

West Virginia
Association of
Retired School
Employees
Affiliated With
AARP/NRTA



Newsletter

Volume 36 – No 3

Summer 2026

From Your President, John Moyers



It's the time of year that state and county employees are looking at retirement. That usually poses several questions and WVARSE attempts to be there to help potential retirees through the process. The organization has worked to secure solid benefits for retirees. We have had some success and some disappointment. The bottom line— **WVARSE leadership is constantly in contact with the appropriate legislators and the governor.** A pat on the back for all of the individual retirees and county organizations who make special efforts to make the decision makers aware of the struggles of our retirees. I am personally concerned with our drop in membership. I praise individuals and counties who make special efforts to reach eligible retirees. Finally, my desire is to thank all the folks who are working so hard on the retirees behalf.

How to talk to Legislators by John Taylor Legislative Chair

One piece of feedback from the HUBS meetings was a request for guidance on talking with legislators. Some people may feel unsure about whether they are qualified to speak with elected officials. They may think, "I am just a retired school employee, and they are elected leaders." Set that thought aside. Legislators are elected to represent their constituents - and you are one of them. Most legislators want to hear from the people they represent. They value your vote and often welcome your input. Begin the conversation with a positive attitude. The months before the November election are an especially good time to contact legislators, as they are often willing to spend time with potential voters. Before meeting, decide what you want to discuss. Review our goals, which will be adopted at the Annual Council, and bring a copy to share. Explain why retirees need support. Focus on two key points: **active employees receive pay raises regularly, while retirees have received only occasional bonus checks or minimum pension increases - not true pay raises.** Many retirees have received no additional support despite years of service, and they are just as deserving as active employees. Remember that legislators are people too. Be friendly and respectful but keep the discussion focused. If the conversation drifts, guide it back to retirees. State your points clearly, thank the legislators for their time, and plan to follow up during the legislative session. **This should be an ongoing conversation, not a one-time discussion.**



ANNUAL COUNCIL 2026 -Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Day's Inn, Sutton

Registration -Convention Center Lobby - 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM -Region III - John Riddle Director

First General Session - 10:00 AM - Conference Rooms D & E

Lunch 12:00PM (\$20.00)

Regional Caucuses (45)..... 1:00 PM Rooms D & E

Second General Session - Election and installation of Officers

Please refrain from using cell phones or talking in small groups

MEMORIAL SERVICE - 3:00 PM
D&E (Chair Norma Taylor)

From Executive Director Bill Milam

We held four HUBS meetings in Ripley, Beckley, Mt. Clair, and Moorefield. We expected 161 attendees, but attendance was lower than anticipated, with Mt. Clair having the best turnout. All locations except Moorefield served a variety of foods, including plate lunches, sandwich fixings, desserts, and beverages. They were well received. Moorefield served Subway. Units donated approximately 31 door prizes, which attendees appreciated and enjoyed. The top prize, a trip on the Potomac Scenic Railway, was won by David Adkins of Grant County. I am sure he and Patty will enjoy the ride. HUBS evaluations showed that attendees preferred the new format, in which all chairs presented to the full group rather than in breakout sessions. Most evaluations indicated that the four HUBS meetings should continue, although some comments suggested meeting every other year or by Zoom. The planning committee will consider these suggestions. We have changes in the Executive Board due to illness and family. They all did an excellent job and will be missed in their positions. Sharon Vance has resigned as Scholarship Chair after many years of dedicated service overseeing the program. The Board appointed Patty Adkins as her replacement. Patty had been serving as Community Service Chair, but she resigned from that role because of the travel involved. The Board appointed Charmel Radcliff to fill the position. Charmel has served WVARSE as Region I Director, President-Elect, President, and, most recently, Past President. John Staats, who served as Region V Director, resigned due to health issues, and the Board appointed Steve Bailey to that position. John continues to serve as President of the Nicholas County unit. Annual Council is scheduled to meet at the Days Inn in Flatwoods on August 19, 2026. Registration begins at 9 AM and the meeting starts at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 12 noon (\$20.00). Several door prizes have been donated. Election of officers will take place at this meeting. President-elect Jo Hendricks will move into the President position, and President John Moyers will move into the Past President position. Secretary Jan Phillips will be on the ballot for re-election. Region II director will be on the ballot, and Denis Chapman will be on the ballot for Region IV Director. Rowanne Shockey will be on the ballot for re-election as Region VI Director. Steve Bailey will be on the ballot for Region V Director.



