



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

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

OT's Nathan Merritt Recognized for Work Ethic



NATHAN MERRITT
September Employee
of the Month

NATHAN MERRITT, an Information Technology Associate for the Client Services Section of the Office of Technology (OT), has been selected as the Department of Administration's *Employee of the Month* for September.

A state government employee for almost two years, Merritt's primary duties include performing various technical work on computers, printers and other devices for OT and

other state agencies.

"Nathan maintains a high professional attitude while performing his information technology services. He addresses and completes customers' problems with much success and is always attentive to details throughout a project," said one co-worker.

Another co-worker added, "Nathan responds immediately in a very professional and friendly manner. No matter

what the problem is, he works on it until it is solved. If he does not immediately know the answer, he will find it in a short period of time."

In his spare time, Merritt likes to read and watch sports. He will be joined by his friends and co-workers at a special ceremony presented by Cabinet Secretary Robert Ferguson on September 3rd at 11:30 a.m. at the OT office at One Davis Square in Charleston.

State Museum Visitors Have More to Take Home from Experience

Visitors to the new West Virginia State Museum have another quality experience to choose from while visiting the Culture Center.

The new West Virginia State Museum Shop is now open and complements the museum as it offers visitors a chance to purchase items from *Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia* along with other souvenirs and collectibles. The 1,700 square foot shop is located on the north side of the Great Hall in the Culture Center beside the entrance to the Archives Library.

The *Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia* items feature a

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The West Virginia State Museum Shop located at the Culture Center features items from some of the state's best artisans.



SNEAK PEEK



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Public Employees Grievance Board Benefits from New Lease and Accessible Office Space



The new office for the Public Employees Grievance Board is at 1596 Kanawha Boulevard East, near the Capitol.

The Public Employees Grievance Board (PEGB) has a new lease, both literally and figuratively.

The PEGB relocated to its new offices at 1596 Kanawha Boulevard East near the Capitol at the end of June.

The PEGB was previously located at 808 Greenbrier Street in Charleston. At its new locale, the Grievance Board gains ad-

ditional work space, more accessibility and parking spaces. All telephone numbers, fax numbers and staff e-mail addresses remain the same.

With its move, the PEGB has crossed another milestone as the agency has caught up on more than 300 outstanding cases it inherited when the board was created by the Legislature two years ago. The PEGB replaced the former grievance system known as the West Virginia Education and State Employees Grievance Board.

According to *West Virginia Code*, the PEGB members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate and represent different interest groups.

Board members and the groups they represent are Chairman Bob Brown, labor; Secretary-Treasurer Melissa Lampinen, education; Bill Bissett, higher education; Marc Harman, executive branch; and David Roberts, citizen.

Robin Perdue serves as the board's director.

For additional information on the Public Employees Grievance Board, visit its Web site at <http://www.pegb.wv.gov>.

BRIM Earns Recognition from National Safety Council

The West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management (BRIM) was chosen by the National Safety Council as a Defensive Driving Course Award recipient for outstanding training efforts for 2008.

BRIM was recognized in the *Best Performance* category for its online Defensive Driving Course. BRIM officials will be recognized at the National Safety Council's 2009 Congress and Exposition in Orlando, FL, on October 24, 2009.

This year, BRIM partnered with the National Safety Council to provide online defensive driving training for state employees, who drive a state-owned, leased or personal vehicle on state business. BRIM provided this training to promote safe driving practices to reduce and control automobile incidents that could result in claims.

"BRIM has been pleased to offer this program to state agencies to assist them in making sure state drivers are practicing safe driving skills while conducting business on behalf of the state of West Virginia. The cooperation of all agencies in encouraging its employees to participate has been overwhelming," said BRIM Executive Director Charles Jones. "This training is our contribution to helping make the highways a safer place to travel. By educating and informing state employees, they become more aware of some of the



hazards and distractions that may occur while driving."

BRIM provided a reward for full participation in this program. If 90 percent or more of the agency's drivers successfully completed the training before the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2009), an

agency would receive

a 2 percent credit toward its automobile insurance premium for the 2011 fiscal year. Conversely, if fewer than 80 percent of agency's drivers completed the program, a 5 percent surcharge would be applied to an agency's premium.

General Services' Carolyn Hager Honored for Commitment to Volunteerism in State

What began as one day of volunteer work more than 11 years ago has led to a bounty of personal rewards for Carolyn Hager. Hager, a Purchasing Assistant for the General Services Division, was honored for her service and volunteer work with the 2008-2009 H.C. "Mac" MacDonald Verizon Telecom Pioneers West Virginia Chapter 42 award at the 31st annual West Virginia International Sports Jamboree.

