



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
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Employee of the Month

CPRB's Sarah Hunter Labeled as True Professional

SARAH HUNTER, a Benefits Technician at the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB), has been selected as the Department of Administration's *Employee of the Month* for May.

A state government employee for 10 years, Hunter is responsible for processing refunds to Public Employees Retirement System members; calculating out-of-state con-

tributions and retroactive service, and answering telephone inquiries from retirees.

"Sarah is a true professional. Everything she does is done well and always in a timely manner," said one co-worker. "She is helpful, courteous and always cheerful and kind."

Said another co-worker, "Sarah receives lots of compliments from retirees. She will drop whatever she is doing to

help a retiree or co-worker. She is very considerate of others."

In her spare time, Hunter likes to spend her time reading. She also enjoys her quality time with her family and her grandson. She will be joined by her friends and co-workers at a special ceremony presented by Cabinet Secretary Rob Ferguson on Thursday, May 5 at 11:15 a.m. at the CPRB office in Kanawha City.



SARAH HUNTER
May Employee of the Month

Lights ... Cameras ... Ethics!

Ethics Commission Produces Video to Educate Lobbyists

The West Virginia Ethics Commission has turned to the digital world to assist in its mission to educate lobbyists wanting to do business in the state. The Ethics Commission recently produced a training video to assist in answering the many inquiries of its office.

"We are required to provide training to lobbyists per the Ethics Act and this video will assist us greatly in fulfilling that mission," said Ethics Commission Director Theresa Kirk. "The Ethics Commission pro-

duced a training video in 2006, but it was time to update it. This new video is fresher in both appearance and content."

Upon request, the Ethics Commission will send lobbyists a DVD copy of the 45-minute video for their review. Kirk said it is the agency's intention to put the presentation on its website in the near future.

"I was pleased with the video. We used the questions most frequently



Ethics Director Theresa Kirk (center) is pictured with Tony O'Leary and Lucy Suchy on the agency's new training video.

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Office of Technology employee Brian Hatcher has carved a name for himself in the world of horror, publishing in a variety of magazines and anthologies.

OT's Brian Hatcher Loves When Things Go Bump in the Night

Brian Hatcher seems like an awfully happy guy for someone who writes such scary stuff.

Hatcher, who works on the service desk for the Office of Technology, has spent the past several years developing a name for himself in the horror field, being published in numerous anthologies and magazines. He said the writing bug was something that bit him from early on.

"I have been writing all of my life," he said. "In the beginning, I just submitted a lot of really bad fiction, and I was never published." By the time he entered West Virginia State College (now University), the desire had begun to wane. "Once I was in college and studying English and writing, I suddenly did not want to write anymore."

Around 2005, Hatcher decided to return to writing and, through a quirk of fate while attending a writer's conference in New York, met Michael Knost, a Logan writer who was working to assemble a West Virginia-themed horror anthology for Woodland Press, a regional publishing company. Hatcher's first prose sale was the "Legends of the Mountain State," the anthology Knost was working on; now in its sixth printing, it is the best-selling ghost story book in West Virginia.

Hatcher has published regularly in later Woodland Press anthologies, and has moved into editing also. His interests do not stop at just traditional horror however, as he is a published poet, the developer of a web series, and starting work on a science fiction novel.

Hatcher credits his ever-growing success to the helpfulness of the horror writing community. "My writing career has been marked by me being very fortunate," he said. "People in the horror community

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ETHICS

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asked of the Ethics Commission and built our script around those topics. We incorporated several different settings, such as the exterior of the Capitol, the well in the upper Rotunda, and the studio to make the video more aesthetically appealing to the lobbyists who review it," Kirk said. "I think state agencies would find training videos like this useful and worth exploring. More and more, agencies are training individuals in different parts of the state and the ease of producing a video and sending it by DVD or posting it online provides us a very cost-efficient way to provide training."

The majority of the video was taped at the West Virginia Culture Center television studio. Kirk and Lobbyist Registrar Lucy Suchy answered questions from a moderator, Tony O'Leary of the Purchasing Division.

The question-and-answer session was divided into specific lobbyist topics, such as "Becoming a Lobbyist," "Gift Rules and Regulations," and "Reporting Expenditures," accompanied by an introduction and summary for each segment. Randy Damron of the Office of Communications at the Department of Transportation provides additional commentary on scenes taped around the Capitol to familiarize viewers with areas most commonly visited by lobbyists. Mark Lanham of the Library Commission provided the logistics with the in-studio taping at the Culture Center.

To receive a copy of the training video, contact Lucy Suchy at the West Virginia Ethics Commission at (304) 558-0664.

Capitol Food Court Extends Contract

The Pittman Group of Charleston will continue to provide breakfast and lunch at the Capitol Food Court, having signed an extension effective through the end of the calendar year.