2025-2026 Executive Board

President

John Moyers (304)749-7547 jemoe@frontiernet.net

President-Elect

Jo Hendricks (304)687-1222 johendericks@suddenlink.net

Secretary

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Treasurer

Linda DeMoss (304) 481-0700 teacherdemoss12@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Charmel Radcliff (304) 684-2133 charmelr@hotmail.com

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William G. Milam (304)610-0192 williammilam.bm@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

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Region III

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Region V

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Region VI

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I&P Service

Norma Taylor (304) 842-4213 nataylor61@hotmail.com

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AARP-WV President

Roger Calhoun (304)674 3308 Calhounroger60@yahoo.com

Amba Insurance

Garrett Mowery (717) 448-6048 garrett.mowery@getamba.com

Presidents: Please submit your calendar for October-March for the Fall Newsletter.

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

County Presidents 2026-2027

Berkeley - Sylvia Kesecker, 103 South Rosemont Street, Martinsburg WV 25401-2315
Email Contact Julia Gates (juliagatesDAR@gmail.com)

Boone - Kim Duty, P O BOX 339, Danville WV 25053, (Kimberly1@yahoo.com) 304-543-0945

Braxton - Mary "Boody" Talbott, PO Box 199, Burnsville WV 26335, (boodyt@frontier.com) 304 853-2641

Brooke - Teresa Taylor, 172 Hawthorne Acres, Wellsburg, WV 26070, (treilly22@frontier.com) 304 737-2341

Cabell - Linda Forinash, 69 Cornerstone Circle, Culloden, WV 25510, (lsforinash@gmail.com) 304 743-4380

Fayette - Joel Davis, 72 Dogwood Lane Oak Hill, WV 25901, (joel.davis1956@gmail.com) 304-322-6984

Gilmer - Marie Schimmel, 68 Holt Run Road Glenville WV 26351, (mgschimmel@live.com) 304 462-8564

Grant - Patty Adkins, 23 Hillcrest CT Petersburg, WV 26847-5511 (pdadkins72@gmail.com) 304 538-4608

Greenbrier - Danny Gray, 111 Foglesong Lane Ronceverte, WV 24970-9720, (dp135gray@verizon.net) 304 645-2529

Hampshire - Carol Fultz, 1770 Bethel Church Rd, Romney, WV 26757-7187, (cfultz@hardynet.com) 304 822-7049

Hancock - Melanie Donofe, 218 Miami Ave, Weirton WV 26062, (madonofe@frontier.com) 304 797-1123

Harrison - Phil Brown, 27 Lions Den, Fairmont WV 26554, (cislghi579@comcast.net) 304 476-3970

Jackson - Jim Mahan, 154 Walnut Street, Evans, WV 25241, (jimmahan1961@gmail.com) 304 532-6456

Kanawha - Pat Schillings, 40 Norwood Road #4, Charleston, WV 25314, (purrfectpat48@gmail.com) 304 546-1444

Lewis - Barbara Zirkle, 913 Everwood Rd, Mt Clair WV 26408, (bobbyzirkle@aol.com) 304-624-0072

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Marshall - Linda Snodgrass, 5858 Waynesburg Pike Rd. Moundsville WV. 26041304, (sevenpineslks@comcast.net) 845-3107
VP Mary Rose Bobbins, 1712 Echo Valley, Glen Dale, WV 26038, (maryroserobbins@hotmail.com) 304-650-6232,

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McDowell - James E Redmond, 18 Mirable St., Welch WV 24801, 304 436-6187

Mercer - Steve Bailey, 107 Oakwood Lane Princeton, WV 24740, (Se_bailey@yahoo.com) 304 887-3723

Mineral - Janie L Fout, PO Box 193 New Creek WV 26743 304 788-0182, (jlfout@gmail.com)

Mingo - Arlene Starr, 4752 Rt. 52 Williamson, WV 25661, (honeyabcz@hotmail.com) 304-235-6161

Morgan - Dudley Cable, 190 Lazy Bones Lane Berkeley Springs, WV 25411, (dewrite@gmail.com) 304-261-0782

Nicholas - John Staats, 709 Bright Pond Rd., Summersville, WV 26651-1859, (john.staats2@shentel.net) 304 872-4757

Ohio - Lois Rutter, 114 Breezy Drive Wheeling WV 26003, (Ler9948@yahoo.com) 304 242-3922

Pendleton - David L Sponaule, PO Box 54, Circleville, WV 26804, (daveandkitty@spruceknob.net) 304 567-2229

Pleasants - Charmel Radcliff, 199 Heron Drive, Saint Marys, WV, 26170, (charmelnr@hotmail.com) 304 684-2133

Preston - Anita Mitter, 307 Morgantown Street Apt 3 Kingwood WV 26537, (Amitts2@yahoo.com) 681 406-7376

Putnam - Dianne Harrah, 102 Lafayette Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526, (dianne.harrah1977@gmail.com) 304 549-0026

Raleigh - Mary Riner, 483 Tank Branch Rd Glen Morgan WV 25847, (mary.j.riner@hotmail.com) 304 673-3286

Roane - John Gray, 126 Missouri Fork Spencer WV 25276, (jlgray2022@yahoo.com) 304- 543-2372

