



WVARSE Leadership Conference 2022

The 2022 Leadership Conference will be conducted at Flatwoods Days Inn, May 4, 2022. It will be a one-day drive-in meeting. Registration will begin at 11:00 AM. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon and is projected to adjourn at 3:45 PM. Cookies, Coffee, Tea & water will be available. No food will be served. Please plan to grab a bite on your way to the Hotel.

“TO SERVE AND NOT TO BE SERVED”

11:00 am Registration
Region I.....Teresa Taylor, Director

12:00 am General Session Conference Rooms D&E

For the comfort of members who have difficulty hearing or seeing, please take a seat in front of room

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

PresidingIrvin Scarberry, President
Devotions and Flag Salute Douglas Wayne Harvey, Summers
Introductions and Program OverviewIrvin Scarberry (5)
Humana/PEIA Joel Thacker

12:30 – 1:45 pm
President’s Training Session Conference Room D
Committee Training Sessions:
Community Services, Chair Patty Adkins, Room Beckley
Informative & Protective Services, Chair Norma Taylor...Room Braxton
Legislative, Chair John Taylor Room 125
Membership, Chair John Riddle.Room 123

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Regional caucuses
Region I Teresa Taylor DirectorRoom Beckley
Region II Martha Dean, DirectorRoom D
Region III Melinda Walker, Director.....Room Charleston
Region IV Denis Chapman, DirectorRoom 123
Region V Ann Pauley, DirectorRoom 125
Region VI John Moyers, Director.....Room Braxton

3:30 **Reports** (brief synopsis of the important information shared. No more than 2 to 3 minutes)

3:45 **Adjournment**

From Your President

In the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, the writer records these words in the opening of chapter three, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Throughout my life, I have found this expression to have great truth. I haven’t always understood the when, where, or why of many of life’s events. I have, however, concluded that perhaps it is not always for me to understand all there is about every life situation.

Such has been the case for the past two years. My reference here is not to my two years as WVARSE President, but rather to the pandemic which has controlled almost every facet of our day-to-day lives. Each of us has had to make multitudinous adjustments to practically every area of living. Some suffered through the symptoms of this viral infection. I find it very refreshing that it now appears we are headed on the downward side of this, at least for the present time.

As I have reported to you on several occasions in the past, our organization has had to make many adjustments as to how we met or how we conducted our business. I am very happy to continue reporting that WVARSE is still very much alive and active. Technology and ingenuity have helped us survive the pandemic and maintain our focus as an organization. I commend each of our local units and each of you, as individuals, who continued reaching out to our fellow members to keep us moving along.

Many of our units met via Zoom or Go to Meeting. Others met via conference calls. Some units were able to have in-person meetings. However, your unit chose to function. I want to personally offer a huge THANK YOU for your dedication to our organization and your retired colleagues.

Plans are being made to conduct our Leadership Training at the Days Inn in Flatwoods on May 4, 2022. Our Regional Directors are engaged in making plans for our Regional Meetings in June. Your Executive Board is once again meeting in person at Flatwoods.

See President, Page 2



IRVIN SCARBERRY
WVARSE President

Legislative News

By John Taylor, WVARSE State Legislative Chair

Well, not for lack of valiant effort, but we lost, and we lost. This year the AARP State Advocacy Team worked hard supporting our efforts. I can’t say enough about their efforts on our behalf. After consultation with our leadership, we decided to support SB 432 that would have provided a \$1,500 one-time

supplement for retirees 70 and above who had at least 20 years of service. It was single referenced to Finance, and we felt it had the best chance of passage of several bills for retir-

ees. The Senate Finance Chair wanted to add a third qualifier to save most of the money that would cost. Basically, they wanted to limit the supplement to those whose pension was

\$1,000 or less per month. Again, after consultation with our leadership, we decided we could not support that cut, since it would no

See News, Page 2

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COLUMN



William G. ‘Bill’ Milam
Executive Director

Another legislative session has ended without any-

thing being considered for retirees. **SB 432** that would have provided a \$1,500 one-time supplement for retirees 70 and above who had at least 20 years of service was introduced by Senator Eric Nelson (Kanawha). We held high hopes that this had a chance of passing. It only had one reference – Finance Committee. It sat in Finance to near the end of the session. It was proposed to limit the supplement to those whose pension was \$1,000 or less per month. WVARSE leadership rejected this offer and the bill died. Two bills were completed during the 2022

