# West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees

Newsletter

Affiliated with AARP/NRTA











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## Legislative News

By the time you read this, the election will be over. We should be working on several fronts. First and foremost, the governor has proposed an additional raise for state and school employees. This is the 4th one and he suggested there will be a 5th before he leaves office. We ALL need to contact his office again and remind him that he is leaving retirees out of the picture. Retirees are suffering under the same inflation as the actives and while active employees have received several raises over time, most retirees have received nothing. Please call the governor's office at 844-489-1348 and ask him to include a \$1,500 supplement for all retirees 70 and older who have at least 20 years of service. Emphasize that retirees should **NOT** be forgotten again. Please use this number instead of calling the governor's direct line so we can track the number of calls we are getting. AARPWV is supporting us in this effort and are supplying us with this line.

The other effort we need to make is to identify our new legislators. All 100 of our Delegates were up for election and all of them are now in single delegate districts. This makes many of the districts smaller and more local. We need to identify members in each delegate district who as constituents of that delegate will contact them and get them a copy of our legislative goals. We need to do the same for our senators, but we would like to have someone from each of their counties to contact each of their senators. Note that there are also new senatorial districts now that the districts have been changed since

the census. It makes it a lot easier to work with legislators that have heard the message from home. The best way to contact your legislator is in person, by phone, or by mail. Emails are usually ineffective, especially during the session. Some legislators receive too many emails to effectively respond to or to even read. You can ask to meet with them after the election, call them. or write a hand-written letter which includes a copy of our legislative goals. One early way to find an address for your senator or delegate is to check the Secretary of State's website for candidate listing. It is https://apps.sos.wv.gov/elections/ candidate-search Please note this includes both winners and losers, so identify who won before checking them this way. As we get nearer to the legislative session, we will be working on getting better information out to you. Contact your county legislative chair and let them know you are available to help. Please share WVARSE legislative goals with your legislators.

#### **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 legislation to provide a one-time supplement of \$1,500 for retirees 70 and over who had at least 20 years of service.

## From Your President

As your 37th president, I am excited and honored to serve all the members of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees. I promise to do my best to make this association one of which you will be proud to be a member. There are a few new faces on the WVARSE Executive Board. Newly installed Regional Directors are Marie Schimmel, Region II; Irvin Scarberry, Region IV; and David Adkins, Region VI. John Moyers is our new President-Elect with whom I look forward to working. He is the out-going Region VI Director. I want to thank out-going Regional Directors Martha Dean and Denis



CHARMEL RADCLIFF WVARSE President

Chapman for their contributions to our association. I have enjoyed working with them and forming a friendship I will cherish. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my heartfelt thanks to Past President Irvin Scarberry for the leadership and guidance he has given me. He has been a wonderful mentor. Annual Council was back to a two-day meeting and was well attended. I have read over the comments from the evaluation forms and plan to discuss these with our Executive Board. Thank you to those of you who took the time to give your opinions. I have set several goals I hope to achieve during my twoyear term. My five goals can be found on the WVARSE website (WVARSE.org) and the WVARSE Facebook page (facebookpage. nrta.wv). My number one goal is to increase membership. Numbers count when we want the Legislators to hear us. Each of us needs to work on gaining members by inviting a friend or colleague to your county meeting. I want to thank John Riddle for his service as State Membership Chair for the past several years. He decided to relinquish this position due to his increased home responsibilities. I

### **See President, Page 2**

That WVARSE will support legislation to provide a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment or COLA for state

pensions.

That WVARSE will support AARP efforts at the legislature.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN**



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

WVARSE had a great Annual Council, the first-two day Annual Council since 2019. More than 100 were in attendance. From the evaluations that were completed, it seems that a large number of attendees support having a one day Annual Council. This will be considered by the Executive Board. Your kind remarks concerning the planning and operation of the event

were greatly appreciated. Charmel moved up to president from president-elect. She worked hard as president-elect in preparation for the position as president. She seems to be embracing the position with vigor - setting goals and establishing methods for accomplishing those goals. At Annual Council, John Moyers (Grant County) was elected as president-elect. John has served the past four years as director of Region VI where he did a great job. During the next two years he will be "in training" for the position as president. I look forward to his doing a great job there also. Carolyn Davis has served WVARSE well during the last two years as secretary and was re-elected to serve the next two years. Martha Dean (Webster County) served the last four years as director of Region II and a short time working with Judy Staubly training for the treasurer position. For personal reasons she resigned that position. Thank you for your service. Annual council elected Marie Schimmel (Gilmer County) as Director of Region