Summers - Douglas Wayne Harvey, 136 Southside Drive Hinton, WV 25951-8103, 304 466 0429

Taylor - John Taylor, 900 N Pike St Grafton WV 26354, (Johntaylor1@comcast.net) 304 265-5514

Tucker - Eleanor Nester, 7936 Dry Fork Rd, Hendricks, WV 26271-8016, (enestor2022@gmail.com) 304 866-4640

Tyler - Charlene Galluzzo, PO Box 162, Middlebourne, WV 26149-0162, (chargalluzzo@gmail.com) 304 758-4266

Upshur - Jo Ella Wills, 2957 Bush Run Road French Creek, WV 26218, (jewills2@hotmail.com) 304 924-5749

Wayne - Vivian Atkinson, 180 German Ridge Road, Huntington WV 25701, (vatkinson@marshall.edu) 304 633-3083

Webster - Renee Anderson, 824 Cleveland RD, Cleveland, WV 26215, (renee@mountain.net) 304 493-6574

Wirt - Patricia Egbert, 2312 Palestine Road Palestine WV 26160, (egbertpat@gmail.com) 304 275-3197

Wood - Vice President Jerry Wharton, 1722 20th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101, (j_wharton@suddenlink.net) 304 428-3395

Wyoming - Donna Sue Dixon, P.O. Box 163 Jesse, WV 24849, (rdixon@shentel.net) 304-682-0132

Unfortunately, some units have not submitted current lists of officers (deadline was April 1st); therefore, presidents listed above are presidents of record. Please make sure that your list of officers has been submitted to the Executive Director so that the RedBook can be updated.

Summers County

At a recent Summers County meeting at Oak Grove Methodist Church in Talcott, West Virginia, Bill and I enjoyed a wonderful luncheon with the Staats and Moyers. The church ladies provided most of the food, while Pete Taber made the fruit salad. His idea of sprinkling Jell-O powder over the fruit made it even better than preparing Jell-O according to the package directions. Nova Rudicill, one of the church ladies, baked an outstanding cake. At my request, she mailed me the recipe so I could share it with you.

Coconut Black Walnut Pound Cake

Read your recipe before you start anything.

Do not use a mixer or bake in a gas oven.

Ingredients

2 cups of sugar
1 cup oil
5 eggs
3 cups of flour
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon (baking) soda
1cup buttermilk
1 cup chopped black walnuts
1 cup flaked coconut
4 teaspoons coconut flavoring

1. In a bowl, sift together the flour, salt, baking soda, and baking powder. Stir in the walnuts and coconut, then set aside.
2. Measure the sugar into a separate bowl and set aside.
3. In a mixing bowl, combine the oil, coconut flavoring, and eggs. Stir until the eggs are well blended, then add the sugar and mix well.
4. Add the buttermilk and mix again.
5. Add the flour mixture and gently fold it in until it is well combined. Be sure to **fold**, not beat.
6. Coat the pan well with baking spray. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 5 minutes.
7. While the cake is baking, make the syrup. Combine 1 cup sugar, ½ cup water, and 3 tablespoons butter. Boil for about 2 minutes.
8. After removing the cake from the oven, pour the syrup over the cake. Cover it with wax paper and a towel and let it sit for 4 hours. Remove from the pan before serving.

Thanks so much Nova!!!

If YOU have a recipe you would like to share, please submit, and it will added to a future edition. Darlene Milam, editor

Meeting at Pipestem School Museum

SCARSE met May15, 2026 at the Pipestem School Museum, located just off State Route 20, near the north entrance to Pipestem State Park. The oldest section of the school building is over 100 years old. Bonnie Young and others in the group have worked diligently to collect historical school and other items of interest for the museum. At the conclusion of the business meeting, the attendees were served a good meal.



Summers County Association of Retired School Employees Said Goodbye to 26 year Associate Member Oswald Yates

We say a sad goodbye to 103 year old Oswald Yates, a WVARSE associate member since 2000. He always accompanied his wife, Doris, to Summers County and WVARSE State meetings. Oswald joined the same year as Doris, a retired educator. An article was published in the WVARSE newsletter some years ago honoring his military service during WWII as a jeep driver. He was involved in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded in action soon after the 33rd crossed over the Rhine River. He was awarded the Purple Heart and was discharged with the rank of "Tech Corporal".

**The WVARSE Newsletter only honors deceased
present Board Members and WVARSE members
who are 100 years or older.**

Hampshire County



Hampshire County Association of Retired School Employees are getting reminders of USA history inside the Freedom 250 mobile museum in Romney on June 29th.

