



## WVARSE Annual Council

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – Flatwoods Days Inn

**REGISTRATION:** 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM Annual Council begins at 11:30 AM in Conference Rooms D & E. **Please turn off cell phones.** Devotions & Pledge of Allegiance will be lead by Douglas Wayne Harvey Summers. Speakers will be Scott Rogers (Humana) and Joe Maddalon (AMBA). Featured speaker will be West Virginia Teacher of the Year, Erin Anderson from Upshur County. Awards and certificates will be announced and certificates will be distributed during Regional Caucuses. 45 minutes will be allotted for Regional Caucuses. Details will be in the program book. The last 40 minutes will be allotted for the Annual Memorial Service. This will be our first person to person since the pandemic began and we hope to be able to resume normal scheduling beginning with the November Executive Board meeting.

## West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees Proposed LEGISLATIVE GOALS for 2022

By John Taylor, State Legislative Chair

### State Goals

- That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums, copays, or reduction in benefits.
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to increase the pension of those who retired 20 or more years ago by two dollars per month per year of service.
- That WVARSE will support the renewal of the law that allows payroll deduction for retirees and blind mailing.
- That WVARSE will support AARP efforts at the legislature.

### National Goals

- WVARSE proposes that Congress:
  - Increase funding for Social Security by eliminating the cap on earnings taxed.
  - Increase funding to Medicare.
- Add coverage in Medicare for Optical, Dental, and Hearing Aids
- Allow Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices.

## Legislative News

By John Taylor, State Legislative Chair

Our Proposed 2022 Legislative Goals have been changed just a bit from last year. First, we eliminated the goal that asked for a stimulus payment in case of a State of Emergency. Legislators I spoke to all stated that this was done on the federal level. They didn't wish to do it on a state level as well. There is no use to ask for something there is no chance of. We

added a request for renewal of a law that currently allows payroll deduction for retirees and blind mailings by the retirement board. This law (5-6D-6) expires at the end of this year due to a sunset clause. We hope to demonstrate to the Legislature that retirees are a different breed and deserve this assistance.

We also added several new goals on the National level.

These apply to support for Social Security and Medicare. We also would be asking for Optical, Dental, and Hearing coverage to be added to Medicare and that Medicare be allowed to negotiate for drug prices. These important steps would make Medicare a more complete coverage and in the case of drug negotiations would save Medicare a great deal of money. The

## From Your President

I informed you in my previous communications that the work of WVARSE continues forward in spite of the barriers presented by the pandemic. We may have been somewhat hampered, but we did not surrender or succumb to defeat.

Our Executive Board continued to meet. We met May 5, 2021 and July 6, 2021. Both of these meetings were via Zoom. Additionally, each of our committees continued to function and addressed the tasks assigned to them. Our Executive Director maintained communication with President-elect Charmel Radcliff and me with several telephone conference calls. Through concentrated efforts to maintain communication, the work of the organization moved forward.

During the past few months, I had to take some time to assist my wife with her elderly father. He experienced a series of brain bleeds, had a minor stroke, lost his eyesight and became bedridden. Charmel Radcliff, our President-elect; Bill Milam, our Executive Director; Mary Ann Ferris, our Immediate Past President and all the members of the Executive Board kept the work going without interruption. My father-in-law passed away at the age of 92 on June 28, 2021. Thanks to all for your prayers and support. A special thanks to Charmel Radcliff and to those who stepped up and continued the work of WVARSE.

A grant committee, chaired by John Taylor, was successful in securing a "Cares Grant" of \$5,000 from the NRTA – National Retired Teachers Association. As a result of this grant, post cards were sent to our members regarding vaccinations. Other mailings are planned to assist in membership recruiting and retention. In addition to these efforts our WVARSE Brochure is being updated and reprinted.

Regional Meetings were not held this year. If there are no major surges in the Covid Virus or other unforeseen barriers, these will resume in June of 2022.

The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for August 24, 2021 via Zoom. On the next day, August 25, 2021, our in-person Annual Council Meeting is planned



IRVIN SCARBERRY  
WVARSE President

### See President, Page 2

addition of National Goals passed by the Annual Council will give us ammunition to work our Congressmen and Senators and make our Association even more relevant to potential members.

As ever, stay tuned. As soon as Annual Council accepts these goals, we will start to work the Legislature and the Congress. Our grassroots are our strength. That means YOU. Everybody can write

letters, send emails, and/or make phone calls. Stay in touch with your County Legislative Chairs. I will pass information on to them and through them, to you.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



**William G. 'Bill' Milam**  
Executive Director

We have been operating well during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many units have had "Face-to-Face" meetings while many have met virtually using Zoom. The fact that WVARSE members have reported 1,304,878 volunteer hours is indicative that members were active during the pandemic. 31 county units have qualified for Honor Points certificates, which will

be awarded at the regional caucuses at Annual Council August 25, 2021. Some units were not able to celebrate WVARSE week due to Covid, but 4 units managed to, and earned a Gold Certificate. 3 units qualified for Silver and the remainder earned either Blue or Red. In view of the pandemic, I believe the units did an outstanding job and I commend you. Membership

dropped a little since there were less "Face-to-Face" meetings. It is our hopes that this will change as we start having meetings again. I hope all retirees have been able to get the COVID Vaccination. I hope you received our post card reminding you to vaccinate. Another post card will soon be mailed to those who have not yet renewed membership.

