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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY JOB GROWTH IN WV RECEIVES NATIONAL ATTENTION

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WVDOT ADDS NEW ASPHALT FIELD TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION

The Asphalt Pavement Association of West Virginia has been working with the West Virginia Division of Highways over the last few years to create and launch a new technician certification program for asphalt paving. The new certification, Asphalt Field Technician, will ultimately be required for one or more persons on a paving crew. The WVDOT has not yet identified a date when the new certification will be required, but it is referenced in the current spec book and material procedures. The new class is now a part of the annual CAWV / WVDOT technician and inspector courses.

APA ENDOWS SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF DEAN BLAKE

The Asphalt Pavement Association, with support from the WV Crushed Aggregates Council, has formed the Dean Blake Memorial Scholarship. In 1979, Blake founded the Flexible Pavements Council of West Virginia, now known as the Asphalt Pavement Association. He passed away in 2011. The $50,000 endowment will support student education at West Virginia University’s College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

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The state of West Virginia's construction industry, through its campaign, is feeling the impact of a national economic recession, in the form of its own steady economic environment through the downturn. The West Virginia Legislative’s actions throughout the years have put West Virginia in better fiscal shape than nearly any other state in the nation. The same can be said for its construction industry. Due in large part to efforts made over many years by the Contractors Association of West Virginia, construction jobs are now more secure, and the industry is seeing downturns seen in other states and is forging ahead by showing signs of recovery.

West Virginia was the site of a national Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) news conference in September because the Charleston Metropolitan Statistical Area had the fifth highest growth rate for construction employment increase between July 2010 and July 2011 (2,300 jobs). We joined our national association to explain that it is clear that public investments in construction jobs, they are giving a much needed boost to the broader economy. Solid public investment programs show what's possible when our industry and the Legislature work together to address the challenging regulatory environment.

The CAWV has always planned for the future. Work continues through the association’s committees to streamline bidding processes and construction zones. The theme of the 2011 National Association show will be held March 21 and 22.

CAWV Legislative Committee Advances Members' Policy Initiatives

CAWV continues its policy to play a lead role on behalf of the construction industry in state government affairs. Public officials and lawmakers recognize that the construction industry has an economic impact much greater than its size. In every legislative session, CAWV members and staff for their expertise and resources on construction, transportation and infrastructure issues. CAWV members attended the event and presented all the several significant victories and opposed many bills that would have been detrimental for contractors. The association actively participated in a coalition to prepare for the future, the industry no longer has to plan for compliance with the one year 3 percent withholding mandate which was to be imposed in July 2011.

The influence of CAWV members on our West Virginia congressional delegation was obvious. The same can be said for members of AGC chapters nationwide. The bill to repeal the mandate would have had to pass one more hurdle to be withdrawn from all government contracts as a means to prevent tax evasion, was supported by all of the state’s Representatives and Senators and signed by the President in late November. Repeal has been a top priority at the CAWV Congressional Fly-in to Washington for many years. CAWV has a strong focus of making Washington aware of what is going on in the public buildings and infrastructure. This is something this association will continue to work hard to avoid, it will put people out of work, hurt our economy and cost taxpayers. That is because these public sector jobs aren’t just creating new construction jobs, they are giving a much needed boost to the broader economy. Solid public investment programs show what’s possible when our industry and the Legislature work together to address the challenging regulatory environment.

The CAWV has always planned for the future, a strategy which is paying dividends to our members and the state’s entire construction industry today. Solid public investment programs have become reliable parts of many members' bidding profiles over the years. Our work is never done. The CAWV and its staff are always working to keep people employed and projects moving. Work continues through the association’s committees to streamline bidding procedures, increase project competitiveness and encourage co-operation between owners and contractors and keep an ever watchful eye on legislation at the state and federal level. For these reasons the membership in the CAWV remains strong.