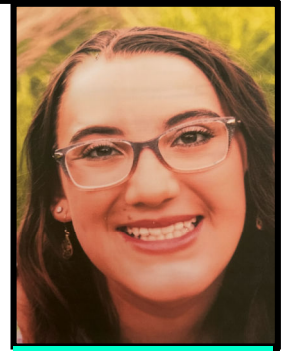
Mineral County



Sophia Sines

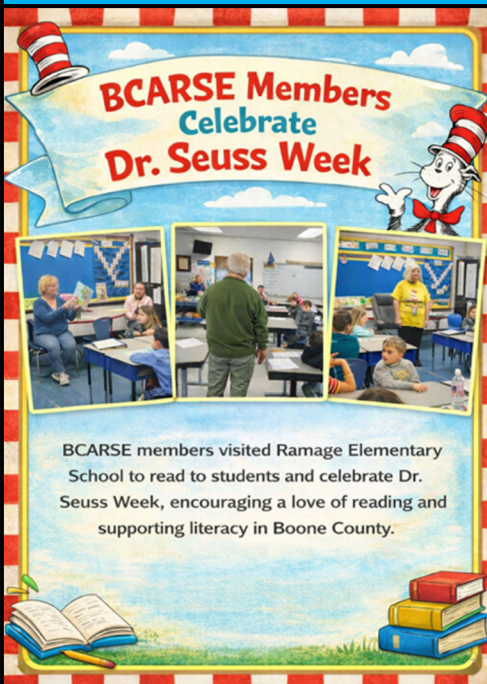
The Mineral County Association of Retired School Employees is pleased to announce the 2026 recipients of its annual scholarship. Sophia Sines, a graduate of Keyser High School, plans to earn an associate degree from Potomac State College before applying to WVU's School of Echocardiography. She is the daughter of Julie and Kris Sines and resides in Purgittsville, WV. Morgan Cowgill, a graduate of Frankfort High School, plans to major in Elementary Education at Shepherd University and pursue a career as a Kindergarten teacher. She is the daughter of Amy and Kenn Cowgill and resides in Keyser, WV. A cash award was presented to each

graduate on Class Night. MCARSE is committed to recognizing high school graduates who demonstrate outstanding merit and willingness to pursue skills that will help them become successful members of their community.



Morgan Cowgill

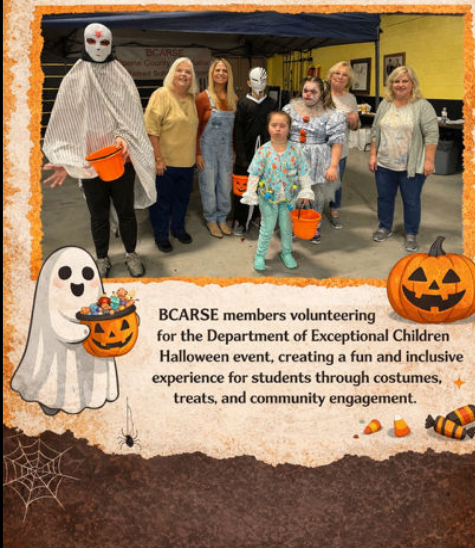
Boone County



BCARSE members visited Ramage Elementary School to read to students and celebrate Dr. Seuss Week, encouraging a love of reading and supporting literacy in Boone County.

BCARSE

Members Volunteering for the
Department of Exceptional Children
HALLOWEEN EVENT



BCARSE members volunteering for the Department of Exceptional Children Halloween event, creating a fun and inclusive experience for students through costumes, treats, and community engagement.

Marion County

The Marion County Association of Retired School Employees met in March at Apple Annies at the Middletown Commons. Members had a wonderful and informative presentation by Susan and Lynn from AARP. Information was provided concerning common frauds and scams. The April meeting was a question-and-answer session with local candidates running in the primary election. Members enjoyed a visit from Regional Director, Kevin Brown. He updated members on important information and upcoming events. The year ended with a memorial service in May.

Roane County



The Membership hosted the kindergarten classes from Spencer Elementary School for a field trip visit to the one-room Newburn Schoolhouse located at Heritage Park in Spencer. Members conducted a lesson and played games with the students. A scholarship was presented to Kacie Mace, a graduating senior at Roane County High School who will be majoring in Elementary Education in college. The end-of-year picnic was hosted in June by Spencer Mayor Terry Williams and his wife Carol (WVARSE member) and was a great time of visiting

with colleagues and friends. RCARSE President John Gray was elected to serve on the Roane County Board of Education. New retirees were honored with a reception prior to a Roane County Board of Education meeting in June and were encouraged to join WVARSE. Finally RCARSE celebrated America with a spectacular fireworks display in downtown Spencer on the 4th of July.



Cabell County



This spring served as a reminder that a school system is built not only by those who teach today, but by those who taught yesterday — and those who will lead tomorrow. As retirees step into new chapters, new officers prepare to guide the association forward, and the community remembers its cherished members, the Cabell County Association of Retired School Employees continues to grow on a foundation of service, dedication, and shared purpose. Highlights of the spring meetings include a House of Delegate candidate information session, outreach to the Children's Museum of Huntington, and other special events.



