



Contractors
Association
of West Virginia

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



BUILDING A BETTER
WEST VIRGINIA



From the President



As you know by now, the Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2023. And what a celebration it was! The annual meeting in July kicked off an impressive gathering with record attendance and a record number of sponsorships. As someone who has been around the association for a while, it's clear to me that great leaders paved the way for the CAWV to become one of the most effective and well-respected organizations in the state. As I reflect on the past year, we have a lot to be thankful for in the construction industry.

We have now eclipsed six years since the overwhelming voter approval of Governor Jim Justice's Roads to Prosperity constitutional amendment. The effect of the Roads to Prosperity program is being felt in our communities and throughout the industry. Moreover, it has been over two years since Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that provided over \$6 billion in funding, the largest investment in a generation, for West Virginia's roads, bridges, water and wastewater treatment facilities, abandoned mine lands, broadband, and airports.

The aforementioned legislation, passed in a bipartisan fashion, is the result of years of work by CAWV and our national chapters, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), to adequately fund West Virginia's vital infrastructure. We would not have been successful without members like you who support the CAWV and its affiliates with their time, expertise, and membership dues investment.

CAWV strongly promotes the direct connection between increased investment in infrastructure and job creation. These jobs, and the investments that go along with them, improve the quality of life for everyone who calls the Mountain State home. As I drive across the state, I'm proud to see "Hard at Work" signs everywhere. CAWV members are working, or will soon be working, with companies that have already announced plans to locate in West Virginia such as Nucor Steel, Form Energy, Berkshire Hathaway Energy Renewables, Appalachia Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub, LG Electronics, and many more.

In a recent presentation to the Legislature, Professor John Deskins at the West Virginia University John Chambers College of Business and Economics lamented the state's lackluster workforce participation rate. In fact, he said "there's no way that we can have economic prosperity on par with the nation with that statistic." CAWV is doing its part to reverse this sobering trend. Workforce development is a critical focus for the association. CAWV continues to foster partnerships that encourage young people to consider careers in construction. We launched the "Build West Virginia" construction industry recruitment video and provide links to every high school, community and technical education program, and vocational training program in the state. We also launched the Construction Leadership Program in 2023. This effort aims to educate young professionals in the construction industry by providing them with valuable insights and tools. The goal is to maximize the leadership potential of these individuals for personal and professional growth.

The association recently introduced the first-ever interactive online planroom which provides a convenient and valuable resource for members. This online platform offers proj-

ect plans, specifications, and other related information making it easier for members to access crucial data for their work. The online planroom is available to members 24/7 providing flexibility and accessibility for obtaining project information. It lists plans from various sources, including architects, engineers, private owners, and government agencies.

The association will also continue its advocacy efforts at the state capitol and across all branches of government. We will do our very best to speak with one, collective voice for the betterment of the entire industry. Overall, the CAWV is dedicated to promoting the growth of the construction industry by nurturing its workforce, providing educational resources, advocacy, and engagement, and enhancing the accessibility of essential project information for its members.

Finally, I'm proud to say that we continue to make progress on the 2023-2025 CAWV Strategic Plan. In fact, there are a few areas of emphasis where we are already ahead of schedule. We gave the CAWV website a fresh, new look and launched new social media accounts on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. There are now countless ways for our members, partners, and friends to like and share all the great things happening at CAWV. As you review this year's Annual Report, please take time to reflect on what we have accomplished together. Your support of the association has set the stage for future generations to remain "Hard at Work."

Let's make 2024 an even better year for our association, our industry, and our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Spradling". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Tim Spradling
President

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CONTINUES AT STATE CAPITOL

One of the largest benefits of CAWV membership is the association's aggressive lobbying and government relations program across all levels of government. The 2023 Regular Session was a busy one for the Legislature that resulted in millions of additional investments in various infrastructure priorities. Just to name a few, the Legislature allocated additional dollars from the General Revenue Fund for projects let by the Division of Highways, Conservation Agency, School Building

Authority, General Services Division, Division of Natural Resources, Water Development Authority, State Armory Board, and the Division of Arts Culture and History. The Legislature also enacted Senate Bill 439, establishing a design-build delivery method program for Abandoned Mine Lands projects administered by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The CAWV will continue to advocate for its policy priorities alongside these and many other critical investments in our communities. The support that elected officials have given for countless infrastructure projects is what

keeps our members and their employees "Hard at Work."

