

Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
September 2023 - Volume 30, Issue 9

Employee of the Month

Corker Saves State Money with an Eye for Details



Diane Corker
September Employee
of the Month

Diane Corker, an Accounting Tech 4 in the Finance Division/Shared Services, has been selected as the Department of Administration's *Employee of the Month* for September.

A state employee for 19 years, Corker's duties include processing invoices and bills for various department agencies and boards, including utilities for the General Services Division.

"Diane goes above and beyond in her duties. She watches other employees' workflow to make sure documents aren't pending or rejected and is always willing to cover any position in the section to help maintain a steady workflow," said the co-worker who nominated her. "One example of her work is that she recognized a dramatic drop in a water bill for the monthly billing cycle and

pursued this through the various channels of the vendor, with the end result being a refund back to a state agency in the amount of nearly \$50,000 for excess water charges over the past several years.

"Diane strives daily to make sure all her work is completed and nothing is pending by the end of the day," the co-worker continued. "In addition to Diane's work schedule, she's always willing to help other agencies when needed, even if it's answering a phone or delivering mail."

When she's not working, Corker enjoys camping, boating, and spending time with family.

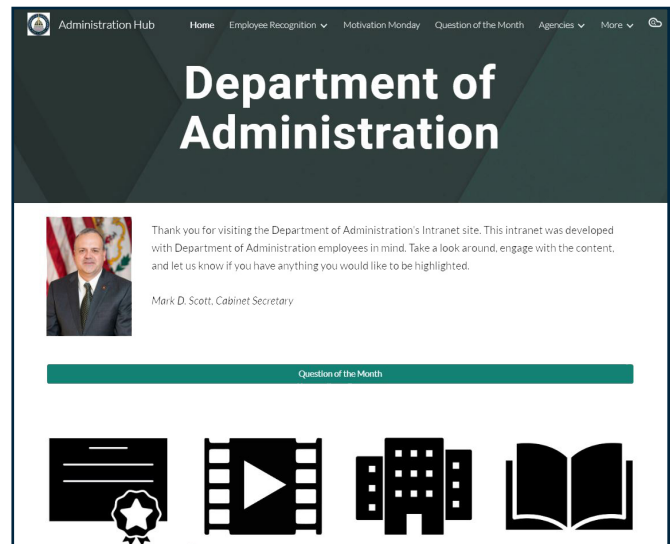
Corker will be joined by friends and co-workers at a special ceremony presented by Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Scott on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in Building 17.

New Intranet Site Now Available for Department

The Department of Administration is pleased to announce the creation of a new intranet designed to connect its employees with resources, information, and each other. The new site can be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/wv.gov/wvdoa-internal>.

"Today marks a step forward in enhancing our internal communication and collaboration efforts," said Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Scott. "With this new hub, we hope to foster a culture of open dialogue and streamline information sharing, all while providing a central location for

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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 West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management (BRIM) and the Finance Division were recognized for their work for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. This is the 11th year CPRB has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award and the 28th 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.

"This accomplishment showcases our employees' skillful examination of and ability to showcase the state's financial condition each year, and we continue to make purposeful strides toward transparency," said Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Scott.



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!

WVOT's Abbott Donates Hair to Children in Need

The painful effects of hair loss are far deeper than just cosmetic, but there is a way to help children dealing with hair loss to feel better about themselves during such a challenging time in their lives.

West Virginia Chief Information Officer Heather Abbott recently donated 14 inches of hair to Children With Hair Loss, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that provides human hair replacements at no cost to children and young adults.

"I chose this organization because it

focuses on kids and they get the wigs for free. The founder has a niece who was diagnosed with leukemia as a child. Their message and mission simply spoke to me," Abbott said.

This is Abbott's first time donating her hair. She had wanted to do it for several years, and the Covid-19 pandemic presented a unique opportunity for her to start the process.

"I didn't get my hair cut for more than a year, so I decided to keep growing it to see if I could get it long enough to donate," she said.

Eight inches is the minimum for donations, but many organizations want at least 12. Bleached or highlighted hair is generally not accepted. However, some places will take it. Abbott suggests researching the requirements of different organizations, as well as their message and how they distribute their wigs.

"By random coincidence, I had the chance to speak with two different people who received a wig from organizations such as the one I donated to," she said. "Both of them expressed how important

it is for kids and their parents to get these wigs at either no cost or very little. The expenses that families go through during this time is horrible enough, and being able to give kids something that helps them feel a little bit normal without adding to that pile of bills is priceless. They both thanked me for what I was doing and asked that I encourage others to do the same."

