

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - 2016-2017 GOALS

By: Bill Hammond

The Legislative Committee, together with Bill Milam, Danny Gray and Jo Ann Harman, met at Flatwoods, June 22, 2016. After lengthy discussion, the attached list of Proposed Legislative Goals was prepared to be submitted to the WVARSE Executive Committee for their approval.

PROPOSED WVARSE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE GOALS 2016-2017

MAIN GOALS

- That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums and copays or reduction in benefits.
- That WVARSE support recommendations of House Concurrent Resolution No. 120.
- That WVARSE support legislation excluding state pensions from West Virginia state income taxes.
- That WVARSE will work to amend legislation to provide a monthly supplement to all retirees equal to \$1.00 times years of service.
- That WVARSE support legislation which restores the exclusion of \$2000.00 that is lost when a retiree reaches age 65.
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to establish a 1/2% severance tax on Marcellus and Utica Gas as a funding source for retiree benefits.
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to establish a 1/2% tax on any future cracker plant as a funding source for retiree benefits.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

- That WVARSE support an amendment to increase the Homestead Exemption to \$60,000.
- That WVARSE continue to resist changes in the representation on the PEIA Board.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- That WVARSE
 - Sponsor contact persons for each legislator.
 - Sponsor a statewide DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE.
 - Sponsor wearing RED to identify retired school personnel during visits to the Capitol.
 - Encourage a "County Day" at the Legislature.
 - Support working with AARP and CORPE.
 - Support increased opportunities for media coverage.
 - Support any proposal providing Lottery Funds for retirees.