Legislative session which affect PEIA: **SB 205** • Expanding the PEIA Finance Board from 8 members to 10. One member who shall represent the interest of hospital, who shall have been employed by a hospital for a period of at least three years prior to appointment and shall remain an employee of a hospital for the duration of his or her appointment. The second member shall represent the interest of non-hospital health care providers, who shall have owned his or her non-hospital health care provider business for a period of at least three years prior to appointment and shall

maintain such ownership for the duration of appointment. This takes effect June 9, 2022. **HB 4112** • Provides consumers a choice for pharmacy services. This takes effect June 10, 2022. We were not successful in getting legislation introduced to amend **§5-10D-6. Voluntary deductions by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board from monthly benefits to retirees to pay association dues.** This law allows the TRS to do blind mailings for retiree association and allows dues deduction. This law has an expiration date of July 1, 2022. WVARSE presently

has 178 members enrolled in Dues Deduction. I will notify each enrolled member prior to July 1, 2022, informing them their need to pay their membership another way. Paying online is a good option. COVID-19 is not over, but it is milder, and most people feel comfortable meeting and attending functions. We will have a one-day Leadership Conference (May 4, 2022). We will have our regional meetings this year. We are hopeful that we will be able to hold a normal 2-day Annual Council. 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. Your sharing of email addresses with us would be most helpful. We prefer that you share your email address with your unit, and it will, in turn, share it with me. That way all concerned will have access. 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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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President

From Page 1

John Taylor, Our Legislative Chairperson, has been in constant contact with our Legislators throughout the 2022 Session of the West Virginia Legislature and has maintained contact with our Regional Legislative Chairs throughout the session. He, along with several other WVARSE members, served

as members of the WVAARP Advocacy Team. John and members of the State AARP office worked very diligently to get a bonus for all state retirees who do not receive a COLA. Additional information regarding Legislative actions appears elsewhere in this publication.

Bill Milam, Charmel Radcliff and I have had many telephone conference calls

during these past several months. This has proven to be a very positive method for us to “stay in touch” regarding a variety of topics related to our organization. In addition to my communications with Bill and Charmel, I have had several contacts with our Legislative Chair, John Taylor and our immediate Past President, Mary Ann Ferris.

Again, I do not, nor may I ever, know when, where or why of the obstacles presented to us during the pandemic. One thing about which I am 100% certain is that our great organization, WVARSE, continues to be a very active group, always attempting to fulfil our goal in serving the retired school employees of the Ste of West Virginia.

News

From Page 1

longer benefit most of our members. In working for broader coverage, we lost the bill. The chair never put it on his agenda. At least this will allow us to work for something next year that might have broader coverage and include more of our members. Thanks to Danny Gray, Bob and Nellie Orsburn, and many others too

numerous to mention who made contacts at critical times. We came close but didn’t quite make it. It wasn’t for lack of effort. The other bill we lost was an AARP bill that would have reduced the maximum insurance copay on insulin from \$100 to \$35/30 day supply of insulin. Although it passed both chambers in different forms, they couldn’t get together on a single version before time

ran out. Basically, we live to fight another day. Retirees should not be forgotten most years in the legislature. Your efforts helped to get several cosponsors added to SB 432. Your grass roots efforts early enough may help to bring us to success next year. Our message that retirees were forgotten this year should be heard in every office in the Capitol well before the session next year. The

Governor should hear us. Everyone running for Senate or House this fall should hear us. The Senators that don’t have to run this year should hear us. Don’t forget, retirees again should be heard early and often. Together we can make a difference. We should have members at every political meeting asking candidates to commit to supporting retirees. Our grass roots need to get our message out.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

2022 will be the first year that WVARSE has held Regional Meetings since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Each of the regional are planning their meetings and we hope each region will have a great attendance. We look forward to meeting and greeting each of you after such a long time. Here is the regional meetings schedule. As soon as we additional information, we will let you know by email or phone.

