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March/April 2023

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CONTENTS

Cover Story:
Governor Justice and industry leaders
 urge safe driving in work zones 8

Features:
Impressive programs offered at 2023 Midyear Meeting 10
Legislative leaders address infrastructure funding
 at State Meeting 30
2022 Safety Awards 32
2023 Scholarship Awards 34
43rd Annual Asphalt Paving Conference 38

Members in the news 37
Advertisers 50



On the cover

Governor Jim Justice held an event on April 17 at the State Capitol to kick off the 2023 highway construction season and remind drivers to slow down and pay attention in work zones. The governor was joined by representatives of the West Virginia Department of Transportation, public safety officials, and the Contractors Association of West Virginia to present a unified voice to support National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17-21. In 2022, there were 800 crashes in West Virginia work zones, killing eight people and injuring 276. To read more on West Virginia's work zone safety initiatives, see page 8.

The Contractors Association of West Virginia is a nonprofit trade organization representing the building, highway, heavy and utility contracting industries in West Virginia. Its services include establishment of a close working liaison with state and federal agencies; worthwhile educational and informational programs; the regular dissemination of pertinent information to its members; strong legislative and media relations; as well as all other activities deemed necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the construction industry. The CAWV is a certified chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

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GO ORANGE for Work Zone Safety

Jason Pizatella
Chief Executive Officer




I think we all can agree that everyone should be safe in the workplace, wherever it may be. On Monday, April 17, 2023 in front of the State Capitol, Governor Jim Justice emphasized that nowhere is this more true than on West Virginia's roads and bridges. In the official kick-off to the 2023 highway construction season, the Governor appeared alongside the CAWV, law enforcement, West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) Commissioner Jimmy Wriston, as well as other state and federal officials, where he stressed the need for all motorists to slow down, obey the posted work zone speed limits, and always stay alert when behind the wheel.

Just a few days later, the Federal Highway Administration designated Wednesday, April 19, 2023 as National Go Orange Day. It's a day set aside to remind transportation professionals and the general public about the importance of work zone safety. According to a 2022 study conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), 64% of highway contractors experienced crashes in their work zones. And while it's always easy to focus on the statistics, we at the CAWV prefer to focus on the people: The men and women who, as the Governor sometimes likes to say, "pick up their dinner bucket to head to work" every single day to make your commute better. We cannot forget that these workers are fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters, grandchildren, aunts and uncles, who put their lives at risk every day for the benefit of the traveling public.

Our ask is simple: Do your part to ensure that these men and women can perform their jobs as safely as possible. Be patient. Leave the house earlier. Or better yet, leave that text message, Facebook post, or tweet for later. We hope that motorists who are tempted to speed or become distracted remember that these work zones are someone's job site.

With the support of our members, the CAWV plans to remain aggressive in the year ahead as we work with our WVDOH partners to make the state's highway work zones safer. This includes support for legislation to enact a speed camera pilot project in designated work zones. It's worked in other states, and it can work in the Mountain State. Cars, trucks, and SUVs are more sophisticated than ever these days. But in the end, it's up to the individual driver to be responsible. Your efforts can and will help protect individuals who are out there building a better West Virginia.

One final note, earlier this year a Maryland AGC and American Road & Transportation Builders Association member suffered a tragedy when a driver lost control of her vehicle and crashed into their work zone on Interstate 95, killing six construction workers. CAWV sends its most sincere condolences to the friends and families of those who lost their lives in this tragic event. 

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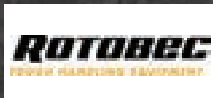
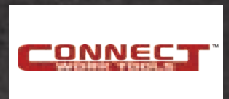
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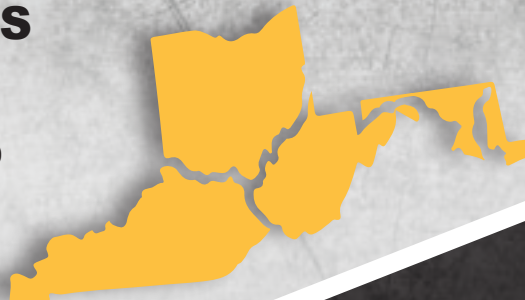


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Governor Justice and Industry Leaders Urge Safe Driving in Work Zones

Governor Jim Justice held an event on April 17 at the State Capitol to kick off the 2023 highway construction season and remind drivers to slow down and pay attention in work zones.

"Today in West Virginia, on every street corner, we've got orange cones, workers everywhere, and the roads are improved," Governor Justice said. "Now, is it too much to ask that workers deserve to be able to get their dinner bucket, go to work, and deserve to go home safely? It only takes one wrong turn, and we have a catastrophe. I'm 100% supportive of our Work Zone Safety campaign, because lives are on the line."

Governor Justice was joined by representatives of the West Virginia Department of Transportation, public safety officials and the Contractors Association of West Virginia to present a unified voice to support National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17-21. "You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us" is this year's theme. On April 19, roadway professionals across the country were encouraged to wear orange to show their support of work zone safety.

The governor talked about the amount of construction planned under the 2017 Roads to Prosperity bond amendment. Governor Justice and Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., also unveiled the WVDOT's 2023 Statewide Interactive Roadwork Map, marking the fifth year that West Virginians will be

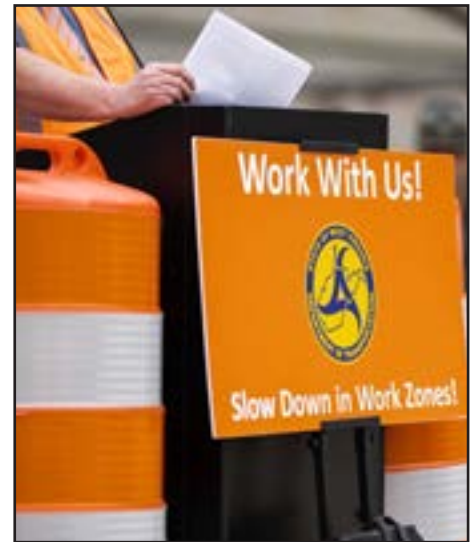
able to access this online tool and see what roads near them are scheduled to be improved this year.

"As WVDOT embarks on a massive construction season, it's more important than ever that drivers pay attention when traveling through work zones," Secretary Wriston stated. "In 2022, there were 800 crashes in West Virginia work zones, killing eight people and injuring 276. All crashes were avoidable."

The secretary vowed to do everything within his power to lower the number of work zone deaths in the Mountain State to zero. These efforts include increased and targeted law enforcement, investment in new and better safety equipment, detailed data collection and analysis to better identify danger zones, and increased signage and warnings in work zones.

"With work continuing in all 55 counties across the state, the West Virginia Division of Highways and the West Virginia Department of Transportation remind the public of the importance of keeping everyone safe in work zones by keeping 'Heads up; phones down!'" Secretary Wriston stated.

"Let's all do our part to ensure that these men and women can perform their jobs safely and get back home to their families every night," said Jason Pizatella, chief executive officer of the Contractors Association of West Virginia. "Our ask is simple: 'slow down', obey the



posted work zone speed limits, and always stay alert. Motorists need to remember the next time they speed or drive while distracted that these work zones are someone's job site and its where they make a living."

Others making presentations encouraging motorists to stay vigilant were John Rogers, deputy division administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, West Virginia State Trooper Sumner Brody and West Virginia Public Service Commission Transportation Officer Matthew Epling.

An 18-inch miniature version of the Fallen Worker Memorial was unveiled at the press conference. These statues will be placed in the state's eight welcome centers to remind drivers to drive safely through work zones and to serve as a memorial to fallen workers.

The WVDOH held a candlelight vigil April 19 in honor of 58 fallen highway workers that have died in the line of duty at the Fallen Worker Memorial, which is located at the Interstate 77 welcome center in Williamstown.

