



POET LAUREATE TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER AT ANNUAL COUNCIL

Marc Harshman's second full-length collection of poems, *BELIEVE WHAT YOU CAN*, was recently published by The Vandalia Press of West Virginia University and is the winner of this year's Weatherford Award from the Appalachian Studies Association. His four chapbooks of poetry include *ROSE OF SHARON*, Mad River, MA. Periodical publications include *The Georgia Review*, *Emerson*

Review, *Salamander*, 14 Hills, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *The Chariton Review*, and many others in the US and abroad. His poems have been anthologized by Kent State University, the University of Iowa, University of Georgia, SPM Publications [London], and the University of Arizona. His thirteen children's books include *The Storm*, a Smithsonian Notable Book and his newly released, *ONE BIG FAMILY* [Eerdmans]. His

fourteenth children's title, *FALLINGWATER*, co-written with Anna Smucker, about Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic house, is forthcoming from Roaring Brook/Macmillan later this year. This past spring he was invited to read at the Greenwich Book Festival in London. His monthly show for West Virginia Public Radio, "The Poetry Break," began airing in January. In honor of West

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Marc Harshman

Entertainment for the Annual Council Banquet will be one of our own

Denis Chapman, a retiree from Cabell County and a WVARSE member will entertain attendees at the banquet. Denis, an internationally known singer and dramatic reader, was educated at Marshall University, with undergraduate majors in Speech/Drama, Art Education; and graduate major in English Literature.

In the theatre they refer to it as a one man show while in the music world the term

is solo act, but whatever you call it, Denis Chapman is a professional at it. For over sixty years Chapman has traveled internationally, presenting programs for audiences of fifty to fifty thousand. He is as exciting in front of a small congregation as he is on a large civic center stage. The warmth, sincerity, and excitement is felt from the first note. Denis Chapman's unique performance style and his

enthusiasm on stage are his trademark. Chapman is also known for his outstanding vocal range and his ability to use it. Having traveled, singing country and gospel music most of his life, Chapman brings much experience to his presentation. The *Singing News* magazine, stated, "I appreciate the professionalism of Denis Chapman... If you want a lesson in how to

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Denis Chapman

From Your President

What do you remember about 1957? I was a junior in high school when President Eisenhower was inaugurated for his second term. My friends and I were listening to "All Shook Up" and "Catch a Falling Star." The minimum wage was \$1.00, and gas cost 24¢ a gallon. The average annual income was



JO ANN HARMAN
WVARSE President

\$4,594.00. A group of retired school employees met to organize the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees; the first state meeting was held in Charleston on October 5, 1957; forty-three members attended. That was just one day after Russia launched Sputnik! This year marks the 60th Anniversary for WVARSE and also for the dawn of the Space Age! Celebrate our Diamond Anniversary by attending our Annual Council in Flatwoods August 30-31, and try to bring at least one new member into our organization. Let this be the dawn of record-breaking membership! I went to the local Farmer's Market. We savor that first tomato from the family garden, but until that happens, we visit the Farmer's Market. It was Customer

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

From the Executive Director



William G. 'Bill' Milam
Executive Director

70 years ago (1947) Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus founded NRTA (then known as the National Retired Teachers Association) to address the economic challenges and health insurance needs of educators in retirement. The benefits she was able to provide retired teachers became so popular that non-educators sought the same member benefits. Therefore, eleven years later, in 1958, Dr. Andrus reached out to a

broader audience by founding AARP (then known as the American Association of Retired Persons). NRTA maintains a collaborative working relationship with a network of state and locally-based Retired Educators Associations (REAs) who collectively represent over 750,000 retired educators. In September, Executive Directors are invited to a meeting in Washington, DC and part of that meeting will be a celebration of NRTA's 70 years. WVARSE President

Jo Ann Harman and I will be a part of that celebration. 60 Years ago (1957) The first state meeting of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees was held on October 5, 1957, in the West Virginia Education Building, Charleston. Nell Howes, President, presided. Forty-three members from 14 counties attended. Dues were \$1.00 per year and the treasury showed a balance of \$439.20. This is our 60th year. Not much happened at the Legislature this past

session. As always, there were no funds available for any item that required funding. WVARSE had a bill introduced that if passed, would have provided funding for public retirees. In the proposed goals for 2018, WVARSE supports passage of that same funding bill. At the ANNUAL Council, we will be meeting with unit presidents and regional directors to formulate a plan to involve more retirees at the state capitol to support WVARSE legislation. Annual Council

will feature a poet laureate as the afternoon speaker. Afterwards time will be allowed for book purchase and signing. There will be an election of directors for Regions I, III and V. There will also be a vote on constitutional changes. Entertainment at the Banquet will be one of our own, Denis Chapman (Cabell County). WVARSE has been asked to file an amicus (friend of the court) brief on an appeal to the Supreme Court involving pensions. We are working on getting this done.

