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ConstructionNEWS

July/August 2022

**2021-2022 CAWV PRESIDENT
Nate Orders**



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On the cover

Nate Orders, president of Orders Construction Company, Inc., St. Albans, is a fourth-generation contractor. As president of the Contractors Association of West Virginia, he brought ideas and procedures that strengthened the association's ability to provide services and benefits to CAWV members. His goals were to increase the organization's influence with elected representatives, engage new and inactive members in CAWV activities, and involve more women members in leadership roles. To read more on the efforts of the 2021-2022 CAWV President, see page 6.

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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2021-2022 CAWV President **NATE ORDERS**

Nate Orders is a fourth-generation contractor and the third Orders to serve as Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) president. His grandfather, Robert O. Orders, Sr., started Orders Construction Company, Inc. in 1964 and was instrumental in the merger of the West Virginia Contractors Association and the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of West Virginia into the Contractors Association of West Virginia in 1970. His father, Robert O. Orders, Jr., was CAWV president in 1992-1993. Nate Orders remembers attending CAWV functions long before becoming involved in the family business, which has grown from a West Virginia bridge construction firm to include industrial/mechanical construction, heavy highway construction, site development/earthwork, pipeline construction, design-build/turn-key construction, and marine construction in Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky and Maryland.

Nate Orders knew from an early age he wanted to go into engineering.

"I was good in math and science, and I had good role models," said this year's CAWV president. "My grandfather, Robert O. Orders, Sr., who started the company in 1964, and my dad, Bob, Jr., would talk shop. Most everything went over my head but I could understand a little bit of it."

The future president of Orders Construction Company, Inc., headquartered in St. Albans, said his earliest recollection of the company was when his family would go to Canaan Valley on the weekends.

"My dad would take a detour and stop to look at a project he was bidding," Orders commented. "Another vague recollection is attending the ribbon cutting for Interstate 64 between Beckley and Lewisburg in 1988. We were included because of our bridge project at Beaver Creek in Raleigh County."

The fourth-generation contractor got his start in construction in 1996 by working summers as a laborer in the company's equipment yard. After that, he began spending more time on projects.

Orders received a BS in Civil Engineering from Cornell University in 1999. One reason for choosing the iconic Ithaca, New York institution was its close proximity to mountain biking and skiing, two passions he continues to pursue. It is also where he met his future wife, Melissa.

"We met on our first day of college," Orders stated. "She joined the sorority right beside my fraternity. She was from Bedford, Pennsylvania, which is almost halfway between Charleston, West Virginia and Ithaca, New York. We began riding home together."

Melissa graduated in May 1999 and Orders graduated in December 1999 after only three and a half years. His father, Bob, quipped that this "might have sped up his education." The two were married in August 2000 and they have four children – twins Andrew and Catherine, daughter Elizabeth and son Matthew.

Orders joined the family firm in January 2000 and made a swift and seamless transition in the management team.

"Nate is a very smart engineer with great technical skills," said Bob Orders. "Early on, he upped our game in estimating. He researched and implemented a new estimating system that advanced our organization."

"Aubrey Boles was the first person to teach me to estimate," Orders recalled. "He became a mentor and friend to me. Even after he retired, he would continue to consult with us on a part-time basis. I started with pen and paper and, for complicated items, multiple pieces of paper."

Over the next ten years, Orders followed a gradual transition to management but a milestone occurred in 2011.

"John Jones, vice president, and Project Manager Gary Conner retired," Orders remarked. "This is when I became more involved in operations of the company."

In 2011, Nate Orders became president and Bob Orders became CEO.

"When I started working for my father, we were running two to four projects at a time," said Bob Orders. "Today, Orders Construction has about 20 to 30 projects at a time. Nate has great organizing skills and he reorganized operations to the benefit of the company. He

delegates authority to the management team which has allowed the company to expand."

The elder Orders said the company was a West Virginia operation when he and his father ran the business, but now the company's footprint has expanded geographically and by the types of work performed. The highway and bridge construction company is now heavily involved in utility and industrial projects in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Indiana, and North Carolina. In 2011, a Wytheville, Virginia office opened.

"The first job Orders Construction did in Virginia was in 1990 and we have been there ever since," stated Orders. "We opened the Wytheville office so we could get good, local people to work on the projects. In 2016, Allied Development Group was formed in Columbus, Ohio which does mainly storm drain and site development. We're excited to be in a growing market," he said.

Orders Construction has added other companies over the years. In 1995, Bob Orders and Steve Cvechko teamed up on a project which would lead to the formation of a new endeavor, Central Contracting, Inc., in 1996.

A similar relationship was established when Nate Orders became acquainted with Derick Foster.

In the company's commemorative



Nate Orders is a fourth-generation contractor and the third Orders to serve as CAWV president. His grandfather, Robert O. Orders, Sr., started Orders Construction Company in 1964 and was instrumental in the merger of the West Virginia Contractors Association and the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of West Virginia into the Contractors Association of West Virginia in 1970.



Orders Construction Company, Inc. completed the Thomas B. Pugh Memorial Bridge project in Fayette County. The bridge was the first in the state to call for a Class H-IC concrete deck to maximize permeability. Challenges included limited site access and complexities to meet the environmental restriction in the New River Gorge National Park.

book, "Orders Construction Company: The First 50 Years," Orders wrote he met Foster when Foster's wife, Katie, delivered twins shortly after Orders' first children were born.

"It was great to meet someone who could relate to the challenges of newborn babies," he wrote. "Derick is about my age, highly motivated, and had spent his career working for a handful of local building contractors. In 2006, we set up Paramount Builders under a similar arrangement as Central Contracting ten years before, and Derick has done a great job growing a fledging business in a tough economy."

Orders said one of the main reasons these collaborations were made possible is by the relationships formed through membership in the Contractors Association of West Virginia.

"There was never a decision about me becoming involved in the CAWV," said this year's association president. "My grandfather chaired the committee that merged the West Virginia Contractors Association and the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of West Virginia into the Contractors Association of West Virginia in 1970. My dad was CAWV president in 1992 -1993 and is a current Board of Directors member. Until high school, I was more involved with CAWV than Orders Construction."

The Charleston native said he vividly remembers the CAWV Fall board

meetings held at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown on a WVU football weekend and playing football with other CAWV members' kids in the parking lot before going to the stadium for the football game.

"I have flashbacks of Dad speaking at meetings before 200 to 300 people. It was terrifying," he laughed.

Orders credited his membership in the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) for helping him prepare for his term as CAWV president.

"YPO has been eye opening and beneficial since it gave me experience dealing with other business owners," he stated. "The organization generates

trust with other members who are candid with their troubles, concerns and experiences."

He equated that to his membership in the CAWV.

"Our Associate members are excited about the future of construction in West Virginia with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that are generating billions of dollars for infrastructure investment in West Virginia. They definitely see the value of their membership in the organization," he emphasized.

"Contractors need to understand what the collective efforts of the CAWV can accomplish for them," Orders added. "Many times the CAWV can help members individually as well as the industry as a whole. At first, it might be remarkable that business competitors are able to channel our efforts in a cooperative manner through the CAWV. But once you see how the association works and the results we are able to achieve, it makes perfect sense – we can accomplish more for our industry when we focus our energy. Working together, we are greater than the sum of our parts.

"A lot of what I've learned from the CAWV has been a result of getting involved – evidence of my volunteer efforts not only being repaid, but paid back with interest," he noted. "As CAWV president I hoped to increase



US Methanol is in the final stages of commissioning its Liberty One Methanol plant in Institute which will have a capacity of producing 200,000 metric tons per year. Orders Construction Company has been onsite for almost three years performing site work, concrete, underground piping, above ground process piping, electrical and installation of equipment and instrument components.