Retirement gatherings are always more than ceremonies - they're milestones in the life of a school community. This year's event brought together familiar faces, new leaders, and heartfelt memories as colleagues celebrated decades of service. A



quiet, reflective moment honored retired employees who passed away this year. Candles were lit, names were read aloud, and colleagues shared memories that captured the spirit of those who dedicated their lives to education. CCARSE looks forward to the fall and renewed energy in our association.



Check out WVARSE.org.

Additions have been added lately

Newsletters, new officers, forms and calendar of events, including deadlines. County officer and honor points forms: Complete and submit the form, and it will be emailed to the Executive Director. The Red Book, which contains rules and regulations for WVARSE Board members, county presidents, and Regional Committee chairs, will no longer be distributed in print. It is now available on the website and has been updated. To view the Red Book, go to WVARSE.org, click “About,” scroll down the tab, and select “Red Book.” The Red Book will then appear on screen. If you find errors or missing information, please let Bill know. Some counties did not submit a complete list of officers.

2027 Membership Dues

Beginning July 1, 2025, annual WVARSE dues were increased to \$25.00 and county dues are \$5.00, making unified dues \$30.00. Life membership is no longer available. Please complete the membership form below and give it, along with the appropriate check, to your membership chair. Contact unit president to get membership chair information.

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL, EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM

DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR July 1, 20 26 - JUNE 30. 20 27

Annual State Dues \$25.00 New () Renewal () Associate ()
 Plus County Dues \$ 5.00 (Some units charge more. Check with your County to pay the additional Dues)
 Total \$ _____

I am a WVARSE Life member and paying county dues only \$ 5.00 _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Date _____
 Last First Middle
 Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Email _____
 Retired From _____ (County, College, University, ETC.)

Send form with payment (made out to your **local unit**) to your County Membership Chair

2026-2027 dues were due July 1, 2026. Please complete the membership form and send it, along with the appropriate check to your Unit Membership Chair.

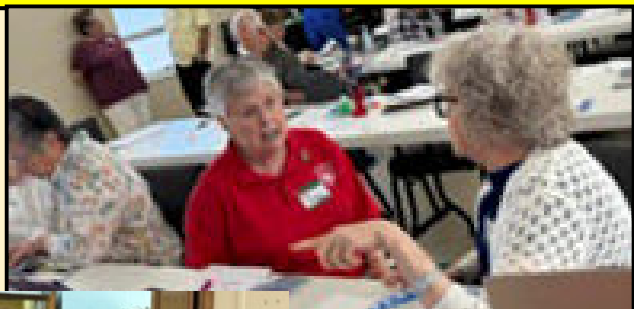
Darlene Milam Newsletter Editor 304 610-2935

billiemilam.bdm@gmail.com

Thanks to Jo Hendricks

for the photos

HUBS 2026 Ripley June 2



Thanks to Jo Hendricks
for the photos

HUBS 2026 Beckley June 3



Thanks to Jo Hendricks
for the photos

HUBS 2026 Mt Claire June 10



Thanks to Jo Hendricks
for the photos

HUBS 2026 Moorefield June 11



WVARSE Membership Report

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2026

Region I	Last Yr	Current	Region III	Last Yr	Current	Region V	Last Yr	Current
Brooke	169	134	Boone	228	155	Concord	3	1
Fairmont	17	11	Calhoun	21	6	Fayette	159	68
Hancock	224	152	Clay	15	17	Greenbrier	132	90
Marion	239	178	Jackson	137	113	McDowell	153	71
Marshall	193	94	Kanawha	388	260	Mercer	241	135
Monongalia	156	98	Ritchie	30	28	Monroe	16	13
Ohio	314	202	Roane	57	58	Nicholas	110	88
Pleasants	86	80	State Dept	36	20	Pocahontas	100	62
Tyler	60	50	Wirt	61	63	Raleigh	172	98
Wetzel	65	42	Wood	343	223	Summers	110	61
WVU	27	22	WVS	5	7	WVIT	3	3
TOTAL	1550	1063	TOTAL	1321	950	Wyoming	95	31
						TOTAL	1294	722

Region II	Last Yr	Current	Region IV	Last Yr	Current	Region VI	Last Yr	Current
Barbour	105	40	Cabell	183	145	Berkeley	174	136
Braxton	83	50	Lincoln	114	58	Deaf & Blind	35	15
Doddridge	20	7	Logan	33	34	Grant	63	105
Gilmer	42	39	Mason	58	17	Hampshire	69	50
Glenville	13	7	Mingo	28	14	Hardy	33	27
Harrison	338	220	MU	6	5	Jefferson	123	60
Lewis	107	77	Putnam	151	95	Mineral	125	114
Preston	161	94	Wayne	150	76	Morgan	82	49
Randolph	181	90	TOTAL	723	444	Pendleton	54	23
Taylor	144	115				Potomac	5	1
Tucker	57	67	Total Members			Shepherd	5	2
Upshur	262	189	Last Yr	7576	Current	TOTAL	768	582
Webster	69	54						
TOTAL	1582	1049						

Total Membership
 Summer 2025: 5095
 Summer 2026: 4813
 Difference: 282

The loss is due to deaths, fewer new retirees joining and fewer members renewing. Please pay your membership dues to your county membership chair or go online (WVARSE.org) and pay. County units, please contact your members and collect dues.

