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# Construction**NEWS**

May/June 2023

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CAWV Congressional Fly-In  
WV EXPO 2023  
AIA Design Awards







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On the cover



Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and reform to the permit process for construction projects were top priorities at the May 17 CAWV Congressional Fly-In. Cover photo shows the \$16 million Yeager bridge painting project on I-64/77 by the West Virginia Parkways Authority. The bridges, the northbound to be painted gold and the southbound blue, feature a two-coat polyluxane system that yields a quicker application while extending the surface life. The project began March 2022 with completion scheduled for October 2023. HNTB Corporation is the project engineer. To read more on the CAWV's meetings with West Virginia's congressional delegation on issues affecting West Virginia contractors and future construction projects, see page 8.

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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## Recent Activity in Washington, D.C. Benefits West Virginia

**Jason Pizatella**  
Chief Executive Officer



The Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) has a long history of making its presence known in and around Washington, D.C. It's no secret that Senator Joe Manchin III and Senator Shelley Moore Capito had significant influence over the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in November 2021. Thanks to their leadership, West Virginia was a big winner in the federal infrastructure sweepstakes.

The ongoing IIJA implementation dominated the discussion throughout the Transportation Construction Coalition meeting on Capitol Hill earlier this year. The annual CAWV "fly-in" to the nation's capital coincided with this meeting where CAWV members met with Senators Manchin and Capito along with Congresswoman Carol Miller and Congressman Alex Mooney. We discussed the need for federal permitting reform, the future of the Highway Trust Fund, and the overall impact of the construction industry in West Virginia.

The timing of the CAWV visit to Washington proved fortuitous. With the assistance of our national trade associations, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), Congress passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 just a few weeks later. There was a lot for the industry to like in this bipartisan bill. This legislation, sometimes referred to as the "debt ceiling deal" because it avoided a default of the credit rating of the United States government, included a list of industry-backed reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act. These reforms represent the most significant changes to the federal environmental and permitting review process in over forty years.

The bipartisan debt ceiling bill also included a provision aimed at putting final completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline on the fast track. The legislation ordered federal agencies to complete the remaining environmental permitting process for the project as well as placing federal court jurisdiction over challenges to the permits in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Completion of this pipeline is good for the construction industry and good for West Virginia.

Another long-awaited industry win came in the form of the recent unanimous decision from the United States Supreme Court in *Sackett v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*. This case involved the infamous, and ever-changing, "waters of the United States" rule. AGC and ARTBA submitted briefs that closely aligned with the high court's ultimate decision in the case both which was to roundly reject the use of the flawed "significant nexus" test for determining when projects require a federal permit and establishes a new test for evaluating wetlands under this standard.

These positive results are among the many benefits of CAWV membership. 



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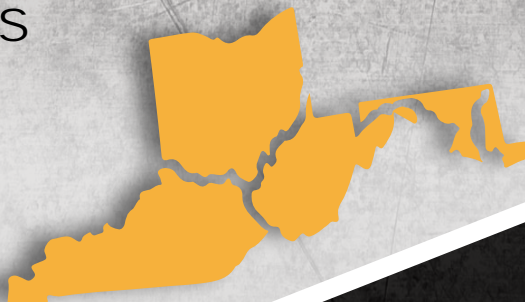


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# Permitting Reform Top Issue at CAWV Congressional Fly-In



The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is the most significant investment in the nation's infrastructure in decades and funding will help stabilize and enhance West Virginia's infrastructure. This was the message CAWV members presented at this year's CAWV Congressional Fly-In to Washington, D.C., held May 17, 2023 in conjunction with the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) annual meeting. Hundreds of construction, engineering, highway, and transportation representatives from around the nation attended this meeting and other functions around Capitol Hill.

CAWV's delegation was led by CAWV President James Ridgeway, president of March-Westin Company, Inc., Morgantown. This was the 33rd annual fly-

in but the first held since West Virginia lost a congressional seat following the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 census. West Virginia had six house districts until the 1960 census when it lost one seat. It later lost seats in the 1970 and 1990 censuses. The state now has two seats in the House of Representatives.

CAWV members met with the state's entire congressional delegation, Senator Joe Manchin III, Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Congressman Alex Mooney, and Congresswoman Carol Miller, to discuss permitting reform, the ongoing implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the future of the federal Highway Trust Fund, and the overall economic impact of the construction industry in West Virginia.



CAWV President James Ridgeway led this year's CAWV Congressional Fly-In delegation. Standing in front of the Russell Senate Office Building are (L-R): President Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Inc.; Mathew Bourne, March-Westin Company, Inc.; Matt Farley, Vecellio & Grogan, Inc.; Keith May, IVS Hydro, Inc.; Glenn Jeffries, Cornerstone Interiors, Inc.; Chet Rodabaugh, West Virginia Paving, Inc.; and Ben Sevald, West Virginia Companies CRH America. This was the 33rd annual fly-in but the first held since West Virginia lost a congressional seat following the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 census.

West Virginia funding in the IIJA includes: \$3.013 billion for roads and bridges, a 44% increase in highway funding over the previous FAST Act reauthorization bill; over \$500 million specifically for bridges; an additional \$195 million for APD projects like Corridor H, King Coal Highway and Coalfields Expressway; \$475 million for U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund for wastewater treatment facilities; \$600 million for broadband deployment; \$146 million a year for 15 years for Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) reclamation and water projects, plus orphaned oil and gas wells; and over \$40 million in funding for airports statewide.

A key area of agreement that allowed the IIJA to move forward in a bipartisan manner is the project delivery reforms included in the law. The CAWV and the construction industry have long advocated for needed reforms to expedite the project review and permitting process without sacrificing existing environmental protections. While there have been meaningful improvements in this area, the prolonged process for many projects still leaves room for improvement. CAWV leaders told lawmakers that the One Federal Decision rule would provide early coordination across federal agencies to streamline the permitting process for highway and development projects.

"The IIJA will really make a difference for West Virginia in two areas," Sen. Capito, R-WV, told members, "drinking and wastewater facilities and AML funding. We could solve all of the state's AML problems with this bill. The \$1 billion in the bill for broadband should provide service to many, if not all, areas of the state."

Sen. Capito, who is ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), said there have been two public hearings on the permitting process, including one held the same morning as the CAWV fly-in.

"Earlier today, the EPW Committee held its second hearing of the year on the need to substantively reform America's broken permitting and environmental review processes," the senator told members. "The concept of permitting reform has been in Congress as long as I've been around."

On May 4, Senator Capito and Sen. John Barrasso, R-WY, ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, introduced two bills to streamline the process for infrastructure, transportation and energy projects, lower prices for consumers, and make it easier to build in America. Sen. Manchin, D-WV, chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, held hearings on these bills.

In her comments, Sen. Capito argued that regulators need firm deadlines for environmental reviews and constant oversight. She urged that Congress not pit renewable energy against conventional energy or various projects against each other. She endorsed judicial reform to prevent projects from being held in limbo during litigation. She called for a transparent committee process in Congress and compromise on a bipartisan solution. Ranking Member Capito expressed concern about regulators changing permitting standards through guidance rather than official notice-and-comment rulemaking. She also voiced support for clear and enforceable timelines.

Senators Manchin and Capito both noted permit requirements have delayed construction on Nucor Steel's \$2.8 billion steel mill plant in Mason County. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has signed off on the project but the U.S. Corps of Engineers had yet to approve a permit due to 100,000 freshwater mussels that need relocated. Under permitting requirements, Nucor can't bifurcate the site. All of the mussels have to be addressed at one time.



"Earlier today, the Environment and Public Works Committee held its second hearing of the year on the need to substantively reform America's broken permitting and environmental review processes," Senator Shelley Moore Capito told members attending this year's fly-in. "The concept of permitting reform has been in Congress as long as I've been around."

CAWV members noted that if the company's permit is not granted soon, an entire construction season could be lost.

"Fish and Wildlife tell us they need more people in their permitting section," Sen. Capito stated. "If we are going to One Federal Decision, why don't we see the permitting process improving?"