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Orders and Project Superintendent Andrew Stalnaker meet at the site of a new pumping station to discuss the company's project for the Dunbar Sanitary Board to upgrade their wastewater treatment plant.

our influence with our elected representatives, engage new and inactive members, and involve more women in leadership. I believe we have made progress on each of these fronts, but the work is far from done."

Orders said that the CAWV's Workforce Development Task Force needs to continue its work to promote construction as a good career choice for young people.

"The biggest change in the industry is the state of our workforce," he opined. "When I started my career, there was a seemingly limitless supply of skilled craftsmen looking for construction work. While Orders Construction has always valued our staff and taken care of those who help us succeed, that wasn't the case at other companies. They didn't worry about keeping their workers happy since they knew there were plenty of replacements available when someone quit.

"Obviously, that dynamic has shifted 180 degrees, and there are now far more job openings than skilled work-

ers. As an employer, this presents a huge challenge," he said. "We have to differentiate ourselves from the competition in order to recruit and retain the best employees. In spite of these difficulties, I view this workforce change as a positive. I'm glad all construction companies are finally recognizing that their people are their most valuable asset."

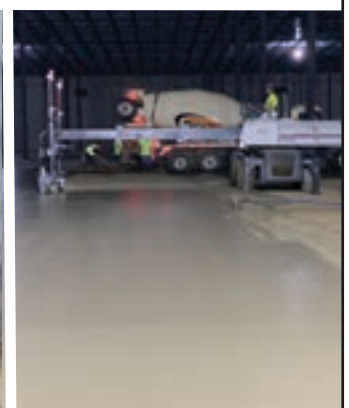
The company today employs about 150 people and Orders says his goal is to make sure employees want to work for the company.

"I firmly believe you have to have a purpose to have a fulfilling life. Running a business is fulfilling nine out of ten days," he quipped. "My goal is to have our employees love this company as much as I do. I get a lot of satisfaction in helping people put food on their table."

The CAWV has been heavily involved in Governor Jim Justice's Jobs and Hope program which is designed to allow individuals that have had substance abuse and other issues to receive free career training.

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"The graduates of the program we have hired don't necessarily have all the skills but they have been very hard working and show a willingness to learn," he reported. "Effort is a big part of it. If you work hard and respect our values, you will have a career at Orders Construction."

Orders Construction Company values are:

- **Safety** – To protect our most important assets, our employees.
- **Craftsmanship** – To take pride in our work.
- **Productivity** – To use hard work and ingenuity to be the most efficient builder.
- **Loyalty** – To take care of those who have helped our company endure.
- **Integrity** – To be fair and honest.

"Nate has strong people skills that remind me of my father," said Bob Orders. "He gets along with everyone, from the laborer in the field to other executives. He relates to them all. I always thought I wanted to offer Nate an opportunity in the company, as my father offered me. I



Orders Construction Company, Inc. successfully completed a massive retaining wall project at Yeager Airport in Charleston. After Yeager Airport's overrun area was lost to a landslide in 2015, Orders Construction was selected to oversee the installation of a new retaining wall and EMAS safety system.

hoped he would, and he has, extended the legacy."

The younger Orders lists his father and grandfather as two of his best mentors.

"My late grandfather, Bob Orders, Sr., took the chance to start our business in middle age and with almost no safety net in the event of failure," he said. "My

father, Bob Orders, Jr., expanded our company's scope beyond my grandfather's dreams and taught me almost everything I know about the construction business."

When he is not conducting business, Orders gives his time to numerous community and charitable organizations. His most gratifying roles are



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Nate Orders met his wife Melissa on their first day of school at Cornell University. The two were married in August 2000 and have four children – Catherine, Elizabeth, Matthew and Andrew.

those working with children and young adults such as mentoring at-risk young through the Education Elevators Foundation, coaching high school students in the West Virginia Interscholastic Cycling League, and interviewing college applicants as an alumni admissions advisor for Cornell University.

He has been a member of the CAWV

Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees since 2010.

He is also an accomplished runner, having finished dozens of marathons, including one on every continent and all six Major Marathons, with a best time of 2 hours and 44 minutes. His results include first American at the 2022 Ultra Race of Champions 100k (sec-

ond overall) and at the 2014 Antarctica Marathon (third overall), "First Mzungu" (first white finisher) at the 2013 Safaricom Marathon in Kenya, and fastest unsupported traverse of West Virginia's 77-mile Greenbrier River Trail in 11 hours and 28 minutes. Orders is also a three-time finisher of the Leadville Trail 100-mile run, which takes competitors across multiple passes over 12,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains.

Orders will stay involved with the CAWV. As past president, he will serve on the Board of Directors and will chair this year's CAWV Strategic Planning Committee. He is also helping with the association's 100-year anniversary celebration next year, including the publication of a book commemorating the CAWV's century of service to West Virginia's construction industry. He has experience after helping publish the book, "Orders Construction Company: The First 50 Years," printed in 2013.

"I think it's important to leave your mark on the world," the outgoing president stated emphatically. "I hope I've helped Orders Construction and the Contractors Association of West Virginia do the same."



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Members Get Economic and Political Outlook at Annual Meeting



Over 300 members and guests attended the 2022 CAWV Annual Meeting held July 7-10 at The Greenbrier.

A presentation, “Washington Economic, Policy and Political Outlook,” gave members attending the 2022 CAWV Annual Meeting, held July 7-10 at The Greenbrier, an up close and personal view of the nation’s economy and a road map of where it’s headed. The outlook was presented at the annual meeting’s General Business Session by Joan Woodward, executive vice president of Public Policy for Travelers and president of the Travelers Institute. In addition to a 2022 economic outlook, members were briefed on Covid-related topics, cybersecurity issues and a 2022 mid-term election outlook.

“There was no inflation pre-Covid for a long period of time,” noted Woodward, who was at Goldman Sachs and Company for 10 years and was the founding executive director of the company’s Global Market Institute. “Now, inflation is at 8.5% and I expect it to go to double digits. The Fed is going to raise interest rates seven times in 2022 and four times in 2023, knowing it will take 16 months to counterbalance the elevated level of inflation.”

Woodward told members that there is “inflation as far as the eye can see,” caused by wage gains, labor shortages, government stimulus, supply chain issues, the Fed’s quantitative easing and geopolitical risks.

“The unemployment rate is recovering from historic highs,” she noted. “Pre-Covid, the unemployment rate was 3.5% and jumped to 14.7% in April 2020, but rebounded quickly and by May 2022, it was back at 3.6%. There is a disconnect between labor supply and demand right now and all industries are hiring.”

She told members that a possible economic headwind for 2022-2023 is stagflation, which, in her opinion, is worse than inflation. Stagflation is defined as an economic event in which the inflation rate is high, economic growth rate slows, and unemployment remains steadily high. Such an unfavorable combination is feared and can be a dilemma for governments since most actions designed to lower inflation may raise unemployment levels, and policies designed to decrease un-

employment may worsen inflation.

“I don’t see stagflation today since unemployment is not rising,” Woodward opined.



An economic and political outlook was presented at the annual meeting’s General Business Session by Joan Woodward, executive vice president of Public Policy for Travelers and president of the Travelers Institute. The presentation, “Washington Economic, Policy and Political Outlook,” gave members an up close and personal view of the nation’s economy and a road map of where it’s headed.



CAVV President Nate Orders welcomed members to Saturday's General Business Session and thanked this year's sponsors who helped make the 2022 meeting a huge success.