We must continue to increase our membership. It is the responsibility of each member to do his/her best to enroll new members and retain old members. We still accept the old enrollment forms and members can enroll on the website. You are now able to pay your membership dues online by using a credit card or a check draft. Go to [www.WVARSE.org](http://www.WVARSE.org) click on

membership and then click on join online.

Your sharing of email addresses with us would be most helpful. Many of my email addresses are not valid. If you have changed your email address, please send me an email at [bmilam@suddenlink.net](mailto:bmilam@suddenlink.net) so that I can update my files.

## President

From Page 1

from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the Days Inn Hotel at Flat-

woods, West Virginia. Local unit Presidents will receive information regarding this session from Executive Director Milam. We sincerely

hope that you can join us as we attempt this first in-person session since 2019.

Each time our Executive Board meets, reports are presented by each of our officers, committee chairs, Regional Directors, AARP representative, AMBA representatives and our Executive Director. As President, I appreciate the energy and enthusiasm

from each of these individuals as we collectively strive to fulfill our mission – "The West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees shall promote the professional, economic, intellectual and social wellbeing of its members and shall encourage volunteer opportunities throughout West Virginia."

Since pensions and other

financial-related items are of major importance to our members, I would like to draw your attention to our Proposed Legislative Goals for 2022 printed on page 1.

Since volunteering is one of the elements of our Mission Statement, I am pleased to draw your attention to the volunteer hours on page 6.

We have proven we can

overcome the obstacles presented by the Covid Virus. I remain confident that we can retain and recruit members for this great organization. A five percent increase is still attainable. Once again I cite our Immediate Past President, Mary Ann Ferris: SMILE – Seek Members In Locations Everywhere.

KEEP ON SMILING

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President Irvin Scarberry**  
(304) 544-4288 [irvinscarberry@gmail.com](mailto:irvinscarberry@gmail.com)  
**President-elect Charmel Radcliff**  
(304) 684-2133 [charmelnr@hotmail.com](mailto:charmelnr@hotmail.com)  
**Secretary Carolyn Davis**  
304 677-2874 [cadavis@citynet.net](mailto:cadavis@citynet.net)  
**Treasurer Judy Staubly**  
(304) 269-5494 [JUDY@steeds.com](mailto:JUDY@steeds.com)  
**Immediate Past President Mary Ann Ferris**  
(304) 592-2061 [maferris24@frontier.com](mailto:maferris24@frontier.com)  
**Executive Director William G. Milam**  
(304) 610-0192 [bmilam@suddenlink.net](mailto:bmilam@suddenlink.net)  
**Parliamentarian Danny Gray**  
(304) 645-2529 [dp135gray@hotmail.com](mailto:dp135gray@hotmail.com)  
**Scholarship Sharon Vance**  
(304) 497-2138 [kvance@frontiernet.net](mailto:kvance@frontiernet.net)  
**Historian Mary Pat Glover**  
(304) 273-2804 [marypatglover83@gmail.com](mailto:marypatglover83@gmail.com)  
**Newsletter Editor Darlene Milam**  
(304) 610-2935 [bmilam@suddenlink.net](mailto:bmilam@suddenlink.net)  
**Membership Clerk Karen Nicholson**  
(304) 488-2860 [knichol@aol.com](mailto:knichol@aol.com)  
**Region I Charmel Radcliff**  
(304) 684-2133 [charmelnr@hotmail.com](mailto:charmelnr@hotmail.com)  
**Region II Martha Dean**  
(304) 765-2126 [marddean@hotmail.com](mailto:marddean@hotmail.com)  
**Region III Carol Williams**  
(304) 927-2910 [tandcwilliams@suddenlink.net](mailto:tandcwilliams@suddenlink.net)  
**Region IV Denis Chapman**  
(304) 697-2082 [dhchapma@aol.com](mailto:dhchapma@aol.com)  
**Region V Ann Pauley**  
(304) 913-4109 [a\\_pauley4@hotmail.com](mailto:a_pauley4@hotmail.com)  
**Region VI John Moyers**  
(304) 749-7547 [jemoe@frontiernet.net](mailto:jemoe@frontiernet.net)  
**Community Service Patty Adkins**  
304-668-4302 [pdadkins72@gmail.com](mailto:pdadkins72@gmail.com)  
**I&P Service Norma Taylor**  
(304) 842-4213 [nataylor61@hotmail.com](mailto:nataylor61@hotmail.com)  
**Legislative John Taylor**  
(304) 265-5514 [johntaylor1@comcast.net](mailto:johntaylor1@comcast.net)  
**Membership John A Riddle**  
(304) 372-3896 [jriddle@casinternet.net](mailto:jriddle@casinternet.net)  
**AARP-REA Liaison Jo Ann Harman**  
(304) 749-7322 [jsharman@frontiernet.net](mailto:jsharman@frontiernet.net)  
**AARP-WV President Jane Marks**  
(304) 346-4979 [janesandwichcaring@gmail.com](mailto:janesandwichcaring@gmail.com)  
**AMBA Insurance Richard Rowland**  
(717) 514-3417 [richard.rowland@amba.info](mailto:richard.rowland@amba.info)  
**AMBA Insurance Garrett Mowery**  
(717) 448-6048 [gsmowery@moweryassoc.com](mailto:gsmowery@moweryassoc.com)  
**AMBA Insurance Joe Maddalon**  
(724) 766-1691 [Joe.maddalon@amba.info](mailto:Joe.maddalon@amba.info)

