

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



# Newsletter



Volume 35 – No 3

Spring 2025

## From Your President, John Moyers



I come to you in awe of those who have preceded me in this position. Having known several who have served the organization, the one characteristic that seems most noticeable to me is the deep commitment to serving their fellow retirees. I'm not only impressed with the variety of talent but the dedication with which each has worked to secure or preserve benefits for so many across the state. Under the direction of the Executive Director and the WVARSE board, I recognize the desire to do the very best for those we serve. I also recognize some of the struggles with which we are faced. As much as we may desire to accomplish on behalf of the membership, we are extremely dependent on factors that seem to be beyond our control.

Much of what we can secure for the membership is under the control of the Legislature. I'm not sure we understand how important our phone calls and letters are, but that personal contact with legislators we know speaks volumes. Possibly an even more important task may occur at the local level, that of encouraging those in our communities who have retired to join the group. Growing our membership has been the most important goal of our organization as long as I can remember. One final thought for this time (Spring is here). That means we are thinking about getting outside, planting and growing. I would suggest that getting those local units going may be on the mind of local leadership. I know the folks at the state level are busy planning HUBS Meetings across the state. Please send photos of your local units' activities and meetings for the HUBS Meetings.

## Irvin Lloyd Scarberry by Denis Chapman



We sadly learned our friend, colleague, and WVARSE Past President, Irvin Lloyd Scarberry, passed away on February 23, 2025. All who knew him knew he was a Gentleman to all. Rather, he was your classmate, your fellow teacher, your principal, your county supervisor, or your mentor. You had no better advocate for education and educators. He loved his students and his students loved him. It was a common occurrence for him to be confronted when in public by former students who would introduce themselves and get one of his big hugs. After retirement, Irvin became an advocate for education and educators by being an active member of the Association of Retired School Employees. He held offices with this organization locally and on the state level (being president of the local chapter, Regional Director and President of the state organization). He was also on the state response team of AARP during the state legislative sessions. Irvin was a loving husband to his wife of 49 years, Nellie, and the proud father of their son, Christopher. Be around Irvin for just a short while and he would bring these two into his conversation. We are going to miss his big smile, this crazy sense of humor, and his inspirational stories. Yes, we are going to miss the "Gentle" man !

**From The Executive Director, Bill Milam**



Thanks to your input, the WVARSE Board created HUBS meetings which were well attended last June. The HUBS committee has been working on plans for June 2025. You are encouraged to bring your choice of a project board for display or chapter brochures to share. We encourage each unit to bring a door prize to provide for drawings. We will be meeting soon to discuss the agenda for these meetings. We plan to have the same agenda for all four meetings. If you have any suggestions, please share those with someone on the committee. Committee members are **John Moyers, Jo Hendricks, Charmel Radcliff, Dave Adkins, Patty Adkins, Jo Ann Harman, Marie Schimmel, Libby Casto, Bill Milam and Pat Schillings**. Following is the HUBS schedule.

- June 3 – Charleston, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**
- June 4 – Beckley, WV Beckley United Methodist Temple**
- June 10 – Glenville, Gilmer County Board of Education**
- June 11 – Romney, WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind**

More information will be shared concerning these meetings later. You may attend your choice of the four meetings. These will be conducted in one day. A registration form will be sent out the early part of May 2025 with a return date of **May 21, 2025. This date is critical and must be observed. We will be providing a free lunch and must have an accurate number of attendees.** We have two Regional Director positions available. Region I and Region IV. Please be thinking of someone in these areas that might be willing to serve. Let any board member know who might be willing to serve. The council voted to increase annual dues effective July 1, 2025. Increasing them to \$30.00 per year (this is \$25.00 for state and \$5.00 for county). Life membership was eliminated (effective July 1, 2025). Life membership is still available at \$150.00 until July 1, 2025. **Elimination of life membership does not affect present life members.** WVARSE has a new membership clerk. Lea Ann Puckett of Jackson County. She will be making contact with each of the county membership chairs. Read about her in a separate article. 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 email addresses are invalid. If your email address has changed, please send me an email at [williammilam.bm@gmail.com](mailto:williammilam.bm@gmail.com) so I can update my files. **It is with sadness that we acknowledge the deaths of Irvin Scarberry and Joann Beer, past WVARSE state treasurer.**