"We're absolutely serious about zero fatalities in our work zones," said Sec-



Governor Jim Justice



Jimmy Wriston, P.E.
WVDOT Secretary



Jason Pizatella
CAWV CEO



West Virginia State Police
Cpl. Danny Brody



Matt Epling
West Virginia PSC



John Rogers
Federal Highways Admin.

retary Wriston. "Not one more life."

Work zone safety was driven home later when WVDOH Equipment Operator Craig Howell was hit by a car while flagging traffic in Weston on April 28. Howell said a man was turning onto Route 33 from Court Avenue struck him in the back of his right leg. Howell was not seriously injured.

"A little sore, my leg is scratched up, but I will be fine," Howell said.

WVDOH State Safety Officer Shane Hudnall explained that this incident was just one example of why to slow down and pay attention in work zones.

"They're working the line literally everyday between traffic and work zone. Make it personal. Make it feel as if that was your loved one is out there. You want them to come home to you," Hudnall said.

Hudnall said that the WVDOH is working with local law enforcement across the state on an initiative to crack down on violations in safety zones.



Dozens of supporters gathered at the State Capitol to hear Governor Jim Justice, state and federal officials, industry representatives, and law enforcement speak on the importance of safe driving in work zones. The April 17 event that kicked off the 2023 highway construction season reminded drivers to slow down and pay attention in work zones.

In a targeted speed enforcement, police officers stopped more than 120 vehicles in an Interstate 64 construction zone in Cabell County. This was only during the first day in the targeted area – from the 29th Street exit to the Merritts Creek exit. According to the WVDOH, one vehicle was going 26 mph faster than the posted 55 mph speed limit.

In March, two people, including a

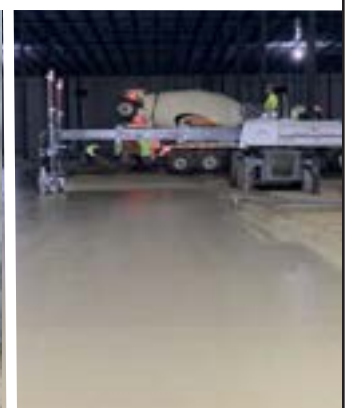
WVDOH dump truck driver, were injured following a crash in this work zone.

"Work zone safety is about keeping every worker, every driver, and every passenger safe in every work zone," said Randy Damron, work zone safety spokesperson for WVDOT. "We each play a role in getting everyone home safe at the end of the day."



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Impressive Programs Offered at 2023 Midyear Meeting

Cyber Security Threat Growing More Dangerous



"In today's digital age, the importance of cybersecurity cannot be overstated. With more and more business operations taking place online, it is crucial that organizations have the necessary safeguards in place to protect against cyber-attacks."

This is the message presented to members attending the 2023 CAWV Midyear Meeting held February 2-8 at the Westin Rancho Mirage Resort in Palm Springs, California. Members learned how to identify and guard against cyber theft from Ron Manuel, supervisory special agent for the FBI's Los Angeles Cyber Task Force, Chris May, security solutions director for CAWV member Advantage Technology in Charleston, and Nadia Hoyte, national cyber practice leader for CAWV member USI Insurance Services in their New York City office.

The February 7 business session was held less than 24 hours after Berkeley County schools, the second-largest school district in West Virginia, had their classes canceled due to a cyber-attack that disrupted its IT and phone operations. The county school district

worked to restore access to the network, working with both cybersecurity professionals and local law enforcement to find the cause of the incident. The county, which resumed classes 24 hours later, was also investigating if any personal data from students was compromised. A team from Advantage Technology went to Berkeley County to help restore the board's system.

Construction is third in the nation in money lost to ransom attacks in 2022, only behind government organizations and manufacturing.

"Construction is an ideal target because you work with so many subcontractors and vendors," according to the FBI's Manuel. "Attackers go to the lowest common denominator. Your data may not be a security issue. It may be someone you sent information on a project that gets hacked," he noted.

He described the methods of attack which are Ransomware, extortion, and business email compromise.

"It used to be a lot of companies got hit for \$300 to \$1,000, but today, it's much

more," Manuel said. "Attackers may have access to your data for weeks and months while they will learn everything about your company's operations so they know how much they can extort. They want you to pay for the data they stole by threatening to put all your data on the dark web."

The veteran FBI agent noted attackers will contact a company's email list as a way to coerce ransomware payment.

Manuel leads the Los Angeles Cyber Task Force comprised of special agents, state and local task force officers, intelligence analysts, computer scientists, and other support staff. The task force investigates criminal cyber activity impacting the greater Los Angeles area and imposes consequences on those criminals. Manuel has also led international terrorism investigations. The Drexel University graduate served multiple deployments as a U.S. Army officer before running the FBI's LA training program for new special agents.

"The global cost of cybercrime per minute reached \$11.4 million in 2021,"

Manuel told members. "That's \$1 trillion a year."

While West Virginia's internet crime rate is low compared to other states, Manuel said the rate is increasing. In 2020, the state ranked 44th in the nation in the number of cybercrime incidents; 1,900 or one per 938. In 2021, West Virginia jumped to 38th with 2,100 victims, or one per 849.

"Victim losses doubled from 2020 to 2021," he reported. "Losses reported to the Internet Crime Complaint Center, or IC3, in 2020 were \$4.8 million. This figure is \$9.5 million in 2021. This ranked West Virginia 50th in the nation. By comparison, California ranked first with reported losses of \$1.2 billion out of the \$6.9 billion nationwide."

Manuel told members attending this year's Midyear Meeting that construction is under attack by cybercrime because construction relies heavily on technology and connected devices, there is a vast vendor/contractor network and contractors have limited resources available for cybersecurity. He also noted that many contractors have a mindset that "my information isn't that important." Construction is third in the number of ransom attacks following government organizations and manufacturing.

Manuel said most hacks happen trying to exploit a technical flaw (3 percent) but most, 91%, are a result of cyberattacks and the resulting data breach which begins with a spear phishing email.

"Human error is the leading cause of a



Over 150 members attended this year's Midyear Meeting, held February 2-8 at the Westin Rancho Mirage Resort in Palm Springs, California.

hack," he reported, "clicking on phishing links, downloading malicious attachments, visiting malicious websites, and connecting to infected hardware. This, and poor internal practices, make you and your people primary targets. And it's only getting worse because of the sophistication of hackers and the simplicity of new software that hackers are using to attack you."

The FBI plays a multi-facet role in cybersecurity, according to Manuel, ranging from investigation and intelligence to engagement with many governmental and private sector entities.

"If you are a victim of cybercrime, immediately contact your local FBI field office," stated Manuel. "Then report it to IC3.gov. This will activate our Financial Fraud Kill Chain process. We have found that freezing of funds happens about 70 percent of the time." Manuel equated the Berkeley County Board of Education incident to a similar case where the Los Angeles School District was hit with a crippling ransomware at-

tack. "Early reporting by the school district allowed us to minimize the effect of the attack," he noted.

"Today, 93 percent of all money transactions are digital," stated Advantage Technology's Chris May. "How often do you use money?" he questioned. "Now, you are getting robbed digitally, not with a gun."

May, who offers security solutions to a number of CAWV member firms, said cybercrime is run like a business.

Mark Urso, president of Bear Contracting, Bridgeport, moderated Tuesday's general business session and related to members his experience with a cyberattack that shut his company's system down for four weeks. Bear had to deal with simple issues such as employees using company phones while on the road to stream movies or pay bills. He credited Advantage Technology with getting safeguards in place.

"Hackers today want a predictable return on their investment and they go after companies that will let them maximize their ROI. They know you have a bank account, and they want access," May remarked.

He opined that the only option for ransomware is to pay or work from the bottom up to replace data. He also stated that some kits have tools that make it easy to abuse accounts.

May, who recently received the Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification, has been



(L-R) Ron Manuel, supervisory special agent for the FBI, Chris May, security solutions director, Advantage Technology, and Nadia Hoyte, national cyber practice leader, USI Insurance Services, all spoke on the importance of cyber security during this year's event.