Region I	June 14	Franklin United Methodist in Wellsburg. It will be hosted by Brooke County. Registration 9:30
Region II	June 15	TBA
Region III	June 8	Cedar Lakes - Registration 9:00
Region IV	June 7	Community of Grace United Methodist Church 225 28th Street Huntington, WV 9:00 am Registration / Continental Breakfast 10:00 am opening
Region V	June 6	Mining Academy, Beckley – times TBA
Region VI	June 13	At Hampshire High School Meeting begins at 10:00 with sign-in & refreshments from 9:00 until 10:00 Lunch catered at noon. Original Walnut Grove one-room School on the grounds that we may visit.

KANAWHA

KCARSE met on Wednesday, March 9, at 10:00 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church. The speaker was Art Shomo. He is retired from the WV Department of Natural Resources and spoke to the group about the new Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center that has been built at the Forks of Coal Natural Area near Alum Creek. This center will bring outdoor education and discovery to life for adults as well as children. The wildlife center is located on 102 acres of land that borders Corridor G on the eastern side and extends to the confluence of the Big Coal and Little Coal Rivers. An official opening is being planned for June 4th with lots of activities. Mr. Shomo gave us ideas how we can help by purchasing bricks for the walkways, volunteering at the center, donations, just to name a few. The presentation was followed by snacks, a short meeting, and fellowship.



Kim Shomo, Rt Shomo, the presenter and his assistant Diana Green.



Members socializing.



~ Letters to the Editor ~

March 15, 2022

Dear Editor:

This letter is written to express the extreme disappointment that WVARSE Executive Board members feel at the conclusion of the Legislative session. Despite repeated efforts of our legislative committee, chaired by John Taylor, and officers of our Board, retirees were not mentioned in the Governor Justice's legislative call. While we were pleased that active employees received a 5% pay increase, retirees were not included nor even mentioned.

When the Governor announced his intent to give active employees a one-time \$1500 stipend to help defray the rising cost of food, gasoline, etc. once again, retirees were not included in this proposal. At this point, our legislative committee asked all members to call the Governor's office to request that retirees receive the same stipend. We face the very same inflationary costs that active employees do; many of us with much less income than the actives who would receive the stipend. Despite our vigorous efforts which inundated the Governor's office with our requests, our efforts were to no avail. Granted, the active employees did not receive this stipend because they received the 5% raise in the budget which has passed both the House and Senate and now awaits the Governor's signature. We retirees got nothing. All our other efforts with the Legislature were just as fruitless (see Legislative article elsewhere).

Rest assured WVARSE officers, board and members will continue to diligently work on behalf of our retirees. We will work with Governor Justice's office, elected officials, and any other agencies to attempt to secure some part of the \$600 million budget surplus for our retirees. Be forewarned that we may call upon you once again to contact key people on a moment's notice to aid us in our lobbying efforts. Remember WVARSE's motto is "To Serve, Not to Be Served". We members of the Executive Board take that motto very seriously as we make every effort to serve you.

WVARSE Executive Board

Irvin Scarberry, President

Newsletter Editor:
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ROANE

Roane County members Debbie Fox, Willa Shenkle, Mary Ann Wilson, and Melinda Walker read Christmas stories to families at the Newburne one room schoolhouse following the Christmas parade. Members were entertained by members of the Roane County High School Band directed by Hope Statts at the December covered dish meeting. Members brought non-perishable items to be donated to the local food bank. Jeff Tanner, a physical therapist from Roane General Hospital, was the guest for the March meeting. Mr. Tanner informed members of a free health and wellness program available to everyone.



Jeff Tanner



Activity in the on-room school



Dean will be assuming the position for Staubly



Judy Staubly

It was spring of 2004, and Judy had been attending UCARSE (Upshur County Association of Retire School Employees) meetings for several months after retiring in June 2003. (She had 23 years of service in the Math Department of Buckhannon Upshur High School).

The current UCARSE president, John Puffenbarger, was asking members to help him find a new president. One of her friends poked her and said, “Judy, you could do that.”

After four years as President of UCARSE, she was asked by Garry Lynne Shearer to run for Region II Director, and she spent the next 4 years traveling around North Central West Virginia visiting the 12 counties in that Region. Not being a native West Virginian, she really enjoyed seeing the parts of our beautiful state that she had never seen before. Judy remembers a tiny town in Preston County that provided a buffet meal for a PCARSE meeting. There were only 2 or

3 houses and a community center and so she wondered how they managed to provide all that delicious food.

