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July/August 2023



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As President of the Contractors Association of West Virginia, James B. Ridgeway, president of March-Westin Company, Inc., Morgantown, had a goal to develop a program to foster future construction leaders. He created the CAWV Construction Leadership Program to maximize the leadership potential of young industry professionals while promoting construction career opportunities at the state's vocational technical education schools. To read more on the accomplishments of the 2022-2023 CAWV President, see page 8. Cover photo by Pat McDonald.

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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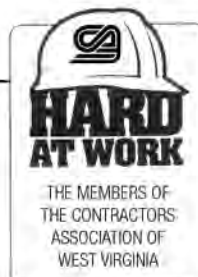
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The Road to Success is Always Under Construction

Jason Pizatella
Chief Executive Officer



If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: "The road to success is always under construction." Nowhere is this statement truer than right now throughout West Virginia. It was a busy summer across all facets of the state's construction industry. Someone recently asked me if the official state flower had been changed to the orange construction cone. While this individual was being facetious, the premise isn't that far off. In fact, our colleagues at the American Road and Transportation Builders Association reports that highway and bridge construction ramped up this summer across the United States. The total value of highway and bridge market activity was \$14 billion in July 2023, an increase of 12 percent compared to July 2022.


The graphic below shows the market activity year to date where the overall value of work is \$68.3 billion, up 16 percent over 2022. In addition to the heavy/highway division, most CAWV members in the building and utility divisions have also reported a very busy summer construction season. The state and federal legislative funding actions over the last two years are really starting to impact our communities.

Value of Highway & Bridge Construction Market Activity



Source: ARTBA Transportation Construction Market Intelligence Service, U.S. Census Bureau



Finally, the CAWV has also had a busy summer. The CAWV refreshed its website at www.cawv.org on July 1. The association has also begun sharing all the great things that our CAWV members have been working on through LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook. When you have a moment, check out the new and improved website and give us a follow on our various social media platforms. Our members and friends now have even more ways to show how much they are "Hard at Work." 

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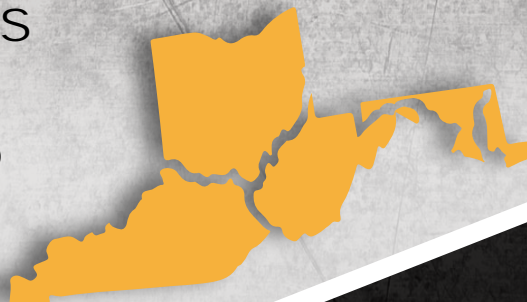


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2022-2023
CAWV PRESIDENT
**James B.
Ridgeway**



James B. (Jamie) Ridgeway began his career with March-Westin Company, Inc., Morgantown, in 1999 after graduating from West Virginia University Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. He served in a number of positions within the company, including vice president of operations for five years. He was named president in 2021. Phil Weser (2013-2014 CAWV President) formed March-Westin in 1984 as a full-service engineering, general contracting and design-build services company. Ridgeway says he has been able work up within the company thanks to Weser prompting him to accept many management responsibilities early in his career. Ridgeway says he has worked on a lot of “cool” projects since joining the company, including the 315,000-square-foot \$250 million Mountaintop Beverage facility in Morgantown.

"Construction is not for everyone," stated James Ridgeway, 2022-2023 CAWV President. "You have to get up early, work hard, and be prepared to put in the time needed if you expect to succeed in this business. You also have to have a passion to persevere through difficult situations."

Ridgeway graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from WVU Institute of Technology in Montgomery and joined March-Westin Company, Inc. in May of that year. He has served in several positions in the company, including project management, vice president of operations, and chairman of the firm's human resources, field education, and superintendent's committees. In 2021, he succeeded Phil Weser as March-Westin's president.

"Phil is a WVU Tech grad who would come to campus to interview students," Ridgeway recounted. "He started March-Westin in 1984 with \$2,000 and some tools. Today, the company has performed well over \$2 billion in construction projects. His goal was to bring one new engineer into the company a year. I was fortunate to be that person in 1999."

Ridgeway says he has been involved in a lot of "cool" projects over the years. One of his most notable is the just completed \$250 million Mountaintop Beverage facility in the Morgantown Industrial Park. The 315,000-square-foot state-of-the-art manufacturing plant will produce milk-based products using aseptic, shelf-stable processing.

Weser served as CAWV President in 2013-14. In a 2014 article in *West Virginia Construction News*, he said, "I started going to WVU Tech because I think kids there have a good work ethic. If they have an engineering degree, that's a good start. If you can find someone who had to work their way through college, and they get their MBA, you know they're pretty well rounded. If



James (Jamie) Ridgeway graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from WVU Institute of Technology and joined March-Westin Company in May of that year. In 2009, he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business with an Executive MBA. Ridgeway said the program was a great learning experience since it broadened his knowledge in accounting and finances.

they have a personality, even better."

In 2009, Ridgeway graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business with an Executive MBA. The course was held every other weekend for 18 months. The Pitt MBA program wants participants to have 13 years of experience before applying. Ridgeway was accepted in 2007 after only nine years of experience in the business realm. He credits Weser who prompted him to accept many management responsibilities at an early age.

"I took on things earlier in my career that I probably wasn't prepared for, but while there were growing pains, it accelerated my progression in the industry," Ridgeway remarked. "The MBA program was beneficial because it was a great learning experience since it broadened my knowledge in accounting and finances."

The White Sulphur Springs native is continuing this model with new hires to the company. Ridgeway seeks to recruit engineering graduates who have work experience, particularly working with their hands. He says he relies upon resumes and testing in determining an applicant's aptitude.

"You can be the smartest, most hard-working person, but if you don't know how to build, it will take you a while to contribute to the company," he emphasized. "Perseverance is absolutely critical because there will be something different every day, either in the office or on the job site."

Ridgeway feels fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to obtain a vast amount of experience in his first five years. It started with the initial waterfront redevelopment in Morgantown, what is now One Waterfront and the adjacent parking garage, then moved onto the Marriott Hotel and the Jackson Kelly Building. He moved to the WVU football stadium North Endzone Suites, followed up by finishing the Falcon Center at Fairmont State University.

Ridgeway stated that he has been involved in a lot of "cool" projects over the years. One of his most notable is the just-completed \$250 million Mountaintop Beverage facility in the Morgantown Industrial Park. The 315,000-square-foot manufacturing plant will produce milk-based products for several brand-name companies, as well as protein shakes, iced coffees, and plant-based beverages.



March-Westin Company, Inc. founder and president Phil Weser (right) and Jamie Ridgeway accept the Morgantown Area Partnership's Large Business of the Year award in April 2023. Weser is a WVU Tech grad who returned to campus with the goal of hiring an engineer into the company every year. Ridgeway, a mechanical engineering graduate, was that person in 1999.

"You can be the smartest, most hardworking person, but if you don't know how to build, it will take you a while to contribute to the company. Perseverance is absolutely critical because there will be something different every day, either in the office or on the jobsite."

The state-of-the-art facility won't be using the pasteurization process. Instead, the plant will use an aseptic sterilization process to produce shelf-stable and extended shelf-life dairy products. The processing equipment, accounting for about \$50 million of the facility's \$250 million construction costs, will heat the milk or milk product to 280 degrees for a few seconds and then flash cool it back down. An extended shelf-life packaging option will extend the shelf life of aseptic milk to roughly 60 to 70 days compared to a pasteurized product that will last 21 days. By combining the thermal process with the aseptic packaging that is sterilized, the shelf life of that fluid is now up to a year.