Despite having different specialties within the industry, all of the CAWV’s efforts share the same ultimate goal: Build a better West Virginia, now and in the future.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING DEBATE BEGINS IN WEST VIRGINIA

U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Rep. John Mica, along with Ranking Member Rep. Nick Rahall and committee member Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, kicked off a series of hearings and listening sessions in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The Young County Legislation Committee drafted a new highway bill. CAWV officers and staff joined other transportation system stakeholders to discuss the dire need for a long-term legislative focus to pursue the new federal Highway Act. The Senate has released details on a two-year reauthorization, and the House has announced it is working on a similar bill. The Senate provides provisions for increased energy exploration.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND VICTORY PROTECT CARS AND BUSINESSES

To address the challenging regulatory environment, the CAWV submitted comments to the U.S. EPA that have led to new water discharge limits. Those limits are addressing the major sources of pollution from construction sites. The CAWV joined AGC in arguing that a “one-size-fits-all” limit exceeds Clean Water Act requirements, would be impossible to meet, and would be beneficial for the industry. The CAWV told the U.S. EPA that the rule would require costly monitoring and reporting, increasing contractors costs and hurting businesses and stimulating employment growth.

CAWV COMMITTEE WORK ENHANCES IMPROVES CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

CAWV committees are the lifeblood of the association. Members work with state and federal officials to introduce and secure federal transportation funding bill, Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization and highway funding. To build mutual relationships and inspire additional members to seek out career opportunities and entering the construction industry.

The CAWV installed state-of-the-art teleconference equipment in 2010 and has been making use of the technology throughout 2011. Seminars have been offered on the topics of safety, ever increasing regulatory topics such as safety, construction law and environmental regulations. Members have also participated in new Web-based seminars and discussions and linked with our nation’s associations for updates on legislative issues.

WV CRUSHED AGGREGATES COUNCIL ELECTS CHAIRMAN

Doug Canterbury, Bosley, Lewisia, was elected chairman of the West Virginia Crushed Aggregates Council. He succeeds Ed Treadway, Pounding Mill Quarry Corp, who served as chairman since the organization’s inception in 1999. The WV Crushed Aggregates Council protects the interests of the state’s quarries. The Council, which meets periodically throughout the year, voted at its meeting held Feb. 15 to elect Ed Treadway for Better Transportation – a $5,000.00 donation.

WBTV GEARING UP TO PROMOTE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

Members worked with West Virginias for Better Transportation on forums and educational outreach. WVDOH, FHWA, U.S. EPA, WVBT, U.S. Department of Transportation, and WV Woolery Workshops attended and highly publicized Transportation Conference held in November. The group released their highway investments strategy and released several strategies designed to educate elected leaders and the public for need for additional funding for the state’s transportation systems. WVBT will culminate with the 2012 election cycle. The group intends to make transportation funding a major campaign issue and focus in the March 2012 election.

32nd ANNUAL EXPO IN THE BOOKS

The 2011 West Virginia Construction and Design Expo, Feb 22 to 23, 2011 at the Charleston Civic Center, featured 278 exhibitors with 423 indoor booths, plus outdoor exhibits; 83 educational programs and professional directory supported by 85 advertisers; 62 seminars and meetings and nine After Hours sponsors. The yearly event brought more than 5,000 individuals to the show from 30 states. The 2012 show will be held March 21 and 22.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PROTECT MEMBERS IN WASHINGTON

The American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) has worked through Washington, D.C. lobbying firm, Mintz & Hennessey, to gather and aggregate national association support for the Federal Highway Act. The association joined with WVDOH and FHWA to promote safety for the public traveling through and around areas prone to severe winter weather. Work Zone Awareness week, held in April, was “Safetier. Safer work zones. For everyone.” Interviews with local news outlets, garnering statewide attention for work zone safety.

ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PROGRAMS SAVE MEMBERS MONEY

CAWV members rely on the association for a full range of customized services and resources to increase their competitive edge. Programs have been designed to best serve the group and are available to all members.

BrickStreet Safety Program - Contractor members with a three year loss ratio of 65 percent or less may be eligible to receive a discount on their workers’ compensation insurance.