It is very important that we have accurate membership information.

In mid- June, Bill Milam sent a membership list to all county presidents (by email) and requested that they compare his list with their county list and notify him of the differences. We want to make sure that WVARSE membership is accurate on the state level including the deletion of any deceased. If you have county members who are not WVARSE members, the names should not be on the WVARSE list. Some members joined through AMBA. They should be added to your membership. A credit voucher will be sent to each county notifying them when a member joins online, giving them \$5 credit for each member. Bill is still waiting for responses from some counties. Contact Bill if you need another membership copy.

~ In Memoriam ~

BOONE

Shirley Goodwin*

HARRISON

Dale Henry Taylor
 Virginia Livingston **

KANAWHA

Anna C. Greeear*
 Richard Jones**
 Violet M. Tuttle**

MORGAN

Richard W. Millner, Sr**

NICHOLAS

Ada Irene Rose**

PUTNAM

Ruth Ann Crist **
 Mary Igo**
 Lowell Lewis**

SUMMERS

Margeret Byrd*
 Patricia Mick*
 Phylis Parker*
 Thomas Ward **
 Harry Oswald Yates*

WEBSTER

Richard Moats *
 Wanda Arnold**

WIRT

Betty Lou Winters*
 Phillip Burton Winters*

***Annual 10**

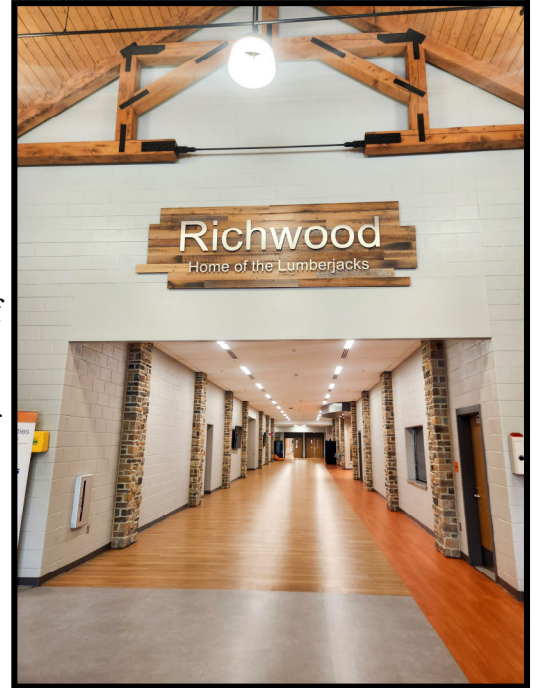
**** Life 8**



Nicholas County

Nicholas County Association of Retired School Employees Visit Richwood Academic Complex

Richwood Middle School Principal Gene Collins graciously hosted the July 7, 2026 meeting of the Nicholas County Association of Retired School Employees. Barbara Mullens and Judy Staats had decorated the art room tables red, white, and blue in honor of our country's 250th birthday. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance led by Nancy Taylor. President John Staats blessed the meal. Several members brought their meals in tin lunch boxes. Others brought a shareable snack. As always, there was plenty to eat. After lunch, Principal Collins gave an update on the facility and how offices and classrooms had moved around to better accommodate the needs of the children. He invited members to look around at the conclusion of our meeting. He was presented with an orange and black decorated mug for his desk with colored leaf print in appreciation of his hospitality. Following the business meeting, the annual Memorial Service was conducted by Judy Staats, Informative & Protective Chair, for 31 people who left this world a better place by serving the children of Nicholas County. The Memorial Service opened with "Freedom", recorded music by Michael W Smith. Barbara Mullens shared a devotion "Storms" from "God Calls you Blessed" by Rae Simons. Fond memories of those who had passed were shared as their names were called. A recording of "The Prayer" performed by Charlotte Church and Josh Groban (Arr. by David Foster) was played to conclude the program. Closing the meeting, a drawing for door prizes and awards for the lunch box competition were made. Barbara Mullens had the oldest lunch box (1957). Other recipients of prizes were Libby Casto, Kay Eliseo, Judy Robinson, Linda Taylor, and Twilla Lykins. Other members in attendance were Sharron Lipps and Linda Keeney, Vice-President.



