THE BUYERS ET WOR JUNE 2010 - VOL. 20, ISSUE 6

THE BUYERS NETWORK is Published Monthly by the Purchasing Division of the West Virginia Department of Administration to Promote Better Value in Public Purchasing

2010 Agency Purchasing Conference

Conference Registration Kicks Off on June 1

Registration is now open for the 2010 Agency Purchasing Conference, scheduled for Sept. 14-17, at Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center in Davis, West Virginia. A tentative conference schedule is available on page 3 of *The Buyers Network*.

All conference registration materials are available at: http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/conference/agency/2010/.

Staff Development Specialist Brian Holmes said all conference registration will be online. Holmes said the Beginner's Track, a series of six introductory courses for state employees with two years or less of procurement experience, will be available again this

year. The intent is for new procurement officers to gain the general knowledge of the state purchasing

process, procedures, and statutory and regulatory requirements. Registrants for the Beginner's Track will be automatically registered for all six classes, spanning two days of the conference.

This year's registration fee remains at \$200 per participant, which includes all group meals and training materials. Lodging reservations may be made by calling

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EVERYONE Wins at our Open House

Cindy Fisher says she never wins anything. This is no longer true.

The Department of Agriculture procurement official won complimentary registration to the 2010 Agency Purchasing Conference in September by attending the third annual Purchasing Division **Open House** on May 4. Fisher's name was selected among the nearly 60 procurement officials from around the state who spent time discussing work-related items with the Purchasing Division staff at the **Open House**. The Purchasing Division offered those attending this event a chance to win

free registration at the conference.

Though Fisher's name was drawn as the prize recipient, all procurement officers present was a winner as the face-to-face interaction between procurement officials and Purchasing Division buyers strengthens the state purchasing process. Also present during the event were Purchasing Division inspectors, training representatives, technical services personnel, and those representing the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property.

"We had another great turnout

Please see OPEN HOUSE, Page 2

Nominees Sought for Purchasing Division Recognition Awards

The Purchasing Division needs your input to determine this year's recipients of its two recognition programs: Agency Procurement Officer of the Year and Partner in Purchasing. Nominations are now being accepted! The honorees will be an-

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INSIDE...

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THE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

ERP Moves Forward Resulting in Change in eProcurement

By Purchasing Director Dave Tincher

Recently, the Purchasing Division received positive news that the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project is moving forward with great intensi-In case you are unfamiliar with this project, the ERP system will replace many of the state's computing systems, including the West Virginia Financial Information System (WVFIMS), TEAM, and the Human Resources Information System (HRIS), into one statewide system. The Executive branch is working in a collaborative effort with the State Auditor and State Treasurer on this worthwhile project.

Additionally, we expect that the fi-

nance component of the ERP system will be scheduled first to be implemented. The eProcurement or purchasing module is part of this finance component.

A consulting contract for the ERP is already in place, with an expected release date for the system RFP to be later this fall. In short, ERP is coming soon!

As a result of this good news, our division has had to make some important decisions regarding the status of the eProcurement project that was currently underway with West Virginia Interactive / SicommNet, for which we coordinated a demonstration for agen-



cy purchasers last summer. It was always the intent for this system to be an interim solution until the ERP implementation.

At this point in the process, due to the aggressive schedule of the ERP system, it appears to be in the best interest of the State to direct our time and resources toward the purchasing module

of the ERP project and cease working on the eProcurement interim solution.

The interim solution would have been a self-financed system, requiring vendors to pay a transaction fee in addition to the annual registration fee. The ERP system will be a state financed system, thus, vendors will not be required to pay a transaction fee.

We continue to look forward to enhancing the technologies of the state procurement process and working with the ERP team in realizing this project through implementation. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm for this near-future endeavor.

Interested in Becoming a Certified Purchaser?

The Purchasing Division is pleased to offer our Certification Program. For details and specific requirements, visit our Web site at:

http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/training/Certification/default.htm



The third annual Purchasing Divison Open House, held May 4 at the Purchasing Division's Washington Street office, gave Purchasing employees and procurement officers an opportunity to interact with one another.

