BRIM's Melody Duke Conveys a Good Image for Agency

Melody Duke, a Financial Reporting Specialist I for the Board of Risk and Insurance Management, has been selected as the Department’s Employee of the Month for September.

A 7-year employee of state government, Melody is responsible for the completion of BRIM’s financial statements and assists with the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. She also distributes quarterly premium invoices, posts deposits for billing and accounts receivable, and maintains BRIM’s Peachtree Accounting System.

According to one of her co-workers, “Melody is always pleasant and willing to take on extra duties that are asked of her.” Another co-worker adds, “She works with each department as a whole. She is a good representative of this agency when dealing with the public each day, politely and efficiently.”

In her spare time, Melody enjoys spending time with her husband, Michael, and her two children, Brandon (4 years) and Brittany (20 months). She also enjoys camping, reading and participating in her Bible study group.

Please join Cabinet Secretary Greg Burton at Melody’s Employee of the Month presentation at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 5 at BRIM’s South Charleston office.
Public Service Recognition Week

It's Time to Celebrate the Work Performed by State Employees

to the judging area at the East Wing Rotunda by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the contest. The winners will be announced in the Main Rotunda at 12:00 noon. After the judging, onlookers can have a free taste. For more information, please contact Personnel’s Charlotte Belcher at 558-3950, ext. 213.

The Governor’s Awards Ceremony will be held on September 27 at 1:30 p.m. at the Cultural Center Theater. Governor Wise will honor state employees with at least 30 years of service (with every five-year increment being honored). Due to space limitations, attendance will be by invitation only.

On September 28, each department will coordinate its own service award ceremonies. The time and location for the Department of Administration has not been confirmed; however, those individuals to be honored will be notified directly.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, several activities will be available, including the Awareness Fair that will consist of agency booths set up in the corridors of the Main Capitol Building. Agencies interested in having a booth should contact Sarah Fridley at 558-6029.

Food vendors will also be present in the Capitol circle area from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily.

Entertainment is scheduled throughout the week, according to Fouty. Performers, including Scotty Owens and John Ross, and radio stations will be entertaining the crowds during the lunch time hour.

For updated scheduled events, please check the Division of Personnel’s website at www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/PSRW/default.htm.

Governor Wise Promotes Free Children's Health Insurance

Governor Bob Wise has been knocking on doors this summer to promote the Children’s Health Insurance Program. CHIP offers free or low cost health insurance for children of working families to get the medical care they need to grow into strong healthy adults.

"I'm going to be walking through neighborhoods, knocking on every door - doing whatever it takes to find every child and get them signed up for CHIP," Wise said. "Every parent should have the peace of mind knowing their kids can get health care when they need it."

Current enrollment for WV CHIP stands at 20,662, a 34 percent increase since January of this year.

For more details on CHIP, interested families can call toll-free 1-877-WVA-CHIP or visit its website at www.wvchip.org.
STATE'S FLOOD RELIEF
Continued from Page 1

them into the truck. The collection continued for several weeks with at least two employees onsite to assist, according to Acting General Services Director David Pentz.

The West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property (WVSASP) was also called to action by Governor Wise to assist nearly 75 small businesses which were devastated by the disaster. Surplus Manager Ken Frye coordinated several truck loads of property to McDowell and Wyoming counties to provide assistance.

Cabinet Secretary Burton expressed his gratitude to the Surplus employees who spent a week assisting in this effort. The employees included Frye, Danny Layton, Jim Hudson, David Wolfe, Roger Roe, Larry Danberry and Anthony Cooper.

Prior to the relocation of property, Secretary Burton, Deputy Secretary Dot Yeager, Executive Assistant Debbie Bradford, Purchasing Director Dave Tincher and Public Information Officer Diane Holley visited WVSASP to take a tour of the facility and to determine the types of property that could be transported for this relief initiative.

A special session was called by Governor Wise to address the millions of dollars in flood aid which was to be allocated to the 24 counties that were declared disaster areas. According to state statistics, the government's flood-related expenses exceeded $125 million.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) also took part in the relief action by replacing eyeglasses that were lost or damaged in the recent flooding for children covered by CHIP, the state insurance plan for low-income families.

This disaster proved that West Virginians truly pull together in the time of need. My deep appreciation is extended to all of our employees for their consideration to those individuals whose lives were most greatly affected during these floods.

