Chris Barr Shines at Consolidated Public Retirement Board

Chris Barr, a Retirement Advisor with the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB), has been selected as the Department of Administration’s Employee of the Month for September.

A state government employee for three years, Barr’s primary duties are to meet with members of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to advise and prepare them for post-state employment living.

“Chris is a ‘people’ person who puts members’ minds at ease. He is very knowledgeable, which helps PERS members as they prepare to make one of the biggest changes in their lives,” said one co-worker. “As a co-worker, one could not find a kinder, friendlier person to spend the work day with.”

Said another co-worker, “Chris goes out of his way to assist our members as they prepare to retire. He works tirelessly to make sure the members get the full retirement benefits they have earned.”

In his spare time, Barr likes to play softball and golf. He also enjoys going to the movies and concerts. He will be joined by friends and co-workers at a special ceremony presented by Cabinet Secretary Ross Taylor on Friday, September 6 at 11:15 a.m. at the CPRB office in Kanawha City.

Ethics Commission Offers Training Sessions

As the Ethics Commission looks toward the 25th anniversary of its creation next year, its executive director Joan Parker said education will continue to be a prime goal of the agency. “Trust in government is an invaluable commodity, and the importance of the Ethics Commission lies in ensuring that our citizens feel they can trust the actions of those involved in government,” she said.

This was the principle in mind as Parker led attendees through a recent ethics training class at the Caperton Training Center at the Capitol Complex. The hour-long class covered aspects of the Ethics Act (W.Va. Code §6B-1-1), including who falls under the act’s overview, what the Ethics Commission Executive Director Joan Parker discusses aspects of the Ethics Act during a training session at the Gaston Caperton Training Center.

Public Service Recognition Week

Set for Sept. 16-20

This year’s Public Service Recognition Week is scheduled for the week of September 16-20. This annual event recognizes state employees for their dedicated careers to public service.

On Thursday, September 19, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin is scheduled to
Editor’s Note: This is part of an on-going series of articles which takes a closer look at Department of Administration agencies.

It goes without saying that health care has been, and continues to be, a primary focus of attention for so many people. Currently, one of the most pressing issues in the country is the issue of affordable health care.

Many complexities have always been associated with health care and for thousands of state employees and retirees, the numerous intricacies are handled by their provider, the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA), which was created under the Public Employees Insurance Act of 1971.

Today, more than 50 full-time PEIA employees are responsible for a multitude of programs for its members, ranging from administration of insurance programs to wellness and outreach programs.

The sections within PEIA and their primary responsibilities are noted below:

- **Finance:** Billing, collections, accounts receivables, rate setting, plan analysis, Other Post Employment Benefit management, reporting, and auditing;
- **Member services:** Member inquiries, phone calls, and outreach;
- **Eligibility:** Enrollment, membership reconciliation with vendors, member changes, and auditing;
- **Provider relations:** Quality, physician outreach, new program design, manage the capitation pro-

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**LOOKING AT ADMINISTRATION:**
Public Employees Insurance Agency

**Statutory Authority:** Public Employees Insurance Act of 1971
**Primary Purpose:** “PEIA was established under the Public Employees Insurance Act of 1971 to provide hospital, surgical, group major medical, prescription drug, group life, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance coverage to eligible employees; and to establish and promulgate rules for the administration of these plans. Benefits are made available to all active employees of the state of West Virginia and various related state agencies and local governments.

**Website:** www.peia.wv.gov
**Telephone Number:** (304) 558-7850/(800) 680-7342
**Physical Address:** 601 57th St., SE, Charleston, WV 25304-2345
Dept. of Administration Employees Earn Various National Certifications

Kudos to several Department of Administration employees who recently earned national certification in their respective fields.

The Purchasing Division recently congratulated several staff members who earned national procurement credentials from the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council. Pictured: (sitting from left) Tara Lyle, Purchasing Director Dave Tincher and Roberta Wagner, (standing from left) Shelly Murray, Michael Sheets, Frank Whittaker and Krista Ferrell.

Additionally, Cliff Manns of the Office of Technology recently has passed the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) examination in June. Mann's preparation paid off as less than eight percent of those tested achieve scores higher than the 85 percent and 81 percent of examinees fail on their first attempt. Manns exceeded both of those benchmarks.

Congratulations to our employees for diligently improving their knowledge and skillset, which ultimately better serves the state of West Virginia.