Woodward worked on Capitol Hill for 12 years, as Deputy Chief of Staff for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee working for Chairman Bill Roth, D-DE, where she was instrumental in creating the Roth IRA. She also was the Chief Economist for the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and the U.S. House Budget Committee under Chairman John Kasich, R-OH.

"The federal deficit does matter because it's a drag on the economy," Woodward remarked. "The last budget surplus was 1998 to 2001 when President Bill Clinton raised taxes. In 2021, the deficit was \$2.8 trillion."

There is a direct correlation between recessions and presidential re-elections, Woodward noted. Most every president won reelection when there was no recession in two years prior to the election. From Woodrow Wilson in 1916 to Barack Obama in 2012, all sitting presidents won their reelection race. However, presidents who had a recession two years prior to the election did not fare well. William Howard Taft in 1912, Herbert Hoover in 1932, Gerald Ford in 1976, Jimmy Carter in 1980, H.W. Bush in 1992 and Donald Trump in 2020 were all defeated.

The general population's confidence in institutions diminishes during recessionary periods. In a poll taken from 2020 to 2021, the public's trust



Tripp Dailey, CAVV Program Committee chair, gave attendees an update on the 2023 Midyear Meeting that will be held February 3-8 at the Westin Rancho Mirage Resort in Palm Desert, California.

declined for the medical system, religious institutions, public schools, the Supreme Court, and the presidency.

"Americans do not trust institutions to do the right thing either," Woodward opined. "Banks, who gave us all those PPP loans during the pandemic, had a drop of 36 percent to 33 percent. Television news, which only had an 18 percent confidence level to begin with, dropped to 16 percent," she noted.

Woodward saved her dire predictions for cybersecurity, the "Number one concern across all businesses."

"There are a lot of actors on the dark web looking at your site. There are two types of people: Those that have been hacked and those who are going to be hacked. Ransomware is increasing in frequency and severity. Ransomware attacks have increased by over 150% in the last year," Woodward stated. "And it is increasing across all industries, government, healthcare, pipeline and electrical grid, and technology. No industry is immune."

She outlined a number of reasons Ransomware is a driving claim trend. These include: More variants with more sophistication; easier to monetize compared to traditional data; threat actors' data and patience equal larger demand success; and greater complexity resulting in higher expo-



Mitch Woodrum, commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Labor, provided an update on changes to the West Virginia Contractors Licensing Board.

sure in restoration and business interruption loss.

"The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) lists the top three bad practices that lead to a breach," Woodward commented. "The use of unsupported (or end-of-life) software, use of known/fixed/default passwords and credentials, and the use of single-factor authentication for remote or administrative access to systems all lead to a cyber-attack. A Multifactor Authentication (MFA) is critical because 99.9% of account compromise attacks can be blocked by MFA."

She listed five cyber readiness practices for CAVV members to keep their systems safe: 1. Implement Multifactor Authentication (MFA); 2. Keep systems up to date; 3. Use Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR); 4. Back up data; and 5. Have an incident response.

Woodward ended her presentation with an outlook for the 2022 mid-term election.

"Voter turnout hit a historic high in 2020," she related. "There were 155.5 million Americans who voted, which is 66.6% of the eligible voters. By contrast, 136.8 million and 129.1 million voted in 2016 and 2012, respectively. The top issues going into the election



CAWV Building Division members discussed important issues including CAWV / School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) Task Force initiatives and the unprecedented cost increases and supply-chain disruptions affecting construction projects.



CAWV Utilities Division members discussed the CAWV Joint Utilities Supply Chain Issues Task Force that was created to help curtail project delays and price increases caused by the current supply chain issues.

were Covid-19, government leadership, race relations and the economy. In the 2016 election, immigration was the number two issue on voters' minds. It didn't even make the chart in 2020. Covid, and the federal government's response, was the top issue."

She shared with members a chart showing how the two national parties are changing. The Republican Party is losing women voters and the Democrats are losing men.

"I predict the Democrats are in big trouble in the mid-term election. The House of Representatives will return to Republican and the 50-50 split in the U.S. Senate will change to Republican," she predicted.

There are 20 Republican senators and 14 Democrats up for reelection. There are five Republicans and one Demo-

crat retiring from the upper body.

"Mid-term elections are historically unkind to the President's party," she noted. "President Biden's approval rating after 530 days in office of 39% is the lowest of the past three office holders. George Bush was at 66%, Barack Obama was 47% and Donald Trump was 42%."

Biden's favorable rating on Inauguration Day of 50%, was higher than Trump's (40%) but lower than Bush (62%) and Obama (79%).

"The Biden administration's achievement to date is passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)," Woodward said. "The stimulus bill and the Build Back Better (BBB) bill are dead. His achievement is the infrastructure bill which will be spread out over a long period of time. One of

the aspects of the bill is electronic vehicles (EV) charging stations."

In the U.S., there are currently 46,000 EV stations compared to 150,000 gasoline fueling stations. Under IIJA, 500,000 EV stations are expected to be available by 2030.

"A gallon of gas today averages \$4.33. This equates to a \$0.97 EV charge per gallon," she noted.

The insurance executive did have a parting message for members.

"Don't call or text your employees while they are driving," Woodward stated. "You should set an example for your company by not calling or texting while driving."

"Joan Woodward covered a lot of ground in a short period of time," said



CAWV Highway/Heavy Division Chair Shannon Hapuarachy welcomed Jimmy Wriston, P.E., secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation and commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Highways.



Attendees of the Highway/Heavy Division meeting received an overview of recent Joint Cooperative Committee activities, as well as other committees and subcommittees including June meetings of the Specifications, Standards, Manuals, and Material Procedures committees and the Asphalt, Concrete, and Construction subcommittees. Attendees heard from Secretary Wriston who discussed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), WVDEP permitting, and ongoing challenges being faced by the WVDOH and contractors.



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CAWV President Nate Orders, Orders Construction Company, Inc., St. Albans, following her presentation. "She provided a lot of information that was very beneficial to hear. I think all members attending the Annual Meeting have a much better insight into issues affecting contractors nationally and in West Virginia."

GREAT TURNOUT FOR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Over 300 members and guests attended the 2022 CAWV Annual Meeting held July 7-10 at The Greenbrier. The meeting began with a reception on Thursday followed by a Board of Directors meeting that discussed a number of industry issues. Golf, trap and fishing tournaments were held on Saturday and many members took advantage of The Greenbrier's activities.

The Highway/Heavy Division hosted Jimmy Wriston, secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation

and commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Highways, who provided members an update on the WVDOH's construction and maintenance program. He was joined by State Highway Engineer Alan Reed. The Building and Utilities divisions also met.

Mitch Woodrum, commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Labor, provided members an update on the West Virginia Contractors Licensing Board. Woodrum, who was appointed Labor Commissioner in 2017 by Gov. Jim Justice, has been with the licensing board since 1992. He said there were 15,132 construction firms grandfathered with a license in July 1991, when the new law took effect.

"As of today, the remaining grandfathered contractors total 2,891," said Woodrum.

He noted that the CAWV has always had a strong presence on the board. Currently, four of the ten members are CAWV members.

"Win Strock, Kenhill Construction, was the first chairman of the licensing board," Woodrum commented. "He was followed by Bob Orders, Orders Construction Company, Inc., Gene Thompson, when he was with Ahern & Associates, was also chairman. In the early days of the board, monthly meetings were very contentious and lasted days. Now, the board meets quarterly and usually meets for three hours."

The licensing board has undergone recent changes. The West Virginia Legislature moved the board from the West Virginia Division of Labor to a separate board under Chapter 30 of the State Code. The CAWV expressed concern during the legislative session whether separating the board from the labor division would create a duplication of inspections on the jobsite which would require an increase in fees.