Cabinet Secretary Greg Burton

"I'm very pleased with the responsiveness which our employees demonstrated in the numerous roles they played," said Secretary Burton. "This disaster proved that West Virginians truly pull together in the time of need. My deep appreciation is extended to all of our employees for their consideration to those individuals whose lives were most greatly affected during these floods."

Buy Me Some Peanuts and Cracker Jacks
Let's Go Out to the Ball Game!

Who's up for a game? The General Services Division employees and a few other recruits from the Department of Administration have joined the State Employees Softball League. The players are getting some exercise, having fun and winning some games. Pictured above is Paul Prendergast at bat...Surely, he hit a home run!
Preserving the State Capitol’s Dome Becomes Historical Issue

By Carrie McComas
Communication Intern

The spiral staircases seem to go on forever, one after the other. Then climb at least a dozen flights of regular stairs and ladders...But the reward is worth it. The reward is leaning out of the tiny windows and over the iron handrails to grasp a view of the city of Charleston that only a few will ever see. Standing atop the State Capitol Building’s golden dome, one may imagine what Architect Cass Gilbert had in mind.

The beautiful dome of the Capitol Building is truly a symbol of West Virginia. It is unique, majestic...and, unfortunately, deteriorating.

Commuters may have observed the coal-colored blemish on the south side of the dome that appears most noticeably in the winter. Taking a closer look, one finds that there are many more problems. The General Services Division knows about the deterioration and has set its plan of action. One of the problems is that the joints in the dome’s limestone base are separating from their caulking. “One of the projects that we are developing specifications for,” explains Tim Lee, Assistant Director of General Services, “is to actually have the jointing and painting redone and resecure the lining into place.”

In other words, General Services is hoping to scroll back the aging process. In this case, they are investigating the best way to fix and strengthen the joints between the limestone blocks that have deteriorated as a result of weather conditions.

The biggest project for General Services, however, is the actual re-gilding of the dome. This is a project that has not been tackled for some time. According to Acting Deputy Director Bill Pauley, the last re-gilding was in the mid-1980’s, and it was not complete. Over time, Lee points out, the gold has come loose from the metal. “We’ve got a lot of exposed areas up there that do not necessarily get noticed unless you are close to it,” he adds. These exposed areas and, of course, the notorious “black spots” are the reason for the re-gilding.

So what does re-gilding entail? “Re-gilding is done with sheets [of gold] laid on the surface of the dome,” says Paul Prendergast, Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator, for General Services. However, before they can lay on the gold, research is needed. “We have a group, Swanke-Hayden, from New York, who are experts at re-gilding,” said Acting Director David Pentz. He added that this company will be taking a 4’ x 6’ sample, or “coupon” from the dome, which will be taken to a lab and tested. The results will hopefully determine why the dome surface has discolored and peeled. Solutions to refurbish the dome will be discussed. Many of the decisions regarding the dome renovation will be made in committees, including representatives from many state agencies.

What about the cost? This factor is yet to be determined, though such renovations in other states have cost substantially. “As far as I’m concerned, the dome will be the most significant project that we will deal with,” Pentz said. “It is certainly the most visible [project]...It’s a symbol of our state and of our city. Whatever we do, it’s going to be done right!”

DOME FACTS

- The dome has two layers, with an air pocket in between. The top layer is the gilded masterpiece and the smaller, inner layer can be viewed from the Rotunda.
- There are at least 5 lookout points inside and outside the dome which can only be reached by spiral staircases and ladders.
- The crystal chandelier that hangs from the center of the inner dome is approximately 2 tons and is lowered partially when the legislature is in session. It is completely lowered for cleaning and display during inaugurations. The 4,000 pound ornament contains over 100 light bulbs and is hand cranked.
- An emergency light is located at the top of the dome and is only lit during a statewide emergency, such as the flooding many West Virginians experienced this summer.

Scaffolding has been erected in order to perform work on the exterior of the dome.
Our Department values its employees and the knowledge and dedication they share in their agencies. Congratulations to those employees who are celebrating their service year anniversaries this month:

5 YEARS
Lisa Collins
(Charles Hager
David Lawrence
Keith Moss
Robert Sayre
(Personnel)
(General Services)
(IS&C)

10 YEARS
Neil Bowman
William Pointer
(General Services)

15 YEARS
Jim Bateman
Scott Padon
(Division of Personnel)
(Purchasing Division)

20 YEARS
Randall Hughes
Harold Matthews
Larry Meninger
Sharon Pruett
(Purchasing Division)
(General Services)
(IS&C)
(CPRB)

25 YEARS
Alma Legg
(Personnel)

Attention PEIA PPB Plan Members:
Are You Aware of Recent Changes to Your Plan?