## The AMBA Team

A team of AMBA associates will come knocking on your door. They will be getting to know you and offer AMBA benefit packages. This article will introduce them to you. **Joe Maddalon** is the leader of the pack. Joe has been in the insurance industry for 19 years. Prior to insurance experience He

served as a Dean of Students at Pine-Richland School District. Mary Beth, a first-grade teacher in Pittsburgh Schools, and Joe have 3 amazing boys. They enjoy hiking, the beach and anything sports related.

Listing the remainder alphabetically. **Tim Bolick** [timothy.bolick@amba.info](mailto:timothy.bolick@amba.info)

(304) 859-5598. Tim has over 40 years of insurance experience and over 5 years working with WVSSPA (WV School Service personnel). Tim is also the founder of True Bible Ministries, where he serves as lead pastor. **Amy Crockett**. Amy and her family live in Gassaway. She has 3 boys, and they love to fish.

Amy has been with AMBA since 2001 and just really enjoys working with active and retired educators. **Jason Henderson**. Jason is married with 3 amazing kids who are 7, 5 and 3. He enjoys camping, playing sports and obstacle course racing.

You may want to keep this handy when they make a visit.



**Joe Maddalon**



**Tim Bolick**



**Amy Crockett**



**Jason Henderson**

## Welcome to Human Care by Humana

As a member of PEIA's Humana Medicare Advantage PPO Plan, we are excited to offer you the In-home Health and Well-being Assessment (IHWA).

- Humana works with SignifyHealth (Signify) to schedule and complete the IHWA for PEIA members, where a licensed clinician comes to your home to complete an assessment.
  - It is not a substitute for regular doctor visits, but it does help to provide another layer of support.
  - Available at no additional cost to you as part of your Humana plan and does not affect your health plan rates or benefits.
  - Results are shared with your primary care physician via SignifyHealth to better understand your whole health picture.
- The assessment provides valuable information to you and your doctor that you may have not had time to discuss.

You may receive additional communications from Signify providing you with steps to participate in this service. If you are contacted, please consider participating in this program that provides another layer of support with no cost to you.

Your safety is our highest priority. Signify providers follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to protect you during your assessment. They are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to the assessment and utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) during the assessment. A virtual option may be available.



## GRANT COUNTY

### GCARSE Meeting – June 28, 2021

The Grant County Association of Retired School Employees met for the first time since December, 2019. The meeting was called to honor new Grant County retirees and announce the 2021 GCARSE Scholarship winners. Fifteen members and friends in attendance were presented with magnets announcing dates of scheduled meetings.

President Patty Adkins called the meeting to order. John Moyers, Region VI director, gave the blessing before attendees enjoyed a delicious array of finger foods.

President Adkins gave a reading entitled, "Slow Down" encouraging retirees to slow down and enjoy their retirement. Betty Inskeep gave inspirational thoughts about living meaningful lives enriching the lives of others. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

New retirees Sandy McGuinness and Ann Moreland were introduced. Betty Inskeep presented them with gift bags from the organization. Guests included Foster and Mary Hedrick and Sandy's husband who were invited to become associate members.

JoAnn Harman presented certificates, checks and gift bags to this year's GCARSE Scholarship winners. Isaac Cardot who is furthering his education attending graduate school at West Liberty State University with dreams of becoming a music teacher and Mariah Bennett who is pursuing an advanced degree in education hoping to come back to Grant County to teach.

Patty Adkins reminded members to keep records of their volunteer hours starting with June 1, 2021. Carolyn Shuman and Dottie Riggleman chair the committee for Community Service and volunteer hours. Officers present were introduced: Patty Adkins, President; JoAnn Harman, Vice President; Betty Inskeep, Secretary and Informative and Protective Service Chair; Erma Moyers, Treasurer and Membership Chair; David Adkins, Legislative Chair.

The next meeting will be August 10th at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Petersburg at 5 pm. West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees President Irvin Scarberry will be the guest speaker.



Grant County Association of Retired School Employees joined forces with their "Supper Club" to clean up the flower beds and trim bushes at the Grant County Rehabilitation Center. Members David Adkins, Patty Adkins and Barbara Smith enjoy the assistance of members of the "Supper Club", Marlene Alexander, Nan Kesner, Charlotte Al and Nancy Heck. It was hot work, but at the end of the day they were very proud of the results. The next project will be replacing the fence.