In her May 17 remarks at the EPW hearing, Sen. Capito stated:

*"Americans are dealing now with rampant inflation, breakdowns in supply chains, and aging, inadequate infrastructure. They are struggling with higher costs and less reliable infrastructure to heat and cool their homes, keep the lights on, get to school and work. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was born out of this Committee, was designed to address many of these challenges, by funding the buildout of more road, bridge, drinking water, and wastewater projects, and making the United States less reliant on other countries to meet its basic needs."*

*"A year-and-a-half later, we are now seeing that implementation of that legislation, as well as that of the CHIPS and Science Act, and even*

*legislation that I did not support, the Inflation Act, all running into the same challenges that have dogged infrastructure development for years. It comes as no surprise to those of us who have been in and around this space for a while, and that is why I have consistently called for statutory reforms to the federal environmental review and permitting processes, including most recently in the RESTART Act that I introduced two weeks ago joined by most of my Republican colleagues on this Committee. The processes have become a bureaucratic, confusing maze."*

*"Even if a project sponsor successfully makes it through, or even if they make it through three different times under administrations of both parties, as with the Mountain Valley Pipeline in my state, they often hit more roadblocks, and litigation. Activists opposed to building any new projects are standing at the ready with a lawsuit to add further delays and costs in the hope of killing a project or inflicting so much pain that a project sponsor will give up, eliminating jobs, tax revenues, and economic resilience in the process."*

*"As even John Podesta, the president's senior advisor, acknowledged at an event last week, 'We got so*





Senator Joe Manchin, chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, told members, “we have to get a permitting bill done.” He cited as an example the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project that has seen continual delays in the permitting approval process and subsequent court challenges. “We have to come up with the best policy and make it work.”

*good at stopping projects that we forgot how to build things in America. It's been this way for a while.' The red tape, regulatory hurdles, and endless court battles faced by businesses slow and sometimes altogether stop critical projects. Ultimately, it is the American people who pay.”*

“We have to get a permitting bill done,” stated Sen. Manchin. “A perfect example is the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project. The U.S. Forest Service approved MVP’s passage of about three and a half miles through the Jefferson National Forest through West Virginia and into Virginia. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has twice knocked down earlier Forest Service approvals for the pipeline. We can’t be sending approvals back to the same court three and four times. We have to come up with the best policy and make it work,” he said.

The senator, who has been a major proponent of the pipeline, has introduced legislation to complete the project and has worked to get the bipartisan support necessary to get it across the finish line.

“Whether you like it or not, for national security and for the nation’s economy, the pipeline needs to be finished,” said Sen. Manchin. “Renewables will not produce the amount of energy the country needs.”

The Senate Energy Committee chairman told CAWV members he was pleased that U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm has publicly advocated for the pipeline’s completion in recent weeks. Granholm last month sent a letter to regulators in support of completing the pipeline. The secretary also advocated for permitting reform, which could affect natural gas pipelines and also the approval process for other forms of energy and infrastructure like transmission lines.

“We have an urgent need to move on permitting. We really do,” Secretary

Granholm said. “We all feel a huge sense of permitting about it. It is insane that it can take 10 years or more for a transmission line.”

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a 303.5-mile interstate natural gas pipeline that crosses nine West Virginia counties to transport natural gas to East Coast markets. The \$6.6 billion pipeline project first got authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2017, but its completion has been delayed by regulatory hurdles and court challenges.

A deal reached May 27 to raise the federal debt ceiling included approval for all permitting of the Mountain Valley Pipeline. The bill, called the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, was worked out by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-CA, and President Biden and includes provisions to speed the remaining permitting of the long-delayed project. The U.S. Senate voted 63-36 for the debt ceiling bill on June 1, just days before the country would have defaulted on its debts.

“Last summer, I introduced legislation to complete the Mountain Valley Pipeline. I am pleased Speaker McCarthy and his leadership team see the tremendous value in completing the MVP to increase domestic energy production and drive down costs across America and especially in West Virginia,” Sen.



“Contractors make such a difference in our state,” Rep. Carol Miller told members. “There is so much construction needed in West Virginia and you need a qualified workforce to get the work done. One of the reasons I ran for office was to get people to come to West Virginia.”



Manchin stated after the Senate's vote. "I am proud to have fought for this critical project and to have secured the bipartisan support necessary to get it across the finish line."

Sen. Capito agreed.

"After working with Speaker McCarthy and reiterating what completing the Mountain Valley Pipeline would mean for American jobs and domestic energy production, I am thrilled it is included in the debt ceiling package that avoids default. Despite delay after delay, we continued to fight to get this critical natural gas pipeline up and running, and its inclusion in this deal is a significant victory for the future of West Virginia," she said.

Congresswoman Carol Miller also expressed support for the legislation.

"Finally, Republicans and Democrats are coming together to finish the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which will create more jobs, lower energy costs and protect our environment," Rep. Miller stated. "This bill is a bipartisan



Rep. Alex Mooney described his ongoing concerns over permitting delays for construction projects. "For two years I have thought U.S. Fish and Wildlife has overstepped its bounds," the five-term congressman told members. "If they are overstepping, I think the Appropriations Committee can cut their budget."

win for every American."

Representative Alex Mooney also described his ongoing concerns over permitting delays for construction projects.

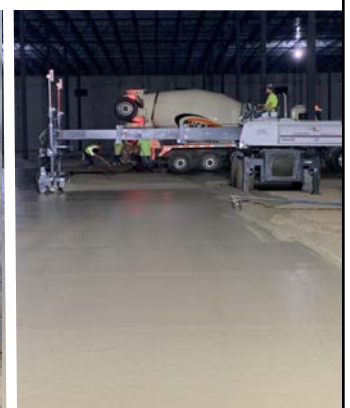
"For two years I have thought U.S. Fish and Wildlife has overstepped its bounds," said Congressman Mooney.

"If they are overstepping, I think the Appropriations Committee can cut their budget."

Rep. Mooney and Rep. David McKinley were required to run against one another in the May 2022 primary election as a result of West Virginia losing a congressional seat. Rep. Mooney won

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the election and now represents the state's Second Congressional District. He serves on the House Committee on Financial Services, the subcommittee on Capital Markets and the subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

"The House has passed permitting reform bills," he told members. "We don't have the filibuster like they do in the Senate. It's difficult to get anything passed over there," he commented.

The five-term congressman questioned members on the cause of supply chain issues for construction material and whether prices still were unstable. Members responded that any product that has an electrical component – gears, switchboards, generators – has a long lead time, up to one year in certain instances.

"The country stopped working for a year due to COVID-19 which had a crippling ripple effect on the nation," remarked Rep. Mooney. "Inflation is still a problem nationwide."

Rep. Carol Miller, who serves on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, discussed how to get people into the workforce.

"Contractors make such a difference in our state," she told members. "There is so much construction needed in West Virginia and you need a qualified workforce to get the work done. One of the reasons I ran for office was to get people to come to West Virginia."

She asked members how they were filling their hiring needs and how the school system is aiding in this area.

"We can only reach students who have a demonstrated interest in construction," said Matthew Bourne, vice president of March-Westin Company, Inc. "We don't really have a way to connect with students who don't know what they want to do. These students don't know what they don't know," he remarked.

Rep. Miller questioned how to reach them to expose them to construction.

Members shared with her the CAWV's Build West Virginia program which was designed to provide information about training, education, and job placement as well as career opportunities for students and adults interested in pursuing a career in construction.

"Putnam County schools give companies the ability to get before their students to expose them to real world opportunities," said Chet Rodabaugh, vice president of West Virginia Paving, Inc. "This should be a requirement for all counties. Sometimes it's hard to get your foot in the door but once you do, it works pretty well."