"We first met with the company's owners in January 2020, before the 'world

fell apart' due to the pandemic," Ridgeway recalled. "We met about every two weeks in our office for 12 months before the project was finalized. The project was on hold until financing was secured. One of the biggest challenges was the massive utility improvements needed on the site - water, wastewater and electric."

The first piece of vertical steel went up on December 30, 2021. Topping out

was a little over eight months. About 250 construction workers were on-site daily. Construction was completed at the end of December 2022 and production started in April 2023.

"The design was progressing well, then material prices skyrocketed," stated Ridgeway. "Bar joists became a scarce product, Amazon and Telsa were building massive facilities, consuming most of the joist capacity in the United States, so lead times and prices become a problem. Allegheny Design Services redesigned the roof structure using conventional wide flange steel and it was cheaper. March-Westin is in a unique position because one of our affiliated companies allows us to work faster."

Contracting Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC), Maidsville, is a steel fabrication company. CEC, an AISC Certified Building Fabricator, has fabricated steel for building projects in 17 states. CEC detailed and fabricated all of the structural carbon steel and stainless steel, as well as all stairs and stainless-steel process platforms.

The Mountaintop Beverage facility is designed to double in size, and March-Westin is scheduled to start a substantial part of that expansion this fall. CEC has developed a relationship with the project's architect and is supplying all structural steel and miscellaneous



The \$48 million Mylan Park Aquatic Center was constructed by March-Westin Company, Inc. in 2019. The facility is approximately 75,000 square-feet and features a 50-meter competition pool, seating for 1,200 spectators, family water park, an outdoor sun deck, a cardio fitness room, training space, locker rooms and multipurpose rooms for meetings and special occasions.

steel fabrication on a similar project in Cayuga, New York.

When Ridgeway started with March-Westin in 1999, the group of companies managed about \$20 million per year. Today that number routinely goes well over \$100 million. However, there are several companies within the March-Westin umbrella that are horizontally and vertically integrated. While most of the companies provide services on March-Westin projects, they bid as prime contractors and subcontractors to other contractors on projects March-Westin isn't involved with. These include CEC, Inc., and A. Durer, Inc. (ADI), a plumbing and HVAC contractor.

Ridgeway became involved with the Contractors Association of West Virginia early in his career. His first CAWV Midyear Meeting was in 2006. He has attended every Midyear Meeting except for 2008, the year his son, Collin, was born.

He and his wife, Cathleen, have two

children, Collin, 14, and McKenzie, 9. They met while attending Greenbrier East High School and were married in 2000. Cathleen has worked at March-Westin for 22 years in accounting. Ridgeway says they are a "tag team" for their kids. Cathleen coaches McKenzie's softball team while dad, Jamie, is involved with Collin's basketball programs.

The outgoing president got involved in CAWV with encouragement from another CAWV president.

"My first Annual Meeting was in 2003 and I became a member of the CAWV Joint Architects Committee," Ridgeway recalled. "I was driving home to Morgantown from my last MBA class in 2009 when David Alvarez (2009-2010 CAWV President) called to ask me to chair the committee. I've been involved with CAWV activities ever since."

The Morgantown contractor said all members should be active in the association's committee process.

"Participation by members is neces-



Jamie Ridgeway and his wife, Cathleen, met in high school. They have worked together at March-Westin Company since 2002. They are joined by son Collin and daughter McKenzie at the 2018 CAWV Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier.

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sary for growth for the association and the industry," he said. "On a personal note, those active in the process will see the fruits of networking with their peers and industry leaders. If you don't participate, you won't benefit. As president, I wanted to see two people from each member organization be active in committees."

The transition of the CAWV leadership team and getting the CAWV and members involved in the state's vo-tech schools to reach future workers in the industry were objectives for the outgoing president. March-Westin is very active in the vo-tech schools in north central West Virginia, frequently hiring students studying construction trades. Those hires are as important as college students graduating with an engineering degree, according to Ridgeway.

A major goal for the CAWV past president was to develop a program to foster future construction industry leaders.

"The Construction Leadership Pro-

gram (CLP) was created to maximize the leadership potential of young industry professionals," Ridgeway remarked. "The program's mission statement is to educate young professionals on leadership and the many facets of the construction industry. I am pleased that 30 young leaders participated in our inaugural program and that many attended this year's Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier to receive their certificates. I am confident they have accelerated the learning curve that will provide them long-term benefits."

(Editor's Note: See page 28 for more on the Construction Leadership Program.)

A *State Journal* Generation Next recipient in 2010, Ridgeway offered his keys to success at a CAWV Young Contractors Forum (YCF) panel forum held during the WV EXPO in March.

"Continue to learn by reading everything you can about the industry," the outgoing President shared with YCF members. "Everyone should have mul-

iple mentors who will teach you industry issues and provide career advice. In construction, you will have to work harder than in other industries. Make sure you listen to others. You don't have to always heed their advice, just listen," he offered.

"If you want to take on the responsibilities, there are no barriers to hold you back," he stated emphatically. "However, grit is the key. If you don't have grit, your life in construction will be tough. Don't worry about money. Focus on the task at hand and the money will come."

He concluded by encouraging YCF members to strive to always do the right thing.

"That's probably different for each company," Ridgeway said. "I will always be grateful to March-Westin and Phil Weser for allowing me to take charge of my career."



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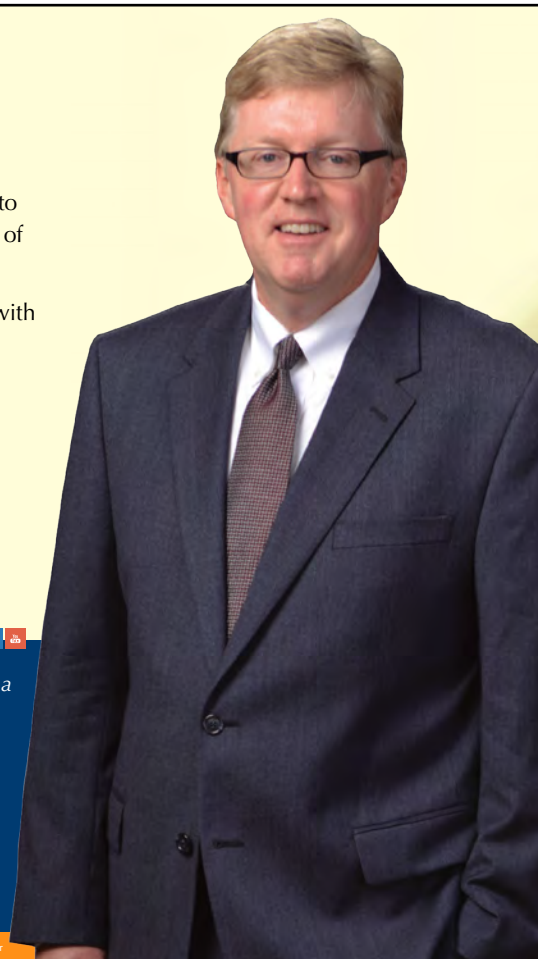
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Attorney Robert "Bo" Sweeney (licensed in WV) has a practice based in civil litigation, with a concentration in the defense of mesothelioma and asbestos claims, construction disputes and defending employers in deliberate intent suits.