"Most of the changes will be behind the scenes and won't show up on the jobsite," the commissioner stated. "The WVDOL will continue to handle



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inspections for the board so that there will not be two groups of inspectors on the jobsite. There is no fee increase planned. In fact, we hope to reduce the annual licensing fee."

There is an outstanding issue for the board. Professions licensed under Chapter 30 are required to conduct annual training for licensees.

"The board is looking into this and will determine what direction to take. No action is planned at this time. Today, there are 17,225 licensed contractors in the state. The testing firm used to conduct licensing exams has changed from ProV to PSI Services, LLC."

While the board usually reviews about 1,000 complaints a year and issues around 365 cease and desist orders to companies, the contractor licensing veteran said that most issues get resolved without action having to be taken against a licensed contractor.

"Communication is the number one ingredient to the licensing board's operation," the commissioner remarked.

"The board has a great relationship with the CAWV and a lot of issues can be resolved by getting everyone together to resolve them before they escalate into board sanctions. My door is always open for contractors to contact me with issues."

"Commissioner Woodrum has created a professional and well-run Division of Labor that treats all contractors fairly while protecting the public and West Virginia workers from unscrupulous business practices," stated President Orders.

INDUSTRY ISSUES DISCUSSED IN DIVISION MEETINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The CAWV Building Division met at the CAWV Annual Meeting. CAWV Building Division Director Derick Foster, Paramount Builders, St. Albans, led the meeting and discussed important issues some members are facing. Division members were briefed on the activities of the CAWV / School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) Task Force. Task Force Chairman

Doug Meeks, Brewer & Company of West Virginia, Inc., Charleston, reported that Dana Womack had been promoted to Director of Architectural Services for the SBA with the departure of Ben Ashley. Dave Ferguson, ZMM Architects and Engineers, Charleston, added that the SBA has been looking at project costs and how to help projects that have bids that are over budget, including possibly diverting some Major Improvement Projects (MIP) Grant funding to those projects.

Contractors, suppliers, and architects in the Building Division discussed the unprecedented cost increases and supply-chain disruptions affecting their respective construction projects with some material being unavailable for shipment for 12 months. The CAWV will continue to meet with state Purchasing Division officials, legislators, and cabinet secretaries to educate them on the supply chain issues and work towards a solution that will be beneficial to the projects.

Meeting attendees received an update



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Tyler and Chelsea Beaty enjoyed this year's Early Bird Reception.



John and Victoria Farley joined members for this year's Annual Meeting.



Bill and Donna Moore attended their first Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier.

on the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force. Pat McDonald, CAWV assistant executive director, reported that the Equipment Operator Training Course at Camp Dawson is continuing to grow. The comprehensive Equipment Operator Training Course is designed to produce operators that are trained in 28 days and are ready to go to work in the construction field on five different types of equipment. McDonald noted that several CAWV members attend each graduation at Camp Dawson to meet with the graduates and interview them for jobs with their companies.

Also during the meeting, Courtney Persinger, president of Persinger and Associates, Charleston, was reelected as chairman of the Building Division.

CAWV Utilities Division Chairman James Scott Pierson, Triton Construction, Inc., St. Albans, led the Utilities Division meeting during the Annual Meeting. Division members were updated on West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, Water Development Authority, Clean Wa-

ter State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund projects. A handout was provided with the new Summary, Guidance and Applications for the WDA's Economic Enhancement Grant Fund on projects \$10 million in total cost.

A discussion of the possible requirement of a mandated project labor agreement (PLA) on projects was addressed by the group. Several other industry issues were discussed during the meeting such as material pricing and supply issues. Committee members also discussed the CAWV Joint Utilities Supply Chain Issues Task Force that was created in the last Joint Utilities Committee meeting. This task force is comprised of funding agencies, suppliers, and contractors, and was formed to develop a plan with the project owners to help curtail project delays and price increases caused by the current supply chain issues.

A motion was made to nominate Brandon Duriez, vice president, Snyder Environmental Services, Inc., Kearneysville, as Division Chairman. It was

a unanimous vote.

The CAWV Highway/Heavy Division met with Chairman Shannon Hapuarachy, SMH Construction Co., Inc., Beckley, calling the meeting to order and providing members an overview of recent Joint Cooperative Committee activities from its June 21 meeting. Chairman Hapuarachy also reported on the recent activities of other committees and subcommittees including June meetings of the Specifications, Standards, Manuals, and Material Procedures committees and the Asphalt, Concrete, and Construction subcommittees.

The chair introduced Jimmy Wriston, P.E., secretary of the WVDOT and commissioner of the WVDOH, who discussed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), WVDEP permitting, and ongoing challenges being faced by the WVDOH and contractors. Secretary Wriston began by congratulating the newly elected incoming, and outgoing, officers of the CAWV board. Secretary Wriston detailed information regarding the IIJA, noting \$3.7



Bruce and Christina Dunlap were happy to attend this year's event at The Greenbrier.



Newlyweds Shannon and Callie Hapuarachy were happy to attend this year's Early Bird Reception.



David, Jana, Regan and Will Raines pose for a photo during Thursday's reception at The Greenbrier.

billion in highway funding is coming to West Virginia, but also noting that information was rolled out very slowly by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He said that “we are now just getting absolutely inundated with information.” The secretary discussed one of the performance metrics related to carbon emissions that the WVDOH will need to negotiate while utilizing IIJA funds. This performance metric is aimed at reducing the carbon emissions to aid in climate control. Secretary Wriston said that, unfortunately, this metric “is going to waste a lot of money that could be put elsewhere.” He continued, saying that “West Virginia has some of the cleanest air in the country and to use a one-size-fits-all approach does not make sense. West Virginia and states like California have very different needs.”

In addition to inflationary pressures and increases to interest rates that the secretary said could impact future highway projects, he also discussed the state’s revenues from 2022. Secretary Wriston said that gas tax and



This year's Annual Meeting Early Bird Reception was sponsored by Mountain State Insurance Agency, Inc. of Charleston. (L-R) Ross, Dee, Lauren, Taylor, and Will Johnson and Laura Kutz.

fees collected from vehicle registrations are down for the year, with only the Privilege Tax on vehicles exceeding estimates.

Supply chain issues, fuel prices and inflation steered the secretary to discuss the plans to establish a task force made up of industry and department

members to help address these issues by establishing escalation clauses on items. Secretary Wriston also mentioned that his department is also working with other agencies (WVDEP and West Virginia Department of Education) to establish similar clauses across the board in order to provide consistency in application.

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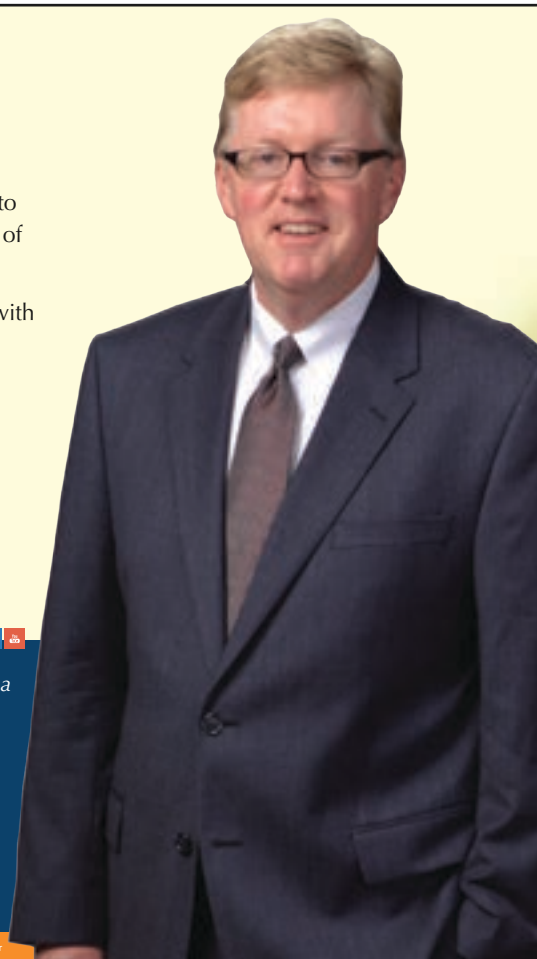
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Attorney Robert “Bo” Sweeney (licensed in WV) has a practice based in civil litigation, with a concentration in the defense of mesothelioma and asbestos claims, construction disputes and defending employers in deliberate intent suits.