OPEN HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

which gave us another excellent opportunity to enhance the lines of communication with those agency partners we work with on a continuous basis. Our **Open House** is an integral part of our mission to be accessible and informative to the procurement officials we closely work with daily," said Purchasing Director Dave Tincher.

"We had agency officials visiting our office for the first time and others who have visited us here numerous times before," he added. "This is a good indicator that we are reaching out to those new to procurement as well as keeping the lines of communication strong with those established in their procurement positions."

Tincher said the Purchasing Division will continue to host an annual **Open House** with next year's event possibly incorporating training classes on select topics.

2010 Agency Purchasing Conference ITINERARY OF EVENTS

Conference Grid	Birch-Hawthorne	Elm-Willow	Hemlock	Laurel Lounge	Pine
Tuesday, September 14				<u> </u>	
Conference Registration	Registration will be held	in the main lobby on the	e 2nd Floor		
1:00pm - 6:00pm		,			
Evening Social	This event will be held in	This event will be held in the Spruce/Balsam/Maple Room			
6:00pm - 8:00pm					
Wednesday, September 15					
Group Breakfast	This event will be held in	n the Spruce/Balsam/Maj	ole Room		
7:00am - 8:30am					
Conference Registration	Registration will be held	in the main lobby on the	2nd Floor		
7:30am - 8:30am		•			
Commencement	This event will be held in	n the Spruce/Balsam/Maj	ole Room		
8:30am - 9:00am	Beginner's Track				
Workshops	Basic Purchasing	Statewide Contracts	Acquisition Planning	Purchasing Ethics	Request for Quotations
9:15am - 10:15am	Shelly Murray	Jo Ann Adkins	Michael Austin	Dave Tincher	Chuck Bowman
Workshops	Vendor Registration	Writing Specifications	Inspection Services	Surplus Property	Travel Management
10:30am - 11:30am	Mark Totten	Roberta Wagner	Mike Sheets & Inspectors	K Frye & E Perdue	C DeMarco & B Ratliff
Group Lunch	This event will be held in	n the Spruce/Balsam/Maj		•	
11:30am - 1:00pm					
Workshops	Statewide Contracts	Payment Process	Basic Purchasing	Agency Delegated Purchasing	Evaluation & Award Process
1:15pm - 2:15pm	Jo Ann Adkins	Lisa Comer	Shelly Murray	Frank Whittaker	Roberta Wagner
Workshops	Request for Quotations	Legal Issues	Pre-Bid Conferences	Fixed Assets	Meet CTS
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Chuck Bowman	Dawn Warfield	Michael Austin	K Frye & E Perdue	Holley-Brown & Miller
Banquet & Game Show	This event will be held in	n the Spruce/Balsam/Maj	ole Room	•	•
6:00pm - 8:00pm					
Thursday, September 16					
Workshops	Evaluation & Award Process	Correctional Industries	PO Encumbrance	Change Order Process	Expressions of Interest
8:45am - 9:45am	Michael Austin	Guy Perry	Dan Miller	Krista Ferrell	Chuck Bowman
Workshops	Documents & Approvals	Vendor Registration	Surplus Property	Sole Source Process	Request for Proposals
10:00am - 11:00am	Frank Whittaker	Mark Totten	K Frye & E Perdue	Shelly Murray	Krista Ferrell
Group Lunch & Awards	This event will be held in	n the Spruce/Balsam/Maj	ole Room		
11:15am - 12:45pm					
Workshops	Piggybacking Contracts	State Use Program	Request for Quotations	PO Encumbrance	Legal Issues
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Jo Ann Adkins	Penney Hall	Chuck Bowman	Dan Miller	Dawn Warfield
Workshops	Fixed Assets	Change Order Process	Statewide Contracts	Acquisition Planning	Meet CTS
2:15pm - 3:15pm	K Frye & E Perdue	Krista Ferrell	Jo Ann Adkins	Michael Austin	Holley-Brown & Miller
Workshops	Preventing Protests	Payment Process	Request for Proposals	Agency Delegated Purchasing	Purchasing Ethics
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Chuck Bowman	Lisa Comer	Krista Ferrell	Frank Whittaker	Dave Tincher
Friday, September 17					
Group Breakfast	This event will be held in	n the Spruce/Balsam/Maj	ole Room		
7:00am - 8:30am					
Workshops	Documents & Approvals	Inspection Services	Writing Specifications	Pre-Bid Conferences	Travel Management
8:45am - 9:45am	Frank Whittaker	Mike Sheets & Inspectors	Krista Ferrell	Michael Austin	C DeMarco & B Ratliff
Workshops	Piggybacking Contracts	State Use Program	Correctional Industries	Preventing Protests	Sole Source Purchases
10:00am - 11:00am	Jo Ann Adkins	Penney Hall	Guy Perry	Chuck Bowman	Shelly Murray
Closing		ne Spruce/Balsam/Maple			, ,
11:15am - 12:00pm					
1	1				Davis d. 5/5/10