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CAWV Celebrates CENTENNIAL YEAR in Grand Fashion

The CAWV Annual Meeting, held July 6-9 at The Greenbrier, focused on the association's accomplishments and history of the past 100 years.

Members attending the 2023 Annual Meeting celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Contractors Association of West Virginia. The four-day event, held July 6 – July 9 at The Greenbrier, culminated with a “Roaring Twenties” gala party attended by over 400 members dressed in 1920s attire.

On January 29, 1923, 40 contractors met at the Kanawha Hotel in Charleston to form the West Virginia Road Builders Association. The association adopted a new name in 1926, the West Virginia Contractors Association. The association became affiliated with the American Road Builders Association, now the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA). In 1939, the Associated General Contractors of West Virginia was formed with eighteen charter members. AGC of West Virginia became a chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC).

The present-day Contractors Association

of West Virginia was formed when the two organizations merged in 1970. The CAWV today is made up of more than 475 firms that perform and support commercial building, utility, industrial, highway, and heavy construction in the state of West Virginia.

“As members of the Contractors Association of West Virginia gather in White Sulphur Springs to celebrate our centennial anniversary, we are reminded of more than just the story of two fledgling trade groups coming together to form a powerful voice for the construction industry in the Mountain State,” CAWV President James Ridgeway told members. “Our motto is “Hard at Work,” and in our daily lives, we live by a code of ethics and standards that applies to every aspect of our businesses. To be a part of the CAWV is to recognize a standard of integrity and a desire to better our organizations, and the overall impact of their industry in the Mountain State through our collective voice.”

The Morgantown building contractor told members during the Saturday General Business Session that any time an organization reaches a key milestone like its 100th anniversary, it is important to reflect on and celebrate a history of significant accomplishments, but it is also vital to take stock of what is needed to make sure the organization remains relevant for the future. President Ridgeway introduced Immediate Past President Nate Orders, Orders Construction Company, who unveiled to members the book, “100 Years Hard at Work, The Centennial History of the Contractors Association of West Virginia.”

“We formed a committee in 2021 to plan a number of celebrations to commemorate the association's centennial,” Orders reported to members. “It was decided early on to chronicle the rich history of the construction industry in West Virginia and the two separate paths – one beginning in 1923 and the other in 1939 – that merge

into one with the union of the West Virginia Contractors Association of West Virginia and the Associated General Contractors of West Virginia in 1970.”

The committee recommended commissioning the writing of a book to Tom Hostage of Bespoke History in Northborough, MA.

“I was familiar with Tom from working on a book for the Orders family and one for the 50th year of Orders Construction Company,” said Orders, a fourth-generation contractor and the third Orders to serve as the association’s president. “My father, Bob Jr., was CAWV president in 1992-1993 and my grandfather, Bob Sr., was president of the AGC of West Virginia in 1970.”

Bob Orders Sr. was instrumental, along with Ken Dunn of the Kenneth M. Dunn Company, president of the West Virginia Contractors Association, in merging the two organizations. A major section in the CAWV’s centennial book deals with the merger.

“Tom interviewed over 40 individuals from a cross-section of the association including contractor and associate members, staff, and members of the civic and business communities throughout West Virginia as part of his research,” Orders commented. “He did a great job in telling, as Tom describes, ‘an evolutionary tale with peaks and valleys, main characters and heroes, all coming together as part of an upward trajectory that saw two fledgling trade associations merge and mature into one of the most respected and effective organizations of its kind in the nation.’”

The book, broken into four 25-year segments from 1923 to 2023, traces the CAWV’s origin which unfolds along



A record turnout of over 400 members and guests attended the 2023 CAWV Annual Meeting held July 6-9 at The Greenbrier.

the same timeline as that of the United States. It even includes some of the same historical figures, including the nation’s first president, George Washington. President Washington was convinced of the need to develop a road system to unite colonies and facilitate westward expansion, starting in the new capital and branching out into the unsettled territories west of the Appalachians. The CAWV centennial book highlights the first leg of the National Road which was completed in 1811 and terminated at the Ohio River in Wheeling, West Virginia.

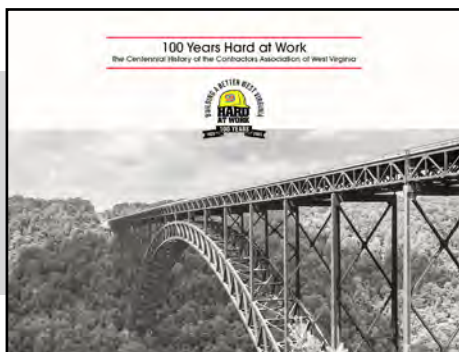
“Early association members were part of the generation that built West Virginia’s vast infrastructure of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, airports, dams, water and wastewater system,” noted President Ridgeway. “Today’s CAWV members are the generation whose responsibility it is to maintain and expand the state’s vital infrastructure system.”

Every member attending the Annual Meeting received a copy of the book.

Each member firm has received a copy and additional copies are available for \$100 from the CAWV. People can read “100 Years Hard at Work - The Centennial History of the Contractors Association of West Virginia” on the CAWV’s website at www.cawv.org.

Following the rollout of the centennial book, a panel consisting of members and former staff talked about the generation who built the association and offered their insights on how the next generation of construction industry leaders can provide the foundation for an even greater future.

Second and third-generation contractors on the panel included Diane Dailey, W. Harley Miller Contractors, Inc., Martinsburg, Leo A. Vecellio Jr, Vecellio & Grogan, Inc. and The Vecellio Group, Beckley and West Palm Beach, FL., and Bob O. Orders Jr., Orders Construction Company, Inc., St. Albans. Longtime members included Art King, Kanawha Stone Company, Nitro, Jim Ahern, Ahern & Associates,



The CAWV’s commemorative publication, “100 Years Hard at Work – The Centennial History of the Contractors Association of West Virginia,” can be obtained by contacting (304) 342-1166. The digital version can be viewed on the CAWV’s website at www.cawv.org.



The Saturday General Business Session included a panel consisting of members and former staff who talked about the generation who built the association and offered their insights on how the next generation of construction industry leaders can provide the foundation for an even greater future.

South Charleston, Andrew K. Teeter, USI Insurance Services, Charleston, and Nate Orders, Orders Construction Company, Inc. Former CAWV Executive Director Mike Clowser and former Asphalt Pavement Association Executive Director Pat Parsons rounded out the panel.

Each shared with fellow members how they became involved in the CAWV and how the association played a role in their success. They recalled their most memorable ex-

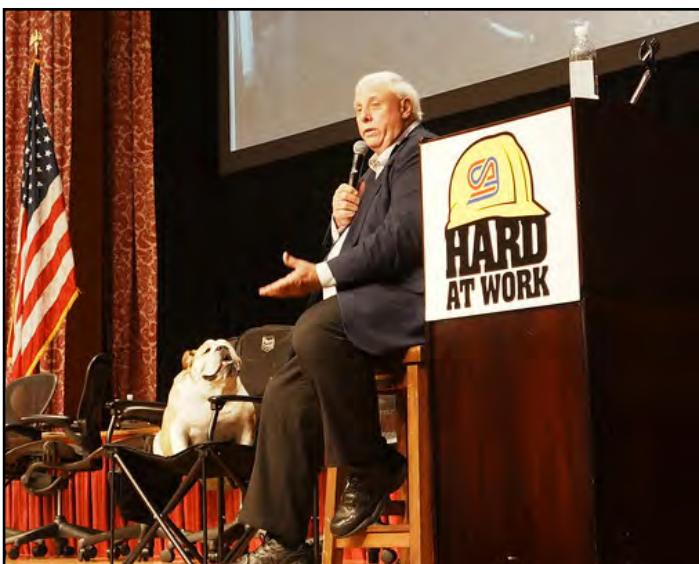
periences working in West Virginia's construction industry. Most importantly, they provided their learned experience to give advice to the next generation of contractors.