II. I look forward to her doing a great job in that position. Denis Chapman worked hard as Region IV Director during the past four years and offered the membership great entertainment at a couple of membership meetings. Thank you for your service. Annual Council elected Irvin Scarberry (Cabell) as his replacement. Irvin served the last four years a president-elect and president and will also serve the next two years as immediate past president. Being region IV director is not new to him. He previously served a two-year term as Region IV Director. Replacing John Moyers as director of Region VI, Annual Council elected Dave Adkins (Grant County). Dave has an advantage for this position since he has a close working relationship with a former Region VI Director. During a brief meeting of the Executive Board after Annual Council, John Riddle resigned his position as Membership Chair. John served WVARSE many years and I thank him for his service. President Charmel Radcliff presented the name of Mary Ann Ferris as his

replacement. The Board approved this appointment as well as the re-appointment of all the other positions. Proposed changes to the constitution were approved. The constitutional changes have been posted on the website. 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 click on membership and then click on join online.

Having your email and phone number on our membership file is an asset. We have sent emails to members using this several times. 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 so that I can update my files.

### **President**

From Page 1

appointed Past President Mary Ann Ferris to this position. During her

presidency, she used the acronym SMILE! (Seek Members in Locations Everywhere). Let's join Mary Ann and SMILE! WVARSE is still

seeking a treasurer to replace Judy Staubly who would like to retire. Surely someone in our association can do this job. Anyone interested

in applying for the job of Treasurer, please contact Judy or a board member. Until we meet again, - stay safe, stay healthy and stay active.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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## **GILMER COUNTY**





At the September meeting, John Taylor urged Gilmer County retirees to contact the governor and legislators to support legislation that increases retiree benefits. Even though Senator Patrick Martin was unable to attend the meeting, he sent a message in support of WVARSE legislative goals for 2023. WVARSE Week in Gilmer County was celebrated with the members delivering home baked goods to the staff at the high school, two elementary schools, the bus garage, and the county office. Members Nasia Butcher, Susan Chapman, Francis Fitzwater, Brenda McCartney, Willa Jane Loftis, Sharon Radabaugh, Sue Edwards, Yvonne King, Marie Schimmel, and Dixie Moyers are appreciated for their outstanding baking skills. Thanks to the members' participation, WVARSE Week in Gilmer County was a huge success!

### **ROANE COUNTY**

An "Insurance Check-Up" was the focus of the September meeting. Joel Thacker from Humana and Amy Cochran, from AMBA were the guest speakers. Carol Williams was the winner of the door prize, a Fall Theme Basket. Members celebrated WVARSE week by packing snack baskets for all the county schools, bus garage and board office. Members also presented a \$50.00 check to the Roane County Helping Hand, our local food bank. A field trip to the New Era One-room school in Minerals Wells was enjoyed by several members. The Newburne one-room school was prepared for visitors during the Black Walnut Festival. Beverly Patton, Debbie Fox, Willa Shenkle, John Gray, and Melinda Walker served as docents at the school during the festival.







Joel Thacker Carol Williams Amy Cochran

### **GRANT COUNTY**



The July meeting of the Grant County Association of Retired School Employees found the group on a Field Trip to the Workshop and Showroom of local artisan John Garton. Attendees were awed at the beautiful and intricate work on display including deer, bear, eagles, fish, and lots of other wildlife. Popular items included a North American Ark, a life-size deer, wild boar, turkey, a bear cooler, fighting eagles, bobcat, and hunting hounds. Some of the works-in-progress items in the workshop included fighting eagles and carvings on moose antlers. John discussed how he starts with a pattern usually handmade and a block of wood to create his fabulous work. Members attending included Patty Adkins, David Adkins, Erma Moyer, John Moyer, Betty Inskeep, Carol Mauzy, Larry Mauzy, Jo Ann Harman, Alice Ann Guyon and Becky Haslacker.

# **Grant County Association of Retired School Employees Community Service project**



In celebration of West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees Week, several retired grant county school employees met to spruce up the gardens at the Grant County Rehabilitation and Care center in Petersburg. The WVARSE motto is "To Serve and Not Be Served". WVARSE Week was September 26-30, so the Grant County group spent the morning of Sept. 22, doing community service. What better way to serve than making the gardens a brighter place for GRCC residents. Helping with the project were Carol and Larry Mauzy, Donna Kuhn, Patty Adkins, June Hencke, Betty Inskeep and David Adkins.



