



## LEGISLATIVE GOALS 2021

By John Taylor  
State Legislative Chair

These are our goals for the 2021 Legislative session.

1. That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums, copays, or reduction in benefits.
2. That WVARSE will promote Legislation to provide a stimulus check of \$500 to each retiree that retired 20 or more years ago when a state of emergency is declared for a pandemic.
3. 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.

4. That WVARSE will support AARP efforts at the legislature.

It is looking more and more like that first goal just may be the one we need to work on the most for this session. The PEIA Board has said that next year will still be staying the same, but future years are problematic without infusions of cash.

We don't know what this Legislative Session is going to look like. There may be limited access due to COVID. What we do know is that grass roots efforts may just be our best bet. Sign up with your County Legislative Chair. If you don't know them, contact your local President. Get Geared up for the Legislative Session. This is a call-to-action!!! The contacts you make may just make a difference.

## Tele-Townhall

Our Tele-Townhall on October 20th was a success. We got rave reviews from NRTA and AARP thanking us for the collaboration. We should try to build on this collaboration to find ways to grow the WVARSE. This is a good step in the right direction

I hope many of you got on and listened. Our guests were Bill Sweeny, Senior Vice President for Government affairs for AARP and Mike Queen, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Communications for the West Virginia Secretary of States office. We had a very lively discussion and several interesting questions from the audience.

This Tele-Townhall gave us an opportunity to outreach to our members. Even for those who didn't choose to listen in, they knew we were doing something and that we had a valuable collaboration with NRTA and AARP. WVARSE also got state-wide exposure to AARP members who were also on the call. Some of them may also be retired school employees who are not yet our members. We got an opportunity to direct people to our website and to give out our Membership Chairman's phone number. Hopefully there will be some contacts. At any rate, we got our name out there. That in itself is a success.

## From Your President

Many thoughts have crossed my mind as I sat down to pen this, my first message to you as your President. First, I have a feeling of gratitude for the confidence that you have placed in me to fulfill this role. Next, I have some inward fears about stepping into this important position. Then, I have a sense of excitement and anticipation of the tasks that lie before us. Lastly, I have a strong feeling of pride in being allowed to be a part of the leadership team of this great organization. Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving you in this new role. During my fifteen years as a member of WVARSE, I have served in a variety of roles. At



IRVIN SCARBERRY  
WVARSE President

the county level, I have served as a committee chair and unit president. At the state level, I have served as Regional Director, recording secretary, I&P chair, and President-elect. Whether in my local unit or at the state level, I have always felt a deep sense of pride in serving my fellow retirees in this organization. My inward fears come from my somewhat introverted personality. All through life, I have experienced a sense of timidity toward new undertakings. Any accomplishments for which I can claim success have come from a strong support base – my family, friends, and colleagues. My best cheerleader was perhaps my dad. Dad always said, "You can do anything you set your mind to do if you believe you can do it and use your energy to accomplish it." I have striven all my life to prove what Dad said was true. I am extremely excited to work with our Executive Director, all the members of the state executive board, and all the local unit presidents, officers, and members. When we work together, we can accomplish our WVARSE Mission Statement: "The West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees shall promote the professional, economic, intellectual, and social well-being of its members and shall encourage volunteer opportunities throughout West Virginia." When I was employed in the school system I often heard, "It takes a village to raise a child." I believe that to be a truism in education. I also believe a restatement of that is true for organizational success. It takes every member of an organization working together to experience growth and success within that organization. It matters not what your role may be; all of YOU ARE IMPORTANT

**See President, Page 2**

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Charleston, WV 25311

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



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

We had a successful Annual Council this year on Zoom. There were about 65 or 70 in attendance. Our keynote speaker, the 2020 WV Teacher of the year Jennifer Schwertfeger, Marshall

County, was well received. Jennifer teaches traditional and college-level science courses at Cameron High School. A ten-year veteran of education, she has transformed the way science is taught in her classroom with meaningful hands-on and "minds-on" interactive lessons. The West Virginia Teacher of the Year program identifies, recognizes and promotes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state. "Mrs. Schwertfeger's dedication to her students and her profession can be seen in everything she does," said West Virginia's Superintendent of

