

Tomblin Praises State Workers During PSRW

Anticipated by state workers each year, Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) provides an opportunity for public employees to receive recognition and appreciation for their dedicated work, to promote public awareness about government services, and to encourage individuals to enter public service careers.

Our state's celebration of PSRW started in 1992, and Governor Earl Ray Tomblin continued the tradition this year. West Virginia employees who attained the milestones of 20, 25, 30, 35, or more years of service received



West Virginia state employees with more than 50 years of service receive recognition for their ongoing dedication from Governor Tomblin.

certificates of appreciate signed by the governor as well as lapel pins with their corresponding years of service. In addition, employees who had reached 30 or more years of service (in increments of five years) were invited to attend the Governor's Awards Ceremony and reception hosted by the Governor and First Lady. Employees who attended this ceremony received their awards personally from Governor Tomblin.

This year's event was held at the Culture Center on October 2. Before making the award presentations, Tomblin expressed his appreciation for our state's public employees.

"I am honored to be here today among so many public employees to celebrate your achievements and years of dedicated service," he said. "It's not every day I have the opportunity to personally express my appreciation ... I often brag about West Virginia's workforce – including YOU – our state employees."

He expressed to the audience the significance of their work in helping to ensure our state runs effectively and efficiently, while also emphasizing the importance of their efforts in the lives of others.

"Please know, behind every deadline and every project that rests upon your shoulders, is a West Virginia family, child, or senior citizen," acknowledged Tomblin.

The Governor furthered his praise for our longest-serving employees acknowledging that things have changed throughout their careers, noting that many have had to take on new tasks and responsibilities, broaden their knowledge, and learn new skills. He commended their expansive knowledge of their agencies, and ongoing efforts to help our state and her citizens. He recognized the importance of this knowledge by saying, "The history that rests behind 30 years of service, 35 years, 40, 45, and 50 years of service is invaluable."

Yes, you read that last line correctly ... 50 years of service. This year, four employees were honored for their achievement of 50 years of service. They are: Roy Frasher (DHHR), Patricia Haddy (State Tax Department), Anthony Halkias (Highways), and Dr. James Miltenberger (West Virginia University). Three of the four were able to join Governor Tomblin and their fellow honorees at the awards ceremony (photo below).

Congratulations to the nearly 1,800 employees who were honored

See PSRW – Page 9

Governor Appoints Woody Williams to Veterans' Council

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Continues to Serve State, Nation, and Veterans

This past summer, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin announced the appointment of Hershel Woodrow "Woody" Williams to the West Virginia Veterans' Council.

"I've had the honor and privilege of working with Woody throughout the years," said Gov. Tomblin. "An advocate for veterans, Woody is actively involved in both State and national veterans groups. More than a veteran, he embodies patriotism and honor. I'm pleased Woody has accepted my appointment to the Veterans' Council."

"Hershel Woodrow 'Woody' Williams, West Virginia's last living Medal of Honor recipient, served in the United States Marine Corp. After being wounded at Iwo Jima on March 6, 1945, he received the Purple Heart, and on October 5, 1945 he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman."

The West Virginia Code (Chapter 9A, Article 1, Section 2, as amended) provides that there shall be a Veterans' Council made up of nine members, each of whom must be citizens and residents of the State, and who have served in and been honorably discharged or separated under honorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces. Further, their service must fall within a time of war as defined by the laws of the United States.

When advised of his appointment Woody Williams said, "I am extremely proud to serve on one of the most important Councils along with other notable Veterans, involving the Veterans and their loved ones who sacrificed much to make sure Mountaineers are always free."



*Governor Earl Ray Tomblin greets
Hershel 'Woody' Williams during the
2012 Mountaineer Boys State.
Tomblin appointed Williams to the
West Virginia Veterans' Council on July 30, 2012.
Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office.*

WILLIAMS' MEDAL OF HONOR STORY ... AND HOW IT ALMOST DIDN'T HAPPEN ...

Hershel Woodrow 'Woody' Williams wanted to be a United States Marine, yet he was initially rejected by the Marine Corps. In a twist of circumstances, he was able to join the service the following year, leading to a mark of bravery and courage that earned him the distinction of becoming a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

Williams comes from humble roots. He was born in Quiet Dell, WV on October 2, 1923, and was the 11th child of 11 children. He was raised on a dairy farm that delivered dairy products daily to Fairmont and the nearby area. His father died when he was nine years old, and all but five of his siblings passed before adulthood due to flu and other sickness.

