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



VOLUME 30 • NUMBER 3

Legislative Column



John Taylor Legislative Chairman

Our Legislative efforts are multiple this year. Our first goal is to keep PEIA as it is into the future. The upcoming plan year is the last year for no change in premiums, copays, or deductibles unless the state takes action. We are working with other organizations to coordinate efforts on PEIA. We need all our members to be in contact with their Legislators.

Another thing that has come to light is that there is talk among the Legislators about a tax cut. Not a bad idea, you might say, but one of the methods to "pay" for such a tax cut is not so good. It has been suggested that the state might cut costs by

A change has been made to register for a Covid vaccine. If you have internet, enter vaccinate.wv.gov. If you have no internet, call 1-633-734-0965. At this time, you must be 65 or older. Give any health conditions that you have. This may help you get the

vaccination sooner. If you have already been vaccinated, be sure to follow up with the second shot.

unfunded liability in our pension fund by an additional 17 years. That would mean that our pension fund would not be fully funded in 2034 as we have been promised, but not until 2051. As you may realize, any chance of a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) in the near future evaporates with this plan. We MUST pull out all stops to prevent this. We will work with other organizations on this as well, but our grass roots have to step up here too.

slowing the payoff on the

We will still be working on a modest pension increase for those who retired 20 or more years ago. They are the ones that have been most impacted by inflation. We have to work to help them.

We don't know what this Legislative session will look like with the COVID. The Legislators and staff may well have been vaccinated by then. What we do know is that the grass roots (YOU) needs to work extra hard this year. Your letters, e-mails, texts, or phone calls just may make the difference in what happens for us or to us this year.

Legislative Leadership

wslette

Senate Leadership

President of the Senate Craig Blair President Pro Tempore: Donna J. Boley Majority Leader: Tom Takubo Majority Whip: Ryan Weld Minority Leader: Stephen Baldwin Minority Whip: Mike Woelfel

Senate Finance Committee Members

Senator Tarr - Chair Senator Sypolt - Vice-Chair Senator Baldwin Senator Boley Senator Clements Senator Hamilton Senator Ihlenfeld Senator Jeffries Senator Maroney Senator Martin Senator Nelson Senator Plymale Senator Roberts Senator Stollings Senator Swope Senator Takubo Senator Unger

Senate Pensions Committee Members

Senator Nelson - Chair Senator Clements - Vice-Chair Senator Azinger Senator Karnes Senator Lindsay Senator Plymale Senator Trump

House Leadership

Speaker of the House: Roger Hanshaw Speaker Pro Tempore: Gary G. Howell Majority Leader: Amy Summers Assistant Majority Leader: Kayla Kessinger Majority Whip: Paul Espinosa Assistant Majority Whips: Trenton Barnhart, Caleb Hanna, John Hardy, Dean Jeffries, Riley Keaton,

David Kelly, Daniel Linville, Larry Pack, Chris Phillips, Johnnie Wamsley, Evan Worrell Minority Leader: Doug Skaff Minority Whip: Shawn Fluharty Assistant Minority Whips: Nathan Brown, Phillip Diserio, Cody Thompson, Lisa Zukoff

House of Delegates Finance Committee Members

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House of Delegates Pensions and Retirement Committee Members

Delegate Storch - Chair Delegate Gearheart - Vice-Chair Delegate Pethtel - Minority Chair Delegate Evans, E. - Minority Vice-Chair Delegate Anderson Delegate Graves Delegate Pack, J.

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WVARSE Newsletter 200 Elizabeth Street Charleston, WV 25311

Winter • 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic WVARSE meetings will be conducted by ZOOM until further notice.

> Regional Meetings will be reviewed by the Executive Board at their next meeting March 16, 2021.

