



COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



January 2019
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Collective County Voices

CCAWV Hosts 2019 Legislative Conference



CCAWV hosted its Annual Legislative Conference, January 13-15 at Embassy Suites in Charleston. Speakers included Senate President Mitch Carmichael, Senators Joe Manchin and Shelly Moore Capito, Congresswoman Carol Miller, Governor Jim Justice, Commerce Secretary Ed Gaunch and other representative from local, state and federal government.

Presentations were also made by General Hoyer regarding the RISE program and updates on flood relief; the continuing opioid lawsuit updates from Paul Ferrell with Green Ketchum Bailey and Tweel; updates on proposed 911 legislation from Dean Meadows of Wyoming County and an overview of a pilot program at Western Regional Jail from representatives of DMAPS. The focus of this conference is to discuss issues that may affect counties and possible solutions to those issues. CCAWV focuses on communication of the Legislative Platform and Legislative Priorities, which were established at the Fall Board Meeting September. With several new county commissioners elected this past November, this conference provided a number of networking opportunities for our newly elected and veterans to interact with one another.



2019 Legislative Session Includes Several County Issues

All eyes are on the State Capitol as we are in the midst of a very busy legislative session. Major changes to education have consumed the Senate, but they finally passed SB 451 yesterday and sent it to the House! It remains to be seen what will happen there. However, CCAWV is busy focusing on our legislative priorities and working to get those introduced on both the House and Senate side: the 1% Permissive Sales Tax Authority for Counties; Local Government Salary Bill Mechanism; Increasing the Roll-back Provision Maximum; SB 295 Protection for Court Security Officers; Expanding Authority for Disposal of County Property; and HB 2663 - Exempting Agriculture Buildings from County Building Code. HB 2663 passed out of House Agriculture and is now in House Gov Org. With elimination of the Business & Inventory Tax (HJR 17) still a focus for House and Senate leadership, and a resolution to increase homestead exemptions on property taxes (HJR18), counties must be vigilant in protecting our current limited revenue sources. There have been several bills introduced to cut severance tax revenues; oil & gas, coal, and limestone. We are working hard to keep the **"county share"** of severance revenues protected! Don't forget when we send out a Call to Action to notify your senators and delegates on bills that are of the utmost importance to counties.

Director's Discussion with Vivian Parsons



Legislative session has commenced and started out with a bang! CCAWV has been proactive this year and worked on drafting legislation that we have presented to House Speaker Roger Hanshaw. We are also working closely with the Senate to get our priorities introduced.

Education appears to be the main focus currently, along with the elimination of the Business & Inventory Tax. Our Legislative Committee is holding weekly calls and the Legislative Lineup is being distributed every Wednesday. This document provides updates on any and all legislation that would have an impact on counties. CCAWV Lobbyist Steve Kominar is also at the Capitol and following our legislation. I encourage you to be involved and follow these bills—I am happy to answer any questions you may have. We have until March for session to end and things change quickly underneath the dome. Our team at CCAWV is working diligently to make sure counties are represented and our voices are heard!

President's Message with Tim McCormick



Happy Legislative Season to All! This is a very important time of year for counties as we constantly monitor any bills that could have an impact.

CCAWV provides a united front during legislative session by providing all lawmakers our Legislative Platform. This document is the result of our Fall Legislative Meeting and lists our legislative priorities and other initiatives we support. Please contact the CCAWV office if you need a copy. CCAWV is supportive of initiatives that have a positive effect on county funding, allowing counties to generate their own funding needs and oppose those initiatives that take funding away from county programs and services. Please don't hesitate to ask questions and call and/or visit your legislators!

2018-19

Board of Directors

President:

Tim McCormick, Ohio County 304-277-9241

Vice-President:

Jack Woodrum, Summers County 304-660-9241

Immediate Past President:

Nancy Cartmill, Cabell County 304-526-8634

Ex-Officio:

Ron Watson, Harrison County 304-669-0094

District One Eastern Division:

*Dr. Richard Lechlitter, Mineral County 304-738-0055

Dave Price, Preston County 304-698-2911

District One Western Division:

Bob Tebay, Wood County, 304-424-1984

Scott Varner, Marshall County 304-845-0091

District One At-Large:

Lisa Heasley, Wetzel County 304-815-2934

District Two Western Division:

*Agnes Queen, Lewis County 304-871-7158

George Skidmore, Braxton County 304-765-7840

District Two Eastern Division:

