Robert Miller Offers Constant, Dependable Service

ROBERT MILLER, a Claims Representative for the Board of Risk and Insurance Management (BRIM), has been selected as the department’s Employee of the Month for October.

A 14-year employee of state government, Robert is responsible for investigating, directing and evaluating complex legal claims filed against state agencies and its employees. He handles first party property, mine subsidence and liability claims by the program insurer.

According to one of his co-workers, "Bob can be counted on to do whatever is asked of him, without question or complaint."

Another co-worker added, "He is an experienced, fair-minded professional, who is well liked and respected throughout the entire BRIM agency. Bob brings a treasure-trove of experience and good sense to BRIM's claims operation."

In his spare time, Robert enjoys the art of photography and cooking. Additionally, he says he likes to pretend to golf as well as sing in his church choir.

Please join Robert’s friends and co-workers at a special ceremony in his honor on Wednesday, October 4 at 11 a.m. at the BRIM conference room in South Charleston.

Sneak Peek INSIDE...
- CPRB Welcomes Anne Lambright as its Director
- The State Capitol Prepares for a Major Cleaning Next Summer
- Drug Endangered Children’s Conference Unites All Entities
- PEIA Plans for Life Insurance Benefit Fairs
- Administrative Notes

A Time for Americans to Remember...

Most Americans can remember distinctly where they were and what they were doing on September 11, 2001, when terrorists struck the United States.

As a result, Americans joined together to demonstrate to the world their patriotism for our country.

In remembrance of this event five years ago, a special ceremony was held on September 11. Turn to page 4 for more details and photographs!

Gov. Joe Manchin ordered all flags to be lowered during a moment of silence on Monday, September 11, 2006, in observance of 9/11 Patriot Day. A ceremony was held on this day to remember and pay homage to the lives lost during this nation’s tragic event.
Newly Appointed Executive Director of CPRB Familiar with Agency’s Needs

Prior to her appointment last month as the executive director of the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB), Anne Lambright has served as the Board’s general counsel since 2004.

Lambright said she believed the Board was interested in someone who was familiar with the legal system and had an understanding of retirement issues in other parts of the country. She adds that her legal background will help her serve in this new capacity.

Her broad range of legal experience includes 25 years of practicing law, 17 years as committee counsel with the West Virginia Legislature, 20 years as an administrative law judge and conducting mediations and hearings with federal, state and local governments.

As an adjunct professor for West Virginia University Eberly College of Arts and Science, she has authored several published works.

“My primary experience and training will benefit this agency which is my knowledge of state and administrative law as well as the court system. I was trained as a trial lawyer when I went into law school and worked for the largest plaintiff’s law firm in the state at that time,” said Lambright.

When asked what plans she has for CPRB Lambright answered, “Quite honestly, what interested me in taking this job is that we have a group of really fine employees. But, there aren’t enough. We’re looking at adding five to seven new employees or more depending on what we end up doing with other areas.”

The agency’s workload has expanded greatly over the past 18 months without the guidance of a permanent leader. “Teresa Miller has done a wonderful job as acting director, but, there’s just a difference between acting and permanent. I am anxious to help this agency move ahead in the areas it needs to move. One area will be upgrading our computers. This is a very computer dependent agency. We need to be more customer friendly,” she said.

Lambright said she is working with Secretary Rob Ferguson in determining more sufficient space for the employees that offers closer parking and, preferably, on a lower level floor. “We serve many disabled and retired people. That’s what we do.”

In the next five years, Lambright says she hopes to be in a better suited location for their customers and staff offering more services via the Internet.

“Our state is honoring its obligations to its employees. That’s our motto. We serve those people who serve the state of West Virginia; and, I believe every employee at CPRB takes that to heart and I believe our Board does as well.”

The seven plans included under CPRB are Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); Judges’ Retirement System (JRS); Teachers Defined Contribution Benefit Retirement Plan (TRS); State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund (Plan A); West Virginia State Police Retirement System (Division of Public Safety “Plan B”); and the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System (DSRS).

Library Commission Makes Current Videos and DVDs Available for Free “Check Out”

With the high price of gasoline, saving money is always welcome. For movie lovers, the Library Commission has a bargain that will save you money and entertain you.

To all their registered patrons, the Library Commission makes popular videos, DVDs and audiobooks available from their loan collection, meaning free of charge. They may be checked out just as you would a library book.

The DVDs and videos, which may be checked out for seven days, include a variety of movies as well as popular television series. The more popular movies are Chronicles of Narnia, Yours Mine and Ours, Mine Wars, Crowd Pleasers, Madea’s Family Reunion, and selections from Walt Disney, such as cheaper by the Dozen, Shaggy Dog, Shrek 1

Continued on Page 6
Focusing on Children of West Virginia

First Lady Gayle Manchin Stresses Importance of Children at Drug Endangered Children’s Conference

First Lady Gayle Manchin provided opening remarks at the Drug Endangered Children’s (DEC) Conference held last month at the Charleston Marriott. “We talk about children being the future,” said Mrs. Manchin, “and they are, but what we can’t forget is that they are somebody today and they need our help today if, in fact, they are going to be our future.”