John Garton

Grant County receives the Rita Hammond Membership Award again



WVARSE President and Patty Adkins, president of Grant County

## WEBSTER COUNTY



Superintendent Rogers (center) with members in attendance. Thanks to Linda Alsop for the photo and the City of Webster Springs for use of the pavilion.

The Webster County Association held its first meeting of the year on Baker's Island (city park) in Webster Springs at noon on a brisk and sunny October 2 day. Members provided a hot dog picnic lunch. An informative update was given by Webster County Schools Superintendent AJ Rogers who spoke about school safety, academic challenges, future facility improvements, and answered questions from the group.

## **CABELL COUNTY**



The Cabell County Association of Retired School Employees met on Thursday, Oct 20, at the New Baptist Church in Huntington, WV. Members conducted business of the association. A legislative update was given by Nancy Eplin and Deborah Chapman. All Cabell County retirees are invited to attend and join the next meeting on December 15, at the New Baptist Church, 28th Street and 5th Avenue. Reservations can be made by calling Nancy Eplin at 304.736.1261. Lunch is \$13.00 and can be paid at the luncheon.

### HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

Members of the Hampshire County Association of Retired School Employees with the 150 Blizzard bags they just packed for the Hampshire County Meals on Wheels participants. Pictured left to right: Pat Iman, Senior Center Employee, Deb Hartsock, Carol Fultz, Gayle Allen, Mary O'Malley, Donna Clovis, Donna Brown, Jean Shoemaker, Paula O'Brien, Martha Bloom and Beth Parsons. HARSE has been providing blizzards bags to senior citizens since 2002.



### ONE ROOM SCHOOLS IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY



HCARSE members and friends met on October 10, to explore the locations of one-room schools in the county. Robert Smith retired teacher of Augusta served as leader and guide. Area of travel was Little Capon Road North, Slanesville Grade, Kern School Road, and Poland Hollow Rd. Most of the structures were still standing but in different stages of deterioration. At some sites, the original school had been converted into a home by enlarging the structure. After consolidation began in the early 1930's, seventy-seven schools were closed, and new larger schools were built. The era of one-room schools was ending. The schools Bob had located were Stonewall School, Barnes Mill School, Duck Lick School, Vinita Schools, Kern School, and Poland School. After visiting with Eddie Kidwell, we learned there were two Vinita Schools located in close proximity. One school was destroyed by fire; the other still survives in Higginsville on Kidwell property. The tour group members were: Robert Smith, Dave and Patty Adkins, Beth Parsons, Gayle Allen, Karina Gray, Carol Fultz, Joyce Oates, Brenda Hiett, and Amy Pancake. Over a hearty lunch at the Main Street Restaurant, a discussion was held about a future tour.

## **MERCER COUNTY**



Mercer County Retired School Employees received the Proclamation from the City of Princeton for Retired School Employees' Month at the September 12, 2022 City Council Meeting. Pictured below receiving the Proclamation are Peggy Johnson, David Graham (presenter from the Council) JoAnna Fredeking, Lynne Gilpin and Jan Williams. President Ann Pauley was out of town.

**Newsletter Editor:**Darlene Milam
bmilam@suddenlink.net

### **MORGAN COUNTY**



Morgan County ARSE met at the lovely Cacapon State Park Resort for their September meeting with Daryl Cowles, Regional Representative for West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle and members Rachael Sarti (president), Bobbi Johnson and Gale Eddy (members). He explained the 4 Amendments that will be on the ballot in November.

# Word Off Control of the Control of t

State President, Charmel Radcliff and husband, Mark made her first county visit to Morgan County as their speaker for their October meeting held at Widmyer Elementary School. She presented her 5 goals for the year. Members of Morgan County will help with these.

## **HARRISON COUNTY**



Front Row, Left to Right Dennis Stromberg, Norma Taylor, Kandy Atkinson, Clara Fuscaldo. Back Row, Left to Right Connie Leuliette, Chuck Leuliette, Kevin Brown.

In Harrison County, HCARSE participated in the Grab A Bag program to help feed the needy in celebration of WVARSE Week. With the WVARSE motto of Harrison's unit had the idea of serving and helping those in the community who are in challenging times right now. Our local unit purchased the food, bagged the food in ziplock bags and distributed the food to the needy population. In the future HCARSE will continue to look at ways to serve the community.

### WIRT COUNTY



Wirt County Retirees participated in Wirt County High School's homecoming parade in October with the theme: "Who's Still Cheering For You? We Are!"