When his father passed, one of his older brothers took over the farm; Williams also worked on it. Another brother joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Williams noticed that when his brother came home from the CCC for visits, he always had money, so Williams decided enlisting in the CCC made sense for him, too. He ended up in Whitehall, MT, which is where he was on December 7, 1941, the day of the Pearl Harbor attack.

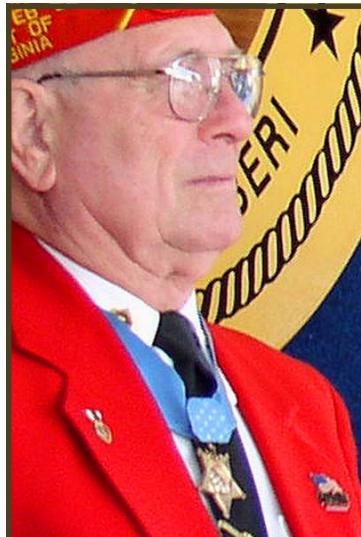
The CCC offered direct entry into the military, so he left that Corps in 1942 to enlist in the Marines, where he was rejected. You see, the Marine Corps had a height requirement of at least 5'8". Woody Williams wasn't a tall man. He stood 5'6" and his words, was "the runt of the family." A disappointed Williams returned to the family dairy farm.

Unknown to him, the recruitment officer saw something in Williams. When the height requirement was lifted the following year, the officer tracked down Williams and in May, 1943, he was finally able to enlist.

But Williams still had to wait. Because of the rush of enlistments nationwide, Parris Island was full. According to him, they were taking only two people from each West Virginia county each month. Finally, he, along with five

others from his county, were chosen to attend boot camp in San Diego. They became known as some of the “Hollywood Marines,” a term used by the Parris Island recruits for the San Diego crew. This particular “Hollywood Marine” received not only his basic training, but advanced training in flamethrowers and combat demolitions, and would end up serving tours on New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Guam ... and the site of one of American’s bloodiest and most violent battles, Iwo Jima.

In February, 1945, U.S. armed forces were sent to take control of Iwo Jima, a small Pacific Island located about 650 miles from Tokyo, for fueling and damage repair. The mission involved the army (comprising ground and air forces – the United States Air Force didn’t become an official separate service until 1947), navy, coast guard, and marines. Gathered intelligence indicated that the



Woody Williams stands proudly at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Veteran's Nursing Home in Clarksburg, WV. The ceremony took place in October, 2003.

enemy was poorly supplied and could be easily overtaken. They predicted those occupying the island would fall within a week. In reality, they were protected by miles and miles of tunnels, concrete pillboxes, underground rooms, land mines, and other weapons and explosives. They were deeply “dug in” or as Col. (Ret.) Joseph H. Alexander quotes of Marine Capt. Thomas Fields in his book, *Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, they “weren’t on Iwo Jima, they were *in* Iwo Jima.”

Williams was a Corporal serving as an acting Demolition Sergeant on February 23, 1945 – the same day the infamous picture of the U.S. flag being raised on Mt. Surubachi was taken by Joe Rosenthal. The American troops and tanks were stalled, taking heavy casualties and unable to breach enemy lines to advance. Williams’ own company was essentially wiped out, including all six flamethrower soldiers. The 21-year-old volunteered to move forward. He strapped a 70-pound flamethrower on his 150-pound body. For the next four hours, under heavy enemy fire and covered by only four riflemen, he raced, crawled, crept, and pressed ahead to eliminate

enemy positions one by one. He stopped only to grab fresh weapons or return to his own lines for them. Fi-



Corporal Hershel Woodrow Williams receives the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Harry S. Truman on October 5, 1945.
Photo from www.weta.org.

nally, with the enemy severely crippled due to Williams’ efforts, the Americans were able to break through. During the ensuing battles, three of the four riflemen died.

In the end, the objective was achieved, but the cost was high. After 75 days of pre-invasion bombing and 36 days of combat, the U.S. lost 6,800+ troops, including 262 of the 279 Marines in Williams’ company. Another 21,000 were wounded. Williams himself was wounded on March 6, 1945, and he received a Purple Heart. Although a few were captured, most of the 22,000+ enemy force perished.

