

From the Western Slope of the Mountains

by Frank Young

Committees are WVHC's Engines

Every successful organization has its power source- its "engines".

Some groups have money to hire well paid executives and other staff.

Others depend largely on unpaid but issue-motivated volunteers. This model, issues oriented volunteers working together as a committee, provides the power- they are the "engines" of the WV Highlands Conservancy.

Cindy Rank and the several other mining committee folks have shaken the coal mining industry and coal regulatory agencies to their very cores.

Judy Rodd and the Blackwater Canyon committee have put the plight of the beloved Blackwater Canyon in the public eye- and on the agenda of public officeholders.

Sayre Rodman and Bob Marshall and the many other public lands management committee activists force state and federal agencies to include the Highlands Conservancy and others of the general public in public lands policymaking decisions.

Hugh Rogers and the highways committee let transportation officials know that we are a force to be reckoned with in major highway location considerations.

Even in controversy, our wind power committee goes on trying to learn more about and inform our members about wind power and alternative energy issues.

And our outings committee, though less focused on a direct "issue", has been the springboard for many fine one day and weekend outdoor experiences for perhaps thousands in the great highlands region of West Virginia.

To the chairpersons and other devoted volunteers of these committees I deliver a hearty New Years 2003 THANK YOU!

Some of our committees are in need of renewed leadership and other volunteers. Like Uncle Sam, the currently inactive WVHC rivers committee could use a few good men and women.

And our outings committee, after several years of fantastic fun and frolic, is suggesting that new volunteers with new energy to organize and schedule events would give that program added vitality.

So to volunteer for your favorite committee contact the committee chairperson, or contact yours truly the president, at 304-372-3945 or by e-mail at fyoung@wvhighlands.org .

Want to start a committee on a new issue? That's easy, too. Under our by-laws new committees can be recognized by the president. Just let me know.

Happy New Year to all.

Frank Young, WVHC President