Children With Hair Loss helps those facing medically related hair loss, including loss due to cancer treatments, alopecia, trichotillomania, and burns. Currently, the organization provides a customized human hair replacement and care kit to more than 600 children each year.

More information about the group and how to donate can be found at <https://childrenwithhairloss.org>.

Do you have a cool accomplishment to share? Volunteered locally? Join Heather Abbott and Brittany Dent (Page 4) on the Department's intranet webpage as part of the "Off the Clock" section. Submissions can be sent to Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov.



West Virginia Chief Information Officer Heather Abbott donated 14 inches of hair to the nonprofit Children With Hair Loss.

Are You Ready? September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is observed each September as a way to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. Volunteer West Virginia has committed to participate in NPM to increase community preparedness in West Virginia through its ReadyWV multimedia campaign.

This is the 17th year that Volunteer West Virginia has participated in NPM. The theme this year is "Preparing for Older Adults," specifically older adults from communities who are disproportionately affected by the all-hazard events.

One of the most important steps is to keep copies of important documents in a safe waterproof and fireproof place, or store them in the cloud. You will need easy access to these if your home is affected by a disaster. ReadyWV has a Personal Preparedness Toolkit that can help people get started on planning for emergencies.

Older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas.

Older adults may also have specific needs after a disaster. It is important to



plan ahead by knowing how you will communicate with them if they have a need. Plan for transportation in the event of an evacuation and make copies of Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance cards.

Ready.gov recommends the following:

- Create a support network of family, friends and others who can assist you during an emergency.
- Make an emergency plan and practice it.
- Make sure at least one person in your support network has an extra key to your home, knows where you

keep your emergency supplies, and knows how to use lifesaving equipment or administer medicine.

- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify backup service providers.
- Don't forget your pets or service animals. Not all shelters accept pets, so plan for alternatives. Consider asking loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area if they can help with your animals.

More information and resources can be found at <https://ready.wv.gov>.

New Rental Rates Published from Fleet Management

The Fleet Management Division (FMD) has announced new vehicle rental rates effective Sept. 1, 2023.

The new rates can be seen to the right and on FMD's website at fleet.wv.gov. Please note that mileage and gas usage is no longer included in rental prices. West Virginia Parkways E-ZPass® transponders are also no longer offered by FMD.

Individuals debating on renting a car versus driving their own are encouraged to use the State Travel Management Office's *Vehicle Rental Versus Reimbursement Calculator* to determine the lowest cost. This resource can be found online at www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/travel/rental.html.

FLEET MANAGEMENT DIVISION RATES

Vehicle	MPGs	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Compact	36	23.25	136.25	525
Intermediate	33 MPG	24.75	143.75	555
Full size	33 MPG	27	155	620
Premium	28 MPG	55	250	940
Intermediate Hybrid	40 MPG	40	205	815
Standard SUV	22 MPG	50	260	991.25
Large SUV	20 MPG	75.38	376.88	1467.5
Small Pickup	21 MPG	53.13	255.63	1000
Truck	25 MPG	55	271.25	980
Minivan	22 MPG	50.5	222.5	950
12-Passenger Van	14 MPG	85	396.25	1675

PDS' Dent Crowned County Fair Queen

Department of Administration employees are known for wearing a lot of hats. Now one employee has a new type of headwear!

Brittany Dent of Public Defender Services (PDS) was crowned Mrs. Braxton County Fair in July 2023. The pageant consisted of a panel interview, as well as an evening gown competition with an on-stage question.

Her duties included attending the fair each day when it was held in August. She was one of the judges for the Best Dressed Livestock Pageant (yes, that's right - kids dress their livestock animals up in costumes). She also made appearances at the car show, the mud bog, the demolition derby, and other fair events. She will spend the rest of the year making appearances as Mrs. Braxton County Fair at other fairs and festivals and volunteering for various organizations and causes. She will also represent her title in the 2024 Mrs. WV America pageant.

Originally from Scott Depot, Dent

started competing in pageants when she was eight years old. Following a long break after high school, she started competing in the Mrs. Division in 2018.

"I've met so many different people and made lifelong friendships!" she said. "I've also gained so much confidence and learned so many important life skills, one of my personal favorites being the interviewing and public speaking skills that I have had to develop and practice."

"There are so many wonderful things about participating in pageantry," she continued. "If I had to choose one thing, I'd say it's that you can do so much good with the crown! Pageantry provides so many opportunities to share your platform and what is important to you."