Spectacular views greeted golf tournament players (L-R) Chris Marteney, Mark Urso, Rick Plymale and Ron Manuel.



RJ and Molly Williams enjoyed the Welcome Night Reception.



Monty and Gayle Boyd and Julie and Eric Ramey mingled with members during the event.



James and Harriet Shultz and Buck and Donna Dayton attended this year's Midyear Meeting.



Kris and Kristal Tawney and son, Shepherd, attended this year's event in Palm Springs.

providing services to contractors and other CAWV members for a number of years. He offered several suggestions members can use to protect themselves. These include:

1. Strengthen your computer's defense

- Keep the firewall on (work, home, public networks)
- Install anti-malware software
- Keep software up to date (automatically, if possible)
- Be vigilant (Trust, but verify)

2. Don't be tricked into downloading malware

- Train yourself to use malware and phishing protection in your browser
- Keep Antivirus on and updated

3. Protect personal data and financial assets by evading scams

- Look for telltale signs
- Think before you click
- Expect to be the target of a scam
- Keep sensitive information private

4. Keep passwords strong, private and don't reuse them

5. Guard data and devices when on the go (public Wi-Fi)

- Connect securely
- Confirm the connection (watch for the misspelling of connection)
- Encrypt storage on mobile devices
- Save sensitive activities for trusted connection
- Flash drives: Watch out for unknowns and disable autorun)
- Enable features like Work Folders and cloud storage to manage work data on mobile devices)

"At the first notice of a possible hack, start fixing," May stated. "Most ransomware is in place 232 days before a complete shutdown of your system. You need to fix problems before this occurs."

May agreed with FBI's Manuel that companies need to immediately report a cyberattack to their bank and their local FBI field office.

"The percentage of growth in 2020 data breaches for construction companies compared to 2019 was 800 percent," stated USI's Nadia Hoyte. "This compares to an average of 133 percent for other industries."

She noted that construction companies are attractive targets because they routinely handle sensitive client information and coordinate digitally with a host of third-party services and suppliers, creating both opportunities and incentives for cyber attackers.

Hoyte, who has 20 years of experience in the insurance business with the last 15 years specializing in cyber and professional liability exposures, said a contractor's use of drones, GPS, cell phones, tablets, biometrics and other internet devices used on the job site to communicate with the home office leads to the increased chance of an attack.

Speaking from an insurance perspective, Hoyte says companies should take a holistic approach to protect themselves.

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“Cyber risk should be part of your overall enterprise risk management and should be viewed as a key business risk,” she told members. “You should also monitor and measure the security of systems through continuous vulnerability and risk assessments.” Above all,” she stressed, “train, train, train your staff via security trainings, awareness and phishing campaigns.”

Hoyte, who earned a BA in law and society from American University in Washington, D.C., heads up USI's Cyber Practice, also known as Cyber Federation. In 2015, Risk and Insurance named Hoyte to their “Power Brokers Under 40.”

“Contractors have a lot of risk at stake, including reputation loss, downtime and loss of IP and assets,” she said. “This could include employee information, bid or project information like project drawings, spec sheets and purchase orders, contracts including documents and special conditions, planning tools like schedules and resource management, and company

financial data.”

Hoyte outlined insurance coverage available to contractors. Three security policies include: Liability Costs coverage which is triggered when someone sues or makes demands; Compliance/Corrective Costs coverage which is associated with loss containment and regulating authorities; and Direct Costs coverage which covers direct costs to businesses as a result of security failure or system failure.

“Coverage today requires a company to provide specific information on their cyber security measures,” Hoyte commented. “Insurance companies will not pay a claim if companies do not answer the questions fully and correctly.”

Additional coverage extensions were discussed. These include:

- Voluntary Shutdown Coverage - Intent is to extend coverage in the event the insured decides to shut

down their computer network to prevent the proliferation of a computer attack.

- Bricking Coverage - Intent is to extend coverage to include coverage for the replacement costs associated with computer hardware rendered useless due to a computer attack.

- Reputational Harm Coverage - Intent is to extend coverage to include coverage for income loss lost as a result of adverse publicity associated with a computer attack.

- Overlapping Coverage - Intent is to allow an insured to select which policy is triggered first when more than one policy overlaps. Commonly used with property policies.

- Computer Crime (including invoice manipulation) - Social Engineering – should be excess of Crime program.

A robust question-and-answer period followed the three presentations.

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Attorney Robert “Bo” Sweeney (licensed in WV) has a practice based in civil litigation, with a concentration in the defense of mesothelioma and asbestos claims, construction disputes and defending employers in deliberate intent suits.

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Tyler and Chelsea Beaty enjoyed this year's event with their sons, Noah and Lucas.



Eric Campbell, Bob Brookover, Roger Hite, and Matt Campbell attended the Welcome Night event.



Mimi and Patton Coles enjoyed the Welcome Night festivities.



Lauren Hogan and Jason Jackson attended their first Midyear Meeting held in Palm Springs.



Meloney and Rich Stone attended this year's event in California.

"Above all, protect your passwords. Keep them strong and private, and don't reuse them," May emphasized. "You should use unique passwords for different websites. You should also limit use of employees using corporate e-mail accounts as their identifier on third-party websites."

He described easy-to-use programs hackers are purchasing to search for passwords.

May concluded with a quote from Richard Clarke, former White House cyber czar. "If you spend more on coffee than on IT security, you will be hacked. What's more, you deserve to be hacked."

An update on the CAWV/Encova Insurance workers' compensation program was presented by Encova's Lisa Teel and Allan Williams.

"The CAWV was the second association BrickStreet Insurance partnered with and now it is the longest continuous workers' compensation program, entering our 15th year," said Teel, who

is assistant vice president for agency operations for Encova. "We like supporting the CAWV and the construction industry and we could not do our job without the support of the CAWV and the membership."

She noted that participating companies' loss ratio improved last year which resulted in an increased discount rate for CAWV members in the Encova plan.

"The percentage discount will increase to 6.8 percent beginning April 1," Teel announced. "The CAWV plan has saved CAWV members over \$6.5 million through policy discounts since 2006. This has allowed us to invest over \$750,000 to the CAWV in safety discount program marketing support, CAWV Scholarship golf outing sponsorship and WV EXPO sponsorship."

While BrickStreet focused on workers' compensation plans in West Virginia, Encova expanded workers' compensation coverage to surrounding states and is now writing commercial insurance in 28 states.

"Encova has combined teams and underwriting for commercial package and workers' comp in 2023 for better efficiency," Teel told members. "Our coverage options now include business income, general liability, property, fleet, professional liability and builders risk, among other options."

In 2021, CAWV Associate Division members with certain policy classification codes became eligible to participate in the CAWV/Encova plan.

"Associate members are eligible for the 6.8 percent discount if their operations require them to be on construction sites or perform work similar to construction," said Williams, Encova's senior safety and loss control consultant. "Associate members whose business operations require them to work on the job site on a regular basis, experiencing many of the same risks as contractor members, may now qualify to receive a policy premium discount."

Williams outlined the benefits of the CAWV safety discount program and

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the annual safety programs Encova provides to members.

"Charleston, West Virginia is the second largest Encova office," Teel commented. "CAWV members can check with their insurance professionals to learn more about the benefits of the CAWV plan," she suggested.

Jason Pizatella, CAWV CEO, presented an overview of issues before this year's session of the West Virginia Legislature. He noted the CAWV Board of Directors wants to promote increased spending for infrastructure projects.

Golf and pickleball tournaments, a welcome night reception and President's Banquet, the Sunday morning Prayer Breakfast, and the Highway/Heavy, Building and Utilities Division meetings, were all part of this year's meeting.

Members attending Sunday's Prayer Breakfast learned about the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) which serves local people experiencing homelessness and other life challenges through emergency services, recovery programs and community outreach. CVRM provides their clients with wrap-around services that start with emergency overnight services and health care then classes to help them gain the skills they need to re-enter the workforce.