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Mark and Sara Haverty enjoyed this year's Welcome Night Reception.



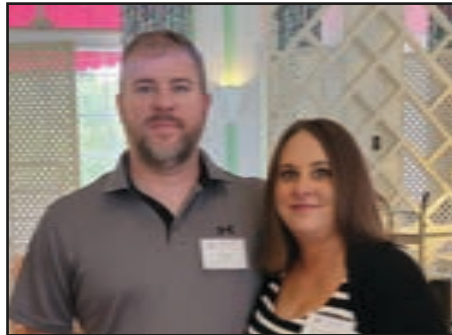
Sean and Jill Fradiska attended this year's Annual Meeting.



Tina and Scott Withrow joined members for the Welcome Night Reception.



Russell Kocher and Deanna Minger enjoyed this year's event.



Cody and Samantha Jeffries enjoyed this year's Welcome Reception.



Brant Moorhead, Scott Gyorko and Kris Tawney catch up at this year's event.

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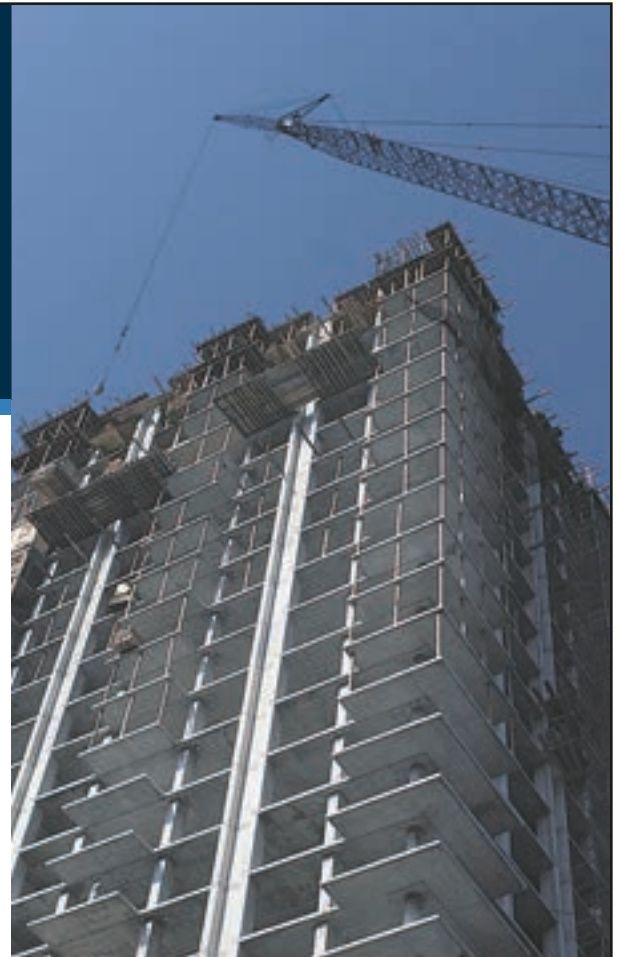
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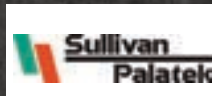
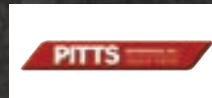
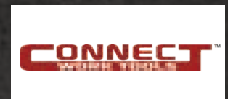
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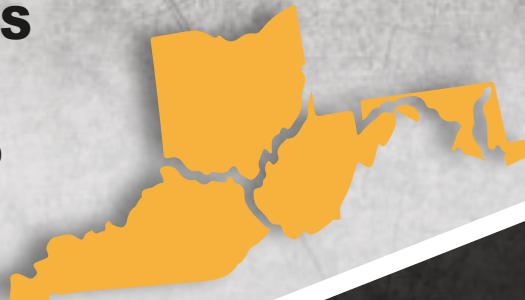


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CAWV Scholarship Golf Co-Chair Steve Humphreys (right) presented awards to this year's golf tournament winners: Angelina Duriez, Hunter Duriez, and Matt Farley.



Jill Fradiska, Tonya Berg and Jason Kitzmiller were the winners of the Annual Meeting Trap and Shooting Clay Tournament held at The Greenbrier Gun Club.

The secretary closed out his discussions touching on WVDEP and environmental permitting. He stated that cooperation between the agencies and industry, with several training programs, are helping foster the creation of good applications for permitting. He also discussed the possibility of getting some permits approved pre-bid. He said that he hopes some projects will be to the point at which, when the contractor is awarded a job, they can "work and not wait." In response to a question, regarding the topic, Secretary Wriston said that there were some \$600 million worth of projects on hold awaiting environmental permitting. Secretary Wriston, Senator Shelley Moore Capito,

and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife director plan to meet in August in Charleston to discuss some of department's concerns.

When asked about the federal fund matches necessary, Secretary Wriston said that the WVDOH is in excellent shape and does not see any issues in the short term. He elaborated that the WVDOH is utilizing all the tools at their disposal to ensure cash flow remains adequate.

The secretary was also asked to elaborate on the paving program for the remainder of the year. "I think this year is going to be a record year. If things fall into

place with my request from with the West Virginia Legislature, I think we're looking at probably close to 4,000 lane miles being paved this year," he said.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

The President's Banquet, which had to be moved inside due to rain, featured a presentation of a \$16,600 check to the CAWV Scholarship Foundation. The money was raised at the June 3 Scholarship Golf Outing at Berry Hills Country Club and is used to help support scholarships for students pursuing construction-related and civil engineering degrees.

HUB/PAC, the CAWV's political action committee, contributed \$37,600 to candidates running for the West Virginia Senate and House of Delegates in the May 10 Primary Election. Of the HUB/PAC supported Senate candidates, 100 percent won their races. In the House, 87 percent of supported candidates were victorious on election day. A fundraiser was held to raise PAC funds for the General Election in November.

The CAWV President's Award for Excellence was presented to Mark Urso and Tia Reppert of Bear Contracting LLC, Bridgeport, for the company's Building Hope program. The award recognizes a particular member who went above and beyond to help build a better West Virginia. This year's award focused on the initiatives that members have taken to provide outstanding contributions to their communities in West Virginia.



CAWV President Nate Orders presented this year's President's Award for Excellence to Bear Contracting, LLC, Bridgeport. Accepting the award was Mark Urso, Tia Reppert and Katie Urso. This year's award focused on the initiatives that members have taken to provide outstanding contributions to their communities in West Virginia. Bear Contracting was recognized for their Building Hope program which educates students on the many opportunities that the construction industry has to offer and promotes anti-bullying.

Bear Contracting developed the charitable 501 (c) (3) organization which is a two-part program that educates students on the many opportunities that the construction industry has to offer and promotes anti-bullying.

Outgoing CAWV President Nate Orders thanked members for their hard work throughout the year.

"Everyone working together furthered the interest of the CAWV and moved the industry forward," President Orders said in his remarks at the President's Banquet. "Getting WV EXPO operational after a two-year hiatus and passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act kept the CAWV running at full speed this year."

