

WVARSE Executive Board Meeting  
August 22, 2023  
10:00 a.m. Via Zoom

President Charmel Radcliff called the WVARSE Executive Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Marie Schimmel, Region II Director shared devotions based on "Why God Made Teachers". She shared several readings about teachers. Following the guide of teachers, the world would be a better place. She then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes (CA)** of July 7, 2023 meeting were approved as presented. Marie Schimmel was thanked for taking the minutes in the absence of our secretary at the July meeting.

**President's Report (CA):** Since the last Executive Board meeting, President Charmel Radcliff has spoken with Bill concerning the Annual Council; asked John Taylor to head the Budget Committee and meet via Zoom with Judy Staubly, Linda DeMoss and Marie Schimmel; composed letter and update duties of Regional Directors; spoke with Bill and Tom Susman about protecting the Medicare Advantage Program; wrote an article to be published in major newspapers regarding Medicare Advantage; spoke with Mary Ann Ferris several time regarding Membership and Annual Council ideas; and attended a picnic meeting with Tucker County members.

**Treasurer's Report (CA):** Linda DeMoss reported on what she has done to become familiar with the treasurers duties since July 5, 2023 when she took over as Treasurer. She completed with Judy all of the reports for the Annual meeting; she has balance the checking account and has deposited the new AMBA check. Current accounting: Checking - \$22,383.92. Investments Forethought I – 132,299.68 ; Forethought II – 60,285.73 ; Forethought III – 7,660.96 ; Jackson -57,403.44. Total checking and Investments - \$279,988.73.

**Executive Director's Report (CA):** Bill Milam reported that since the last Executive Board meeting he has done the following: maintained communications with the Executive Board and County units; taken care of WVARSE correspondence and office work; met with Karen to transfer data; worked with Days Inn in planning for our meetings; worked with Darlene to get the Summer Newsletter printed; and will be attending a National Credit Union meeting in Washington, D.C. in early September, where he will receive an award for Volunteer of the Year for Credit Unions up to 500 million dollars in assets. Bill is also working with Garrett on the Website.

**Membership Clerk's Report (CA):** Karen Nicholson reported that she continues to up date files; maintained a list of delegates for Annual Council; has processed 637 membership forms, from 44 counties. Of the membership forms processed, 106 were not members last year, 42 are new members and 95 are new life members.

**President-Elect's Report (CA):** John Moyers reported that his time was spent in preparing for Annual Council and helping to ready our WVARSE Programming for the possible change in format for future meetings. He met with JoAnn Harman and Dave Adkins to establish the most feasible location for the combination meeting in their area. He also met with the Borders Committee to finalize the presentation for Annual Council.

**Scholarship Report:** Sharon Vance reported that she has sent the scholarship information to the schools earlier than in the past – hopefully this will get more cooperation on the part of the schools and applicants. Information was sent on August 13, 2023.

**History:** Mary Pat Glover was not present and the History report will not be printed in the Annual Council program. She is still working on keeping the history, but is not doing well health wise at this time.

**Newsletter:** In the absence of Darlene Milam, Bill reported the Newsletter did go out to members. He will send the invoice for the newsletter to Linda DeMoss to be paid – the bill is within the budget.

### **Supportive Reports**

**Insurance:** Garrett Mowery reported on some changes that are being made with AARP and AMBA. Will have some new materials for us to put on the website. Joe Maddalon will not be at our Annual Council but Keith Daugherty will be there. Garret was thanked for helping us to secure new members.

**NRTA/WVARSE LIAISON (CA):** Jo Ann Harman, NRTA/WVARSE Liaison has continued to follow the messages from WVARSE and AARP and supported both organizations. She has attended the meetings of Grant County Association of Retired School Employees and coordinated the trip to the local lavender farm. She continues to work on plans for our new approach for area meetings in Spring of 2024. John Moyers, Dave and Patty Adkins and Jo Ann met to discuss an innovative approach to add new visions and charisma to the proposed area meetings. She participated in the WVARSE Zoom committee meeting on August 15 and reported the ideas. Jo Ann will be unable to participate in Annual Council this year, the first one she has missed. Her husband Bob has a rare incurable cancer, but will meet with doctors on Wednesday, August 23 to see if Bob qualifies for the treatments. Our prayers are with them.

**AARP (CA):** Jane Marks was unable to attend the meeting but did send a report. AARP has meetings scheduled with Senator Joe Manchin and Representative Carol Miller, to discuss Social Security and other key issues with each member of Congress. On the state level the Advocacy Team continues to meet virtually each month. AARP Community Challenge Grants were announced late in June – 5 were awarded in WV.

### **Regional Director's Reports**

**Region I:** Teresa Taylor is working on membership and county programs. Charmel is thankful that she is serving.

**Region II:** Marie Schimmel has attended several county meetings and will continue to when invited. She is also trying to help Barbour County.

**Region III (CA):** Melinda Walker has contacted the County Presidents to remind them of Annual Council, the cost of the luncheon, and to bring monetary donation for WVARSE Scholarship Fund. She also informed them that John Riddle is candidate for Region 3 Director.

**Region IV (CA):** Irvin Scarberry contacted each of the unit Presidents to obtain meeting dates, times and locations; encouraged each to participate in the Annual Council; made contact with a few retirees from Lincoln County in an attempt to reactivate their unit; maintained contact with our President Charmel Radcliff and attended a meeting of the Executive committee of Cabell County.