Her platform of criminal justice reform corresponds with her professional pursuits. She started with PDS in April 2023 as a Habeas Attorney.

"I get to represent our clients who were wrongfully convicted or had their rights so egregiously violated during the criminal



PDS's Brittany Dent was recently crowned Mrs. Braxton County Fair.

trial process, in hopes that we can obtain their release or a new, fair trial," she said. "As Mrs. Braxton County Fair, I want to do my part in shedding light on the need for change and helping those individuals who intersect with the criminal justice system."

INTRANET

Continued from Page 1

employee resources."

As part of this new intranet site, several pages focus on employee recognition. Highlights include *Employee of the Month* information and monthly birthdays, as well as information submitted directly by employees, such as births, weddings, and anniversaries. The site will also highlight employees' accomplishments outside of the office. These "Off the Clock" accomplishments can include volunteer work, awards, or simply crossing off bucket list items.

"This new intranet site was built to be employee focused," said Department of Administration Director of Communications Samantha Knapp. "We didn't want to just copy everything we had on the website. We really wanted to utilize the intranet as a way for employees to get to know one another. I would en-

courage anyone with information they would like highlighted to reach out or submit information through the various forms on the hub."

As part of the creation of this new site, Department of Administration employees are invited to submit names for the intranet as part of a *Naming Contest*. The deadline to submit suggestions is Sept. 22, 2023, and employees can submit up to three names for consideration at <https://forms.gle/hWU-wJFzLJISnTEkg7>. Voting will open on Sept. 25, 2023, and the name will be announced in the October issue of *Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes*.

Department of Administration employees are invited to share their ideas for future intranet offerings and provide feedback by visiting <https://forms.gle/G41xyASNWdXtXij7>.

The Department of Administration's new intranet site is now online. Employees are invited to submit name suggestions and information about their accomplishments.

A screenshot of the "NAMING CONTEST!" form on the intranet. The form asks employees to help name the new Department of Administration intranet by offering suggestions. It includes a "Switch account" button, a "Submit" button, and a "Feedback" button. The form also has a section for "Employee First and Last Name" and a "Your answer" field.A screenshot of the "Off the Clock" form on the intranet. The form celebrates employees who are more than a 9-5 and encourages them to share their accomplishments and who they are when off the clock. It includes a "Submit" button and a "Feedback" button. The form also has a section for "Employee First and Last Name" and a "Your answer" field.

Summersville Lake: West Virginia's Newest State Park

On Aug. 11, 2023, Gov. Jim Justice signed a bill to designate Summersville Lake as West Virginia's newest state park. As the first state park added in more than 30 years, Summersville Lake State Park brings an exciting array of activities to visitors on its 177 acres.

One of the unique features of Summersville Lake State Park is its focus on rock climbing and climbing education. The park currently features more than 350 climbing routes with plans to develop many more, including a designated beginners' climbing area. One of the most popular climbing areas, Pirates Cove, is considered by many to be a destination climb and attracts both domestic and international visitors.

While the lake's blue waters and unique rock formations have attracted hundreds of visitors over the years, the Summersville Lake State Park area has many new features and amenities planned. This includes water activities, aerial sports, lodging options with campsites and cabins, and much more.

Congratulations to West Virginia's 36th state park!

To learn more about Summersville Lake State Park or other West Virginia state parks, visit <https://wvstateparks.com>.

STATE PARK HIGHLIGHT

SUMMERSVILLE LAKE STATE PARK

62 Farmhouse Lane • Summersville, WV 26651

304-558-6200 • SummersvilleLakeSP@wv.gov

ACTIVITIES:

- Biking
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Rock climbing
- Swimming

NEARBY:

- Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park
- New River Gorge National Park & Preserve
- Hawks Nest State Park
- Babcock State Park



North Stairs Project Coming to an End

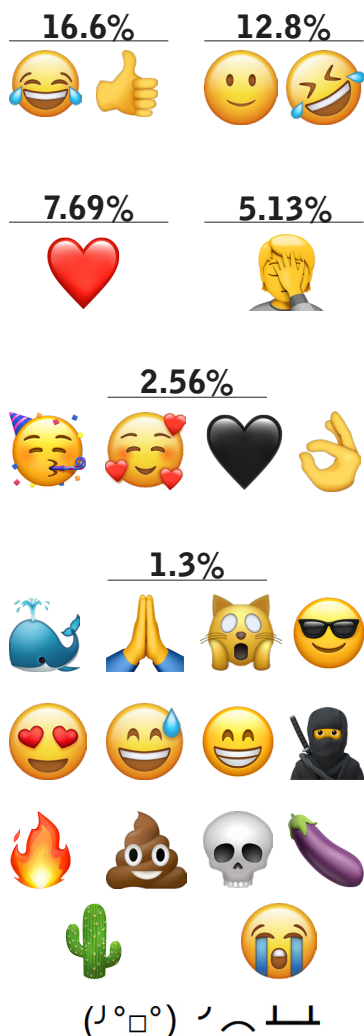
Beginning in April 2022, the North Stairs construction project is finally nearing completion. This repair project was conducted in two phases and allowed for needed repairs, waterproofing, stone treatment, and site restoration. Each stone paver was numbered upon removal so it could be placed back in its original spot as seen to the left.



