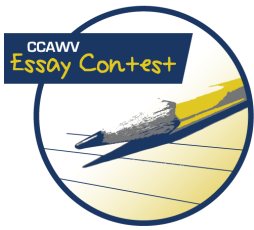




**March 2019**  
**2007 Quarrier Street**  
**Charleston, WV 25311**  
**304.345.4639**  
**[info@ccawv.org](mailto:info@ccawv.org)**

*Collective County Voices*

## **2019 Essay Contest Highlights National County Government Month**



April is “National County Government Month” and the County Commissioners’ Association of WV (CCA WV) will host their annual essay contest for eighth grade students across West Virginia. We encourage county commissioners to visit area schools and talk about the roles and responsibilities of commissioners. There are monetary awards for 1st (\$500), 2nd (\$300), and 3rd (\$200) place student winners. There is also a monetary award (\$500) for the 1st place winner’s Teacher to be used for classroom activities.

Students are asked to type a 500-word essay entitled How Does My County Commission Make Life Better For Me? A committee of commissioners and CCA WV Staff will serve as judges of the contest. All entries must be emailed by 5:00 pm Friday, April 19, 2019 to qualify to [jennifer@ccawv.org](mailto:jennifer@ccawv.org). **Winners will be announced by April 29, 2019.** CCA WV has a series of informational videos on the role of county commissioners on their website at [www.ccawv.org](http://www.ccawv.org). For a list of rules or any additional information, please contact our office at 304-345-4639 or at [jennifer@ccawv.org](mailto:jennifer@ccawv.org).

## **CCA WV Selects New Executive Director**



With the forthcoming retirement of current Executive Director Vivian Parsons, the CCA WV Board of Directors has formally selected Jennifer Piercy as the best candidate to fill the upcoming vacancy. Jennifer has served as the CCA WV Communications Director for 2 years.

Jennifer grew up in Elkview, Kanawha County, and graduated from Herbert Hoover High School. She holds a B.A. and a M.A. in Political Science and in Journalism from Marshall University. She previously worked as a Development Specialist for the Tri-County YMCA in Scott Depot and a Grants Management Specialist with the WV Division of Tourism. “I am very excited for this role and grateful to the CCA WV Board of Directors and Executive Director Vivian Parsons for this opportunity,” Jennifer noted, “I feel that I understand and appreciate the essential role counties play.” Jennifer currently resides in Cross Lanes with husband Brian and sons Jackson and Carter. Congratulations to Jennifer and the Association!

## Director's Discussion with Vivian Parsons



First let me congratulate Jennifer and CCAWV on her recent selection as the new in-coming Executive Director! I wish much luck and love to Jennifer and the Association and look forward to seeing it rise to new heights under her leadership!

The 2019 regular session is over and as the dust settles, I'll be trying to sort out the final legislative outcomes for counties. Although we didn't fare as well as hoped with our top legislative priorities, we were successful in protecting county interests in a number of areas. Many thanks and much credit to our lobbyist Steve Kominar who played a crucial role throughout the process. Together, we worked hard to communicate county positions and spread the word on what counties need. With many new legislative faces, this is essential in building a strong argument for counties' priorities moving forward. While there wasn't specific legislation to address the regional jail costs to counties, we did meet with leadership on both sides to talk about future relief solutions, and in the coming year CCAWV will have a seat at the table with a committee, blessed by the legislature and hosted by the new corrections division staff, to work on the issue. Thanks to all who heeded our "Call to Action" when necessary and for reaching out to your local representatives during session. **Your role is equally important in CCAWV's ultimate legislative successes!** Much Love to all ~Vivian

## President's Message with Tim McCormick



Another session is done and gone and unfortunately the Legislature did not choose to help Counties very much with their legislative agendas. We just have to roll up our sleeves and get ready to go another round with them. Thanks to all who helped in any way to promote our issues.

A special thank you to Steve Kominar and Vivian for all their lobbying efforts. On another note, our Spring Board Meeting will be held in Barboursville at the Barboursville Holiday Inn and Suites from May 19 to May 20. All are welcome to attend. If you have not received any info, just contact the office and you will be taken care of. On a personal note, I would like to thank all that sent their condolences to me over my brother's death. I truly do appreciate it. Again, I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Spring Board meeting and thank you for your help with the legislative session!

2018-19

## Board of Directors

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### Vice-President:

Jack Woodrum, Summers County 304-660-9241

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\*Denotes Chairperson

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Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

[vivian@ccawv.org](mailto:vivian@ccawv.org)

Jennifer Piercy, Communications Director

[Jennifer@ccawv.org](mailto:Jennifer@ccawv.org)

## ***Calendar of Events***



- ◇ **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 Legislative Meeting—January 12-14, 2020, Charleston, Kanawha County**

## ***CCAWV 2019 Legislative Synopsis***

Our 2019 Legislative Session was definitely one to remember for many reasons and was similar to last year for our counties. We had another teacher strike, although this one was much shorter in duration and another attempt at reduction of the Business Inventory Tax. Although CCAWV worked diligently on establishing our legislative agenda and communicating this out to our legislators, education reform took precedence and consumed much of the 60-day session. On a positive note, we were able to hold several meetings with legislative leadership to continue discussions on county regional jail cost relief, had commitment for a CCAWV seat during the next year on a committee to look for solutions to this relief, and continued to education about the lack of county revenue resources to meet county responsibilities. We also worked in unison with the coal industry to protect county coal severance tax revenues, even though some reduction to the states severance share was passed by the legislature.

We are now in the process of identifying any and all legislation passed that would have an impact on counties so we can communicate those changes. With the hundreds of bills introduced each session it becomes a full time job tracking legislation and how it could impact counties. This is why CCAWV values its relationship with counties because your feedback and input are essential to understanding legislative changes.

In the next few weeks we will provide our final Legislative Lineup summarizing bills for the 2019 regular Legislative Session. This summary will include all bills that were passed during session affecting counties, the effective date and a description of the bill. A copy will be sent out on our ListServ, will be mailed to each member and will be posted on our website. All Legislative Lineups from the 2019 session are also available on the website at <https://www.ccawv.org/legislative/legislative-lineup.html>.



## CCAWV Represented at NACo Legislative Conference



The National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference was held March 2 – 6, 2019 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. This annual conference brings together over 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and residents.



Three West Virginia county commissioners serve on the national NACo Board of Directors: Tim McCormick of Ohio County, Jack David Woodrum of Summers County and Greg Puckett of Mercer County. "The 2019 NACo Legislative Conference offered a great opportunity to network and share best practices," said Lesli Forbes, Kanawha County Commission legislative liaison. "Counties work every day to strengthen our communities and deliver essential services to our residents. We met with Senators Capito and Manchin on key issues like disaster preparedness, the opioid epidemic, revitalizing infrastructure and public safety - which have a major impact on our ability to lead our communities and pursue a better future."

Summers County Commissioner and NACo Board Member Jack David Woodrum noted, "As CCAWV President McCormick has said many times, if you can only go to one NACo event, then the Legislative Conference in Washington DC is the one to attend. It is a fast-paced conference that doesn't waste your time and provides a great deal of pertinent information about issues we are facing every day in West Virginia counties." Commissioner Woodrum feels that the relationship CCAWV has with NACo is very beneficial to counties. "I highly recommend participation in NACo and encourage you to become involved at the committee level. West Virginia has seats at the table that we are leaving empty. Your involvement at the federal level is just as important as it is at the state and local levels of government."



## Associate Member Spotlight on SVG



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