In the meantime, regional directors are to continue with plans to meet as scheduled.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees WVARSELEGISLATIVE GOALS 2021

- That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums, copays or reduction in benefits.
- That WVARSE will promote Legislation to provide a stimulus check of \$500 to each retiree that retired 20 or more years ago when a state of emergency is declared for a pandemic.
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to increase the pension of those who retired 20 or more years ago by two dollars per month per year of service.
- That WVARSE will support AARP efforts at the legislature.

State Personal Income Taxes on Retirement Income

- WV State and local police, Deputy Sheriffs' and Firefighters' retirement benefits are fully exempt. Other WV State pensions: \$2,000 exemption.
- Federal Civil Service pensions: \$2,000 exemption.
- Military Pensions: Full exemption.
- Each WV Taxpayer aged 65 or older is entitled to a deduction of \$8,000 minus Retirement income deduction (\$2,000 mentioned above). In this statute, retirees \$6,000 plus the \$2,000 mentioned above.

A Brief History of Legislative Changes to PEIA

The Legislature created the PEIA in 1988, and the PEIA Finance Board in 1990.

- **1988** reduced sick leave benefit by 50% starting 7/1/88
- **1989** passed Omnibus Health Care Act allows PEIA to set rates, stopped balance billing by in-state providers, required providers to accept assignment of benefits
- 1990 created PEIA Finance Board
- **1991** Dropped "take-one-take-all" provision from the Omnibus Health Care Act, expanding available provider pool for PEIA insureds
- **1992** Prevented 'pre-existing condition limitation' from being applied to new hires
- **1994** Added 100% coverage for childhood immunizations and associated office visits to PEIA Indemnity Plan
- **1998** Changed PEIA plan year to state's fiscal year; provided supplemental appropriation to avoid deductible and copay increases effective 1/1/99
- 1999 Expanded PEIA Finance Board by two members, required 5-year finance plans
- 2001 Ended practice of trading accrued leave for health insurance for those hired on and after 7/1/2001
- 2002 passed legislation to require 80/20 premium split for agencies in the State-funded plan
- 2008 Created Retiree Health Benefit Trust Fund to deal with the state's OPEB liability
- **2009** Eliminated benefit for higher education faculty to trade years of teaching service for years of employer-paid insurance at retirement
- 2017 Reconstituted finance board

Summary of Retiree Increases Since 1998

PERS

- 2000 All retirees with 20 or more years of service were guaranteed a minimum annuity of \$500/month.
- **2001** All retirees age 65 retired for 5 years or more received a 5% increase
 - All retirees age 70 retired for 5 or more years received a 10% increase.
 - All early retirees age 65 retired for 5 or more years received a 3% increase.
- **2006** All retirees age 70 retired 5 or more years received a 3% increase.
- 2008 13th check of \$600 to retirees w/20 yrs and annual benefit of \$7200 or less adjusted.
- 2011 13" check of \$1200 to retirees w/20 yrs and annual benefit of \$7200 or less.
- **2019** HB 3095 increased the minimum pension for school employees and state employees with at least 25 years of service from \$500 to \$750 per month.

TRS

- 1998 All retirees who retired on or after 7/1/1986 but before 4/1/1998 received a \$2 @month for every year of service. All retirees who retired before 4/1/1988 and who were receiving less than or equal to \$300 received an additional \$1 @ month for each year of service.
- 2000 All retirees with 20 or more years of service were guaranteed a minimum annuity of \$500 monthly.
- $\mathbf{2001}$ All retirees age 65 retired for 5 years or more received a 5% increase
 - All retirees age 70 retired for 5 or more years received 10% increase. All early retirees age 65 retired for 5 or more years received a 3% increase.
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- 2019 HB 3095 increased the minimum pension for school employees and state employees with at least 25 years of service from \$500 to \$750 per month.