He also thanked his Orders Construction team, who had a strong showing at this year's meeting, for their hard work while he was performing his duties at the CAWV.

The outgoing president introduced and congratulated the incoming officers and directors.

"They will be engaged and will work hard for the industry. I'm very pleased to introduce your new president," President Orders told members. "The association is in good hands for the next year."

CAWV's 2022-2023 President James Ridgeway, president of March-Westin Company, Morgantown, thanked the out-

going president and praised him for his year of service to the association.

"The Contractors Association of West Virginia has continuously operated during the pandemic, but a number of our Joint Committees were affected by state and federal agencies not being able to meet in person. Just as the construction industry was deemed an "essential industry" by Governor Jim Justice, Nate considered the association essential, and I'm pleased to say he and our committee chairs were able to continue meeting via Zoom. Nate participated in committee and task force meetings to guarantee that the CAWV's opinions and recommendations are communicated loud and clear," stated new President Ridgeway.

"Nate brought ideas and procedures that strengthened the association's ability to provide services and benefits to our membership," he said. "The association appreciates all the work Nate did on behalf of our members and the industry."

Ridgeway is president of March-Westin Company, Inc. in Morgantown. A native of White Sulphur Springs, he graduated in 1999 from West Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and joined March-Westin in May of that year. In 2009, he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with an Executive MBA. Ridgeway is also a 2010 State Journal Generation Next Recipient. He and his wife, Cathleen, have two children, Collin 13, and McKenzie 8.



2022 – 2023 CAWV President James Ridgeway thanked members for attending this year's Annual Meeting and outlined his goals and objectives for the organization in the coming year.

He has provided leadership to a number of CAWV committees, subcommittees and task forces. He has worked and promoted a number of economic development projects in the Morgantown area. He leads March-Westin's project management team and has personally managed projects totaling over \$500 million. He follows March-Westin founder, Phil Weser, who was the 2014 – 2015 CAWV President.

"I am honored to represent the members of the Contractors Association of West Virginia," said President Ridgeway. "I am grateful to have another platform to push opportunities for West Virginia. I thank the management team at March-Westin, half of whom are at this meeting, for their help and support. I particularly thank Phil Weser for coming to West Virginia Tech in 1999 and finding me," he quipped.

He said his goals include facilitating a new transition team for the association next year and to get members to sign up to serve on a committee.

"Committees are where leadership begins in this association," he said. "In 2008, I joined the Joint Architects Committee and worked my way up to tonight. I ask all members to have at least two of their staff serve on a committee. They will benefit as well as your organization from their participation."

To see this year's event sponsors, as well as view more photos of event, visit www.cawv.org/events/annual-meeting.html.



Outgoing President Nate Orders, who is an avid cyclist and runner, received gifts of appreciation for his year as CAWV president. One of the gifts included a custom cycling jersey equipped with a project photo and Orders Construction and CAWV logos.



CAWV Survey Shows Material Price Increases, Labor Shortages Concern for West Virginia Contractors



Sixty-two percent of construction-related firms report they have seen prices for key construction materials increase by more than 25%, according to the results of a recent survey of Contractors Association of West Virginia members. Nearly 38% report price increases of 11% to 25%. The survey also asked members if they are having difficulty in filling key professional and craft worker positions (they are), and if they are operating their companies at full capacity (they aren't).

The survey was conducted May 23 to June 10, 2022 and contained a number of questions on current and future trends. It asked CAWV contractor and associate members to compare their operations to 2019, the date of the last survey and prior to the COVID pandemic.

From 2019 to this year, 62% of respondents saw prices for key construction materials increase by more than 25% while 38% saw prices rise by 11 to 25%. The vast majority, 58%,

expect materials to increase by 11 to 25% this year while 25% foresee price increases in the 6 to 10% range. Only 13% think increases will rise above 25%. Only a few think prices will remain the same.

Of the survey respondents, 38% said they are having difficulty filling all key professional and hourly craft positions, while 29% report having some difficulty filling both professional and craft positions. Twenty-three percent say they are having a hard time filling some craft worker positions.

CAWV members believe the biggest demand for professional positions will be project managers/supervisors (60%), estimators (38%) and engineers (33%). An analysis of the survey shows equipment operators (48%), laborers (52%), and carpenters (22%) will be harder to find. These figures are almost identical to the results of the 2019 survey. The need for drivers with a Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) is up considerably this year at 50%. Pipefitters/welders and cement

masons remain a concern from 2019.

Most contractors expect labor conditions will remain tight or get worse over the next twelve months. Eighty-one percent of firms report that it will continue to be hard, or get even harder, to find construction professionals (identical to the 2019 survey), and 76% (up from 60% last survey) report the same for hourly craft personnel.

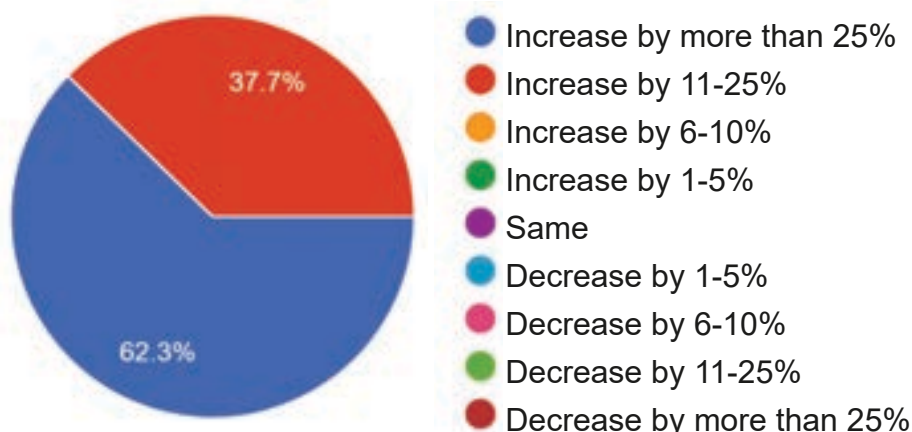
One possible reason for contractors' concern about the labor market is that many contractors are seeing an increase in their workload. Sixty-five percent of respondents said they expect their volume of work to be higher in 2022 compared to 2019. Twenty-three percent will have about the same workload while 12% expect less work. Sixty-two percent said they added employees during the same time frame.

Most firms have expanded their headcount since 2019. Thirty-two percent of responding firms report they added five or fewer new hourly craft personnel; 32% added six to 15; 17% say they added 16 to 25; and 18% added 25 or more.

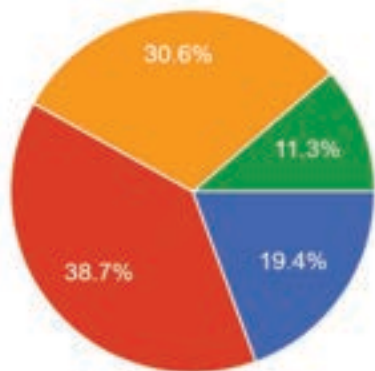
Most firms plan to add employees in 2022. Thirty-five percent plan to hire five or fewer; 37% plan to hire six to 15; 9% say they will hire 16 to 25; and 19% say they will hire more than 25. Workforce shortages are a problem for firms of all sizes. Thirty-eight percent of CAWV members responding employ 1 to 49 people; 52% employ 50 to 249; and 11% employ 250 to 499.

The CAWV survey shows only 20% (down from 36% in 2019) of respon-

How did the prices for key construction materials you purchased change from May 2019 to May 2022?



Which of the following best describes your firm's current capacity situation?