Revised: 5/5/10

Defining Your Agency's Need Helps to Make Acquisition Planning a More Fruitful Journey

A famous saying proclaims, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." One has to wonder if Confucius was thinking about the procurement process when he spoke these words.

It is safe to say he was not, but the journey to procuring an agency's needs begins before the first form is filled out and submitted to the Purchasing Division

"One of the most important aspects of the acquisition planning process is clearly identifying and defining the agency's needs," noted Senior Buyer Frank Whittaker. "One misconception about acquisition planning is the idea that the planning stage is not an important part of this process. This is clearly not the case. Good planning is essential from the very beginning."

Whittaker recommends that agencies follow this stepby-step checklist in advance of preparing a requisition:

- Explore internal and mandatory resources
- Research the market
- Identify possible vendors
- Consider acquisition/delivery time
- Create specifications

"Some of the common mistakes and oversights procurement officials make in the acquisition planning process is failing to identify some of the resources available to them," said Whittaker. "Another aspect of acquisition planning that cannot be overlooked is the importance of market research."

When specifications are created, they should be complete, concise, verifiable, clearly understandable by both the buyer and seller, and identifiable with some brand or specification already on the market. Procurement officials need to complete the Purchase Requisition (WV-35) form and submit to the Purchasing Division with the bid requirements established during the acquisition planning process.

"It is important to remember that if you clearly identify the agency's needs and do the proper market research the acquisition process will go much smoother," Whittaker said.

The acquisition planning process is addressed in Chapter 4 of the Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook at http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/handbook/2007R9/hand4.htm.

Procurement officials should contact their assigned Purchasing Division buyer with additional comments or questions.

For a list of buyer assignments, please visit: http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/byrassign.pdf.



A Purchasing Division committee focused on revising the Request for Proposal (RFP) standard format has completed its revision with the goal of simplifying the process for agencies. The new format has been electronically distributed to all Agency Purchasing Contact Liaisons, as designated by each agency head, for their review and feedback through June 25.

Committee members included: then-Assistant Director for the Acquisition and Contract Administration (ACA) Section Ron Price (who retired in April); Buyer Supervisor Krista Ferrell; Senior Buyer Shelly Murray; then-Purchasing Division Attorney Afton Hutson; Assistant Director for the Communications and Technical Services Section Diane Holley-Brown; and Public Information Specialist Chad Williamson.

"The committee's objectives were to create a simpler method of preparing and soliciting Requests for Proposals; and to develop instructions to assist the agencies initial creation of the RFP," said Ferrell. In this process, the committee took each section of the current RFP format and sought ways to simplify the language.

Multiple changes were made to the process, including:

- The new format follows the bid solicitation, vendor response, agency evaluation, and award process in a chronological order to minimize the confusion both to the vendors and the preparing agency.
 - The use of mandatory requirements

are limited to functions and duties of the agencies as defined by Federal/State Code, Rule, policy, etc. and/or critical functions of the agency to fulfill the duties and obligations to their end user/ customer.

- The response section consists of uniform response criteria which allow the agency the ability to "score" the response to maximize the best value of the vendor's proposal to the State.
- The evaluation focuses on vendor qualifications and approach to project specified goals and objectives.

Ferrell said the RFP process should be seen as a "solution" (the ultimate procurement) to a "problem" (the agency's

Please see RFP, Page 6

Statewide Contract Spotlight...