Those four years flew by, and she was really retired for a while until someone asked her to take on the Scholarship Chair. She did that for two years, until she heard that Joann Beer wanted to retire as WVARSE Treasurer. She began her tutelage the summer of 2015, and most things were transferred to her by Annual Council in September, where Joann made a ceremony out of handing the checkbook over to her.

“I have enjoyed this job most of the time; worried over it often; and tried very hard to do everything right. However, it is time for someone younger and more “tech-savvy” to take over now. I think we have found that willing person in Martha Dean. I will be available to her whenever she needs me. I won’t disappear from events such as Annual Council and hope to see many old friends in the future”, remarks Judy.

Scott Rogers Retires from Humana



Scott was given a send-off with a retirement dinner at Fazio's attended by family, friends, and corporate members of Humana. Scott will be missed by our retirees.

With much respect Humana announced on February 28, 2022, the retirement of Scott Rogers who has faithfully worked for Humana and served PEIA and its retirees for the past 14 years (12 years with Humana). He will be greatly missed. Humana will be promoting Joel Thacker to take his place as Senior Account Executive. Katie Bradley was added to the team to take over Joel's role as Consumer Engagement Professional. Joel has been with Humana for seven years and has worked closely with

Scott, PEIA and its retirees on all aspects of the account administration. He is ready for this next phase so if anyone has questions, please contact him going forward. Joel can be reached at 681-945-6085 or email at jthacker@humana.com. Katie will be taking over the member engagement activities for Bringing Humana to You, Open Enrollment meetings, Association meetings and any other retiree meeting needs. She has been with Humana for 18 months working in the Charleston MarketPoint office. Katie can be reached at 681-341-6016 or at email kbradley18@humana.com.



Joel Thacker, Humana Representative



jthacker@humana.com
Office: 681.945.6085
Cell: 304.617.4573

Joel is a graduate from West Virginia University majoring in Exercise Physiology and Communications. He has his Life and Health Insurance license in multiple states and is AHIP Medicare Certified. Joel resides in Charleston, WV with his wife Ashley and son Cooper. In his spare time, Joel enjoys golf, traveling with his wife and son, and vacationing with family and friends.

Joel is a licensed health insurance professional and has over 7 years' experience in the industry. Joel is experienced in large group account management, including union, public sector, and state government environments. He is also experienced in client and broker communication, member services, billing and enrollment, reconciliation processes, and member engagement. Joel started his Humana career in 2014 with the Group Medicare Account Management team as a Consumer Engagement Professional. Joel's main focus was engaging with retirees, associations, provider and member organizations on benefits, wellness, and Medicare related information. After five years, Joel was promoted to an Account Executive taking on a book of business. Joel continued to grow his experience and dedication with his clients and brokers. He is continuing his advancement within Humana by being promoted to a Senior Account Executive taking on a more challenging and complex book of business which includes West Virginia PEIA.

Katie Bradley replaces Joel Thacker as his assistant.



Katie has been with Humana for 2 years. Before her new role as a Consumer Engagement Profession with group Medicare, she worked in the Charleston MarketPoint office as a Sales Support Representative on the individual Medicare side of Humana. She is an 8th generation West Virginian with seven years of experience in the Healthcare industry. She brings a passion for helping her fellow West Virginians achieve the best possible health outcomes. She and her husband, Andrew, live in Charleston and have three amazing boys. When she is not chasing kids, she enjoys painting and cooking.

Martha Dean



Martha will be assuming the position of Treasurer this spring. Judy Stauby has done a magnificent job for many years so she will have big shoes to fill.

Martha graduated from Webster Springs High School and went on to graduate from Alderson-Broaddus College with a teaching degree including the teaching fields of General Science, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics through Algebra I. Her first teaching position was in 7th and 8th grade science in Marietta, Ohio. She returned to West Virginia after one year to teach in the public schools near Glenville so her husband could get his degree.

Her career has taken her to several different schools and positions including teacher, guidance counselor, central office administrator, RESA Director, and superintendent in two different counties.

She retired in 2002 and then began working for the McKelvey Scholarship Corporation and, additionally as Executive Director of the WV Association of School Administrators. She was then asked to come back to Webster County as Superintendent of Schools for a while. After three and a half years, she retired for good and became active in her local chapter of WVARSE. For the past three years, she has served as the director of Region II, and is now ready to assume a more responsible position.