On October 5, 1945, for “gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life ... ,” Hershel Woodrow Williams was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman. He was honorably discharged that November. He re-enlisted in the inactive Marine Corps Reserve, serving from March, 1948 to August, 1949, then joined the Reserve again in October, 1954, retiring in 1969 as a Chief Warrant Officer. His lifetime service and accomplishments are too many to list individually, but he became a lay minister for his church and a chaplain for his fellow Medal recipients. Williams also served as Chaplain Emeritus of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for 35 years. Today, the active 89-year-



A close-up look at Williams' Congressional Medal of Honor

old is the Society’s Historian, in addition to serving on various boards, committees, and councils.

This American hero from humble beginnings remains humble today. He remembers what President Truman whispered to him: “I’d rather have this medal than be President of the United States.” In Woody’s own eyes, “The real heroes are still over there.”

Environmental Protection's Water Festival a Hit on Capitol Grounds

Reprinted from the September/October issue of InDEPth, the Department of Environmental Protection's newsletter.

Children's smiles and squeals of delight come to Tomi Bergstrom's mind when she reflects on this year's Children's Water Festival. And she, in turn, gets a smile on her face.

"It was enjoyable watching the kids play and splash in the water," said Bergstrom, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Western Basin Coordinator for the Division of Water and Waste Management's Non-Point Source program.



Ed Andrews (left), from the Division of Air Quality, talks to elementary school students about acid rain during the Children's Water Festival last month on the grounds of the State Capitol.

Bergstrom coordinated the September 14 Water Festival, which was conducted on the State Capitol grounds – north side, near the fountain – for the first time.

"We had a balance," Bergstrom said. "There were parts where the kids listened, and there were parts where they got to get their hands involved. We kept their attention and I believe they learned."

The Water Festival taught close to 240 fifth-graders from Belle, Bridgeview, Bridge, Alum Creek, and Andrew Heights elementary schools about water conservation, preservation, pollution, and its cycle.

"This was my first year planning and coordinating this event," Bergstrom said. "We had 10 stations spread out in the space in front of the golden dome. The weather cooperated and the kids enjoyed themselves in an outdoor classroom for the day and learned a great deal regarding water."

The stations showed how the many different aspects of water overlap.

"If you have a stream with no bugs, there is a problem," Bergstrom said. "We had two stations that had pictures or live examples of the macroinvertebrates and mussels you would expect to find in a healthy watershed. The children were able to observe and handle the animals, which was a pretty memorable experience for them."

Another station used a game like "Musical Chairs" to demonstrate how our actions can have negative impacts on nature.

"The National Park System showed how development and pollution can affect water and therefore the species — bugs, fish, and birds living there," Bergstrom said. "It challenged the children to critically think of solutions to the threats on the ecosystem."

"We taught the kids how spilling oil in the parking lot can affect the streams, and how dumping garbage on the ground can result in contaminated ground water," Bergstrom said.

Different stations were hits with the kids.

John Butterworth, of the Putnam County Office of Planning and Infrastructure, had an interactive demo on how a floodplain functions.



Help Your Kids Become Utility Superstars!

It's never too early to start teaching children about utilities, conservation, safety, and laws. The Public Service Commission offers a Kid's Corner link featuring Utility Billy, who will guide kids through many fun activities with the teaching goal in mind.

If you have young children or grandchildren and are looking for something both fun and educational for them, join them on the computer and visit Utility Billy at:

www.psc.state.wv.us/kidcorner/default.htm

Utility Billy is available at the Public Service Commission's website to help children enjoy learning how to become Utility Superstars!

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Do You Know Your Retirement Options?

CHECK and UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY INFORMATION TODAY!

Members of the Public Employees Retirement System have three annuity options upon retirement. Do you know what they are?

STRAIGHT LIFE

Under the Straight Life option, the retiree receives a lifetime monthly annuity that's calculated under the full benefit formula. Under this option, the annuity is paid only for the lifetime of the retiree; there is no beneficiary annuity payment. Although employee contributions are normally depleted within the first 2 or 3 years after retirement, there is always a chance the retiree may die before this happens. If so, there would be a lump sum return of accumulated contributions plus interest. For this reason, retirees should either name one or more beneficiaries OR choose to have those contributions designated to their estates.

100% JOINT and SURVIVOR

By choosing this option, the retiree receives a reduced monthly annuity for his/her lifetime; the named beneficiary will receive the same amount upon the retiree's death for his/her lifetime.

50% JOINT and SURVIVOR

For the retiree's lifetime, this option pays the retiree a reduced annuity that is slightly more than that of the reduced annuity for the 100% Joint and Survivor option; however, upon the retiree's passing, the beneficiary receives one-half the amount for his/her lifetime.