Schools Dr. Steven Paine. "Her classroom is where passion and learning combine to ignite an understanding and love for science within her students. She is a vital resource to our state as an effective STEM educator who is committed to be the best teacher possible and getting the best out of her students. As always, the Memorial service rated high. The Memorial service was well planned and executed. This is always a solemn ceremony. We ended with a visual of Amazing Grace being played on Bag pipes. At the end of the Council, we had a change of positions. President Mary Ann Ferris completed her term

and moved to the Past President position. She served as president well and initiated some important changes for WVARSE. Thank you, Mary Ann. Irvin Scarberry, moved from President elect to President. We look forward to his service as President. Charmel Radcliff, Region I Director was elected President Elect. For the next year, she will serve in both positions. Carolyn Davis (Barbour County) successfully ran for Secretary and will serve in that position the next two years. At that time, she is eligible for reelection. Martha Dean-Region II, Denis Chapman-Region IV and John Moyers-Region VI were reelected as

regional directors. As we go into the 2021, the legislative session is scheduled to begin in February. It appears that it will be brief for the purpose of passing the budget, then it will reconvene later in the spring. We will need the support of the membership in getting our goals passed. We hope you will be available to make calls, etc. at a short notice. Unit Officers and Honor Points forms can be completed online and sent directly to me. Watch for an email from me when they are available online. We now have three ways to pay membership dues. 1. Pay the conventional way by paying State and Local dues to the

unit membership chair. 2. Dues Deductible. Complete a dues deductible form (printed in this issue) with the last four digits of your social security number and signature. This allows TRS to deduct \$1.67 per month from your pension income. This is a convenient way of paying dues with no worry. Dues will be paid as long as you live. 3. Go to our website (WVARSE.org) and click on "Membership" on the next page find "pay online" and click it. Complete the form and pay either by Credit/Debit card or a withdrawal from your checking account. Membership is important to our organization.

## President

From Page 1

to the success and continued growth of this association. We are most certainly living through a different time for all of us. The pandemic has not allowed us to meet in

person within our units. It may have also somewhat hindered our efforts to do some of the activities we had planned for community service. My hope is that we will all resolve to look at this not as a barrier, but rather as a challenge to our creativ-

ity to continue building our membership and serving our communities. Again, if we work together, we can meet that challenge and overcome for greater success. As I close these ramblings, I would like to ask you to join me in seeking to increase

our membership by a minimum of five percent within the next calendar year. Mary Ann Ferris, our Past President, encouraged each of us to SMILE – Seek Members In Locations Everywhere. May I encourage you to continue that activity.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President Irvin Scarberry

(304) 544-4288 irvinscarberry@gmail.com

#### President-elect Charmel Radcliff

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#### Executive Director William G. Milam

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#### Legislative John Taylor

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#### Membership John A Riddle

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#### AMBA Insurance Richard Rowland

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#### AMBA Insurance Garrett Mowery

(717) 448-6048 gsmowery@moweryassoc.com

## WVARSE Membership Report

Thursday, November 5, 2020 Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2021

REGION I	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BROOKE	189	68	463
FAIRMONT	17	10	122
HANCOCK	224	87	559
MARION	239	166	884
MARSHALL	193	48	674
MONONGALLA	156	94	909
OHIO	314	94	594
PLEASANTS	86	31	172
TYLER	60	24	165
W. LIBERTY	1	1	42
WETZEL	65	40	346
WVU	27	22	556
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1551</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>5486</b>

REGION II	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BARBOUR	105	43	289
BRAXTON	83	37	291
DODDRIDGE	20	6	141
GILMER	42	24	136
GLENVILLE	13	8	80
HARRISON	338	98	1145
LEWIS	107	36	294
PRESTON	161	65	510
RANDOLPH	181	87	470
TAYLOR	144	88	258
TUCKER	57	46	140
UPSHUR	262	121	435
WEBSTER	69	33	233
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>4422</b>

REGION III	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BOONE	228	107	518
CALHOUN	21	6	157
CLAY	15	16	218
JACKSON	137	82	460
KANAWHA	388	251	3281
RITCHIE	30	30	173
ROANE	57	37	265
STATE DEPT	36	21	396
WIRT	61	61	111
WOOD	343	222	1530
WVS	5	5	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>7181</b>

REGION IV	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CABELL	183	126	1458
LINCOLN	114	39	435
LOGAN	33	32	741
MASON	58	12	447
MINGO	28	13	664
MU	6	5	223
PUTNAM	151	61	786
WAYNE	150	54	808
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>5560</b>

REGION V	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CONCORD	3	1	65
FAYETTE	159	120	836
GREENBRIER	132	84	643
MCDOWELL	153	71	697
MERCER	241	99	1201
MONROE	16	12	226
NICHOLAS	110	83	518
POCAHONTAS	100	62	168
RALEIGH	172	95	1351
SUMMERS	110	40	235
WVIT	3	3	5
WYOMING	95	74	580
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>6525</b>

REGION VI	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BERKELEY	174	131	952
DEAF & BLIND	35	14	175
GRANT	63	86	214
HAMPSHIRE	69	29	281
HARDY	33	23	199
JEFFERSON	123	48	516
MINERAL	125	73	442
MORGAN	82	39	211
PENDLETON	54	24	162
POTOMAC	5	1	7
SHEPHERD	5	3	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>3188</b>

	Last Yr	Current	Potential
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>7239</b>	<b>3772</b>	<b>32362</b>