The conference was designed to educate all parties in their necessary roles to protect drug endangered children. Prominent speakers included West Huddleston, II, Director of the National Drug Court Institute in Alexandria, Virginia and Dr. Kiti Freier, a Neurodevelopment Psychologist from Loma Linda University and Children’s Hospital in California.

Mrs. Manchin reemphasized the five promises Governor Manchin made in his campaign and inaugural platforms to children if they are going to grow into competent, caring adults.

1. Every child shall have a caring adult in their lives.
2. Every child needs a safe place to be.
3. Every child needs a healthy start.
4. Every child shall have a marketable skill.
5. Every child should have the opportunity to give back.

“That event may be one of the defining moments in their lives. If ignored and left unmonitored, these children continue to be victims caught in a cycle of drug abuse.”

The DEC Task Force advocates intervention on behalf of these children and urges communities to build collaborative, effective teams to rescue, defend, shelter and support drug endangered children. Over 200 participants attended the two-day conference.

Executive Order to Enhance State’s Effort on Privacy and Information Security

Building upon the state’s continuing efforts to maintain a high level of information security and enhance the protection of private information, Gov. Joe Manchin signed an Executive Order authorizing the state’s Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Kyle Schafer and chairperson of the West Virginia Health Care Authority (WVHCA) Sonia Chambers to oversee the implementation of additional privacy and security policy for state government.

Executive Order No. 6-06 requires the development of privacy and information security principles that will guide government agencies in their daily efforts to protect citizens’ personally identifiable information. “Privacy and information security is a priority for my administration. These programs will balance individuals’ right of privacy against others’ need and right to access confidential and personally identifiable information,” said Governor Manchin.

Chambers and Schafer are required to develop privacy and information security programs and teams comprised of representatives from all executive branch department-level organizations that will develop and implement new policies and conduct audits of agency privacy programs.

Chambers is responsible for protecting the privacy of confidential, personally identifiable information collected and maintained by the executive branch, while Schafer is responsible for information security for executive branch agencies.
To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, Governor Joe Manchin joined Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin, House Speaker Robert Kiss, members of the State Legislature, county leaders and state employees for a special ceremony on September 11, 2006, honoring the memory of those who lost their lives.

Flags were ordered to be lowered and the first event began at 8:30 a.m. A performance by the Appalachian Children’s Chorus was offered on the North Plaza of the State Capitol Complex after which the children rang the state’s liberty bell at 8:46 a.m. - the time that the first airliner struck the World Trade Center towers in New York City. A moment of silence was then observed.

At 11:45 a.m., many employees returned to spend their lunch break participating in the state’s formal observance. The event began with a performance by the Montclaire String Quartet, followed by remarks by Governor Manchin.

“Nearly 3,000 individuals lost their lives... and today we take this moment to pause in remembrance to pay tribute to those who lost their lives that dreadful day.”

The ceremony concluded with a bagpiper playing “Amazing Grace.”

Ceremonies concluded with bagpiper J.D. Lowen of Charleston playing “Amazing Grace. Prior to the ceremony’s commencement and Gov. Joe Manchin addressing the crowd, the Residence Chamber Ensemble of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Montclaire String Quartet, performed music for the individuals in attendance.
Anyone who has ever owned a home knows it takes time, effort and money to maintain its value. As director of the General Services Division, David Oliverio knows all too well the importance of protecting West Virginia’s investment in its Capitol Building. “This building is very significant historically,” said Oliverio. “It is a Cass Gilbert design and that architect is famous throughout the country. This building is a serious investment. It is a real architectural gem. We could never afford to replace it. In fact, there’s not a state in this country who could afford to replace it.”

Oliverio is focusing on the exterior repair work that is necessary. “It is an Indiana limestone building and we know that we have some problems with some joints and cracks here and there. But, we don’t know the extent of the problems because we can only see down low. However, common sense tells us that if there are problems down low, there will be problems up high. If we put it off, it’s only going to get worse and more expensive as the building continues to deteriorate.”

Oliverio is in the process of hiring a historic preservation architectural/engineering firm to assess the building and submit a plan on how to repair the damaged areas in the building as well as how to clean the stones. Oliverio explained that the firm will produce drawings and specifications then assist the General Services Division in preparing the project for bid. In regard to cleaning the stones, the last thing Oliverio says he wants to do is inadvertently damage the surface of the limestone through misguided cleaning efforts. Limestone is porous and holds some water.

Oliverio said all the firms being interviewed perform this type of work on monuments and monumental buildings such as those in Washington, DC; New York City; and San Francisco.

“This building truly functions today the way it was designed to function and, for the most part, its design still meets our needs,” he said. Several state capitols are primarily symbolic because their government has outgrown the building. Some only house their state’s legislature.