### **WVARSE Treasurer Position Open**

Anyone interested in being WVARSE treasurer, please contact any board member or the Executive Director. Judy will be available for a short time to train and assist the new treasurer. Some background in book-keeping would be an asset.

## **JACKSON COUNTY**





JCARSE held their first meeting of the year at Cedar Lakes and hosted a "Meet and Greet" at the old schoolhouse as they "ring the bell" on the opening of another school year. In period costume is Peg Lyons, who taught one year in a one-room schoolhouse in Wilding before taking another position. Also pictured are Delores Jenkins, Sheila Gibbs and Frank Hughes. JCARSE is instrumental in the upkeep of the schoolhouse at Cedar Lakes.









Jackson county's newest member, Toni Galloway, jumps in to assist with deliveries after attending her first meeting.

### **NICHOLAS COUNTY**

### Nicholas County Association of Retired School Employees





August was a busy month for NCARSE members. August 9th they met with AARP members for the Annual picnic at Carnifex Ferry State Park bringing favorite dishes, school supplies for the local schools, and played Bingo. Later in August NCARSE members set up activities for Summersville Area Chamber of Commerce's "Back to School Bash". President John Staats set up a cornhole game which drew more parents (former students) than children. Libby Casto was busy with the carnival ring toss and dart board games. Rotha Young and Judy Staats enjoyed helping students make beaded bracelets and necklaces. Carl Lawrence and Suzanne Ward distributed gummies and visited with those waiting patiently for a special face painting by Nancy Taylor. In September, NCARSE met in Richwood. Retired teacher and member of the Richwood Chamber of Commerce, Mary Jane Williams, was guest speaker. After the meeting she gave a tour of the renovated Armory which will be Richwood's Community Center.



## KANAWHA COUNTY



Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees conducted two meetings so far this fall. The first was the Annual picnic (Sept 13). 20 candidates were invited to share their views concerning retirees. Due to the governor calling a special session of the legislature at the same time, only 4 candidates attended. The rest were in session. The next meeting was October 4, at which Joe Maddalon, AMBA Associate, shared everything available from AMBA through membership. A selfie, taken by Joe.

# Seven Units Earned Gold Certificates



Seven local units performed well during the 2021-22 year and earned a gold certificate. Pictured here are the presidents of Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Taylor, Jackson, Roane and Grant holding their certificates. Congratulations on a job well done.

### KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

### Davis Adkins – Director of Regio VI



Dave was born and reared in Cabin Creek, WV, the son of a coal miner. He attended a three-room neighbor-

hood grade school. He continued his education at Leewood Junior High School and East Bank High School where he graduated in 1956. Dave was very active in sports throughout his school years. During his senior year at East Bank, he was selected to the All-State Baseball Team. As a freshman, he entered West Virginia Institute of Technology on a football scholarship where he played football and baseball all four years. Dave began his teaching career at Harper's Ferry High School in Jefferson County, where he taught Social Studies and Physical Education and was the assistant football coach. During the summer he worked on a master's degree in administration at West Virginia University. In 1961 Dave

was employed at Harrisville High School in Ritchie County as head coach of football, baseball, and basketball. While at Harrisville the athletic program was quite successful. One year they were 9-1 in football and in 1963 Harrisville High School won the State Baseball Championship. Next, he was appointed as head coach and teacher at Mt. Hope High School in Fayette County. Again, the athletic program was very successful. They were the runner up in the State Football Championship and in two consecutive years Mt. Hope High School won the State Track Championships. After five years of coaching and obtaining a master's degree, he returned to East Bank High School as Vice Principal.

Later he served as Principal of Harrisville High School. After that, he was offered the principalship of Petersburg High School in Grant County. After one year he was assigned the position of Assistant Superintendent, retiring in 1989 as Superintendent of Schools at the age of 51. He thoroughly enjoyed his career in Education and felt that It was an honorable and rewarding profession. Dave was well rounded in sports - he was an avid golfer and served on the Courtesy and Safety Ski Patrol at Canaan Valley for many years. Dave with his wife, Patty has traveled in every mainland state and Canadian province on their Goldwing motorcycle. As they continue to age, they still travel but now it's by automobile.