October Event Focuses on Information and Cyber Security Awareness

The West Virginia Office of Technology's Office of Information Security and Controls is sponsoring a no-charge information and cyber security awareness event on Oct. 2 at the Charleston Civic Center. This year's theme is "How Much are You Willing to Lose?"

The agenda is a mixture of informational sessions, with free posters, calendars, bookmarks, and other security-themed items. The event is open to the public, though registration priority will be given to public sector officials and employees.

The event will feature presentations delivered by experts in the areas of cyber threats, effective practices to safeguard

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gram, and network analysis and contracting;
• Communications: PEIA web page, Twitter, Facebook, all print and web materials, distribution of materials, PEIA Shopper’s Guide and summary plan descriptions, and ID card design;
• Health Services: Pharmacy management, medical management, appeals, diabetic face to face program, weight management program, wellness programs, and appeals;
• Legal: Legal issues, compliance, privacy, and security.
“People may at times look at PEIA as big insurance company. I assure you our staff is extremely caring and concerned for all of our active members and retirees. They strive to do the right thing and assist customers to the best of their ability,” said PEIA Director Ted Cheatham. “We have a responsibility to the state and the citizens to manage the financial aspects of the plan fairly and consistently while providing first-rate customer service. I think PEIA does an admirable job in accomplishing this responsibly.”

Cheatham said the health care landscape constantly changes with the onset of many variables, such as new technologies and updates to rules and regulations in laws passed at the state and federal levels. The continuous attention to detail is always a challenge at PEIA.

“There is nothing stagnant about our industry. Our staff realizes this and rises to the challenge every day to provide our many diverse programs to our members. It is very rewarding when we effectively deliver our total health care programs to our members,” Cheatham said. “A healthy state government workforce is an effective state government workforce. Seeing this through is our daily commitment at PEIA.”

CYBER
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systems and data, with an emphasis on individual accountability, risk management, and privacy issues.
Speakers include:
• Tony Sager (Director, SANS Institute)
• Evan Patterson (Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation)
• A. Bryan Sartin (Vice President, Investigative Response, Verizon/Cybertrust)
Doors at the Charleston Civic Center will open at 8:30 a.m. for check-in and name-tag distribution. The program will begin at 9 a.m. Jim Richards, the State’s Chief Information Security Officer and host, will open the event, followed by remarks from state officials. The event is scheduled to conclude at 1 p.m. All attendees must be registered, and pre-registration is highly recommended. Space at the Civic Center is limited.
To register, visit https://apps.wv.gov/OT/SCR/.

PSRW
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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.

In addition, Cabinet Secretary Ross Taylor 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 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Capitol Room of Building 7 (Gaston Caperton Training Center).

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.

State Employees’ Children to Qualify for the WVCHIP

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin recently announced, pending federal approval, dependentsof West Virginia state government employees will be eligible to apply for health insurance coverage with the West Virginia Children’s Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP). Previously, these individuals were not eligible to apply for WVCHIP due to the federal program’s eligibility restrictions.

“The good health of our children is of the utmost importance,” Gov. Tomblin said. “Through this opportunity, we are seeking to protect and improve our children’s quality of life and future by providing a more affordable insurance option for their families.”

On September 1, 2013, WVCHIP will notify the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of its intent to submit an amended state plan authorizing enrollment of public employees’ children into WVCHIP. The CMS approval process is anticipated to begin in October with authorization anticipated by January 1, 2014. If approved, eligible PEIA members can explore this new option during open enrollment with WVCHIP coverage to begin July 1, 2014.

The Affordable Care Act changed federal CHIP eligibility requirements enabling WVCHIP to consider enrolling qualified dependents of state employees, who currently receive coverage under the Public Employees Insurance Agency. If approved by CMS, the WVCHIP insurance would offer more affordable coverage and enhanced benefits for qualified children of state employees.
Logan Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Cabinet Secretary Ross Taylor, far right, joins Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, middle, and other dignitaries at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Logan State Office Building on August 16. The Real Estate Division and the General Services Division were vital in the design and construction of the building which houses more than 125 state employees from five different agencies.

Bowgren said.

“We wanted to make the site simpler to use, so everyone could access information without any confusion,” she said.

Cricket Reynolds, a secretary with the Public Employees Grievance Board, said that although much of the information remained the same on her agency’s new website, it is now easier to navigate, especially the “search database by form” function.

“Every decision by the Grievance Board is in this database, and when you are searching for a decision, you can now list the criteria for the search,” she said. “The resulting list gives a synopsis for each decision that matches the criteria. You can click the synopsis and then access the decision.”

