

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



Newsletter

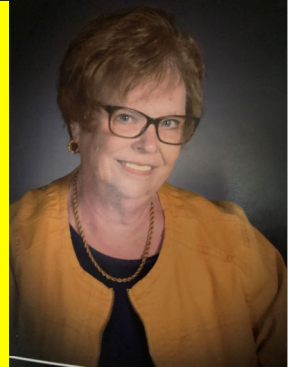


Volume 34 – No 2

Spring 2024

From Your President

Spring is my favorite season. I love seeing nature come to life with the beautiful colors of early flowers, trees budding and blossoming, and even the grass growing. Spring reminds me of the song, “Hymn of Promise”. The first verse is: In the bulb there is a flower; In the seed an apple tree; In cocoons a hidden promise; Butterflies will soon be free! Enjoy what has been created for us to enjoy! The legislative session is over for 2024. Its outcome was not what we retired school employees were hoping for. I would like to thank John Taylor, WVARSE Legislative chair, and other WVARSE members and WVAARP who worked diligently to get our legislative goals seen and heard. When is it going to be our turn to be heard and received? It is an election year, and many names will be placed on the primary ballot for your vote. Please do your homework before heading to the polls. Listen to the promises being made. Ask if the candidate supports retirees and public education. WVARSE Board Members have spent 2 years planning a meeting that would combine Leadership Conference and Regional



Charmel Radcliff

See President page 9

Remembering Mary Pat Glover

By John Riddle



Mary Pat Glover

WVARSE lost a wonderful member, Mary Pat Glover, Historian. Mary Pat passed peacefully at home after a long battle with a rare cancer. She was 87 and a lifetime member of WVARSE. She was an inspiration to all who knew her and especially to members in Region III. She worked hard to support annual goals, helping others and tireless work in her church. The last conversation I had with her was such a good visit, as she was still upbeat and so positive. Her greatest concern was that she was behind in reports as State WVARSE Historian! I could say so much more about her tireless efforts on behalf of Retired School Employees, but most of us know this. Mary Pat was just as tireless in her teaching career and leadership as an elementary school principal. Here again, she was always concerned about “her” students and staff. Her school and staff supported the community and were happy to have the school as an important part of the community. Her leadership as president of JCARSE was a time of growth through interesting meetings and the involvement of members. Region III, Jackson County and WVARSE will miss her energy, smiling face, work ethic and faith.

I Wouldn't Know If I hadn't had you as my teacher, I wouldn't know how much fun learning can be. Satisfying to the brain and heart, filling me with essential knowledge I can use all my life. I wouldn't know some teachers stand out from others in their desire to maximize Students' potential for education fulfillment, Success, and happiness. If I hadn't had you as my teacher, I just wouldn't know.

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WVARSE NEWSLETTER
200 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

From The Executive Director



William G "Bill" Milam
Executive Director

Another legislative session has ended. None of our bills were successful. The only thing that was passed that will help retirees is the elimination of taxes on social security. This bill will exempt 35% of social security tax the first year, 65% the second year and 100% in the 3rd year. **Retirees will see a 10% increase in PEIA premiums effective January 1, 2025, no changes in benefits nor does it affect spouses of retirees.** We will no longer have the annual Leadership Conference nor the regional meetings. Instead, we are planning a new meeting in four areas of the state. You voted to adopt this new plan, so we created WVARSE Leadership HUBS (Helping Units Be Successful)! These meetings will be in the following areas on the designated dates:

June 4 – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Charleston, WV

June 5 – Beckley United Methodist Temple Beckley, WV

June 11 – West Virginia Eastern Community and Technical College Moorefield, WV

June 13 – Lincoln High School Shinnston, WV

More details are addressed in separate articles in this Newsletter. Due to financial concerns, we will be publishing the Newsletter as an electronic newsletter and sending it out to members who have provided us with email addresses. Please contact either me or Karen to update your email address. **Beginning with the summer issue, only members without email addresses will receive a printed copy of the newsletter.** The newsletter will be posted on our website. Our membership is becoming less each year. We must continue to increase our membership. It is the responsibility of each member to do his/her best to enroll new members and retain old members. We still accept the old enrollment forms and members can enroll on the website. Life Membership dues are now \$150. 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 of my email addresses are not valid. If you have changed your email address, please send me an email at williammilam.bm@gmail.com so that I can update my files.

