MEMBERS ENJOY CAR SHOW AND OPEN HOUSE

Nearly 150 CAWV members joined together in August to enjoy a car show at the association’s newly remodeled headquarters. The CAWV conference room, which has doubled in size, the renovated kitchen and the new ADA accessibility features were also on display during the car show. Gene Thompson’s 1968 Pontiac GTO won the People’s Choice Award. The CAWV car show had a wide variety of antique and classic cars along with newer models for members to view.

WVDEP ANNOUNCES $61 MILLION IN ARRA FUNDING UNDER CONTRACT

The WV Department of Environmental Protection Clean Water State Revolving Fund announced in February that all of their Recovery Act funding is under contract. Program Manager Mike Johnson announced the last of West Virginia’s $61 million in ARRA water and sewer funding commitments was bid on December 28, 2009. States were required to “use or lose” their Recovery Act dollars by February 17, 2010. The Joint Utilities Committee worked diligently with WVDEP to get the projects designed, advertised and bid by the February deadline.

REP. CAPITOL ADDRESSES WVUCA AND YOUNG CONTRACTORS

The WVDOH plans to publish “2010 Standard Specifications Roads and Bridges” replaces the 1990 version after much feedback by the WV Division of Highways Specifications Committee. The electronic version of the 900-plus page publication was released in November with printed copies available beginning in December. The WVDOH plans to publish Supplemental Specifications dated January 1, 2011, with both publications being effective on all projects bid on or after January 19, 2011. The Guard has long range plans of spending at least $109 million on construction beginning in 2014.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PROTECT, PROMOTE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) represent the construction industry in Congress and throughout the nation. AGC’s involvement was crucial in a proposal by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) that other states could have adopted, was estimated at $13 billion in California alone. AGC was successful in defeating an amendment to the federal Health Care Bill which targeted the construction industry. The Merkley Amendment would have mandated that construction companies provide coverage or pay penalties if they have more than five employees and a payroll that exceeds $250,000. Companies in other industries with less than 50 employees are exempt from the mandate.

ARTBA continues its focus on transportation infrastructure investment as a critical component of creating jobs and sustaining economic growth. The association is working on passage of a robust, multi-year surface transportation authorization bill, which is now 15 months overdue.
In the construction industry, one of the foremost accomplishments of the year was the enactment of a new law that significantly impacts the state’s construction industry. The new law addresses a wide range of issues that affect the industry, including safety, environmental protection, and labor regulations. The law was the result of extensive collaboration between industry leaders, government officials, and labor representatives, and it is expected to have a positive impact on the industry’s future development.

The law also includes provisions that address the needs of small businesses in the industry. These provisions include increased funding for small business development programs, as well as tax incentives for small businesses that invest in new technologies or equipment.

Overall, the new law represents a major step forward for the construction industry in the state. It is expected to create new opportunities for growth and innovation, and to improve the competitiveness of the industry on a national and international scale.

The construction industry continues to be a vital part of the state’s economy, providing millions of dollars in revenue and hundreds of thousands of jobs each year. As the industry continues to grow and evolve, it is important that we remain committed to supporting its success and ensuring that it has the resources it needs to thrive.

In conclusion, the new law is a significant milestone for the construction industry in the state. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in its development, and it is a clear indication of the industry’s commitment to excellence and innovation.

JOHN H. STRICKLAND
President
In the construction industry, the primary source of fulfillment from a job well done is an accomplished job that overachieves all others. The CAWV and its members have worked diligently through the years to maintain the state’s construction industry. Regardless of the specific issue, or the industry segment it impacts, the CAWV has done a great job joining members together to work with state and federal officials on issues of concern.

The association is able to do a good job because of member input and participation. In order to achieve that goal, the CAWV must stay informed and advocate for perpetual funding for building, utility, and highway construction, the CAWV needs participation from members. The past year has seen the implementation of several changes to make involvement easier for association members.

The Strategic Planning Committee recognized that the geographic location of the association office left some members unable to participate. Being located in Charleston places the CAWV’s new office door to many state and federal offices, and for some members, the office is too far away to justify traveling to meetings. Institution of state-of-the-art video conferencing equipment, the conference room has been expanded and renovations to the CAWV’s quarters have made the office ADA accessible. A new conference room has been added to make the office location more accessible.

Since being completed in June, the CAWV office has seen a flurry of activity. Many committee meetings have been held advancing issues throughout the building, utility, and highway industries. The Joint Cooperative Committee (and its subcommittees), Joint Utilitites Committee, and Architecture Committee have all been hard at work on issues affecting the entire construction industry.

As CAWV’s President John H. Strickland reported in his Spring Meeting held in May at Glade Springs. The Safety Committee is focusing on job site safety and promotion of the association’s Social Responsibility initiative. The association is now able to communicate with members using its new video conferencing equipment. Members have been invited to peruse the website, and developed a number of discount programs for members.

The CAWV’s job is a continuum of keeping members up-to-date on what is happening in the construction industry and providing a platform to influence any policy issues. The ultimate goal of the CAWV is creating a healthy construction industry for West Virginia.

