

**JOE BARKER, *Treasurer***



Joe Barker has served as the director of the Office of Epidemiology and Health Promotion in the WV Bureau for Public Health since September, 2003. He manages the work of four diverse divisions and a staff of over 150 persons that provides programs and services in the areas of health promotion, chronic disease prevention, health statistics, epidemiology and disease surveillance. From October 1993 to December, 2002 Mr. Barker served as the Executive Director of the WV Rural Development Council. In that capacity he led the development of the West Virginia Entrepreneurship Initiative, the Community Development Partnership of West Virginia, the WV Neighborhood Investment Program and other collaborative efforts. From January to September, 2003 he worked as a project consultant for the WV Rural Research & Policy Institute.

From 1991-1993 he was the Director of the Local Development Division for the WV Development Office. From 1984-1991 he was the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. He has over 20 years experience in the field of community and economic development, with a specific focus on community-based development work. Prior to joining the Development Office, Mr. Barker worked for the Energy Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and served as the vice-president for a computer software design and consulting firm in the Boston area.

He has served as the chair of the *National Association for State Community Service Programs* and the *WV Welfare Reform Coalition* and is currently the chair of the *Mountains of Hope Cancer Coalition*. He serves on the board of directors of the *WV Community Development Hub*, the *Alliance for Sustainable Families* and the *West Virginia Center for Civic Life*. He was appointed as a charter member of the *Community Development Advisory Council* for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. From 2002-2003 he served as the Chair of the Building Bridges and Empowering Citizens Steering Committee of the *West Virginia – A Vision Shared* Implementation Team.

He received his BA in Political Science from West Virginia University and a Masters of Science in Management and Public Administration from the West Virginia Graduate College. He has also worked as a trainer, presenter and/or consultant for a number of public and private organizations and has worked on several international volunteer technical assistance and training assignments in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary.