Recently, we held our Leadership Conference in Flatwoods and our six regional meetings across the state. All of these meetings were well attended. I was so impressed with all the ideas that were shared by members who attended. Everything from great programs, ways to grow membership, legislative suggestions and scams we thought we would never fall for, were discussed. If you did not participate in either of these meetings, you missed an opportunity to gather information for your county association and also enjoy the blessing of fellowshipping with others. I met many new members and enjoyed visiting with previous acquaintances. All six regional directors did an excellent job securing a place to meet, selecting a menu and catering service and making it a wonderful day. I want to thank each of them for their dedication to our association. On August 23rd, WV ARSE will hold its Annual Council in Flatwoods. As many attendees requested last year, this will be a one-day meeting. This is your opportunity to have a voice in the policies and activities of WV ARSE. Each county may send their designated number of voting delegates depending on the county’s state membership. At last year’s Annual Council, those attending were asked to complete an evaluation on changes you would like to see. I read every single survey and shared the comments with the WV ARSE board. You will see many of the suggestions being implemented at the August meeting. As I wrote in my first message to you, after being elected, one of my first goals was to listen to our members. I fully intend to not only listen but to carry through with your ideas whenever possible. Congratulations to our members who volunteered, collected and sent in your community service hours. According to Patty Adkins, WV ARSE Community Service Chair, we collected over one million hours. Several counties have increased their volunteer hours this year, which shows that members are back to doing things for others without pay. This proves our motto of “To Serve and Not To Be Served”. I hope each county association can get new members to join, not just new retirees but also those who have been retired. We need to invite them to our meetings. If your group is having Humana Rep., Joel Thacker, to speak, this would be an excellent opportunity to invite non-members to your meeting. More members means a louder voice in Charleston. This is the year we certainly need to be heard. I thank each of you for being a member of WV ARSE. Please continue to support your county and state organization. I look forward to seeing you at our WV ARSE meetings.
Executive Director’s Column

As we look forward to the 2023 Annual Council – August 23, 2023, we are planning a one-day drive-in meeting. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the meeting begins at 10 AM. I encourage as many of you as can to attend the Annual Council. We plan to have a meal at noon which will be available to all attendees without charge. There will be an election of officers. A candidate for Region I has not yet been determined. So, if anyone from Region I wants to volunteer to be a candidate, please contact any board member and we will add you to the list. John Riddle (Jackson County), a past-president, will be a candidate for Region III and Libby Casto (Nicholas County) is a candidate for Region V. Come out and show your support for these candidates. We will also be voting on a proposed change in the WVARSE Constitution (the elimination of regional meetings). If this passes, it will greatly reduce the responsibilities of a regional director. We are planning four leadership meetings in four areas of the state. You may attend the meeting closest to your home. These will be conducted in one day. Having your email and phone number on our membership file is an asset. We have sent emails to members using this several times. Remember life dues increased to $150, effective July 1, 2023. 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. We have had a great response to our member list with names, addresses and phone numbers. We are working on getting these corrected. We have found quite a few discrepancies and we will work with each unit to make corrections. 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. 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 an email to bamilam@suddenlink.net so that I can update my files.

Legislative News

Now is the time to get organized if we want to have success at the Legislature this year. We need a group of members in each county that will be active. They need to be ready to e-mail, write, or call their Legislators. They need to be linked to their County Legislative Chair by e-mail. The County Chair needs to be in contact with the Regional Legislative Chair. The Regional Chairs must pass on messages or alerts on Legislative efforts. If the Pensions or Finance Committee in either chamber is ready to act, we need to contact every Legislator on that committee from their own constituents. That means that we MUST have active members, active County Legislative Chairs, and Active Regional Chairs all working the Legislative front. The “they” in this context is YOU! If you won’t do it, it just might not get done. Now is the time to speak to your Legislators and get to know them, more important to let them get to know you. They are at home, between sessions, and may be more available to talk. Invite them to come to your meetings, meet them for a cup of coffee, get to know each other. After the Annual Council passes our Proposed Legislative Goals, put a copy into the hands of your Legislators. Last year, our major effort was phone calls to the Governor’s office. We did this through a phone line supplied by AARP. Plans are still underway as to how we will approach the Legislature this year. We may work through the Governor again, or we may decide something else is best. We had a successful effort last year. We may hear from some Legislators that we got something for you last year. There are several things to think of in this context. 92% of us were left out. Yes, the neediest of us were helped, but that didn’t include the rest of us. The PEIA bill was slated to raise our premiums. That will hurt retirees because we didn’t get an increase in our pensions to cover the cost of that increase. PEIA needs to be on our radar this year. Since we don’t have a COLA, PEIA increases effectively reduce our pension. The bottom line is that whatever success we have this year depends on how well you take part in our efforts. Be sure your county has an active group of volunteers. After the Annual Council, I will send out copies of our Legislative Goals and talking points to the Regional Legislative Chairs. They will pass these on to the County Legislative Chairs. The County Chairs will organize their county efforts to get in contact with their Legislators. Talk to your local President and find out who your Legislative Chair is. Volunteer to be a part of our effort. Our success depends on you.