"The years of service to West Virginia's construction industry represented on this panel is unparalleled," stated President Ridgeway. "The association's first annual meeting at The Greenbrier Hotel was in 1950. We have met continuously since then, even during the pandemic in

2020 and 2021. Some of the panel members have been attending the Greenbrier meeting with their parents since the 1950s. Their dedication to this organization is greatly appreciated by everyone."

Governor Jim Justice, accompanied by Baby Dog, addressed members at the General Business session, expressing gratitude for their valuable contributions to enhancing the state's roadways, particularly mentioning their transformative work through the Roads to Prosperity Program. Gov. Justice, in his first year in office, promoted a \$1.2 billion road bond amendment and increased funding for the State Road Fund. Through historic state revenues, Gov. Justice has directed millions in surplus funding to improve schools, water and sewer facilities, and broadband infrastructure.

Gov. Justice also wrote a letter which is included in the centennial book. He wrote, in part, "Congratulations on your centennial anniversary of service to the construction industry in the Mountain State. Your distinguished history is a testament to not only your current members but the countless men and women who came before you who helped establish one of the most respected industry associations in the country. The buildings, utilities, and highways built by your members will support future generations for many years to come."



Governor Jim Justice, accompanied by Baby Dog, addressed members at the General Business Session, expressing gratitude for their valuable contributions to West Virginia's construction industry.

He concluded with, "Thank you for making the state of West Virginia the best place to live, work, play and raise a family. With my warmest wishes, here is to another 100 years of being "Hard at Work."

Over 400 members, one of the largest turnouts in recent years, attended this year's Annual Meeting which began with a reception on Thursday evening. CAWV member Chris Miller, Dutch Miller, Inc., and state Auditor J.B. McCluskey addressed the Board of Directors at their Friday meeting. Both discussed their campaigns to become the Republican candidate for Governor of the state of West Virginia. (J.B. McCuskey has since declared his intention to run for the office of Attorney General). 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, P.E., secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) and commissioner of the Division of Highways (WVDOH), who provided members with an update on the agency's construction

and maintenance program for 2023-2024. Joining Secretary Wriston this year was Alanna Keller, P.E., deputy secretary of WVDOT and deputy commissioner of WVDOH. The Building and Utilities divisions also met on Saturday morning.

INDUSTRY ISSUES DISCUSSED AT ANNUAL MEETING

President Ridgeway led Saturday's CAWV Building Division meeting and discussed important issues some members are facing. Division members were briefed on the activities of the various task forces. It was noted that the SBA will have over \$40 million for projects, and with Governor Jim Justice announcing another state budget surplus, that could possibly increase. Dave Ferguson, ZMM Architects and Engineers, Charleston, added that the SBA has been looking at project costs and has started working on updating the square foot cost of school projects.

Contractors, suppliers, and architects in the Building Division discussed the cost increases and supply-chain disruptions that have affected building

construction over the last couple of years. Although some materials have become more readily available, such as roofing components, prices are still very high.

Pat McDonald, CAWV chief operating officer, reported that the Equipment Operator Training Course at Camp Dawson is continuing to improve and the number of graduates that are being hired by CAWV members has continued to grow. McDonald noted that the Jobs and Hope Program is working towards the creation of a carpentry and masonry course that would also be held at Camp Dawson. Discussions have just begun with the program, but the hope is to have a course in place in early 2024.

CAWV Utilities Division Chairman Brandon Duriez, Snyder Environmental Services, Inc., led the Utilities Division meeting on Saturday. Division members were updated on industry issues concerning the length of time for payment. An engineering firm in attendance acknowledged that they are doing everything they can to expedite payments including timely review of the pay application and having owners



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West Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., congratulated the CAWV on its 100-year anniversary during the Saturday Highway/Heavy Division meeting. He discussed with members the \$3.9 billion in active construction projects across the state.

hold special meetings in order to process. Members discussed pre-setting the pay application dates for the entire year to get the contractor, owner, and funding agency all on the same page.

Other concerns addressed were the number of contractors for bidding due to limited resources. Members agreed that manpower is the most challeng-

ing issue at present affecting projects to bid. Open discussion regarding the Build America, Buy America requirements was that it is on the horizon, but no contractors are currently working on any projects affected by them.

The CAWV Highway/Heavy Division also met on Saturday. Division Chairman Jason Kitzmiller called the

meeting to order, provided opening remarks, and introduced West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., and Deputy Secretary Alanna Keller, P.E.

Secretary Wriston began by congratulating the CAWV on its 100-year anniversary and wished the best for





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Bob Brookover, John Crane, and Jay Stanislawczyk enjoyed the Saturday reception.



Melissa Lambert (center) smiles for a photo while chatting with Summer and Keith May.



CAWV members came dressed in their finest 1920s attire.



Brad and Kimberly Smith attended this year's Centennial Celebration.



Hundreds of members gathered on the Colonial Terrace for the President's Reception.



This year's event included a magic mirror photo booth provided by Shifoto Studios.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS GOSSES PHOTOGRAPHY

the organization moving into the next hundred years. Wriston continued discussing the \$3.9 billion in active construction projects across the state. Of that, \$191 million has been awarded to paving projects this year. The Secretary voiced his hopes to address the legislature in August and request additional funding for further paving. Including the money to be requested by the legislature, the Secretary said there would be approximately another \$180 million in paving projects let this year.

Secretary Wriston also discussed the bridge program and the requirements within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which requires 15% of the funding to be applied to non-state-owned bridges. These bridges, which are often owned by communities, cities, and towns, can qualify for 100% federal funding in order to pay for the projects. There are 88 bridges currently in the work plan that qualify for this program.

In addition to ongoing inflationary pressures and increases in interest rates, the Secretary discussed the state's revenues from 2023. Wriston said that while gas tax and vehicle

sales tax met the estimated revenues, vehicle registrations are substantially down for the year, bringing total revenues below the yearly estimate.

Secretary Wriston then reflected on details regarding the IIJA, noting the \$3.7 billion which West Virginia will receive and noting this September 30th will mark the close of the second federal fiscal year, 40% completion of this funding program. The Secretary also noted the recent rollout of the IIJA tracking tool. The tracking tool shows details on projects being conducted in West Virginia and funding received in West Virginia from both the IIJA as well as the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Secretary tied up his discussion with a request of the members of the audience.

"We've had a bit of brain drain in the Division of Highways over the past few years," the Secretary said, referring to the attrition of WVDOH engineers, inspectors, and technicians. The Secretary asked those in attendance to work with and help educate and teach the newer WVDOH staffers who are out on projects. The Secretary said that he is encouraging these

new inspectors to make decisions in the field and asked the audience to help them make the correct engineered decision to support the tax pay.