Hager began working with the Telecom Pioneers while working for AT&T. According to its Web site, the Telecom Pioneers is a network of volunteers in the telecommunications industry who volunteer time and service to organizations within the community. When Hager became involved, it was to help prepare for the West Virginia International Sports Jamboree, an annual competitive event for wheelchair-bound and visually impaired men and women ages 8-25 who do not qualify for the Special Olympics.

Hager said she was slow to initially involve herself that first year, going to help decorate for the event at North Bend State Park. The next year she stayed longer and participated more. "Now I go up on Thursday and I stay until Sunday," she said with a laugh. "You participate one time and you can not quit."

As the chairperson for the Calling



Carolyn Hager sits with the plaque she received for her work with the Telecom Pioneers, a volunteer organization. Hager is very involved with the West Virginia International Sports Jamboree, an annual competitive event for wheelchair-bound and visually impaired men and women ages 8-25 who do not qualify for the Special Olympics.

Committee for the event, Hager is responsible for locating contestants; soliciting area businesses to donate "goody bags;" and arranging lodging for contestants, families and some volunteers. This hard work and commitment led to Hager being honored with the award during the event earlier this year.

Her involvement with the Telecom

Pioneers and its volunteer work did not end when AT&T closed offices in Charleston in 2004 or when she came to work for the General Services Division in 2006. She is currently the president of a six-state area of the Telecom Pioneers.

"The organization has done so much for the community that I can not turn it away," she said.

PEIA Finance Board Approves Previously Addressed Motions

The West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) Finance Board approved two motions at its July 30th meeting, affecting the health care provider for Medicare-eligible retirees and the elimination of the retiree subsidy for new public employees hired who are covered by PEIA.

The first motion was to keep Medicare-eligible retirees in the Coventry's Advantra Freedom Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) plan from July 1, 2009, to December 31, 2009, with no increases to premiums or changes in health or pharmacy benefits during this six-month period. This follows a decision

by Coventry's Health Care, Inc. to exit the fee-for-service Medicare market on January 1, 2010. Coventry was the state's fee-for-service provider for approximately 35,000 West Virginia PEIA retirees.

PEIA has issued a request for proposal for a new MAPD for the remaining six months of coverage for the fiscal year (January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010). In the event that PEIA may not locate an acceptable MAPD plan as a result of the request for proposal effort, the Medicare-eligible retirees will return to the PEIA PPB Plan.

The PEIA Board also voted to eliminate health care subsidies for state em-

ployees hired on or after July 1, 2010. This action will gradually reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the state's Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) liability for the next generation of public employees covered by PEIA. Currently, the state's OPEB liability is approximately \$7 billion.

Both motions were passed at the board's May 14, 2009, meeting, but the PEIA Finance Board amended both at its June 4, 2009, meeting to solicit public input. Six public hearings were conducted throughout the state, with representation of the PEIA Finance Board at all hearings.

Another National Event Set for Capitol

**CHARLESTON TURNS UP THE HEAT
SEPTEMBER 11 & 12**

FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE

Pairs of competitors race head-to-head to simulate the physical demands of real-life firefighting.

September 11, 2009
3:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Remembrance of the 343 Firefighters Memorial: 3:00 pm
Event start: 4:00 pm

September 12, 2009
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Events include: climbing a 5-story tower, hoisting, chopping, dragging hoses and rescuing a life-sized, 175 lb. "victim"

Event includes a kids challenge. Check our website for more details.

FREE ADMISSION TO BOTH EVENTS AT THE CAPITOL ON KANAWHA BLVD!

charleston westvirginia convention & visitors bureau

ON TARGET

To find additional events all year long, go to www.charlestonwv.com.

The south side of the Capitol will be the staging area for Firefighter Combat Challenge, a national competition to be held September 11-12. Kanawha Boulevard will be closed between Greenbrier Street and California Avenue for the two-day event as firefighters from across the country compete in a series on job-related events, which includes a five-story tower to be constructed on the Boulevard.

The Capitol was chosen as the site, in part, because of its successful staging during the World's Strongest Man competition held in Charleston last fall and its scenic surroundings.

Retirement Board to Sponsor Seminars for PERS Members

The Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB) is sponsoring seven retirement planning seminars in September for Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) members. The seminars are part of CPRB's Retirement Outreach Services.

The seminars are open to all active PERS members throughout the state and there will not be a registration process. CPRB staff will be present to provide an overview of provisions, review member benefit options and answer member retirement questions.

