Be Wise ...ENERGIZE

National Health Care Reform Explained at the Annual Council

During WV ARSE Annual Council, September 1, 2010, the national reform measure — the Affordable Care Act — will be explained by a panel, followed by Q&As. The panelists:

- Renate Pore, health care analysis for the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. Renate will discuss the expansion of health insurance to 32 million Americans.
- Gaylene Miller, Senior State Director for AARP West Virginia will discuss the changes in Medicare.
- Perry Bryant, Executive Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care will discuss the insurance reforms.
- Dr. Dan Foster, WV state Senator from Kanawha County, will discuss the cost containment measures in the Affordable Care Act.

ANNUAL COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

REGISTRATION: Convention Center Lobby — 10:30 AM to 12:15 PM
Region VI — David Miller, Director
HOSPITALITY ROOM: Room 225 — 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM
Region I — Connie Watson, Director
FIRST GENERAL SESSION: 12:30 PM — Conference Rooms D & E
Presiding — Arlene Edgell, President
Devotions & Pledge of Allegiance — Wanda Simpkins (10)
Welcome & Introductions — Arlene Edgell (5)
Remarks — Bill Milam, Executive Director (5)
Remarks from AARP, WV — Ruth Wagner, President (5)
AMBA — Kyle Hafner (5)
Panel Discussion (Federal Health Care Law) — Perry Bryant (1 ½ hr)
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
Panel: Senator Dan Foster, Renate Pore, Gaylene Miller, and Perry Bryant
MEMORIAL SERVICE: Thursday, September 2, 2010
8:00 AM Conference Rooms D&E — Chair Mary Ann Ferris
SECOND GENERAL SESSION: 9:00 AM Conference Rooms D&E

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT — 2010-11 GOALS

The Legislative Committee met at Flatwoods, June 24 to form the WV ARSE Legislative goals for next year. On July 8, 2010, the WV ARSE Executive Board met and adopted the same goals to be presented to the Annual Council September 1. Please show your support of these goals when you talk with candidates.

WVARSE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE GOALS 2010-2011
MAIN GOALS
- That WV ARSE adopt and promote intensive efforts for a COLA.
- That WV ARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage.
- That WV ARSE support legislation excluding state pensions from West Virginia state income taxes.
- That WV ARSE will work to amend legislation to provide a 3% supplement to all TRS retirees who have reached the age of 70 since July 2006.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES
- That WV ARSE support an amendment to increase the Homestead Exemption to $60,000.
- IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES
- That WV ARSE
- Sponsor contact persons for each legislator.
- Sponsor a statewide DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE.
- Sponsor wearing RED to identify retired school personnel during visits to the Capitol.
- Encourage a “County Day” at the Legislature.

It is important that you have your new officers installed and that you recognize the significance of this event.

I was quite impressed with the four regional workshops that I attended. Many questions and ideas were brought out during these meetings. These items were discussed at the July Board meeting. You will be notified of the results.

Have a pleasant summer, and I’ll see you in September.

Arlene L. Edgell
WVARSE President
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COLUMN

From the Executive Director

During the past year, we have all been challenged by trying to file our 990-n post card with the IRS. If you have not already filed a 990-n, start by filing for 2009. This will get you started in the cycle and thereafter you must continue filing each year. The WVARSE Executive Board has requested that each county unit submit to me the EIN number and the name and address of the person under whom it is registered to the IRS. The reason for this is future security — when a unit cannot find the EIN number and doesn’t know how it is registered. The Board also requested that you notify me when your 990-n has been accepted. I have received notification as follows:

Region I — four counties; Region II — all except two counties (one is defunct); Region III — all except two counties (one is defunct); Region IV - all except three counties (one is defunct); Region V — Five counties: and Region VI — all except three. Only twenty-four counties have sent in their EIN Numbers. If any of the counties that have not complied need assistance, please contact me and I will be glad to assist. The Board has also requested that each county send a copy of its constitution to me. You may send it as an attachment to an email in WORD, WORD PERFECT, PDF, JPEG or a copy by Mail. In either case, I will convert it to WORD and return it by email so that you may make any needed changes and keep an e-file of it. I will also maintain an e-file.