A number of other related topics were discussed with the state's congressional delegation during the May 17 fly-in. Work force development, B-2 Visas to get people registered in order to be hired as employees, Buy American Buy America requirements for products used in IJIA projects, increasing airport infrastructure investment and addressing the looming funding needs for the federal High-

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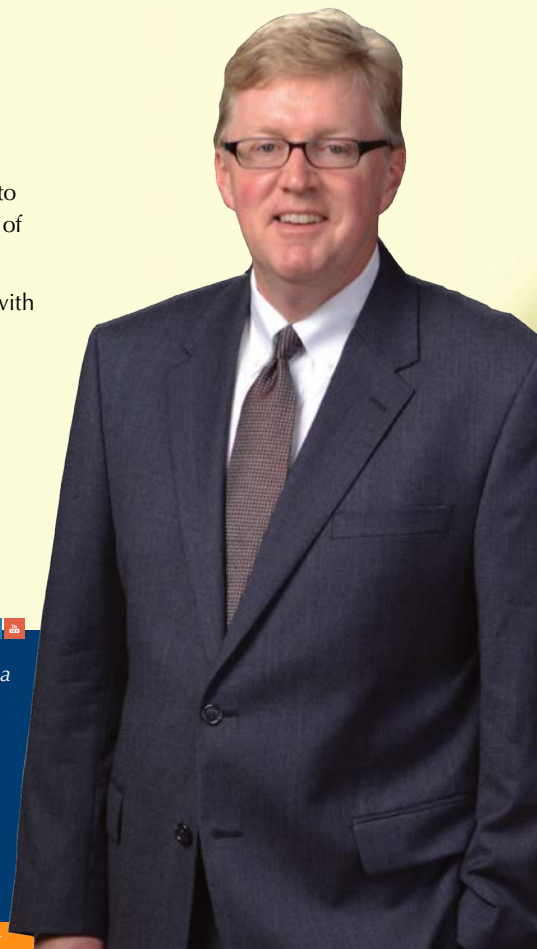


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*Attorney Robert "Bo" Sweeney (licensed in WV) has a practice based in civil litigation, with a concentration in the defense of mesothelioma and asbestos claims, construction disputes and defending employers in deliberate intent suits.*

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way Trust Fund.

"A big problem in the future is the Highway Trust Fund," Sen. Capi-to stated emphatically. "This is two years away and Congress is definitely not focused on this. Please keep me posted so we make funding for a new highway bill a priority," she told members.

"Every CAWV president since 1988 has led the CAWV delegation to Washington," said CAWV President Ridgeway. "The first fly-ins were two-day events since it took that time to meet with Senator Robert C. Byrd, Senator Jay Rockefeller and all of West Virginia's four congressmen - Nick Rahall, Alan Mollohan, Harley O. Staggers Jr., and Bob Wise. Today's fly-ins are now one day events but the core mission remains the same; to advocate the CAWV's viewpoint to Congress on the issues that impact West Virginia's and the nation's construction industry.

"We appreciate that our senators and

representatives have a good understanding of the concerns of West Virginia contractors," the president said. "Our members who attended this year agreed that it was a very productive trip."

Joining President James Ridgeway were Matthew Bourne, March-Westin Company, Inc.; Keith May, IVS Hydro, Inc.; Senator Glenn Jeffries, Cornerstone Interiors, Inc.; Matt Farley, Vercellio & Grogan, Inc.; Ben Sevald, West Virginia Companies CRH America; Chet Rodabaugh, West Virginia Paving, Inc.; John Crane, APAWV; and Jason Pizatella, Pat McDonald, and Mike Clowser, CAWV. 



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# West Virginia Construction & Design EXPO Hosts Number of Quality Sessions



This year's West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO drew thousands of industry professionals to the Capital City. The 44th annual trade show, held March 22-23 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, had nearly 4,000 attendees from throughout the region to experience the best of what the industries have to offer, including: architects, surveyors, contractors, engineers, suppliers, service providers, government representatives, water and wastewater treatment plant operators, owners and developers.

EXPO hosted over 85 quality seminars and meetings, most offering free continuing education credits for specific industry professionals.

EXPO presented the popular After Hours reception which was held the first evening of the show. After Hours offers a variety of food and beverages stations located throughout all exhibit halls. It gives attendees a chance to mingle, meet, greet, and treat their employees, partners and clients.

On day two of the event, EXPO presented BOB, "Business Over Breakfast," giving exhibitors and attendees the opportunity to meet and interact with businesses across the region over breakfast.

The 2023 EXPO featured an array of speakers and topics at the General Business sessions.

EXPO's Opening Session on Wednesday, March 22, featured Rich McElhaney who spoke about "The Real Cost of Safety." The West Virginia University graduate has provided safety consulting services for many companies on a global scale. With over 29 years of diverse safety experience, his exper-



This year's West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO, held March 22-23 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, had nearly 4,000 attendees from throughout the region to experience the best of what the industry has to offer. EXPO hosted over 85 quality seminars and meetings, most offering free continuing education credits for specific industry professionals including: architects, surveyors, contractors, engineers, suppliers, service providers, government representatives, water and wastewater treatment plant operators, owners and developers.

tise includes extensive knowledge in oil and gas, heavy civil construction, general industry and MSHA. Areas of concentration include cranes, fall protection, confined spaces, safety training, scaffolding and global safety program development.

During the EXPO Keynote—Part 2: Strengthening the Construction Workforce, attendees heard leaders of the West Virginia Board of Education and the Jobs & Hope program to learn how their programs can help companies find qualified employees. This presentation also included a panel from WorkForce West Virginia staff who discussed their hiring programs, as well as promoted the EXPO Virtual Job Fair.

EXPO's Thursday, March 23, keynote

featured Brad Smith, former chief executive officer of Intuit and current president of Marshall University, followed by EXPO Keynote—Part 2: On the Boards – Capital Sports Center Discussion Panel featuring City of Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin and Kanawha County Commissioner Ben Salango.

## "THE REAL COST OF SAFETY"

Rich McElhaney covered the importance of preplanning, the culture of safety, and the far-reaching effects of injuries and fatalities on construction sites and their impact on families, co-workers and the company. McElhaney received his B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health Management from Slippery Rock University and his M.S. in Safety Science from West

Virginia University. He has provided safety consulting services for many companies on a global scale and has worked in Australia, Canada, China, Panama and Africa.

"As a safety professional, I broke the cardinal rule," he told members who were riveted to his story of how one day in December 2004 changed his life forever. On that day, one his co-workers lost control of a water lance while cutting concrete segments.

"I was struck by 20,000 psi across both legs, just above the knees. The pressure of the water was so great that it entered both of my legs in the front and exited out the back, hitting both femoral arteries. Throughout my training in advanced first aid and CPR, I knew I had only minutes to live."

He asked EXPO attendees, "So, what do you do when you only have minutes to live and you're lying on the ground in a puddle of blood? I wanted to see my family. I had photos of my children in my wallet in my pocket. I asked my co-workers to get my wallet because I wanted to see my children before I died."

McElhaney, who has trained many people in safety, credited his co-workers who applied pressure, elevated his legs and kept him calm by showing him photos of his children. He shared with members how he spent two weeks in an induced coma and in a rehabilitation hospital for three months. After 15 surgeries and three years in rehab, he noted he cannot feel his legs from the knees down and is in pain every day.

"I share my story with all I can so people can learn from my incident," he stated. "The real cost of safety is not the costs associated with my injury (which he told members has cost over \$8 million), but the impact it had on my co-workers and my family."

McElhaney's wife, Karen, shared with members what happens when a catastrophic injury happens. She solemnly recounted shopping on December 9, 2004 when she returned home to find the company president and others at her door. They drove from Virginia to

the hospital in Camden, New Jersey in what she described as "the longest drive in my life." She noted how unprepared she was for what she was going to see; an unrecognizable, swollen body almost cut in half with tubes and machines everywhere.

"The doctors told me he would possibly lose one or both legs, if he would even live at all. My youngest child was convinced her father had died because, of fear of infection, she was not allowed to see him."

"I call myself a living lessons learned," McElhaney said. He shared with EXPO participants the following six safety management principles that he published in an article which he notes are key to any company's safety success:

**1. Job Safety Analysis (JSAs) are the backbone of every safety program.** Communication is the key to a company's success. Look at JSA's as a company's language. Your employees need to know how to speak your language. Train employees on how to use these tools.

**2. Daily safety "huddles" are a must. Review the JSA with your crew.** A safety huddle should never be one-way communication. You should always encourage two-way communication. Ask the employees to share their experiences on the task that you are about to perform. Did it go well? Did it go poorly? Did you go above and beyond expectations to eliminate a certain risk?

**3. Safety inspections should be done with a field level employee.** A lot is missed if the inspection is only done by the safety professional. Field level employees know the jobsite from end to end.

**4. Behavioral Observation Surveys are key.** When done correctly, it empowers employees to intervene if they see something wrong. It also gives the safety professionals a snapshot of what is going on out in the field so they can concentrate on what's good and what's bad. Remember, safety is everyone's responsibility, not just the re-

sponsibility of the safety professional.

**5. Create a robust lessons learned and near miss reporting program.**

We must all learn from our mistakes and never fear for our jobs if we report them. Teach your personnel the difference between a near miss and breaking a safety rule. An employee should never be disciplined for reporting a near miss. But when they break a safety rule, then you should follow your disciplinary program.