State Goals

1. WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums, copays, or reduction in benefits.
2. 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.
3. WVARSE will support legislation to provide a one-time supplement of $1,500 for retirees 70 and over who have had at least 20 years of service.
4. WVARSE will support legislation to provide a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment or COLA for state pensions.
5. WVARSE will support AARP efforts at the legislature.

National Goals

1. WVARSE proposes that Congress: Increase funding for Social Security by eliminating the cap on earnings taxed.
2. Increase funding to Medicare.
3. Add coverage in Medicare for Optical, Dental, and Hearing Aids.
4. Allow Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices.
Biography for Marie Schimmel, Region II Director

Marie Schimmel is a 1981 graduate of Glenville State with BA in 7 & 8th Education. She continued her education at West Virginia University and graduated in 1985 with a master’s degree in special education. She taught special education for 10 years at Sand Fork Elementary. Part of her work experience included teaching special education at Gilmer County High School for twenty years. She then taught eighth grade English. She retired in 2011, and now resides in Glenville, West Virginia where she enjoys her retirement with her loving husband, Mike. She agreed to submit her name as a candidate for Region II Director at the 2022 Annual Council Meeting and thanks to all the good people in attendance, she won the election.
Boone County

Boone County’s Association of Retired School Employees Angela Price and Ester Bell delivered books to three area schools.

WVARSE President Charmel Radcliff visited Gilmer County at the March meeting.

Judy Leggett’s Gilmer County Elementary School Choir performed at the May meeting.

The GCARSE scholarship winners

Gilmer County Elementary School Science & Social Studies winners presented their projects to the retirees.

WVARSE President Charmel Radcliff

Granter County

The Grant County Association of Retired School Employees met on June 1st. The meeting included a brief memorial service for the following Grant County Board of Education employees who passed since last June – Billie Brown, Lura Evans, Terrie Foley, Donna Martin Fridley, Dottie Hartman, John Haslacker, Carroll Michael, Randy Rohrbaugh and Junior Swick. Jo Ann Harman led the service using a yellow calla lily to symbolize gratitude to these individuals for their many years of service to the children in Grant County. The GCARSE Scholarship was presented to Harmony Schell, a 2023 graduate of Petersburg High School who plans to major in elementary education at Fairmont State University. New retirees were honored with a reception recognizing their dedication to the students of the county. Kathy Herron, an aide from Petersburg High School was presented with a gift bag to show member appreciation. Other retirees unable to attend included Tim Kiser and Dallas Mark Bowman from the South Branch Vocational Technical School, Robin Fox and Lynn Crites from Petersburg High School and Michele Webster from Petersburg Elementary School.

On July 13th the Grant County Association of Retired School Employees went on a field trip to the Eagleview Lavender Farm in Maysville, WV. The farm was established in 2018 and specializes in growing and selling several varieties of lavender. Owner Kathy Kimble welcomed the group and explained a little about how she started the business and the process of growing lavender. Members and a few guests enjoyed the beautiful setting on a warm July morning, cutting lavender and browsing in the store with many lavender products. We invited some retirees who were not members and gained one new member!
Jackson County

Jackson County retired school employees volunteered time to open the Old Schoolhouse and log house at Cedar Lakes for the Mountain State Arts & Crafts Fair last week. They provided tours and information to visitors. Those that worked were John Riddle, Wanda Mobley, Jo Hendricks, LeaAnn Puckett, Carol Burch, Jim and Lori Mahan. Also, JCARSE takes on the financial responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the Schoolhouse. The crew at Cedar Lakes takes great care of the buildings and grounds maintenance as well.

Special thanks to John Gunther for providing the devotional.

Some of the Jackson County attendees at the regional leadership training at cedar lakes last month were:
- Front: John Riddle (Community Service)
- Carol Burch (I & P)
- LeaAnn Puckett (treasurer)
- Jo Hendricks (president)
- Jim Mahan (vice president)

Mercer County

Mercer County Association of Retired School Educators conducted their Memorial Service following a short business meeting on May 22nd. Princeton City Mayor David Graham and Mercer County Schools Superintendent Edward Toman graciously took time out of their busy schedules to serve as Readers of those being remembered. MCARSE President Ann Pauley tolled the bell.

MCARSE members who served as Readers of Poetry were Karen Thorn, Gladys Richmond, Madeline Burger, and Levita Shaw.

Pleasants County

The Pleasants County Association of Retired School Employees donated $1000.00 to the McKnight Caring Kitchen Fund to help provide backpack snacks to elementary and middle school children.

Presenting the check to Pleasants Community Foundation Director Sheri Fleegle (center) is PCARSE President Charmel Radcliff, Margaret White, Vicky Kyle, Randy Nutter and Cynthia Alkire. Picture taken by PCARSE member Steve Fleegle.
Marlene Beckett read the names of deceased school retirees at the March meeting. Following the meeting, members enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

**Randolph County**

The Randolph County Association of Retired School Employees awarded three $300 scholarships to graduating seniors in Randolph County. The winners were chosen in a random drawing and all three were from Elkins High School.