Lewis County

Lewis County had a busy month in May. Cookie trays were taken for all employees. Debbie Myers and Barbara Mason took cookies to St Pats. Becky Hall took cookies to Roanoke Elementary, and Debby Walker to Jane Lew. Helen Derico and Barbara Zirkle took trays to the other seven schools and buildings.



The culminating activity was the Spring Scholarship Banquet held in the beautiful 4-H Building in Jane Lew. Awards were given to Zane Stewart and Adeleigh Curry. Zane is going to WVU to study Journalism. Adeleigh is going to Pierpont Community and Tech Center to study to be a Physical Therapy Assistant. A delicious catered Lasagna meal was prepared by Chelle Cole. Eileen Johns blessed the group with her singing. It was a great evening of fun and fellowship.



Barbara Mason, Scholarship Chair and Helen Derico, Treasurer giving \$500 scholarships to Zane Stewart and Adeleigh Curry.

Barbara Zirkle and Helen Derico delivering cookie trays to Leading Creek Elem School. This school borders Lewis and Gilmer Counties.

Hancock County

The Hancock County Association of Retired School Employees gave out three \$500 scholarships this year, one at Weir High School, one at Oak Glen High School and one at the John D Rockefeller Career and Technical School. They also collected snacks for families of patients at their local cancer treatment center. At their May meeting they had a Memorial Service for eleven retired employees.



2025-2026 Volunteer Hours

By Patty Adkins, Community Service Chair

This year WVARSE reported 1.6 million volunteer hours. This is 1 million less than last year. Only 41 units reported their hours. With the national rate per hour for volunteer hours being \$ 36.14, WVARSE contributed to the state of West Virginia a grand total of \$ 58,030,070.28. Imagine the number we could achieve if everyone kept and reported their hours! The easiest way to do this is to jot your hours on your calendar and add them up at the end of each month. Begin recording May 1 and end April 30. Reporting our volunteer hours is the only way we can show the value of our retirees and what we are saving and donating to the state of West Virginia.

CONGRATULATIONS to Region III. They came in first this year with a total of 607,760 hours. Let this be a challenge to all others. Perhaps next year all 55 units will report their hours, and we can reach for a goal of two and a half million. Those of you who live in a county that is not active, we encourage you to submit your volunteer hours to me or any board member. Thanks to all who volunteer your time and talents and take the time to report your hours. We appreciate all of you. Start jotting your hours on your calendar today.

Region	Youth	Other	Total
I	20,846	65,801	86,647
II	66,263	101,541	167,804
III	201,285	334,941	607,760
IV	3,008	38,821	41,829
V	186,072	334,271	520,343
VI	48,954	132,334	181,319

CALENDAR OF UNIT MEETINGS

I guessed at some of the towns, but I could not guess the dates nor times. If you need more information, contact the president
(located in this newsletter)....Newsletter editor

AUGUST

- August** Greenbrier Co. Mackie Park, Maxwelton, 11:00am Annual Picnic
August 11 Nicholas Co. Carnifex Ferry State Park Shelter #5, 11:00am local AARP unit/Bert Gross. Bring a covered dish and a wrapped/bagged BINGO prize. NCARSE will be making a monetary donation to AARP to provide Kleenex boxes to local schools. Send your donation to Suzanne Ward, Treasurer, PO Box 305, Craigsville, WV 26205-0305.
August 20 Hampshire Co. Main Street Restaurant, Romney, 11:00am Citizens' Teacher of the Year, Donna Davis
August 20 Tucker Co. Mill Race Park, Parsons, 12:00pm Annual Picnic
August 20 Pleasants Co. Park, St Marys, 6:00 p.m. Welcome Picnic Guests - Boys & Girls Club
August 26 Lewis Co Park, 4:30 pm Covered dish Picnic

SEPTEMBER

- September 8** Kanawha Co. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2:30pm *Special Ice Breaker*; Program: Amy Crockett (AMBA) *New Passport info and Long Term Care*; Proclamation for WVARSE Week (September 21-25, 2026) by Clendenin Mayor (Yvonne has this planned) Light snacks.
September 8 Putnam Co. Winfield Riding Club, Winfield, 11:00 am John Taylor will be our guest speaker.
September 8 Upshur Co. Buckhannon Alliance Church, Buckhannon, 12:00pm
September 9 Tyler Co. Middlebourne Baptist Church, Middlebourne, 12:00pm Jon Corra, Jarvis Law Office presentations: 3 Threats to Your Family's Financial Security. Luncheon is served at noon (cost of \$10 - must let President know if you plan to eat lunch on Sunday prior to the meeting) with speaker and business meeting to follow.
September 9 Roane Co Library, Spencer, 1:00pm Joel Thacker with Humana Prepare for WVARSE Week
September 10 Grant Co Bambino's Restaurant, Petersburg, 1:00pm Legislative meeting
September 15 Marion Co. Welcome back/ Celebrate WVARSE Week
September 15 Hancock Co. Immaculate Conception Church, New Cumberland, 12:00 pm Joel Thacker/Humana. Outreach Hancock County Animal Shelter. To "kick off" the year we ask attendees to wear a football team jersey representing their favorite high school, college or professional team.
September 16 Boone Co. Juanita's Mexican Restaurant, Madison, 11:00am Senior Perks
September 16 Tucker Co. Senior Citizens, Parsons, 12:00pm
September 18 Nicholas Co. BOE boardroom Summersville, 11:30am
September 22 Lewis Co. Museum of American Glass, Weston, 1:00pm Celebrate WVARSE week, catered lunch, write Cheer Cards to put in Blizzard Bags. Lunch 12:00, Meeting 1:00. Contact Barbara Zirkle about the cost of meal.
September 24 Cabell Co. New Baptist Church, Huntington, 1:00pm catered lunch at 12:00 by Rebel Barn and meeting starts at 1:00. - Legislative Meeting - Debbie Chapman
September 24 Jackson Co. The Roadhouse Restaurant, Ripley, 12:00pm

