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Carmichael Armstead Ferns Cowles Hall Nelson Gaunch Walters Prezioso Miley

## KNOW YOUR LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

Members of the Legislative Leadership are important players in getting our chosen legislation passed. Make every attempt you can to communicate and promote our goals to each of them.

### President Senator Mitch Carmichael (R — Jackson)

Director of Commercial Sales- He received a BBA in Economics and Finance from Marshall University. He has served in both the House and

Senate Legislative Service Elected to the House 2000 - 2010; Elected to the Senate 2012 and 2016. During the 82nd Legislature, he served as Senate Majority Leader. He was recently elected as Senate President of the 83rd Legislature. He also serves as WV Lieutenant Governor. Religion United Methodist

### Mr. Speaker Delegate Tim Armstead (R — Kanawha) Attorney who

was educated in Kanawha County and received a BA from the University of Charleston. He continued to grad school at West Virginia University where he received a JD. He began his Legislative career in 1998, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy created by the death of Dick Henderson. He was elected to the House from 1998 to 2016. Legislative Positions Held: Minority Leader, 78th, 79th, 80th and

81st Legislatures; Speaker of the House 82nd Legislature and was elected on January 11, 2017 as Speaker of the 83rd Legislature. Affiliations: President, West Virginia Historical Society, 1990-1994; Knight of the Golden Horseshoe. Other Public Service: Press Intern, Office of the Governor, 1985-1988; Executive Assistant to Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, 1997-1998; Law Clerk, U.S. District Judge

David A. Faber, 1991-1994; Religion Baptist

### Senate Majority Leader Senator Ryan Ferns (R — Ohio, 01)

Physical Therapist; President, The Ryan Ferns Healthplex; President, Ryan's Rentals, LLC. He received a B.S. Cum Laude, Business Marketing, and Doctor of Physical Therapy from Wheeling Jesuit University. Affiliations Member, American Physical

Therapy Association; West Virginia Physical Therapy Association; Elks Lodge #28; Fraternal Order of Police (Associate); Friends of Coal; Knights of Columbus; National Rifle Association; Member, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church; Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Elected to the House 2010-2014 and to the Senate 2014. Religion Roman Catholic

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## CORPE RALLY DAY — March 2, 2017

Members should plan to arrive at the Capitol Cafeteria around 8:30 a.m. A light breakfast will be served consisting of eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee and hot tea (if you need a special diet, please let someone know when you arrive). We will have two lines for breakfast (one for retirees and the other for Legislators).

Pick up your ticket and give it to whomever is collecting tickets when you get your breakfast. There is no charge for breakfast. Free parking is available at Laidley Field (Laidley Field side of the Street) with shuttle service every 10 minutes. Wear your RED.

**TIPS for the CORPE Rally Day**

**Before the Rally**  
Know your legislators—their names, their titles (senator, delegate, president, speaker, chairman/ chairwoman); recognize their faces Invite your legislators to attend the Rally, Prepare a sign for your unit ( \_\_\_\_\_ County Retired School Employees) Make a pin or small favor for your legislators. Ask

your legislators to recognize your county unit during the legislative session.

**At the Rally**  
Wear RED and plan to arrive around 8:30 a.m. Hold up your sign to bring your entire unit together. Units that share a legislator may consider sitting together or Regions may want to sit together. Address the legislator by name

(Senator Jones) and introduce yourself (again). Present your legislators with the favors. THANK them for attending.

**After the Rally**  
Visit with your legislators present. Visit the offices of those who did not attend. Attend the sessions. Stand when they recognize your group. If time, visit the offices of those who did attend, thank the

secretary for reminding them. P.S. Mary Gill always brings fudge to her secretaries.

**SPEAKERS**  
We have not scheduled speakers for this event, We will be inviting legislators to the event and will allow any legislator who wishes to speak. Spud Terry will be the MC and will make a brief statement at the beginning.