You suggested, and we listened!

You suggested, and we listened! We propose combining the annual Leadership Conference and the six Regional Meetings with one new meeting in four areas of the state. You voted to adopt this new plan, so we created WVARSE Leadership HUBS (Helping Units Be Successful)! We invite everyone to share in our enthusiasm as we plan for the meetings which will follow this schedule:

June 4 – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Charleston, WV

June 5 – Beckley United Methodist Temple, Beckley, WV

June 11 – West Virginia Eastern Community and Technical College, Moorefield, WV

June 13 – Lincoln High School, Shinnston, WV

Each member can select the meeting to attend. A maximum of two cars per county will be paid mileage. Each county is urged to showcase their activities and area. Prepare a display board with photographs and memorabilia of members and events as well as local scenery or places of interest. Involve people for entertainment or local information. Present in person or electronically with a PowerPoint or video. This is your arena where you have a voice and a presence! We ask that each county bring ideas for these two statements:

What do you like about WVARSE?

What do you want from WVARSE?

A light breakfast will be available when you arrive. The same agenda will be used for each meeting. We will have a PowerPoint presentation from our President Charnel Radcliff, greetings from Bill Milam, our Executive Director, devotions and flag salute by President-Elect John Moyers, and brief presentations from Humana and AMBA. You will be given an opportunity to go to 4 breakout sessions which pertain to you. Choose from Humana, AMBA, President, Membership, Community Service, Legislative, and I & P. A box lunch from Subway will be provided. **The registration information will be sent from Bill Milam to each county president on May 17 and must be returned to Bill by May 25, 2024.** We look forward to seeing you!

Boone County



Top Pictures

Boone County members, Ester Bell and Angie Price reading to Ramage Grade School students.



Bottom Pictures — Members attending February meeting

Gilmer County



Gilmer County High School business students discuss their class courses at the January GCARSE meeting. The students are learning check writing skills, balancing a checkbook, comparing good/bad credit situations, income taxes, business profit/losses and investments. Also, students are being trained in the use of computer office software (Word, Excel and spreadsheet).

Cabell County

Cabell County Retired School Employees have been busy helping others during the Christmas season. During their monthly meeting in December, they were entertained by the Cabell Midland Collegium directed by Mr. Ed Harkless. Students performed in Renaissance-style costumes and sang songs of the season.



During the fall season, members collected items for the Christmas shoe box project. Members also provided three elementary schools with much needed items for their clothing closet.

Wirt County

Wirt County Association of Retired School Employees met at the Wirt County Senior Citizen Center Monday, January 8. Completing one of their service projects, members brought donated school supplies requested by Third and Fourth Grade teachers at Wirt County Primary Center. Teachers received a variety of items for everyday classroom needs as well as special projects such as a study of the solar system.



Receiving school supplies by Wirt County Association of Retired School Employees were Third Grade Teachers Shayla Griffey, Shanel Weaver, and April Dawson by WCARSE President Pat Egbert.

Marion County



MCARSE collected blizzard bags which were donated to Meals on Wheels. They are given to the recipients of the program to keep for a day when the roads are hazardous, and

meals cannot be delivered. The Marion County Association of Retired School Employees donated \$200 to each Elementary, Middle and High School in Marion County. The money is to be used for student needs such as food, clothing, school supplies for needy students, reward programs etc. The picture includes President Sandra Michael, Vice President Diana Yanero and Marion County school administrators.

Mercer County



Del Marty Gearhart

Members of the Mercer County Association for Retired School Employees enjoyed an interesting presentation by Mercer County's own Delegate Marty Gearheart at their November 25, 2023 meeting. Following Del Gearheart's presentation, the floor was opened for questions. Topics included but were not limited to the WV political and economic outlook for 2024 and beyond, plans for the WV budget surplus, PEIA concerns, pensions, COLA, the upcoming 10% insurance premium increase when many retirees are already struggling with meeting other costs, the auto to property taxes, and the statewide teacher shortage.