**Region V (CA):** Ann Pauley put together ideas and suggestions for the new Region V director, Libby Casto in hopes that the transition will be smooth. Notified the county Presidents about Annual Council; followed up with calls, emails or texts to the counties Bill had not heard from or for which a meal choice had not been made known to Bill; participated in Borders Committee meeting; and contacted and made the reservation for the June 2024 WVARSE meeting to be held in Beckley.

**Region VI (CA):** David Adkins kept in touch with Bill Milam and John Moyers; received updates of member lists from Jefferson County; decided with Jo Ann Harman, John Moyers and Patty Adkins to have our Area Meeting at the WV Community and Technical College in Moorefield on June 11, 2024. On August 14, I met with John, Jo Ann and Patty to discuss possible formats for the program of meetings. Jo Ann presented our ideas to the committee the next day.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Community Service (CA):** Patty Adkins reported that she has kept in touch with Bill Milam and John Moyers. She met with the local team, David Adkins, John Moyers and Jo Ann Harman to decide on the site for Borders meeting next year – decided on WV Eastern Community and Technical College in Moorefield; met again on August 14 to gather ideas for program format for Borders meetings next year. Jo Ann will present to Borders Committee on August 15; haven't been able to ignite much enthusiasm in Pendleton County, no one wants to step up; plan to send letters to the leaders in the Legislature touting our success in having over one million volunteer hours, emphasizing the dollars we have contributed to the state.

**Informative and Protective Services (CA):** Norma Taylor has worked with Bill Milam and others in preparing the Memorial Service. There were no reports from the following counties: Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Ritchie, Summers, Tyler and Wetzel. Wyoming County had no deaths to report. We lost 767 retired school employees – only 150 were members.

**Legislative Committee (CA):** John Taylor reported that since the last board meeting he had participated in the following: kept in touch with Executive Director, President, President Elect and Past President; participated with the AARP Advocacy team; participated with the Budget Committee and consulted with AARP about their cooperation in this year's Legislative session.

**Membership (CA):** Mary Ann Ferris has communicated with WVARSE officials and other members concerning membership and other matters; prepared the Membership article for inclusion in Annual Council program; secured Lincoln High School as location for 2024 meeting site; participated in two Zoom meetings concerning the 2024 meeting to replace Leadership and Regional meetings; compiled the list of successful program ideas and WVARSE Week activities submitted by the Delegates at the six regional meetings for distribution at Annual Council;

worked with Charmel Radcliff to revise the Annual Council evaluation form; revised the Honor Points form to be used when our Constitution amendment passes; started thinking about a Membership Recruitment poster for our campaign to increase awareness of WVARSE. Each One Reach One as you SMILE.

## **Unfinished Business**

WVARSE Website – hard to navigate, unit officers still say 2022, calendar not up to date, and on and on. We need to be able to update. Bill will lean to do this. Add the discussion about the Website to the November Executive Board meeting.

Annual Council – Mary Ann will give the report from the Borders Committee. Discussed needing a ticket for the luncheon and for the door prizes – will need two different tickets.

## **New Business**

Details for the 2024 New meeting were discussed, they are as follows:

### **Four Meeting Dates and Places**

1. June 4 - Charleston - Trinity Lutheran Church
2. June 5 - Beckley - Beckley United Methodist Temple
3. June 11 - Moorefield - WV Eastern Community and Technical College
4. June 13 - Shinnston - Lincoln High School

Guidelines were suggested so that all four of these meetings would be similar.

1. The President would preside at each meeting.
2. Reservations must be made, and the individual should submit 2 sentences with what they Value most about WVARSE and what they WANT from WVARSE.
3. Each County Association attending should bring a display highlighting activities of the past year/years.
4. Brief statements from Humana and AMBA reps. A small breakout room should be made available for attendees to ask questions of these reps.
5. A Power Point presentation should be presented to showcase what WVARSE is and what WVARSE does.
6. Break Out Sessions with President and State Committee Chairs. Each Chair needs to present to those attending a written explanation of the duties of that committee.
7. A simple box lunch will be provide with very little clean-up. Subway was suggested.
8. Showcase the area where these meetings are held. Involve as many members from the area as possible.
9. Entertainment during lunch (hopefully free).
10. Present WVARSE in a different mode like a fair or conention.
11. Reports or Comments/Evaluation.

I want to thank all of those who worked to give us guidance on this new meeting. We hope our members will find it different and exciting.

Jo Ann Harman, John Moyers, Dave Adkins (who met ahead of our meeting and brainstormed most of these ideas), Mary Ann Ferris, Bill Milam and Charmel Radcliff.

Honor Points - Mary Ann Ferris

Mary Ann Ferris moved that we adopt the new Honor Point format in the event that our constitutional change passes. Seconded by Norma Taylor. **Passed**

We will have 17 Honor Points instead of 18.

Irvin Scarberry thanked the Borders committee and is pleased that we are making changes.

Charmel closed by saying that we all should keep Bob Harman in our prayers that all will go well.

The next Executive Board meeting will be November 2, 2023 at the Braxton County Senior Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:23 by Charmel Radcliff, President.

Those present via Zoom:

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| Charmel Radcliff | Linda DeMoss    |
| Bill Milam       | Karen Nicholson |
| John Moyers      | Sharon Vance    |
| Garrett Mowery   | Jo Ann Harman   |
| Teresa Taylor    | Marie Schimmel  |
| Melinda Walker   | Irvin Scarberry |
| Ann Pauley       | David Adkins    |
| Patty Adkins     | Norma Taylor    |
| John Taylor      | Mary Ann Ferris |
| Danny Gray       | Carolyn Davis   |