**6. When new employees complete the new hire safety orientation, the "boss" should always sit down with the new employees and review their commitment to the safety management process.** I have found that this sets the tone for safety within your organization and on the project.

"As a 29-year-long seasoned safety professional, I understood and tracked each and every cost associated with occupational injuries," McElhaney noted. "I would argue with upper management about tracking these unforeseen events linked to the injury."

He listed the unforeseen events as cost of repairs, cleanup, costs to replace the injured person, increased



Rich McElhaney, the keynote speaker on day one of EXPO, covered the importance of preplanning, the culture of safety, and the far-reaching effects of injuries and fatalities on construction sites and their impact on families, co-workers and the company.



insurance premiums and litigation. But what he really understood most of all, was the impact it had on the worker and the worker's family.

"Over the years, I had to be the messenger to the families of two fallen co-workers," he commented. "It is by far one of the worst duties of a safety professional, a manager, or an owner, having to tell a spouse that their loved one is not coming home."

He reviewed the necessary and crucial steps that were overlooked and created the domino effect that almost ended his life.

"What happened? What went wrong?," he posed to attendees. "It was a host of missed steps, from not reporting near misses, not pre-planning with the job safety analysis, worker fatigue, and most importantly, not holding everyone accountable in performing their job duties in a correct way."

## **RUNNING TOWARD THINGS THAT CHALLENGE US**

"One thing I learned growing up in the small town of Kenova is that life is a team sport," said Brad Smith, the new president of Marshall University and former chief executive officer of Intuit. "The life lessons learned from my parents and the people I grew up with shaped my character and honed my leadership abilities."

Smith, a Marshall graduate, is recognized worldwide for his philanthropy and leadership roles. He started with Intuit in 2003. In the 11 years he served as CEO, the company's customer base grew by nearly 50 million worldwide, ultimately raising Intuit's stock by 588 percent while raising the company's market cap to almost \$60 billion. He became Marshall's 38th president in January 2022.

"I'm glad to be talking with contractors and the design community today. You are the backbone of the state and you make everything happen."

Smith spoke on a wide array of topics but centered on how West Virginia can attract and retain workers to



Brad Smith, the new president of Marshall University and former chief executive officer of Intuit spoke about how West Virginia can attract and retain workers, as well as the state's strengths in attracting businesses and training a future workforce

West Virginia. He spoke on the state's strengths in attracting businesses to West Virginia and training a future workforce.

"I spent 22 years dreaming of a way to get out of West Virginia and then everyday figuring out how to get home," he told EXPO attendees. "We really don't appreciate what we have until we go somewhere else."

He said companies are going to locate in areas that have the basics covered; good education, transportation, access to airports, good health facilities and broadband.

"Broadband is crucial to doing business today," Smith stated. "It's the silver bullet to attracting business and West Virginia has to fill the voids. It's not just putting in fiber optic cable. It will take a mosaic of solutions to provide internet statewide."

Smith, who still serves on boards of national companies, said it is great that West Virginia is attracting new economic development including Nucor Steel, Berkshire Hathaway and others. This is going to require a trained workforce, both for the companies and the contractors who are going to be building the facilities.

"West Virginia's workforce needs to change and adapt to a changing

economy," he predicted. "American architect and philosopher Buckminster Fuller writes about the period of massive dislocation and disruption in his Knowledge Doubling Curve. In 1900, it took 100 years to double our knowledge. In the decade of 2020, we are doubling every 12 hours due to our smart phones, Artificial Intelligence and other technologies. In fact, 90 percent of all data has been created in the last 24 months."

The former entrepreneur noted that 52 percent of the largest companies in 2000 are no longer in business in 2023. He said this proves that companies have to adapt in order to stay relevant. He outlined how Marshall University is adapting to provide a future workforce.

"We are going to be working with Community Technical Colleges (CTC) and vocational education schools to train welders and other trades that manufacturers will need to hire," Smith outlined. "Marshall celebrates individual success and we have adopted 'Marshall for All. Marshall for Everyone' as our mission. Our goal is that all students will have a job when they graduate and with no college debt. We will accomplish this within ten years."

The president says \$300 million will be required to offset students' debts which will be provided through Pell

Grants, state and federal funding, the Promise Scholarship and private donations. He said he is confident the funds can be raised.

Smith is providing personal funds to create a trained workforce. He and his wife, Alys, founded Wing 2 Wing Foundation to provide increased access and support for education, entrepreneurship, mentorship and investment to position West Virginia as a showcase for the nation. One of Wing 2 Wing's signature initiatives is Ascend West Virginia. Funded by the Smith's, the program pays people \$12,000 to move to West Virginia to live and work.

"West Virginia is the only state that has lost population over the last 50 years," Smith noted. "We created Ascend to offset the state's brain drain by encouraging people to move to West Virginia. We looked at similar programs such as Tulsa Remote. In addition to the payment, program participants will have access to free coworking space so they can meet their neighbors or collaborate with other entrepreneurs."

The three West Virginia towns in the Ascend program are Morgantown, Lewisburg and Shepherdstown. Over 1,000 people have located in the state. Over one million have looked at the website. Smith said he and his wife are creating the Veterans Ascend program to attract veterans to locate in West Virginia.

Smith, whose philosophy is Work Hard, Be Kind and Take Pride, said Ascend was a way to pay it forward for future generations.

"We must run to the things that challenge us," he quipped. "We learn as much from our setbacks as we do from our success."

In response to a question from the audience, Smith outlined development projects planned at Marshall University.

"I would want to be in your shoes. We have a lot of projects planned on campus in the coming months," he said. "The West Virginia Legislature approved \$250 million for deferred

maintenance projects, \$180 million of which is dedicated to higher education facilities. We are completing a 10-year master plan, which includes university and community development."

The school is purchasing two blocks of 4th Avenue in downtown Huntington between the new College of Business and Old Main for the Innovation District, a blend of new business and mixed retail. The area along 16th Street will be the new Health Sciences District. The baseball stadium is current under construction.

"We plan on a lot of construction in the coming months," Smith predicted.

### **MULTI-MILLION SPORTS COMPLEX IN DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON**

Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin and Kanawha County Commissioner Ben Salango discussed a proposed \$80 million investment at the Charleston Town Center Mall that would transform the Macy's building and the Lee Street parking garage into a multi-sports complex. The session was sponsored




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Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin and Kanawha County Commissioner Ben Salango discussed a proposed \$80 million investment at the Charleston Town Center Mall that would transform the Macy's building and the Lee Street parking garage into a multi-sports complex.

by the American Institute of Architects - West Virginia.

ZMM Architects and Engineers, Charleston, has completed preliminary design and renderings for the project that calls for demolishing three floors of Parking Building B on Lee Street and building an array of sports-related attractions above it. Those would include a regulation amateur wrestling area; a small soccer field; six basketball courts, which could be turned into 12 volleyball courts for tournaments; and a running track encircling the basketball courts from above.

The existing overhang across Lee Street, which connects parking buildings and elicits a tunnel-like sensation from a car, will be removed. A pedestrian bridge will link the north side of Lee Street to the newly configured parking/sports areas. Likewise, a pedestrian walkway will connect the reconstructed, 900-space parking/athletic area to the former Macy's and its attractions. Plans also exist to maintain access to the third-floor food court.

The Macy's building, owned by the Charleston Urban Renewal Authority, will receive a repurposing. The western half will be demolished to construct a 50-meter, competition-grade aquatic center, with seating for 300. It will be separate from the rest of Macy's — and a floor lower — but connected by doors. A large glass pane on the

corner of Lee and Clendenin streets will give passersby a glimpse of its 10 lanes.

The remaining Macy's structure will tie into the second floor of the remaining parking garage. That half will contain a rock-climbing wall — with more glass to show it off — and a 30,000-square foot fitness area containing weightlifting equipment and cardiovascular machines, along with CrossFit, yoga and personal training services.

In total, the complex will comprise 254,524 square feet, which Mayor Goodwin said will make it the largest

sports complex in West Virginia. The chief thrust is to attract youth sporting events to town.

"This is a game-changer for Charleston," Mayor Goodwin said.

Commissioner Salango said meetings with the public will provide input on the plan and estimated that construction would take two years. Recent meetings have proven that citizens want investment in their children, recreation and sports tourism. The commissioner said this is what this project accomplishes.