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| <p><b>President</b><br/>John Moyers (304)749-7547 <a href="mailto:jemoe@frontiernet.net">jemoe@frontiernet.net</a></p> <p><b>President-Elect</b><br/>Jo Hendricks (304)687-1222 <a href="mailto:johendericks@suddenlink.net">johendericks@suddenlink.net</a></p> <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>Carolyn Davis (304)677-2874 <a href="mailto:cadavis@citynet.net">cadavis@citynet.net</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>Linda DeMoss 304-481-0700 <a href="mailto:Ldemoss8182@suddenlink.net">Ldemoss8182@suddenlink.net</a></p> <p><b>Immediate Past President</b><br/>Charmel Radcliff (304) 684-2133 <a href="mailto:charmelnr@hotmail.com">charmelnr@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Executive Director</b><br/>William G. Milam (304)610-0192 <a href="mailto:williammilam.bm@gmail.com">williammilam.bm@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Parliamentarian</b><br/>Danny Gray (304) 645-2529 dp <a href="mailto:135htsy@hotmail.com">135htsy@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Scholarship</b><br/>Sharon Vance (304) 49702138 <a href="mailto:kvance@frontiernet.net">kvance@frontiernet.net</a></p> <p><b>Historian</b><br/>Jo Ann Harman (304) 749-7322 <a href="mailto:joannharman40@gmail.com">joannharman40@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b><br/>Darlene Milam (304) 610-2935 <a href="mailto:williammilam.bm@gmail.com">williammilam.bm@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership Clerk</b><br/>Lea Ann Puckett (304) 377-2439 <a href="mailto:leaannpuckett@gmail.com">leaannpuckett@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Region I</b></p> | <p><b>Region II</b><br/>Marie Schimmel (304) 462-8564 <a href="mailto:mgschimmel@live.com">mgschimmel@live.com</a></p> <p><b>Region III</b><br/>John Riddle (304) 375-3896 <a href="mailto:jriddle@casinternet.net">jriddle@casinternet.net</a></p> <p><b>Region IV</b></p> <p><b>Region V</b><br/>Libby Casto (304) 742-5993 <a href="mailto:elcasto71@gmail.com">elcasto71@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Region VI</b><br/>Dave Adkins 304 539-4806 <a href="mailto:dfadkins38@gmail.com">dfadkins38@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Community Service</b><br/>Patty Adkins 304-538-4608 <a href="mailto:pdadkins72@gmail.com">pdadkins72@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>I&amp;P Service</b><br/>Norma Taylor (304) 842-4213 <a href="mailto:nataylor61@hotmail.com">nataylor61@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Legislative</b><br/>John Taylor (304) 265-5514 <a href="mailto:johntaylor1@comcast.net">johntaylor1@comcast.net</a></p> <p><b>Membership</b><br/>Mary Ann Ferris (304) 592-2061 <a href="mailto:maferris24@frontier.com">maferris24@frontier.com</a></p> <p><b>AARP-WV President</b><br/>Jane Marks (304) 346-4979 <a href="mailto:janesandwichcaring@gmail.com">janesandwichcaring@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>AMBA Insurance</b><br/>Garrett Mowery (717) 448-6048 <a href="mailto:garett.mowery@getamba.com">garett.mowery@getamba.com</a></p> <p><b>AMBA Insurance</b><br/>Joe Maddalon (724)766-1691 <a href="mailto:Joe.maddalon@amba.info">Joe.maddalon@amba.info</a></p> |
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## Cabell County

### School employees continue to give to students after retirement

The Cabell County Association of Retired School Employees, an organization made up of retired school teachers, administrators, bus drivers, cooks, secretaries, aids and custodians, continue to give to students after leaving their active roles in our public schools. One of the local group’s activities is buying clothes for county elementary schools. These clothes are to help supplement the schools’ student clothes closets. The clothes are paid for by the donations of CCARSE members at their luncheon meetings.

Pictured here delivering clothes to Nichols and Central City Elementaries are Peggy Saunders and Linda Midkiff.



## Jackson County

Members of the Jackson County Association of Retired School Employees enjoy a box lunch meeting at the Ravenswood Senior Center. Jackson General Hospital provided goody bags and a program on their new facilities and doctors. Jackson General Hospital will host Jackson County members at the hospital for their March meeting to provide a tour of the new facility and a meet and greet with medical staff.