She and her husband, Jerome, live in Braxton County, and she has recently been appointed to the Board of Education to fill a vacancy. Her life has evolved around education, and she is looking forward to working in both new positions.

GILMER COUNTY

Fourteen members and five guests were present for the February 15th meeting of GCARSE. The “Communities in Schools” program was explained by site coordinators Alecia Martin, Lora Stump, and Julie Busby. The goal of CSI is to meet the basic needs of the child. The Gilmer County site coordinators are addressing student needs for food, clothing, counseling, and emotional support. Also, Randy Bonnell and Joe Madalon were present to speak to members about AMBA insurance benefits for WVARSE members. They also discussed AMBA discounts available to WVARSE members.



GCARSE members Sharon Moyers, Dixie Moyers, and Marie Schimmel participated in the “Books N Brunch” activity at the Gilmer County High School / Middle School. The students’ exemplary behavior was rewarded with hot chocolate and doughnuts while browsing and choosing new books from the library.



Food for thought ~ *John Puffenbarger*



Fire trucks have four wheels and eight firefighters, and four plus eight equals twelve. There are twelve inches in a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth is a ruler, and the *Queen Elizabeth* is one of the largest ships on the seven seas. Seas have fish. Fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians. The Russians are red. Fire trucks are always rushin’. Therefore fire trucks are usually red!

If you think this is wild, you ought to hear some people trying to explain why they are not joining WVARSE and their county unit!

~ In Memoriam ~

BOONE

Barry Fulton*
James Booth**
Dellena J Bailey*
Howard Proctor*

GLENVILLE

Kay Chico**

GRANT

Ruth Ann Columbia**
Sue A. Sites*
Janet Y. Weatherholt*

HARRISON

Lucille Anderson **
Ina Grace Pennington*
Grace Lucille Sommer-
ville* John Rice *

KANAWHA

Gary Frame**
Reba Wade**

LEWIS

Karen Reed Brown**
Helen Marie Grove**
Mildred Sue Kearns**
Linda Kay Probst*

PENDLETON

Sadie Belle Propst**

PRESTON

Robert Williams**

PUTNAM

Karen Taylor *
Cheryl Barnett**
Jessie Burdette*

UPSHUR

Melissa Cupp*
Lawrence Hamner*

WAYNE

Eileen A Asbury**
Carolyn Crumm*
Myrtle Hill*
Danny Hutchinson**
Janice C Justice**

WIRT

Charles A. Kupfner**

DEAF & BLIND

Rosa Shaffer*

*means Annual Member
** means Life Member

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

2022 dues must be recorded on our records
before the next Newsletter is published for
you to receive the Newsletter. This is the
LAST newsletter for those whose
2022 dues have not paid.

WVARSE Membership Report

Monday, March 28, 2022

Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2022

Membership Year
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

REGION I	Last Yr	Current
BROOKE	169	151
FAIRMONT	17	12
HANCOCK	224	146
MARION	239	190
MARSHALL	193	88
MONONGALLIA	156	98
OHIO	314	247
PLEASANTS	86	76
TYLER	60	49
WETZEL	65	41
WVU	27	24
TOTAL	1550	1122

REGION II	Last Yr	Current
BARBOUR	105	83
BRAXTON	83	48
DODDRIDGE	20	8
GILMER	42	41
GLENVILLE	13	15
HARRISON	338	261
LEWIS	107	84
PRESTON	161	119
RANDOLPH	181	132
TAYLOR	144	113
TUCKER	57	57
UPSHUR	262	223
WEBSTER	69	51
TOTAL	1582	1235

REGION III	Last Yr	Current
BOONE	228	178
CALHOUN	21	6
CLAY	15	16
JACKSON	137	138
KANAWHA	388	345
RITCHIE	30	28
ROANE	57	57
STATE DEPT	36	28
WIRT	61	63
WOOD	343	240
WVS	5	5
TOTAL	1321	1104

REGION IV	Last Yr	Current
CABELL	183	149
LINCOLN	114	88
LOGAN	33	37
MASON	58	42
MINGO	28	27
MU	6	6
PUTNAM	151	111
WAYNE	150	102
TOTAL	723	562