This will be the largest financial joint venture between the City and County to date, the two leaders stated. There are also federal partners and local partners like the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau that will play a big role in supporting the project from the start through ongoing operations. Mayor Goodwin and Commissioner Salango said a private donation campaign will begin soon, with a bond issue floated to pay for part of the cost. The project will select an architect through the 5G selection process and construction will be advertised using the competitive bid process.

Commissioner Salango in 2016 championed a bond to pay for soccer fields at Shawnee Park, now called the Shawnee Sports Complex, in Dunbar. A 2014 study done by the Charleston



The City of Charleston and Kanawha County Commission announced in August 2022 a historic joint venture project that would convert the former Macy's building at Charleston Town Center and the Lee Street parking garage into an \$80 million indoor sports complex. The complex will include a 50-meter competition-grade aquatic center, a rock-climbing wall, exercise gyms and a main gymnasium.

Convention and Visitors Bureau and the state Tourism Office urged the development of sports complexes.

When announcing the complex late last year, the commissioner stated, "Thankfully, we had the playbook and then, when I joined the commission, we started pushing forward with the Shawnee Sports Complex. When we announced it, we hoped it would bring in tournaments, we hoped that it would have an economic impact - and it truly has. We know the model works, we know the concept works."

In 2019, Mayor Goodwin said her research indicated that nationwide revenue from youth sports travel generated \$15 billion. By 2022, that figure had shot to \$40 billion, she said, despite the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and inflation.

The mayor has stated that the new sports center will easily necessitate construction of three new hotels. She said she has been in contact with hoteliers to gauge their interest in locating in Charleston.



EXPO Keynote – Part 2: *Strengthening the Construction Workforce* included a panel of presenters from WorkForce West Virginia who spoke on the services and resources available to job seekers and employers including job opportunities, unemployment compensation, veteran services, training, tax incentives and labor market information.

### TRAINING THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

During the EXPO Keynote—Part 2: *Strengthening the Construction Workforce*, attendees heard leaders of the West Virginia Board of Education and the Jobs & Hope program to learn how their programs can help companies find

qualified employees. This presentation also included a panel from WorkForce West Virginia staff who discussed their hiring programs, as well as promoted the EXPO Virtual Job Fair.

Presenters included: Criss McCauley, director, Field Operations; Amber Jackson, director, Workforce Development;

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Nicholas Allen, assistant director, Employment Services; Christina Mitchell, assistant director, Unemployment Insurance; and David Dyer, assistant director, State Veterans Coordinator.

EXPO again this year partnered with the West Virginia Department of Education to host a Reverse Job Fair. The Reverse Job Fair is a spin on the traditional job fair where Community and Technical Education (CTE) Simulated Workplace students set up industry-specific program booths to showcase their technical skills, portfolios and talents to employers who are looking to hire skilled workers. Exhibitors and attendees had the opportunity to engage with CTE students and learn more about the high-quality technical education programs and training students receive.

## JOBS & HOPE GRADUATE HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Jobs & Hope West Virginia heavy equipment operator course graduates were recognized Wednesday by Brig. Gen. Gene Holt, West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) Assistant Adjutant General – Army, during the 2023 event.

“Today I want to congratulate each individual for their effort and the work they did to get to this point,” Holt said. “Those who came into the program from the Jobs & Hope piece and those who are part of the Mountaineer Job ChalleNGe Program (MJCP).”

Of the six graduates, three came to the free training via Jobs & Hope WV and three attended as part of MJCP, a training program for graduates of WVNG Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy (MCA), a 22-week residential program for youth aged 16-18 years of age.

Several of MJCP’s tracks, including heavy equipment operators, line up with Jobs & Hope, leading to a partnership where students learn and work together at the WVNG’s training site in Kingwood. This allows both programs to maximize funding, training and job placement potential for all graduates.

The 214-hour training course is completed in 28 days. Students live and



Jobs & Hope West Virginia heavy equipment operator course graduates were recognized Wednesday by Brig. Gen. Gene Holt (left), West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) Assistant Adjutant General – Army, during the 2023 EXPO in Charleston.


train on the WVNG’s Camp Dawson in Kingwood. Jobs & Hope and MJCP have different requirements in the residential portion but while learning and working together, students are held to the exact standards taught by WVNG instructors.

The six graduates learned and executed the operation of a motorized grader, hydraulic excavator, backhoe loader, and a crawler tractor in order to enhance their skill set and make them marketable to companies seeking employees with experience in operating heavy equipment.

“The main goal of Jobs & Hope is to eliminate employment barriers and put West Virginians back to work, and through our partnership with the West Virginia National Guard, and the Mountaineer Job ChalleNGe Program, we are thrilled to celebrate and recognize six graduates today, who are on the path to a successful career,” said Deborah Harris, lead transition agent with Jobs & Hope and Wednesday’s master of ceremonies.

Mountaineer Job ChalleNGe Program graduates included: Zachary Crawford, Charleston; Maryann Perry, Beckley; Jentry Ross, Charleston; Matthew DeWitt, Morgantown; Zachary Kirkpatrick, Morgantown; and Joshua Saul, South Charleston.

“At the heart of Jobs & Hope is our vision of providing West Virginians like yourself the opportunity to overcome obstacles and barriers,” Harris said. “The six of you now have the advantage of using heavy equipment to rid your path of obstacles and barriers.”

Jobs & Hope West Virginia is the state’s comprehensive response to the substance use disorder crisis. Established by Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Legislature, this program offers support through a statewide collaboration of agencies that provide West Virginians in recovery the opportunity to obtain career training and to ultimately secure meaningful employment. 

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# CAWV Member Panel Highlights Young Contractors Forum Annual Leadership Meeting at EXPO

Over 50 of West Virginia's top construction industry young professionals gathered March 23 during WV EXPO for a roundtable discussion with construction veterans and current CAWV leaders who shared the opportunities and challenges they have experienced which have benefited them in their construction careers.

"The younger generation will soon dominate the leadership in their companies and the industry and YCF members are keenly interested in what will influence their career choices, as well as how to best prepare them for what's coming down the road," said Matthew Spradling, Benchmark Construction Company, Inc. and co-chair of Young Contractors Forum (YCF). "They need to understand what is required to stay ahead of the curve on the future challenges, opportunities and requirements facing today's emerging leaders."

"Each of our panel members have climbed the ladder throughout their own careers, although by different roads," said Nathan Harvey, Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Inc. and YCF co-chair. "Most importantly, they have risen to become leaders in our industry. We've asked them to share with you the skills they needed to excel, the mentors they have had along their way, what motivates them to be the best they can be, and what lessons they've learned that they can convey to our young construction professionals."

Spradling and Harvey said each panelist had a strong sense of purpose that was evident in their presentations. The YCF co-chairs agreed each saw the "big picture" that helped lead



The CAWV Young Contractors Forum invited four CAWV members to discuss their path in the construction industry and their involvement with CAWV during the annual YCF event held during EXPO. The class heard from Adam Burkhammer, A.J. Burk, LLC, C.R. Neighborgall IV, Neighborgall Construction Company, James Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Inc., and R.J. Williams, Reclaim Company, LLC. The 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 the CAWV.

their companies to fulfill their overall mission.

A synopsis of each panelist's presentation follows:

**ADAM BURKHAMMER**  
*PRESIDENT*  
**A.J. Burk, LLC**  
Horner, West Virginia

Adam Burkhammer graduated from welding school and moved back to West Virginia in 2009 to work in the Marcellus Shale oil and gas industry. He started hiring people in 2010. In 2011, he got company credit cards with a \$500 limit that he had to pay off every other day in order to put gas in the trucks. By 2013, he had 80 employees, and he came to the conclusion that the company had become a complete disaster. He had two small children and he and his wife were working non-stop in the business. He was working on the job all day then doing paperwork late into the night. They had no home life.

Burkhammer in 2015 decided to scale back and trimmed the company to 15 employees. He realized he couldn't work on the job and then go out and meet potential clients when he was paying the electric bill. He realized that doing work was separate from running a business. He didn't understand the insurance and other liability language by reading a contract. This is when he decided to surround himself with good people. Today, the company has about 70 employees.

He told YCF members that he has three important relationships in his company. The first is his accountant because he missed out on many tax breaks and didn't maximize his financial capabilities. The second is his insurance agent because he needed protection in order to save money. The third is his lawyer because one lawsuit can break a company. He needed to know what he was agreeing to in a contract.

