



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

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DOP's Webb Named Winner of National Award



Division of Personnel Director Sheryl Webb (right) accepts the 2026 Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Leadership Award from NASPE.

The National Association of State Personnel Executives (NASPE) has named Division of Personnel Director Sheryl Webb as the winner of the 2026 Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Award for Leadership in State Human Resource Management.

The award is part of a program designed to recognize great accomplishments of state human resource management personnel around the country. The winners of several individual awards are recognized during the NASPE Annual Meeting held each summer.

"It is such an honor to receive this award," Webb said. "I could not do this work without the great people I work with daily. The team at the Division of Personnel truly is the best in the field of human resources."

Classification and Compensation Director Wendy Mays nominated Webb for the

award, and says it reflects what her co-workers see every day.

"Sheryl leads with encouragement, resilience, and a deep commitment to supporting our agency and its people," Mays said. "Her leadership is exceptional, and her example continues to inspire us."

The Rooney award was established in 1994 in memory of Eugene H. Rooney, Jr., who served as NASPE president at a time of growth for the organization. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify the character, qualities, and influence that Rooney had on state personnel administration. Rooney, who served as state human resources administrator in Massachusetts, was well-respected for his role as a reformer and innovator who valued individuals and their commitment to public service. Congratulations Sheryl!

Purchasing Employee Inspires Students at Martial Arts Camp

For many, the workday ends when they leave the office, but for Purchasing Division Senior Buyer Larry McDonnell, a career in procurement is only one part of a life defined by discipline and perseverance.

McDonnell, who practices martial arts, recently brought that message of resilience to local youth during a guest presentation at a Taekwondo summer camp in Ripley. Organized by Spencer Hill, chief hearing officer for the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and his wife, the camp aims to instill core values in its students beyond standard martial arts techniques.



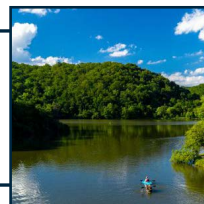
Larry McDonnell (aka The Karate Kickin' Dwarf) spoke with martial arts campers in Ripley and provided demonstrations of self-defense techniques.

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SNEAK PEEK

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PEIA, Myers and Stauffer Spousal Surcharge Review Underway

The Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA), in conjunction with Myers and Stauffer, is conducting a review of spousal coverage to ensure compliance and fairness among state employees. The spousal surcharge is a monthly charge paid by the PEIA plan member, in addition to his or her regular medical plan coverage premium, to enroll a spouse as a dependent on the employee's PEIA plan under certain circumstances.

What You Need to Know

- **Potential Contact:** If your spouse is on your PEIA medical plan, Myers and Stauffer may contact you via email or U.S. mail to verify your info.
- **Email Safety:** Emails will come from the domain mslc.com. Please add this to your safe senders list and check your spam folder so you don't miss it.
- **Action Required:** You do not need to do anything unless Myers and Stauffer contacts you.

More information on this review can be found at <https://myersandstauffer.com/provider-resources/wv-peia-spousal-surcharge>. Questions may be directed to wvpeiareviews@mslc.com.

Exciting News!

PEIA PPB Member Spouses Are
Now Invited to Join Personify
Health and Earn Rewards!

Healthy habits are even more rewarding!

Spouses covered under a PEIA PPB Plan can now join Personify Health and start earning rewards, too! By participating in eligible wellness activities, both members and their covered spouses can each earn up to \$300 per year to spend in the Personify Health Rewards Store beginning this new plan year!

Sign up or log in today and start earning together!

We'll help you make small, everyday changes for you and your spouse's wellness and focus on the areas you want to improve the most. Signing up is simple. Visit join.personifyhealth.com/PEIA or open the app and select Create Account.

Scan to QR Code to Join!



personify[™]
HEALTH



Agencies Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has once again recognized Department of Administration agencies for excellence in financial reporting.

The Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB), the Board of Risk and Insurance Management (BRIM), and the Finance Division were recognized for their work for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. This is the 14th year CPRB has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award and the 31st year for BRIM and the Finance Division. Each agency submitted an application based on its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

The GFOA offers this prestigious award to state and local governments that go above and beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to

prepare financial reports that are transparent and contain the full disclosure of financial information. Obtaining the award represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The GFOA is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 20,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. Its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report award is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program.

Congratulations to CPRB, BRIM, and Finance!