Jackson General Hospital



The Jackson County Retired School Employees have been active over the past several months participating in the PEIA hearings in Charleston and hosting a Zoom conference hearing in Ripley. The Jackson County Association of Retired School Employees members pictured at the Cultural Center are Don and Kathy Smith, Sheila Gibbs, Jo Hendricks, and Jim Mahan. JCARSE President and Vice president Jo and Jim presented concerns to the panel on behalf of their membership.

## Lewis County

At their October meeting members of the Lewis County Chapter of WVARSE packed blizzard bags with non-perishable food for Meals On Wheels recipients in their local area. Members assembled 90 bags containing breakfast, lunch and snack items along with handwritten cards. The bags were decorated with winter scenes by Jane Lew Elementary School art students.



**Members assembling  
Blizzard Bags  
for Meals On  
Wheels of  
Lewis County**



## Marion County

The Marion County Association of Retired School Employees collected blizzard bags at their November meeting, which were donated to the Meals on Wheels program. The bags will be given to the recipients of the program, to keep for a day when the roads are hazardous, and meals cannot be delivered.



## Get a WVARSE Tote Bag at the Hubs Meetings



Darlene and I purchased 200 WVARSE Tote Bags which will be available for purchase at \$4.00 each. WVARSE is not paying for these, but we will provide WVARSE with a \$1.80 profit on each bag. WVARSE will not sustain a loss on these Bags. They come in assorted colors. Double-handle design for carrying either over the shoulder or handbag style. Large bag size with front pocket. Two bags will be donated as door prizes at each HUBS meeting.

## Putnam County



Marlene Beckett led a memorial service for deceased Putnam County school employees at their March 11 meeting. Following the service, they enjoyed a pizza lunch.

## Preston County

Pictured to the right is Sharyn Urey of Preston County Association Retired School Employees. The association collects metal tabs from aluminum cans and donates them to the Ronald McDonald House. The house then sells the metal tabs and the money goes to the medical needs of patients. On this trip over 15 pounds were donated.



## Taylor County



Pictured are Lydia, a college student, Luella Burton, Janet Jacquez, and Diana Swisher, in front Rosie Biggins, John Taylor, and Pam Gallagher. They were packing food for the Backpack program.

## Kanawha County

Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees met on March 11, 2025 with 11 members present. The guest speaker was Brent Van Deysen, an Estate Planning Lawyer. His presentation on Estate Planning and Elder Care for West Virginia Seniors was very informative and insightful! Brent also provided each member in attendance a free consultation! Members signed up for gifts for the ladies at the Shanklin Center (Center for abused older women) to bring to the April meeting. Bill Milam gave an update concerning the state legislature and the upcoming HUBS meeting to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Charleston on June 3 was discussed. Fellowship and snacks were enjoyed!

## Tyler County



Rene Hickman, FARMacy Director -  
Lauren Shuler and Patty Skeen

Tyler County Association of Retired School Employees held their March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Middlebourne Baptist Church, a luncheon was served and there were twelve members present. The speaker, Lauren Shuler, the Community Health and Wellness Director from the Memorial Health System of Marietta Memorial Hospital presented on a current community outreach program called FARMacy. The FARMacy Program is a Food Pharmacy or Produce Prescription Program that targets three concepts: Choosing Healthy Food, Engaging in Healthy Physical Activity and making Healthy Lifestyle Changes. Program components include Education in lifestyle change principles, Healthy cooking classes, Guided exercise programs and Fresh, locally grown produce provided throughout the summer. The program year (May – March) long program and participants meet each Wednesday from 11:30 – 1 PM at the Sistersville Presbyterian Church. Biometric measurements are taken four times throughout the year starting with a baseline on blood pressure, height and weight, lipid pane, etc. Enrollment is open to anyone 18 years of age or older and must register online at [farmacy@mhsystem.org](mailto:farmacy@mhsystem.org). Perks include: 1) A positive and supportive environment with healthcare professionals to help guide you. 2) Everlasting relationships with your peers. 3) Access to the tools and resources to make healthy changes. Lauren emphasized, “that the focus of the FARMacy Program is to address chronic disease and have participants make sustainable lifestyle changes.” Two of our members, Rene Hickman and Patty Skeen are active participants and speak highly of the impact this program has had on their health and well-being. A business meeting was held following the presentation.