FleetPride Keeps State Vehicles Running Clean

West Virginia's country roads provide many challenges for those state employees who have to travel them as well as those who have to build and maintain them. Keeping the vehicles in working order is no small task and keeping up some of an engine's smallest parts are the key.

Many experts note that keeping a clean engine is vital to its performance and ensuring that this occurs means regular changing of various engine filters. FleetPride is doing its part to keep state vehicle engines running clean.

FleetPride is the sole vendor on the statewide contract **FILTER09**, which provides oil, gas and air filters for state agency vehicles. FleetPride has been doing business with the state since 1999 and this is the company's first statewide contract.

"At FleetPride, we offer the heavy duty truck and trailer parts and service that our customers need. However, it is equally important to us to build great relationships with our customers, especially state agencies. Personally, I have gotten to know quite a few state

In each issue of **The Buyers Network**, the Purchasing Division will highlight one of our statewide contractors. Providing information about the company and the products offered on the statewide contract, this feature will help familiarize our agency purchasers with our business partners.

West Virginia Code, §5A-3-5, *authorizes the Purchasing Director* to promulgate and adopt standard specifications based on scientific and technical data for appropriate commodities and services. This establish*es the quality to which commodities* and services to be contracted for, by the state must conform. These standard specifications are used to establish statewide contracts for commodities needed on a repetitive basis. No agency may be exempt from using statewide contracts without prior written approval from the Purchasing Director.



Jerry Phillips, branch manager of the FleetPride office in South Charleston, is the contact for those needing oil, gas and air filters on the statewide contract FILTER09.

employees across the state. I've worked with people with the division of highways, correctional facilities, rehabilitation centers and the state police," said Jerry Phillips, branch manager of the FleetPride locale in South Charleston. "That is the best part of my job."

There are 22 full-time employees at the South Charleston office, with an additional 53 employees throughout the state with offices in Beckley, Bluefield, Clarksburg, and Parkersburg. Nationally, FleetPride has 2,300 employees in 192 locations.

"At FleetPride, we like to say, 'our strength is national, but our expertise is home-grown.' That means that we have the ability to support our customers across the country, but we can still customize inventories for our local markets so our customers get the parts and services that are key to their business," Phillips said. "And, because our heavy duty experts understand how each part

operates, how it is installed and what other parts you may need to keep rolling, we provide hands-on assistance to help you choose the right parts, the right way."

Phillips said the company works primarily with Division of Highway district offices, regularly shipping products across the state. Phillips estimates the company has worked with seven different state agencies.

FleetPride is the sole vendor on FIL-TER09. To learn more about this and other statewide contracts, visit http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/SWC/default.htm.

To learn more about FleetPride, contact:

Jerry Phillips, FleetPride Branch Manager, South Charleston, WV 304-746-2000 (office) 304-741-2525 (cell) jerry.phillips@fleetpride.com

www.fleetpride.com

AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

nounced at the 2010 Agency Purchasing Conference on Sept. 14-17 at Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center.

If you would like to nominate an individual, complete the necessary forms by visiting the Purchasing Division's Intranet web site at: http://intranet.state. wv.us/admin/purchase/recognition or contact Staff Development Specialist Brian Holmes at 304-558-7022 or via email at Brian.J.Holmes@wv.gov.

The Agency Procurement Officer of the Year program recognizes individuals who have demonstrated high levels of performance and professionalism for their respective agency. The recipient will receive a framed certificate of recognition, an engraved clock, and free registration and lodging to the 2011 Purchasing Conference. The Purchasing Division displays a plaque in our main office, listing the current and past recipients of this award.

The Partner in Purchasing program honors individuals who have excelled in representing their agency in one of the various programs administered by the Purchasing Division: Fleet Management, Fixed Assets, Surplus Property, TEAM and Travel Management. The recipient will receive a special gift and the Purchasing Division will also display a plaque in our main office, listing the recipient of this award.

More details on the two programs as well as the established criteria is available at the Intranet site listed previously. All nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, Aug. 20, 2010.

This Year's Conference Game Show Asks the Question ... 'Are You Smarter Than a Purchasing Buyer?'