Recently, some concerns about facility charges not being paid through Humana were brought to the attention of Scott Rogers. Scott investigated the concerns of facility charges and responded as follows: “The research indicates that there could be a facility charge assessed if the professional organization is using a hospital facility. The issue usually occurs when the facility charge is submitted prior to receipt of the professional charge. These two charges may be linked by the facility using a revenue code of 510. If this does not occur and we receive the facility charge prior to the professional charge, we have no way to link the charges and pay the facility charge. Usually the facility charge will go unpaid until brought to our attention either by the facility or by the member.

Solutions:
1. I have requested the provider relations department visit the hospitals discussed in the meeting to reinforce the use of the 510 revenue codes.
2. The members may call customer service to alert them of claims that are in this status and ask us to research and reconsider the claims.”

We’re Jumpin’ on Membership

This year county membership chairs have been asked to “jump on membership” getting an earlier start to their membership drives. Now is an excellent time to contact new retirees and others needing to renew memberships.

“Last year membership increased by 85 and if we start now we will be able to “jump for joy” with even a bigger increase at this time next year,” said Loretta Thompson, WVARSE membership chair. Study the Membership Report found elsewhere in this paper and you will see that 23 units increased membership and several other counties were very close. Eight of these were units in Region II. Congratulations for your efforts.

Counties reaching the goal of increasing membership by at least 5% will be recognized at Annual Council in September. New Life Memberships of 213 nearly doubled last year’s. This brings Life Memberships to more than 2,200 which is 29% of the 7,719 total membership. Counties will be given $5 credit at Annual Council for each new Life Membership received.

State dues are now $10 a year and Life Membership is only $100. It is important to remind retirees of the values to the individual, the county and WVARSE.

PENDLETON COUNTY

Under the leadership of Genevieve Glover, Pendleton County held its annual banquet May 14 in the beautifully decorated Historic Circleville High School.

A memorial meditation was led by Sadie Belle Propst and Wanda Brady. 26,879 volunteer service hours were announced.

David Miller reported on the leadership workshop, and music was provided by Wendell Nelson, Grey Cassell and Gene McConnell.

Attending the banquet were, L-R, seated, Emmel Bennett, Vada Evick, Sadie Belle Propst, Audra Arbo gast, Genevieve Glover and Mike Yokum; second row, Agnes Simmons, Louise Bowers, Byron Bland, Lula Belle Kline, Mary June Bennett and Cynthia Yokum; and third row, Harold Simmons, Elizabeth Leeson, Wanda Brady, Mary Catherie Cassell, Orville Harper, Susie Simmons, Vickie Skavenski, Grey Cassell, Edwin Wimer, Jr., Charles Teter, Tom and Paula Mitchell.

CONTACT US

WVARSE, 200 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV 25311 304-348-6110 * www.wvarse.org
The magic million!

For the last several years, WVARSE has been working to achieve the goal of a Magic Million Volunteer Hours. For the very first time, the goal was achieved! Because last year fell short of the previous two years, a challenge was extended to all regions to increase their level to that which they had in 2007 or 2008, whichever was higher. "I knew we could do it, because we had done it before! And every region came through," said Liz Bradford, Community Service Chair.

The position involves conducting assessment sessions with 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-grade students in participating schools across the country. Each session lasts approximately 90 minutes and involves about 30 students. You will work on a team but will conduct some sessions alone. This opportunity is ideal for retired educators. Your duties will include:

- Preparing assessment materials and assessment locations,
- Checking student attendance,
- Reading directions aloud to the students from a prepared script,
- Monitoring the sessions,
- Answering student questions using prepared guidelines,
- Collecting completed assessment materials, and
- Preparing completed materials for shipping.