Investing in people has become Burkhammer's biggest asset. His biggest

accomplishment, he said, is seeing his employees buy a house and being able to take care of their families. Early in his career he was too worried about making money and running a business. Family is key and he puts family first. He and his wife have two children and are foster parents to two children. He decided to enter politics and he is in his second term representing Lewis County in the West Virginia House of Delegates, a job he says is harder than being a contractor.

**C.R. NEIGHBORGALL IV**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**Neighborgall Construction**  
**Company**  
 Huntington, West Virginia

C.R. Neighborgall is a fourth-generation contractor and was the first third generation contractor to serve as president of the CAWV (2016-2017). His grandfather, Charles R. Neighborgall Jr., was president of the AGC of West Virginia in 1959, and his father, Charles R. Neighborgall III, was 1993-1994 CAWV president. He said he was born to construction and his first job was in the company's warehouse.

Neighborgall graduated from Clemson University which included a lot of architectural study. He was hired after college to work for a building contractor in Durham, North Carolina since construction in West Virginia in 1987 was slow. He benefited from the 70-year owner of the company who Neighborgall credits as a fantastic mentor. He told YCF members "these people only come across a few times in your life, and you should embrace them."

He returned to West Virginia and the family building construction business in 1989 as an assistant project manager. He said he is most proud that he serves the public with a quality product. Many of his clients are repeat businesses, he said, find it hard to maintain a level of success and the industry still has its challenges. He charged YCF members to do their work because it is challenging. "If you don't have a passion for what you're doing, get out," he proffered.

He said work ethic is a good trait for construction. It takes perseverance because, even in a family business,

no one is entitled. Just showing up doesn't cut it. Contractors have to produce. If a person isn't the right person for the job, it's good to part ways early rather than continue to limp along. Neighborgall Construction has been successful because everyone is treated with respect.

He agreed with Burkhammer that family is the most important thing. He recommended to those in attendance balance their career and family as they emerge into leaders in their companies and the industry.

**JAMES RIDGEWAY**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**March-Westin Company, Inc.**  
 Morgantown, West Virginia

James Ridgeway is this year's CAWV President. He graduated in mechanical engineering from WVU Tech in Montgomery in 1999. He credited his job to WVU Tech grad and March-Westin founder Phil Weser who came to the campus to interview students. You can be the smartest, hardworking person, but if you don't know construction, it will take you a while to contribute to the company, he emphasized. Perse-

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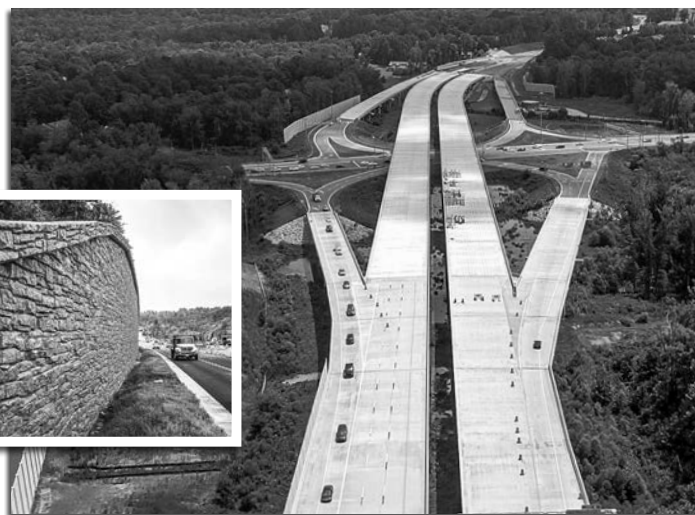
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verance is absolutely critical because there will be something different every day, either in the office or on the jobsite. Continue to learn by reading everything you can about the industry.

Ridgeway received his Executive MBA from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999 which he said was beneficial because it was a great learning experience since it broadened his knowledge in accounting and finances.

President Ridgeway concurred with past President Neighborgall that everyone should have multiple mentors who will teach them industry issues and provide career advice. In construction, you will have to work harder than in other industries, he opined. Make sure you listen to others. You don't have always heed their advice, just listen, he said.

March-Westin does some really cool projects, he remarked, which has allowed them to develop a lot of metrics on how someone progresses. This has been beneficial to the company and employees. However, grit is the key. If you don't have grit, your life in construction will be tough, Ridgeway stated. Don't worry about money. Focus on the task at hand and the money will come. He concluded, try to always do the right thing. That's probably different for each company.

**R.J. WILLIAMS**  
*PRESIDENT*  
**Reclaim Company, LLC**  
Fairmont, West Virginia

R.J. Williams began his career in construction in 2002 working as an On-the-Job (OJT) equipment operator trainee on a federal-aid highway project for Kanawha Stone Company. He continued working on highway and private construction projects in surrounding states for the Nitro-based heavy, highway construction company.

Williams quickly saw a need for demolition services on the projects he was working on and in 2007, with an initial investment of \$2,000, started Reclaim Company. The company has quickly grown from a small four-man

operation to a thriving small business recognized by the West Virginia Small Business Administration and the SBA Region III in 2012. Since the company's inception, Williams has offered site preparation and utilities, turn-key demolition, asbestos abatement and testing, asset recovery and recycling, environmental remediation and excavation to a wide sector of public and private owners.

Williams said the biggest challenge the company addresses is getting and keeping a qualified workforce. However, he credits the company's steady upward growth to his employees performing safely and efficiently and their commitment to job performance. He told YCF members that their employee experience has allowed them to develop long-term relationships with clients. The company has opened a second office in Baltimore, Maryland and operates in ten states.

He said it is rewarding to see his employees have a better quality of life by working for Reclaim. If there is someone that is a great asset, Williams has offered them a portion of ownership in the company. He has done this with some of his personnel which has allowed, he noted, the company to become a true team.

William said he, too, benefited from mentors. Phil Weser, founder of March-Westin Company, and Art King, founder of Kanawha Stone Company, were instrumental in his decision to start his own company.

### **Leaders in the Construction Industry**

YCF Co-Chair Harvey noted that all four presenters were actively involved in the Contractors Association of West Virginia. He asked them why, and how it has benefited them in their professional and personal development.

"What I like about the CAWV is that we can all come together to solve our common problems," said Burkhamer. "We bid against each other every day but we work together on issues. I've learned that your competitor is


not your enemy. We can work together for the betterment of the industry," he said.

"The CAWV is construction in West Virginia," Neighborgall noted. "If you're going to be a leader in construction, you have to be part of the association. I've grown up in the CAWV and my peers have become my friends. It's very meaningful to be able to spend time with them solving problems and having fun doing it." He also spoke of the benefits by being affiliated with the CAWV's national associations, the Associated General Contractors of America and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

"It's important to ask for help," according to Ridgeway. "There are always members in the CAWV that are willing to help you when you have a problem or issue. I got involved by serving on the Joint Architect Committee and its subcommittees with the School Building Authority, state Purchasing and the National Guard," he said.

"I have gotten projects because of my membership in the CAWV," Williams stated. "When clients find out I'm a CAWV member, it opens doors that otherwise might not have been available to me."

YCF Co-Chair Spradling thanked the presenters for their willingness to share their thoughts and experiences with YCF members.

"I encourage all CAWV members to network with one another, and to call your peers any time you have a problem. Everyone is willing to help a fellow CAWV member." 

## **JOIN A COMMITTEE**

IF YOU OR SOMEONE  
YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED  
IN JOINING A CAWV  
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# West Virginia Chapter of American Institute of Architects Recognizes Excellence in Design

The West Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects — AIA West Virginia — has announced the winners of the AIA WV 2023 Excellence in Architecture Awards. Thirty-three project submissions and two submissions for craftsmanship from the chapter were reviewed by a three-person jury headed by Tom Savory, FAIA, a principal with McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture. MPS is an award-winning firm with eight offices throughout the Carolinas and Georgia.

“I’m continually impressed by how the architecture firms in West Virginia are elevating design in our state,” said Marie McCauley, president of AIA West Virginia. “This annual awards program honors outstanding achievements in all areas of design, construction, and craftsmanship. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to gather as peers and celebrate with our clients and partners. Each of these projects exemplifies how buildings and spaces can have profound impact in their communities and on the lives of the public.”