Membership Year  
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

# ~ In Memoriam ~

**BARBOUR**

Velma Allen  
Loren Rinehart

**BERKELEY**

Barbara Miller

**BRAXTON**

Pat Blake

**BOONE**

Delores Ann Hill  
Norman Lee Harper  
Katherine Jarrell

**GREENBRIER**

Wilma Campbell  
Cassie Logan  
Mary Schoumacher

**HAMPSHIRE**

Paul Clovis

**KANAWHA**

Daisy Alston  
Hazel Painter  
Earl Tully

**LEWIS**

Paul Derico  
Betty Jo Harris  
Patricia Mulloly  
Garry Lynn Shearer

**MARSHALL**

Barbara Downs  
Cathy Jones  
Margaret Turner

**MERCER**

Ralph Baxter  
Patty Farmer  
Stewart Fredeking  
Francis Harrison  
Bonnie Hopkins  
Corrine Legere

Reba Poe  
Naomi Raines  
Rosanna Reaser  
Sarah Young

**PUTNAM**

Anna Ashworth  
Jackson Coyner  
Ruth Ellis

**WAYNE**

Henry Clemens  
Edna Gillespie  
Katherine Jarrell  
C. Herbert Muncy

**WEBSTER**

Gwendolyn Carpenter  
Louise Plymale

**WIRT**

Wilma Jean Wilson  
Shirley Mae Stone

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY



On October 6 Hampshire County WVARSE members prepared 150 “blizzard bags” for Meals on Wheels recipients in Hampshire County. The Hampshire County Association of Retired School Employees has met 3 times in 2020. Members met in June for their program planning meeting and in July to visit one-room schools in the eastern end of the county. Members will be visiting one-room schools again on October 26.

### Choose one membership form

Automatic monthly deductions from pension. Once you have signed up, you never have to sign up again.



**WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF  
RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**  
WWW.WVARSE.org

### WVARSE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<b>Authorization to deduct WVARSE Membership dues</b> Annual State Dues: \$ 15.04* Annual County Dues: \$ 5.00 Total: \$ 20.04  Last 4 digits of Social Security & Signature Required Social Security # xxx-xx-_____ By my signature below, I authorize the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) to deduct WVARSE dues in the amount of \$1.67 monthly.  X _____ Signature		Please Print: (name as it appears on your retirement account) Name _____ Date _____ <small>Last First Middle</small> Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Old Address if changed _____ Phone ( ) _____ Retired From _____ <small>(Name of County, College, University, Other)</small> Email _____ Membership is not tax deductible	
Please send complete application to:		WVARSE 200 Elizabeth Street Charleston WV 25311	
For WVARSE Office Implementation Date _____		* \$ 1.67 X 12 = \$20.04. The 4 cents is a WVARSE Service Fee.	

### Annual payment for membership. Must sign up annually.

### WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM

DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 20\_0\_ - JUNE 30, 20\_21\_

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	\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT: (Name as it appears on your retirement check) Associate ( ) Life ( )

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal ( ) New ( )

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ OLD ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle IF CHANGED

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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"*

### Contact us: WVARSE,

200 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV 25311  
304-610-0192 • [www.wvarse.org](http://www.wvarse.org)

### Newsletter Editor:

Darlene Milam  
[bmilam@suddenlink.net](mailto:bmilam@suddenlink.net)



## My Life According to ZOOM

On March 13, our family grew by one  
With the birth of Evaleigh Kate!  
We arrived at the hospital as soon as we could,  
But we were told that we were too late.  
“It’s a pandemic!” they stated emphatically,  
“And new restrictions are in place.”  
We learned to our surprised dismay:  
“No visitation now in any case.”

My life changed dramatically that day  
When all social interaction suffered doom.  
From that day forth to this current time,  
My life’s been according to ZOOM.  
On Sundays we worship with many churches  
Available to us via ZOOM.  
Each week I attend the meetings I love  
In my quiet and comfortable room.

I see my friends and fellow members  
As we attempt to improvise  
And continue WVARSE, DKG, CEOS, 4-H,  
While trying not to temporize.

We organized virtual 4-H camp  
With crafts, classes, games, and fun,

Council circle, reflections, songs,  
A challenge to exercise and run.

A Book Club was born for CEOS  
With discussions on books from our list.  
Online presentations definitely gave  
Monthly lessons a clever new twist.

We have virtual medical appointments,  
We did interviews for Energy Express.  
We conduct our many board meetings  
Using ZOOM, I must confess.

My friends talk about a return to normal,  
But until then I can only assume  
In order to survive this pandemic,  
My life continues, according to ZOOM.

This original poem is written and submitted by:  
Jo Ann Harman

## CABELL COUNTY

### Mayor Williams proclaims Retired School Employees Week



Pictured in the Proclamation presentation are Huntington Mayor Steve Williams; Linda Forinash, Cabell County President; Denis Chapman, Regional Director; Deborah Chapman, Public Relations; Irvin Scarberry, State President.