The Senate and House of Delegates during the successful in their bids to the West Virginia’s political action committee, were mostly Candidates backed by HUB/PAC, the association members. JOBS work with state and federal officials on issues done a great job joining members together to

The CAWV’s position has been that public entities should be required to adopt rules that provide complete transparency to the process. The state Parkways Authority to operate additional toll roads in the state. This was necessary in order to allow institution of tolls to fund construction of an unfinished section of Route 35 in Putnam and Mason counties.

Patterned after the bill giving the school Building Authority the ability to use its annual lottery proceeds to pay debt service on bonds, S.B. 237 authorizes county commissions, municipalities and boards of education that receive lottery revenues to issue bonds secured by the lottery receipts.

A bill mandating green building methods for all state building projects, including schools, was introduced, but did not pass in this session. A number of bills were introduced which would have extended the authority of the WV Design Build Board by creating the Facility Design Build-Finance-Lease-Purchase Act. The Act would have allowed county boards of education, public authorities/private partnerships to finance, build and lease school facilities. The CAWV’s position has been that public entities should be required to adopt rules that provide complete transparency to the process.

The CAWV’s joint annual conference meeting in May at The Resort at Glade Springs. Designed to be family-friendly, the educational program provided re-certification credits needed to excel professionally in the construction industry. Topics included: Ethics for the Construction Industry, Winning Safety Performance, Planning For Success, and an association orientation titled Getting The Most out of Your CAWV Membership.

For recruiters, speakers focused on the skills that will allow both established and up-and-coming company representatives to succeed in the construction industry’s intricacies. Members attending the meeting left with knowledge that makes them a greater asset to their company and a better business person.

The BrickStreet Program is a continuum of keeping members up-to-date on what is happening in the construction industry and providing a platform to influence any policy issues. The ultimate goal of the BrickStreet Program is to creating a healthy construction industry for West Virginia. The Senate and House of Delegates in September to talk about the dile need to find additional funding for the state’s highway system. The CAWV is one of the founding members of WVBT, which has grown since 2007 to include over 300 supporting organizations and companies. Attendees heard about the major challenges facing the state’s transportation infrastructure nationwide and statewide and the impact of available funding. He also discussed the strides the state has made in creating a business-friendly environment and stabilizing cash flow, crediting improvements to the leadership of Governor Manchin, Chris Ferro, attorney with Stephe and Johnson and counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee, John Wilmore, director of the Senate Floor Session to discuss getting involved in the legislative process.

For recruiters, speakers focused on the skills that will allow both established and up-and-coming company representatives to succeed in the construction industry’s intricacies. Members attending the conference were provided updates on the state’s transportation projects as well as the outlook for state and federal funding. U.S. Representative Shelley Moore Capito addressed attendees along with Senator Jay Rockefeller, who provided a video message during the lunch. Advertising sponsors included: The Honorable Wirt G. Morgan, Governor of West Virginia; Senator Jay Rockefeller; Chairman, WV Department of Transportation Secretary Paul Mattix and FHWA Division Administrator Tom Smith. There was also a panel discussion about the importance of transportation in moving goods throughout West Virginia and the nation.

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MEMBERS ENJOY CAR SHOW AND OPEN HOUSE

Nearly 150 CWV members joined together in August to enjoy a car show at the association’s newly renovated headquarters. The CWV conference room, which has doubled in size, the renovated kitchen and the new ADA accessibility features were also on display during the car show. Gene Thompson’s 1968 Pontiac GTO won first place, and members could also see a variety of antique and classic cars along with newer models for members to view.

AML COMMITTEE EXPEDITES BID SCHEDULE

The CWV Abandoned Mine Lands Committee works with the WV Department of Environmental Protection on issues affecting the AML program and CWV members. This cooperation has helped expedite bidding, leading to about $15 million in water projects and about $23 million in AML projects in 2010. Committee members have focused this year on utility identification issues, getting design contracts approved and projects advertised for bid. The committee has also worked toward having all AML projects available for viewing in the CWV’s Physical Planroom and Internet Planroom (www.isqft.com).

BID PROCEDURES TASK FORCE ACTIVATED - NATIONAL GUARD TASK FORCE CREATED

A Bid Procedures Task Force was formed in 2009 to discuss issues with bidding procedures and the award process of state construction projects. The task force, which was created by the Joint Architects Committee, came up with several specific issues to focus on and discuss. CWV members have met with administration officials to establish how they will identify the areas of study. The task force will continue to meet to develop an action plan, study procedures and work to streamline the state bidding process.

The Joint Architects Committee also formed a task force to work with the WV Army National Guard on creating smooth bidding procedures for their robust facilities improvement program. The Guard’s current construction program totals $269 million and includes several large projects that are already under construction or have been completed. Also, they anticipate spending $108 million between 2010 and 2013 on construction projects with most of those projects going to bid in 2011. The Guard has long range plans of spending at least $109 million on construction beginning in 2014.

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