The Pittman Group began operating the Food Court operations in the basement of the Capitol in January of this year. In late March, the Pittman Group officials exercised an option in their contract to continue their services throughout 2011.

The Charleston-based vendor revamped the Food Court menu to be more price-friendly for state employees and visitors and offer more "grab-and-go" selections for those with tight time schedules.

Annual Vandalia Gathering Offers Visitors Opportunity to Sample West Virginia Culture

The opportunity to see old friends, make new ones and to sample a bit of West Virginia culture rolls around again this year at the 36rd Vandalia Gathering, the state's annual celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and food.

Scheduled for Memorial Day weekend (May 27-29), the event fills the Cultural Center and State Capitol grounds with the sights and sounds of traditional West Virginia culture. For music buffs, a special jam tent will be set up on the grounds that will be manned with musicians playing 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. That is in addition to the numerous musicians scheduled to perform throughout the event, as well as musician competitions.



Live music, food, and a wide variety of activities all come together to make the Vandalia Gathering an unique opportunity to learn about West Virginia culture and history.

In addition, Vandalia offers the chance for visitors to sample the wares of more than 50 West Virginia craftspeople. For sale will be everything from candles, wall hangings and wind chimes to salad dressings, salsa and gourmet coffee. For those who hunger slightly more immediate, a variety of traditional and ethnic foods will be for sale, including favorites

like funnel cakes, roasted corn, cobblers and German sausages.

Visitors may also see the annual Quilts and Wall Hangings exhibition on display in the Great Hall of the Cultural Center. For those wishing to take

a piece of Vandalia home with them, a variety of souvenirs will be for sale in the festival sales tent. For more information on the Vandalia Gathering, please visit <http://www.wvculture.org/vandalia/vansched.htm>.

Self-Service Network Password Reset Coming Soon

From September 2009 through August 2010, the West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT) Service Desk received approximately 20,000 requests to reset network passwords. Were you one of those? If so, help is on the way!

To assist customers more quickly with this common technical support issue, the WVOT will be deploying a self-service tool called AdSelfService Plus. This tool will enable users to reset their network password or unlock their network account directly from their computer, without having to contact the Service Desk.

If you are a [wv.gov](http://www.wv.gov) customer, you will receive an e-mail announcing when this service will be available and instructions

for using it. When this service becomes available, users will notice that, when they press Ctrl/Alt/Delete to log in to their computer, they will have an option to reset the password or unlock their individual account, allowing the user to make these changes without logging in first.

WVOT officials note that no one can change an individual's password. Before an employee can use this service, the employee needs to sign up online for this capability. At the registration site, employees will provide answers to security questions that they will use to reset their password. If employees later find themselves locked out of their account, these questions can be used to

verify their identity and restore network access quickly, without having to wait or call the Service Desk. There is no charge to use this service as it is included in WVOT's basic support cost.

"We are excited to be able to offer our customers this added benefit and look forward to continuing our efforts to improve our service to our many customers," said WVOT Client Services Manager Janice Morgan.

For additional information, please contact your agency's Relationship Manager. For an agency list, visit <http://www.technology.wv.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/Who%20is%20your%20relationship%20manager.pdf>.

CPRB to Host Statewide Retirement Seminars this Month

The Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB) is sponsoring its annual regional Retirement Planning Seminars for members of the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) throughout May. If you are considering retiring in the near future or want general information about retirement provisions, this is an opportunity to learn!

There will be 10 educational seminars, which includes two sessions at the

CPRB office in Kanawha City. Please note that registration is not necessary to attend and the seminars are open to all members and their beneficiaries.

The PERS staff will provide an overview of the provisions of the Public Employees Retirement System. They will also review plan benefit options and answer any questions that the participants may have regarding preparing for retirement.

For additional information regard-

ing these upcoming seminars, such as driving directions, parking accommodations and meeting rooms, please access the Consolidated Public Retirement Board's website at www.wvretirement.com and click the **2011 PERS Retirement Planning Seminars** link under the "News" column on the home page.

Interested PERS members may also contact the CPRB Communications office at (304) 558-3570.

Retirement Planning Seminar Schedule

May 2: Stonewall Resort,
Roanoke
5 - 7 p.m.

May 3: Holiday Inn,
Martinsburg
5 - 7 p.m.

May 4: Waterfront Place
Hotel, Morgantown
5 - 7 p.m.

May 5: Oglebay Resort
and Conference Center,
Wheeling
1 - 3 p.m.

May 10: CPRB Office,
Charleston
5 - 7 p.m.

May 16: Tamarack
Conference Center, Beckley
1 - 3 p.m.

May 17: Holiday Inn,
Barboursville
1 - 3 p.m.