## GILMER COUNTY



Picture is of the Picnic on July 20

The Gilmer County Association of Retired School Employees held their Executive Committee Meeting on June 24, 2021 at the Farmer's Market Pavilion in Glenville. Program topics, scholarship fund raisers, committees, and community projects were organized for the upcoming year.

The 2020-2021 GCARSE scholarship recipients were Dakota Taylor and Dayton Grogg from Gilmer County High School. Dakota is the daughter of Maria and Ross Marks of Cox's Mills. She will attend Pierpont CTC - majoring in Food Service Management. Dayton is the son of Ann and Daniel Reed of Cedar Creek. He will be a student at the Hobart School of Welding.

GCARSE will held their annual covered dish picnic at the Trinity Methodist Church on July 20, 2021. Delegate Brent Boggs will be present to give an update on the WV State Legislature. Also, new retirees and the scholarship recipients have been invited to attend.

## WIRT COUNTY



A Wirt County High School vocational senior was the recipient of much laughter and joy and did not even know it. WCARSE voted to award a 2022 vocational senior, who has been accepted to a vocational school, a \$500 scholarship.

A grab bag auction was held to finance the project. Tears of laughter could be seen on faces as we let go of the pandemic which has been holding us down all year. Eileen Shaver was the perfect auctioneer as she deliberately forgot where we were in the bidding process. From the very beginning fun was had by all.



## MORGAN COUNTY



After months of ZOOM meetings, the Morgan County ARSE, had their April and May meetings IN PERSON at the Nature Center Pavilion at the lovely Cacapon Resort State Park. Each member brought their own lunches. In May the assistant superintendent, Kelly Smith (pictured) gave an informative update of the NEW lodge addition and amenities, plus other additions to the park, such as new hiking and biking trails, an indoor swimming pool and disc golf. Our members have always appreciated the beauty of the park, but now we feel like we have another slice of heaven just 10 miles outside of Berkeley Springs. Come visit!

## RANDOLPH COUNTY



The Randolph County Association of Retired School Employees recently awarded three \$200 scholarships to graduating seniors who are enrolled in a college or university for the 2021 fall semester. The winners, shown here with EHS Counselor Mrs. Amanda Carter, are (l to r) Jaden Pratt, daughter of Michelle and Seth Pratt and Sydney Cooper, daughter of Maggie and Shawn Cooper. Both Jaden and Sydney will be majoring in Nursing at Davis and Elkins College. Lindsay Maxwell, daughter of Ken and Michelle Maxwell is the third recipient. She will be majoring in Criminology at WVU.

## TAYLOR COUNTY

The Taylor County Association of Retired School Employees packed meals for the Taylor County Backpack program on Tuesday April 27. Members pictured are Lee Taylor, Gary Bolyard, Sandy Bolyard, Curtis Hildebrandt, Diana Swisher, and John Taylor. June 24th Taylor County ARSE officers stuffed envelopes with newsletters and membership forms to send out to members.



## KANAWHA COUNTY



On June 7, 2021, the Executive Board of The Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees had their first face to face meeting since the pandemic. It was wonderful to see members again and to begin making plans to become active again. KCARSE agreed to help Manna Meal, Charleston's local food kitchen by making a \$50.00 donation and completed the Honor Points application in preparation for the Annual Meeting at Flatwoods on August 25. Plans for the upcoming year include a Come Back Party at Los Agaves restaurant in Dunbar on the outside patio on July 21 at 11:30. September 22, was chosen for the annual picnic with legislators invited to speak to the group at Coonskin Park's Columbia Shelter. AMBA representative, Joe Maddalon, will speak on October 20, the group will enjoy pizza and play bingo afterwards. On November 10 at 11:30 they plan to assemble bags for shut-ins and deliver them to Hansford Center in St. Albans and South Charleston Recreation Center in South Charleston. December 15 will be their annual Holiday Tea with Concordia, a local recorder group, performing Christmas carols and a sing-along. Additional planning for the rest of our year will be discussed at a February meeting. June 21 the group met to prepare the mailing of more than 500 newsletters.



## ROANE COUNTY

Roane County Association of Retired School Employees held their Annual Picnic at the Williams Farm. Special guest was Karen Nicholson, membership clerk, who spoke about the importance of recruiting, & retaining members as well as reaching out to members who have not rejoined. Pictures to come. ~Melinda



## BRAXTON COUNTY

### Unexpected Guest for Memorial Service



An unexpected guest showed up at the Braxton County Association of Retired School Employees June 24th Memorial Service. As we gathered at the Sutton Dam to remember and celebrate the lives of employees who have passed the previous year, a local groundhog sauntered into our midst. It was obvious that she/he had been a dinner guest of patrons of the picnic shelter. The “whistle pig” is an icon of West Virginia wildlife so we think our past colleagues would be honored by his/her presence. Thank you, Beverly Monroe (pictured), who lead the heart-felt service.

## MASON COUNTY

Mason County MCARSE awarded a scholarship to Leah Hoffman of Wahama High School. She was accepted to fall term at WVU Agricultural Extension Education.