Secretary Wriston was asked about the status of Corridor H and whether the sections are still on track to be bid in late 2024. The Secretary confirmed that the road will be built, and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection will move past the ongoing issues with endangered species. Another question the Secretary addressed was the use of Design-Bid for WVDOH project delivery. The Secretary stated that Design-Bid moving forward will not be used on large projects unless approved by the executive group. However, in relation to smaller projects, Design-Bid will likely be utilized on smaller bridges, especially in the non-state-owned bridges.

ROARING TWENTIES GALA CAPS OFF CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The President's Banquet, which concludes the Annual Meeting, was a departure from previous events. The CAWV centennial committee chose the Roaring Twenties as the theme for

this year's closing banquet. Members dressed in 1920s attire which ranged from feather boas to fedora hats. Members entering the Colonial Ballroom, transformed into a speakeasy, were greeted by a 1928 Chevy truck supplied by CAWV member Garlow Insurance Agency, Inc.

The CAWV President's Award for Excellence was presented to Andrew K. Teeter, senior vice president for USI Insurance Services LLC, for his decades of service to the construction industry.

"Andy, as a member of the CAWV Membership Committee for years, has referred many contractor and associate firms for membership in the CAWV," said President Ridgeway in his presentation of this year's award. "In honor of his continued dedication to CAWV, the association renamed the long-standing \$100 referral credit members get for new members as 'Teeter Bucks.'"

"My first CAWV Annual Meeting was

in 1971," Teeter said in accepting the award. "I have only missed one meeting. The CAWV has been so beneficial to me in my career and I am grateful for the friendships that I have made. I thank you for this award," he said.

The CAWV Membership Recruitment Program rewards current members \$100 for new contractor members and \$50 for new associate members who join the association. Rewards can be used for meeting registrations and other CAWV events.

A major goal for President Ridgeway was to develop a program to foster future construction industry leaders.

"The Construction Leadership Program (CLP) was created to maximize the leadership potential of young industry professionals," Ridgeway remarked. "The program's mission statement is to educate young professionals on leadership and the many facades of the construction industry. I am pleased that 30 young leaders participated in our inaugural pro-

gram and that many are attending this year's Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier to receive their certificates. I am confident they have accelerated their learning curve that will provide them long-term benefits."

The Construction Leadership Program is for any member who is in a leadership role or could possibly be moving into a leadership position. The program is ideal for estimators, safety coordinators, operation managers, project managers, field resource coordinators, construction superintendents, and others in the construction field. The president introduced Patrick Garcia, project manager for March-Westin Company, Inc., to share his experience with the inaugural program. Garcia said the program provided an opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of bonding, leadership, conflict resolution, bidding, and other topics.

"The program afforded me the ability to sharpen my skills for my professional and personal life," Garcia told An-

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Joshua Camp (for winner Jeremy Summers), Jacob Stanislawczyk, Dave Madden, Lee Cooperrider, Chip Sweeney, and James Dailey IV were top golfers at this year's tournament. (Not pictured Tina Withrow.)



Owen, Jason and Tanya Kitzmiller and Leann Hamm were the winners of the trap and clays tournaments.



Stormy Brewster, Tanner Foster, and Brennan and Bryson Irons were the winners of the fishing tournament.



The Construction Leadership Program Class of 2023 graduates attended this year's event to receive their certificate.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS GOSSES PHOTOGRAPHY

nual Meeting participants. "I hope you will provide young people in your companies the opportunity to participate in future CLP courses. I appreciate Jamie (Ridgeway) and Matthew (Bourne) giving me this opportunity."

Outgoing CAWV President Ridgeway thanked members for their hard work throughout the year and introduced his successor, Tim Spradling, president of Benchmark Construction Company, Inc.

"I was 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 for their help and support."

He said his goals included facilitating a new transition team for the association and getting members to sign up to serve on a committee.

"Committees are where leadership begins in this association," he said. "In

2003, I joined the Joint Architects Committee and worked my way to serving as your president this year. 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."

CAWV's 2023-2024 President Tim Spradling, president of Benchmark Construction Company, Inc., Hurricane, thanked the outgoing president and praised him for his year of service to the association.

Spradling grew up in St. Albans and graduated in 1990 from West Virginia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business management. He said that although he will be CAWV president, he could not do any of it without the help of his wife, partner, and best friend, Dawn.

Spradling has grown up in the CAWV. He and his father, the late Ron Spradling, were co-owners of Rover Construction until 2013 when the elder Spradling retired. Ron Spradling was a long-time and active member of the

CAWV and served as president in 1997-1998. Tim and Dawn have owned Benchmark Construction since 2000. Their daughter, Morgan, is a 2016 graduate of Marietta College and is an accountant with Caterpillar, Inc., and son, Matt, is a 2018 graduate of West Virginia University and works as a project manager, estimator and safety manager for Benchmark. Matt is co-chair of the CAWV Young Contractors Forum (YCF).

"Jamie participated in committee and task force meetings to guarantee that the CAWV's opinions and recommendations were communicated loud and clear," stated the new president. "Jamie worked to make sure the CAWV finances were strong, and he was instrumental in starting the first Construction Leadership Program for our members. Not only the leaders of the company, but also their up-and-coming people, will benefit by strengthening their ability to provide services and resources to their customers. The association appreciates all the hard work Jamie did on behalf of our members and our industry," President Spradling said.



The CAWV President's Award for Excellence was presented to Andrew K. Teeter for his decades of service to the construction industry and the association. In honor of his continued dedication to CAWV, the association renamed the long-standing \$100 referral credit members get for new members as 'Teeter Bucks.'



Outgoing CAWV President Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Inc., congratulated incoming President Tim Spradling, Benchmark Construction Company, Inc., and welcomed him as his successor. Spradling recognized Ridgeway's efforts in committee activities and creation of the Construction Leadership Program.

The association's new president outlined his priorities for the upcoming year using the acronym "TIME": Technology, Infrastructure, Membership, and Engagement.

"We will invest in the latest technology to communicate the CAWV's and construction industry's value to get young people into our industry," he said. "Our infrastructure will be an adequate facility to meet the needs of our members. We will put an emphasis

on membership by engaging current members and driving new members to our organization. We will work to get members to get their young leaders engaged in CAWV functions and committees."

"I thank the members who made the 100th centennial celebration a success," the president concluded. "If you haven't gotten a copy of "100 Years Hard at Work, The Centennial History of the Contractors Association of

West Virginia," make sure you do. You will be impressed."

To see this year's event sponsors, as well as view more photos of the event, see page 26 or visit www.cawv.org.