May 18: Fairfield Inn and
Suites, Lewisburg
1 - 3 p.m.

May 19: Grand Pointe
Conference Center, Vienna
1 - 3 p.m.

May 24: CPRB Office,
Charleston
5 - 7 p.m.

Share the Beauty of the Capitol with Us!



Do you have a photo that reflects the beauty of the Capitol Campus as we make our way into this summer? Share your photograph with your Department of Administration co-workers!

Photographs may be sent to Chad Williamson at Chad.B.Williamson@wv.gov and may be published in an upcoming issue of *Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes*.

Let's kick off this feature with a picture of the State Capitol in bloom submitted by **LeAnn Arthur** of the Office of Technology.

Highlights of 2011 Legislation Passed Affecting Department of Administration

By Donna Lipscomb, Department's Legislative Liaison

During the 2011 Regular Session of the State Legislature, a total of 1,894 bills were introduced in the two houses. The House of Delegates introduced 1,273 bills and the Senate introduced 621 bills. The Legislature passed a total of 191 bills. Of those bill passed, 103 were House bills and 88 were Senate bills. Information regarding the Regular Session with links to all bills introduced and passed can be found at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/index.cfm>.

Some of the bills passed affecting the Department of Administration or those of interest to our employees are as follows:

SENATE BILLS

SB 112 - Authorizing the Department of Administration to promulgate rules. Makes rule changes for Fleet Management Office, Consolidated Public Retirement Board and the West Virginia Ethics Commission.

SB 213 - Relating to crimes using computers, telephones and electric devices. Expands the law to include mobile phone, personal digital assistant or other similarly functioning device in addition to computers.

SB 222 - Relating to the Municipal Officers and Firefighters Retirement System. Amends the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System to ensure the plan is in compliance with federal tax law.

SB 382 - Specifying activities entitling certain members of

HATCHER

Continued from Page 2

have gone out of their way to help me." He credits a variety of writers for taking the time to work with him and offer him assistance and feedback in his writing.

When asked the ever-familiar question every horror writer gets ("Why do you write horror?"), Hatcher laughed and looked thoughtful. "Horror is somewhere where you get to ask the really big questions, about morality and our place in the universe," he said. "For example, 'Frankenstein' is about a monster, but it is also asks the question about science and to what extent should we understand the mystery of life."

Hatcher's love of the genre is evident, and the self-admitted "fanboy" said he hoped to never stop being awed by the opportunity to meet his heroes. "I do not think I will ever get out of fanboy mode," he said. "If you ever stop being a fan, go find something else to do."

Quotes, Notes and Anecdotes

the National Guard or reserve to leave of absence. Expands the reasons for which members of the National Guard, who are also public employees, can take a leave of absence.

SB 436 - Continuing personal income tax adjustment to gross income of certain retirees receiving pensions from defined pension plans that terminated and are being paid a reduced maximum benefit guarantee.

SB 507 - Continuing Broadband Deployment Council until December 31, 2014.

SB 546 - Permits Municipal Pensions Oversight Board to purchase actuarial services exempt from Purchasing Division requirements, and to extend the date by which municipalities participating in the Municipal Police

Officers and Firefighters Retirement System must request a referendum on Social Security coverage.

HOUSE BILLS

HB 2012 - Budget Bill, which makes appropriations of public money out of the treasury.

HB 2464 - Adding additional requirements to the Ethics Act, including requiring public servants and spouses to disclose additional information on financial disclosure statements, directing the Ethics Commission to publish delinquent filing of financial statements; and prohibits certain public employees and public servants from registering as a lobbyist during and for a year following state government employment.

HB 2693 - Requiring insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders.

HB 2845 - Providing for a senior resident lifetime hunting, fishing and trapping license.

HB 2939 - Clarifying the definition of compensation for the purposes of calculating required contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System.

HB 3145 - Providing a one-time bonus to certain annuitants of the Public Employees Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System. The one-time bonus payment is \$1,200 and shall be paid on July 27, 2011, to any retiree with at least 20 years of credited service who currently receives an annual retirement annuity of not more than \$7,200.

HB 3204 - Creating the WV Enterprise Resource Planning Board and Executive Committee.



Let Us Brag About YOUR Graduate!



Do you have a child or grandchild who will be graduating from high school or college this year?

Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

will be recognizing our graduates in the next issue of our newsletter.

If you have a graduate in your family, we would like to include him or her to our list. Please e-mail Chad Williamson at chad.b.williamson@wv.gov with the name, school and future plans of your special graduate.

PEIA Eligibility Audit to Save \$22 Million Annually

An eligibility audit authorized by the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) of all policy holders will result in more than \$22 million in savings per year for the program, according to the report's findings.