There are important things to remember about naming beneficiaries for either of the Joint and Survivor annuity options.

- You may name only ONE beneficiary to receive a survivor annuity.
- Your annuity option cannot be changed once your first retirement check has been cashed.

The chosen option is final unless authorized according to the provisions of WV Code § 5-10-24.

- When choosing a beneficiary, remember that the individual must have an "insurable interest" in your life. This means that the person is related to you, either by blood ties or marriage, or has a legal claim upon you for service or support from the personal relationship between you, AND where the person has a reasonable right to expect some financial or monetary advantage from you.



Don't wait until retirement to check on and update your beneficiary information. You need to make sure you provide accurate pre-retirement choices now. Forms are available on the internet at www.wvretirement.com/forms/preretireBenePers.pdf. Don't panic at the length of the form. Read through it to see exactly which pages you actually need to complete.

State Retirement Plus Plan Prospering

Contributed by Greg Stone of the State Treasurer's Office.

The State's official supplemental retirement plan has more than doubled in the number of participants and experienced an 82 percent total asset increase since State Treasurer John Perdue's office assumed administration in July of 2006.

West Virginia Retirement Plus, a 457 plan serving public employees, now shows 12,924 participants, up from only 5,022 six years ago. It boasts approximately \$124 million in total assets, as opposed to \$68 million in 2006.

The last fiscal year was another productive one. The cities of Morgantown and Chester, among others, made the plan available to their employees, while Nitro took it a step further – it is the only participant in the plan which features automatic enrollment of new employees.

"There is one reason and one reason only for the success of Retirement Plus," Treasurer Perdue said, "and that is hard work. I'm proud of the work my staff, in conjunction with fund manager ING, has done to boost awareness and promote the advantages of the plan."

New municipal hires at Nitro will be automatically enrolled in the 457 plan unless they choose to opt out within 30 days. This means that upon hiring, an employee selects an amount to be withdrawn from his or her paycheck, to supplement whatever retirement plan is already in place. Those withdrawals are guided into an investment plan chosen by the employee.

Nitro is the first entity of any kind in the plan to implement automatic enrollment. That includes 56 municipalities, 48 counties and eight boards of education. Another 45 political subdivisions of varying stripes also participate.

West Virginia Retirement Plus implemented automatic enrollment in July 2007 for new State employees, but other municipalities, counties, and entities must set their own policy on the issue.

Statewide Public Hearings Scheduled for Comments on the PEIA FY14 Plan

Reprinted from *Quotes, Notes and Anecdotes*, the Department of Administration's newsletter.

The Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) Finance Board has scheduled public hearings to discuss and to take comments for the proposed financial plan for Plan Year 2014. Registration for the sessions begins at 5 P.M. and hearings start at 6 P.M. Those wishing to speak at the hearings must indicate so at registration.

The Finance Board voted at its September meeting not to increase premiums for the next plan but is considering plans that increase co-payments, deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses for policy holders.

PEIA will provide customer service in each location from 5 to 6 p.m. for those members who have questions about medical, prescription or life insurance benefits.

Policy holders who cannot attend any of the hearings may submit comments at PEIA.Help@wv.gov. For more information, call 304-558-7850.

The public hearing schedule is listed below:

Monday, November 12

Holiday Inn
301 Fox Croft Avenue
Martinsburg

Tuesday, November 13

Ramada Inn
20 Scott Avenue
Morgantown

Wednesday, November 14

WV Northern Community College
1704 Market Street
Wheeling

Thursday, November 15

Marshall Medical School
Harless Auditorium
Huntington

Monday, November 19

Ballroom A
One Tamarack Park
Beckley

Tuesday, November 20

Chas. Civic Center Little Theater
200 Civic Center Drive
Charleston

LCD Screen Refunds

Refund claims are now being accepted from an antitrust settlement negotiated with manufacturers of Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screens. These screens were used in televisions, laptop screens, and computer monitors.

Eligible West Virginians have until December 6, 2012 to file claims for screens they purchased between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2006.

Consumers can file online at www.LCDclass.com or use the PDF form at the end of this newsletter.

For more information, contact Peggy Means, Office of the Attorney General: peggy.means@wago.gov or 304-8986 or 1-800-368-8808.