"Many of our clients, as they are referred to so we can show respect and dignity, are disabled veterans who need a hand up instead of a hand-out," said Scott Wolf, CVRM's development director and a former client. "I was an 11-year veteran of the U.S. Army who worked in the nursing field. I had a marriage, kids and a mortgage. I was also a high-functioning drug user. I lost it all and became homeless."

The mission, founded by a group of businesspeople, has grown from a small soup kitchen in 1971 to today serving over 300,000 meals a year. It has an annual budget of \$5.7 million with 55 employees and over 2,000 volunteers who help teach the clients

Whose Parachute Will You Pack?

The Monday Business Session speaker at this year's CAWV Midyear Meeting was Captain Charlie Plumb, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who went on to be a fighter pilot flying the F-4 Phantom jet on 74 successful combat missions over Vietnam. On his 75th mission, with only five days before he was to return home, Captain Plumb was shot down, captured, tortured, and imprisoned in an 8 ft. wide by 8 ft. deep cell in Hoa Lo prison, known popularly as the "Hanoi Hilton." He spent the next 2,103 days as a Prisoner of War in communist war prisons.

During his nearly six years of captivity, Captain Plumb distinguished himself among his fellow prisoners as a professional in underground communications and served for two of those years as the chaplain in his camp. Since his return home, he has spoken to more than 5,000 audiences in nearly every industry drawing parallels between his six-year POW experience and the challenges of everyday life. It was 50 years ago the week he spoke to members that he found out he and his fellow POWs were going home; 1973.

"I was 24 years old when I was captured and 30 when I was released. To put this in perspective, what would you do if you were told that you are going to put your life on hold until 2029," he questioned members. "It's not the challenges that you faced daily as a POW. It's how you responded to those challenges."

While speaking on the stage, he took three steps and turned around and took three steps back.

"This is how far I could walk in my cell," he recounted. "I have come to realize that the eight inches between a person's eyes is more restrictive than an eight-foot cell. Life is choice and we can choose to be a winner or a loser, be happy or sad, or become a victor or a victim. Your response is what you choose."

In recounting his experience, Captain



Plumb detailed the harsh conditions of confinement, isolation, and starvation suffered within his prison cell. He described the ingenuity of the tap code, a system for prisoners to communicate with each other using only a sequence of percussive knocks.

The captain retold stories of selflessness, like that of his cellmate Petty Officer 2nd Class Douglas Hegdahl who committed to memory 250 fellow prisoners' names, identification numbers, and phone numbers' for next-of-kin so that upon release he may be able to ensure all were accounted for and their families were made aware of their status.

Captain Plumb said, "There is great value in getting blown out of the sky" every once in a while.

"When you're dodging bullets, how do you make long-term plans?" he asked. "You contractors are entrepreneurs and you sometimes have to step out of your comfort zone to take a calculated risk. Only when times are tough do you learn your true values."

When a missile hit his jet, he had only a short time to eject. His parachute deployed but was damaged in the process. After he returned home, he met a man who served with him on the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk. It was the person who packed his parachute before each flight.

"Here was a sailor who worked below deck meticulously doing his job, day in, day out, and I was this hot shot fighter pilot," Captain Plumb recounted. "He wanted to know if my parachute worked okay. I told him three panels were damaged when I ejected but that it saved my life."

Captain Plumb said he thought of himself as bulletproof, but this person gave him an unconditional gift every time he flew.

"There are parachute packers in this room that you rely upon every day," he told members. "Do you recognize these people and tell them you appreciate them? Sometimes it's the small acts and actions of others that can profoundly shape and alter your life, hopefully for the better. Whose parachute will you pack to help them along their way?" he asked.

After graduating from the Naval Academy, Captain Plumb completed Navy Flight Training and reported to Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego where he flew the first adversarial flights in the development of what would be called The Navy Fighter Weapons School, currently known as "TOP GUN."

During his active time in the Navy, Captain Plumb earned the Bronze Star Medal, two Silver Star Medals, two Purple Heart Medals, the Legion of Merit Medal, POW Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his repatriation, he continued his Navy flying career in Reserve Squadrons where he flew A-4 Sky Hawks, A-7 Corsairs and FA-18 Hornets. His last two commands as a Naval Reservist were on the Aircraft Carrier Corral Sea. He retired from the United States Navy with the rank of Captain after 31 years of service. To this day, Captain Plumb continues to fly and he flew with the Navy's Blue Angels on his 80th birthday.

The most treasured plane he owns and flies is a WWII PT-19 Open-Cockpit antique which is currently on loan to the Palm Springs Air Museum. Plumb conducted a personal tour for CAWV Midyear Meeting attendees of the Air Museum.

CAWV members gave Captain Plumb a standing ovation following his presentation.

"His book, 'I'm No Hero,' delivers impressive and powerful content and he established metaphors between his POW experience and the challenges faced by business leaders," CAWV President James Ridgeway stated. "It's the story of Captain Plumb, but it also the story of all POW's who faced an isolated world of degradation, loneliness, boredom, hunger and pain. It is a story of hope that is applicable to prisoners of war who are just trying to survive extreme conditions and everyday people who are struggling with daily life."

"I'm No Hero" is available wherever books are sold.



such things as resume building, job interview skills, personal financial management and skill training.

"We do two classes a year of about 150 each," Wolf noted. "We graduate 75 to 80 every year. We get them housing in the area and employment. A requirement is they remain sober for one year. We average an 82% success rate after graduation. Our goal is to get people back on their feet."

Kevin Kemerer, president of Precision Pump and Valve Service, Inc., served as chairman of this year's Prayer Breakfast. He asked CVRM's Wolf how contractors and other businesspeople can model a program in West Virginia to utilize people in the construction industry.

"A lot of the homeless and vets in our program are looking for jobs and want to prove themselves," Wolf commented. "There is no lack of jobs in the Coachella Valley and we have had great success in getting people employed."

He said CVMV's supporters are volunteers who teach programs because they want to give back. They teach accounting, math, Bible studies and all the other courses. Everyone can give their time and talent in their hometowns, he offered.

Industry Issues Debated in Division Meetings

BUILDING DIVISION

Courtney Persinger, president of Persinger and Associates, Inc., Charleston, chaired the Building Division at the CAWV Midyear Meeting. CAWV staff provided an overview of the activities of the Joint Architects Committee, as well as the latest construction forecasts from the School Building Authority, Division of Natural Resources, and the General Services Division of the Department of Administration. A discussion was also held on various industry issues including workforce development, workforce participation, increases in material prices, and ongoing supply chain issues.

Building members discussed pending





Attendees had the opportunity to journey through the San Andreas Fault Zone during the Red Jeep Tour, as well as explore the cuts and canyons of California's Palm Desert terrain. Pictured (L-R) are Bob and Cathy Brookover, Pam and Roger Hite, Matt and Eric Campbell, and Jason Pizatella.



Over 40 members participated in the golf outing held at the Pete Dye Golf Course at the Westin Rancho Mirage.

Attendees toured Joshua Tree National Park to learn about how the forces of plate tectonics, water, wind, and time have shaped the Coachella Valley.



The Palm Springs Aerial Tram was one of the activities offered at this year's event.



Captain Charlie Plumb provided a personal tour of the Palm Springs Air Museum.



CAWV President James Ridgeway welcomed members to the Welcome Night Reception.

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legislation in the 2023 regular session affecting building projects. Senate Bill 539, the West Virginia Fairness in Competitive Bidding Act, would give the state and its subdivisions (including county boards of education) the authority to negotiate lower prices for government construction contracts in certain circumstances when all bids received exceed the maximum budget for a project. The bill provides that if there is more than one bid for a solicitation, and all bids exceed the maximum amount, then the agency may negotiate with the lowest bidder. The concepts in Senate Bill 539 generated a spirited discussion among division members on all sides of the issue.