REGION V	Last Yr	Current
CONCORD	3	1
FAYETTE	159	100
GREENBRIER	132	103
MCDOWELL	153	89
MERCER	241	176
MONROE	16	12
NICHOLAS	110	94
POCAHONTAS	100	99
RALEIGH	172	109
SUMMERS	110	67
WVIT	3	3
WYOMING	95	81
TOTAL	1294	934

REGION VI	Last Yr	Current
BERKELEY	174	152
DEAF & BLIND	35	23
GRANT	63	108
HAMPSHIRE	69	71
HARDY	33	32
JEFFERSON	123	94
MINERAL	125	131
MORGAN	82	70
PENDLETON	54	42
POTOMAC	5	2
SHEPHERD	5	3
TOTAL	768	728

Total Members Last Yr Current
7238 5685

ORDER ENROLLMENT FORMS AND RECORD CARDS TODAY

Please order your enrollment membership forms for next year now. Use any forms you now have on hand. Take an inventory and request the number for the 2022-2023 year by phoning Karen Nicholson, Membership Clerk, at 304-488-2860 or email: karennichol47@gmail.com. To save postage these will be distributed at the Leadership Conference on May 4, 2022, at Flatwoods. The 2021-2022 year is not over until June 30, 2022. Please make every effort by calling individuals who have not joined to get them "on board."

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	\$

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

NAME _____ DATE _____ Associate () Life ()
Last First Middle Renewal () New ()

ADDRESS _____ OLD ADDRESS _____
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 for County Membership Chairman
Or call: Karen Nicholson, WVARSE Membership Clerk 304-488-2860

"Dues are not tax deductible"

Scholarship Winners 2021



Chrissy Summers

is a 43-year-old mother of three young men ages 14, 18 and 20. Chrissy was a 1996 graduate of Parkersburg South High School. During her childhood, she became involved in music and loved it. She started playing the piano in the second grade and didn't get involved with the trumpet until sixth grade. This was the love of her life. She was involved in band from that time on. She received the John Phillip Sousa Award from her band director upon graduation. She enrolled in the University of Charleston Nursing program. After the

first semester, she realized that was not for her. She returned home and sought advice from her band teacher. Following his advice, she enrolled in Glenville State College as a music major and graduated in December 2000, Cum Laude. Most of her time since graduation has been as a stay-at-home mother. She did get involved in substitute teaching. She completed the substitute training course and received the substitute certification. With five years' experience substituting mostly in elementary school, her husband encouraged her to return to Glenville State University and complete the teacher certification. It is her desire be employed in Wood County, teaching elementary school students. She will always be able to teach Music in her classroom.



Catherine Melcheck

was 2019 graduate of Spring Mills High School in Berkeley County. She is enrolled in Agriculture Education 6-12 at West Virginia University. She hopes to be able to establish an agriculture education program at Mountain View Middle School and Peterstown Middle School in Monroe County. Having the responsibility of assisting her younger sister with her schoolwork helped to develop a passion for teaching. In high school she became involved in FFA. Through the guidance of her FFA advisor, she became confident with the ability to thrive in an educational

or workplace environment. It is her hopes that she will be employed to teach in Monroe County.



Paige Butler

is a 2019 Graduate from Cameron High School in Marshall County. During her high school years, she became very involved in academics and athletics. She was president of her high school National Honor Society and vice president of Student Council. Other honors that have been bestowed upon her are: Cameron High School Salutatorian, West Liberty Elbin Scholar, and Dean's list the fall of 2019 and 2020 and the spring 2020 and 2021. As a child, she was passionate about school and continues that passion. She looks forward to being employed

upon graduation from West Liberty University, as an elementary teacher in the northern panhandle of West Virginia.



Meredith Davis

was a 2018 graduate from Williamstown High School in Wood County. She is enrolled in Elementary Education K-6 at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. She was a member of the National Honor Society in both middle and high school. During her college years, she has achieved being on the Dean's list the spring and fall of 2019 and the spring of 2020. She also was a President's Scholar, which requires a 4.0 grade point average, during the summer and fall of 2019 and the spring and fall of 2021. Meredith hopes to be employed teaching elementary students in either Wood or Pleasants counties.

Congratulations!
To all of the 2021 Winners!