Pictured is Leah Hoffman, scholarship winner and Rick White MCRSE President.



~ In Memoriam ~

<b>GRANT</b> Arlen Haslacker*	<b>LINCOLN</b> Larry Wilkerson *
<b>GREENBRIER</b> Betty J Holliday** Dora Mae Richardson**	<b>KANAWHA</b> Richard D. Fisher* Patricia A. Lawson* Rachel S. Smith**
<b>HAMPSHIRE</b> Virginia B. Lovett * Eugene Combs, Jr**	<b>MASON</b> Marybeth Pileggi Pyles**
<b>HANCOCK</b> Sue Allison Nicholas Mourat Linda Romitti	<b>RANDOLPH</b> Don Rice **
<b>HARDY</b> Arlen Haslacker*	<b>ROANE</b> Ernie Fox*
<b>HARRISON</b> Alice R. Brake** Rita N. Hammond**	<b>WEBSTER</b> Dr. Stanley Anderson **

A Note from Fluffy

I've moved to:

Oak Hill Place  
438 23rd St. Room 33  
Oak Hill, WV 25901  
(304) 465-1830  
(new phone number)

And I brought Charles and Marie Akers with me.

If you would like to, come see us, visiting hours  
10-6 Mon. thru Fri. and 12-4 Sat. and Sun.

Love,  
Fluffy Akers



WVARSE Membership Report

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2021

REGION I	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BROOKE	169	161	463
FAIRMONT	17	12	122
HANCOCK	224	166	559
MARION	239	199	884
MARSHALL	193	138	674
MONONGALIA	156	97	909
OHIO	314	283	594
PLEASANTS	86	75	172
TYLER	60	57	165
W. LIBERTY	.1	1	42
WETZEL	65	44	346
WVU	27	26	556
TOTAL	1551	1259	5486

REGION II	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BARBOUR	105	83	289
BRAXTON	83	90	291
DODDRIDGE	20	7	141
GILMER	42	28	136
GLENVILLE	13	10	80
HARRISON	338	275	1145
LEWIS	107	67	294
PRESTON	161	111	510
RANDOLPH	181	144	470
TAYLOR	144	116	258
TUCKER	57	64	140
UPSHUR	262	235	435
WEBSTER	69	51	233
TOTAL	1582	1281	4422

REGION III	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BOONE	228	194	518
CALHOUN	21	6	157
CLAY	15	17	218
JACKSON	137	130	460
KANAWHA	388	337	3281
RITCHIE	30	32	173
ROANE	57	65	265
STATE DEPT	36	27	396
WIRT	61	69	111
WOOD	343	232	1530
WVS	5	5	72
TOTAL	1321	1114	7181

Membership Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022			
REGION IV	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CABELL	183	133	1456
LINCOLN	114	93	435
LOGAN	33	36	741
MASON	58	41	447
MINGO	28	27	664
MU	6	5	223
PUTNAM	151	118	786
WAYNE	150	98	808
TOTAL	723	551	5560

REGION V	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CONCORD	3	1	65
FAYETTE	159	135	836
GREENBRIER	132	113	643
MCDOWELL	153	84	697
MERCER	241	175	1201
MONROE	16	13	226
NICHOLAS	110	94	518
POCAHONTAS	100	104	168
RALEIGH	172	104	1351
SUMMERS	110	82	235
WVIT	3	3	5
WYOMING	95	80	580
TOTAL	1294	988	6525

REGION VI	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BERKELEY	174	165	952
DEAF & BLIND	35	25	175
GRANT	63	104	214
HAMPSHIRE	69	61	281
HARDY	33	36	199
JEFFERSON	123	95	516
MINERAL	125	134	442
MORGAN	82	73	211
PENDLETON	54	41	162
POTOMAC	5	3	7
SHEPHERD	5	4	29
TOTAL	768	741	3188

	Last Yr	Current	Potential
Total Members	7239	5934	32362

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

If you are an active, annual state member, you  
can convert to a state life membership for only \$85.  
Your membership must be received by the  
WVARSE Membership Clerk by June 15.  
PLUS, your local unit will get a \$5 rebate.

2020-2021 Volunteer Hours

By Patty Adkins

Once again, we exceeded a Million and a Half Hours of Volunteer Hours. At the NRTA National hourly rate of \$22.00 for senior volunteer hours, our total represents a donation of \$33,549,318.00 to the state of West Virginia. Thank you to every volunteer who reported hours this year and made this increase possible.

Region	Youth	Other	Total
Total:	252,755	1,052,123	1,304,878

Thank you, Volunteers - Patty Adkins

Annual payment for membership. Must sign up annually.  
WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM  
DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 20 21 - JUNE 30, 20 22

STATE LIFE MEMBER PAYING COUNTY DUES ONLY \$ 5.00 EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$ TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES \$	STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$ 100.00 PLUS ANNUAL COUNTY DUES \$ 5.00 EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$ TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES \$ COUNTY LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$	ANNUAL STATE DUES \$ 15.00 ANNUAL COUNTY DUES \$ 5.00 EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$ TOTAL ANNUAL DUES \$
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PLEASE PRINT: (Name as it appears on your retirement check)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ Associate ( ) Life ( )  
Last First Middle Renewal ( ) New ( )

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ OLD ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ IF CHANGED -

RETIRED FROM \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME OF COUNTY, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OTHER)

Send to YOUR COUNTY MEMBERSHIP CHM.  
both forms & check payable to your unit.  
Members receive Newsletters, Travel Opportunities & representation at the legislature.

