

# Commissioners' Corner



A publication of The County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia - Volume 14, Number 5 - July 2012

## CCAWV Essay Contest Winners

The County Commissioners' Association of WV hosted an essay contest for 8th grade students across West Virginia. Student participants were asked to write a 500-word essay on the topic..... "How does my county government make life better for me?"

Winning 1st place and a monetary prize of \$250.00 is Miss Tori Varney, 8th Grade student at Burch Middle School in Mingo County West Virginia. Tori's teacher who encouraged participation in the essay contest, Ms. Tonya Slone will also receive \$250.00 for her classroom. Student and Teacher will receive their prize at an upcoming meeting of the Mingo County Commission.

Excerpt from Tori's essay..."While researching our county government, I came across some basic needs that Mingo County supplies that kids, including me, do not recognize. Our county government supplies essential services such as water, sanitation, waste management, and emergency services...I would like to say thank you to my Mingo County government for all they do to ensure well-being for our youth although it often goes unnoticed. Research on county government has given me a new appreciation for all that it does." Tori's complete Essay will be posted to the CCAWV website.

"One of CCAWV's goals is to increase information and public awareness about county government. As an initiative of this goal we are excited to partner with West Virginia educators to encourage students to learn and write about their county government," says Vivian Parsons, Executive Director. "All the entries we received were creative and interesting; it was very difficult to pick just one winner!"

In the annual contest's first year, CCAWV received 130 entries from fifteen different counties! While there is only one monetary award, the essays were so good, we've decided to also recognize 2nd and 3rd place with an honorable mention and they will receive a CCAWV backpack and portfolio. Placing 2nd is Mr. Justin Huffman, Mountain View School, Monroe County and placing 3rd is Miss Carlie Dickens, Braxton Middle School, Braxton County. CCAWV would like to thank the students and their teachers for participating and making our contest a huge success. All participants, who included return

addresses on their entry, will receive a certificate of participation from the Commissioners' Association.



**Miss Tori Varney, 8th Grade student at Burch Middle School in Mingo County West Virginia pictured with the Mingo County Commission.**

#1



**2nd Place Winner Mr. Justin Huffman, Mountain View School, Monroe County pictured with the Monroe County Commission**

#2



**3rd Place Winner Miss Carlie Dickens, Braxton Middle School, Braxton County pictured with the Braxton County**

#3

## DIRECTOR'S DISCUSSION WITH VIVIAN PARSONS



We are preparing for the **2012 Annual Conference to be held August 5-8, at the Mountaineer Resort, in Hancock County.** If you haven't already made plans to attend, please reconsider! We have lots of good information to share with you so it will be a very packed agenda.

I am just returning from our **National Association of Counties Conference** held in Pittsburgh, PA. We had over twenty WV delegates participating. I attended several good workshops and plan to "borrow" a couple for our future meetings! NACo 1st Vice President Linda Langston will join us as a guest speaker for the CCAWV August Annual Meeting. Also on the **NACo** front, the CCAWV Board has been working diligently with **NACo** on the Association endorsement of the **County Prescription Drug Card Program**. I am very excited to report that the endorsement process has moved forward and promises to provide a new CCAWV membership benefit for 2013, called **"Two for the Price of One!"**. You'll hear more about this at the upcoming CCAWV Conference, stay tuned!

Last week I participated in a reconvening of the **Regional Jail Cost Containment Committee**. This committee which includes stakeholders from all phases and roles in the regional jail process, met to discuss and consider ideas, issues, and possible legislative fixes for containing and controlling the costs associated with the Regional Jail system. We met several years ago and were successful with collaborating on several legislative ideas/fixes. One of the unresolved topics we plan to explore is the idea of some limited form of a "uniform bail schedule. RJA director, Joe Delong is making some very positive changes in the administration of the jails and will be sharing that information at the CCAWV Annual meeting, August 6th.

On July 18th, I participated via cell phone, in a meeting of the **Governor's Intergovernmental Executive Committee**. (Many thanks and much appreciation to CCAWV President Cindy Pyles and Board Member Nancy Cartmill, who also attended to represent our members.). The committee's focus was the "after the storm review." Every county should have received a copy of the letter from Peter Markham, Governor's General Counsel, requesting that each county return to him, a summary of your after storm experience. Even though we did share the preliminary information you gave us, they ask that you include your comments on the form provided, so that uniform information will be gathered from each county. Remember, the deadline for returning the info is at close of business, August 3, 2012. Please respond. The National Guard will be joining us to share their "capabilities briefing" at our upcoming CCAWV Annual Meeting!

2011-2012

## Board of Directors

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### District 3 -- Eastern Division

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Jack Woodrum, Summers (466-7100)

Denise Scalph, Fayette (574-4290)

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## Spotlight on a County Commission: Lewis County

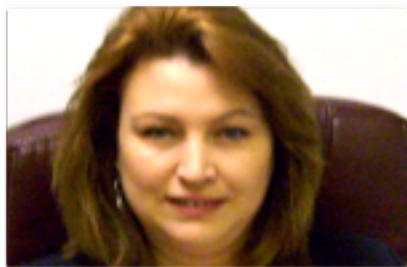
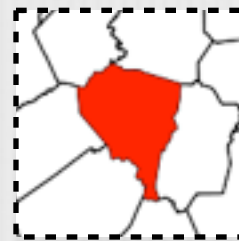
**Crowning achievement:** The ability to create a unified county team that has enabled us to build a \$1.8 million aquatic center and an \$8.6 million annex in the same year.

