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NEW ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PROGRAMS SAVE MEMBERS MONEY
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UTILITY COMMITTEE WORKS TO ADVANCE THE INDUSTRY
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SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAM GROWS AGAIN
The CAWV’s annual scholarship program continued its mission in 2012 by contributing a record of $12,000 to seven students pursuing careers in construction. This year’s top winner, Chris Robertson, a student at West Virginia University, was joined by six other recipients from Marshall University, WVU Institute of Technology, Fairmont State and Bluefield State College. The CAWV Scholarship Foundation also supports several career and technical schools each year. The Asphalt Pavement Association of West Virginia also presented scholarships, totaling $5,500, to two civil engineering students at West Virginia University interested in asphalt technology. The CAWV / AGC “Build Up” program, which exposes 5th and 6th grade students to careers in construction, has grown to become a part of the curriculum in 34 West Virginia counties.

JOINT COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE ANALyzES HIGHWAY ISSUES
The Joint Cooperative Committee, which joins members of the CAWV with the WV Division of Highways and Federal Highway Administration, worked through many issues that will benefit highway and bridge contractors. CAWV members participated in meetings and submitted comments regarding DBE goal setting. Significant revisions to the Value Engineering (VE) program that increase transparency and efficiency were introduced and evaluated. A joint density pilot program, with a focus on improving longitudinal joint durability, was continued and extended. In addition, the committee worked to have a proposal to add retention to mobilization put on hold while exploring alternatives to expedite project finalization. The committee addressed dozens of document changes that will be, or have been, incorporated into Special Provisions, the 2013 Supplemental Specifications, Standard Details, Design Directives and other documents.
There is no more frustrating feeling than knowing an issue exists that lim-its its ability to compete in business and knowing there is nothing one can do to affect change. The Contractors Associa-tion of West Virginia confronts these issues by joining members with their peers and contracting officials, addressing those issues in a forum that positively impacts the entire industry.

President Theodore Roosevelt best embod-ied the need for belonging to an association when he said, “Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere.”

The CAWV’s strength lies in not only its num-bers, but in the relationships formed and fostered in our meetings. I have been a member of the CAWV for a long time and have had the opportu-nity to participate in many meetings. Often issues arise that impact one or more of the CAWV’s three divisions—Building, Utility and Highway—but the solution is typically found in discussions at CAWV meetings, or a visit to a contracting official’s office. Our association has cultivated strong working relationships with most, if not all, state and federal contracting agency leaders, architects, engineers and legislators. Beginning a meeting with a group of contractors having the stated goal of improving the industry and ensuring a healthy bidding environ-ment creates a positive problem solving mentality grounded in mutual respect.

The CAWV provides value to the construction industry by bringing together the best of the best to address the issues and challenges we face. Task forces were formed in this year to target specific issues, including consumers sales tax ex-emption for Construction Management (CM) services, and bidding procedures and contractor requirements on West Virginia Conservation Agency projects. In addition, efforts targeted legis-lative initiatives aimed at creating a Buy Amer-i-can provision for public works construction contracts, studying highway funding and bid sub-mission requirements.

As we reflect on our many accomplishments throughout the past year, we must maintain a focus on the future. Despite having different spe-cialties within the industry, all of the CAWV’s ef-forts share the same ultimate goal: Building a better West Virginia.

I encourage every member to become in-volved in the association. Participating on a com-mittee, serving on a task force or attending an association outing will give you an opportunity to meet and network with your peers. More impor-tantly, it will give the CAWV the benefit of your in-sight and knowledge so that we can better address the issues that confront the construction indus-try now and in the future.

Sincerely,

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Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, later in the year, created the Blue Ribbon Commission on Highways which is comprised of legislators, associations, unions and state and local leaders in transportation and travel industries. The group is tasked with studying the condition and needs of the state’s transportation system and developing a long-term strategic plan of action. The plan will include funding options for the maintenance, construction and expansion of the state’s roadway system.

The CAWV successfully addressed a number of legislative issues during the session including a bill to modify the National Energy Codes, sub.contractor bid submission requirements, Buy American provisions on public construction contracts, a bond issue for state parks, and a requirement for separate prime bids on public contracts.

The CAWV makes taking legislative action easy, willingness to take a position highly involved in conference negotiations. A little known measure included in the final hours of negotiation prior to pas-sage of the federal highway bill had the potential to cut spending for the Aban-doned Mine Land program. The issue was championed by members’ will to work together, to support, maintaining funding to West Vir-ginia for the clean up of AML sites.

CAWV ADVOCACY EFFORTS: PROTECT INDUSTRY’S INTERESTS

The CAWV is respected by all branches of state, local and federal gov-ernments and industries. By professionally and effectively representing the concerns of contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and construction-related organizations, we work to ensure that elected and govern-ment officials understand the interests of the entire construction industry.

This year’s legislative session began on a transportation theme as 200 CAWV members and West Virginia’s congressional delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. to discuss concerns and issues with West Virginia’s congressional delegation. Association members talked about the need for passage of the MAP-21 federal transportation legislation that yields the need for belonging to an association when he said, “Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere.”

The bill consolidates many programs and keeps funding at the same level. The state is already highly involved in conference negotiations. A little known measure included in the final hours of negotiation prior to pas-sage of the federal highway bill had the potential to cut spending for the Aban-doned Mine Land program. The issue was championed by members’ will to work together, to support, maintaining funding to West Vir-ginia for the clean up of AML sites.

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This year’s legislative session began on a transportation theme as 200 CAWV members and West Virginia Transportation Coalition members visited the “Great Capitol.” The CAWV advocates for increased funding for West Virginia’s roads and bridges. House and Senate leadership spoke to groups and pledged to develop a comprehensive transportation plan.

Governor Earl Rain Tomblin, in the keynote address created a positive problem-solving mentality in public projects. The CAWV provides value to the construction industry by bringing together the best of the best to address the issues and challenges we face. Task forces were formed to target specific issues including consumers sales tax exemption for Construction Management (CM) services, and bidding procedures and contractor qualifications on West Virginia Construction Agency projects. In addition, efforts targeted legislative initiatives aimed at creating a Buy American provision for public works construction contracts, studying highway funding and bid submission requirements. As we reflect on our many accomplishments throughout the past year, we must maintain a focus on the future. Despite having different specialties within the industry, all of the CAWV’s efforts share the same ultimate goal: Building a better West Virginia.

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