The Public Employees Insurance Agency recently implemented several changes for Plan Year 2002, which began July 1, 2001. Some of these changes are detailed below; however, if you have additional questions, please contact Customer Service at (304) 558-7850 or toll-free 1-888-680-7342.

Precertification for Allergy Testing
Effective July 1, 2001, allergy testing requires precertification. For in-network services, precertification is the provider’s responsibility and if the precertification is not done, the provider takes a 30% penalty. The provider should contact Intracorp for precertification. In-network allergy testing is covered at 20% coinsurance after the deductible is met.

Prior Authorization for Non-sedating Antihistamines
The antihistamines include Allegra, Zyrtec and Claritin. On August 1, 2001, any prescription for these non-sedating antihistamines requires prior authorization from Merck-Medco. The prior authorization process can be started by the member, the physician or the pharmacist by calling Merck-Medco at 1-800-711-3808.

Retail Maintenance Network
PEIA offers a Retail Maintenance Network of pharmacies that will fill your 90-day maintenance prescription for just two copayments. You can buy two months and get one month free. All Kroger, K-mart and Rite-Aid pharmacies are members of this network, along with many other local pharmacies across the state. A complete list can be found on PEIA’s website at www.wvpeia.com or in the Summary Plan Description.

Timely Submission of Claims
Members and providers now have 6 months from the date of service to submit a claim to be considered by PEIA, when PEIA is the primary insurance. If PEIA is secondary, the time limit is six months from the date of the Explanation of Benefits from the primary plan.

Notice to PEIA Enrollees Concerning Election for Plan Exemption from Certain Federal Requirements:
Under a 1996 Federal law, group health plans must generally comply with certain requirements; however, the law permits state and local governmental employers that sponsor health plans to elect to exempt a plan from these requirements for any part of the plan that is self-funded by the employer, rather than provided through a health insurance policy. The only practice effect to PEIA members is that the PEIA PPB Plan has made a ten dollar reduction for family coverage and a five dollar reduction for single coverage in premiums for members who certify that they and/or their covered dependents do not use tobacco.

Perspective
By seeing the seed of failure in every success, we remain humble. By seeing the seed of success in every failure, we remain hopeful.

Mel Ziegler, Founder
Banana Republic
A Message From...
Cabinet Secretary
Greg Burton

Work Policies
In the past couple of months, our division and agency directors have been discussing various policies, both formal and informal, which relate to our employees. Policies, such as work hours and dress code, are most often made at the division level due to the variance of each office and the work which is performed. Proper attire is expected from those from whom we serve.

To ensure optimum customer service, Governor Bob Wise has requested that all state offices be open until 5:00 p.m. This action will better assist our customers when conducting state business. I greatly appreciate your cooperation in this effort.

Print Shop Moves
Correctional Industries Moves Downtown

Correctional Industries’ print shop recently moved from its Jefferson Street location to 617 Leon Sullivan Way (formerly Broad Street), according to George Hampton, Director of Correctional Industries. Hampton indicated that not only is the operation moving, but enhancements are being made to its services and software. There will also be two drop boxes at the Capitol Complex to deposit requests for printing.

Welcome to the Department!...Cynthia Good and Charles Stark (IS&C), Tony Justice and Kimberly Dunlap (CPRB), Lloyd Lawson (General Services), Michael Marteney (Grievance Board), William Foster (BRIM), and Marjorie Martorella (Prosecuting Attorneys Institute).

Best Wishes...to those employees who have retired from state government: Pat Powers (CPRB), Bill Pauley (General Services), and Ed Mullins (IS&C). We also wish the best to those who have resigned from the Department: Annagayle Stevens (CHIP), Charles Reynolds (General Services), and Sharon Waggy (CPRB).

New Opportunities...Sandra Singleton recently transferred from CPRB to Purchasing, and Brenda Jones transferred from CPRB to CHIP.