Last month, we recognized some of the students interning with our Department of Administration agencies. This month, we round out our recognition with a few more. The Public Employees Insurance Agency, West Virginia Office of Technology, and General Services Division are among the Department of Administration agencies hosting interns this summer.



Ward Watson, Noah Sargent, and Justin Harper are interning with the West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT) this summer.

A portrait of a man with short brown hair, glasses, and a light beard, wearing a blue polo shirt. He is looking directly at the camera. The background is an indoor setting with a white ceiling and some wooden paneling.

WEST VIRGINIA
PURCHASING DIVISION
SURPLUS PROPERTY

BINDERS

10 for \$1

Sale includes everything in the warehouse:

- desks
- bookcases
- file cabinets
- mail sorting stations
- cork boards
- whiteboards
- electronics
- and more!

**excludes cars*

Family Adventures You Have to Try in West Virginia State Parks

There's still time to squeeze in some family fun before a new school year gets underway. Plan an unforgettable adventure for the whole family at a West Virginia state park.

With so many to choose from, each has its own unique experiences, activities, and attractions to try.



Greenbrier River Trail

Marlinton, W.Va.

Watoga is a Cherokee word meaning “starry waters.” This is evident at Watoga Lake where you can fish, swim, paddle, and stargaze. There are several camping and historic cabin options. The Greenbrier River Trail is nearby and is great for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. You might see the rare synchronous fireflies light up the night sky!



Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

Hillsboro, W.Va.

As the site of one of the last Civil War battles, Droop Mountain is perfect for history buffs and nature enthusiasts. It is in Greenbrier County, and includes a museum, hiking trails, picnic shelters, and an Almost Heaven swing. Climb the Droop Mountain Tower for some of the best views in the state and stay to see the stars twinkling at night.



Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

Cass, W.Va.

At Cass Scenic Railroad, you can climb aboard a steam-powered train that travels to one of the highest points in the state. Located in the east-central portion of Pocahontas County, it contains a historic company town with a restaurant, large gift shop, and museum. Bring your whole family and stay in one of the company houses which can accommodate up to 14 people. The Greenbrier River and Greenbrier River Trail are nearby, giving visitors the opportunity to fish, swim, hike, and bike.



Beartown State Park

Renick, W.Va.

Four miles south of Droop Mountain is Beartown State Park. It is a natural area containing huge rocks and deep crevices. A half-mile boardwalk runs through the park, making it ADA accessible, and takes visitors on a magical journey. Most state park enthusiasts consider this Narnia-like park as one of the most beautiful in the state park system.

MARTIAL ARTS, Continued from Page 1

The connection between the two men began roughly six years ago during an interdivision audit. While reviewing operations for the Division of Administrative Services, Hill noticed a martial arts ornament in McDonnell's workspace. The discovery sparked a conversation that grew into a lasting friendship and a professional collaboration.

When Hill and his wife began planning their summer youth camp, they sought guest presenters who could offer campers a perspective beyond the mat.

"His story is a powerful reminder that perseverance is not just a tenet—it's a lived example," said Hill. "Your circumstances may shape your path, but they do not define your potential."

McDonnell, who holds a black belt in Shorin Ryu (Seibukan) Karate and a purple belt in Ju-Jitsu, alongside experience in Kali and Tai Chi, initially hesitated, citing a break from active training. However, Hill encouraged him to focus on his personal history of overcoming obstacles.

Throughout his life, McDonnell has frequently navigated presumptions about his abilities. He used his time with the campers to address these barriers directly, recounting instances when others told him certain goals were unattainable.

"I explained to the kids that throughout my life, people told me I couldn't do martial arts, but I put my mind to it and I did it anyway because I wanted to," McDonnell said. "The goal was to ensure that the kids know that if they put their minds to anything, they can succeed even when people tell them they can't."

In addition to sharing his story, McDonnell provided demonstrations of self-defense techniques. For the campers, the visit underscored the five tenets of Taekwondo—courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control, and indomitable spirit—by showing them that these principles are not abstract concepts, but tools that can be applied to real-life challenges.

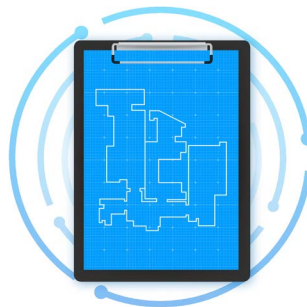


The Department of Administration dressed in red, white, and blue to commemorate our nation's 250th birthday.