OCTOBER

- October** Greenbrier Co. Board of Education office, 10:30am
October 13 Upshur Co. Buckhannon Alliance Church, 12:00pm
October 13 Kanawha Co. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2:30pm Bridgette Bailey, *BeeKeeper* 🐝; Plans for Blizzard Bags, Light Snacks Halloween Theme
October 14 Boone Co. Juanita's Mexican Restaurant, Madison, 11:00am Legislative Information
October 14 Tyler Co. Middlebourne Baptist Church, Middlebourne, 12:00pm Lisa Weese, Wanderlust Travel Presentation. Luncheon is served at noon (cost of \$10 - must let President know if you plan to eat lunch on Sunday prior to the meeting) with speaker and business meeting to follow.
October 14 Roane Co Library, Spencer (tentative), 1:00pm Newburn School open for the WV BlackWalnut Festival on October 9 and 10 - times to be determined
October 15 Pleasants Co. Library, St Marys, 6:00 pm Technology in the "Maker Space Room"
October 16 Nicholas Co. Luke's United Methodist Church, Craigsville, 11:30 a.m.
October 19 Hampshire Co. 1:15 p.m. Blizzard Bag prep for Hampshire Co. Meals on Wheels recipients
October 20 Hancock Co. Peach Tree Inn, Chester, 12:00pm outreach project will be nonperishable food items for our local breadbasket food pantry. Our program will be legislative in nature to discuss the education friendly candidates for November. We ask attendees to wear Halloween or autumn attire.
October 20 Marion Co. AMBA speaker/ legislation
October 21 Tucker Co. Senior Citizens, Parsons, 12:00pm
October 22 Jackson Co. Sandyville Senior Center, Sandyville, 12:00pm
October 22 Cabell Co. New Baptist Church, Huntington, 1:00pm catered lunch at 12:00 by Rebel Barn and meeting starts at 1:00 Ashley Stephens & new Cabell Co. Superintendent - Pam Roberts
October 27 Lewis Co Giovanni's, Weston, 1:00pm Message from our Legislators Lunch 12:00, Meeting at 1:00

PRINT AND POST

GUIDE TO YOUR WVARSE MEMBER BENEFITS



Dental & Vision Plans

Flexibility and Freedom are the words best described when it comes to your Dental and Vision plans. Easy-to-use, broad coverage and discounts with a wide range of providers.



Long-Term Care

A Long-Term Care Insurance policy can ease the financial burden on your loved ones helping to protect your life savings and reduce the stress on your spouse and children.



Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurance

Benefits paid directly to you. You select the benefit level that best suits your needs.



Emergency Air and Ground Transportation

Medical Air Services Association (MASA) provides plans for lifesaving emergency transportation services. Services are paid in full, with no deductibles, co-pays, or dollar limits.



Hospital Indemnity

A supplemental hospital indemnity insurance policy could be a smart financial decision for other hospital expenses including extended hospital stays, emergency room visits, ambulance transportation and more.



Short-Term Care/Home Health Care

A Home Care policy can allow you to choose where you recover and offset the costs of care not covered by traditional health care. The choice of your home, assisted living facility, or the nursing home should be yours.



Medicare Solutions

Medicare Supplement plans not only help pay for additional eligible expenses not paid by Original Medicare, they provide the freedom for you to use your own physician, specialist, and medical facility.



Whole Life

With no premium increases, or reduced coverage due to age or health once issued, this policy can help protect your family from the high cost of final expenses.



Tax-Deferred Asset Protection

Tax-deferred accumulation of interest for qualified or non-qualified funds with the ability to participate in market gains. No underwriting required.

GET YOUR BENEFITS NOW!

With West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees (WVARSE), you have access to exceptional member benefits. Are you wondering if certain benefits are right for you?

Contact us for a free benefits review!

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