CAWV AGAIN PARTICIPATES IN WORK ZONE SAFETY INITIATIVE

On April 17, 2023, in front of the State Capitol, Governor Jim Justice kicked off Work Zone Safety Awareness Week with a press conference requesting drivers to slow down, obey the posted work zone speed limits, and always stay alert when behind the wheel. Just a few days later, the Federal Highway Administration and United States Department of

Transportation designated April 19, 2023, as National Go Orange Day. It's a day set aside to remind transportation professionals and the general public about the overall importance of work zone safety. According to a 2022 study conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), 64% of highway contractors experienced crashes in their work zones. And while it's always easy to focus on the statistics, the CAWV prefers to focus on the people: the men and women who go to work every single day to make our roads and bridges better and safer.

With the support of the Board of Directors, the CAWV plans to remain aggressive in the year ahead as we work with our WVDOH partners to make the state's highway work zones safer. A camera-assisted, electronic speed enforcement system in designated construction work zones will remain a legislative priority for CAWV in 2024.

HUB/PAC PREPARES FOR 2024 ELECTION YEAR

The CAWV and HUB/PAC Board of Directors had another successful fundraising year as the association prepares for the 2024 election cycle. As always, HUB/PAC will consider for endorsement those candidates who pledge support for the construction industry.

AGC AND ARTBA RETAIN OVERSIZED INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON

CAWV has a long history of making its presence known in and around Washington, D.C. The association can successfully do this through its partnerships with AGC and ARTBA. The ongoing implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 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 Moonney. The agenda also included discussions on the need for additional federal permitting reform, the future of the Highway Trust Fund, and the overall impact of the construction industry in West Virginia.

The timing of CAWV's visit to Washington proved fortuitous. With the assistance of AGC and 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. 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 establish a new test for evaluating wetlands under this standard.

With respect to AGC, the long-time CEO of the organization, Stephen Sandherr, announced his impending retirement. He served in this leadership role for 27 years after spending 37 years total with AGC. AGC will be in very good hands with long-time Chief Operating Officer Jeff Shoaf stepping into the role of CEO in April 2024.

100-YEAR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CONCLUDES

The association dedicated 2023 to celebrate its centennial anniversary. At the annual meeting in July, we achieved record attendance and sponsorships to kick off the celebration. For those who have not yet reviewed the 100-year anniversary book published by *Bespoke History*, it is worth a read. The full history of CAWV does not lend itself to a single volume. Nonetheless, the authors and contributors did a masterful job of compiling one hundred years of history into an interesting, illustrative, and easy-to-read commemorative book.

The association's motto is "Hard at Work" for a good reason. To be a part of CAWV is to recognize a standard of excellence, experience, ethics, integrity, and leadership for the betterment of the entire industry. We do this by speaking with one collective voice. The chronicle of CAWV's centennial history is broken down into four 25-year chapters preceded by a brief historical timeline of events leading to the formation of two separate associations – West Virginia Contractors Association (founded 1923) and AGC of West Virginia (founded 1939) – that become one with a merger in

1970. More than thirty-eight individuals from a cross-section of the association including contractor and associate members, staff, and members of the West Virginia business community contributed to the research for this publication. Every individual assisted in telling the story of one of the most respected and effective trade associations of its kind in the United States.

Among other things, we learned that early association members were part of the companies that built West Virginia's vast infrastructure of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, airports, dams, water and wastewater treatment systems. Now it's today's CAWV members who have accepted the torch of responsibility to maintain and expand the state's infrastructure. The voices of CAWV over the past year represent hundreds of others who share similar experiences and sentiments about CAWV's role in shaping their careers.

TASK FORCE CONTINUES TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTION CAREERS TO STUDENTS

The Workforce Development Task Force continues to develop relationships and programs with West Virginia's community and technical colleges, Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools, high schools and recently announced a program for fifth grade students. The new fifth grade program, developed in conjunction with the Education Committee, will launch in January 2024 and consist of a student manual that contains both workbook and hands-on learning by including activities such as building a bridge with popsicle sticks and making a concrete boat.

The task force finalized the *BuildWV* video that highlights why a young adult should choose a construction career path. The video has been added to the *BuildWV* website, which is the "go-to" online destination for information on construction careers and includes details on training, education, and career opportunities for students, adults and military veterans. The Task Force continues its efforts with the West Virginia National Guard and the Governor's Jobs and Hope of West Virginia equipment operator training course.

CAWV DEVELOPS SUCCESSFUL CONSTRUCTION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

CAWV 2022-2023 President James Ridgeway, president of March-Westin Company, Inc., had a vision to create a leadership program for young and newer professionals in construction. With his vision, the CAWV developed the Construction Leadership Program to empower upcoming leaders in the industry. The program equipped individuals with knowl-

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edge, perspectives, and tools to lead effectively. The program kicked off in January 2023 where participants met every other Thursday until the end of June in various locations across the state. The classmates heard from various introductory speakers who talked about their career paths, as well as the opportunities and risks they had taken along the way. Each course had an icebreaker activity, where participants worked together to learn teambuilding skills and create working relationships. The class heard from various speakers on topics that covered essential leadership skills and the basics of the construction industry. CAWV Construction Leadership Program participants attended the CAWV Annual Meeting to receive their certificate of completion during a graduation ceremony held during the President's Banquet on Saturday, July 8.