For info: contact [www.WVARSE.org](http://www.wvarse.org) for County Membership Chairman  
Or call: Karen Nicholson, WVARSE Membership Clerk 304-488-2860  
"Dues are not tax deductible"

# Volunteer Opportunities: Help the Red Cross Save Lives

Even as our world remains unpredictable, life’s emergencies have not stopped. As educators and leaders have adapted to a virtual teaching environment and students and parents have navigated remote learning, we have seen the resiliency, care and compassion that our former colleagues have shown during this time.

The work of the Red Cross has continued as well. Every 8 minutes the Red Cross responds to a disaster and every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood. 90% of the Red Cross work force are caring, compassionate volunteers who donate their time to meeting the needs of our communities. The American Red Cross Central Appalachia Region serves 77 counties including all 55 in West Virginia and surrounding counties in Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio and Virginia. They have an urgent need for volunteers and here is how you can help them deliver their life-saving mission.

The Red Cross needs volunteers in the following areas:

### DISASTER ACTION TEAM (DAT) VOLUNTEERS:

As a DAT volunteer, you will help your community when a home fire or other disaster occurs. Those colleagues who are ready to be the light in someone’s darkest day and provide the roadmap back to recovery would be a great fit for a disaster volunteer.

### VOLUNTEER SCREENER (VIRTUAL POSITION):

Help from the comfort of your own home by being the first “face” of the Red Cross for new volunteers. You will contact new volunteer applicants to discuss their skills, interests and availability. You will match new volunteers with the needs of the organization and connect them with positions for which they are both interested and well suited. You are able to schedule your screening interviews at your convenience.

### BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS - BLOOD DONOR AMBASSADORS:

As a blood drive volunteer, you will engage donors by greeting, registering, answering questions, providing information, and supporting them through the recovery process at the refreshments table. The special attention you give helps create a favorable impression that encourages ongoing donor support.

You can sign up to volunteer or to learn more by scanning this code:



Contact the following:  
Katie Thompson  
Sr. Volunteer Recruitment Specialist  
Katie.Thompson@redcross.org  
(304) 962-7488

Traditionally, we publish names of County Presidents in the Summer Newsletter. Due to lack of space, it will be published in the Fall issue. Copies of County presidents will be available at the Annual Council for presidents to make sure all information is correct.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

### Calendar 2021-2022

<b>2021</b> September 20-24 October 15 November 2	<b>WVARSE WEEK</b> Deadline for Fall Newsletter Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Flatwoods
<b>2022</b> March 15 March 15 April 1 April 25 May 3 May 4 May 10 May 15 May 25 June 1 June 1	Deadline for Spring Newsletter Executive Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Flatwoods County Officer lists due to WVARSE Regional Directors & Executive Director Deadline for List of members attending Leadership Conference due to Executive Director Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 P.M., Flatwoods Leadership Training Conference, Flatwoods (registration begins at 9:30 A.M.) Deadline for sending Volunteer Hours to Unit Chairs Membership determination for Annual Council delegates Deadline for sending Volunteer Hours to Regional Chairs Deadline for sending Volunteer Hours to State Chair Deadline for sending list of deceased to Regional I & P Chairs

### REGIONAL MEETINGS

Region I Region II Region III Region IV Region V Region VI	June 14 June 15 First United Methodist Church Clarksburg June 8 (Cedar Lakes) June 7 New Baptist Church -Huntington June 6 Mining Academy, Beckley June 13
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July 1 July 7 July 15 July 15 July 15 August 21 August 21 August 23 August 24 & 25 Annual Council September 26-30 November 1	Delegate letters mailed to County Presidents Executive Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Flatwoods Deadline for Summer Newsletter Honor Points Checklist due to Executive Director Annual Council Delegates list due to Membership Clerk Deadline for sending list of members attending Annual Council to Executive Director Deadline for sending Banquet count to Executive Director Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 P.M., Flatwoods Annual Council, Flatwoods (registration begins at 10:00 A.M.) WVARSE week Executive Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Flatwoods
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### By John Riddle State Membership Chair

WOW, what a year this has been for us all! I know that my subject is to be on WVARSE membership, but just a few comments about how things are going at the state level. We have continued to meet regularly via ZOOM and to provide you with information that I hope you have found useful. WVARSE was active during the past Legislative session and continued to work tirelessly on established goals. I know that many counties have also been meeting, using some form of technology. It

has been a trying time for all but feel we have started to see an upswing in our everyday life. I also want to commend our retirees and also our active school personnel for their tremendous efforts by keeping education moving forward in West Virginia! They make us proud!