Doug Copenhaver, Berkeley County 304-671-9320

Terry Cutright, Upshur County 304-460-2877

District Two At-Large:

Dick Waybright, Jackson County 304-273-4480

District Three Eastern Division:

*Denise Scalph, Fayette County 304-574-3678

Anna Carpenter, Webster County 304-847-5122

District Three Western Division:

Bob Pasley, Wayne County 304-523-5246

Rick Handley, Mason County 304-593-6308

District Three At-Large:

Greg Puckett, Mercer County 304-922-2551

*Denotes Chairperson

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Calendar of Events



- ◇ **NACo Legislative Conference, March 2-6, 2019, Washington Hilton, Washington DC.**
- ◇ **CCAWV 2019 Spring Board Meeting, May 19-21, 2019, Barboursville, Cabell County**
- ◇ **CCAWV 2019 Annual Meeting, August 3-6, 2019, TBA**
- ◇ **CCAWV Fall Board Meeting – September 22-23, 2019, TBA**

CCAWV 2019 Essay Contest

April is "National County Government Month" and the County Commissioners' Association of WV (CCAWV) is hosting our annual essay contest for 8th grade students across West Virginia. There will be a monetary prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place student winners. There will also be a monetary prize for the 1st place winner's Teacher to be used for classroom activities. 1st Place Student will receive \$500 and teacher will receive \$500. 2nd place Student - \$300 and 3rd place Student - \$200. Student participants are asked to type a 500-word essay on the topic. A committee of commissioners and CCAWV Staff will serve as judges of the contest. All entries must be emailed by 5:00 pm Friday, April 19, 2019 to qualify. Entries should be emailed to: jennifer@ccawv.org For more information, please contact Vivian Parsons at CCAWV jennifer@ccawv.org or at 304-345-4639 or visit our website at <https://www.ccawv.org>.

CCAWV Appoints New Board Members



CCAWV has some new faces on the Board of Directors. We lost long time commissioners Bernie Fazzini of Harrison County, Greg Robinson of Doddridge County and Mike Taylor of Randolph County. Their contributions over the years to our board will be missed. At the 2018 Annual Meeting, three new board members were elected, Anna Carpenter of Webster County, Bob Pasley of Wayne County and Greg Puckett of Mercer County.

Board President Tim McCormick appointed Lisa Heasley of Wetzel County, Dave Price of Preston County and Doug Copenhaver of Berkeley County. This will be great additions to our board and we look forward to working with them. A complete list of the Board of Directors is available on our website and inside this newsletter with contact information. Our Executive Board now includes President Tim McCormick of Ohio County; Jack Woodrum of Summers County, Nancy Cartmill of Cabell County, Richard Lechlitter of Mineral County, Agnes Queen of Lewis County and Denise Scalph of Fayette County.



NACo Legislative Conference Information



The National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents. Attendees have the opportunity to engage in second-to-none policy and educational sessions, interact with federal officials and participate in congressional briefings and meetings. Don't

miss this one-of-a-kind policy advocacy opportunity! The conference takes place March 2 – 6, 2019 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

All conference sessions will be held at the Washington Hilton unless otherwise noted in the program. All rates are quoted exclusive of applicable D.C. taxes (currently at 14.95%). Room block rates are good through January 31, 2019 and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Note: Rooms may sell out early; once the block is sold out, the hotel's market price applies regardless of the date of booking. Please confirm all cancellation policies and deposit requirements when booking your reservation. Any cancellation charges incurred are the responsibility of the attendee. Hotel rooms are only available to registered attendees.

Register online at

https://members.naco.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?site=naco_new&webcode=eventregnac&Reg_evt_key=d2e472fe-c620-4ba4-bb23-18f3f29cea20

CCAWV Directories Are Here!

The 2019 CCAWV Directories are here! They were a little late in printing this year due to several changes this year after the election. Directories are available at our office at 2007 Quarrier Street and will also be available at the Association of Counties conference where CCAWV will have a table. Stop by and see us or contact our office if you would like a copy.

Associate Member Spotlight on



This month CCAWV's featured Associate Member is Kay Casto & Chaney. Kay Casto & Chaney PLLC is a medium-sized, multi-service firm that represents the interests of its clients in an ethical and professional manner. Our highly skilled attorneys have well-earned reputations for finding efficient, cost-effective answers to both complex and routine legal problems. In addition, Kay Casto & Chaney provides its attorneys and staff a family-oriented and collegial work environment where they

practice their profession with integrity and decency. They offices across the state in Charleston, Morgantown, and Martinsburg.