Attendees of the 2010 Agency Purchasing Conference will get an opportunity to test their wits against Purchasing Division buyers in this year's game show, "Are You Smarter Than a Purchasing Buyer?" It is scheduled for its debut during the conference banquet on Sept. 15.

Loosely based on the hit TV show "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?", the game show will provide a fun, educational activity during the banquet. Contestants will be paired into groups of two, working together to answer purchasing-related questions.

However, players will not have to work alone as each pair of contestants will have the opportunity for "expert" help from the panel of our Purchasing Division. The game show follows earlier conference game shows such as "Wheel of Misfortune" and "Agency Feud." Hosting duties will again be handled by Buyer Supervisor Chuck Bowman, with all apologies toward "Fifth Grader" host Jeff Foxworthy.

"Each year, the game show has been one of our most popular events," said Staff Development Specialist Brian Holmes. "Our goal is always to provide an experience that is fun for the procurement agents while also being educational.

Anyone interesting in participating in the game show should check the game show box when registering. Registration information is available at http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/conference/agency/2010/.

ANNUAL

Continued from Page 1

Canaan Valley Resort toll-free at 800-622-4121 (press 1). Please indicate that you are attending our conference to ensure you receive the special rate of \$60 per night. If you are using a voucher with the resort, Holmes said to let the front desk know when making your reservations. He added that a list of alternate lodging options will also be available on the conference registration page listed on page 1.

In a break from years past, the Powerpoint presentations for each class to be held at the conference will be available online to registrants before the conference, instead in a binder at the start of the conference. Holmes said attendees could print out the presentations for the classes they plan to attend and bring the material with them.

"As a result, conference attendees will not be burdened with a cumbersome binder," he said. The exception will be for registrants for the Beginner's Track, who will receive a bound booklet with all six presentations.

Questions relating to the conference may be directed to Brian Holmes at (304) 558-7022 (*Brian.J.Holmes@wv.gov*) or Diane Holley-Brown at (304) 558-0661 (*Diane.M.Holley@wv.gov*).

RFP

Continued from Page 4

need), and that the agency scores each vendor based on its approach to solving the problem. The committee focused on the generation of a new process which would decrease the amount of time to prepare and evaluate RFPs, as well as, giving the agencies best value methodol-

ogy to allow the vendors to propose better solutions to the agency's problem.

"The committee wanted to allow for greater ability for the agencies to score the vendor's proposed solution to gain the maximum impact of the RFP process," she said. "If an agency already knows what solution they need, meaning that they have many mandatory requirements, then the Request for Quotation (RFQ) process

may be better suited to meet their needs versus using the RFP process."

Once comments are received and reviewed, the Purchasing Division plans to offer training at the 2010 Agency Purchasing Conference to assist agencies with the revised format. Should you wish a copy of the draft RFP Standard Format, please contact Diane Holley-Brown at (304) 558-0661 or at *Diane.M.Holley@wv.gov*.

Current Statewide Contract Update

(As of May 15, 2010)

This page includes a listing of current changes made to statewide contracts issued by the Purchasing Division. Information and dates listed in this **Current Statewide Contract Update** are subject to change. All statewide contracts are available online at *http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/swc*. For more information, please contact Senior Buyer **Jo Ann Adkins** at (304) 558-8802 or via e-mail at *Jo.A.Adkins@wv.gov*.

Out for Bid

Contract	Description	Pre-Bid Meeting	Bid Opening
CABLE10	Computer data cable	N/A	05/18/2010
CANLINE10	Can liners	N/A	08/17/2010
PRI8989	2010 delivery truck	N/A	06/17/2010
SELECT10	Microsoft select products	N/A	06/15/2010
SAFETY10	Safety products	N/A	06/10/2010
SUPFOOD10	Supplemental foods	N/A	06/17/2010

New Awards

Contract LITTER10A	Vendor Arcmate Manufacturing Corp.	Description Litter grabbers	Dates 05/01/2010
HOUSE10A	Winans Sanitary Supply Co. Inc.	Household cleaners	05/01/2010
MOTL10G	Best Western Logan Inn	Hotel	01/2010- 12/31/2010
MEDSUP10B	Grove Medical	Medical supplies	04/15/2010