Senate Finance 2020

Schute i manee 2	020
Name	Party/County
Eric Tarr (Chair)	R Putnam
Dave Sypolt (Vice C)	R Preston
Donna Boley	R Pleasants
Charles Clements	R Wetzel
Bill Hamilton	R Upshur
William Ihlenfeld	D Ohio
Glenn Jefferies	D Putnam
Michael Maroney	R Marshall
Patrick Martin	R Lewis
Eric Nelson, Jr	R Kanawha
Robert Plymale	D Wayne
Ron Stollings	D Boone
Chandler Swope	R Mercer
Tom Takubo	R Kanawha
John Unger	D Berkeley

House Finance 2021

Name	Party/County	Office	Region
Eric Householder (Chair)	R Berkeley	462 M	VI
Vernon Criss (Vice Chair)	R Wood	472 M	Ш
Brent Boggs (Minority Chair)	D Braxton	258 M	П
Larry Rowe (Minority Vice C)	D Kanawha	6R-A	Ш
Bill Anderson	R Wood	200 E-C	Ш
Jason Barrett	R Berkeley	218 E	VI
Joe Ellington	R Mercer	434 M	V
Paul Espinosa	R Jefferson	246 M	VI
Marty Gearheart	R Mercer	202E	V
Diana Graves	R Kanawha	207 E	III
John Hardy	R Berkeley	218 E	VI
Sean Hornbuckle	D Cabell	258 E	IV
John Holt	R Grant	210 E	VI
Gary Howell	R Mineral	242M	VI
Daniel Linville	R Cabell	216 E	IV
Zack Maynard	R Lincoln	212 E	III, IV
Jeffrey Pack	R Raleigh	217E	V
Dave Pethel	D Wetzel	2R	I.
Clay Riley	R Harrison	211E	П
Matthew Rohrback	R Cabell	215E-C	IV
Ruth Rowan	R Hampshire	210 E	VI
Joe Statler	R Monongalia	229E	I.
Erikka Storch	R Ohio	202 E	I.
Christopher Toney	R Raleigh	223E	V
John Williams	D Monongalia	4R	I

WV House Pensions Committee (2020)

Name	Party & counties		WVARSE
			Region
Erikka Storch (Chair)	R Ohio (Dist 3 Ohio)	202-Е	1
Marty Gearheart	R Mercer (Dist 27 Mercer)	202-Е	V
Dave Pethel (Minority Chair)	D Wetzel (Dist 5 Wetzel and Part of Monongalia)	2R	I.
Ed Evans (Minority Vice Chair)	D McDowell (Dist 26 Parts of McDowell & Mercer)	2R	V
William Anderson	R Wood (Dist 8 Part of Wood)	200-Е -	C III
Dianna Graves	R Kanawha (Dist 38 Parts of Kanawha and Putnam)	207-E	III & IV
Jeffrey Pack	R Raleigh (Dist 28 Raleigh)	217-Е	V

WV Senate Pensions Committee 2020

Name /Office	Party and county	Dist & counties	WVARSE Region
Eric Nelson – Chair W-216	R Kanawha	17 Kanawha	III
Charles Clements- V Chair M-441	R Wetzel	2 Wetzel	I
Mike Azinger M-441	R Wood	3 Pleasants, Roane (part), Wirt, Wood	I, III
Robert Karnes W-223	R Upshur	11 Grant (part), Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur, Webster	II, V, VI
Richard Lindsey, II W-209	D Kanawha	08 Kanawha	111
Robert Plymale W-218	D Wayne	5 Cabell, Wayne (part)	IV
Charles Trump, IV W-210	R Morgan	15 Berkeley (part), Hampshire, Mineral (part), Morgan	VI

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Legislative Leadership Senate



office Region 461 M IV 214 W II, VI 206 W I, III 441 M I 223 W II, V, VI 218 W I 204W III, IV 439 M I, II, III 213 W II 216 W III 218 W IV 209 W III, IV 229 W IV V 227 M III 200 W VI



Tom Takubo



Eric Tarr

Eric Nelson

President - Senator Craig Blair Majority Leader - Senator Tom Takubo Finance Chair - Senator Eric Tarr Pension Chair - Senator Eric Nelson