The audit was performed by the Public Consulting Group, Inc. between June of 2009 and December of 2010. The findings indicated that more than 11,000 individuals were considered ineligible. Nearly 73,000 PEIA policy holders, covering approximately 126,000 dependents, were analyzed during the audit.

"PEIA's mission is to administer the state's employee health insurance plans in the most cost efficient and effective manner. This eligibility audit, which is a common practice in the health care industry, is one example of this effort," said PEIA Executive Director Ted Cheatham.

Welcome! ... to the Department of Administration our new employees: **Brittani Stowers** (CPRB); **Linda Coleman** (Finance); **Michael McComas**, **Daryl Smith** and **Robert Thaxton** (General Services); **Holly Devins** (PEIA); **Sheryl McGinnis** (Personnel); **Krista Charley** and **Carrie Lefevre** (Public Employees Grievance Board); and **Mary Burkey**, **Laura Johnson** and **Travis Ratcliff** (Technology).

Best Wishes ... to our employees who recently resigned from our department: **Rachel Perry** (CPRB); **Margaret Ingram** (Purchasing); and **Steven Hutton**, **Kathy Moore**, **Philip Roberts**, **Kara Tully** and **Cathy Withrow** (Technology).

Public Employees Day Care Center ... The Public Employees Day Care Center is now accepting enrollment for children, age 6 weeks (with approval from child's doctor) to 4 years old. For more information, please call the day care center at (304) 720-0839.

New Arrivals ... Congratulations to **Lucy Suchy** (Ethics) who welcomed her granddaughter, **Ruby Michelle Suchy**, on March 6, 2011. Baby Ruby was also welcomed by her parents, Jason and Tina Suchy of St. Albans.

Continuity of Operations Tip of the Month ... Your office should conduct a fire/evacuation drill semi-annually. Contact **John Fernatt** or **Chuck Mozingo** at the Board of Risk and Insurance Management office at (304) 766-2646 for more details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... in May

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Jerry Digman Technology | 15 Debra Asbury CPRB |
| Ted Payne Gen. Svcs. | Mandy Carpenter Technology |
| Susan Samples Personnel | 16 Amanda Allison PEIA |
| Roger Wines Gen. Svcs. | Martha Mohammad ... Personnel |
| 3 Elias Majdalani Technology | 17 Carol Lyn Thornton Finance |
| Christy Romeo Personnel | 18 Ryan Jeff Technology |
| Larry Stover PEIA | Kelley McClanahan Personnel |
| 4 Jeffrey Bartlett Technology | Charles Warner Gen. Svcs. |
| Carolyn Hager Gen. Svcs. | 19 Andrea Darr Pros. Atty. Inst. |
| 5 Alan Nease Technology | 20 Junior Blount Purchasing |
| 6 Caroline Brady CPRB | Kaye Walden Finance |
| Cindi Cvechko Technology | 21 Chuck Bowman Purchasing |
| Bethany Sharp Personnel | Ellen Fleet CPRB |
| 7 Elizabeth Baldwin BRIM | Betsy Frame Finance |
| Thomas Lucas Gen. Svcs. | Diana White Gen. Svcs. |
| 8 Anthony Cooper Purchasing | 23 Mary McFarland.Public Defender |
| Phillip Hart Technology | 24 Nicole Michaelis Personnel |
| Danny Holt Gen. Svcs. | 25 Brett Clutters Real Estate |
| Larry Lerose Gen. Svcs. | Diane Fletcher Technology |
| Laurie Lewis Technology | Brenda Jones CHIP |
| 9 Don Clark Technology | Shannon Looney PEIA |
| 10 Cynthia Boyd CPRB | 26 Brian Lanham Pros. Atty. Inst. |
| 11 Sam Ratliff Finance | Mark Totten Purchasing |
| 12 Bill McCallister Jr. CPRB | 27 Michael Evans Gen. Svcs. |
| Carolyn Saul Technology | Janice Hartman Fleet |
| Kyle Schafer Technology | Carolyn Thomas Real Estate |
| Roberta Wagner Purchasing | 28 Judith Jarrell CPRB |
| 13 Ken Lucas Gen. Svcs. | Kelly Williams Finance |
| Tim Nichols Gen. Svcs. | 29 Rob Dixon Technology |
| Ann Wilmoth PEIA | Sara Poe CPRB |
| 14 Paula Atkinson CHIP | Robin Roberts Technology |
| Sherra Barker PEIA | Gene Walters Technology |
| James Easley Technology | 30 David Mullins Finance |
| James Meadows Purchasing | 31 Claton Chandler Fleet |
| Ed Trader Technology | Jeff Swisher Gen. Svcs. |
| Burley Williams PEIA | |

Administrative Notes

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