\* Indicates CAWV Member

## HONOR AWARDS

Excellence in Architecture (Photo Left)  
& Craftmanship (Photo Right)



**PROJECT:** Kanawha County Public Library  
**ARCHITECT OF RECORD:** Silling Architects\*  
**DESIGN ARCHITECT:** HBM Architects  
**LOCATION:** Charleston, West Virginia  
**OWNER:** Kanawha County Public Library  
**CONTRACTOR:** Paramount Builders\*

Excellence in Architecture



**PROJECT:** Private Residence  
**ARCHITECT:** BuildingLAB inc.  
**LOCATION:** Bruceton Mills, West Virginia  
**OWNER:** Confidential  
**CONTRACTOR:** BuildingLAB inc.





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## MERIT AWARDS

### Achievement in Architecture



**PROJECT:** Martinkat Residence

**ARCHITECT:** Jason Miller, AIA

**LOCATION:** Mount Clare, West Virginia

**OWNER:** Confidential

**CONTRACTOR:** March-Westin Company, Inc.\*

### Achievement in Architecture



**PROJECT:** Locarna Way Residence

**ARCHITECT:** Desmone

**LOCATION:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**OWNER:** Confidential

**CONTRACTOR:** Milestone Residential, LLC

### Achievement in Architecture



**PROJECT:** Doddridge County Early Childhood Learning Academy

**ARCHITECT:** The Thrasher Group\*

**LOCATION:** West Union, West Virginia

**OWNER:** Doddridge County Schools

**CONTRACTOR:** City Construction, Inc.

## CITATION

### Interior Architecture



**PROJECT:** Terrace at Tibbs Run

**ARCHITECT:** Paradigm Architecture

**LOCATION:** Morgantown, West Virginia

**OWNER:** West Virginia Botanic Garden

**CONTRACTOR:** March-Westin Company, Inc.\*



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# Don't Let 30 Years of Hard Work Get Destroyed in 30 Seconds

*CAWV'S Newest Member Discount Helps Protect Your Hard-Earned Reputation in a Crisis*

By Anthony Huey, President  
Reputation Management, LLC



The crisis you never expected suddenly strikes. Three TV news crews are on your jobsite, demanding answers from your site superintendent. Another dozen reporters have phoned your office in the past 15 minutes wanting to know what happened and why? Your subcontractors are posting pictures of the scene on Facebook. And the project's owner just reamed your project manager for not calling him first.

That is the reality facing many construction companies across the United States every day. You need only do a quick Google search to turn up hundreds of examples of contractors in crisis.

Bridge, building and crane collapses, trench cave-ins, transportation accidents, falls, sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuits, fraud, embezzlement and coverups, quality issues and data breaches are just a few of the construction-industry headlines last year. The one thing most of these companies had in common: They never thought it would happen to them.

The driving force in everything I teach my clients about surviving a crisis can be summed up in the simple phrase: Perception is Truth. Facts are secondary to perception in a crisis. And perceptions are formed by the people communicating in a crisis. That's your employees, the news media, owners, witnesses, neighbors and most importantly, you.

The vast amount of misinformation

spread in a crisis comes from others. Unfortunately for the unprepared, if your company is not talking in a crisis, others will talk for you, and it won't be pretty. If, how, what and when you communicate effects how you are perceived. It's not fair. It's reality.

So what's a contractor to do? For the last 20 years I have been urging my clients to plan and prepare for a crisis and have all the tools in place when disaster strikes. But in today's era of instant communications driven by social media and the 24-hour news cycle, I see most construction companies using antiquated methods (think dusty two-inch binder on a shelf) to respond to an incident.

I quickly saw the need for a 21st century solution to 21st century realities, and developed a crisis planning program that I'm proud to partner with CAWV to deliver to its members.

Prepare your construction company for any external or internal crisis by signing up for this unique program today. CAWV members will receive a comprehensive crisis communications plan, crisis response tools, training, and much more – all customized for the construction industry – at a fraction of the cost.

Remember, by the time you hear the thunder, it's too late to build the ark!

**To learn more and enroll in the CAWV Crisis Planning Program, visit [crisisplanning.net/crisis-planning-program-cawv/](https://crisisplanning.net/crisis-planning-program-cawv/).** 

Anthony Huey is a highly-rated speaker who offers companies pragmatic communications tools, tips and techniques they can use when issues arise on the job site. His 20-year career includes tenures as a news reporter, magazine senior editor, crisis management specialist, media relations consultant and executive speech coach. He presented his crisis communication seminar at the 2018 CAWV Midyear Meeting in Marco Island, Florida, and his communication strategies seminar at the 2022 meeting in Aruba.

"What message do you want potential employees to remember when you talk to them about your company," Huey asked 2022 Midyear Meeting attendees. "Your primary goal when recruiting is not to answer their questions about the job, but to engage them more effectively to give them a reason to work for you. How well you communicate helps with your primary purpose, whether you're talking with a student or someone that's already in the industry." He told members another challenge contractors are facing today: Employee retention. "Have you communicated your plan for their future in your company? Many times, key personnel will leave because a company owner hasn't provided specifics on the purpose of their organization and how employees fit into that purpose." To read Huey's comments, visit [wvcn.cawv.org](https://wvcn.cawv.org) and see the March/April 2018 and 2022 issues.

Huey also presented his crisis webinar on April 5 for members who were not able to attend the Midyear meetings. Huey's comprehensive crisis communication plan is now available to all members at a discounted price.



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# Introducing the Newest CAWV Members



The CAWV Strategic Planning Committee developed a plan that is a vision of the association's future and the steps required to achieve the desired objectives. One of the goals in the 2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan is to increase membership to keep the association strong in order to vigorously advocate for West Virginia's construction industry. In this issue of *West Virginia Construction News*, a few of the newest members of the Contractors Association of West Virginia are featured. **Members are encouraged to call upon these new firms and use them when bidding projects.**

*If you are a new member and would like to be featured in a future issue of WVCN, contact Cassidy Webb at [cwebb@cawv.org](mailto:cwebb@cawv.org), or call (304) 342-1166.*



## **E & H Manufacturing, Inc.**

*Pre-Fabricated Bridges, Steel Storage Tanks, and more...*

E & H Manufacturing, Inc. was incorporated in 1991, with the merger and acquisition of an existing manufacturing company. By expanding target markets, product lines, and manufacturing capabilities, E & H has grown to be able to help many companies with their equipment and design needs. "We are proud to be a West Virginia company with two manufacturing plants in Roane County and our administrative office in Charleston," said David Haney, president.

E & H hit the ground running by receiving its U-Stamp from ASME and its R-Stamp from the National Board in 1992, giving them the ability to manufacture, repair, and alter coded pressure vessels. They have since built over 8,000 ASME Code pressure vessels. Becoming an ASME shop opened doors to many of the top oil and gas operators in the Appalachian Basin, chemical companies, coal companies, and other industrial concerns.

In 2005, the company began manufacturing pre-engineered stress laminat-

ed timber bridges. "Until this year we were limited to only two industrial 40 ton capacity designs," said Haney. "We are excited to announce that we now have seven pre-engineered designs and have increased flexibility to build custom bridges to meet out customer's needs."

With capacities from 11 to 40 tons, they are now able to provide for a wider range of commercial and private needs. A rental program is available for temporary jobs. See further details on their website at [www.eandhmanufacturing.com](http://www.eandhmanufacturing.com).

Steel atmospheric storage tanks is another large part of their business. With many standard sizes available, E & H may very well have the tanks you need. If not, they will work with you to design and build a custom tank. E & H meets or exceeds many of the tank building specs in the market to provide a quality tank every time. (See the Tank Specifications Manual on their website.)

Custom fabrication services provide stairways, platforms, flanged spools for industrial piping, meter tubes, inline heaters, regulation/measurement skids, and many other fabricated components or fully piped and operational skid units.

Experience and diversity gives them the unique ability to provide products or services that may be of help to you.

"We feel a responsibility to you and our employees to keep as much work in West Virginia as possible," Haney stated. "We feel that being a member of the Contractors Association, and being available to assist you any way we can, helps us do that. We look forward to working with you in the future."

David Haney  
*President*

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## **Southeastern Equipment Company** *Equipment Dealer*

In 1957, William L. Baker founded Southeastern Equipment Company and began selling motor grader blades to townships and counties. Within a year, Baker acquired the Adam Motor Grader Company franchise agreements for southeastern Ohio and began its franchise with J.I. Case Company – shaping the future of Southeastern as a construction industry company.