Enterprise Fleet Management - Discount pricing on vehicles and comprehensive fleet management programs.

Petroleum Products - Wholesale pricing on fuels, and access to fleet fuel tools and controls.

Staples Advantage - Reduced pricing, online ordering.

Verizon Wireless - Contractor members can receive 22 percent off monthly fees, discounts on equipment and services.

Full details on all the money saving programs are available on the CAWV’s website at www.cawv.org. In addition, further savings are available through AGC of America. Information about AGC’s programs is available through its website at www.agc.org/member_discounts. The program includes: discounts on newspaper subscriptions from General Motors and Ford, discounts on FedEx shipping as well as money saving programs from Dell, HP Direct, Red Rich, Intel Computers, Black & Decker, Home Depot, Allam Scottsmain, BP, Hertz, Avis and many more.

YOUNG CONTRACTORS FOCUS ON LEARNING, NETWORKING AND GROWING BACK

This has been a busy year for the association’s young contractors. The group began with a Day at the Legislature, where members met with their senators and delegates and witnessed a floor session. For the third year in a row, the CAWV Young Contractor Committee sponsored a competitive competition where groups build huge structures out of canned food. Their entry, a bulldozer, pro-

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The state of West Virginia through its construction industry is appearing to elevate the construction industry as a career option for young people. The West Virginia Construction Association (WVCA) and the Joint Cooperative Committee of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) have been working hard to create new construction jobs, they are giving a much needed boost to the secondary road paving program. Governor Tomblin introduced, and legislators approved, a legislative package that successfully supported additional bond authority to boost the secondary road paving program. WVCA members attended the event and provided nearly 2,000 pounds of food for Covenant House, a New York City homeless shelter for young people, during the 44th Annual Work Zone Awareness Week, held in April. Work Zone Awareness week, held in April, is “Safeter. Safer work zones. For everyone.”

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- Enterprise Flight Management - Discount pricing on fleet vehicles and comprehensive fleet management programs.
- Petroleum Products - Wholesale pricing on fuels, and access to fleet fuel tools and controls.
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- Full details on all the money saving programs are available on the WVCA website at www.wvca.org. In addition, further savings are available through AGC of America. Information about AGC’s programs is available through their website at www.agc.org/member_discounts. The program includes benefits such as discounts on travel, car rentals, and from consumer and state’s entire insurance needs.
- The joint Utility Committee continues working throughout 2011 to ensure projects with funding go to bid promptly. Working with various public officials and state agencies, members have engaged the West Virginia Infrastructure Council, the committee has expedited projects and streamlined bidding processes. The committee has also worked with the Tax Department to refine the Tax for public projects.
- Highway Division members have seen a reorganization of the School Board, a law related to the need for new construction. After meetings with the WV Division of Highways and the Federal Highway Administration, the committee was refocused into subcommittees, making the best use of both members’ expertise and time. Issues are now being studied more thoroughly, reported to an executive committee and addressed.

THE CAWV SAFER MOVES INITIATIVE

The CAWV Safety Committee has reformulated the annual Safety Awards, increasing the reach for the 2011 awards. The committee added new categories that highlight the value of safe work practices. Categories include "Safer driving. Safer work zones. For everyone." Work Zone Awareness week, held in April, is "Safeter. Safer work zones. For everyone."

MEMBERS HELP SPREAD SAFETY MESSAGE TO WORK ZONE SAFETY ISSUES

In April, the association joined with WVDOT and FHWA to promote safety for the public living through and around West Virginia. The event coincided with the West Virginia Work Zone Awareness week, held in April, was "Safeter. Safer work zones. For everyone."

TELECONFERENCING CAPABILITY BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES

The WVCA has been working hard to increase the construction industry’s visibility through the use of the technology throughout 2011. Seminars and workshops have been held to inform members on the latest development in the industry and also to discuss possible topics such as safety, construction law and environmental regulations. Members have also participated in numerous association related topics and linked with our national associations for updates on legislation issues.

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DETROIT EXPO TO SHOWCASE THE STATE’S INDUSTRY

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