In recognition with the National and West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees, Mayor Steve Williams proclaimed this week, September 28 to October 2, as Retired School Employees Week. The City of Huntington has members of both the Cabell and Wayne Counties Chapters. The Association membership is composed of retired public-school teachers, administrators, classroom aides, secretaries, custodians, and bus drivers. The membership of the association is active in charitable programs for the community and public-school system. Both the Cabell and Wayne Counties Associations have had to cancel regular meetings for the last months, but are still active. The Association is open to all retired public-school employees and are accepting members even in this Covid situation.

## MORGAN COUNTY



Where there's a will; there's a way! After setting up a FREE ZOOM meeting for the Morgan County ARSE, it was realized there was not a FREE call-in number for members. So Kathy Yost, member and Vice President/acting President, set up a Messenger Room to allow members not wishing to use ZOOM to be in the virtual meeting too. The 2020 Scholarship winner, Kaleah Mellott, WVU student joined them virtually to speak about her Freshman year experiences in Morgantown during the pandemic. Kaleah is seen in the upper left-hand corner of the first photo. Her mother and grandmother also attended remotely. The unit conducted business with a record time of 38 minutes and had time to "chat". Their October meeting will have the Morgan County Schools Superintendent, Kristen Tuttle as their guest speaker. Technology is grand!

## BERKELEY COUNTY

### BERKELEY COUNTY —

The Berkeley County Association of Retired School Employees awarded two Mussleman graduates for their first "Jim and Patsy Smith" college scholarships. Elizabeth Sperry will attend WVU and Sara Snyder will be attending Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. Both young ladies impressed the selection committee of Chairperson Mary Beth Cornell, Karen Demick, Patrica Richards and Sylvia Kesecker. The committee was complimentary of the positive applications from the county's graduates. The association appreciates all of the participants in this process during the pandemic. The local chapter will have to cancel their monthly meeting during this health crisis. Eating es-



tablishments have to limit the size group meetings. They do not want to limit the members luncheon attendance nor do they want to expose any of the vulnerable "young at heart" retirees to the Covid-19 virus. Members are reminded that their AMBA benefits update is available at [www.myAMBAbenefits.info/wvarse](http://www.myAMBAbenefits.info/wvarse). For more information or for scholarship donations, call Carol Hayes at 304-263-6910.

## PLEASANTS COUNTY



The Pleasants County Association of Retired School Employees held a birthday party to celebrate WVARSE week. Gifts of food were collected and given to the local food pantry at Pleasants County Neighbor Network which has been overwhelmed with people needing help during this pandemic. Pictured with a few of the donations are PCARSE Membership Chair Cynthia Alkire, Neighbor Network Manager Leslie Bunner, and PCARSE President Charmel Radcliff.

## ROANE COUNTY



Roane County met October 14 at the Heritage Park. Vice President Debra Boggs conducted our Memorial Service. Members created story boards for Roane County's first StoryWalk. Plans are to change the story every 2-4 weeks. The first story is The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams and illustrated by Megan Lloyd.

## GILMER COUNTY



Officers from the Gilmer County Association of Retired School Employees and Mayor Dennis Fitzpatrick announced WVARSE Week with a balloon release. Mayor Dennis Fitzpatrick has declared the week of Sept. 21 to Sept. 25, 2020 as West Virginia and Gilmer County Association of Retired School Employees Week. WVARSE and GCARSE are organizations of retired teachers, school service personnel, administrators and college personnel. WVARSE is the only state organization that represents all retired school employees. The members of WVARSE contributed 1,339,752 volunteer hours to the state of West Virginia in 2020. Members of GCARSE contributed 49,976 volunteer hours in Gilmer County. GCARSE projects this year are: Blizzard Boxes, Scholarships for GCHS graduates, Blessing Box donations, and Meals on Wheels donation. WVARSE membership offers a chance to renew friendships and make new ones while participating in informative programs at local and Regional meetings, WVARSE Leadership Conference and Annual Council. At the county level, the 2020 - 2021 theme is "Staying Sharp While Navigating Your Later Years." Program topics include: spotting scams, writing advance medical directives / last will and testaments, updates on Social Security / Medicare benefits, and ways to maintain a healthy brain. GCARSE officers for the 2020 - 2021 year are Sharon Moyers, President; Marie Schimmel, Vice President; Sharon Radabaugh, Secretary and Mary Bland Strickland, Treasurer. Membership in GCARSE is open to any retired school employee or beneficiary who receives a pension from the WV Consolidated Retirement Board. Family members and friends are eligible to join as associate members. WVARSE and GCARSE continue to be a vital link between the membership and issues important to retirees. The more members we have - the more impact we have in Charleston.