Westat provides complete paid training for all job responsibilities, paid time and mileage reimbursement for local driving and from schools, weekly paychecks with direct deposit available, and opportunities for advancement based on performance. Qualified applicants should:

- Be fluent in English (persons speaking fluent English and Spanish are encouraged to apply),
- Be detail-oriented,
- Have the ability to work effectively on a diverse team,
- Be able to work with students in a classroom setting,
- Be willing to submit fingerprints for a required FBI background check,
- Have the ability to lift a box weighing 15 pounds and carry it up the stairs with or without a reasonable accommodation,
- Possess a valid driver’s license and the use of a reliable car to travel to and from schools,
- Be available to work 20 to 30 hours a week, during the day from January 24 to March 4, 2011, and
- Be available to attend a local one-day training between January 3 and January 21, 2011.

This opportunity is a part-time, temporary position with limited benefits. To apply, go to www.westat.com/jobs and insert 3260BR in the space provided. For more information e-mail NAEPrecruit@westat.com or call 1-888-237-8036.

Temporary job opportunities: Assessment Administrators

WESTAT is seeking motivated individuals, who are committed to excellence and are experienced in working with primary and secondary school students. WESTAT will be conducting the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as NAEP or The Nation’s Report Card, for the National Center for Education Statistics, which is part of the U.S. Department of Education. The position involves conducting assessment sessions with 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-grade students in participating schools across the country. Each session lasts approximately 90 minutes, and involves about 30 students. You will work on a team but will conduct some sessions alone. This opportunity is ideal for retired educators. Your duties will include:

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Hancock County

In group photo of volunteers who rang the bell are: (left to right): Seated: Susan Brown. Row 1: Doris Ficca, Betty Flowers, Donna Ruiz, Mishel Robinson-Outreach Chairperson and Carl Patsche. Back Row: Albert Panza, Marshall Conley and Evelyn Gegas

The Brooke/Hancock County Chapter of The Salvation Army at their Annual Civic Appreciation Dinner, recognized members of their local community for their steadfast support throughout the year.

In the photo at the Salvation Army Dinner receiving the award are: (left to right) Susan Brown, Judy Case, Mishel Robinson-Outreach Chairperson and representatives of the local Salvation Army.

The Brooke/Hancock County Chapter of The Salvation Army at their Annual Civic Appreciation Dinner, recognized members of their local community for their steadfast support throughout the year.

HCARSE was recognized and presented with a certificate of appreciation and a trophy for their efforts which earned them the #2 spot in the Business Category for most monies collected. Mishel Robinson, Outreach Chairperson for HCARSE, schedules and organizes the bell ringing event annually during the holiday season. The group continues to “reach out” into their community, thereby making a difference in many lives.

If You Read It In An Email, It Must Be True — Not exactly

By Linda Bunn
AARP WV

Many people view the electronic media as inherently credible. So, when they receive an email from a trusted friend or relative that “uncovers the truth” and ends with “Forward this to everyone you know!” they promptly forward the message to their friends and family. This is how viral or chain emails are born.

The outlandish claims perpetuated by these viral emails run the gamut from tales of lost or dying children to ways to stop abductions in mall parking lots by not smelling new colognes. Sadly, the virus spreads and the hoax is propagated by well meaning friends and relatives who think they are providing you with valuable and important information.

It is hard to determine how or why these chain emails start. Sometimes, the emails are politically motivated to scare the public and stop political conversation. Sometimes viral emails start out harmlessly, but are forwarded and re-forwarded with so many additions and deletions that they end up being completely different than when they began.

