

## 2009-2010 CCA Board of Directors

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**County Commissioners' Association**  
2309 Washington Street East  
Charleston, WV 25311  
(304) 345-4639

**Vivian Parsons, Executive Director**  
**Jennifer Webb, Admin. Assistant**

## Director's Discussion...

Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

Just a quick update from the 2nd meeting of the Tax Modernization Committee. The committee adopted several recommendations to present to the Governor for his consideration in proposing change in the upcoming legislative session. **Remember these are only recommendations from the committee. It is still unclear what the Governor will choose to advance to the legislature.** Unfortunately, there was not a compiled handout of all the committees work product, but based on my limited notes, here a couple of those most interesting to county government:

**From the Business Tax Committee:** 1) **Recommends --A bill to create a study commission to look at telecommunication taxes in WV.** The commission will begin by looking at legislation from several other states including Virginia, Florida, and New York. Counties will want to be involved to monitor any changes that would affect 911 fees, both land lines and wireless as well as cable franchising fee, etc.

**From the Personal Income Tax Committee:** 1) **Recommends --Simplification of the current 4 methods of Senior Citizen property tax relief.** The current four methods are confusing to those who may benefit, inconsistent with each other, difficult to administer and provide benefits to those for whom the legislation was not intended.

**From the Local Property Tax Committee:** 1) **Recommends --Legislation to give the same priority to liens for unpaid municipal fees as unpaid property taxes in tax sales by the sheriff.** To redeem a tax sale property, the redeemer would have to pay all unpaid municipal fees as well as all outstanding property taxes. Other **recommendations** included **interim studies** on the following issues: **--Taxation of property taxes on coal --Increased fiscal flexibility for local governments including county/city local sales tax options** There was much discussion about the phase out and or elimination of personal property taxes especially on inventory and equipment, but the discussion did not result in a recommendation at this time. Further a constitutional amendment was discussed that would give the legislature discretion to reduce, phase out, or eliminate personal property tax. Again this discussion, while lengthy, did not result in a recommendation from the committee. It was instead tabled for now. There was a discussion regarding distribution of the tax on coal bed methane to counties and how in some instances the amount received by some "producing counties" ends up being less than the share received by "nonproducing counties." It was suggested that all producing counties receive at least the nonproducing county share. The committee may continue to work on this issue.

Dr. Tom Witt, who was scheduled to report to the Joint Finance Committee later in the day, informed the committee of his intent to suggest **more public/public partnerships (county - state) as an option to financing WV's highways.** Dr. Witt noted that, "given current and future outlook for state resources, the time may have come for the establishment of a new partnership

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## Director's Discussion...

Vivian Parsons, Executive Director  
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between **local and state government** regarding financing of the highway system." He suggested expanding local options beyond wage tax (such as was granted by legislation to Monongalia County a couple of years ago) and providing incentive to gain the voters approval through creation of matching dollars in the State Road Fund which would guarantee additional funds. No recommendation on this issue was made by the Tax Modernization Committee. **Thank you to CCAWV President Brad Tuckwiller and Vice-President Ron Watson for their attendance and support at the meeting. It was a long interesting day.....not sure how much actual legislation will result from it all!**

### CCAWV Calendar of Events

**January 10-12, 2010**

Interims  
Charleston, WV

**January 13, 2010**

2010 Legislative Session Begins

**January 31-February 2, 2010**

CCA Legislative Meeting &  
Educational Training Series  
Charleston, Marriott

**March 6-10, 2010**

NACO Legislative Conference  
Washington, DC

**March 13, 2010**

Legislative Session Ends

**Don't forget to register for  
the 2010 Legislative Meeting  
and Educational Training  
Series!!!**

**If you have any questions,  
please feel free to call our  
Office at 345-4639!**

## Legislative Time Line January-February



The annual CCA meeting in Charleston is the setting for the legislative meeting of the membership. This is not the place for trading places, changing minds or lobbying special interests. At this point, the outset of the new legislative session, we need

to be consolidating support for the positions previously determined by the legislative committee and approved by the CCA Board. If individual commissioners disagree with the stance on an issue they can opt not to expend any personal energy advocating the Association's position, but at this juncture, working to change it counterproductive. If some action external to CCA merits CCA reaction or reconsideration of our position, we will react appropriately. But in the business of legislative liaison, timing is everything, and we all need to be on the same page in February. There is no reason for us to get blind sided by our own troops at the last moment when the legislative committee has been open to all, all year long.

**The principal purpose of the February meeting should be threefold:**

- 1. Rally the membership in support of the CCA Legislative Agenda**
- 2. Assign individual commissioners to specific legislative liaison objectives**
- 3. Arrange for commissioner presence in Charleston as required throughout the legislative session**



**Our deepest  
sympathies go out to  
Bob Bell, Monongalia  
County Commissioner  
for the loss of his  
mother.**

**Our thoughts and prayers are  
with you at this difficult time!**