Tyler County

Tyler County WVARSE officers attended the Region I workshop in Wheeling on June 13th. The organization is making future plans for the following guest speakers as presenters: Delegate David Kelley; a portrayal of Pearl S. Buck (Community members will be invited to attend this performance); and Keith Daugherty, AMBA MEMBERS BENEFITS advisor. The Tyler County Association of Retired School Employees had their regular luncheon meeting at the Middlebourne Baptist Church on November 8, 2023. The community service project was for the Adam's House (food pantry). Following the meeting, TCARSE hosted a living history event at the Tyler Consolidated High School Auditorium for high school language arts students and TCARSE members. Karen Vuranch of Fayetteville, WV, a member of the WV Humanities Council - History Live, portrayed the infamous Pearl S. Buck and enlightened the audience on the life of times of a favored WV daughter. Pearl S. Buck was born in WV, grew up in China, a daughter of missionary parents, who embraced the culture but continued to hold tightly onto her West Virginia roots. Ms. Buck received a Pulitzer Prize for her 1931 novel, The Good Earth and was the first American woman awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. She was a humanitarian and social activist who had a deep concern for the welfare of children worldwide. Following her performance, Ms. Vuranch opened the floor for questions from the audience. Her knowledge of her character was deep and her portrayal convincing as you stepped back in time walking through Buck's life story.

TYLER COUNTY

Charlene Galluzzo, Becky Barth, Sue Weekley, Betty Jo Morgan, Karen Vuranch

(Pearl S. Buck Portrayer), Thelma Layfield, Robbie Starcher, Pam and Charlie Delauder attended the November meeting.



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

Scholarship Winners 2023

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

Student Teachers

Natalie Fout was a student athlete in the 2021 graduating class of Lincoln County High School and is attending Glenville State University. She was greatly influenced to enter sports by her father and grandfather who played sports in college. Her grandfather was a successful coach for more than 30 years. She hopes to follow in his footsteps and become a coach. She played basketball from “biddy” through High School where she was one of four 1,000-point scorers in the history of Lincoln County High School girls’ basketball. Natalie is more than an athlete. She was Student Council President, Chi Beta Phi president and Coordinator and Launch Director of Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project as well as other accomplishments. She has special honors among which is President’s list (2021-2023) and Dean’s list (2022) . It is her goal to teach Math at Lincoln County High School and follow in the footsteps of her grandfather in coaching.



Natalie Fout

Joley Williams grew up in a home where her mother was a special education teacher, and her father was a social worker. The education system was something she wished to avoid. Her mother quit her teaching job to provide a home school opportunity for her. During her high school experience, she attended a vocation school where she was trained in culinary arts and commercial baking. As she graduated from high school (2020) the pandemic had hit. She had always planned to attend college but had to complete her first year online. Her initial major was accounting, which she soon changed to general studies. She enrolled in West Virginia Wesleyan to study nursing. In less than a week she changed to secondary education with a major in English. The more she became involved, the more she was convinced she wanted to be a teacher. Among her special talents and experiences are: 2023 Summer Boost Emerging Reader Tutor, Spring 2023 Vandalia Arts Journal Prose Winner, 2021-22 Dean’s list and 2022-23 President’s list. Joley hopes to be hired as a teacher in either Nicholas or Webster counties.



Joley Williams

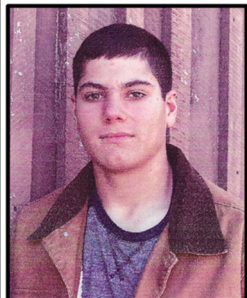
Vocational Students

Carmella Spillman was a 2012 graduate of Riverside High School, located in Kanawha County. She had humble beginnings – born in a rural west Virginia municipality called Deepwater. They were 15 minutes from the nearest town and living was a hardship. After graduation, she completed cosmetology school and started her career as a hair stylist. She loved her job but wanted to go back to school to become a nurse. The pandemic hit in 2020 and almost closed hair stylist jobs. She got a job working at the hospital as a housekeeper to help supplement her husband’s income. December 2020, she contracted covid and brought it home to her family. Her husband had the worst case, was hospitalized, and spent time in ICU. She spent several weeks caring for her husband and “nursing” him back to health. He fully recovered and was able to go back to work. Her first choice of career was nursing and now she is ready to study to be an LPN at the Kanawha County Ben Franklin Center.