Teachers enrolled in the Teachers' Retirement System and Teachers' Defined Contribution System are welcomed to attend the seminars.

All seminars run from 4:30 – 6 p.m. The seven dates and locales are as follows:

- **Monday, September 14:** Consolidated Public Retirement Board (Kanawha County)
- **Tuesday, September 15:** The Mountaineer Hotel (Mingo County)
- **Wednesday, September 16:** Summersville CVB Arena and Conference Center (Nicholas County)
- **Thursday, September 17:** McCoy's Conference Center (Jackson County)
- **Tuesday, September 22:** Cacapon Resort State Park (Morgan County)
- **Wednesday, September 23:** Lakeview Resort (Monongalia County)
- **Thursday, September 24th:** Mountaineer Racetrack (Hancock County)

PERS employers and employees may contact CPRB at 304-558-3570 or visit CPRB's Web site, www.wvretirement.com and click on the "Outreach" link at the top of the site for additional information regarding locations, parking and other information.

Public Service Recognition Week Set for September 21-25

This year's Public Service Recognition Week is scheduled for the week of September 21 - 25. This annual event recognizes state employees for their dedicated careers to public service.

On Thursday, September 24, Gov. Joe Manchin III is scheduled to host the PSRW Governor's Awards Ceremony at

1:30 p.m. in the Culture Center Theater for employees who have achieved 30 or more years of service. Two state employees will be honored for 50 years of service.

In addition, Cabinet Secretary Robert Ferguson will recognize our Department of Administration employees with 20, 25, 30 and 35 years service as well as

those with superior attendance at a special invitation-only ceremony on Friday, September 25 at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Room in Building 7.

For questions concerning Public Service Recognition Week, contact Jane Fouty at 304-558-3950, ext. 57215 or by e-mail at Jane.S.Fouty@wv.gov.

Governor's Internship Participant Gives Honor



Corie Lynch, a Governor's Internship Program participant from White Sulphur Springs, helped design a commemorative plaque for West Virginians who have died in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lynch, who worked for Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Robert W. Ferguson Jr., took a list of the 35 state residents and created each entry with a picture and brief biographical information on the individual. Tim Abraham, executive assistant to Secretary Ferguson, said Ferguson, a retired Marine and combat veteran, felt the display would be a fitting tribute to those who have died for our country. Lynch is a junior at Concord University, majoring in political science.

Benefits of State Employment Far Exceed a Paycheck

With the nation's concerning economic outlook and daily reports of businesses closing and eminent lay offs, being an employee of the state of West Virginia offers a sense of security that many in the private sector do not possess.

The Division of Personnel Web site offers a complete benefits summary (<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/jobs/benefits.htm>) including: salary and wages; medical/life insurance; retirement; deferred compensation; annual increment pay; holidays; vacation; sick leave; leave donation; credit union; training opportunities; suggestion awards; flexible hours; wellness programs; and quality of life.

Listed below are some of the benefits that may get overlooked:

Vacation

State employees receive a generous amount of annual or vacation leave based on length

of service. The amount of leave an employee may carry forward to the next year also varies by years of service.

Wellness Programs

Many state agencies provide special wellness and health-related services to employees, primarily through the Public Employees Insurance Agency. Examples include free health screening, special seminars and presentations, organized health related activities, health contact information, wellness promotion events and healthy lifestyle information.

A Great Place to Live and Work

Long-time employees of State government know and appreciate the exceptional quality of life in the "Mountain State." West Virginia is a beautiful, safe, and forward-looking place to work, grow, and raise a family. You might say its "almost heaven."

WV Office of Technology Sponsors Cyber Security Event

A special event in October is scheduled to spotlight the need and importance of heightened awareness of cyber security.

A series of presentations on Oct. 19, hosted by the Office of Information Security (part of the Office of Technology), will be the highlight of October's recognition as National Information/Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Scheduled to be held at the Culture Center on the State Capitol campus, the event's focus will be on three presentations in the areas of cyber threats and effective practices to safeguard systems and data, with an emphasis on privacy issues and vulnerability management.

Preceding the presentations will be an introduction by Chief Information Security Officer Jim Richards, followed by opening remarks by Gov. Joe Manchin III and his proclamation of October at National Information/Cyber Security Month. Chief Technology Officer Kyle Schafer will speak about information and cyber security afterwards.

Doors at the Culture Center will open at 8:30 a.m. for the event. Theater doors will open at 9 a.m. for attendees to begin being seated, with the doors to close at 9:45 a.m.