Congratulations!...to Jacqueline Cox (Finance) who was promoted from an Office Assistant II to an Office Assistant III, Shelley Dunlap (CPRB) from an Accounting Technician II to an Accounting Technician III, and Ellen Akers (PEIA) from an Office Assistant II to an Accounting Technician III.

WV State Employees Combined Campaign...The combined campaign will kick off on September 26!

Proud Mama...Finance’s Cindy Dillon was pleased to have her son, Jeremy Harper, working this summer in the Budget Office. A sophomore at Davis and Elkins College, Jeremy majors in computer programming.

Multifest, a Celebration of Diversity...If you missed Multifest, which was held at the State Capitol Complex in August, you missed a lot of good food, entertainment and merchandise. Celebrating racial and ethnic diversity in West Virginia, this free festival offered music that represented international and American subcultures.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...In September

2 Connie Byrne ............ Finance
Curt Curtiss ............ Purchasing
Ada Lewis .............. Personnel
Gay Ellis ................ Finance
Kim Huffman .......... IS&C
Jane Fouty .......... Personnel
Robin Sloan ........ Gen. Svcs.
Sheryl Thomas-Walker .... IS&C
Lewis Brewer .......... Ethics
Dick Estill ............ Purchasing
Shelly Lowery .......... Ethics
Philip Adams .......... IS&C
Charlotte Belcher .... Personnel
Erline Davis ........ CPRB
Chuck Walker .......... IS&C
Ben Clark .......... IS&C
Diana Davis .......... CPRB
Dave White .......... Purchasing
Craig Cotsmire .......... IS&C
Connie Maxwell .......... Finance
Evon Williams .......... Purchasing
Jerri Rucker .......... Finance
Kathy Thomas .......... IS&C
Cathy McClung .......... IS&C
Bill McCleanahan .......... IS&C
Sharon Horn .......... Personnel

People Talk

WV State Employees Combined Campaign...The combined campaign will kick off on September 26!

Proud Mama...Finance’s Cindy Dillon was pleased to have her son, Jeremy Harper, working this summer in the Budget Office. A sophomore at Davis and Elkins College, Jeremy majors in computer programming.

Multifest, a Celebration of Diversity...If you missed Multifest, which was held at the State Capitol Complex in August, you missed a lot of good food, entertainment and merchandise. Celebrating racial and ethnic diversity in West Virginia, this free festival offered music that represented international and American subcultures.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...In September

2 Connie Byrne ............ Finance
Curt Curtiss ............ Purchasing
Ada Lewis .............. Personnel
Gay Ellis ................ Finance
Kim Huffman .......... IS&C
Jane Fouty .......... Personnel
Robin Sloan ........ Gen. Svcs.
Sheryl Thomas-Walker .... IS&C
Lewis Brewer .......... Ethics
Dick Estill ............ Purchasing
Shelly Lowery .......... Ethics
Philip Adams .......... IS&C
Charlotte Belcher .... Personnel
Erline Davis ........ CPRB
Chuck Walker .......... IS&C
Ben Clark .......... IS&C
Diana Davis .......... CPRB
Dave White .......... Purchasing
Craig Cotsmire .......... IS&C
Connie Maxwell .......... Finance
Evon Williams .......... Purchasing
Jerri Rucker .......... Finance
Kathy Thomas .......... IS&C
Cathy McClung .......... IS&C
Bill McCleanahan .......... IS&C
Sharon Horn .......... Personnel

Aaron Riley .......... IS&C
Donna Bilyeu .......... Personnel
Sharon Gill .......... PEIA
Sarah Long .......... BRIM
Barbara Jarrell .... Personnel
Teresa Siders ... Public Defenders
Tammy Williams .......... CPRB
Shawn Harper .......... Finance
Jim Farmer .......... Purchasing
Dan Pauley .......... IS&C
Deidre Rainwater .......... IS&C
Stephanie Chafin .......... IS&C
David Wolfe .......... Purchasing
Alfred Hugar .......... Finance
Stan Chambers .......... Personnel
Joan Chapman .......... Finance
Cathy Kushner .......... IS&C
Diana McGinnis Sec. Office
Tom Allen .......... IS&C
Karen Copeland .......... CPRB
Charles Curry .... Gen. Svcs.
Jerry Gladwell .......... BRIM
Greg Hutchinson .......... IS&C
Janet Atkins .......... CPRB
John Wagner .......... IS&C