West Virginia State Privacy Office Monthly Tip

Family Privacy & The "Digital Blueprint"

Privacy is a team effort. Many government employees are careful with their own data but have family members who inadvertently "leak" information. Posting a "First Day of School" photo where the school's name is visible, or a photo of a new car with the license plate showing, provides enough data for a scammer to impersonate a family member or target your home.



**Note: Your agency/bureau/department/division may have specific requirements – always check your policies and procedures. If you have questions, contact your Privacy Officer.*

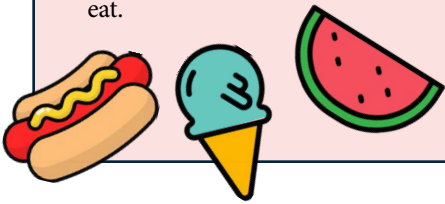
Your Action:

- Have a "Privacy Checkup" with your household.
- Ensure your children's social media accounts are set to "Private" and that they understand they should never accept friend requests from people they don't know in real life.
- Remind everyone that once a photo is posted, you lose control over who saves it or where it goes.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Last month, we asked Department of Administration employees “What is your most controversial summer food opinion?” For example, “Watermelon is overrated” or “Hot dogs are superior to hamburgers.” Below are some of the answers we’ve received. [Click here](#) to see a complete list of responses.

- Ice cream is actually better on a cold day and not a hot day.
- Sno-Cones are incredibly overrated.
- No salt on watermelon.
- Fruit on the grill should not happen and tomatoes should never go in the fridge!
- Picnic food is supposed to be homemade, not something out of a deli.
- Fried green tomatoes are the best summer food!
- Ramps - they smell too bad to eat.
- Why is everyone pretending to like potato salad?
- Potato salad is good and all, but one can never go wrong with a really good pasta salad.
- Do you have to have pasta salad at every picnic?
- Why is there always pasta salad in the heat?
- Hamburgers are the best.
- Hot dogs out of state are not as good as a good old WV hot dog. You've got to have the sweet, creamy, finely chopped coleslaw!
- Hot dogs are best with mustard, ketchup, and relish!
- Hot dogs are not sandwiches.



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

WELCOME! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Tyler Hendricks** (Technology).

BEST WISHES ... to **Emily Hatfield** (Public Defender Services) and **Brent Epling** (Technology), who recently resigned from our department.

HAPPY RETIREMENT! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **Maria Yoa-kum** (Finance); **Roger Allen** and **Greg Carrier** (General Services); **Lee Ann Halstead** (PEIA); and **Michael Slaughter, Tanya Bradshaw, and Tina Christian** (Technology) the very best during their retirements.

OUR CONDOLENCES ... The Department of Administration is saddened to note the loss of **Jamie Jones** (General Services), who passed away recently.

EMPLOYEE QUESTION OF THE MONTH ... This month, we want to know Would You Rather? Ocean or Pool? Popsicle or Ice Cream? Mountains or Beach? Road Trip or Flight? BBQ or Picnic? Sunglasses or Crocs? To answer this question, [click here](#).

GOT NEWS? ... Email detailed information to **Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov** so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in AUGUST

Below is a list of Department of Administration employees celebrating their birthdays during the month of August:

BRIM	Shelley Brightwell	GEN.SRVS. CONT.	Vito Perilli	TECHNOLOGY	James Carabello
CPRB	Jonathan Booher		Anthony Smith		Phillip Crist
	Patricia Bowgren		Robert Stafford		Brent Epling
	Michael Ciarochi		Billy Stephens		Jessica Fish
	Elizabeth Cooper		Bobbie Williams		Greg Ganoe
	Amber Fox				James Hicks
	Brianna Means				Brandon Hill
	Gary Myatezh				Amanda Kelley
	Brittany Smith				Kelly Klein
	Ashley Sparks				Gregory Mattox
	Debra Young				Sherri Moore
ETHICS	Kateland Cantrell				Mitchell Olive
FINANCE	David Scruggs				Rebecca Owens
GEN.SRVS.	Renee Brooks				Donald Patterson
	William Graham				Charles Persinger
	Keith Hawkins				Dekota Phillips
	Jonathan Hughes				Melissa Ramsey
	Charles Long				Bryant Reynolds
	Claude Lynch				David Roberts
	John Mason				Michael Smith
					Sabrina Snead
					Bradlee Wolfe

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