Reynolds said the new search function adds a step, but increases the information available to users. The new website incorporates a more visually appealing format that the previous site, she said.

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With the never-ending advance of technology, the new websites demonstrate the continuing mission of agencies to offer greater service to their customers and the state of West Virginia.
Welcome! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome our new employees: Stephen Panaro (BRIM); Melody Scott and Staci Young (CPRB); Benjamin Visnic (Ethics); Josephyn Sturgill (Finance); Carrie Childress (General Services); Idesha Fox, Shonda Lewis and Christie Yarbough (PEIA); Stephanie Gale (Personnel); Alisha Ord and Dean Wingerd (Purchasing); and Jessica Allman and Michael Moore (Technology).

Best Wishes ... to Maryclaire Akers (Ethics); Derek Bailey (General Services); Erin Fink (Public Defender); Michael Lee (Purchasing); and Linda Harper (Technology), who recently resigned from our department.

Happy Retirement! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to congratulate Linda Dexter (Brim), Diana Lunsford (CPRB) and Berneice Moore (Technology), who recently retired from our department.

Baby News! ... Congratulations to Betsy Wheeler (Finance), who welcomed her grandson Dawson Samuel Dozier on July 27, weighing 8 lbs., 9 oz. ... Carolyn Hager (General Services) welcomed her first great-grandchild, Kayden Eli William Hager, on August 5. Born to Madison Hager, he was 8 lbs., 8 oz. and 21 inches long ... Eliza Helen DeMarco is the new granddaughter of Catherine DeMarco (Purchasing), born July 28. She was 7 lbs., 13 oz., and 20 1/2 inches long.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... in September

1 Evelyn Melton ............ Purchasing
2 Connie Byrne ............... Finance
3 Idesha Fox .................. PEA
4 Ada Kennedy ............... Personnel
5 Ricky Howerton .......... General Svs.
6 Lu Anne Cottrill .......... Purchasing
7 Jane Fouty ................. Personnel
8 Diane Coker ............... Finance
9 Randall Arbogast ......... Technology
10 Kenneth Castle .......... Technology
11 Kevin Chapman .......... Aviation
12 Krista Scott ............... Technology
13 Ernest Green .............. General Svs.
14 Diana Davis ............... CPRB
15 Sherry Fewell ............. Purchasing
16 Scotty Pauley ............ General Svs.
17 Robert Desmond .......... Technology
18 John Foster ............... Technology
19 Mark Smith ............... Technology
20 Wesley Moats ............. Technology
21 Dave Hildreth .......... Real Estate
22 Lanny Sutters ............ Technology
23 Kenny Yoakum .......... Fleet
24 Tammy Bailey ............. Technology
25 Jessica Blankenship ...... PEA
26 Robert Cordie .......... General Svs.
27 Arlie Hubbard .......... Ethics
28 Bill McClanahan .......... Technology
29 Emily Dowdy .............. Technology
30 Stephen Kolar ............ Technology
31 Frank Buskirk ............ Technology
32 Edward Dailey .......... General Svs.
33 Ali Dabiri ............... Technology
34 James Huffman .......... General Svs.
35 Terry Jarrell .......... Personnel
36 Pam Parsons .......... General Svs.
37 Tammy White ............. CPRB
38 Patricia Ebert .......... Technology
39 Dana Eddy .......... Public Def.
40 James Farmer .......... Purchasing
41 Amber Harper .......... PEA
42 Dan Morris ............... CPRB
43 Daniel Pauley .......... Technology
44 Deidre Rainwater ....... Technology
45 Lionel Adams .......... CPRB
46 Kevin Krens .......... CPRB
47 Virginia May .......... CPRB
48 Thompson Midduff ....... Aviation
49 Michael Moore .......... Technology
50 Jeffrey White .......... Technology
51 Jennifer Curia .......... Finance
52 Gail Delmaar-Mines .. Purchasing
53 Helena Templeton ....... Technology
54 Joan Chapman .......... Finance
55 Adena Harvey .......... Technology
56 Cathy Kushner .......... Technology
57 Thomas Allen .......... Technology
58 Steve Brightwell ......... Fleet
59 Derrick Day ............... Technology
60 Jerry Gladwell ............. BRIM
61 Barbara Moss .......... CPRB
62 Jennifer Priday .......... PEA
63 Paige Strickland .......... CPRB

Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

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