Employee Question of the Month

Thank you to everyone who continues to participate in our department's *Question of the Month*. Last month, we asked Department of Administration employees to share their most used emojis. Check below to see what the most popular responses are!

For our September *Question of the Month*, we want to know... "What is your favorite strange food combination?" Submit your answer by visiting <https://forms.gle/W2juJ2x8Ku4rGUCn6> by the end of the day on Friday, Sept. 15, 2023.



Welcome! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Timothy Garnes** (Aviation); **James Jobe** and **Eric Loftis** (General Services); **Brian Cunningham** (PEIA); **Joseph Thornton** (Public Defender Services); and **Stephen Cain**, **Andrew Zicafoose**, and **Michael Ross** (Technology).

Best Wishes ... to **Jonathan Lyons** (Technology) who recently resigned from our department.

Holiday ... West Virginia state government will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4, 2023, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Intranet ... Check out our monthly updates to the Department of Administration's intranet site here. For more on this new intranet, see the article on page 1.

Employees are invited to submit name suggestions for the new intranet site. The deadline to submit a name is Sept. 22, 2023, and voting will open on Sept. 25, 2023. To submit a name for the site, visit <https://forms.gle/hWUwJFzLJ1SnTEkg7>.

Got News? ... Share YOUR good news with all of your department co-workers! Email Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov with detailed information so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... in SEPTEMBER

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

Luke Mitchell.....BRIM	Mark Doyle.....Pub.Def.Srvs.
Lionel Adams.....CPRB	Dana Eddy.....Pub.Def.Srvs.
Christine Fernandes.....CPRB	Lorena Litten.....Pub.Def.Srvs.
Jamie Huff.....CPRB	Krista Chadband.....Purchasing
Kevin Kerns.....CPRB	Arlie Hubbard.....Real Estate
Virginia May.....CPRB	Gail Delmaar.....Real Estate
Dan Morris.....CPRB	Sarah Long.....Sec. of Admin
Paige Strickland.....CPRB	Thomas Allen.....Technology
Tammy White.....CPRB	Tanya Bradshaw.....Technology
Melissa Williams.....CPRB	Franklin Buskirk.....Technology
Ellen Briggs.....Ethics	Aaron Cantley.....Technology
Diane Corker.....Finance	Kenneth Casto.....Technology
Cynthia Williams.....Finance	Derrick Day.....Technology
Kenny Yoakum.....Fleet	James Dixon.....Technology
John Anderson.....Gen.Srvs.	Patricia Ebert.....Technology
Aaron Armstrong.....Gen.Srvs.	Madeline Fitzwater.....Technology
Paul Boswell.....Gen.Srvs.	John Foster.....Technology
John Cummings.....Gen.Srvs.	Adena Mays.....Technology
Ada Kennedy.....Gen.Srvs.	Shannon McGrew.....Technology
Gary Morris.....Gen.Srvs.	Wesley Moats.....Technology
Terry Parsons.....Gen.Srvs.	Michael Moore.....Technology
Scotty Pauley.....Gen.Srvs.	Jason Nichols.....Technology
Joseph Pratt.....Gen.Srvs.	Robert Pack.....Technology
Joshua Fraenkel.....Grievance	Daniel Pauley.....Technology
Brian Cunningham.....PEIA	Deidre Rainwater.....Technology
Jennifer Priddy.....PEIA	Terri Sheets.....Technology
Jessica Wallace.....PEIA	Mark Smith.....Technology
Brandon Perdue.....Personnel	Larry Sutters.....Technology
Teresa Asbury.....Pub.Def.Srvs.	Stephen Windon.....Technology
LeeAnn Doyle.....Pub.Def.Srvs.	Anet Vance.....Technology

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Jim Justice
Governor

Samantha
Knapp/
Communication
Director/Editor

Production
Jess Chambers
Courtney
Johnson
Teresa Cutlip

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