Walking around the campus, Oliverio pointed out the three Greek mythical figures resting over the entrance of the west wing. “It is my understanding they were actually carved in place. That figure head is a solid square rectilinear block of stone and the cross men who carved them stood on scaffolding in order to actually carve them in place. They weren’t carved in some studio then brought here and glued on.” Expert repair and cleaning will ensure their preservation. There are many very interesting and unique things about this building and its stonework and how it was put together that we must preserve. We must make sure the architectural and engineering firm hired has plenty of experience with this kind of historic preservation,” he adds.

Work is expected to begin next summer and last until early fall.
Welcome!...to the employees who recently joined our department: Linda Chaty (Office of Technology); Carla Taylor and Janell Tincher (General Services Division); Shelly Murray, Jo Ann Adkins, Shane Hall and Susan King (Purchasing Division), and Angela Leshon (Finance).

Hats Off...to Robin Rose of the Public Employees Insurance Agency who was promoted from an Insurance Assistant to Lead Insurance Assistant.

Best Wishes...to those employees who resigned from our department: Angela Lowe (Consolidated Public Retirement Board); Cynthia Burr (Prosecuting Attorneys Institute); Belinda Gray (General Services Division); Ernestine Fox-Penn (Childrens Health Insurance Program) and Marcus Soulsby (Office of Technology).

PEIA Life Insurance Open Enrollment...PEIA will be conducting benefit fairs throughout the state during the month of October. For dates and locations, please visit PEIA’s website at www.westvirginia.com/peia.

Daylight Savings Time...Remember to set your clocks back one hour. Daylight Savings Time ends October 29, 2006.

PEOPLE TALK

Baby News...The department is pleased to announce several new additions to our employees’ families: Billie Jo Streyle-Anderson (Personnel) welcomed her first child, Alexandra Jolee, who was born on September 20; Jack Rogers (Public Defender Services) welcomed his second child, Aidan Alford Rogers, on September 25; and Teresa Siders (Public Defender Services) welcomed her first grandchild, Chloe Neveah Roderick, on September 26.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...in October

2 Carol Crites ............... Sec. Office
Scott Padon .................. Sec. Office
Diane Title ..................... PEIA

3 Carla Pullen .................. Technology
Shelia Gray .................. Gen. Svcs.

5 Diana Arden .................. Technology

6 Carla Kennedy ............... CPRB

9 Larry Chancey ............... PEIA
Scott Dobson ............... Technology
Monica Rogers ............... PEIA

11 Joe Thomas .................. Personnel

12 Melody Duke ............... BRIM

14 Katherine Blizzard ........ Personnel

15 Brian Hilman ............... Aviation
Roger Paxton .................. Gen. Svcs.

17 Monroe Gillispie ............ Technology
Lynn Schillings ............ Personnel

19 Ross Taylor .................. Finance

20 Gary Gillispie ............... Technology
Bobby Mitts ................. BRIM

21 Barry Arthur .......... Technology
Steven Bratchett ....... Gen. Svcs.
Rebecca Keathley ... Personnel
Sharon Thompson Purchasing

22 Stephen Kerns ............ CPRB
Lisa Trump ............... CPRB

23 Jennifer Ayers .......... Technology
Sharon Lacey .......... Technology

24 Mike Campbell .......... Personnel
Joselyn Casto .............. Finance
Lietta White ................. Ethics

26 Jim Casto ............... Gen. Svcs.

27 Russ Cooke .. Public Defender
Juan Haynes ........ Gen. Svcs.
Andrew Mitchell .. Gen. Svcs.
Shelly Murray ........ Purchasing

28 Rebecca Romans .......... PEIA
Stefaney Williams .. Grievance

31 Tammy Scarberry ......... PEIA

and 2. Friends, 24 and MASH are among popular television series available.

Movies about West Virginia and Appalachia are also topics the Library Commission strives to obtain. For instance, the movie Bubble, which is a popular request, was filmed in West Virginia using local actors and deals with murder and intrigue.

“The videos have been part of our collection for about ten years,” said Library Services Director Mary Hogue. “We began selecting DVDs in 2002 with the Academy Award winning films. Our television series, though, began with Don Knotts. We wanted every segment he was in since he was from West Virginia.”

Hogue said they asked their patrons and employees to let them know what movies they would like the Library Commission to purchase. “That’s how we got the complete MASH and Friends television series,” she added.

Also available are books for children and those focusing on such topics as travel and education. For students who are preparing for college, the Library Commission has a study series for the SATs.

The Library Commission serves state government and other public libraries. Hogue said they are also available for employees working at the Capitol Complex.

Registration requires a driver’s license or picture ID and completing a Reference Library Borrower’s Card, or bringing a Borrower’s Card from another local library.

Questions concerning the Library Commission’s collection of movies may be directed to Janice Bickham, Collection Development Reference Librarian, at 558-2045. The Library Commission is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 - 5:00.

Administrative Notes

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