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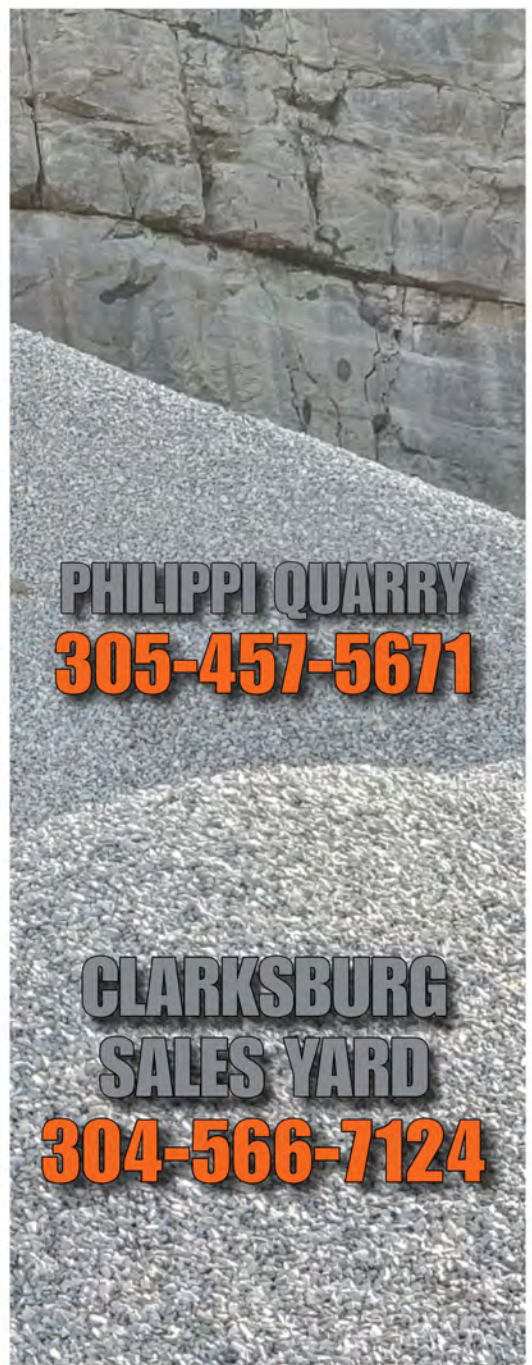


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The CAWV Construction Leadership Program was created to educate young and newer professionals on the many aspects of the industry, as well as enhance their leadership skills.

2022-2023 President James Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Inc., had a vision to create a leadership program for younger and newer professionals in construction. With his vision, the CAWV worked to create and facilitate the Construction Leadership Program (CLP) to educate members on the many perspectives and tools of the construction industry.

The program focuses on maximizing the leadership potential of industry leaders to benefit them personally and professionally.

The program kicked-off in January 2023 where participants met every other Thursday until the end of June. Courses were held in various locations across the state.

The courses featured several introductory speakers who talked about their career paths, as well as the opportunities and risks they had taken along the way.

Each course had an icebreaker activity, where participants worked alongside one another and created working relationships.

The class heard from dozens of speakers on topics that covered essential leadership skills and the basics of the

construction industry.

CLP participants attended the CAWV Annual Meeting to receive their certificate of completion during a graduation ceremony held during the CAWV Centennial Celebration on Saturday, July 8.

The following is a recap of the courses that comprised the 2023 program:

WELCOME AND LEADERSHIP
HERB FAULKENBERRY
OGLEBAY RESORT

2022-23 President James Ridgeway welcomed young leaders to the first course of the program.

"Today the CAWV is starting a new path to help you, our future leaders, to improve your skills as a professional in the construction industry," President Ridgeway told participants. "I'm excited for this journey and look forward to you growing and developing relationships over the next few months."

Herb Faulkenberry, vice president of sales marketing at Oglebay Resort and Conference Center, covered the importance of a leadership role and the five key points of a strong leader. He discussed the five essential elements of leadership, five important

roles of leadership, and seven important qualities a leader carries.

STRENGTH ASSESSMENT
GUY GAGE
PARTNERS COACH

CAWV Senior Vice President Tim Spradling, Benchmark Construction Company, Inc., welcomed attendees and led the class with an icebreaker activity that focused on the importance of networking with fellow industry leaders.

Guy Gage, Partners Coach, covered the four dimensions of behavior and where class participants fell into each category. Gage then presented behavioral strengths and challenges and how behavior can change under stress. The conclusion of the class covered how to lead, delegate, and assist others based on their characteristics as well as ways to navigate through challenges.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS
CHUCK STUMP
THE PERFORMANCE GROUP, INC.

CAWV Education Committee Chair Tia Reppert, Bear Contracting, LLC, introduced Chuck Stump to participants.

Chuck Stump, The Performance Group, Inc., led the discussion about the importance of communications in



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Each course had an icebreaker activity, where participants worked alongside one another and created working relationships.

The class heard from dozens of speakers on topics covering essential leadership skills and the basics of the construction industry.

the construction industry, the cost of miscommunication, common troubles of thorough communication, and ways to manage chaos. The participants worked through many interactive exercises to see the importance of precise communication and ways to manage chaos in real-life examples.

HUMAN RESOURCES

MELISSA PRICE & KATIE COBBS
BROWN EDWARDS

CAWV Utilities Division Director Scott Pierson, Triton Construction, Inc., attended the event and spoke about the history of his career path in the construction industry.

Melissa Price and Katie Cobbs, Brown Edwards and Company, LLP, gave an overview of the successful ways to interview applicants, the importance of employee handbooks, performance improvement plans, evaluations, methods of counseling employees, and when disciplinary action notices should be documented along, with many other key points.

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STEPTOE AND JOHNSON, PLLC
BO SWEENEY
JENKINS FENSTERMAKER, PLLC

Alex Wolfe, Wolfe's Excavating, LLC, was the introductory speaker for this class. Wolfe spoke about how he started in the construction industry, the challenges he experienced, and the decisions he made for a successful business.

Tammie Alexander, Steptoe & John-

son, PLLC, and Bo Sweeney, Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC, gave an overview of basic contract principles, terms of contracts, enforcing and amending contracts, implied contracts, and resolving disputes.

ETHICS

JIM STRAWN
JIM STRAWN AND COMPANY

CAWV's Utility Division Chairman Brandon Duriez, Snyder Environmental Services, Inc., attended the event and spoke about his path in the construction field and gave advice on successful leadership.

Jim Strawn, Jim Strawn and Company, spoke about becoming an agile leader.

After the course, Young Contractors Forum co-chairs Nathan Harvey and Matt Spradling invited four CAWV members to discuss their paths in the industry and their involvement with CAWV.

The CLP class, as well as other CAWV members, heard from Adam Burkhammer, A.J. Burk, LLC, C.R. Neighborgall, IV, Neighborgall Construction Company, James Ridgeway, March-Westin, Inc., and R.J. Williams, Reclaim Company, LLC. The member panel discussed the beginning of their construction careers, their industry path, successes they are proud of, their efforts to balance personal life with their professional careers, and the benefits of being part of CAWV.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

ADAM KRASON
ZMM ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS

John Jarrett, Jarrett Construction

Services, Inc., introduced the course speaker and spoke about his career path in the industry and the choices he made to create a successful company.

Adam Krason, ZMM Architects and Engineers, had an extended, in-depth discussion about the importance of contract documents and the steps to take during the progression of a project from start to finish.

BIDDING

GENE THOMPSON
GET CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS

Rich Stone with Stone Paving, Inc. welcomed the participants and spoke about his vision of his career path while in college and how that transformed into a path in the construction industry.

Gene Thompson, GET Construction Solutions, spoke in an extended discussion on the bidding process. Thompson discussed common bid delivery methods, contract types, bidding techniques and procedures, and costing types.

BONDING

JEREMY KAUFFMAN
WESTFIELD COMPANIES
GREG GORDON
MCGRIFF INSURANCE

Andrew Teeter, USI Insurance Services, LLC, attended the event and spoke about his path in the insurance industry.