Carmella Spillman

Thomas Anthony Derico was a 2023 graduate of Lewis County High School. While helping his father remodel the kitchen in their home, Thomas became fascinated with electricity and wondered what made it work. During covid, he began watching videos of electrical theory. The more he learned the more fascinated he became. He discussed his desires with his parents, and they told him he could go to trade school. He spent the two years attending the Trade Center a half day and his core classes the rest of the day. At the end of the end of his senior year, he took and passed the Journeyman test and became a licensed electrician. He then became interested in heating and air conditioning. He is now enrolled at the Fred W. Eberle Technical Center in the HVAC program and hopes to qualify for a license in that field.



Thomas A Derico

WVARSE Membership Report

Saturday, March 9, 2024 Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2024

REGION I	Last Yr	Current
BROOKE	169	142
FAIRMONT	17	11
HANCOCK	224	157
MARION	239	167
MARSHALL	193	71
MONONGALIA	156	97
OHIO	314	214
PLEASANTS	86	79
TYLER	60	45
WETZEL	65	41
WVU	27	23
TOTAL	1550	1047

REGION II	Last Yr	Current
BARBOUR	105	44
BRAXTON	83	80
DODDRIDGE	20	8
GILMER	42	30
GLENVILLE	13	4
HARRISON	338	266
LEWIS	107	60
PRESTON	161	103
RANDOLPH	181	135
TAYLOR	144	116
TUCKER	57	58
UPSHUR	262	211
WEBSTER	69	51
TOTAL	1582	1166

REGION III	Last Yr	Current
BOONE	228	159
CALHOUN	21	6
CLAY	15	17
JACKSON	137	118
KANAWHA	388	282
RITCHIE	30	26
ROANE	57	62
STATE DEPT	36	24
WIRT	61	60
WOOD	343	224
WVS	5	5
TOTAL	1321	983

REGION IV	Last Yr	Current
CABELL	183	162
LINCOLN	114	56
LOGAN	33	35
MASON	58	39
MINGO	28	25
MU	6	5
PUTNAM	151	100
WAYNE	150	82
TOTAL	723	504

REGION V	Last Yr	Current
CONCORD	3	1
FAYETTE	159	101
GREENBRIER	132	98
MCDOWELL	153	70
MERCER	241	156
MONROE	16	12
NICHOLAS	110	94
POCAHONTAS	100	63
RALEIGH	172	106
SUMMERS	110	51
WVIT	3	4
WYOMING	95	36
TOTAL	1294	792

REGION VI	Last Yr	Current
BERKELEY	174	145
DEAF & BLIND	35	22
GRANT	63	104
HAMPSHIRE	69	63
HARDY	33	30
JEFFERSON	123	72
MINERAL	125	119
MORGAN	82	70
PENDLETON	54	31
POTOMAC	5	2
SHEPHERD	5	2
TOTAL	768	660

	Last Yr	Current
Total Members	7238	5152

A = 90
AN = 19
D = 52
L = 3308
N = 147
NL = 122
R = 1162
RN = 250

Total 5,150

Our current membership is 2,086 less than last year.

Counties – please contact your potential as well as your previous members and see if we can raise these numbers. **Karen's address is 1902 Hamilton St. , Parkersburg, WV 26101-9375.**

REGIONS: 1 – 503
2 – 416
3 – 338
4 – 219
5 – 502
6 – 108

Total 2,086

A = Associate
AN = Associate new
D = Death
L = Life
N = New
NL = New Life
R = Return

It is time to order Membership enrollment forms. Please let Karen know the number of enrollment forms needed. **These will not be mailed to you. You must arrange to have them picked up at the “HUBS” meeting in June.**

President
From page 1

meetings into a new meeting called WVARSE Leadership HUBS (Helping Units Be Successful). Thank you to the person attending the Annual Council that suggested this name that sums up what we want to accomplish with our new meeting. For HUBS to be successful, we need all county officers and chairs to attend in June. We've tried to locate the 4 meeting places in an area of the state easily accessible to our members. All 4 meetings will be the same and WVARSE will pay for transportation for 2 vehicles from each county plus lunch. Fill those vehicles with officers, chairs, and members and join us for an informative and fun day! Registration will be required so lunches and materials can be provided. More information about HUBS is found elsewhere in this newsletter. Membership enrollment forms need to be ordered from Karen Nicholson soon. They will be given out to the counties at the HUBS meeting. Everyone needs to work on recruiting new members, not just your membership chair. WVARSE is the only organization that represents ALL retired school employees. I hope to see you in June.