Currently, the favored target of viral emails is the new Health Care Law. “The more complicated an issue is, the more easily one can twist and distort the facts about it, and health care is as complicated as they come,” said Brooks Jackson, a veteran journalist and now the director of FactCheck.org. His organization, a nonpartisan, nonprofit project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, tracks the factual inaccuracies and misleading statements that thread through political communications. Rest assured, the new Health Care Law does not create death panels, you will not have a microchip imbedded into your body, and although the value of some health care benefits (not Medicare) will be reported on your W-2 form, your health care benefits will never be taxed as income under the new Health Care Law.

So how do you decide what to believe, what to forward, and what to simply delete? How do you determine if an email contains a matter of opinion or an outright lie? Luckily, both questions have simple answers. Fact check your emails before sending them on. You have many resources at your disposal.

The best way to fact check is to pick a sentence out of the email, and type or cut-and-paste the sentence into the search box at any of these websites: FactCheck.org Politifact.com Snopes.com

At the end of the day, the choice is yours. Do you simply hit the forward button and perpetuate misinformation and myths, or do you pro-actively check the facts in emails before you send them on?

WVARSE Newsletter does not publish death notices, except for current board members and past presidents.
**Gilmer County**

Gilmer County participated in WV CARSE Week on April 26, 2010.

The mayor of Glenville, Tashua Allman, proclaimed WV CARSE Week at a council meeting prior to April 26.

On April 26, 2010, the GCARSE officers plus the membership chairman took baskets of fruit and WV CARSE information to the five schools in Gilmer County.

Pam Butcher, teacher at Troy Elementary retired June 2010.

WVARSE Week Display in a school

President Frances Wolfe presented Ritchie County Commissioners Sam Rogers, Lavada Williamson and Judy Watson the RCARSE WEEK Proclamation for signature.

Highlighting the week, recent retirees were invited guests at a covered dish luncheon at the home of Toni Kay Meador on April 26th.

The theme for the year is “Each One Bring One.”

“If our regular members will bring a non member or one that has not been attending we will double our power of potential at once,” says Frances Wolfe.

Wetzel County Commissioners Scott Lemley and Bob Gorby adopted April 26-30 as Wetzel County Association of Retired School Employees Week.

Standing from left to right are members Shirley Terek, Lucille Price, Hazel Blair, and Carol Gorby. Membership information was placed in mail boxes of prospective retirees.

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**Summers County**

April 13, 2010, Mayor Joe Blankenship declared the week of April 26 as West Virginia and Summers County Association of Retired School Employees Week.

The purpose of the Summers County Association of Retired School Employees is to promote good fellowships among members and to support legislation to strengthen the WV Retirement System for school employees.

Pictured L to R Margaret Woodrum, President; Joy Stone, Vice President; Doris Yates, Treasurer; Judy Long, Secretary with Mayor Joe Blankenship

**Nicholas County**

Pictured above, L to r: Commissioner Hinkle; (NARSE members) Charlotte McClung, Reba Perkins, Janet Ayers, Carl Lawrence, Betty Fleming; Commissioner O’Dell

Mailboxes at the Nicholas County Board Office, and Betty Fleming and Janet Ayers who placed the “Goodie Bags” in the mailboxes for the new retirees.

**Wetzel County**

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Standing from left to right are members Shirley Terek, Lucille Price, Hazel Blair, and Carol Gorby. Membership information was placed in mail boxes of prospective retirees.

NARSE WEEK — Apr. 26-Apr. 30 — On April 2, 2010 Nicholas County Commissioners signed a proclamation declaring the week of April 26—April 30 as (NARSE) Nicholas Association of Retired School Employees Week.
Arlene Edgell, President of the WV ARSE, installed new officers of the Marion County unit at their monthly luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn on April 20, 2010. New officers installed for 2 year terms were President Sandra Michael; Vice President Barbara McDougal; Secretary Rosemary Reese; and Treasurer Vilery Talkington. An impressive candlelight ceremony included the importance of their offices and their pledges to uphold its duties as well as pledges by the membership to support them. President Edgell ended the ceremony by telling the membership to “Be Peaceful and God Bless You”.