## Wirt County



Becky Watson

Do you know an adult who was adopted as a baby? At Wirt County's WCARSE meeting on November 11th, 2024 our guest speaker was our member, Becky Watson who was adopted as a baby and has recently tackled the adventure of discovering her birth parents and other family members. It was so exciting listening as she chatted with a supposed-cousin, who later was discovered to be a half sister, then another half sister, then writing a letter to her birth mother and eventually talking by phone. Some similarities were discovered such as occupations, reading as a hobby and "coincidentally" reading the same book during the same time! However, a reputation of being a great pie baker in a particular flavor did not coincide as that is the other's least favorite kind. Oh the treasures of new discoveries and new connections! (The following sources were necessary for this successful search: Ancestry DNA; Transitional Living & Permanency Support Adoption/Bureau for Children and Families [350 Capitol Street, Room 691, Charleston, WV 25301](https://www.dhhs.wv.gov/Child-Care/Adoption); [www.FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org); [www.findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com); Facebook, and various kind people who

## Randolph County

The Randolph County local annually provides funds to sponsor one student to be an Apprentice at the Old Brick Playhouse in Elkins. The Apprentice Program focuses on acting and dramatic arts as well as self-esteem building. During the March meeting members were treated to a tour of the facility by Executive Director, Missy McCollam who is fourth from the left in the front row.



**Check out WVARSE.org.**

**Additions have been added lately.**

**Newsletters, new officers, calendar of events including deadlines.**

**Form for county officers and form for honor points: Complete and submit. It will go to the executive director by email.**

**The Red Book which contains rules and regulations for WVARSE Board members, County presidents and Regional Committee Chairs will no longer be distributed on paper. It is now in the website and will be updated as needed. To view the Red Book go to WVARSE.org click on “about” go down on the tab and find “Red Book”. Tap on it and the Red Book will be on screen.**

**2026 Membership Dues**

**Beginning July 1, 2025, annual WVARSE dues are \$25.00 and county dues are \$5.00 making unified dues \$30.00. Life membership is no longer available after June 30, 2025. Please complete the membership form below and give it along with the appropriate check to your membership chair.**

**WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL, EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM  
DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR July 1, 20 25 - JUNE 30, 20 26**

Annual State Dues \$25.00 New ( ) Renewal ( ) Associate ( )  
Plus County Dues \$ 5.00  
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 to your County Membership Chair

Membership Clerk: Lea Ann Puckett

leaannpuckett@gmail.com

304 377-2439

2025-2026 dues are due July 1, 2025, 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  
williammilam.bm@gmail.com**

# WVARSE Membership Report

*Monday, April 13 2025*                      *Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2025*

Region I	Last Yr	Current
Brooke	169	119
Fairmont	17	10
Hancock	224	144
Marion	239	183
Marshall	193	95
Monongalia	156	99
Ohio	314	204
Pleasants	86	83
Tyler	60	45
Wetzel	65	44
WVU	27	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1550</b>	<b>998</b>

Region III	Last Yr	Current
Boone	228	154
Calhoun	21	6
Clay	15	17
Jackson	137	129
Kanawha	388	255
Ritchie	30	29
Roane	57	66
State Dept	36	23
Wirt	61	62
Wood	343	231
WVS	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>977</b>

Region V	Last Yr	Current
Concord	3	1
Fayette	159	94
Greenbrier	132	95
McDowell	153	72
Mercer	241	159
Monroe	16	14
Nicholas	110	94
Pocahontas	100	63
Raleigh	172	97
Summers	110	61
WVIT	3	2
Wyoming	95	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>791</b>

REGIONS
1 = 552
2 = 422
3 = 344
4 = 255
5 = 503
6 = 149
<b>Total = 2,225</b>

Region II	Last Yr	Current
Barbour	105	39
Braxton	83	77
Doddridge	20	7
Gilmer	42	35
Glenville	13	5
Harrison	338	264
Lewis	107	81
Preston	161	103
Randolph	181	136
Taylor	144	118
Tucker	57	63
Upshur	262	179
Webster	69	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>1160</b>

Region IV	Last Yr	Current
Cabell	183	147
Lincoln	114	57
Logan	33	38
Mason	58	44
Mingo	28	22
MU	6	5
Putnam	151	103
Wayne	150	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>468</b>

Total Members	Last Yr	Current
	<b>7238</b>	<b>5122</b>

Region VI	Last Yr	Current
Berkeley	174	139
Deaf & Blind	35	18
Grant	63	112
Hampshire	69	65
Hardy	33	29
Jefferson	123	64
Mineral	125	96
Morgan	82	69
Pendleton	54	24
Potomac	5	1
Shepherd	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>619</b>

The above box shows membership has decreased in each region. This means fewer new retirees are joining, or fewer members are renewing. Please pay your membership dues to your county membership or go online (WVARSE.org) and pay.