Legislative by John Taylor

It was a loooong 60 days and as often happens it came down to the last night. The AARP Advocacy Team was called into the Senate President's Conference Room to talk about our support for efforts to get the Social Security Tax Exemption bill moving. That shows the importance of our alliance with AARP. The Social Security bill passed the Senate at about 8 PM Saturday night, then had to go back to the House for completion. The passage of that bill was a great victory for older West Virginians, including a number of WVARSE members. Basically, single folks under \$50K and couples under \$100K are already exempt. For the rest, the bill will exempt 35% of Social Security the first year, 65% the second year and 100% in the 3rd year. The bill will be retroactive to January 1st of this tax year, and takes effect for the 2024 tax year. West Virginia was one of only 10 states that still charged income tax on Social Security. During the session, I made several contacts planting the seed for a COLA for our older members. Hopefully, this will be in the works for future years. In other AARP news, the Unfair Real Estate Service Agreements bill passed. It will prevent realtors from paying for agreements to be an agent for people, putting a long term lien on their property, then making their heirs pay a percentage of the value of the property to inherit or sell the property. The WV realtors were behind us in passing this bill. The practice hadn't yet started in WV, but now we will be protected. Other AARP backed bills that passed were the WV Veterans' Home Mortgage Program and the bill to create a Physician Assistant Compact which will help to speed licensing of out of state PAs to come into WV. We lost a couple of fraud bills, including our robocall bill and our gift card scam bill, but all together it was a pretty successful year.

Jackson County

Jackson County Association of Retired School Employees pays tribute to the memory of a beloved JCARSE member and WVARSE historian, Mary Pat Glover. Rest in peace MPG♥



Morgan County



Morgan County members met at the Berkeley Springs Senior Center in October. Brenda Morgan provided a tour and outlined the myriad of services available to the county population. Home health aides and social workers, transportation, lunch, and meals on wheels are a few of the available services. Members played several lively bingo games and participated in the weekly Food Lion food giveaway.

MCARSE November 14, 2023, lunch meeting was held at Charlottes Café. Regional Director Dave Adkins provided an update on State and Region VI activities, and Patty Adkins treated us to a rousing rendition of her Minnie Pearl routine.



Hancock County

Hancock County Association of Retired School Employees would like to recognize Outreach Chairperson Mishel Robinson during the month of March 2024. Mishel does an amazing job coordinating monthly service projects, book share, birthday recognition, volunteer hours and door prizes for meetings. Besides creating themes for every meeting that are memorable and fun, Mishel gives opportunities to make a difference in the communities. Monthly service projects include donating towels, blankets and treats to local animal shelter, collecting nonperishable foods before holidays for food pantries, donating slightly-used costume jewelry or knick-knacks for bingo prizes at senior citizens centers in March and ringing the bell for Salvation Army collections in December. Mishel reserves April for collecting art supplies and donations for Energy Express, a county reading program sponsored by West Virginia Extension Service and AmeriCorps. At home Mishel loves to spend her retirement time gardening, cooking, and crafting, but she is often adventuring and traveling with friends. Mishel exemplifies the saying, "if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it!"

~ In Memoriam ~

BOONE Mary Brown* Don Nelson, Jr *	Albert Stiles, Jr* Shirley Bails ** George Kohelis **	Nancy Dean** Terry A. Luikart** Marian Jones**	RANDOLPH William Collins** Harding Mallow** Elizabeth Pennington** Cliford Wilmoth**
CABELL Ruth Hawk**	HARRISON Meva “Tiece” Scarff **	MARION Jean Bane*	TYLER Jacqueline Crumrine ** Eloise S Doak** John Zevnik**
Deaf & Blind Betty Weingold**	Barbara Lynn Judy ** Norma Lee Knight * Leon Everd Pilewski**	MORGAN Virgil Ruppenthal*	WAYNE William Lawman*
FAYETTE Alford Cook**	Sam Scolapio, Jr. * Mary Jo Short **	POCAHONTAS JoAnn Fromhart**	WEBSTER Doris Jordan*
GRANT Twila Berg** Robert L Harman** Nadine Leona Idleman **	JACKSON Mary Pat Glover**	PRESTON Margaret Bailey** Janice Crane**	WYOMING Frank Mann, III*
HANCOCK Jerry DeFilippo* Helen Tate**	KANAWHA Roberta P. Allison** Barbara Angelo*	PUTNAM Betty Cooper ** Ray Isaacs, Jr **	

*Annual ** Life 30 life members



John Taylor
and
Danny Gray
at the
Legislature



Guess who?
Send us your
childhood pho-
tos so we can
enjoy and guess
who.