HIGHWAY/HEAVY DIVISION

Highway/Heavy Division members gathered at the CAWV Midyear Meeting to learn about committee activity, WVDOH news, construction forecast, and highway-related legislative activity. Division Director Shannon Hapuarachy, SMH Construction Company, Inc., Beckley, presided over the meeting and

provided an overview of significant issues and developments for the calendar year 2022, including workforce and material shortages, permitting backlogs, expediting of project Finals, and a surge in highway funding. Noting that the CAWV / WVDOH / FHWA Joint Cooperative Committee network is made up of nine committees and subcommittees, Hapuarachy asked members and staff to update division members on 2022 initiatives. He noted the full Joint Cooperative Committee met in June 2022, the first time since COVID.

The full joint committee discussed the program funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and what is expected in 2023. The upcoming construction program is anticipated to be \$1.007 billion which includes \$300 million for bridges; \$224 million for pavement; \$78 million for traffic; and \$405 million for other categories. Airports will have a \$29 million program and the WV Parkways Authority plans a \$152 million revamp to the existing travel plazas on the WV Turnpike. The WVDEP's Abandoned Mine Lands

(AML) program expects about a \$100 million program.

Bryan Leatherman, J.F. Allen Company, gave an overview of the Specifications, Standards, Manuals and Materials Procedures subcommittees. Topics included Buy America requirements in the IIJA law, changes to the WVDOH's Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) program, removal of incentives on pavement smoothness and PWL projects, printing of the new specifications book, the 2022 Construction Manual, WVDOH Alternative Project Delivery Manual, and the over 40 Material Procedures approved last year.

Leatherman also noted the Aggregate Subcommittee worked with WVDOH to add a fuel adjustment that can be used for all facets of Purchase Order contracts. There are now separate adjustments for the production, hauling, and placement of stone and aggregate on a PO project. The POs released in 2022 included the fuel cost adjustment.

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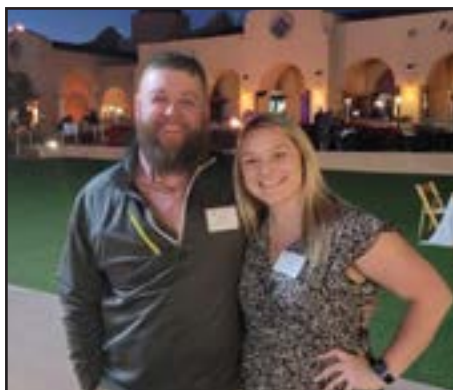
Phil and Dana Weser attended this year's event at the Westin Rancho Mirage in Palm Springs.



Erin, Julianne, Andrew, and Rob Lafon attended the 2023 Midyear Meeting in Palm Springs.



Priyana, Sumith, Shannon, and Callie Hapuarachy enjoyed this year's event.



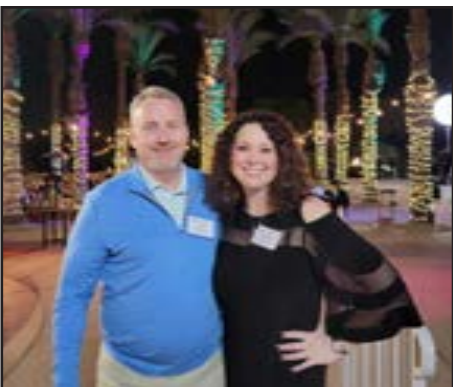
Neil Hickman and Ashley Walls attended their first CAWV Midyear Meeting.



Lisa Teel meets a new friend at The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Springs.



Gene Bailey, and Kent and Rose Hartwell caught up during the President's Reception.



Chris and Melissa Lambert enjoyed this year's Midyear Meeting in California.



Val and Chris Marteney attended the President's Reception held Tuesday, February 7.



Jaclyn and Chris Duriez joined members for the event held in Palm Springs.



Rhonda and Phil Browne and Bryan and Mikki Leatherman attended this year's event.

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The Westin Rancho Mirage resort in Palm Springs, California was the site of this year's Midyear Meeting.

Company, Inc., discussed certification to break concrete cylinders which is being reviewed by the Concrete Subcommittee.

Chet Rodabaugh, WV Paving, Inc., re-

ported on the Asphalt Subcommittee and issues such as Balanced Mix Design with concern of which mix designs will be implemented, and Percent With-in Limits (PWL) as it relates to a better definition of 2-lane PWL paving, bond strength and elimination of bonuses on PWL projects.

UTILITIES DIVISION

Brandon Duriez, vice president of Snyder Environmental Services, Inc. presided over the CAWV Utilities Division meeting held during the CAWV Midyear Meeting. CAWV staff provided members with updates on the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, Water Development Authority, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund projects that are presently under construction and those commitments yet to be bid for the coming year.

A discussion was held on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding-Buy America / Build America Act (BABBA) requirements for the utilities industry. Members also received copies of the WVDEP and WVDNR

State Parks project forecasts for 2023.

"I think everyone enjoyed this year's meeting and I think everyone took something away from it," said President James Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Morgantown. "Cyber security is a major issue for all our members, and we have a much better understanding of the risks we face."

The president noted everyone spoke very highly of Captain Charlie Plumb, U.S. Navy (Ret.) and the inspirational and motivational presentation he gave.

"His book, "I'm No Hero," delivers impressive and powerful content and he established metaphors between his POW experience and the challenges faced by business leaders," President Ridgeway stated. (See story included with this article.)

The 2024 CAWV Midyear Meeting will be held January 26 - February 1 at Fiesta Americana in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Members have access to the General Business Session presentations at www.cawv.org.



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Legislative Leaders Address Infrastructure Funding At State Meeting

"I value my company's membership in the Contractors Association of West Virginia and the role the CAWV plays in shaping public policy at the State Capitol," Glenn Jeffries told members attending the CAWV State Meeting held March 23 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. "The work of the CAWV has a direct impact on a contractor's ability to perform work in West Virginia."

Nearly 180 CAWV members and state and federal contracting officials attended this year's meeting held in conjunction with the WV EXPO. They learned about recent economic development announcements and additional investments by the West Virginia Legislature in construction projects.

Jeffries is president of Cornerstone Interiors, Inc., Eleanor, and a state Senator representing the 8th District in Putnam County. He spoke to members about his new position as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, a position that Senate President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley, appointed him to in February 2023.

Senator Jeffries outlined for members his role, in conjunction with the Justice Administration and its Department of Economic Development, in helping convince Berkshire Hathaway Energy Renewables and Precision Castparts Corporation to locate a large manufacturing facility on a clean energy foundation in Jackson County.



CAWV President James Ridgeway said that members of the association are fortunate to have two fellow members part of the legislative leadership.

A groundbreaking event was held in early March on more than 2,000 acres of land at the former Century Aluminum site in Ravenswood. The new titanium melt facility will employ about 200 people to manufacture titanium products for aerospace and other industries. In addition to the original \$500 million investment, Our Next Energy, Inc. announced it will build a new Aries Grid factory on the site. The factory will bring in an additional \$22 million in investment to the project and generate 105 more jobs. Scheduled to open in 2025, the factory will build Aries Grid utility-scale battery storage systems using Michigan-made lithium iron phosphate battery cells.

At the groundbreaking, Mitch Carmichael, secretary of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, said the facility was all sparked by a letter Senator Jeffries sent to Warren Buffett, chairperson of Berkshire Hathaway.

"Because Glenn took the initiative, and has continued work on this project and others for economic development, we are here today," Secretary Carmichael said at the dedication. "And we owe him a great Jackson County welcome for that incredible effort."

Senator Jeffries told CAWV members that it is a new beginning in Jackson County and that he hopes other areas of the state will see similar economic development.

Longtime CAWV member Vernon Criss,



Senator Glenn Jeffries outlined his role in helping to bring Berkshire Hathaway Energy Renewables and Precision Castparts Corporation to West Virginia.

Atlas Towing Company, Inc., Parkersburg, is a long-serving member of the West Virginia House of Delegates representing the 12th District of Wood County. He gave members attending this year's State Meeting an overview of the recently enacted state budget and the various supplemental appropriations approved by the Legislature during the 2023 Regular Session.