## ~ In Memoriam ~

**BRAXTON**  
Lucy Williams \*\*

**CABELL**  
Irvin Scarberry \*\*

**Hampshire**  
Robert "Bob" Smith \*\*

**Harrison**  
Shirley W Gilmore \*\*  
Anita C Lopez \*\*

**KANAWHA**  
Janice Eplin \*\*  
Shirley Gregory \*

**KANAWHA, cont'd**  
Judith Kline \*\*

**Marion**  
Martha Warren \*\*

**Upshur**  
Joann Beer \*\*

**SUMMERS**  
Sandra Feamster \*\*  
Katherine Holt \*



**WEBSTER**  
Lois Kay Carpenter \*\*  
Marilene Durham \*\*  
Linda Goff \*\*  
Patty Mathes \*\*

**\*Annual \*\* Life  
2 Annual  
14 life**



## Lea Ann Puckett (Membership Clerk)



Lea Ann Puckett

Lea Ann Puckett is now serving as the new WVARSE Membership Clerk. As the Membership Clerk, she will be working closely with the State Membership Chair and the County Membership Chairs in recording new memberships, collecting dues, and recruitment. She has been a Life WVARSE member since 2021. After graduating from Ripley High School and completing a Certificate in Business from the Arch Moore Vocational Center, she entered Parkersburg Community College majoring in Business, then Glenville State College where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Business Education Comprehensive. She completed master's in educational administration Supervision from Marshall University in 1990. Her career began in 1986 as a Business Teacher for Ripley High School, housed at Parkersburg Community College Ripley Branch, where she taught adults for three years. The program was transferred to the Arch Moore Vocational Center, now the Roane-Jackson Technical Center. During her 30-year career at the Technical Center, she taught classes in computer applications, accounting, office management, business English and business math to adults and high school students. She was highly active with Future Business

Leaders of America and Phi Beta Lambda where her students competed in competitions on the state and national level. Many of her students placed in the nation in such competitions as Parliamentary Procedures, computer applications, business decision making, and job interviews. She also worked as an adjunct faculty member, teaching business for 20 years at Parkersburg Community College, now WVU-P. In 2019, she retired after 33 years of service from the Roane-Jackson Technical Center. Currently Lee Ann is a substitute teacher in Jackson County. For 15 years she commuted most weekends, holidays, and summers to Clifton Forge, VA to visit her husband. He worked as a truck driver and drove approximately 500 miles a day and home each night. He unfortunately passed away in 2017 after 15 years of marriage. Lea Ann is active in her church, West Ripley Baptist, Alpha Delta Kappa, and DAR. Her Australian Shepard, Mr. Winston, is her close companion. Lea Ann is competent, appears very excited about being Membership Chair and is looking forward to meeting and working with the members of WVARSE.

## Legislative Report by John Taylor

We are just a bit past the halfway point in the legislature. None of the pension-related bills are likely to move with the budget constraints they seem to be working with this year. We did dodge a couple of bullets with the PEIA privatization bills. There doesn't seem to be any appetite toward moving those bills either. Sometimes some of the best that you can do at the Legislature is to stop bad legislation. Although there doesn't seem to be as much money put into the payoff of the retirement fund this year, it is still on track to be paid down within the next 9 years in 2034. That is why we need to continue to keep a COLA on the mind of the Legislature. The closer the unfunded liability gets to being paid down, the more practical a COLA becomes. AARP is working on several bills important to seniors. One is a care giver tax credit. Another is a bill that would change the supervision of CRNAs (Nurse Anesthetists).

This would make it easier to provide anesthesia in rural hospitals. The bill would make permanent changes that were enacted during COVID and seemed to work well then. There seems to be support in the Senate. Other bills would limit robocalls and allow a lawsuit to continue after the death of the party. Currently if a person sues for damages and dies before the suit is settled, the heirs cannot continue the suit. April 2 is crossover day. Any bills that are not complete in the house of origin are dead after that. Then each chamber takes up bills from the other chamber only. The last day of the Legislature will be April 12th.