Winners were (l to r). Jonathan Bennett who will be attending Davis and Elkins College studying Communications, Samantha Sproul who will be attending Campbell University and majoring in Exercise Science/Kinesiology and Callie Loftis who is enrolled at Augusta Technical College to pursue an Associate Degree in Nursing.

New officers for Roane County were elected and installed at the May meeting. Dennis Carpenter, president, Debbie Fox, secretary, John Gray vice-president, and Dianna Carpenter, treasurer.

Members along with several new retirees enjoyed the annual picnic at the Williams Farm.

**Putnam County**

**Roane County**

**Region V**

President Charmel Radcliff oversaw the Presidents.

Acting Raleigh County President Mary Riner and Raleigh County Legislative Chair

President Charmel Radcliff oversaw the JoAnna Fredeking, Mercer County and Region V Chair conducted the Membership Session.
Region V Cont.

Judy Staats, Nicholas County I&P Chair conducted the I&P Session

Steve Bailey, Mercer County and Region V Legislative Chair conducted the Legislative Session

Special thanks to Summers County who for donated gift baskets for a drawing at the end of the meeting

Summers County President
Douglas Wayne Harvey

Pocahontas County President
Roger Trusler

In Memoriam

BERKELEY
C. David Miller**
Charlotte VanMetre*
Mary Fae Byrd**

BARBOUR
Eleanor Creed**
Candage Lee Jacques **
Mary Lou Wagner *
Rita C Wilson**

BOONE
Violet Farmer**

HAMSHIRE
Louisa Hardy*

HARDY
Orpha Orndorff*

JEFFERSON
Doris Costello*

KANAWHA
Sue Hickok*

MARSHALL
Margaret Moore*

NICHOLAS
Carolyn Chapman**

OHIO
Robert Duvall*
John Lane **
Ruth Ann Scherich*

PENDLETON
Johnny L Rexrode**

PLEASANTS
Dr. Danny Chandler*
Pamela Mitchell*
Merle Rouse *

PRESTON
James Crandall *
Mardell Forman**
Ira Frame**
Mary Jane Hanline**

WAYNE
Dolores Boley**
William Lawman*

* Annual Member
** Life Member
## WV ARSE Membership Report

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<th>Last Yr</th>
<th>Current</th>
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### REGION I

- BROOKS: 196, 156
- FAIRMONT: 17, 11
- HANCOCK: 224, 155
- MARION: 239, 109
- MARSHALL: 193, 105
- MONONGALIA: 156, 96
- OHIO: 314, 221
- PLEASANTS: 86, 80
- TILERY: 60, 33
- WETZEL: 65, 42
- WYU: 27, 22

### REGION II

- BARBOUR: 105, 95
- BECKLEY: 63, 42
- DOUGLASS: 20, 8
- GILMER: 42, 41
- GLENVILLE: 13, 5
- HARRISON: 338, 259
- LEWIS: 167, 86
- PRESTON: 161, 113
- RANDOLPH: 161, 90
- TAYLOR: 144, 118
- TUCKER: 57, 55
- UPSHUR: 262, 222
- WEBSTER: 69, 60

### REGION III

- BOONE: 228, 160
- CALHOUN: 21, 6
- CLAY: 15, 16
- JACKSON: 137, 139
- KANAWHA: 388, 316
- RITCHIE: 30, 26
- ROANE: 57, 31
- STATE DEPT: 36, 29
- WIRT: 61, 66
- WOOD: 343, 220
- WTS: 5, 5

### REGION IV

- CABELL: 183, 154
- LINCOLN: 114, 71
- LOGAN: 33, 34
- MASON: 58, 45
- MINGO: 28, 24
- MU: 6, 5
- PUTNAM: 151, 111
- WAYNE: 150, 83

### REGION V

- CONCORD: 3, 1
- FAYETTE: 159, 72
- GREENSBURG: 132, 95
- McDOWELL: 153, 74
- MERCER: 241, 173
- MONROE: 16, 12
- NICHOLAS: 110, 102
- POCAHMONTAS: 100, 63
- RALEIGH: 172, 125
- SUMMERS: 110, 70
- WIT: 3, 2
- WYOMING: 95, 47

### REGION VI

- BERKELEY: 174, 163
- DEAF & BLIND: 36, 20
- GRANT: 63, 112
- HAMPShIRE: 69, 61
- HARDY: 33, 29
- JEFFERSON: 123, 86
- MINEAR: 125, 132
- MORGAN: 82, 72
- PENDLETON: 54, 35
- POTOMAC: 5, 2
- SHEPHERD: 5, 3

### West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees Enrollment Form

Dues for fiscal year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

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### PLEASE PRINT NAME AS IT APPEARS ON RETIREMENT CHECK

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**Members receive newsletter, Insurance info/Travel Opportunities & representation at the Legislature**

*"Dues are not Tax Deductible*"