Membership is starting to come in and it appears that we are slowly getting back to where we were before the Covid struck. I would like to report that our membership is growing, but feel it is too early to report that.

# Membership

As we move into a new year and membership comes in, we hope recent retirees will see the value of belonging. WVARSE is the single largest group of retired public employees, with over 34,000 potential members. There are many benefits to membership in our organization. The strength of your numbers would be a great help for retired school employees. Your voice joining ours is needed now more than ever.

We would like for you as a veteran member to welcome our new members for this

coming year. Reach out to colleagues with whom you worked, let them know of the benefits of belonging to WVARSE. Contact members that you know have stopped coming to meetings or are no longer members. Our website (www.wvarse.org) has valuable information on goals, county contacts, membership, state contacts, etc. NOW is the time to become a member of your county WVARSE group and have a voice in what is needed for retired West Virginia school employees.

# W.Va. ranks 2nd for public pension fund investments

### By Phil Kabler Staff writer

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A national private equity trade organization has rated the West Virginia Investment Management Board as the nation’s second-best public pension fund, based on returns on private equity investments.

The 2021 Public Pension Study, released Wednesday by the American Investment Council, found the board’s 10-year annualized 16.06% return on equity investments

is second only to the Illinois State Board of Investment, which had a 16.10% return on investments.

“For the second year in a row, the Illinois State Board of investment had the best performing private equity portfolio, earning a 16.10% annualized return for public servants in the Land of Lincoln, net of fees. The West Virginia Investment Management Board, Teachers Retirement Association of Minnesota, and Massachusetts’ Pension Reserves Investment Trust earned spots two through four, respectively, all delivering returns

above 15 percent, net of fees” the study states.

The national average for public pension funds’ return on equity investments is 12.3%, the study found.

Craig Slaughter, Investment Management Board Executive Director, said Wednesday the national recognition is gratifying, and credited legislation passed in 2007 that broadly expanded investment options for the board, including allowing investments in stocks.

“The original thesis for the decision was that private equity could generate additional return, but only if done well,”

Slaughter said. “The study suggests that we have done our job well.”

Slaughter added, “While the success of IMB is a team effort, Jim Herrington, the IBM’s private equity investment officer, deserves a great deal of credit for the excellent performance of the private equity portfolio.”

In May, Slaughter reported to Legislators the IMB was experiencing a 21% annual return on investments, increasing the value of the state investment portfolio from \$20.13 billion on July 1, 2020, to \$23.16 billion as of Feb. 28, 2021.

However, he called on legislators to temper their expectations for the future, telling the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, “Things tend to smooth out, and a really bad year could hit you really hard.”

From July 1, 2020 to Feb. 28, the state’s two largest pension funds each grew in value by more than \$1 billion, with the Teachers Retirement Fund going from \$7.8 billion to \$8.9 billion. And the Public Employees Retirement System growing from \$6.89 billion to \$7.99 billion.

Currently, the pension funds need to have invest-

ment growth of 7.5% a year, or the Legislature has to appropriate state funds to keep those plans on solid financial footing.

Slaughter has repeatedly argued that 7.5 % annualized growth may not be realistic going forward, noting the national economy had enjoyed 10 straight years of growth pre-pandemic, and that an economic downturn is inevitable at some point.

Reach Phil Kabler at philk@hdmediallc.com, 304-348-1220 or follow @PhilKabbler on Twitter.



Charmel Radcliff – President-elect



My name is Charmel Higinbotham Radcliff. I am your WVARSE President-

Elect. I was born and grew up in Charleroi, PA. After graduating high school, I attended California State College (now California University of Pennsylvania). I graduated in 1973 with a BS degree in Elementary, K-8. In 1974, I was hired to be an elementary teacher for the Pleasants County Schools. I moved to St. Marys, WV. In 1981, I graduated from West Virginia University with a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. I

retired in 2007 from Pleasants County schools where I taught elementary children for 33 years.

I have been married to my husband Mark, a car and aviation enthusiast, for 41 years. He is an Associate member of WVA RSE. We have 2 daughters, Molly (Shreveport, LA) and Cady (McMurray, PA).

I am a member of St. Marys United Methodist Church where I have served on several committees and

sing in the church choir. I have traveled to many states and countries. My hobbies are reading and sewing.

I serve as a board member of the Pleasants County Neighbor Network's Thrift Store which serves the needs of struggling families by providing help with food, utility bills, clothing and other areas where assistance is needed.

I joined WVARSE as an Associate Member long before I retired, then upon retirement became a member

of WVARSE. I have served several years as President of Pleasants County Association of Retired School Employees. The past 4 years I have served as Region 1 Director of WVARSE. This covers the counties of Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler, Pleasants, Marion and Monongalia. I have gotten to know so many wonderful leaders and members through my visits to these counties.

When I was asked to

become the President-Elect of WVARSE, I was very hesitant knowing I had such big shoes to follow in those that have led our organization. After discussing this with my family, my oldest daughter said, "Only do it, Mom, if you can make it a better organization". I am promising the members of WVARSE that I will do my best to take the reins of this organization and work to make it better. Please help me do that.