John Taylor

## Scholarship Winners 2024

The WVARSE Scholarship Committee, chaired by Sharon Vance (Greenbrier); Mary Ann Ferris (Harrison); Danny Gray (Greenbrier); and Linda Stewart (Pocahontas), reviewed the two college applications and awarded scholarships to the following students:



Cari Burns

### Cari Burns

Cari Burns, married, lives in Beckley and is a 2012 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. She is a senior at Concord University, majoring in elementary education with a minor in history. She originally did engineering, AutoCAD and blueprinting at a vocational school so she could do technical, architectural and mechanical engineering. She was also doing college online for video game design. She became ill and could no longer do college online. She could only work part-time. Cari began volunteering at events in her community when she was quite young, with extensive experience working at festivals and kid-focused events. She held a variety of retail positions as well as part-time positions for city events, but” it wasn't until I began working at my town's main library that I realized how much I loved working with children, teenagers, and even adults”.

Cari works full time as a librarian while attending college full time online. She hopes to get a job at Beckley Elementary School after graduating and then pursue a Master of Arts in Museum Studies “to combine my love of history, education, and community.” The opportunities that Cari's parents provided for her as a child; horseback riding, sports, library visits, experiencing different foods, all contributed to a caring, well-rounded, community-wise addition to our public school system. Her supervisor says “Cari has always been on top of her academics and program. She has had to plan carefully to overcome the obstacles of working and attending classes while pursuing her degree Cari is able to handle and manage more than most working college students.”

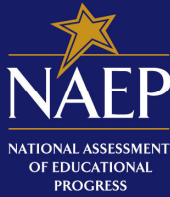
### Rikie Madison Watson

Rikie Madison Watson is a 2021 graduate of Liberty Harrison High School. She is a senior at WVU College of Applied Sciences, majoring in Elementary Education K-6. She did her clinical experience in the second grade at Ridgedale Elementary School in Morgantown. Her vast areas of interest include a multidisciplinary approach such as math, social studies, science, art, classroom management, as well as the psychological and cognitive development of children. Rikie loves to be involved in community service. She sets high goals and “moves in unfaltering steps to attain those goals.” In her junior year Riki had the privilege of observing kindergarten and fourth grade, which gave her the impetus to become a teacher. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Education, she plans to pursue a Master of Science in Elementary Education, possibly speech pathology and then a Doctorate in psychology or behavior management.

Rikie's supervisor says “Rikie is a dedicated student who demonstrates a strong work ethic and professionalism. In addition, she demonstrates a strong understanding of the content and pedagogy needed to be an effective elementary grades teacher. She has a bright future as an educator!”



Rikie Madison Watson



### What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often called The Nation's Report Card, is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students in public and private schools in the United States know and are able to do in various subjects. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP has been conducted since 1969 and is often considered the "gold standard" in large-scale assessments.

(NAEP is conducted by Westat on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education)

***"The results, from what is known as the nation's report card, offer the most definitive picture yet of the pandemic's devastating impact on students."***

– The New York Times

***"We need a renewed focus on the educational needs of our struggling students."***

– Dr. Peggy Carr, Commissioner National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

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# NAEP is hiring

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## Become an in-school data collector

with the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

*NAEP is a resource that teachers, principals, and other educators can use to improve students' learning experiences and educational outcomes. From its assessment frameworks, to its innovative assessment and survey questions, and its data-rich results, NAEP provides helpful tools and information for educators.*

### Responsibilities

- Administer assessments in schools on digital devices for sampled students.
- Be available to work during school hours, when work is available, between January 26 and March 20, 2026. The data collection window may be extended due to weather or other delays.
- Attend virtual trainings between November and January, depending on position.

### Westat offers

- Paid training;
- Paid time and mileage reimbursement for local driving from home to schools and back; and
- Weekly paychecks (with direct deposit).

### How do I find out more?

Enter your contact information at [www.WorkNAEP.com](http://www.WorkNAEP.com) to be notified once applications are available.

### Candidates should

- Be comfortable working with technology
- Be detail-oriented
- Be able to work in a team environment
- Have good communication skills
- Be a U.S. citizen and willing to complete a post-offer background check, including FBI fingerprinting
- Enjoy working in schools (prior education or research experience is a plus)

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Westat: EOE, including disability/veterans

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## 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!

**866.619.6463 | [myAMBAbenefits.info/WVARSE](https://myAMBAbenefits.info/WVARSE)**