



Remaining near Capitol WVSBA Relocating Office

The W. Va. School Boards Association will relocate its offices in mid-January 2005, according to Howard M. O’Cull, Ed.D., WVSBA executive director. Association members – and persons with whom the WVSBA Executive Board and staff work – will receive additional information regarding the move early next year.

Based on WVSBA Executive Board action, the association will be leasing part of the second floor of the D. Kevin Moffatt, Esq., Law Firm’s offices. The office space is located about 1.5 blocks East of the State Capitol—a site comparable to where the WVSBA office is currently located.

Commenting on the relocation, WVSBA President Rodney C. Thompson (Wayne) said, “This is a positive move for the organization. It fits our current needs. If the organization were to add additional staff, based on new projects

or a new focus, different type space needs would occur.”

“This is a positive move for the organization. It fits our current needs.” - WVSBA President Rodney Thompson (Wayne)

Thompson said the lease is for a two-year period and is about the same as what the

organization pays now at its current 2206 Washington Street, East, Charleston address—given fees and factors such as utilities, security, office cleaning and the like—and that there will be no “significant overhead” with the property.

Parking (limited parking) also will be available for guests visiting association offices, according to O’Cull.

The association’s preferred mailing address will remain: W. Va. School Boards Association, P.O. Box 1008, Charleston, WV 25324. The telephone and facsimile numbers will remain the same, according to Shirley Davidson, WVSBA administrative assistant.

The Moffatt facility, a residence converted to an office building, was constructed in the 1930s.

Winter Conference Slated For March 11/12

The W. Va. School Boards Association’s 2005 Winter Conference will be held March 11/12 in Charleston (Embassy Suites Hotel).

The WC, the association’s annual legislative meeting, commences at 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 11 and will conclude about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12.

A legislative reception will precede the WC on Thursday, March 10. It is scheduled from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The conference program features author Doug Eadie, a public board/CEO leadership expert. His latest book is *High Impact School Boards*, a guidebook providing succinct information related to the behavioral traits of high-impact school boards—rural, urban and suburban—such as an emphasis on governance “above all other board work”; an emphasis on leading district innovation and change; and, “meticulous attention” to a healthy board-superintendent “partnership.” He also will discuss board “informational leadership,” an emergent theme of recent association trainings.

Each WC attendee will receive a copy of Eadie’s book.

Other WC presentations will include a workshop conducted by Ohio University professor Craig Howley, Ed.D., who will discuss school facilities. Representatives from the Rural School and Community Trust have been invited to this session, which will include a panel whose members will respond to the presentation.

Other general sessions will deal with the federal “No Child Left Behind: The Low-Down on School Board Accountability.” Such a session has been suggested by several county board members and county superintendents.

WC workshops include a session detailing post-9/11 school security concerns. This workshop is scheduled to feature a brief presentation by a representative of the “Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council.” These councils operate under auspices of the U.S. Attorney General. Another workshop, suggested by Taylor County Board of Education members, will explore facility architects’ costs and related issues. In the past several WVSBA meetings, members have commented on this topic.

The WC also features Capitol visitations on Friday, with transportation provided by WVSBA.

The organization’s Executive Board will meet prior to the conference. WVSBA’s FY06 Annual Business Meeting also is held in conjunction with the WC. The organization’s 2005-’06 budget will be considered at that meeting along with election of regional and executive officers: President, President-Elect, Vice President and Financial Officer. Dr. Rodney Thompson (Wayne) will serve as Immediate Past President. Howard M. O’Cull, Ed.D., association executive director, serves as WVSBA Secretary.

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“Merry Christmas, nearly everybody!” — Ogden Nash

COL and Executive Board to Meet Jan. 8

The W. Va. School Boards Association's Committee on Legislation, formerly the Committee of 55, will meet at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8 in Charleston. The COL meeting will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA, Lee and Beauregard Streets, Charleston. Members have received directions to the church.

During this meeting, the Committee will finalize – for executive board approval – the organization's 2005 Regular Session *Legislative Priorities* and update the organization's *Legislative Philosophies*. COL members have received a detailed mailing in regard to these documents.

The January COL meeting is the committee's last meeting prior to the 2005 Regular Session which, except for the Jan. 12 ceremonial opening, begins in February.

WVSBA Executive Board

The WVSBA Executive Board will meet at 2:30 p.m. That meeting, also to be held at St. Paul, will relate to the COL's legislative recommendations, preparation for the FY06 Annual Business Meeting, and a review of organizational finances, planning and programming for FY06.

All association meetings are open to county board members, county superintendents and members of the public, as per WVSBA Meetings Policy, which was reviewed in the November issue of *WVSBA Monthly*.

WVSBA Monthly provides county board of education members, superintendents, and state policymakers with information regarding WVSBA programs and activities. This publication does not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions or policies of the WVSBA, unless specifically stated.

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Leadership Conf. Theme: Strengthening Local Control

Strengthened Local Control will be the theme of the W. Va. School Boards Association's first annual Leadership Conference. That session will be held May 20/21, 2005, in Morgantown (Lakeview Scanticon Resort and Conference Center).

Roger T. Severino and Robert P. Strauss, co-authors of "Improving Public Education Through Strengthened Local Control," have been invited to present at the conference. Their recently-released study is based largely on a corporate model of governance, as augmented by a strong emphasis on board members' oaths of office and resultant pledges to communities in terms of commitment to progressive, effective engagement with the public.

The conference will emphasize an "interdisciplinary approach" to governance, especially as bolstered by further review and study of "informational leadership."

"This work will emphasize many of the concepts [Doug] Eadie will bring to us at WVSBA's Winter Conference, namely that boards, through emphasis on effective governance, can truly lead their various publics," said Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D., association executive director.

O'Cull also mentioned the Leadership Conference's emphasis on an "interdisciplinary approach" to governance, especially as bolstered by further review and study of "informational leadership."

Other programming relates to some "nuts-and-bolts" of school board service such as how to conduct hearings, meeting management, W.Va. Ethics Commission laws and the like.

Program content is to be considered by the W. Va. School Boards Association/W. Va. Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) in January.

In Memoriam

Thornton, Patricia "Patty" Smith (Putnam)

June 17, 1937 – December 3, 2004

"That man lives twice who lives the first life well."

—Anon.

Business Affiliates Underway in Third Year

School boards and businesses have been provided added value through the W.Va. School Boards Association's business affiliate program, which began in 2001. Modeled on similar efforts within school boards associations across the country, the program has given businesses the opportunity to gain exposure to a targeted audience of education policymakers, and provided school board members information to make more researched business decisions.

The program initially began by allowing vendors to exhibit at WVSBA conferences, but was later modified to provide a more marketing oriented approach by incorporating business advertisements and contact information through WVSBA's various communications, such as *The Legislature*,

WVSBA Monthly, the WVSBA Membership Directory, and the association's Web site, WVSBA.ORG.

The program has generated over \$40,000 since inception, and has been an important part of the Executive Board's effort to increase non-dues income. Proceeds are used to enhance WVSBA's communications.

Business affiliate inclusion runs on the July - June fiscal year, and various levels of price and service are available (*see www.wvsba.org/affiliates/index.html*). Businesses may enter the program at anytime and are charged on a pro-rated basis. Board members are encouraged to refer potential affiliates to Jason B. Keeling at jason@keelingstrategic.com or 304.989.3262. WVSBA thanks the current affiliates listed.

PLATINUM

Acordia Employers Service

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American Dairy Association

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Associates In Rehabilitation

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Bowles Rice McDavid

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Maffei Strayer Furnishings

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Law Allows Leave For Public Officials

Several county board members have inquired about §6-5-12, a section of law that allows “leave of absence for public officials for performing public duties.” The statute reads:

“Any person elected to a part-time public office or appointed to a part-time elected public office shall be entitled to a leave of absence from his or her private employment except when such employment is with an employer employing five or fewer persons on a full-time basis on the days or portions of any day during which he or she is engaged in performing the duties of his or her public office. The leave of absence shall not result in any penalty being imposed upon the persons entitled to the leave of absence: *Provided*, That such leave of absence may be without pay by the private employer.”

According to W. Va. School Boards Association counsel, the leave may apply to county board training in that such is required by statute, although legal counsel points out that the leave has certain restrictions, based on the size of the firm employing the county board member, and that it *may* be without pay.

For more detailed information, please contact WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O’Cull, Ed.D., at hocull@wvsba.org or Counsel Howard E. Seufer Jr., Esq., Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love, at 304.347.1776.

Happy Holidays!



**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from the
W. Va. School Boards Association
Executive Board and Staff**

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