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 contributions 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.

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 produced 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 asked and created a clear, concise answer to each one,” said Kirk.

Please see ETHICS, Page 2
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 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.

Please see HATCHER, Page 5
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 36th 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.

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 a 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 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 regarding 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.

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.

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.
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.”
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.

Welcome! ... to the Department of Administration our new employees: Britanni 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.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... in May

1 Jerry Digman ............... Technology
3 Susan Samples .............. Personnel
5 Elias Majdalani ............ Technology
6 Christy Romeo ............... Personnel
7 Larry Stover ............... Personnel
8 Jeffrey Bartlett .......... Technology
10 Alan Nease ............... Technology
11 Caroline Brady .......... CPRB
12 Cindi Cvechko .......... Technology
13 Bethany Sharp ............... Personnel
14 Elizabeth Baldwin ......... BRIM
16 Anthony Cooper .......... Purchasing
17 Phillip Hart .......... Technology
20 Laurie Lewis .......... Technology
21 Don Clark .......... Technology
22 Cynthia Boyd .......... CPRB
23 Sam Ratliff .......... Finance
24 Bill McCollister Jr. .......... CPRB
25 Carolyn Saul .......... Technology
26 Kyle Schafer .......... Technology
27 Roberta Wagner .......... Purchasing
30 Ann Wilmoth .......... PEIA
31 Paula Atkinson .......... CHIP
32 Sherra Barker .......... PEIA
33 James Easley .......... Technology
34 James Meadows .......... Purchasing
35 Ed Trader .......... Technology
36 Burlley Williams .......... PEIA
37 Debra Asbury .......... CPRB
38 Mandy Carpenter .......... Technology
39 Amanda Allison .......... PEIA
40 Martha Mohammad .......... Personnel
41 Ryan Jeff .......... Technology
42 Kelley McClanahan .......... Personnel
45 Junior Blount .......... Purchasing
46 Kaye Walden .......... Finance
47 Chuck Bowman .......... Purchasing
48 Ellen Fleet .......... Technology
49 Betsy Frame .......... Finance
51 Mary McFarland .......... Public Defender
52 Nicole Michaelis .......... Personnel
53 Brett Clutters .......... Real Estate
54 Diane Fletcher .......... Technology
55 Brenda Jones .......... CHIP
56 Shannon Looney .......... PEIA
58 Mark Totten .......... Purchasing
60 Janice Hartman .......... Fleet
61 Carolyn Thomas .......... Real Estate
62 Judith Jarrell .......... CPRB
63 Kelly Williams .......... Finance
64 Rob Dixon .......... Technology
65 Sara Poe .......... CPRB
66 Robin Roberts .......... Technology
67 Gene Walters .......... Technology
68 David Mullins .......... Finance
69 Claton Chandler .......... Fleet