As Chairman of the powerful House Finance Committee, Delegate Criss was instrumental in securing passage of over \$1 billion in regular and supplemental appropriations geared toward infrastructure and construction projects.

"I was particularly pleased with the Legislature's decision to invest millions in the School Building Authority, Water Development Authority, Division of Natural Resources, Division of Highways, and the General Services Division," stated the Finance Chairman. "The Legislature also appropriated \$282 million to higher education institutions and correctional institutions that will collectively address deferred maintenance needs across the state. These funds will provide work for the contracting industry plus address critical maintenance needs at our public institutions."

Delegate Criss's remarks also covered the final appropriations of the state's share from the American Rescue Plan Act that dedicated millions to economic development, water and wastewater projects, and demolition of dilapidated



Delegate Vernon Criss gave members an overview of the recently enacted state budget and the various supplemental appropriations recently approved by the Legislature.



Nearly 180 CAWV members and state and federal contracting officials attended this year's CAWV State Meeting held in conjunction with the West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO.

properties. He also reminded members to consult with their tax adviser about taking advantage of the new provisions of Senate Bill 151 passed this legislative session.

"This legislation was commonly referred to around the capitol as the "SALT" (State and Local Tax) workaround bill. Generally speaking, Senate Bill 151 permits a pass-through entity (such as a partnership or S corporation) to elect to pay the state income tax rather than its partners or shareholders," he ex-

plained. "This bill puts West Virginia in line with other states around us who have passed similar legislation. It benefits companies and individuals and does not cost the State's general revenue fund one dime."


"The CAWV is fortunate to have two members of the association in legislative leadership," said CAWV President James Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Morgantown. "They understand the needs of the construction industry and they are working on legislation that

benefits the entire state of West Virginia."

West Virginia Commissioner of Labor Mitchell Woodrum helped recognize CAWV members for excellence in safety. This year, the CAWV presented awards in 14 categories at the State Meeting. (See related story on page 32 for more on CAWV's safety awards).

The 2023 scholarship award winner, Trey Blain, was announced at the CAWV State Meeting by CAWV Scholarship Foundation Chairman Gene Thompson. In addition to Blain, the foundation presented seven other scholarships totaling \$27,500. See more on this year's scholarship winners on page 34.

(Members who would like to contact this year's scholarship winners about summer employment opportunities can call the CAWV for more information at (304) 342-1166.)

The 2024 CAWV State Meeting will be held March 20 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center in conjunction with the WV EXPO. 

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Contractors Association of West Virginia 2022 SAFETY AWARDS

During this year's CAWV State Meeting, held March 22 in conjunction with the West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO, the CAWV Safety Committee presented the 2022 Safety Awards to members who have exhibited excellence in safety performance and promotion in the workplace. Scores are based on a company's documented safety policies and procedures, commitment and approach to safety and health in the workplace and recorded statistical data for the year.

Recognition is given to those companies who offer high quality safety training and demand active employee involvement in their safety process.

Finalists are chosen from the contractor and associate members who achieve an excellent performance rating. Awards were presented to those members that met or exceeded the program criteria.

CAWV Safety Committee Chair Matt McCallister, Brewer & Company of West Virginia, and West Virginia Division of Labor Commissioner Mitchell Woodrum presented each recipient's award. Winners select their awards from an array of promotional products.



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Building Division Over 100K Manhours Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal (WV)



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Building Division Over 150K Manhours March-Westin Company, Inc.



Mitch Woodrum, Cody Rodeheaver and Matt McCallister

Utility Division Less Than 50K Manhours J. F. Allen Company



Mitch Woodrum, Tony Closson and Matt McCallister

Utility Division Over 100K Manhours Bear Contracting, LLC



Mitch Woodrum, Tia Reppert, Robert McPherson and Matt McCallister

Utility Division Over 200K Manhours Orders Construction Company, Inc.



Mitch Woodrum, Sam Dorsey and Matt McCallister

Utility Division Over 300K Manhours Applied Construction Solutions



Associate Division Less Than 50K Manhours Whitman Requardt & Associates



Mitch Woodrum, Melissa Thompson, Shannon Stevens and Matt McCallister

Associate Division Over 50K Manhours All Crane & Equipment Rental



Mitch Woodrum, Jason Thomas and Matt McCallister

Highway Division Less Than 50K Manhours
Thompson Concrete



Mitch Woodrum, Jessi Marcincavage, Steve Fitterer and Matt McCallister

Highway Division Over 50K Manhours
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Mitch Woodrum, Roger Thomas, Megan Temple and Matt McCallister

Highway Division Over 100K Manhours
ALL Construction, Inc.



Mitch Woodrum, Justin Smith and Matt McCallister

Highway Division Over 300K Manhours
Triton Construction, Inc.



Mitch Woodrum, Tim Quintrell and Matt McCallister

Industrial Division Over 300K Manhours
IVS Drydo Inc.



Mitch Woodrum, Keith May and Matt McCallister

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Contractors Association of West Virginia **2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Contractors Association of West Virginia Scholarship Foundation awarded \$27,500 this year to West Virginia college students pursuing an education and career in construction or engineering.

Recipients were selected based on their academic performance, extracurricular activities, work experience, financial need and an interest in a construction industry career. Finalists are selected in February and are subject to a personal interview with the CAWV Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees.

Eligible schools include West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Marshall University, Fairmont State University and Bluefield State College.

Trey Blain, a civil engineering student from West Virginia University (WVU), is this year's top scholarship recipient and was awarded \$7,500. Blain, a native of Wetzel County, is currently a junior and is a member of the WVU ASCE Student Chapter. He has interned with Litman Excavating, LLC, and most recently, Flatiron Construction Mid-Atlantic Division, assisting with the Wellsburg Bridge project.

Blain expressed his thanks to the CAWV Scholarship Foundation, his professors and industry mentors during the CAWV's State Meeting, held March 22 during the West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO in Charleston.

"The internships I have experienced greatly increased my love for construction and validated that civil engineering is the right path for me," Blain said. "I am thrilled to say I will be interning with Triton Construction Company this summer."

"I would like to thank my parents for supporting me and pushing me to be successful in my academics and my work experiences," he said. "I am beyond grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working in West Virginia's construction industry."



CAWV Scholarship Foundation Chairman Gene Thompson (left) with 2023 top scholarship recipient Trey Blain, a civil engineering student at West Virginia University.




The 2023 scholarship awards were presented at the CAWV State Meeting on March 22. The event was held in conjunction with the West Virginia Construction & Design EXPO. Scholarship winners in attendance included (L-R) Trey Blain, Kristi Daetwyler, Alissa Butcher, Chairman Thompson, Chase Belcher and Zachary Bowling.

In addition to Blain, the Foundation presented eight other scholarships totaling \$20,000. Students receiving scholarship awards were Chase Belcher, Bluefield State University; Alissa Butcher, Fairmont State University; Zachary Bowling, WVU Tech; Avery Costilow, West Virginia University; Malia Richardson, West Virginia University; Hunter Friel, Fairmont State University; Travis Mount, Marshall University; and Kristi Daetwyler, Fairmont State University.

"Once again, the CAWV Scholarship Foundation had a great group of ap-

plicants this year," said Scholarship Foundation Chairman and CAWV Past President Gene Thompson. "All of the students we interviewed have impressive transcripts and leadership skills, with some already having work experience within the industry. They have committed themselves to educational excellence and each one of them will bring a unique benefit to West Virginia's construction industry in the years to come."

Applications for next year's scholarship will be accepted in January 2024. 



Chase Belcher
Bluefield State University

Chase Belcher, a junior at Bluefield State University, is a Civil Engineering major and member of the ASCE Student Chapter. He has gained construction experience with Precision Pipeline, LLC, and Bradley Electric and Custom Finishes, LLC. He is also actively involved in Renew the New and Ramps/Roads collecting refuse along 37 miles of river. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a career in project management.