Adjust Your Head Restraint

Though manufacturers have improved head restraints in recent years, many drivers don't reap the benefits. In one study, only one-third of restraints were in the proper position. A head restraint that isn't properly adjusted may give only 48% of its designed protection.

Adjust the restraint so it protects your neck. This helps guard against whiplash injury during a rear collision. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety recommends:

- The head restraint should be even with the top of your head or at least level with your ears.
- There should be a little space between your head and the restraint, preferably less than four inches.

Lawyers' Identities Being Used for Fake Websites/Solicitations

Reprinted (with edits) from the West Virginia State Bar website.

The West Virginia State Bar has been notified of a recent scam in which the identify of a Texas attorney, who had not practiced in years, was used to set up a fake law firm website using the attorney's maiden name, former office address, and portions of her professional biography. Yesterday, the State Bar received a call from one of our current members regarding the use of her name and professional information to solicit legal work.

You should be on the alert. If you are an attorney and become aware of the same, or a similar, situation involving your name/law firm, you should immediately contact local authorities to report the incident. Additionally, you should contact the Office of Disciplinary Council to advise them of the situation. The ODC does not have the authority to pursue non-lawyers. However, the ODC should be on notice of the incident if a potential victim, who mistakenly thinks that you are their lawyer, files a claim against you.

If you are a citizen who is solicited or becomes aware of a situation such as those, please make the same contacts.

Lastly, be sure to closely monitor your credit report or bank accounts to ensure that your identity is not the only thing being stolen.

NOTICE:

The State Bar's main and direct dial phone numbers will be changing. The current toll-free number will remain the same. Current phone numbers will remain available until December 1. Check the Bar's website for updated listings and new numbers:

www.wvbar.org

A Master's Degree May Be Closer Than You Think!

Contributed by Erin Estell of West Virginia University.

West Virginia University is currently accepting applications for the Spring 2013 cohort for its Master of Legal Studies Program - part of the Division of Public Administration. This program consists of 36 hours of coursework, and students are normally expected to take six credit hours (two classes) per semester. There are no on-campus meetings, as all coursework is completed online. The cohort that begins in January 2013 will run through Fall 2014. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until the start of spring semester. All interested individuals are encouraged to contact the program for more information and to submit an application, and administrators are hoping for a full cohort of students.

The Master of Legal Studies Program (MLS) was developed primarily for mid-career professionals who desire a more advanced knowledge of the legal system, or who wish to further their education for professional advancement. The program is not a "pre-law" or a beginning paralegal program. It is designed for those who desire a better understanding of the legal system because of their interactions with it. "This is why we think the MLS Program is a perfect fit for those that are working in a variety of fields including human services, regulatory agencies, business, criminal and juvenile justice, and court officials including magistrate and probation officers," said Erin Estell, Program Coordinator for the MLS Program. "These officials interact with the legal system and the public on a daily basis, and could benefit from the training that our program provides." Estell also emphasized that "Since the program is completely online, all requirements can be fulfilled from any place with a computer and internet access. This is perfect for those with

full-time jobs, families, or those who simply do not have regular access to the campus."

All courses are completed online. Assignments are completed at a student's convenience according to the schedule set by the instructor in each course. Courses are offered consecutively rather than concurrently; students take two courses per semester, but are never required to focus on more than one at any given time.

The program is directed by Dr. Nancy Adams, a long-time faculty member in the Division of Public Administration; faculty members for the program are drawn from distinguished and experienced instructors in Public Administration, Law, Political Science, Sociology & Anthropology, as well as practicing attorneys. Applicants should possess an undergraduate degree (BA, BS, etc.) with a GPA of 2.75 or better, and must also have five or more years of work experience or submit graduate-level standardized test scores (such as the GRE, GMAT, or LSAT). Applicants must also submit three letters of recommendation, a current resume, and a personal statement.

Program staff is happy to provide more information to anyone who may be interested in the degree. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the program website at <http://legalstudies.wvu.edu> which contains all necessary information regarding curriculum, schedules, course descriptions, and the application process. Interested persons should also feel free to contact the program by email at LegalStudies@mail.wvu.edu or by calling 304-293-7977 for more information.



Surplus Property Advises Organizations to Take Note of Important Requirements for Payment

Text below is reprinted from The Property Connections, the newsletter for the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property.

Eligible organizations purchasing from the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property (WVSASP) should be aware of payment requirements.

At the time of purchase, authorized representatives are given a Federal Distribution Document which they must sign. This document lists all items procured by the eligible organization at the time of property acquisition. It is important to retain this copy for your organization's record.