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Southeastern Equipment Company's newest branch, located at 1000 Kramer Street, South Charleston, is ready to serve the Charleston area. 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 customers with exceptional equipment support. Current customers can receive help with their Kobelco, Bomag, and other OEM equipment.

The company loves any project that gives them the opportunity to help customers achieve success. As an equipment dealership, just knowing their products made a big impact on a project - whether the project is big or small - is a great feeling.

Southeastern has 23 locations

throughout Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia and 274 employees.

Their mission is to ensure people have the right equipment when they need it, both for current projects and future ones. The current focus is on expanding their reach and providing

even more support to customers in West Virginia.

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Volkert, Inc. was established in 1925 and currently employs 1,200 professionals in 24 states and the District of Columbia. They have achieved steady growth and expansion through hard work and the ingenuity of talented professionals committed to the highest standards of quality, customer service, and ethics.

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engineering; construction engineering and inspection; bridge safety inspection; landscape architecture; and right of way services.

The company is comprised of engineers, designers, planners, landscape architects, construction managers, and inspectors – all committed to delivering the future of infrastructure.

“Volkert offers the ideal combination of service and experience with the personalized attention of a small local firm and the valuable resources that can only be provided by a large regional consultant,” said Keith Weakley, PE, DBIA, senior vice president in the Mid-Atlantic. “Volkert is responsive – we listen to our client’s needs, and we recognize every project’s purpose as we develop innovative ideas and progressive solutions that best fit the client’s objectives.”

Their mission is to serve the public in a professional and ethical manner, clients with innovation and honest value, employees through stable corporate growth and personal development, peers by promoting the highest standards of practice in their profession,



The Waterloo Bridge, located on the Fauquier/Culpeper county line in Virginia, is just one of Volkert’s notable projects. Built in 1879, the bridge rests nearly 60 miles west of Alexandria, Virginia, and carries Route 613 over the Rappahannock River. In 2021, Volkert led the \$3.65 million restoration project.

and the community through public service.

With nearly 100 years of experience, Volkert is a nationally active, award-winning professional services firm, broadening its focus to encompass both the natural and built environments. The firm consistently ranks among the top 100 design firms in the nation as reported annually by *Engineering News-Record*.

Volkert also promotes a culture of safety through their Mission Zero: Focus on Safety program. This company-wide plan serves to educate staff on proper safety procedures and keeps the focus on safe practices at all times.

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# CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS



The approximately \$1 million Elk River Slope Repair Project, located behind the Water Development Authority headquarters in Charleston, is being completed by Diesel Drilling Corp. of Winfield. The project consists of installing 26-18' x 106' steel piles, hydroexcavation for locating fiber optic cables serving Yeager Airport, and approximately 10,500 square feet of repaving, curb and restriping of disturbed parking area.

■ **After the completion of studies on the area and several years of discussion**, the West Virginia Department of Highways (WVDOT) has awarded a contract to stabilize a rock slide-prone section of the mountain above Route 340 near Harpers Ferry. According to a notice issued by the WVDOT, **Triton Construction, Inc.**, St. Albans, secured the project as the low bidder, with a bid of \$10,277,500...

■ **The Huntington City Council recently voted to approve several bridge repairs** or replacements across the city. The West Virginia Department of Transportation will rehabilitate or replace the bridges, which are funded entirely by funding through the Federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act. The bridges the council approved for work include the Madison Avenue Arch Bridge, the Harvey Road Bridge, the Whitaker

Boulevard Bridge, the first Wilson Court Bridge, the Beechwood Street Bridge, the 12th Street Bridge and the Enslow Boulevard Bridge. The council also approved a resolution to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with **Stantec Consulting Services**, Bridgeport, for a feasibility study for Harris Riverfront Park and the Adams Landing area...

■ **The Beckley Z-Way bypass section was recently let to bid.** **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...

■ **Cedar Grove Elementary is in the midst of a \$17 million facelift that involves demolition** of its learning pods and gymnasium area to make it a better fit for

its new elementary-only population. The project also entails renovating the remaining structure, built in 1954. The Kanawha County Board of Education voted to close Cedar Grove Middle School last year, citing declining enrollment, sending those students to DuPont Middle. Site demolition is being completed by **Reclaim Company, LLC**, Fairmont...

■ **A stream restoration project that began with the breaching of the 80-year-old dam** at Kanawha State Forest's Ellison Pond in October 2021 has ended with the creation of a mile-long trout stream with permanent pools, riffles and channels and stabilized banks. Built between 1939 and 1940 by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the 100-foot-long, 10-foot-high concrete dam created a two-acre public swimming area equipped with a

# CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

beach, diving platform, changing rooms and stone steps descending into the cooling waters of Davis Creek. Chapmanville-based **Appalachian Stream Restoration** was awarded the contract to complete the work, as well as to create a stream channel through the 1,200-foot-long footprint of the former pond...

■ **The often-flooded South Charleston Community Center will be replaced with a new one,** Mayor Frank Mullens said recently, funded by the expected revenues from the future Park Place Shopping Center. The current community center opened in October 1982. The new community center will be divided into a health and wellness center side, and an arena side seating between 3,000 and 4,000...

■ **A contract for a sewer replacement project topping \$4 million was brought before** Wheeling City Council. Wheeling City Manager

Robert Herron approved the contract in the amount of \$4,150,786 with **Virco Contracting, Inc.** of Charleston for sewer replacement on GC&P Road. Funds for the project are from the city's Water Pollution Control bond fund...

■ **St. Albans officials have announced the demolition of the former St. Albans Junior High School** structure is expected to get underway on May 30. A news conference was held at the site on Kanawha Terrace to provide further details on the demolition. The final stages of the project will begin with the necessary abatement by **Astar Abatement** of Charleston. The abatement process is expected to take two to three weeks, according to officials. A representative from Astar said safety and efficiency will be of utmost importance throughout the project...

■ **Gov. Jim Justice announced that Clean Vision Corporation will invest \$50 million** in a state-of-the-

art manufacturing facility, focused on converting plastic feedstock into precursors for recycled content plastics and clean fuels, including hydrogen. Upon completion of construction and commencement of operations, the facility, located in Quincy in eastern Kanawha County, will process plastic for conversion to clean energy at a rate of 100 tons per day, starting in 2024, with plans to scale up to 500 tons per day over time...

■ **Work to renovate the Fort Henry Building in Wheeling is now complete with the historic** structure now home to three companies. Ernest Dellatorre, director of business development for **McKinley Architecture + Engineering**, Wheeling, said the most recent phase of rehabilitation to the interior of the building is completed. McKinley owns the building, located on Chapline Street and there are two other tenants, **Step toe & Johnson** law office and a West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services office...



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# CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

■ Governor Jim Justice recently joined West Virginia Department of Transportation officials for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of work on Section 3 of the Kerens to Parsons project on Appalachian Corridor H. The successful bid of \$49,488,494 was made by **A.L.L. Construction Inc.** of Mount Storm. Work will consist of grading and drainage work on an approximately three-mile section of Corridor beginning near the Cheat River Bridge. Contractors are expected to move more than seven million yards of dirt to prepare the section of highway for construction and paving. Work is expected to be complete by the fall of 2025. When Corridor H is fully completed, it will connect Interstate 79 in Weston, to Interstate 81 in Strasburg, Virginia. 



Gov. Jim Justice joined transportation officials for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of work on Section 3 of the Kerens to Parsons project on Appalachian Corridor H. The successful bid of \$49,488,494 was made by A.L.L. Construction Inc. of Mount Storm. Joining Gov. Justice (from left) Jason Kitzmiller, president, A.L.L. Construction, Inc., West Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., and Robbie Morris, executive director of the Randolph County Development Authority.

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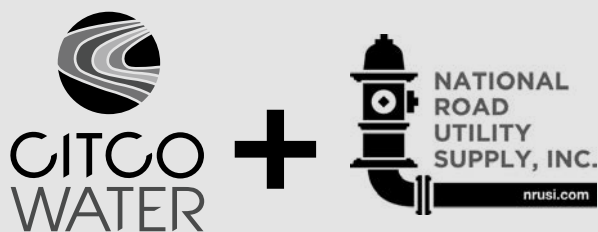
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