are greatly appreciated.

## WV Statistical Analysis Center Wins Phillip Hoke Award for Excellence in Analysis

*Contributed by Steven Haas of the Division of Criminal Justice Services.*

The West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center (WV SAC) of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has won the Phillip Hoke National Publication Award for Excellence in the Statistical/Management Report category for “Establishing the ‘Statistical Accuracy’ of Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) in West Virginia.” The award was presented by the Justice Research and Statistics Association in October 2006 at the annual Bureau of Justice Statistics/Justice Research and Statistics Association conference in Denver, Colorado.

The Phillip Hoke Award recognizes outstanding publications by state Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs). The Hoke Award is the most prestigious form of recognition presented to SACs for research publications each year. JRSA presents the Award annually to SACs that have demonstrated excellence in translating statistics and research into publications that inform policy.

The SAC publication contest is competitive, with each report being rated by three judges. The Hoke Award is presented in two categories: Research/Policy Analysis and Statistical/Management.

**DCJS Director J. Norbert Federspiel has nothing but praise for his hardworking staff. “The Hoke Award given to the West Virginia SAC confirms the quality of work our people routinely produce. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”**

The WV SAC serves as a unit within the DCJS and is responsible for providing State planners with statistical analyses on criminal justice issues.



*Pictured above with Gov. Joe Manchin (center right), MAPS Cabinet Secretary James Spears (far right), and DCJS Director Norb Federspiel (center left) are members of the Statistical Analysis Center staff. Photo by Steve Rotsch.*

## ADDRESS – Cont. from Page 1

The Governor also addressed safety in schools and commended our veterans and those currently serving in the military.

Citing positive economic growth and commitment to responsible government, the Governor stated that he was, “... pleased to report that the State has a positive financial outlook for 2007 and Fiscal Year 2008.” He also informed his audience that because of responsible decisions that resulted in significant financial savings, the outlook over last year’s five-year forecast is improved. For this year’s legislative session, Manchin is proposing several initiatives related to tax and salary changes, including a 2.5 percent across the board increase for teachers and a 2.5 percent one-time incentive payment for State employees and school service personnel. He also gave his support for consideration of a pay increase for legislators, who haven’t had a salary increase since 1994.

According to Manchin, more than 18,000 jobs have been added to our job market. He remains committed to increasing even more the number of available jobs. The Governor announced he has directed the hire of additional inspectors by the Department of Labor to combat the problem of illegal workers. He is focusing attention on a number of areas to improve the State’s available workforce, such as increasing the availability of broadband service, looking at our State’s education and development programs (including those in our colleges) so that our workforce needs are met, and establishing outreach programs to emphasize the importance of higher education.

Many other topics and proposals were discussed in the Governor’s speech. To read the entire text, watch the video, or review the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Overview, visit:

[www.wv.gov/org/sec.aspx?id=100](http://www.wv.gov/org/sec.aspx?id=100)

**BE SURE TO TRY THE NEW TEMPORARY CAFETERIA!**

Open weekdays from 7 A.M. to 2 P.M., it’s located in basement of the Cultural Center. What’s on the menu? You’ll find a link to the weekly offerings online at [www.state.wv.us/admin](http://www.state.wv.us/admin).

## Foster/Adoptive Care Training/Retreat Held at Concord Univ.

Contributed by Anita Moody of Concord University.

This past September, Concord University's Social Work Department hosted a retreat for trainers, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) employees, Children's Home Society representatives, and other child welfare agency representatives to review progress made in the foster and adoptive care training program. The retreat was one of four to be held during the 2006-2007 training year. Child welfare agencies then train prospective and current foster and adoptive parents in the southeastern region of West Virginia.

The first step to becoming a foster or adoptive parent is a 27-hour preservice training session that covers the "recruitment, preparation, assessment, and selection" of parents for children in need. The curriculum used in this training is the PRIDE module, developed by the Child Welfare League of America. Preservice modules include nine sessions, covering topics on attachment, loss, strengthening relationships, and discipline.

After parents are approved either as foster or adoptive parents, they take an in-service component. The in-service component targets foster or adoptive parents with children living in their households, and 12 hours of training are required per year for each family. Parents are referred to specific sessions based upon the needs of the child or children in their home. Modules include sessions on such topics as avoiding chemical dependency, addressing cultural and personal identity issues, improving communication skills, dealing with sexual abuse, effective discipline strategies, and promoting self-esteem.

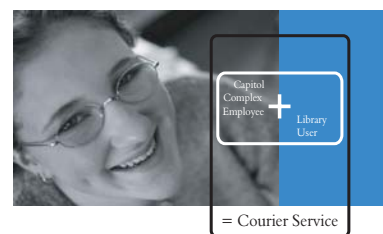
Concord University began sponsoring and facilitating PRIDE training in 1998-1999 as a pilot in southern West Virginia and has since spread throughout the State. Funding for this training is provided through Title IV-E/B federal monies administered through WVDHHR.