Payments must be made at the time of purchase using an organizational check or credit card, such as the State Purchasing Card, which is issued to authorized State employees on behalf of their agencies.

Personal credit cards, personal checks, or cash will not be accepted. The eligible organization must have proof that payment for the property is coming from the eligible organization itself.

Parent organizations can pay for any of its subordinate organizations; however, subordinate organizations cannot pay for items purchased by the parent organization.

For more information on requirements for payment, please call the WVSASP at 304-776-2626 or toll-free at 1-800-576-7587, or go to www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/surplus/referenc.html.

WVDOT Hosts Safety and Training Conference and 'Roadeo'

Contributed by Steven B. Cole, District Nine Engineer/Manager for the Division of Highways and Conference Coordinator

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (WVDOT/DOH), hosted the 2012 Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Safety and Training Conference on September 19, 2012, in Beckley, West Virginia.

The purpose of this conference is to promote skill advancement for employees whose jobs require the operation of heavy equipment, to increase the safety awareness level of employees working in or around construction zones, to increase employee morale and value, to strengthen the presence of team spirit and teamwork and to recognize the best equipment operators in an atmosphere of friendly competition.

Staff from the following states participated: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

We congratulate the team from Tennessee, which took first place, and we are very pleased and proud to announce that West Virginia's team of exceptionally skilled equipment operators came in **SECOND PLACE** in the conference's overall team competition

Well done, everyone!



2012 Roadeo Winners

Single Axle Dump Truck Competition

- First Place: Mike Pritchett (MS)
Second Place: Lance Roland (TN)
Third Place: Betty Glass (WV)



Tandem Axle Dump Truck Competition

- First Place: Keith Carpenter (AR)
Second Place: Wade Ramsey (TN)
Third Place: Bryant Jenkins (WV)

Tractor Truck with Lowboy Competition

- First Place: James Pullins (TN)
Second Place: Terrel Scroggins (AR)
Third Place: Marcus Standridge (AR)

Tractor/Mower Competition

- First Place: Larry Carman (TN)
Second Place: Robert Morrison (WV)
Third Place: Kenny Miller (WV)

Motor Grader Competition

- First Place: Ricky Byrd (TN)
Second Place: Robert Chapman (NC)
Third Place: Nathan Gibson (TN)

Backhoe Competition

- First Place: Kenny Brewer (WV)
Second Place: Jason Hicklen (TN)
Third Place: Nakoma Emanuel (NC)



YOUR WYDOH TEAM

Front Row (Left to Right):

- Betty Glass, District Five
Mike Williams, District One
Kenny Miller, District One
Robert Morrison, District Seven
Bryant Jenkins, District Four
Kenny Brewer, District Nine
Sam Criss, District Seven

Back Row (Left to Right):

- Gary Eagle, District Three
Terry Drennen, District Nine
James Soles, District Six
Patrick Rohrbaugh, District Five
James Cutlip, District Seven

Main Street West Virginia Urges Shoppers to Support Local Small Business on Nov. 24

Reprinted from the West Virginia Department of Commerce website.

Shoppers are being asked to make a big difference to small businesses by spending at least one day supporting their local communities. The national Small Business Saturday takes place November 24.

Small businesses represent more than 96 percent of all employers in West Virginia, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Main Street West Virginia encourages consumers to answer the call to “shop small” at hometown stores and boost the local economy. A program of the West Virginia Development Office, Main Street West Virginia focuses on economic revitalization of historic commercial districts. The organization serves 12 accredited Main Street communities and 16 ON TRAC communities.

“A vibrant commercial district can bolster small businesses, strengthen communities and revitalize the local economy,” said Marsha Humphrey, state coordinator, Main Street West Virginia. “Now, with communities throughout our state recovering from the recent storms, it is more important than ever that we support our small businesses. It’s as easy as walking into a shop on your local Main Street.”

Small Business Saturday falls between “Black Friday,” the traditional holiday shopping spree kick-off, and the online version “Cyber Monday.” Main Street West Virginia, a program of the West Virginia Development Office, focuses on economic revitalization of historic commercial districts.

The state’s accredited Main Street communities are Charleston East End and Charleston West Side, both of Kanawha County; Fairmont and Mannington, both of Marion County; Kingwood, Preston County; Martinsburg, Berkeley County; Morgantown, Monongalia County; Philippi, Barbour County; Point Pleasant, Mason County; Ripley, Jackson County; and Ronceverte and White Sulphur Springs, both of Greenbrier County. For more information about West Virginia’s Main Street communities, visit <http://wvcommerce.org/people/>.