Jeremy Kauffman, Westfield Companies, and Greg Gordon, McGriff Insurance Services, Inc., spoke about insurance and bonding. They discussed the relationship between the agent and the surety, types of bonds, joint ventures, and claims.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

JOHN CALLCOTT
STEPTOE AND JOHNSON, PLLC

Jason Jackson, Kokosing Construction Company, Inc., spoke to participants about his college experience, the challenges and opportunities of acquiring a job after graduating, and the career path that he currently is on.

John Calcott, Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, spoke specifically about the do's and don'ts during conflict resolution and the important key essentials during negotiation.

CONSTRUCTION FINANCIALS

BRANT MOORHEAD
THE RODEHEAVER GROUP P.C.

Matthew Bourne, March-Westin Company, Inc., spoke about the influential humbling experiences that stayed with him throughout his career path to help him become a successful leader.

Brant Moorhead, The Rodeheaver Group P.C., spoke about key factors that construction leaders must know and understand about financials in the construction industry.

RISK MANAGEMENT & WORKERS COMPENSATION

ALLAN WILLIAMS
ENCOVA INSURANCE
KRIS TAWNEY AND CLAY MEDLEY
TAWNEY INSURANCE AND SAFETY SOLUTIONS

Pat Parsons, former executive director of the Asphalt Pavement Association of West Virginia, spoke about the key factors for success in the construction industry.

Allan Williams, Encova Mutual Insurance Group, along with Kris Tawney and Clay Medley, Tawney Insurance and Safety Solutions, discussed hazards versus risks, workplace injury costs, calculating workers' compensation premiums, class rates, cost reduction opportunities, importance of reporting, and claims control.

Registration for the Class of 2024 will open in October 2023. Contact (304) 342-1166 for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023

Brittany Adkins
K&N Contracting, Inc.

Gavin Adkins
Triton Construction, Inc.

Evan Bailey
West Virginia Paving, Inc.

Tanner Belt
J.F. Allen Company

Will Bowman
Persinger & Associates, Inc.

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Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal Co. of WV

Amy Childress
Swope Construction Company

Andrew Cunningham
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Hillary Dean Strawser
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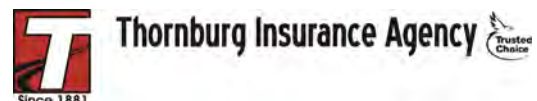
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The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT) celebrated the continued success of Gov. Jim Justice's Roads to Prosperity highway and bridge construction and maintenance program on September 6, 2023, as contractors lifted the main span of the new Donald M. Legg Memorial Bridge into position in Nitro. The main span, five beams wide, 11 feet tall, and 314 feet long, was pre-assembled and lifted into place from a barge in the middle of the Kanawha River. The section of bridge weighs about two million pounds. Contractors on the project are Brayman Construction Corporation, Saxenburg, Pennsylvania, and Trubull Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

■ Nearly \$14 million is being dispersed among four West Virginia airports with funding from the FAA's Airport Improvement Program (AIP). U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that \$13,913,818 from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be handed out for improvements to be made at four West Virginia airports: Greenbrier Valley Airport, Morgantown Municipal Airport, Tri-State Airport, and North Central West Virginia Airport...

■ **Kanawha Stone Company Inc., Poca, was low bidder on a project to build part of the Beckley Z-Way bypass between Beaver and South Eisenhower Drive, with a bid of \$56.8 million.** The West Virginia Division of Highways recently awarded 16 major paving

contracts. This year's WVDOT paving schedule includes \$195 million in federal highway funding. That money includes \$75 million to pave about 170 miles of two-lane state and U.S. routes and another \$120 million or so to pave more than 45 miles of interstates and expressways. **SMH Construction Company Inc., Beckley, was low bidder on a project to replace the Paint Creek Arch Bridge, with a bid of \$1,807,363.** **Pritchard Signal & Light Company, Scott Depot, was the low bidder on a traffic signal project on Vermillion Street in Athens, with a bid of \$297,996...**

■ **Gov. Jim Justice signed House Bill 124 officially designating the state's 36th state park, Summersville Lake State Park.** The Governor was joined for the celebration by hundreds of excited West Virginians on the site of the future park, just off US-19 in Nicho-

las County. The 177-acre property on the northern shore of Summersville Lake will soon be transformed into one of the nation's premiere outdoor adventure parks. Some outdoor recreational opportunities were opened to the public immediately following the ceremony...

■ **Friends of the Cheat aims to have three miles of the Cheat River Rail-Trail open in 2024.** FOC has grant funding to do construction of this three-mile first phase of trail expansion, from the trailhead north toward Kingwood, said Associate Director Owen Mulkeen. FOC has a partnership with the state Department of Transportation's Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities, which is fixing the first three bridges on that section of the trail — across Big Heather Run, Little Heather Run and Morgan Run...

■ **Construction is underway on a new interchange to serve a massive economic development project in Boone County.** On, Oct. 28, 2021, Governor Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Highways announced a construction contract to build a new interchange on Corridor G at Rock Creek to provide access into the Rock Creek Development Park in Boone County. **Triton Construction Inc., St. Albans, bid \$19,547,500 for the project, which was significantly lower than the engineer's estimate for construction...**

■ **Three major transportation project contracts, including two bridge replacements, were awarded recently by the West Virginia Division of Highways, with funding provided by Gov. Jim Justice's Roads to Prosperity program.** The WVDOT announced the Princeton Overhead Bridge replacement in Mercer County was awarded to **Orders Construction Compa-**

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CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS


ny Inc., St. Albans, with a bid of \$13,783,546. The Hedgesville High School Bridge replacement in Berkeley County was awarded to **Kinsley Construction, Inc.**, York, Pennsylvania, with a bid of \$1.14 million. A paving project on U.S. 19 in Fayette County from Appalachian Drive to the New River Gorge Bridge, was also awarded to **West Virginia Paving, Inc.**, Dunbar, for \$24,346,649...

■ **Work is proceeding on the new Grant Street Bridge which will give East End and North Side neighborhoods a route to the rest of the city of Bluefield and beyond.** The original Grant Street Bridge, which was built in 1941, connected East End and North Side residents with Princeton Avenue and the downtown area. It was closed in June 2019 when it failed a state

safety inspection. A community campaign calling for a new bridge was eventually successful. In October 2020, Gov. Jim Justice announced a \$10 million grant for the project. The contractor on the project is **Brayman Construction Corporation** of Saxonburg, Pennsylvania...

■ **The new aviation maintenance training facility for Pierpont Community & Technical College** will be located inside the West Virginia AeroTech Park, according to North Central West Virginia Airport Director Rick Rock. The Legislature recently approved a supplemental appropriations bill that includes \$25 million to fund construction of the facility to allow for expansion of Pierpoint's popular Aviation Maintenance Technology program...

■ **After more than two years of construction, the new Stratton Elementary School** is just days away from opening its doors to its first group of students and staff. Contractor on the \$20 million project is **Swope Construction Company**, Bluefield. The facility was designed by **ZMM Architects and Engineers**, Charleston...

■ **Marshall University in Huntington has received \$45 million from the state of West Virginia** for a new Institute for Cyber Security. The new facility will be about 78,000 square feet and will have 13 labs, among which will be six cybersecurity labs for training purposes, an industrial control systems lab, an internet of things lab, and an open source lab. Demolition on the site recently began. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2024. 