Under Evaluation

Contract	Description	Bid Opening	Under Eval
LIGHT10A	Lamps, ballasts, etc.	04/06/2010	YES
FUELTT011	Fuel (tank truck delivery)	05/21/2010	YES
FUELTW011	Fuel (tank wagon delivery)	05/21/2010	YES

Renewals

(Contract	Vendor	Description	Date
F	RMTIRE09	Appalachian Tire	Tires	06/01/2010-
		Prod.		05/31/2011
	DIGCOP09I	Superior Office	Photocopiers	06/15/2010-
		Services Inc.		12/14/2010
	DIGCOP09A	Aarons Products	Photocopiers	06/15/2010-
		Inc.		12/14/2010
	DIGCOP09D	Kyocera Mita	Photocopiers	12/15/2009-
		American Inc.		12/14/2010
	DIGCOP09C	Komax Business	Photocopiers	06/15/2010-
		Sys. Inc.		12/14/2010
	DIGCOP09E	OCE Imagistics	Photocopiers	06/15/2010-
				12/14/2010
	DIGCOP09F	REMCO Sales	Photocopiers	06/15/2010-
		& Services Inc.		12/14/2010
		_		

Renewals

Contract	Vendor	Description	Data
Contract	vendor	Description	Date
DIGCOP09G	Ricoh Americas	Photocopiers	06/15/2010-
	Corp.		12/14/2010
DIGCOP09J	WV Business	Photocopiers	06/15/2010-
	Products		12/14/2010
MOVE08B	Demary Brothers	Moving services	07/01/2010-
	Transfer Inc.		06/30/2011
MOVE08AB	Central Van	Moving services	07/01/2010-
	& Storage of Char	leston	06/30/2011

Contracts Extended

Contract	Vendor	Description	Date
CRENTAL08	Enterprise	Car rental	04/01/2010-
	Rent A Car		04/30/2010
SYSFURN07B	Capital Business	Office furniture	06/01/2010-
	Interiors		08/31/2010
SYSFURN07G	Kimball	Office furniture	06/01/2010-
	International Mar	keting	08/31/2010
SYSFURN07C	Contemporary	Office furniture	06/01/2010-
	Galleries of WV		09/31/2010
FUELTW11C	JL Brannon Inc.	Fuels	05/15/2010-
			05/31/2010
FUELTT11A	James River	Fuels	05/15/2010-
	Solutions		05/31/2010
FUELTT11B	Harris Oil Comp.	Fuels	05/15/2010-
	•		05/31/2010
FUELTT11D	RT Rogers Oil	Fuels	05/15/2010-
	Com. Inc.		05/31/2010
FUELTW11A	Guttman Oil Co.	Fuels	05/15/2010-
			05/31/2010
FUELTW11B	Harris Oil Co. Inc.	Fuels	05/15/2010-
			05/31/2010
			, ,

Contracts Reviewed

Statewide contracts are reviewed approximately three months prior to the actual expiration date. During this review process, the state buyer examines the specifications and the products.

JUNE

DCBATT10	Dry cell batteries
FASTEN08	Fasteners and accessories
RSHEET09	Reflective sheeting

JULY

BEDDING09	Mattresses, box springs and pillows
DWASH08	Solvents, lubricants, cleaners, etc.
IP08	Computers and printers
MA05SW05	Oracle - master agreement
MA05SW20	ESRI - master agreement
MV10	Automotive vehicles
OIL09	Motor and hydraulic oils

7

Questions?...Just Ask Us!

Are you unsure of certain purchasing procedures? Do you need information on the current state travel regulations? Do you have a question regarding travel requests? Would you want to know what surplus property is available?

If you need additional information concerning any function within the Purchasing Division, complete the form below and return to the address below. You also may forward your request via e-mail.

Diane Holley-Brown, Assistant Director
Communication and Technical Services Section
West Virginia Purchasing Division
State Capitol Complex
2019 Washington Street, East
P.O. Box 50130
Charleston, WV 25305-0130
E-Mail Address: Diane.M.Holley@wv.gov

Name	
Organization	
Address	
Telephone Number	
E-Mail Address	
Need Information about	

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- ☐ Test Your Knowledge with our New Conference Game Show ... See Page 6.

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