All attendees must be pre-registered; registration information is now available online at www.wv.gov/services/pages/infosec-conference.aspx.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

selection of West Virginia juried artist and artisan products, including gourmet food products, books, music, prints, note cards, toys, games, dolls, glass, jewelry, pottery, textiles, wood and basketry. West Virginia State Museum souvenirs and collectibles include T-shirts, mugs, coal figurines, magnets, postcards and Civil War items.

“Opening the shop adds another dimension and opportunities for visitors at the Capitol complex,” said West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith. “We are pleased to have a selection of items that guests can purchase as mementos of their museum tour and to offer fine West Virginia arts and crafts for sale to West Virginians and out of state visitors.”

Sandy Eads, museum shop manager, said visitors will be pleased with the variety in the shop. “We have a wonderful opportunity here to showcase the creativity and quality work of state artists and artisans.”

The museum shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. It will be closed on Monday. The shop will coordinate with the Division of Culture and History to have extended hours during special events. The Museum Shop can be reached at 304-205-7911.

Office of Technology To Offer ‘Summit 2009’

The West Virginia Office of Technology is sponsoring the West Virginia Information Technology Summit 2009. Set for Nov. 3-5, the event is scheduled for the Charleston Civic Center and will offer three tracks: business and IT leaders, IT professionals, and Office of Technology customers. Information is available at <http://www.wvtechconference.com>

Welcome! ... to the Department of Administration to our new employee, **Natalie Hamilton** (Division of Personnel).

Time to Relax ... After many years of hard work, **Lessie Chapman** (Office of Technology), **Yvonne Wilhelm** (Division of Personnel) and **Sandra Joyce** (Purchasing Division) are now ready to kick back and relax. Happy retirement to all!

Best Wishes ... to our employees who recently resigned from our department: **Calvin Shelton** (Consolidated Public Retirement Board); **Christopher Del Checcolo** and **Cindy Ennis** (Office of Technology) and **Carla Taylor** (Real Estate Division).

Mrs. West Virginia International Pageant ... Congratulations to Misty McMinn who took home the awards for Best Interview, Best in Gown and Best in Fitness at the 2009 Mrs. West Virginia International Pageant. She is the daughter-in-law of **Sue McMinn** (Board of Risk and Insurance Management).



**MISTY
McMINN**

Let's Go Out to the Ball Park ... Baylee Harless, step-granddaughter of **Pam Jarrell** (Purchasing Division / Surplus Property), won the ASA National World Series Softball Championship with her team, “TNT.” Way to go, slugger!

Got News?...Let us know what's going on with you and your family. Contact Diane Holley-Brown, Editor, at (304) 558-0661 or at Diane.M.Holley@wv.gov with information to share with the department's employees.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... in September

1 Wanda Casto CHIP	19 Cathy McClung Technology
2 Connie Byrne Finance	20 Tammy Bailey Technology
Ada Kennedy Personnel	Jessica Blankenship PEIA
Aaron Riley Technology	Matt Cordie Technology
3 Ricky Howerton Gen. Svs.	Bill McClanahan Technology
4 Kim Huffman Technology	21 Stephen Kolar Gen. Svs.
5 Jane Fouty Personnel	22 Edward Dailey Gen. Svs.
6 Diane Hudnall Finance	23 Ali Dabiri Technology
7 Randall Arbogast Technology	James Huffman Gen. Svs.
9 Charles Walker Technology	Barbara Jarrell Personnel
10 Barry Baker Gen. Svs.	Terry Parsons Gen. Svs.
Jim Kirby Sec. Office	Teresa Siders Public Defender
Todd McIntyre Technology	Tammy White CPRB
11 Ted Cheatham PEIA	24 Shawn Carper Finance
Diana Davis CPRB	Patricia Ebert Technology
John Doub CPRB	James Farmer Purchasing
Scotty Pauley Gen. Svs.	Dan Morris CPRB
12 Craig Cotsmire Technology	Daniel Pauley Technology
13 Lisa Dalporto Personnel	Deidre Rainwater Technology
Robert Desmond Gen. Svs.	25 Kevin Kerns CPRB
14 Charles Fish III Technology	Albert Tinsley Technology
Grace Morton PEIA	27 Helena Templeton ... Technology
15 Erin Fink Public Defender	28 Stanley Chambers Personnel
16 Mark Smith Technology	Joan Chapman Finance
Kathy Thomas Technology	Cathy Kushner Technology
17 Jane Lilly CPRB	Vicky Means Real Estate
Wesley Moats Technology	29 Thomas Allen Technology
18 Dave Hildreth Real Estate	Jerry Gladwell BRIM
Larry Sutters Technology	30 Barbara Moss CPRB

Administrative Notes

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