Old model Hudson
with a beautiful hood ornament

Instructions concerning “Aging In”

When a PEIA member “ages into” the plan with a Medicare-effective date after January 1 and before 12/31, they are put into a Special Medicare Plan that has Original Medicare as primary and the PEIA coverage through UMR secondary. Express Scripts will service the RX benefit under the Special Medicare Plan as well. This is done to prevent any financial impact on the deductibles and copayments they may have already paid. The one area of caution that members need to be aware of under the Special Medicare Plan is the non- preferred drug or Tier 3. The charge for that is 75% coinsurance versus a 50% coinsurance under Humana. Members have a choice at the effective date of Medicare. They can move directly to Humana but must complete a transfer form with PEIA. Remember that all deductibles, out of pocket maximums and copays start over if you move to Humana.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THE WVARSE Leadership HUBS (Helping Units Be Successful) JUNE , 2024 AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- June 4 – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Charleston, WV
- June 5 – Beckley United Methodist Temple, Beckley, WV
- June 11 – West Virginia Eastern Community and Technical College, Moorefield, WV
- June 13 – Lincoln High School, Shinnston, WV

Executive Board 2023-2024

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 Immediate Past President Irvin Scarberry (304) 544-4288 irvinscarberry@gmail.com
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 AMBA Insurance Garrett Mowery (717) 448-6048 garrett.mowery@getamba.com
 AMBA Insurance Joe Maddalon (724) 766-1691 Joe.maddalon@amba.info

E-Newsletters

Due to Printing and mailing cost, we will be switching to e-Newsletters beginning with the Summer 2024 issue. We will only mail issues to members who do not have email. Please provide us with your email address. Send your email address to either Bill Milam (williammilam.bm@gmail.com) or Karen Nicholson (knichol@aol.com). Newsletters will be posted on the website WVARSE.org



County Presidents—
Please get email addresses and send them to us.

Visit the WVARSE website www.WVARSE.org

Braxton County



Even though many retired several years ago, they haven't forgotten the needs of the schools and students. Recently the Braxton County Community Fund contributed to a Bingo fundraiser for the local Braxton County Middle School by helping to fill a prize basket. BCARSE is proud to support worthy causes in their home county.

Roane County



Roane County Chapter of the WVARSE has been having a busy and informative series of meetings this school year. They started in August with energy and have been working on their program. The first meeting consisted of: 1. Hearing from Humana and AMBA representatives regarding benefits available for members. 2. Planning future meeting ideas and sites. 3. Members decided to provide snack packs for all current school employees and scheduled delivery. The September meeting was used to discuss and plan participation during the Black Walnut Festival in October. The group annually opens and offers tours of the Newburn School (one room school) located at the Heritage Park located in Spencer. Members also offer and maintain a Story Walk at the Heritage Park throughout the year. Due to the Black Walnut Festival activities no official meeting was held in October. The November meeting was held at the Roane General Hospital Fitness Center, and speakers Kyle Raines and Jeff Tanner discussed fitness, nutrition, and the many new and existing medical services provided by Roane General. They provided wonderful nutritional snacks for attendees. December as always is reserved for a delicious, covered dish luncheon, renewing friendships, and spreading Christmas joy. Due to possible weather problems RCARSE regularly does not have meetings in December, January, and February. The March meeting was held at the local Committee on Aging facility. The COA Director discussed programs available to members. The Principal of Spencer Elementary School spoke on changes in education over the last 10-15 years and the Superintendent of Roane County addressed the proposed Excess Levy on the upcoming May ballot.

Kanawha County



Carol McQuain

Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees held their March meeting at the local YMCA. They participated in a Silver Sneaker Chair Yoga class led by Carol McQuain. Silver Sneakers is a Humana plan and is free for retirees in the PEIA Humana plan.

Beginning with the summer newsletter (July) we will be sending e-newsletter to email addresses or you can read it online at www.WVARSE.org. So, please update your email.