Zachary Bowling
WVU Institute of Technology

Zachary Bowling, a junior at WVU Institute of Technology, is a Civil Engineering major and native of Summers County. He is a member of the ASCE Student Chapter, as well as a member of Tau Beta Pi. He interned with CENTEC Engineering in 2022 and assisted with site development, surveying, and stormwater design and permitting. He plans to intern with Brayman Construction in the Summer of 2023.



Alissa Butcher
Fairmont State University

Alissa Butcher, a senior at Fairmont State University, is double majoring in Civil Engineering and Surveying. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers student chapter at FSU and currently works for CAWW member Stantec as a CAD Technician. Upon graduation, she aspires to be a custom home builder and expanding her family's construction company that is located in Harrison County.



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Avery Costilow
West Virginia University

Avery Costilow, a senior at West Virginia University, is a Civil Engineering major and proud Mountaineer. He has interned with CAWV member Belt Paving, Inc. as a project manager/estimator since 2021 and recently accepted a full-time post-graduation. "I have enjoyed the opportunity to bid on several projects during my internship and the uniqueness of each project," he said. "I enjoy tackling challenges that must be overcome to ensure each project gets completed in a cost-effective, safe and efficient manner."



See photo on page 34.

Kristi Daetwyler
Fairmont State University

Kristi Daetwyler, a senior at Fairmont State University, is double majoring in Civil Engineering Technology and in Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology. She is the current President of the ASCE student chapter, Captain of the Concrete Canoe Team, Secretary of the West Virginia Society of Professional Surveyors Club, and involved in ASCE's West Virginia Infrastructure Report Card.



Hunter Friel
Fairmont State University

Hunter Friel, a senior at Fairmont State University, is majoring in Civil Engineering Technology. He currently works for CAWV member firm CEC, Inc. as a highway inspector on the I-79 widening project in Fairmont and is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter. "Working with CEC has been an enlightening and rewarding experience," said Friel. "I have been able to see and learn so many things you don't experience sitting in a classroom or working in an office. It has helped me to be a better civil engineering student."

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Travis Mount
Marshall University

Travis Mount, a senior at Marshall University, is a Civil Engineering major and was recently accepted to graduate school to further his Engineering Management studies. Mount aspires to develop professionally into a Construction Project Manager. He is a member of the American Society of Engineering Management student chapter at Marshall. "I look forward to overseeing large projects that will further shape the world that we live in today," he said.



Malia Richardson
West Virginia University

Malia Richardson, a senior at West Virginia University, is an Industrial Engineering major and Communication Studies minor. She aspires to continue her family's involvement in engineering and has completed five internships where she worked in many areas of construction. She serves as the Social Chair for the Society of Women Engineers, Ambassador for the WVU Statler College of Engineering, President of the Photography Club, Secretary of the Women's Club Volleyball Team, member of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, and Digital Media intern for WVU Athletics.

For information
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Scholarship, visit
www.cawv.org.

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State Highway Engineer



Eric Lough,
Operations Division



Ron Stanevich,
MCS&T Division



Shawn Smith, Contract
Administration Division



Jacob Bumgarner,
Operations Division



John Rogers, FHWA Deputy
Division Administrator

Over 220 individuals from industry, West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), and academia came together for the 43rd Annual Asphalt Paving Conference and WVDOH Statewide Asphalt Preconstruction Meeting held in Charleston on March 1 and 2.

The day-long conference, jointly sponsored by APAWV, WVDOH, FHWA and WVU, kicked off with the statewide asphalt preconstruction conference where WVDOH professionals offered presentations on Specification Updates, Maintenance Topics, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise rules, among others.

A WVDOH panel, chaired by Eric Lough, Operations Division, also answered critical questions submitted by industry. Participants included Shawn Smith, director, Contract Administration Division; Ron Stanevich, director, MCS&T Division; Jacob Bumgarner, director, Operations Division; Raymond Patrick and David Ballard, assistant directors, Civil Rights Compliance Division; Shawn Jack, Asphalt Section supervisor, MCS&T Division; and Steve Boggs, assistant director, and Janie Adkins, Technical Support

Division. A recording of the preconstruction meeting can be found at www.asphaltwv.com.

Following the preconstruction meeting, the Asphalt Paving Conference commenced with APAWV Chairman Chet Rodabaugh, West Virginia Paving, Inc., offering opening remarks.

The session continued with presentations from Nathan Moore, assistant research engineer at the National Center for Asphalt Technology; Jason Foster, chief engineer of technology, WVDOH; Matthew Daly, FHWA; Therese Mizer, Mid Atlantic Maintenance; and Megan Temple, Kelly Paving, Inc. Moore discussed skid aggregates, alternative and new testing protocols being investigated by NCAT and new approaches to approving aggregates for skid properties. Foster discussed the importance of work zone safety and trends in accidents on the highway system, both nationally and statewide.

Concluding the morning session, Mizer and Temple announced the creation of West Virginia's Women of Asphalt Chapter and discussed the future of the organization along with their first

meeting with Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R-WV, ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

The paving awards luncheon featured remarks by John Crane, executive director of APAWV, as well as WVDOH Interim State Highway Engineer Greg Bailey. Bailey discussed the funding and the construction program, highlighting the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and its impacts on the asphalt industry. He also discussed the construction industry's need, both private and public sectors, for a stronger workforce, urging everyone in the room to engage together as partners to encourage and attract incoming talent to the industry. Bailey and Crane then presented industry and this year's WVDOH Asphalt Paving Awards.

In addition to the paving awards, Crane presented the 2022 Asphalt Industry Stewardship Award, an award to show appreciation towards a member who has promoted the asphalt industry. This year, Crane presented the award to Chad Miller, J.F. Allen Company.

"Chad has done a tremendous job



Ed Morrison, Quality Director,
Kelly Paving, Inc.



Roger Hite, Operations Manager, and Ben Bragg,
Project Manager, West Virginia Paving, Inc.



Therese Mizer, Project Manager, Mid Atlantic Maintenance,
and Megan Temple, Estimator, Kelly Paving, Inc.



Nathan Moore, Assistant
Research Engineer, NCAT

for the asphalt industry, aiding the WVDOH and other industry members in any way he can,” said Crane. Crane made reference to Miller’s many contributions to the industry over the years, including his work with the Asphalt Joint Subcommittee, Materials Procedure, Specifications, and Standards Committees, along with all his work on specification development including the 401 Compaction requirements, Percent within Limitations development, and continual improvements. (See all winners below.)

The afternoon session opened with a presentation updating the audience on federal transportation issues by John Rogers, FHWA Deputy Division Administrator, who also moderated the afternoon sessions. Rogers was followed by Ed Morrison, Shelly and Sands; Roger Hite and Ben Bragg,

West Virginia Paving, Inc.; Shawn Jack, WVDOH; and Dr. James Bryce and Austin Jarrell, WVU.

Morrison discussed the advantages of using recycled asphalt pavements in asphalt concrete and methods of control during production. Hite and Bragg presented on West Virginia Paving’s project of Yeager Airport runway 5-23. Jack updated the audience on the WVDOH Percent within Limitations specification and the ten years of its existence. Dr. Bryce and Jarrell then closed the afternoon discussing topics related to sustainability of asphalt pavements through proper mix design methodology and the use of reclaimed asphalt pavements (RAP).

More information and copies of the presentations can be found at www.asphaltwv.com.



APAWV Executive Director John Crane awarded Chad Miller, J.F. Allen Company, the Asphalt Industry Stewardship Award.

2023 PAVING AWARD WINNERS



Janie Adkins, Technical Support Division



Dr. James Bryce, Pat Parsons Asphalt Faculty Fellow, WVU



Austin Jarrell, WVU

Commissioner’s Award - Excellence in Asphalt Paving Two-Lane, Two-Way Projects Quality Craftsmanship Award - Best Rideability

J. F. Allen Company and WVDOH District Eight
Harman Road, S342-33-31.69 00 (Randolph Co.)

Pictured (L-R) Greg Bailey, P.E., Daniel Scott, Chad Miller and Trey Moore



Thomas J. Medvick Excellence in PWL Asphalt Paving Award

Mountaineer Contractors, Inc., Greer Industries, Inc. and District Four
Wolf Summit – Adamston, S317-50-13.54 00 (Harrison Co.)