On April 26, KCARSE Board members presented WV ARSE bags to Liz Bryant, Human Resources Secretary at the WV Department of Education to be distributed to retiring employees. L to R: Sandi Huff, Ellen Wirth, Pat Shillings, (photographer Darlene Milam)

At the South Charleston City Council Meeting in April, Mayor Frank Mullens proclaimed the week of April 26 as KCARSE/WV ARSE Week. With Mayor Mullens are L to R: Jim Burgess, Orita Bonnett, Pat Weiford, Pat Schillings, Bill & Darlene Milam, Sandi Huff.

Monroe County Commission proclaimed WV ARSE/MCARSE day for Monroe County. Attending the proclamation were Rosa Lee and Harold “Boots” Keeling and Harriett Kirby. The Monroe unit held their first meeting for 2010 on April 9. Officers for the year are: President Rosa Lee Keeling; Vice President Mary Bennett; Secretary Harold “Boots” Keeling and Treasurer Hazel Shrader.


Kanawha County

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CABELL COUNTY

Cabell County made changes to its meeting schedule for the 2009-2010 year. In the past, the group met eight times per year alternating meetings being either informative or entertaining. They were entertained by the Cabell Midland High School Music Department for the Holidays; the Gold 'n Girls provided a program of show tunes; AARP Foundation delivered a very informative presentation of its programs. The resident storyteller, Jim Hollandsworth entertained with Appalachian Tales. Bingo for white elephant items proved to be very entertaining. The membership plans to continue exploring ways to reach Cabell Retired and involve them in the Unit.

BERKELEY COUNTY

Berkeley County officers in the photo are: Sandy Fletcher, Membership Co Chair; Janet Cookus, Vice President; Patsy Smith, Membership Chair; Joanna Gess, President; Mary Geiger, Community Services Chair and Dott DeTaven, President. Dott is proud to have reported 80,393 volunteer hours for the unit.
~ In Memoriam ~

BOONE
Geneva A. Wynne
Victoria Griffith
Arneth Hall
Freda Lucille Kirk
Jannelene Matson
Sandra Jean Skeens
Jessie Hickman
Marjorie Given

MINERAL
Besse Brooks
Stuart Durst
Flora Kessel
Robert Knotts
Marvin V. Reel
Edgell Rotruck

BRAXTON
Harold Walters

MONTAGNA
Esther Alletta Burch
Marjorie DeGarmo
Sara Stevens
Charles Allen
Lula C. Harvey

BROOKE
MORGAN
Lois G. Lantz
Kathryn M. McDaniel
Edythe Miller
Herbert Varney

BRAXTON
Jessie Hickman

BROOKE
Victoria Griffith
Arnett Hall
Lee B. Harms

CALHOUN
F REDA LUCILLE KIRK
JANALENE MATSON
SANDRA JEAN SKEENS

NOMA MAZE
G RANT
Artie Cunningham
Florence Shobe
Nelda Harmon

GREENBRIER
Robert Simms Cohoun
Charlotte E. Handley
Vesper Lewis
Caroline Maynard
Louise R. McCormick
Mary Frances Ripley
Dorothy L. Scruggs
Margaret Stone
Edward Swink
Robert Sparrow

HANCOCK
G RANT
Victoria Hoggsett
Mary Johnson
Kate Ranson

HARDY
Carol D. Dorsey
Ollie Teets
Jean Zirk
Paul Wilkins

HARRISON
William E. Brown
Harriet Harmer
Jeanne Holt
Katherine Louise Kirby
Goldie Lynch
Elizabeth Moore
Arl Elwood Sandy
Charles Zinn

JACKSON
Barbara Chancy
Clara Belle Denning
Bernice French
Virginia Hogsett
Mary Johnson
Kate Ramson

KANAWHA
Charles E. Ellis
Basil B Gray
Geraldine B. Harless
Dorotha B. Hedrick
Charles Richard Burnside
Zola Sims