This marks the third year for Small Business Saturday. American Express founded the event in 2010 to help small businesses get more exposure during one of the biggest shopping weekends of the year.

West Virginia Office of Technology – Technology Learning Center

Technology Learning Center classes are available for registration for November & December 2012. Classes will be held at the [Caperton Training Center](#) in Building 7 on the Capitol Complex campus, and at the [Department of Environmental Protection](#) in Kanawha City near the Kanawha Mall. The classes offered by the Technology Learning Center include:

- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Word

All technology classes are free of charge to employees of consolidated agencies. If your work e-mail address ends in “@wv.gov,” then you are an employee of a consolidated agency, and the classes are free of charge. If you wish to enroll in technology classes, please visit the www.onlineregistration.wv.gov website. Returning users may log in to the website with their current user name and password. New users must create a unique user name and password in order to enroll. If your agency requires you to enroll through a training coordinator, please remember to do so. Also, if the classes in which you wish to enroll are full, remember to periodically check the website for openings due to cancellations.

during PSRW, and to all state employees for your diligent hard work, day-in and day-out.

How to Have Happy Children

Here's some advice from *The 1882 Old Farmer's Almanac* ... Why should we not try to [have] our children enjoy their home? Try to avoid all unnecessary fault-finding and abstain from it at mealtimes.



It tends to destroy the appetite, not only of the poor offender, but of all the rest of the family. Give a pleasant greeting to all in the morning, and at night, and when meeting at the table. Do not be stingy of kisses. It is better to put them at interest than to hoard them.

REFLECTIONS ON A CRISP FALL DAY



On a brilliantly clear day with a bright blue sky, the very few clouds that were present are seen in the reflections of a downtown Charleston office building.

FESTIVAL – Continued from Page 4

"I learned how to stay safe in a flood," said Wyatt Henley, a student at Andrew Heights.

Henley was excited to be at the Water Festival because he is a fan of science.

"I like science because you get to learn about plants, animals and other organisms — little creatures you've never heard of before," he said.

Another fifth-grader at Andrew Heights, Bailey Gatens, also counts science as one of her favorite subjects.

"I wanted to learn more about the properties of water," she said.

"When you dig deeper into things," she added, "it makes it cooler and more interesting."

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Announces Information on the 21st Annual Families Conference – Nov. 16-18

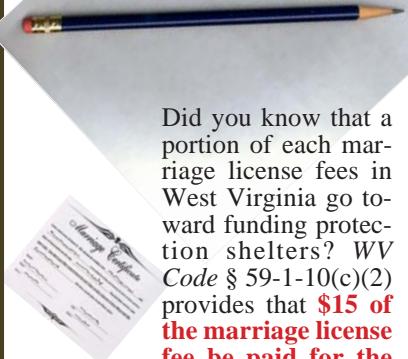
Annually, the Family Support PROGRAM sponsors a "Families Conference." This conference is a retreat for individuals and their families who are diagnosed with a Intellectual/Developmental Disability.

The conference will be held at the picturesque Stonewall Resort in northern West Virginia. During this two-day conference, individuals and their families will participate in classes which provide much-needed family training. There are also opportunities for networking with the State system providers, medical personnel when available, and advocacy agencies and other agency representatives who work with these individuals on a day to day basis. The conference also provides the families with many peer- support opportunities.

Contact Cassandra Toliver
304-356-4776 OR cassandra.l.toliver@wv.gov

For more info online:
[CLICK HERE](#)

Pencil In ...



Did you know that a portion of each marriage license fees in West Virginia go toward funding protection shelters? WV Code § 59-1-10(c)(2) provides that **\$15 of the marriage license fee be paid for the Family Protection Shelter Support Act.**



NATIONAL
DO NOT CALL
REGISTRY

A reminder that **cell phone numbers went public in February 2012**. Beware of a phone call phishing scam claiming to be from the National Do Not Call (DNC) Registry. **NEVER RESPOND TO THESE CALLS.** You can add your mobile number to the actual registry at 1-888-382-1222 or www.donotcall.gov. Your number remains on the list permanently due to changes made in 2008.



Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.

Mark Twain

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Stateline is published by the
WV Department of Administration,
Division of Personnel

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