**Biggest debacle or most embarrassing moment:** Finding out a home that no one thought had any historical value was on the National Registry after you had demolished it.

**Best advice for other County Commissions:** Agree to Disagree.

**Funniest thing to ever happen at a commission meeting:** When the custodian changed cleaning products used on the Commissioners' chairs and all three kept sliding off their chairs during the commission meeting.

**Commission Staff:** Cindy Whetsell, Administrator and Phyllis Corathers, Administrative Assistant.



**Agnes Queen**

**Place where I grew up:** Lewis County.

**Real Life Occupation:** Radio Marketing

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 5 1/2 years

**You would be surprised to know that I:** Use to be very shy.

**My personal philosophy:** Always do what you truly believe is the right thing.

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Helping our county grow.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** having to tear down all the old walls and fight the negative attitudes about change.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** All those companies that didn't give Lewis county a second thought. I want to prove them wrong and show them what they are missing out on.



**Patrick Boyle**

**Place where I grew up:** Weston, Lewis County.

**Real Life Occupation:** Funeral Director

**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 4 years

**You would be surprised to know that I:** Am a farmer at heart.

**My personal philosophy:** Don't forget where you came from.

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Interaction with people and making a difference.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** The slow pace of government operations compared to private enterprise.

**Who I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** Bill Clinton, Lee Iacocca and Colin Powell to discuss yesterday's events which have lead to today.



**Thomas Fealy**

**Place where I grew up:** Lewis County.

**Real Life Occupation:** Barber  
**Years Experience as a County Commissioner:** 13 1/2 years

**You would be surprised to know that I:** Have been a barber for 43 years.

**My personal philosophy:** Work hard and play hard. (Believe me I do both!)

**What I like most about being a County Commissioner:** Trying to help the citizens of Lewis County.

**What I like least about being a County Commissioner:** Meetings that last too long and accomplish nothing.

**I would invite (living or dead) to the next County Commission meeting and what I would discuss:** J.F.K. whatever the President would like to talk about.



## Lewis County Has Groundbreaking for new Judicial Annex

Nearly thirty years ago, the leaders of Lewis County began planning to expand our facilities to meet the growing needs of government. They diligently started saving for an expansion. Today we are celebrating the nearly three decades of fiscal stewardship and management that have made the Lewis County Judicial Annex a reality.

Numerous plans had been discussed, but it was not until 2009 when the Honorable Judge Thomas Keadle suggested a judicial annex that the county found a viable solution to our problem. The search began to find an architectural firm that could provide a solid, state of the art design to fit the needs of the court systems.

In the Spring of 2010, a competitive architectural bid produced the perfect partner for Lewis County. Silling Associates, a West Virginia firm, with vast experience in judicial design was awarded the contract. Their accomplished team met with our local leadership and designed a building that offers state of the art security, spacious courtrooms and offices, and easy, consolidated public access to all areas of the Lewis County judiciary.

The Lewis County Building Commission was given the important task of obtaining financing for the project. Their search investigated many public and private institutions with the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural



Development Fund being chosen. This choice has proven to not only be financially advantageous, but also has given us another partner that has worked tirelessly to see this project succeed. Paula Moeller, USDA Regional Representative went well beyond the call of duty to mitigate an agreement with the State of West Virginia and the Federal Government that was required for the project to be viable. Without her efforts, we would not be standing here today.

In January, 2012, an advertisement for the Lewis County Judicial Annex construction brought forth a field of fifteen companies vying for the job. March Westin, a West Virginia company, was the successful bidder. Their experience and reputation are impeccable and we are thrilled to welcome them to the Lewis County team.

The path to this day has been long, but well worth the wait. The leadership of Lewis County and our new partners are honored to share this historic groundbreaking with the citizens of Lewis County. We welcome each of you back in 2013 for the ribbon cutting of the Lewis County Judicial Annex.

## Calendar of Events



**August 5-8, 2012**

**CCAWV Annual Meeting**  
Mountaineer Resort  
Hancock County, WV

**Interim Meetings**  
**July 23 - 25, 2012**  
**August 13 - 15, 2012**  
**September 10 - 12, 2012**  
**October 8 - 10, 2012**  
**November 26 - 28, 2012**  
**December 10 - 12, 2012**  
**January 7 - 9, 2013**

**September 16-18, 2012**  
**CCAWV Fall Board Meeting**  
The Inn at Charles Town  
Charles Town, WV

**November 28-30, 2012**  
**CCAWV Basic Training**  
Bridgeport, WV

**February 24-27, 2013**  
**CCA Legislative Association Meeting**  
Marriott, Charleston

**May 19-20, 2013**  
**CCAWV Spring Board Meeting**  
The Blennerhassett  
Parkersburg, WV

## LEASING LOWDOWN

The County Commissioner's Association Lease-Purchase Program is pleased to welcome the Taylor County Commission as it's newest participant. The commission has been involved in a project to upgrade the tax office with a new computer system, which includes new hardware and software. The commission chose the program to finance the cost of the upgrade. This new system will allow tax office employees to better utilize their time and create a better, more reliable way to manage tax documents.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS:

1. Cash Conservation: Pay for the equipment over useful life. Eliminate budget spikes for purchasing or replacing equipment.
2. 100% Financing: Provides funding for the entire project. No money down.
3. Deferred Payment Option(s): Quarterly, Semi-Annual and Annual options available.



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*"This is a monthly publication for county commissioners and their staff, Associate members and other interested parties."*