House



Roger Hanshaw





Amy Summers



Eric L Householder

Errika Storch

Speaker - Delegate Roger Hanshaw Majority Leader - Delegate Amy Summers Finance Chair - Delegate Eric L Householder Pension Chair - Delegate Errika Storch

New Faces in the 2021 Senate



Amy Nicole Grady – 04



Rupie Phillips – 07



David Stover – 09





Robert Karnes - 11



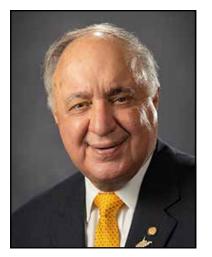
Patrick Martin – 12



Mike Caputo – 13



Eric Nelson – 17



Mark Zatezalo - 01



Riley Keaton – 11



Charlie Reynolds - 04



Jonathan Pinson – 13



Shannon Kimes – 09



Johnnie Wamsley, II – 14



Roger Conley – 10



Ric Griffith – 19

New Faces in the 2021 House continued



Josh Holstein – 23



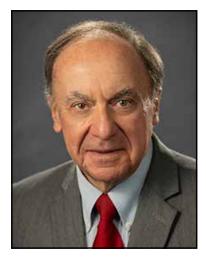
Jordan Bridges – 24



Doug Smith – 27



Jim Barach – 36



Barry Bruce – 42



Austin Haynes – 32



Chris Pritt – 36



Todd Longanacre – 42



Margitta Mazzocchi – 24



Larry Pack – 35



Dana Ferrell – 39



Ty Nestor – 43



Marty Gearheart – 27



Kayla Young – 35



Heather Tully – 41



New Faces in the 2021 House continued



Laura Kimble – 48

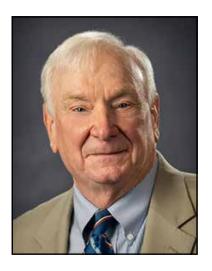


Clay Riley – 48



Joey Garcia – 50





Joe Slater – 51



Bryan Ward – 55



George Miller – 58

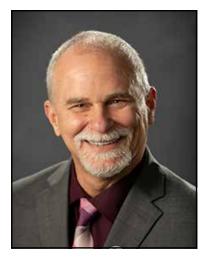




Ken Reed – 59



Don Forsht - 60



Chuck Horst, Sr – 62



Wayne Clark – 65

For Contact Information and to Track Bills go to:www.legis.state.wv.us

Contact your Delegates and Senators and share our goals with them. Contact members of the Finance and Pensions Committees and ask them to support our bills in committee.

This Newsletter will be posted on the website www.WVARSE.org

Keep in contact with your legislators Ask them to support our goals

Leadership Contact information for Senators and Delegates

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Annual payment for membership. Must sign up annually.

NOTE: You can also request a form for automatic monthly deductions from pension. Once you have signed up, you never have to sign up again.

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 20 20 - JUNE 30, 20 21

STATE LIFE MEMBER PAYING	STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$ 100.00	ANNUALSTATE DUES \$ 15.00			
COUNTY DUES ONLY \$ 5.00	PLUS ANNUAL COUNTY DUES	\$ 5.00	ANNUALCOUNTYDUES \$ 5.00			
EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$	EXTRA COUNTY DUES	\$	EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$			
TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES \$	TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES	\$	TOTAL ANNUAL DUES \$			
	COUNTY LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$ L				
PLEASE PRINT: (Name as it appears on your retirement check) Associate () Life ()						
NAME		DATE	Renewal () New ()			
Last	First Middle	OLD ADD	RESS			
			IF CHANGED			
CITY	ST	ATE	ZIP			
RETIRED FROM		EMAIL				
Send to YOUR COUNTY MEMBERSHIP CHM. both forms & check payable to your unit. For info: contact <u>www.WVARSE.org</u> for County Membership Chairman Or call: Karen Nicholson, WVARSE Membership Clerk 304-488-2860						

Members receive Newsletters, Travel Opportunities & representation at the legislature.

"Dues are not tax deductible"

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