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**District 12**  
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**Mike Romano (D - Harrison, 12)**  
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**District 13**  
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**Robert D. Beach (D - Monongalia, 13)**  
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**District 14**  
**Randy Smith (R - Tucker, 14)**  
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**Dave Sybolt (R - Preston, 14)**  
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**District 15**  
**Craig Blair (R - Berkeley, 15)**  
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**John R. Unger II (D - Berkeley, 16)**  
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**District 17**  
**Coey Palumbo (D - Kanawha, 17)**  
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**Tom Takubo (R - Kanawha, 17)**  
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Leaders

From Page 1

**House Majority Leader Delegate Daryl Cowles (R - Morgan, 58)**

Businessman He received his education at Berkeley Springs High School. After High School, he attended Valley College where he received an A.A.S.in Business Administration. Affiliations: Member, Berkeley Springs Chamber of Commerce; Morgan County Farm Bureau. He began his Legislative Service when he was elected to the house in 2006. He continued being elected to the House through the 2016 election. Legislative Positions Held Minority Whip, 81st Legislature and was appointed House Majority Leader to the 82nd and 83rd Legislature. Other Public Service Past Member, Morgan County Planning Commission; Morgan County Economic Development Authority; Tri-State Rail Effort Committee; Morgan County Republican Executive Committee; West Virginia State Republican Executive Committee Religion Methodist

**Senate Finance Chair Senator Mike Hall (R - Putnam, 04)**

Education: Marshall University, B.A., Philosophy, Minor, Political Science (1970); M.A., Gordon Conwell Seminary (1972); M.Div., Methodist School of Theology (1976) Affiliations Former Methodist Minister; Presbyterian Church in America, Minister (1980-1994); Presbyterian Church in America, Office of Insurance Annuities and Relief, Market-

ing Director (1994-2004); Chairman, Life Insurance and Financial Planning Committee National Conference of Insurance Legislators, NCOIL, 2013 to present. Legislative Service Elected to the House 1994-2004; elected to the Senate 2006-2014 Legislative Positions Held Minority Whip, 75th Legislature; Minority Leader, 80th and 81st Legislatures. He was appointed Senate Finance Chair to the 82nd Legislature. Religion Presbyterian

**House Finance Chair Delegate Eric Nelson (R - Kanawha, 35)**

Financial Services/Management. He received his High School education at George Washington HS in Kanawha County and a B.S. from Washington and Lee University. Affiliations First Presbyterian Church; Director, WesBanco Bank Inc.; Member, World Presidents Organization; Independent Oil and Gas Association; Charleston Rotary; Charleston Lodge #153; Scottish Rite; West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; National Rifle Association; Leadership West Virginia Class of 2000; Former Member, National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts; National Association of Small Business Investment Companies; National Venture Capital Association; Former Board Member, Fund For the Arts; Community Council, Shawnee Hills Legislative Service Elected to the House 2010-2016; named Finance Committee Chairman 2015. Other Public Service Former Coach, John Adams Middle School Golf; First

Presbyterian High School Girls Basketball Religion Presbyterian

**Senate Pension Chair Senator Ed Gaunch (R - Kanawha, 08)**

Retired, Former President, CEO of Carson Insurance Agency. Education: West Virginia State College, 1970. Affiliations Boards: BB&T/Charleston; BB&T West Virginia Foundation; West Virginia State University Foundation; Believe in West Virginia Foundation (President); Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Sunday school teacher and deacon, Emmanuel Baptist Church Legislative Service Elected to the Senate 2014 Religion Baptist, Emmanuel Baptist Church

**House Pension Chair Delegate Ron Walters (R - Kanawha, 39)**

President, R. N. Walters & Associates, L.L.C. Education University of Michigan, B.S.; Willets Institute NY; Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Affiliations Member, IIAWV; National Rifle, Charleston Alliance Association; ANA; WV Small Business Owner; Former Instructor at Fairmont State College in Economics; Former Congressional Intern, Congressman Richard Poff, Virginia Legislative Service Elected to the House 1992-1996; 2000-2014 Religion Lutheran

**Senate Minority Leader Roman Prezioso (D - Marion, 13)**

**House Minority Leader Timothy Miley (D - Harrison, 48)**

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

We are all responsible for letting our legislators know what we want and to encourage them to support those wishes. It cannot be accomplished with just the legislative committee or the executive director. The legislators are more apt to listen to their constituents. The Legislative Committee encourages each member to “adopt a Legislator”. Get to know them, visit them, send them greeting Cards, birthday cards, etc. We anticipate legislation being introduced this year that will need our support. Therefore, we encourage each of you to go to our website, *www.WVARSE.org* and find this on the first page WVARSE Legislator Contact. This will take you to a WVARSE- Legislator Contact form. Please complete it and submit it.

If you know a legislator personally, it is even more important that you communicate with him/her.