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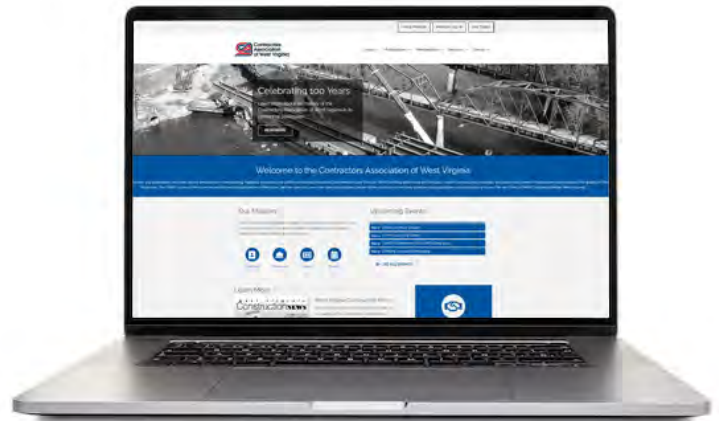
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The CAWV is proud to invite you to view its new and improved website. For the past 100 years, CAWV has successfully supported West Virginia's construction industry. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the association gave its website a fresh new look to kick off the next century. The new site provides much of the same information as the previous site including event details, news, links, and everything else members have come to expect online from the CAWV.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

J.F. Allen Company announces promotion of Tyler Beaty

BUCKHANNON, WEST VIRGINIA - J. F. Allen Company, has announced the promotion of Tyler Beaty to the position of Vice President, Construction and Engineering. Beaty has been with the company for the past ten years, beginning his career as a project engineer in the Quarry Division. Since then, he has held various roles including Quality Control, Engineering, Project Management, and Estimation. He played a pivotal role in the development of J.F. Allen's next generation of leaders and the expansion of their nongovernmental business sector. In his new role, Beaty will be responsible for all Construction and Engineering activities in support of the company's road construction, site development, utility, and quarry divisions.



Beaty

Beaty is a registered Professional Engineer with a Master of Science from West Virginia University and holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Chelsea, reside in Buckhannon, West Virginia with their three children, Noah, Lucas, and Natalie.

Neighborgall Construction announces promotions

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA - The Neighborgall Construction Company has announced two promotions at the Huntington-based building contracting firm. Donald Bates will serve as Senior Vice President. Bates has been in the construction industry for over 30 years starting at Neighborgall Construction in 1990. His experience through a variety of roles as a project clerk,

assistant project manager, project manager, safety director, and estimator through the years provides leadership, insight and critical industry knowledge for the company. Additionally, he utilizes his Computer Science Degree from Marshall University to oversee the IT needs within the company.



Bates

Ryan Mayo has been promoted to Vice President of the company. Mayo joined Neighborgall Construction in 2022. A professional engineer, he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Marshall University and a master's degree in engineering from North Carolina State University. Prior to joining Neighborgall, his experience and leadership skills included project management as a military officer in the U.S. Army Reserves for 10 years in the U.S. and overseas as well as civilian employment in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as Chief of Project Management.



Mayo

Three inducted in West Virginia Business Hall of Fame

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA - The West Virginia Business Hall of Fame inducted three state business leaders during a ceremony held at the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting in August at The Greenbrier. The 2023 class is composed of CAWV members Fred D. Clark, CEO and corporate secretary of IVS Group, and Rusty Hutson Jr., CEO of Diversified Energy Company; and John Ebert, owner of J.W. Ebert Corporation.

The West Virginia Business Hall of Fame is hosted by the John Chambers College of Business and Economics at West Virginia University to recognize people with strong West Virginia ties who have made a significant impact on the business landscape.

Fred D. Clark is a 1971 graduate of Williamstown High and was awarded a National Merit Scholarship to attend West Virginia University. He is a 1974 summa cum laude graduate and received his Juris Doctorate from West Virginia University College of Law in 1977. Following law school, he worked as a law clerk for the United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and also as a law clerk for the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia.



Clark

From 1980-1994 Clark engaged in the general practice of law in Charleston and served as corporate counsel to IVS. In 1995 Clark began working solely on behalf of the IVS business enterprises, which included industrial services in chemical, plastics, power generation, and related industries, as well as construction-related projects in the highway construction business sector. Clark has also been corporate secretary and a stockholder of IVS Hydro, Inc. since its incorporation in 1972.

Clark acquired the majority of IVS ownership in 2000 and began an expansion of its operations. The company grew from 60 employees in 2000 to more than 300 employees in 2023. Growth has included the addition of environmental and hazardous operations and emergency response services to various industrial and municipal customers.

Rusty Hutson Jr. is a fourth gen-

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

eration of Hutsons to work in the oil and gas industry, with family roots dating back to the early 1900s. After graduating from Fairmont State University with a degree in accounting, Hutson spent 13 years in the banking industry, progressing into leadership roles at well-known institutions such as Bank One and Compass Bank, and concluded his banking career as CFO of Compass Financial Services.



Hutson

Hutson established Diversified Energy in 2001 and his team quietly took the company public in 2017 on the AIM growth market of the London Stock Exchange. Since going public, Diversified has acquired nearly \$2.7 billion in upstream and midstream assets with net daily production of approximately 150,000 barrels per day of oil equivalency.

The rapid growth of Diversified's asset portfolio has allowed it to ascend to the premium listing on the London Exchange, as well as an FTSE 250 inclusion.

John Ebert is a 1982 graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a degree in accounting. Following graduation, he went to work for Arthur Young & Company in Dallas. In 1988 Ebert was accepted into the McDonald's training program as a registered applicant to purchase



Ebert

a McDonald's franchise. He purchased his first store with his father in 1990 in Bridgeport. Ebert and his wife Cindy now own 40 McDonald's franchises and are the 11th largest operation in the U.S. McDonald's system.

Ebert won the Golden Arch Award in 2000 and 2002, which is presented to fewer than one per-

cent of McDonald's owners and operators. In 2016 Ebert received the Al Golin Brand Trust Award, which is presented to one operator in the entire McDonald's system.



MARCH-WESTIN
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March-Westin receives Morgantown business award

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA—March-Westin Company, Inc. is the recipient of the Morgantown Area Partnership's Large Business of the Year. The award was presented at the organization's annual dinner in April attended by about 600 business leaders celebrating the accomplishments of the local business community. The Morgantown Area Partnership works alongside businesses and government to attract and retain business in the area and to create collaboration among public, private and partnerships.



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March-Westin founder Phil Weser, in his acceptance speech, said, "I really didn't have big aspirations at all, I just wanted to be happier than working for somebody else." All the money they made went back into the company, he said. "I wanted to see if I could be nice and still be a general contractor and treat everybody with respect - your employees, your clients. I was quite an idealist. Here we are, almost 40 years later and it worked." A couple of years ago Weser calculated they'd done \$2 billion locally in the local area on 4,000 projects. "It got way bigger than I thought it would." Now 72, he said, "I probably should have retired several years ago. But I like the people that I go to work with, it's like a big family."



Southeastern Equipment opens South Charleston branch

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Southeastern Equipment Company's newest branch is now open and ready to serve the South Charleston, West Virginia community. Customers can buy new and used equipment, rent machines, purchase parts, and get service for their light and heavy construction equipment. The new Southeastern location services the greater Charleston area and the surrounding counties to provide equipment support. The South

Charleston branch is located at 1000 Kramer Street. Customers in West Virginia can also access service at the company's Marietta, Ohio and Gallipolis, Ohio locations.

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