

Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority

Newsletter Spring 2012
Volume 1, Issue 1



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Preserving History Investing in the Future

We all have standards that we live by. As a teenager, do you remember being handed a Department of Motor Vehicles Driver's License Rules Booklet? Oh my, those hand signals! We all hopefully passed the driver's license permit test, but we may have forgotten those hand signals because the ease of today's technology. Whoever thought there would be a car that parallel parked with the push of a button? The same standards in effect when you initially passed your test, may not be the same requirements of today.

County government must also follow many standards. Most of the courthouses in our state are listed on the Historic Register or are qualified to be listed. The WV State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is your best resource to assist you with following the US Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines. Just like the driver's test standards, these standards change over time.

The 36CFR 67 standards are listed on National Park Service website, Technical Preservation Services at <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/rehab/stand.htm>.

This awesome website lists the rehabilitation standards of masonry, wood, metals, roofs, windows, entrances, storefronts, structural systems, finishes, mechanical systems, site, setting, energy, new additions, accessibility, and health / safety.

What is the standard for your county courthouse? Contact SHPO before you rehabilitate your courthouse.

In the very near future, the CFIA will be assessing every courthouse, so your county is prepared to be investing in the future. The assessment will provide each county with a guide to ensure that we are maintaining the courthouses by following the proper standards. Check out our website to follow our progress on this project.

Grant Coordinator Spotlight!

Cindy Whetsell is the Administrator for the Lewis County Commission. Lewis County was recently awarded grants for the 7th and 8th Cycles for a roof on the historic Lewis County Courthouse.

Mrs. Whetsell attended Moorehead High School and Alderson Broadus College. Her entire professional tenure has been in county government in the counties of Hardy, Grant and Lewis. She is married to David L. Whetsell, MD and they are the parents of Bryan, 2007 graduate of West Virginia University, Benjamin, 2011 Graduate of WVU, and Kathryn,

2011 Graduate of WVU and currently studying at West Virginia School of Medicine.

"My professional philosophy has always been to serve the public in a professional and prompt manner. During my career I have administered numerous state and federal grants. Recently, Lewis County was awarded grants from the WVCFIA, WV Historic Preservation Grant Program, the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant, WV Court Security Grant, WV Community Development Grant Program



Cindy Whetsell continued:

and the WV Tower Assistance Fund to name a few. I have worked with many entities in Lewis County to receive Federal Firefighters Grants, Federal Law Enforcement Grants and Federal and State Transportation Grants. Presently, I am administering grants for the WV Department of Homeland Security to build towers and broadband throughout the state. These grants alone total more than \$10 Million dollars to assist all 55

counties.” Cindy serves on the County Commissioners’ Association of West Virginia Service Review Committee, Central West Virginia Community Action and is a member of the Western Rotary Club. She is active in 4-H, a member of the WV Community Education Outreach Service and the Mountaineer Parent’s Club.



*Take a Look at
Grants From a
Different Side*

*Courthouse
Facilities
Improvement
Authority
Board of
Directors
Increases
Funding to
\$120,000.00*

Dept. of Transportation Act of 1964 - Section 4(f)

Federal law compels states to set aside approximately 10% of their federal-aid highway allocation for new and non-traditional activities that enhance the community benefits of transportation investments.

historic and cultural resources, transportation museums, visitor centers, rail depots and other historic transportation facilities, historic Main Street revitalizations, and the purchase of historic sites.

Half of the twelve eligible Transportation Enhancement activities relate to historic preservation: preservation of transportation-related

For more information on this funding stream, go to www.preservationnation.org.

8th Cycle Grants Completion - Lewis County

The Lewis County Courthouse employees are especially at ease now that the roof has been repaired. They no longer need to wonder about water pouring into the Circuit Court courtroom and the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

CFIA grant in the amount of \$80,000 to assist them with the project.

General Restoration Corporation was awarded the contract for structural and roof rehabilitation by the Lewis County Commission in the amount of \$241,770. Lewis County was awarded an 8th Cycle

Lewis County Commission contracted Chapman Technical before beginning the rehabilitation. Their investigation of the courthouse roof revealed the deterioration was much worse than anticipated. This process provided a continued longevity of the historic Lewis County Courthouse.

The Final Project Report stated that the contractor did a superior job!

2012 Ninth Cycle Grants Announced

The CFIA Board of Directors awarded grants to the following twenty-three counties in January 2012: Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, McDowell, Mineral, Monroe, Morgan, Pleasants, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Wetzel, Wirt and Wood.

The grant application process is always open to all fifty-five counties. The 9th

Cycle application process focused on ten categories: Life Safety, Structural Improvements, Roofing, Electrical/Data, Exterior Improvements, Mechanical (HVAC/Plumbing), Doors and Windows, Accessibility and New Construction / Space.