- Working at 100% capacity
- Working at 90-100% capacity
- Working at 75-90% capacity
- Working at less than 75%

dents are working at 100% of their capacity and could not increase work without increasing employees or equipment. Another 39% are between 90% and 100% capacity. Thirty percent are between 75% and 95% capacity and could take on more work. Less than 12% were at 75% capacity.

The extreme runup in so many product costs have caused financial hardship for many contractors and

subcontractors, especially for those whose purchases are concentrated in materials with extra-steep increases.

For more than two years, the U.S. construction industry has been buffeted by unprecedented increases in material costs, supply-chain bottlenecks, and a tight labor market. The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America has been publishing the Construction Inflation Alert.

The information is intended to help owners, public officials, and others understand what contractors are experiencing.

The CAWV routinely shares the inflation information with owners and government officials on the state and local level in West Virginia and steps they can take to make their projects successful.

CAWV joint committees with the West Virginia Division of Highways, water and sewer funding agencies, School Building Authority of West Virginia and other construction agency representatives have discussed price increases and supply chain issues which have affected availability and delivery time for materials.

Most agencies are assessing their projects that have designs completed to make sure their construction estimates anticipate the steep and fast-rising material costs. Most are trying to accelerate the time between bid and project award so contractors can lock in material prices. Some agen-

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cies are providing a contingency to pay for increases between the time of bid and actual delivery of the material.

The CAWV is working with agencies to enact escalation clauses for materials, similar to the WVDOH's long-standing policy on fuel and liquid asphalt adjustments. These contract terms have historically protected both parties from unanticipated swings in material prices. They enable the contractor to include a smaller contingency in its bid, while providing the owner an opportunity to share in any savings from downward price movements which, according to AGC's *Construction Inflation Alert*, has occurred with lumber, diesel fuel, and some metal prices.

The West Virginia Legislature this session passed H.B. 4566 which created the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund to be administered by the West Virginia Water Development Authority to provide matching grants

to municipalities for water and sewer infrastructure upgrades. The bill was introduced by House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, to make grants to "cover all or a portion of the costs of water, sewer, economic development and tourism projects." A supplemental spending bill was passed to place \$250 million into the fund.

The fund has helped cover construction costs that came in over the estimated budget for three projects totaling over \$100 million. The \$63 million water and sewer project for the City of Lewisburg and surrounding areas in Greenbrier County received \$7.6 million in Economic Enhancement Grant funds. A \$31 million project in Ripley received \$3.4 million, and a \$12.1 million project in Richwood received \$1.9 million.

A task force of CAWV Utilities Division contractors and associate members has been formed with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and Water Development

Authority to review benefits to the project for owners to purchase major material on a water or sewer project. Buying items in advance could provide protection against cost increases. The task force is reviewing this, as well as issues such as who pays for material storage, security against theft and damage, insurance, and the possibility of design changes that make early purchase unwise.

AGC's *Construction Inflation Alert* is updated as market conditions warrant.

Check out the latest edition at:
www.agc.org/learn/construction-data/agc-construction-inflation-alert



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National Transportation Organization Celebrates 50 Years



Transportation advocates gathered in the nation's capital in May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit.

Delayed by a year due to COVID-19, TRIP is celebrating five decades as the only national organization devoted exclusively to generating news and social media coverage of issues impacting the highway and transportation construction industry.

TRIP was founded in 1971 by a cross section of leaders in the highway and transportation construction industry, with startup money from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM).

In the ensuing years the fundraising mantle was taken up by Bill Reece, Reece Construction, representing the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), and Don Stabler, Stabler Construction Co., representing ARTBA, who traveled the country visiting AGC and ARTBA state chapters to garner early financial support for TRIP.

"TRIP's work has been integral in conveying to decision makers and the general public the importance of adequate and sustained transportation investment," said Bob Orders, CEO of Orders Construction Company, St. Albans.

With a committed volunteer leadership and a dedicated staff, TRIP public education efforts to generate strategic and prominent news coverage of the industry's issues and funding messages at the federal and state levels of government has never been stronger.

"For over 50 years, TRIP has been a trusted voice in the transportation industry, providing the facts and messag-

es that have allowed for greater investment and steady progress in building the transportation system needed for the 21st century," said Mike Clowser, executive director of the Contractors Association of West Virginia, Charleston.

"ARTBA's foundational investment in TRIP 50 years ago has paid great dividends," said Steve McGough, president and CEO of HCSS, Sugar Land, TX, immediate past chair of ARTBA and current TRIP chairman. "And I can attest firsthand to TRIP's effectiveness in Texas."

TRIP has produced more than 600 reports in all states, providing reliable data and information that is cited in state and national deliberations on transportation policy and funding. In 2021 alone, news coverage generated by the release of TRIP's reports resulted in more than \$36 million in earned media coverage.

"I've long been a TRIP believer and supporter," said Tom Brown, president of Sierra Pacific West, Encinitas, CA, and 2022 vice president of the AGC of America's board of directors. "Not only in the national forum, but also in my home state of California, TRIP's efforts have and continue to shine a light on the real needs facing our surface transportation system."

Today, TRIP's national and state reports play an important role in addressing the nation's current and future transportation challenges.

TRIP has earned its reputation as a credible source in transportation policy and is positioned to continue to communicate information and messages that will be critical in supporting the nation's ability to achieve the 21st Century transportation system that Americans need.

"TRIP's work is far from finished," said Dave Kearby, TRIP's executive director. "Over the last 50 years the messages may change, our target audiences and the ways we reach them may change, but the need is the same. A good surface transportation network is this nation's lifeblood and we intend to ensure its future effectiveness."

History of TRIP Reports in West Virginia

The Contractors Association of West Virginia and West Virginians for Better Transportation for many years have commissioned TRIP reports when promoting highway construction and maintenance needs in West Virginia. The reports cover a wide range of topics, from the benefits of having a safe and modern highway transportation system to the consequences of an underfunded program.

A 2004 report, "Making the Grade in West Virginia: An Analysis of the Ability of West Virginia's Transportation System to Meet the State's Need



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for Safe and Efficient Mobility,” found that 36 percent of major roads in the state were in poor or mediocre condition, and 37 percent of West Virginia’s bridges were structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. West Virginia’s traffic fatality rate of 2.19 fatalities per 100 million miles of travel were nearly 50 percent higher than the national average fatality rate of 1.50.

“The TRIP report highlights the benefits of creating an efficient, well-maintained and adequately funded transportation system,” said Fred VanKirk, then-secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation. In a press release accompanying the report, Secretary VanKirk said, “Investing in the state’s transportation system is good for public safety, it’s good for the economy, and it’s good for the quality of life in West Virginia.”

A 2006 report extolling the 50th anniversary of West Virginia’s Interstate system showed that this vital transportation link has saved West Virginia residents \$3.7 billion annually - \$2,032 per person - in safety benefits, saved time, reduced fuel and lower consumer costs. But, the report emphasized at the time the state faced a \$1.4 billion shortfall over the next 20 years in needed interstate funding.

TRIP reports played a major role in 2017 when Governor Jim Justice proposed legislation to increase highway user fees and passage of his \$1.6 billion “Roads to Prosperity” bond amendment. A report titled, “West Virginia Transportation by the Numbers:

The Exponent Telegram

New report says poor roads cost WV drivers \$1.4 billion

Each year TRIP, a national nonprofit research group, issues a state-by-state report on the nation’s deteriorating highways and bridges. The newly released 2017 report says West Virginia’s inadequate transportation system “costs West Virginia motorists a total of \$1.4 billion every year in the form of additional vehicle operating costs (VOC), congestion-related delays and traffic crashes.”