CAWV AND ENCOVA HELP MEMBERS TO WORK SAFER AND SAVE ON INSURANCE COSTS; ASSOCIATE MEMBERS CAN NOW SAVE ON PREMIUMS

The CAWV partnership with Encova Insurance provides significant savings on members' workers' compensation insurance costs. The program provides a discount on premiums to contractor members with a three-year loss ratio of 65% or less. In 2023, CAWV members who took advantage of the program, saved on the cost of their workers compensation premiums.

CAWV Associate Division members can now receive a discount on their workers' comp premium. Associate members are eligible for the discount if their operations require them to be on construction sites or perform work similar to construction. Associate members whose business operations require them to work on the job site on a regular basis, experiencing many of the same risks as the contractor members, may now qualify to receive a policy premium discount.

In 2023, CAWV members had access to safety training that included fall protection training presented by 3M Company, and Allan Williams, senior safety and loss control consultant with Encova Insurance, conducted an OSHA 10-hour at the Enova Insurance Headquarters in Charleston. Anthony Milam,

compliance assistance specialist for OSHA. Milam presented during the OSHA course and discussed the most cited violations that have been seen in OSHA inspections over the past few years. Members who are not on the program are encouraged to talk to their insurance agent to see if they qualify for the safety program to receive the premium discount.

CAWV PRESIDENT'S AWARD PRESENTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

This year's recipient of the CAWV President's Award was honored at the 2023 Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier. The award recognizes a member who has gone above and beyond in exceeding expectations and demonstrating excellence to help build a better West Virginia. This year's award was presented to Andrew K. Teeter for his decades of service to the construction industry and the association. In honor of his continued dedication, the association renamed the long-standing credit existing members receive for referring a new member as "Teeter Bucks." Teeter has referred dozens of new contractor and associate firms over the years.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS \$27,500 IN 2023

The CAWV's annual scholarship program continued its mission in 2023 by contributing \$27,500 to nine students pursuing careers in construction. This year's top winner, Trey Blain, a civil engineering student from West Virginia University, was joined by eight other recipients from Bluefield State University, Fairmont State University, Marshall University, West Virginia University, and WVU Institute of Technology. The Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees was able to raise money this year with two separate CAWV Scholarship Golf Outings in addition to individual donations from members.

NEW ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The association launched its first-ever Annual Partner Program giving members the opportunity to sponsor events on an annual basis. Members can choose an annual sponsorship, or individual sponsorships, to help better plan their annual budgets. Annual spon-

sors receive exclusive opportunities to position their companies in front of our members at events, showcasing their support of West Virginia's construction industry all year long. Annual partners receive premier recognition on the association's website, signage at events, prominent mentions in event programs, and much more. Visit www.cawv.org to learn more.

CAWV STAFF WORKING FOR MEMBERS

The CAWV is pleased to welcome to the CAWV staff Bekah Woody, who is serving as Administrative Assistant and Marketing Coordinator. Bekah will be working with the Online Planroom and Bid Clearinghouse, as well as assisting in day-to-day operations. She is also spearheading the association's social media efforts and working with the Workforce Development Task Force to start the new Build It Up program. Prior to joining the CAWV, she graduated with a BA in Communication with a minor in Digital Media Design from the University of Charleston. She has past experience working as a Public Relations Intern for the West Virginia Department of Tourism and an Internal Communications Intern at AGC Biologics. Bekah is a native of Elkview and enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, going to concerts, and being outdoors. She brings attributes to the CAWV staff that will be of great benefit to members.

Shelly Hartley, who was serving as Administrative Assistant, has taken on the role of Director of Member Services. Her new role consists of being involved in membership and committee engagement, as well as meeting registrations. Shelly also leads the CAWV's Construction Leadership Program (CLP). Shelly has been with the CAWV since 2021.

In August, Cassidy Webb, Director of Communications, attended the AGC's Annual Chapter Communicators Summit held at AGC Georgia in Atlanta. The group, comprised of chapter staff specialized in communications, met to discuss best practices and learn ways to help make their home chapters more efficient in their communications and marketing. This event is held each year and is hosted by a different AGC chapter. Cassidy will celebrate decade with the CAWV in 2024.