Pictured (L-R) Greg Bailey, P.E., Chris Calain, Joe Marsh, Wes Thomas, Shirell Duckworth



Quality Craftsmanship Awards - Best Surface Appearance, Best Longitudinal Joint and Best Transverse Joint

NLS Paving, Inc. and WVDOH District Six
Ferndale Road + 2, S351-66/2-0.00 (Hancock Co.)

Pictured (L-R) Greg Bailey, P.E., Rick Oberdick, Edward Hoffman and Bill Dague



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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Bob Steptoe honored as first United Way Mountaineer of Honor recipient at Bridgeport event

BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA - The United Way of Harrison and Doddridge counties honored Bob Steptoe as the inaugural recipient of the United Way Mountaineer of Honor award. Steptoe spent 20 years as the CEO and managing partner of Steptoe & Johnson, the law firm established by his grandfather, Phillip, and Louis A. Johnson in 1913. More recently, Steptoe has focused his work in the area of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration and mediation of commercial, employment, labor and personal injury matters. The Mountaineer of Honor award recognizes individuals who, through their professional or private lives, have made a significant and lasting positive impact on the development and achievement of success with Harrison County and North Central West Virginia. The award also considers, although not exclusively, the philanthropic activities of the awardee, whether to United Way of Harrison and Doddridge counties or to other worthwhile charitable endeavors. Bradley Riffie, executive director of the United Way, said Steptoe was honored for his lifelong commitment to his community, region and state.



Steptoe



CPA firm celebrates 50 years

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Suttle & Stalnaker, PLLC, a full-service certified public accounting and consulting firm, will celebrate 50 years of serving clients in 2023.

The firm, begun in Charleston in 1972 by Wallace "Jack" Suttle and David H. Stalnaker, now has offices in Morgantown and Parkersburg. Throughout Suttle & Stalnaker's 50-year history, the firm has grown into the largest locally-owned certified public accounting firm in West Virginia while being recognized by Inside Public Accounting as a Top 500 firm seven times, with the firm's most recent recognition coming in 2022 (No. 311). The firm will commemorate their golden anniversary with a special logo, sponsorships and open houses in each of their three offices in Charleston on July 13, Morgantown on July 20 and Parkersburg on August 17.

Engineering company founder named Distinguished West Virginian

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - E.L. Robinson Engineering Co. founder Ed Robinson was presented with the Distinguished West Virginian Award at a ceremony at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. The award was presented by Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., on behalf of Governor Jim Justice. The Distinguished West Virginian Award, which honors a citizen's service to West Virginia, is the highest award that can be presented to



On behalf of Gov. Jim Justice, Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E. (right) and former WVDOT Secretary Paul Mattox (left) presented E.L. Robinson Engineering Co. founder Ed Robinson the Distinguished West Virginian Award on April 1, 2023.

a citizen by the governor. Robinson founded E.L. Robinson Engineering in 1978. "This is a West Virginia firm that has grown through the decades," Wriston said. "He's been a mentor to young engineers, and he's been a role model. This is a tribute to a career spent serving." Robinson has served several years on the Professional Engineers (P.E.) licensing board and is a trustee on the Contractors Association of West Virginia's Scholarship Foundation.



Cleveland Brothers Celebrates 75 Years as a Caterpillar Dealer

MURRYSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA - Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co., Inc., a Cat dealer serving Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia and western Maryland, is celebrating 75 years in business. Founded in 1948 when brothers Bob and Roy Cleveland took over the Cat dealership in central Pennsylvania, Cleveland Brothers is now a third generation, family-owned company with Jay Cleveland Jr. serving as president and chief executive officer. The company's expansion included the acquisition of Beckwith Machinery, a Cat dealer based in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia and One Call Rentals, a network of Cat Rental Stores in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. "Celebrating 75 years as a Cat dealer is a significant achievement, and we couldn't have done it without our employees and loyal customers," said Jay Cleveland Jr. "We have a proud history of supporting customer growth and success. I attribute the company's success to the values my grandfather instilled 75 years ago -- safety, integrity, commitment, teamwork and excellence.

Cleveland Brothers, headquartered in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, has

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

more than 1,300 employees at 29 locations, including shop and field technicians, sales representatives, parts specialists and office professionals.

Hendrickson to launch new mediation and arbitration practice

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Long-time Charleston attorney, David K. Hendrickson, is launching a website to promote his mediation and arbitration practice.



Hendrickson is best known for his 40 years of trial experience as a litigator, but the Parkersburg native and West Virginia University graduate is following his passion. "The vast array of litigation experience helps me to rapidly grasp the facts of any given case and get to the bottom of the dispute in a much quicker fashion," said Hendrickson.

"I have mediated nearly 200 cases in my career, including malpractice, oil and gas disputes, exposures and defective products, business disputes, contract actions, premises liability and contractor claims." While remaining 'of counsel' to Hendrickson & Long, PLLC, the law firm he founded with Scott Long, Hendrickson plans to concentrate his energies on mediation cases.



United Bank named Most Trustworthy Bank in America by 'Newsweek'

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - United Bankshares, Inc., parent company of United Bank, has been named the Most Trustworthy Bank in America by "Newsweek" for 2023. Across 23 industries evaluated, United joined the list of the "Most Trustworthy Companies in

America," earning the No. 1 spot in the Banks category, outranking its second-place position following the inaugural survey in 2022. After reviewing U.S. businesses, "Newsweek" presented its second annual ranking of Most Trustworthy Companies in America according to U.S. residents' evaluations. The Most Trustworthy Companies were chosen based on a holistic approach to evaluating trust, focused on three key public touchpoints including customer trust, investor trust and employee trust. "Earning a first-place ranking on 'Newsweek's' Most Trustworthy Companies in America list is a testament to our unyielding commitment to our mission of providing excellence in service to our customers, employees, shareholders and communities," said Richard M. Adams, Jr., CEO, United Bankshares, Inc.

Since the Bank's founding in 1839, the company today holds approximately \$29.5 billion in assets and



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AGC elects new officers

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA - The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) announced that Lester C. Snyder, executive vice president of Las Vegas-based Brightline West, will serve as its new national president for the com-

ing year. The association additionally announced that Thomas L. Brown, Encinitas, Calif.-based Sierra Pacific West, will serve as senior vice president; Todd Roberts, president of Jackson, Miss.-based ERS Inc., will serve as vice president; and Shea De Lutis, Director, national contractor Clark Construction Group, will serve as treasurer. As AGC president, Snyder will lead the Board of Directors in a national effort to advocate on behalf of the industry, to help recruit the next generation of construction professionals and to find ways to help builders take advantage of evolving market conditions. The officers will serve in these positions until March 2024. Their one-year terms began at the conclusion of AGC's Annual Convention held in March in Las Vegas, Nevada. 

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A large advertisement for Anderson Excavating LLC. The background is a collage of construction-related terms in various fonts and colors, including 'EXCAVATING', 'CONCRETE', 'UTILITY INSTALL', 'PIPELINE', 'ASPHALT', 'HYDROSEEDING', 'EROSION CONTROL', 'HEAVY HAULING', 'WATERLINE', and 'RETAINING WALLS'. In the center, a yellow excavator is shown working on a pile of dirt. Below the excavator, the text 'The experience, services, and people to make your project successful.' is written in a white, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a stylized logo consisting of the letter 'a' in white, followed by a blue and orange geometric shape. To the right of this logo, the company name 'AndersonExcavatingLLC' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Anderson' in white and 'ExcavatingLLC' in orange. At the very bottom, a black bar contains the contact information: '304.983.2296 • 343 WILLIAMS ROAD, MORGANTOWN, WV • ANDERSONEXCAVATING.COM' in white text.

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