LAWRENCE
Margaret A. Lawson
Nellie C. McKain
Ida F. Shaver
Everette Emil Smith

MASON
Lois Nibert
Lois P. Leonard
Lucy Bulmer
James Langdon
Walden Roush
Grace Sommerville

MERCER
Lauren Cook
Jackie C. Thorn

~ Life membership — $100 ~
Life members — Remember to update your address and pay county membership dues

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM
DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 20—JUNE 30, 20

STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP $100.00

STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT
COUNTY DUES ONLY $5.00
PLUS ANNUAL COUNTY DUES $5.00
SUPPLEMENTAL DUES $5.00
TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES $100.00

COUNTRY LIFE MEMBERSHIP $100.00

PLEASE PRINT: (Name as it appears on your retirement check)
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Send to YOUR COUNTY:
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For info: contact www.WVARSE.org or County Membership Chairman
Or call: Rita Hammond, WVARSE Membership Clerk 304-623-0929

“Dues are not tax deductible”

Members receive Newsletters, Insurance/Travel Opportunities & representation at the legislature.
AMBA appoints new state manager

Kyle Hafner was born and raised in Brenham, a small town in Texas. Kyle was interviewed with AMBA while attending Texas State University and was hired soon after. He began working in Houston with Texas RTA endorsed benefits. He was later promoted to manager, and worked with Georgia REA and Ohio RTA. As of April 1st, he was promoted to Regional Vice President and the state manager/vice president for Ohio, West Virginia, and Connecticut. Kyle and his wife have lived in Ohio for three years and plan to stay even longer.

2 minute 1 second fudge

Mary Gill, past Cabell Co. President and WVARSE Executive Board Member, prides herself on getting through to her state legislators with her fudge, not for the legislators, but for their secretaries.

She got the recipe while attending a microwave cooking class in the 70s at the vocational school and has been making it ever since.

- 1/2 cup margarine
- 16 oz. box Confectioner’s Sugar
- 1/2 cup Cocoa
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup Evaporated Milk
- 2 tbsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup pecan pieces (if wanted)

Stir dry ingredients in a bowl. Make a well in the center. Cut stick of margarine in 4 pieces and put in the shape of a cross on the edge of the well. Put Evaporated Milk and vanilla in the well. Microwave on high for 2 minutes 1 second. Stir and you may add pecans. Spray 1 1/2 quart casserole with Pam. Fudge will still be lumpy. Pour into casserole and refrigerate. Enjoy!

Quilt contest winner

Patsy Smith's quilt, 'Wildflower Sampler,' has won first place in the mixed/other category at the Quilts and Wall Hangings 2010 juried exhibition. The exhibition is at the WV Culture Center at the Capitol until September 3. Smith is a Berkeley County member.

One Hundredth Birthday Milestone for Merle Miller

Mrs. Merle Miller, a WVARSE member of Harrison County recently celebrated her one hundredth birthday. She was born in Annabelle, West Virginia (Marion County) on June 18, 1910. She was married to Ralph E. Miller. They had three children: David Ralph, Sue Ann, and Jimmie George. She also has seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Miller spent her twenty-five year teaching career in Harrison County. She taught in Brown, Linden Grade School and Shinnston Elementary School, from which she retired in 1975 at the age of sixty-five.

Reminder to county presidents:

Memorial scholarship contributions will be accepted during the memorial service on September 2.

Fayette County

Fayette County presented its first scholarship ($500) to a graduating senior from a Fayette County High School. The single requirement of each applicant was that he/she intended to major in education and become a teacher.

The first recipient of this scholarship was Kaitlyn Nichole Wilburn, a graduating senior at Fayetteville High School. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Gary and Patsy Holliday of Fayetteville. She will be attending West Virginia Wesleyan College majoring in elementary education.

Reminder: State annual dues have increased to $10 effective July 1, 2010.