

# COMMISSION NEWS

## 2015 ~ SUCCESSFUL FAIR HOUSING EVENTS ~ 2015

Fair Housing Month is promoted during the month of April. This year the West Virginia Human Rights Commission's Housing staff put on two very successful Fair Housing conferences and participated in a Fair Housing awareness outreach event.

The first conference was held at the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown, with well over 50 participants in attendance.

Popular speakers for the event included, Anne Lofaso, Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development and Professor of Law at West Virginia University.

Ms. Lofaso is well versed in Employment and Labor Law, she helped to bring the group up to date on the impact of the passage of recent Bills that will affect housing laws and enforcement in the State of West Virginia.

Chris Missimer of the USDA, spoke to the group regarding ADA accessibility requirements and how agencies may receive more information from their office to make

sure they are in compliance with all rules and regulations of ADA accessibility laws.

The mayor of Morgantown, Jennifer Selin, not only extended a warm welcome to the attendees but participated in the day's discussions.

The Charleston Fair Housing event was on Monday, April 27, 2015, at the Charleston Civic Center. It proved to be just as successful with an even larger attendance.

The Commission has partnered with the City of Charleston's MOECD program for the past two years to host this event.

The Civic Center has been a popular location for those who attend.

The popular topic of the day at both events centered around compliance with Service/Assistance animals vs. Comfort animals and how the two differ.

Allison Anderson, Attorney for the WV Regional Jail Authority and Clair Chantler, Morgantown's

Housing Advocate at Northwest Center for Independent Living (NWCIL) both provided extensive helpful information on the subject with a reminder to the group that a case-by-case approach may be the best answer / solution for consideration at this time.

Esther Hupp, of "A Money Follows the Person Initiative," Zora Rogers with Charleston's MOECD, and Tanya James with the WVHDF were also on hand for the Charleston event.

The highlight for the Commission's Fair Housing conference is always the Fair Housing Poster Contest.

*(see page 3 for photos and more info on the winners.)*

### Special points of interest:

- June is Health Awareness Month
- June is National Safety Awareness Month
- June is National Men's Month
- June 5th is National Doughnut Day
- June 11th is National German Chocolate Cake Day

### Inside this issue:

<i>What's in a Name</i>	2
<i>Inspirational Corner</i>	2
<i>Knowing Your Purpose</i>	2
<i>Fair Housing Highlights</i>	3
<i>Employee Recognition</i>	3
<i>Around Town</i>	4
<i>Happy Birthday West Virginia</i>	5
<i>Poster Contest</i>	6
<i>June Calendar</i>	6

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? Dragonfly



A **dragonfly** is an insect belonging to the order Odonata, suborder **Anisoptera** (from Greek *ανισος* which means *uneven wings*”, because the hindwing is broader than the forewing).

Adult dragonflies are characterized by large multifaceted eyes, two pairs of strong transparent wings, sometimes with colored patches, and an elongated body. Dragonflies can be mistaken for the related group, damselflies, which are similar in structure though usually lighter in build. The wings of most dragonflies are held flat and away from the body, while damselflies hold their wings folded at rest,

along or above the abdomen.

Dragonflies are agile fliers while damselflies have a weaker, fluttery flight. Many dragonflies have brilliant iridescent or metallic colors produced by structural coloration, making them conspicuous in flight.

Dragonflies are predators, both in their aquatic larval stage, when they are known as nymphs or naiads, and as adults. Several years of their life are spent as a nymph living in freshwater; the adults may be on the wing for just a few days or weeks. They are fast agile fliers, sometimes migrating across oceans, and are often but not always found near water.

Loss of wetland habitat threatens dragonfly populations around the world.



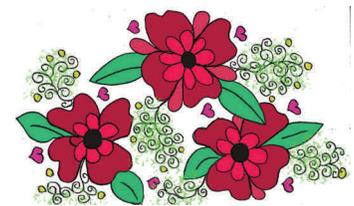
Dragonflies are represented in human culture on artifacts such as pottery, rock paintings and Art Nouveau jeweler. They are used in traditional medicine in Japan and China, and caught for food in Indonesia. They are symbols of courage, strength and happiness in Japan, but seen as sinister in European folklore.

## IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY!

Mom you are a shining star  
Though the world doesn't know  
your name.  
You have no fancy title  
Like Baroness or Dame.  
Mom you really are a star,  
My mother, mentor and friend.  
A Nobel Prize for motherhood,  
Is what I'd recommend!

And if I won the lottery  
I'd share my win with you  
I'd take you Mom on a spending  
spree, Each day the whole year  
through!  
You may not be famous,  
As your face is known to few.

But Mom I think you are wonderful  
And I'm so proud of you!



## Inspirational Corner —"On Knowing Your Purpose"

The thing that will keep you and I focused, is not a strategy, technique or condition. What will keep us focused, disciplined, and committed, is a purpose driven life that cannot be denied. Knowing who you are and the reason you are here will ignite your soul and energize your life each day.

If you're unsure of your purpose or feel that what you're doing isn't really your destined purpose, you will easily become distracted, abandon it

and soon start to feel drained. We are so often busy doing 'things' that hold no excitement or add any real lift to our day but rather absorb vital energy and life from our day. On the other hand, when we follow the purpose that lives at the center of our very core, nothing can pull us away from it. *Focus is not about trying hard. Focus is about living true.*

Great achievements demand great effort.

A clear, authentic purpose is what drives our efforts, and makes us feel like we have put forth no effort at all. Be honest with life, be honest with others and, most of all, be honest with yourself. It is an unwavering commitment to truth and openness that enables you to connect to the power of your purpose.

Live the purpose that lives in your heart. And live it with the richness that comes in every moment.



# HIGHLIGHTS FAIR HOUSING CONFERENCE ~ 2015



## Contest Winners



**Josh Brown, WV Housing  
Development Fund  
Contest Sponsor**

**Cheyenne Hebb  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner-  
Taylor Co., Middle School-  
8<sup>th</sup> grade (not pictured)**



**Hannah  
Faber- 1<sup>st</sup>  
Place Ripley  
High School**



**Kylee Vandergriff  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Edison  
Middle School**



**Lauren Lyons- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Grafton High School**



**Saylor Miller – 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Sophia  
Christian Academy-  
Middle School**



**Hannah Castle – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Place Wayne High  
School**



### **Brian King, Executive Director, MOECD Fair Housing Sponsor**

Brian King and the Mayor’s Office of Economic & Community Development has been a faithful supporter of the WV Human Rights Commission’s Fair Housing events as well as other outreach and awareness events sponsored by the agency.

The Mayor's Office of Economic and Community Development fosters public, private, and intergovernmental collaborations to improve and develop a viable, urban community. Utilizing these assets MOECD’s mission is to provide safe, decent housing, suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities targeted to low-to-moderate income persons.

## ALL AROUND OUR TOWN ~

There's a number of events happening this weekend in Charleston, for all interests and ages.

The Clay Center, has the Ballet Hispanico on Friday, the ongoing Giant-Screen Film featuring Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees, and the Extraordinary Costumes From Film & Television Exhibit.

Ballet Hispanico has roused audiences worldwide with its magnetic energy and sizzling choreography.

Tickets are \$15, \$25 & \$35.

Dr. Jane Goodall's legendary work with the chimpanzees of Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park is the subject of this remarkable giant screen film which will take viewers on an extraordinary trip deep into Gombe and across four decades of research to experience the world of the chimpanzee.

Costumes play a crucial role in defining characters for visual storytelling media such as films. The Extraordinary Costumes From Film & Television Exhibit examines how costume design incorporates color, style, scale, materials, historical



traditions, and cultural cues to help performers and audiences engage in the characters.