## WVARSE Membership Report

**Total Members** 

7238

4951

Membership Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Tuesday Outstan 2		unananad fau Va	•	2022 04110 00, 2020
Tuesday, October 25	5, 2022 Pr	rocessed for Ye	r Ending 6/30/2023	
REGION I	Last Yr	Current	REGION V Last Yr	Current
BROOKE	169	139	CONCORD 3	1
<i>FAIRMONT</i>	17	11	FAYETTE 159	72
HANCOCK	224	88	GREENBRIER 132	93
MARION	239	184	MCDOWELL 153	75
MARSHALL	193	77	MERCER 241	166
MONONGALIA	156	96	MONROE 16	12
OHIO	314	206	NICHOLAS 110	90
PLEASANTS	86	75	POCAHONTAS 100	63
TYLER	60	26	RALEIGH 172	102
WETZEL	65	41	SUMMERS 110	61
WVU	27	22	WVIT 3	2
			WYOMING 95	47
TOTAL	1550	965		
			TOTAL 1294	784
REGION II	Last Yr	Current		
BARBOUR	105	46	REGION VI Last Yr	Current
BRAXTON	83	40	BERKELEY 174	158
DODDRIDGE	20	8	DEAF & BLIND 35	21
GILMER	42	29	GRANT 63	105
GLENVILLE	13	9	HAMPSHIRE 69	60
HARRISON	338	255	HARDY 33	29
LEWIS	107	80	JEFFERSON 123	82
PRESTON	161	116	MINERAL 125	113
RANDOLPH	181	85	MORGAN 82	69
TAYLOR	144	113	PENDLETON 54	26
TUCKER	57	50	POTOMAC 5	2
UPSHUR	262	218	SHEPHERD 5	4
WEBSTER	69	37		
			TOTAL 768	669
TOTAL	1582	1086		
REGION III	Last Yr	Current		
BOONE	228	146	_	······
CALHOUN	21	6	~ In Memo	riam ~
CLAY	15	16	in weino	1 Idili
JACKSON	137	130	BERKELEY	KANAWHA
KANAWHA	388	262	X	
RITCHIE	30	27	Eileen Boward**	Mary Sue Hickok*
ROANE	57	26	Mary Bryd**	
STATE DEPT	36	30	Mary Geiger**	MORGAN
WIRT	61	62	Treva Kerns*	Marilyn J George
WOOD	343	222	Y	Manyii J Goorge
WVS	5	5	Alda Sencindriver*	
TOTAL	1321	932	×	PLEASANTS
			CLAY	Jack Carpenter*
REGION IV		Current	Deborah Brown*	Martha Hockenberry*
CABELL	183	151	$\Rightarrow$	-
LINCOLN	114	71	CH MED	DOANE
LOGAN	33	34	GILMER	ROANE
MASON	58	43	Mary Lucille Stalnaker**	Norma Allen*
MINGO	28	24	$\Diamond$	Marilyn George**
MU	6	5	GRANT	,
PUTNAM	151	104	$\langle \cdot \rangle$	
WAYNE	150	83	Dorothy "Dottie" Hartman*	UPSHUR
			×	Dianna Steed*
TOTAL	723	515	JEFFERSON	
			D Cl *	WIDT

Doris Cline\*

Robert L Sherman\*

WIRT

Jo Ann Bumgarner\*

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### Change in Life Membership

Annual Council voted to increase life membership from \$100 to \$150 effective July 1, 2023. Anyone who applies for life membership up until June 30, 2023 will get Life Membership for \$100. No one who is presently a Life Member is affected by this change.

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

# WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 20 22 - JUNE 30, 20 23

STATELIFEMEMBER PAYING	STATELIFEMEMBERSHIP	\$100.00	ANNUALSTATE DUES \$_15.00					
COUNTYDUESONLY \$ 5.00	PLUS ANNUAL COUNTY DUES	\$ 5.00	ANNUAL COUNTY DUES \$ 5.00					
EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$	EXTRA COUNTY DUES	\$	EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$					
TOTALLIFE/COUNTY DUES \$	TOTALLIFE/COUNTY DUES	\$	TOTAL ANNUAL DUES \$					
	COUNTY LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$						
PLEASE PRINT: (Name as it appears on your retirement check)  Associate ( ) Life ( )								
NAME		DATE	Renewal ( ) New ( )					
Last ADDRESS	First Middle	OLD ADD	RESS-					
			IF CHANGED					
CITY	ST/	ATE	ZIP <del>-</del>					
RETIRED FROM		EMAIL _						
Send to YOUR COUNTY MEMBERSHIP CHM. both forms & check payable to your unit.  For info: contact www.WVARSE.org for County Membership Chairman Or call: Karen Nicholson, WVARSE Membership Clerk 304-488-2860								
Members receive Newsletters, Travel Opportunities & representation at the legislature. "Dues are not tax deductible"								

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