Statewide funding totaled \$1,924,121 with most grants being awarded in the categories of electrical, roofing, and life safety projects.

LEGISLATION Impacting the WVCFA - www.legis.state.wv.us

Senate Bill 76 - Creating Green Buildings Act, requiring new building construction projects of public agencies and projects receiving state funds to be designed and constructed complying with the ICC International Energy Conservation Code and the ANSI standards - This bill passed the legislature.

Senate Bill 468 - To allow the CFIA the ability to issue bonds to raise funds for

paying for costs of approved modifications or construction of courthouse facilities. This bill passed the Senate, but did not pass the House.

Senate Bill 618 - This legislation entails several different issues. The area that impacts our Authority is the listing of Magistrate Court fees. The list as passed places the CFIA fee at 12th. We will most certainly receive fewer fees. We are not sure of the exact impact[©]

Conference Room Named After Judge L.D. Egnor

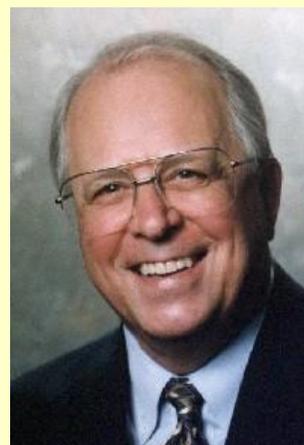
The WVCFA office is conveniently located near our State Capitol Building at 2003 Quarrier Street.

Turn onto California Avenue from the Kanawha Boulevard and make the first right onto Quarrier Street. We are the second house on the right and we have parking in the rear of our building.

In 2011 our Meeting Room was named after the first Board Chairman, the

Honorable Judge L.D. Egnor. The Authority accomplished many things during Judge Egnor's tenure as Board Chairman.

Judge Egnor once said, "Our children and grandchildren will enjoy the use and occupancy of the greatest of all landmarks of American government - those repositories of the records and indicia of what we are and will be - our County Courthouses."



Spirit of West Virginia Award

The West Virginia Association of Counties won the Spirit of West Virginia Award, presented at the Governor's Conference on Tourism as part of Tourism Awards for the Courthouse Documentary. The recognition is given for promoting West Virginia tourism and enhancing community pride while preserving the state's cultural, historical or natural heritage and beauty. The award is an engraved Blenko Vase which is on display in the WVACO Office. The award is presented to Patti Hamilton, Executive Director of WVACO, for all of her hard work on the project. She is currently working on a book of all 55 courthouses. The book should be available in the late fall of 2012.



2012 Board of Directors

W. Richard Staton, Chairman (Wyoming County Prosecuting Attorney)

Adell Chandler, Circuit Clerk

Alan Moats, Judge

Amy J. Swisher, Family Court Judge

Betsy Castle, Circuit Clerk

Majority Leader Brent Boggs, House of Delegates

Cynthia Pyles, Commissioner

Diana Cromley, County Clerk

Hershel R. Mullins, Magistrate

James Hoskins, Sheriff

Mike Pierson, Commissioner

Janice Cosco, County Clerk

Jason Nettles, Assessor

President Jeffrey Kessler, Senator

Jim S. Samples, Prosecuting Attorney

Joseph M. Alongi, Assessor

Larry Whited, Family Court Judge

L.D. Egnor, Retired Judge

Mike Woelfel, Magistrate

R. Steve Tanner, Sheriff

Director's Brief



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Melissa Garretson Smith,
Executive Director

Brenda S. Ashworth,
Executive Assistant

The Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority has undergone many positive changes during the previous year. I became the Executive Director on September 1, 2010 and, although the Authority had a solid base, it was in need of some progressive changes. Of most importance was the grant application and scoring system that had been in place since the inception of the Authority almost 10 years prior. With the help of Adam Krason from ZMM Architects, we created a user friendly and more detailed application. We also refocused our funding guidelines toward projects that would encourage counties to protect their courthouses from loss or damage due to disasters.

We have audited previous grant cycles, balanced our financial statement, implemented Board of Directors by-laws and became responsible for our own payroll duties.

We have continued repairs at our office building. You also might notice that we

have a new website, logo and slogan.

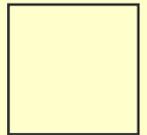
The Authority has been featured on the front cover of the Contractors Association's magazine and in two articles in recent State Journals. We participated in History Day during the Legislature, served as a vendor at several conferences and provided a training course during the Construction Expo.

We successfully changed some of our rules through the legislative rules process. Soon, we will sign a contract with a professional architecture firm to commence an update of the courthouse facilities needs assessment. This assessment will benefit all 55 counties! Finally, we are proud to introduce our first ever newsletter! Kudos to Brenda for her hard work on the newsletter. We hope that you will find it informative.

Brenda and I are here to serve you.
Please do not hesitate to contact us!

-Melissa

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