If you're looking for a fun activity with the kids, head to the Unity of Kanawha Valley at North Charleston for Open Stage 4 Kids! This event encourages kids to share whatever talent they have: playing an instrument, singing, reading,

*"There's plenty to do if you just want to get out and enjoy yourself" Get out and enjoy the festivities!!!*

dancing, talking, showing a piece of art, magic, or just telling a joke. You can enjoy a Dip Dinner at the The East End Family Resource Center, for only fifty cents. Attendees can buy tickets in exchange for various types of dips common in Afro-American cuisine. The money raised during this event will go to support the EEFRC's many programs for youth, families and seniors.

Music lovers can head over to the Purple Fiddle for the Mountain Music Weekends. Performing on Friday is Milton, with the NOT BG Chuck E. Costa opening the show, and A Good Natured Riot on Saturday.

Jazz aficionados can pop over to the Weston's Big Jazz Weekend, where the Rare Blend Jazz Quintet and Will Scruggs will perform. Or they can head on to Hawks Nest State Park for Stolen Moments – a West Virginia Symphony Jazz Quartet.

## May is National Bike Month



May is designated National Bike Month by the League of American Bicyclists. National Bike Month, established

in 1956 and sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists, showcases the many benefits of bicycling and encourages more people to try biking. "Bicycling is good for your

health; it's a great exercise for all ages. It is also good for your wallet, as it lets you save gas, and it benefits our environment by reducing automobile emissions and reducing traffic on our roads."

The earliest bicycle shapes comes from a sketch said to be from 1493 and attributed to Gian Giacomo Caprotti, a pupil of Leonardo da Vinci. However, the authenticity of

the bicycle sketch is still questioned by some historians. The first really popular and commercially successful design was French. An example is at the Museum of Science and Technology, Ottawa initially developed around 1863.



## West Virginia Enters the Union 152 Years Ago

June 20th marks the 152nd birthday of the State of West Virginia. The 150th and 151st birthdays were celebrated by people from the PA line, all the way down through the state were celebrating at Welcome Centers on the interstates. The Centers staff were teaching travelers and residents all about the past, present, and future of West Virginia. One staffer was quoted as saying, "That's what we do on a daily basis," said Janice Lester, the Supervisor at the I-79 Southbound Welcome Center. "We have information on the state parks,

the zip lines, white water rafting, the Greenbrier resorts, the spas, all of it, you name it." State Welcome Centers planned all types of events that were going on through out the day. There was a car cruise, treats, and a living history demonstration at the I-79 Southbound Welcome Center coming into the state from Pennsylvania. "It's a big time because we've been here for 151 years, last one was a big one because it was 150," said Trevor Summers and 152 will be even bigger.

Even though we're soon to be 152 years old, we still get folks who think we're the 'western portion of the State of Virginia. We have the majestic hills, the Appalachian mountains, and the deep coal caverns, that make West Virginia it's own unique state.



## CONGRATULATIONS ~ STATE EMPLOYEES

This year's Public Service Recognition Week will be May 4-8, 2015. During this week, we celebrate the hard work and dedication of employees of West Virginia's state government and celebrate the many contributions of public employees at all levels – federal, state, county and city.

Governor Tomblin will recognize state employees with 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 55 years of service\* at a special awards ceremony on May 6, 2015, in the Upper Rotunda of the State Capitol.

*\*These with 30 plus years of service will receive a separate invitation.*

Among those celebrated will be our very own Monia Sue Turley. She has over 30 years of faithful service to the State of West Virginia. In addition, we are congratulating Richard Mangus on his 25 years of service and Edward Teter for 20 years of service to the state.

Each of these individuals deserve our support and appreciation for who they are and for all they do not only for the State of West Virginia but especially for the WV Human Rights Commission.



CONGRATULATIONS!

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## WINNING FAIR HOUSING POSTER ART WORKS !



## June 2015 ~ National Safety Month! !

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> National Hazelnut Cake Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> National Applesauce Cake Day
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> National German Chocolate Cake Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> WV Day	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Father's Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30<sup>P</sup></b> National Ice Cream Soda Day				