Researchers who compiled the TRIP report said poor roads cost the average motorist in Morgantown \$1,439 a year. Similar loss figures were offered for Charleston (\$1,357), Wheeling (1,315), Parkersburg (\$1,274) and Huntington (\$1,121).



Meeting the State’s Need for Safe, Smooth and Efficient Mobility,” was released in February during CAWV’s and WVBT’s annual “Transportation Day at the Capitol.”

Legislators learned in that report that 29 percent of major roads in West Virginia were in poor condition, that the state had gone from the 12th highest share of bridges rated structurally deficient in 2014 to 5th highest in 2016, and that the state’s major urban roads were becoming increasingly congested, with drivers wasting significant amounts of time and fuel each year. Additionally, more than 1,500 people were killed in crashes on West Virginia’s roads from 2011 to 2015.

Chambers of Commerce officials in Huntington, Morgantown and Wheeling spoke at the press conference about the need for increased funding for highways. The report detailed

that 62 percent of major roads in the Wheeling urban area were in poor or mediocre condition, costing the average motorist an additional \$720 each year in extra vehicle operating costs.

“In an area where state lines are blurred, West Virginia must keep up, at a minimum, with our neighboring states, who are continually maintaining and improving their existing roads,” said Erikka Storch, then-president of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates.

After a 60-day legislative session and an extended special session, the West Virginia Legislature in June 2017 passed a series of funding measures that, collectively, generated \$2.8 billion for highway and bridge construction and maintenance over the next seven to ten years. The bills culminated years of work by the CAWV, West Virginians for Better Transportation and many others to adequately fund West Virginia’s road and bridge maintenance and construction program.

Voters approved a constitutional referendum on October 7, 2017 that allowed West Virginia to issue up to \$1.6 billion in bonds for highway and bridge construction and maintenance. The Roads to Prosperity Amendment of 2017 was approved by a vote of 73-27 percent.

The report was used extensively to promote to legislators and the general public why investing in highways is vital to jobs, safety and quality of life. 📺



Jul 8, 2009

Report Examines W.Va. Transportation Projects

Reporter: Amanda Barren & The Associated Press

South Charleston, W.Va. (wsaz) -- A non-profit group that studies roads across the nation says West Virginia's are the third deadliest in the country.

The national transportation research group 'TRIP' along with West Virginians for Better Transportation, came together Wednesday to release findings from an analysis of West Virginia's roads, bridges, highways and overall infrastructure.

According to the research over the next ten years the state will fall short five billion dollars which could lead to many basic transportation projects not receiving the money needed.





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Crews from Rock Forge Bridge Company, Amma, work on the \$1.05 million Kimball Slab Bridge project on US-52 in McDowell County. Photos above show contractors placing Class H concrete for the first phase of the bridge deck. Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP, Charleston, provided project supervision and inspection.

■ **Gov. Jim Justice recently announced the bid award for construction of an** approximately 3-mile section of Corridor H in Tucker County, a major project in Gov. Justice's Roads to Prosperity program. **A.L.L. Construction Inc.** of Mt. Storm was the lowest of five bidders for the project, with a bid of \$49,488,494. An additional 15 percent of the bid amount will be added to the bid and set aside for erosion and sediment control to protect the environment. The contract calls for grading and drainage work for a 3.08-mile section of highway to be built starting near the Cheat River Bridge. The winning bid was less than the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) Engineer's Estimate of \$71,772,000 including erosion and sediment control. Construction is expected to begin this fall. The project currently has an estimated completion date of late 2025...

■ **Greenbrier County Courthouse renovations are moving along as scheduled, now some** 17-months into construction. In February 2021, the Greenbrier County Commission began taking measures to prepare for the upcoming courthouse-renovation project. On March 5, White Sul-

phur Springs-based **Lynch Construction Company, Inc.** officially began full-demolition. The current construction, which includes the new addition as well as renovation of the current courthouse facility, represents the third major renovation-project in the complex's 185-year history, with the most recent additions being completed in 1963...

■ **Preliminary estimates from the Morgantown Utility Board indicate more than \$13 million** in water and sewer upgrades are needed to support continued development in WestRidge and the larger Chaplin Hill area. MUB Director of Communications Chris Dale said the construction of a new water tank, a booster station and the boring of new water and sewer lines beneath the Monongahela River are among the major improvements needed. Dale said MUB has applied for a Congressionally Directed Spending grant, or earmark, through Senator Shelley Moore Capito's office for project funding and is exploring potential loan and grant opportunities through the West Virginia Water Development Authority. According to Dale, the estimated project timeline would be about 18 months from the funding

of the design component...

■ **The Federal Aviation Administration has announced that North Central West Virginia Airport** will receive a \$15 million grant for construction of a new terminal. The grant will cover part of the cost of a 45,000-square-foot terminal to replace the original one built in 1945. The new terminal will have two additional gates and will increase passenger capacity at the airport. Construction will follow energy-efficient design standards and include full access for individuals with disabilities...

■ **The Marshall County Health Department will undergo a major update over the next two years,** as architects now work to design the nearly \$10 million building that will house the county's health offices. The Marshall County Commission voted to move ahead with designing the new health department building at Tuesday morning's meeting. According to the presentation by Charleston-based **Silling Architects**, the total project cost of the building, including project contingencies and furniture, came to \$9,951,096. Design development will take seven weeks, bidding is expected to be done by January,

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

and construction is hoped to be complete by June 2024...

■ **The Clarksburg Water Board recently announced an \$85.6 million upgrade** following investigations and replacement of lead services over the last year. The process began when screening tests in local schools showed elevated levels in three students. The result was a review of 8,000 service connections and replacement of several lead services. This project will replace all lead services and replace 39 miles of waterline. Clarksburg Water Board member Paul Howe said about \$55 million in work will be done to the main while \$27 million is estimated to be spent on water services. Howe said the **Thrasher Group, Inc.**, Bridgeport, is preparing project plans and the work will be divided into packages...

■ **The Morgantown Municipal Airport (MGW) has leased approximately 47,300 square feet** of land to Ground Speed Aviation. With this new lease, GSA will begin construction of a new 10,000-square-foot hangar. The construction will be completed by **Reclaim Company LLC**, a GSA sister company based out of Fairmont. "Ground Speed Aviation LLC is happy to be working with the City of Morgantown and MGW to bring thousands of square feet of new hangar space to serve the airport," said Reclaim President, R.J. Williams. "While GSA will not be directly operating the businesses, it hopes the addition of these new spaces will not only retain existing aircraft maintenance and storage companies but attract new businesses and employment to MGW." Work on the site will begin by re-

moving the last of the World War II era T-hangars followed by the construction of the new hangar. Construction of the hangar is anticipated to be complete by winter 2023...





■ **Bids were recently submitted for the Downtown Wheeling Streetscape project.** The project is scheduled to start this year and end by the December 2024. **Triton Construction Inc.** of St. Albans was low bidder of \$31.9 million, slightly higher than the project's \$30 million original estimate. **Swank Construction Company, LLC** of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, which is doing the Interstate 70 bridges project, submitted a bid of \$35.86 million while Ohio-West Virginia Excavating's bid came in at \$37.2 million.



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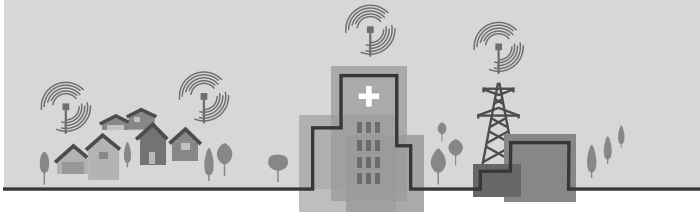
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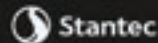
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