Address Letters as follows:  
The Honorable (Full Name)  
Member, WV Senate/House of Delegates  
Room \_\_, Bldg. 1  
State Capitol Complex Charleston, WV 25305

Inside greeting:  
Dear Mr. President (Senator Carmichael)  
Dear Mr. Speaker (Delegate Armstead)  
Dear Mr. Chairman (Committee Chairman)  
Dear Madam Chairwoman (Committee Chairwoman)  
Dear Delegate/Senator (Legislators)

However you communicate, you will need to give your Name, Address, Phone Number, Email address and district. Stress that you are a constituent. Remember that you are representing our organization. Be persistent, but polite, courteous and reasonable, concise and knowledgeable of the key information.

Membership

Early December membership letters were sent to all retirees in the state of West Virginia who had retired in the past 5 years. We realize that we sent letters to retirees who were already members, and for that we apologize. We had about 200 retirees respond to date.

Retired Educators/Educators

The following Delegates have connections to education either by being active or retired in the field. As you communicate with them, keep this in mind. Some are active members of WVARSE. Michael T. Ferro (D - Marshall, 04), Dave Pethtel (D - Wetzel, 05), William R. Romine (R - Tyler, 06), Bill Anderson (R - Wood, 08), Roy Cooper (R - Summers, 28), Rick Moye (D - Raleigh, 29), George Ambler (R - Greenbrier, 42), Danny Wagner (R - Barbour, 47), Linda Longstreth (D - Marion, 50), Ruth Rowan (R - Hampshire, 57), John Overington (R - Berkeley, 62)

## LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

### Senate

Senate President Mitch Carmichael  
President Pro Tempore: Donna Boley  
Speaker Pro Tempore: John Overington  
Majority Leader: Daryl Cowles  
Majority Whip: Craig Blair  
Minority Leader: Roman Prezioso  
Minority Whip: Corey Palumbo

### House of Delegates

Speaker of the House: Tim Armstead  
Speaker Pro Tempore: John Overington  
Majority Leader: Ryan Ferns  
Assistant Majority Leader: John D. O'Neal IV  
Majority Whip: Carol Miller  
Minority Leader: Tim Miley  
Minority Whip: Mike Caputo

### Senate Finance Committee

Senator Hall – Chair; Senator Mullins - Vice-Chair;  
Senator Blair; Senator Boley; Senator Boso; Senator  
Facemire; Senator Ferns; Senator Gaunch; Senator  
Mann; Senator Maroney; Senator Palumbo; Senator  
Plymale; Senator Prezioso; Senator Stollings; Senator  
Sypolt; Senator Takubo; Senator Unger

### Senate Pensions Committee

Senator Gaunch – Chair; Senator Hall - Vice-Chair;  
Senator Boso; Senator Mullins; Senator Plymale; Sena-  
tor Unger; Senator Weld

### Senate Rules Committee

President Carmichael – Chair; Senator Blair; Sena-  
tor Boley; Senator Ferns; Senator Palumbo; Senator  
Plymale; Senator Prezioso; Senator Stollings; Senator  
Sypolt; Senator Trump

### House of Delegates Finance Committee

Delegate Nelson, E. – Chair; Delegate Householder -  
Vice-Chair; Delegate Boggs - Minority Chair; Delegate  
Bates - Minority Vice-Chair; Delegate Ambler; Delegate  
Anderson; Delegate Barrett; Delegate Butler; Delegate  
Cowles; Delegate Ellington; Delegate Espinosa; Del-  
egate Evans, A.; Delegate Frich; Delegate Gearheart;  
Delegate Hamilton; Delegate Hartman; Delegate Long-  
streth; Delegate Miller, C.; Delegate Moye; Delegate  
Pethtel; Delegate Rowe; Delegate Sponaugle; Delegate  
Storch; Delegate Walters; Delegate Westfall

### House of Delegates Pensions and Retirement Committee

Delegate Walters – Chair; Delegate Folk - Vice-Chair;  
Delegate Hamilton; Delegate Marcum; Delegate Pethtel

### House of Delegates House Rules Committee

Speaker Armstead – Chair; Delegate Anderson;  
Delegate Boggs; Delegate Caputo; Delegate Cowles;  
Delegate Espinosa; Delegate Fleischauer; Delegate  
Howell; Delegate Miley; Delegate Miller, C.; Delegate  
O'Neal; Delegate Overington; Delegate Shott; Delegate  
Sobonya; Delegate Williams