Concord provides training across southern West Virginia. They provide training materials to trainers and participating parents, schedule training sessions in various locations in the southern part of the State, maintain databases of parents who have completed training, survey the parents on the strength of the training and instructors, and provide leadership for other universities in the State who also facilitate this type of training program. Concord's faculty helps develop modules for the training program, and each member also acts as a resource for specific training locations. This year, there are 225 three-hour sessions scheduled throughout southern West Virginia.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent may contact Concord University (304-384-5353), a child care agency, or the WVDHHR (apply online at [www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children\\_adult/foster/inquire.asp](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/foster/inquire.asp)).



*Participants in the Foster and Adoptive Care Retreat hosted by Concord University's Social Work Department learned valuable skills to help them train current and prospective foster and adoptive parents.*



Have you been missing all the latest professional and recreational materials because there isn't enough time to visit the library?

Then it's time to ask us to visit you!

The West Virginia Library Commission Reference Library's Courier Service is available to government employees working on the Capitol Complex.

It's simple, it's fast & it's convenient.

In three steps, we're on our way!

1. Visit our website [www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us](http://www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us) to select materials from our online catalog.
2. E-mail your requests to our librarians at [wvlcref@wvlc.lib.wv.us](mailto:wvlcref@wvlc.lib.wv.us) or click  for a form.
3. Sign upon receipt of your materials.

If you aren't already a registered patron, we'll bring the registration card to you. Deliveries and returns are made once daily during normal business hours.



For additional information about the services provided through WVLC's Reference Library, please contact Mary Hogue at 304-558-2045.  
West Virginia Library Commission  
Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.  
Charleston, WV 25305

# Funeral Service Examiners Board Answers Common Questions

Edited from the Fall 2006 Issue of *Board Review*, the Board of Funeral Service Examiners Newsletter.

*Often when we experience the passing of a loved one, there is no advance warning. This can sometimes create conflict and confusion regarding funeral arrangements. The following information is offered by the West Virginia Board of Funeral Service Examiners (WVBFSE) to help you make informed decisions.*

The WVBFSE continues to receive questions regarding who has the right to make final funeral arrangements, and whether or not preneed funeral contracts can be transferred after death.

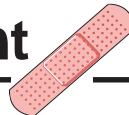
**THE LAW IS VERY SPECIFIC.** A person has the right to make his or her own funeral arrangements, and those arrangements must be honored by the family and funeral home to the extent the person has paid for, or has the funds to pay for, the services they desire. A person may make his or her funeral arrangements by either oral or written instructions. Written instructions include, but are not limited to, a preneed funeral contract, medical power of attorney, will, or some other written document. Written instruments do not include a durable or nondurable power of attorney which terminates on death.

If the instructions are contained in a will, they are to be carried out immediately, regardless of the validity of the will in other respects or the fact that the will may not be offered or admitted to probate until a later date. Preneed funeral contracts cannot be changed or transferred after death. In other words, the funeral home and the type of service and merchandise previously chosen, and prior to the deceased's death, must be honored if the merchandise and services have been paid for fully or if there are other resources adequate to pay them. Substitution of merchandise can only be made when the merchandise is **truly unavailable and not simply because the funeral home has changed suppliers.** If the original casket, vault, or other merchandise purchased in the contract is still being manufactured, that merchandise must be provided. If purchased merchandise is truly unavailable, the funeral home must notify the person making the funeral arrangements prior to making any substitution.

In addition, a funeral home with knowledge that a deceased has a preneed funeral contract with another funeral home is obligated by law to honor that contract and relinquish the funeral to the funeral home holding the contract.

For clarification or answers to additional questions, please visit the Board of Funeral Service Examiners' website at [www.wvfuneralboard.com](http://www.wvfuneralboard.com). You may also contact them at [wvfuneralboard@hotmail.com](mailto:wvfuneralboard@hotmail.com) or 558-0302.

## News From the Medical Front



If you're an unlucky sufferer of kidney stones, lemonade may help. Many patients are prescribed potassium citrate to slow stone development. Lemon juice is full of natural citrate, and low-sugar/sugar-free lemonade, while not as effective as potassium citrate, can be a tasty alternative with a positive effect. Drinking lemonade also helps increase urine output - a sort of cleansing effect. More can be found at [www.webmd.com/content/Article/122/114829.htm?pagenumber=1](http://www.webmd.com/content/Article/122/114829.htm?pagenumber=1), but remember to always consult your physician.

## Pencil In ...



Cardiovascular disease is the Number 1 preventable killer of women, and one-third of all women will suffer some form of it. Everyone - men, women, children - can show support for the fight against heart disease in women by wearing red on **Go Red for Women Day - February 2, 2007.**




The day is set aside to raise our awareness of heart disease and stroke. Millions of people across the country will join together in this effort, and your simple effort of support by wearing red will help the American Heart association in its ongoing research and education about women and heart disease.

*Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children.*



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