William G Milam – Executive Director



Early in his career, Bill Milam served our country in the Navy reserves, later teaching math and science for six years in Kanawha County schools followed by a promotion to Vice Principal for three years, and another promotion to what became a 15-year stint as a junior high school Principal.

He completed his career in the school system as Personnel Director for the Kanawha County Schools central office.

After retirement, Bill was employed as an insurance agent, keeping his license active until about 8 years ago. In 2000, he joined KCARSE and WVARSE and became the first Executive Director in February 2003.

He has worked with retirees and the legislature all this time. Bill served six years as Treasurer of ASRTE, a national association of retired teachers executives.

Governor Joe Manchin appointed Bill to serve on the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) Finance Board, with reappointments

by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and Governor Jim Justice. During his tenure as a member of the PEIA Finance Board, he has been involved in the selection of insurance vendors to manage the 65+ insurance plan. Bill served as a lobbyist for WVARSE until a law was passed prohibiting PEIA Board members from lobbying. To keep his position on the PEIA board, he resigned his lobbying position. Bill served several years as an AARP volunteer including the AARP Advocacy Team at the State Capitol. Bill is a member of Christ Church United Methodist, where he serves on the advisory board. Bill has been active serving as an officer in the Kanawha Teachers Credit

union, later named Pioneer WV Federal Credit Union, and now Pioneer Appalachia Federal Credit Union. He was first elected as a member of the Credit Committee in 1972 and then its chair. The following year, he was appointed to serve as a Board member. While on the Board Bill has held positions of Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Board Chair, a position he currently holds. Additionally, he has been Chair of the Personnel Committee more than 15 years.

During the 49 years Bill has served as an officer, the credit union has grown from serving one county assets of \$7.5 million to an asset size of over \$210 million serving 26 counties. Bill has been personally honored as

**"Volunteer of the Year"** by the West Virginia Credit Union League. During his 49 years of service, the credit union has also received multiple national recognitions for excellence including: Pioneer was twice named among the top 50 **"Best Credit Unions to Work For"** nationally and was voted by Charleston Gazette/Mail readers as the **"Best Credit Union in the Kanawha Valley."** Recently Pioneer was recognized by Forbes business magazine as one of the nation's **"Best in State"** credit unions.

Bill, and Pioneer CEO Dan McGowan, are featured on the Forbes Best-in-State credit union website. You can follow the link [nies/pioneer-appalachia-fcu/?sh=1931674b9c46 to see both McGowan's and Milam's photo with a brief bio along with more information about Pioneer Appalachia Federal Credit Union. Bill lives with his wife, Darlene \(Newsletter Editor\) who he met at Morris Harvey College. They have a daughter and son-in-law, Billie and David Walker. Their Grandson, Will Walker, who attended many WVARSE meeting in his youth, will be finishing his senior year at Macalester College next year. Bill enjoys travelling with his family. This summer, they went to Virginia Beach, Saint Louis, Missouri and Sandusky, Ohio.](https://www.forbes.com/compa-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Two awarded Retired School Employees Association Scholarships



NCHS senior Faith Lipscomb receives a scholarship from John Staats of the Nicholas County Association Retired School Employees.



RHS senior Rylee Shinn receives a scholarship from John Staats of the Nicholas County Association Retired School Employees.

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The Nicholas County Association of Retired School Employees awarded a scholarship each to a graduating senior from Nicholas County High School and Richwood High School. Both scholarships were in the amount of \$400. NCHS senior Faith Lipscomb was the recipient of one of the scholarships. From the RHS Class of 2021, the scholarship recipient was Rylee Shinn. John Staats of the Nicholas County Association of Retired School Employees presented the scholarships at the Richwood High School Senior Awards Day on May 6 in the red gym in Richwood and the NCHS Senior Awards Day on May 14 in the NCHS Auditorium.

Classroom, Prom Court, Basketball Court, & Softball field

Hannah Rayann Ferris, the grand-daughter of immediate past president Mary Ann Ferris, excels in all these areas. Hannah is a recent honor graduate of Lincoln High School in Shinnston, West Virginia. During her high school years, Hannah not only excelled in her classes, but she also excelled on the basketball court and on the softball field. During her four years at Lincoln, Hannah always made the Honor Roll--often with a 4.0 average. She has recently signed a letter of intent to accept a scholarship to play basketball at Potomac State University where she will room with her best friend and fellow basketball star Maddie Martin. In her senior year, Hannah was named to the Class II All State Roster in both basketball and softball. This is quite a feat for her because she had to recover from two separate surgeries to repair a torn ACL—one in her freshman year from a softball injury, and the other in her sophomore year from a basketball injury. She was able to accomplish this recovery with the same hard work and dedication that she exhibits on the playing fields. At the conclusion of her softball season, Hannah was invited to play in the North-South softball game, the first player from Lincoln to ever be invited. Hannah was also recently chosen by her classmates as Maid of Honor on Lincoln's Junior-Senior prom court. As you can see from the pictures, Hannah is a beautiful young lady of whom Mamaw Ferris is very proud.