## NEW FACES IN THE 83RD LEGISLATURE

### House of Delegates



Baldwin



Barrett



Brewer



Canestraro



Capito



Criss



Dean



Diserio



Evans



Foster



Harshbarger



Higginbotham



Hollen



Iaquinta



Isner



Lane



Lewis



Love



Lovejoy



Martin



Maynard



Miller



Moore



Paynetter



Pyles



Queen



Robinson



Romine



Sypolt



Thompson



Ward



Williams



Wilson

### Senate



Azinger



Jeffries



Mann



Maroney



Rucker



Smith



Swope



Weld

### House of Delegates

Stephen Baldwin (D - Greenbrier, 42)  
Jason Barrett (D - Berkeley, 61)  
Scott Brewer (D - Mason, 13)  
Joe Canestraro (D - Marshall, 04)  
Moore Capito (R - Kanawha, 35)  
Vernon Criss (R - Wood, 10)  
Mark Dean (R - Mingo, 21)  
Phillip W. Diserio (D - Brooke, 02)  
Ed Evans (D - McDowell, 26)  
Nancy Reagan Foster (R - Putnam, 38)  
Jason "Woody" Harshbarger (R - Ritchie, 07)  
Joshua Higginbotham (R - Put-

nam, 13)  
Ray Hollen (R - Wirt, 09)  
Richard J. Iaquinta II (D - Harrison, 48)  
Phil Isner (D - Randolph, 43)  
Charlotte R. Lane (R - Kanawha, 35)  
Tony J. Lewis (R - Preston, 53)  
Shirley Love (D - Fayette, 32)  
Chad Lovejoy (D - Cabell, 17)  
Patrick S. Martin (R - Lewis, 46)  
Zack Maynard (R - Lincoln, 22)  
Rodney Miller (D - Boone, 23)  
Riley Moore (R - Jefferson, 67)  
Tony Paynter (R - Wyoming, 25)  
Rodney A. Pyles (D - Monongalia, 51)  
Ben Queen (R - Harrison, 48)  
Andrew Robinson (D - Kanawha, 36)

Chuck Romine (R - Cabell, 16)  
Terri Funk Sypolt (R - Preston, 52)  
Robert Thompson (D - Wayne, 19)  
Guy Ward (R - Marion, 50)  
John Williams (D - Monongalia, 51)  
S Marshall Wilson (R - Berkeley, 60)

### Senate

Mike Azinger (R - Wood, 03)  
Glenn Jeffries (D - Putnam, 08)  
Kenny Mann (R - Fayette, 10)  
Mike Maroney (R - Marshall, 02)  
Patricia Rucker (R - Jefferson, 16)  
Randy Smith (R - Tucker, 14)  
Chandler Swope (R - Mercer, 06)  
Ryan Weld (R - Brooke, 01)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please send any change of address (including Patriot Act) to the Executive Director at 200 Elizabeth Street, Charleston WV 25311 or by email [bmilam@suddenlink.net](mailto:bmilam@suddenlink.net). Don't forget PEIA and Retirement Board.

## WVARS LEGISLATIVE GOALS 2016-2017

- That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums and copays or reduction in benefits.
- That WVARSE supports recommendations of House Concurrent Resolution No. 120.
- That WVARSE supports legislation excluding state pensions from West Virginia state income taxes.
- That WVARSE will work to amend legislation to provide a monthly supplement to all retirees equal to \$1.00 times years of service.
- That WVARSE supports legislation which restores the exclusion of \$2000.00 that is lost when a retiree reaches age 65.
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to establish a 1/2% severance tax on Marcellus and Utica Gas as a funding source for retiree benefits.
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to establish a 1/2% tax on any future cracker plant as a funding source for retiree benefits

## PEIA

The only change in benefits for retirees for 2017 is the elimination of coverage for Acupuncture and the elimination of the \$4 discount on premiums for end-of-life procedure. There is an 8% increase in premium effective January 2017. The 2018 plan will be addressed in a future issue. PEIA has a shortfall for 2018 which will result in changes in both premiums and benefits unless funding is included in the FY18 budget. Your constant contact with your Legislators is important.

**Newsletter Editor:** Darlene Milam — [bmilam@suddenlink.net](mailto:bmilam@suddenlink.net)

**Newsletter deadline:** March 15, 2017