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President

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Appreciation Day, so in addition to the usual vendors, face painting and balloons for the kids and free popcorn for everyone greeted potential consumers. After purchasing some tomatoes and green beans, I stopped by the booth of the eccentric little gentleman who always has unique varieties of produce. He had a new type of eggplant which I purchased, and he told me to be sure and let him know the next week what I thought about it. He threw in some free zucchini because the eggplants were small. The renewal of the established Farmer's Market has reinvented the public square with both social and economic values. The sales between

the farmer and the customer establish an important camaraderie, enhanced with trust and direct interaction. There is no middle man, and no extra costs for handling of produce, which is a mutual benefit. It is a valuable connection which also cultivates conversations not only between vendor and customer, but also among those who gather to assess the harvest and additional products such as baked goods, plants and crafts. Can WVARSE take a lesson from the Farmer's Market? We have an abundance of potential "consumers" to attract. We need to take the vendor's approach with direct communication, continuing our membership drive by approaching each retiree who is not a member of our organization. We need to also

contact prospective associate members. Finally, we need to communicate with any past members who have not continued their memberships. What do we have to market, and what methods can we implement? At our recent executive board meeting, our state Membership Clerk, Rita Hammond, reported a modest increase of 53 members in our current total of 7293. She also stated that we have 209 new life members. I applaud these increases, but I challenge each county unit to continue seeking new members. We can utilize some strategies from the Farmer's Market. We must make potential members aware of our social and economic values. In addition to our organization's efforts to protect our pension and insurance benefits,

we offer unique advantages through AMBA and our liaison with AARP. Our dues are definitely a bargain! Finally, we need to take a personal, direct approach when inviting a potential member, and we must provide the bonus of social activities. I enjoyed my visits with Regions I and II, where I represented our WVARSE Executive Board and with Region VI where I attended as a Grant County member. The gracious hospitality, excellent organization, delicious food, and friendly atmosphere which were present in each region exemplify what WVARSE has to offer our potential members! This year marks the 60th year anniversary of WVARSE. Plan to attend the Annual Council and celebrate with increased membership!

Speaker

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Virginia's Sesquicentennial, Marc was commissioned by the Wheeling National Heritage Area to write

a poem celebrating this event titled A SONG FOR WEST VIRGINIA reprinted in a new edition with photos by Steve Shaluta.

Harshman holds degrees from Bethany Col-

lege, Yale University Divinity School, and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as recent honorary doctorates from West Liberty University and Bethany College. He was

born and raised in Randolph County, Indiana and has lived his adult life in northern West Virginia.

Harshman is the seventh poet laureate of West Virginia.

Chapman

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conduct yourself on stage, this is the man to watch." Jerry Kirksey, editor of that same magazine, states that Chapman is "the epitome of class and style."

Over the past sixty years Chapman has been given many honors and has attained many goals. Among his most cherished honors is his appointment in 1982 as Ambassador of Music by his home state

and his 1993 Distinguished West Virginian award, his state's highest honor. He has shared the stage with many famous entertainers from both the country and pop fields as well as most of the popular gospel artist.

Chapman has also performed for and has been recognized by several heads of state. He has recorded over thirty albums and has had several nationally charted songs; his first in 1968 with his group The Mani String Singers. Chap-

man also charted several songs with The Gospel Harmony Boys, the group he sang with and managed from 1981 till 1999. Chapman now travels the US and Canada, has his music played on radio stations internationally and his videos can be seen on many TV programs and channels.

Whether in a large civic auditorium, a fairground grandstand, a community church, network television, a cruise ship, or any other setting, a perfor-

mance by Denis Chapman will have the audience electrified. His outstanding arrangements of happy, hand-clapping rhythms, soul-stirring ballads, popular standards, hymns, and new compositions, combined with dramatic interpretations of poems, stories and a dash of humor, make this a unique experience. An experience that will have you laughing, crying, reflecting and excited, but most of all, glad you were there.

2017 REGIONAL MEETINGS

The six Regional Directors conducted outstanding meetings. WVARSE president Jo Ann Harman attended Regions I, II and VI. President Elect, Mary Ann Ferris attended Regions II, III and VI. Executive Director, Bill Milam attended Regions III, IV and V.

Region I meeting was hosted by Marion County Retired School Employees and met June 13th at East Fairmont High School. Most of the nine counties of Region I were represented at the meeting. Marion County President, Sandra Michael thanked the Marion County Board of Education for providing a meeting place and WV AARP for providing the meal. Linda Snodgrass, President of

Marshall County and Rose Robbins represented Marshall County.

Region II met on June 14 at the First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg. Alan Kearns from AMBA and Scott Rogers from Humana gave very interesting and informative presentations. AARP State President Rich Stonestreet told about AARP's efforts on the recent health care bill. President Jo Ann Harman, President, and President-Elect Mary Ann Ferris represented WVARSE. There were also several Past State Presidents in attendance as well. Lasagna was served for lunch and most of those present seemed to have had a good time as well as an informative meeting.

Region III enjoyed a good meeting at Cedar Lakes Conference Center on June 7th with about 30 members. Membership enjoyed singing patriotic songs at the beginning of the meeting. Scott Rogers (Humana), Alan Kearns (AMBA), Tom Hunter (AARP), President-elect, Mary Ann Ferris, and Executive Director Bill Milam made good presentations. Members were also very pleased with their breakout training sessions. They even suggested on their evaluations that they would have liked more time to share! Members were pleased to learn that Region III had increased volunteer hours for this year. Karen Nicholson has agreed to be Region III Membership Chair (She is a terrific piano player),

and Carol Williams (Roane County) is very willing to have her name on the ballot to serve as the next Region III Director.

Region IV Annual meeting was conducted on June 6th in Point Pleasant with 26 in attendance. Bill Milam discussed the lack of legislative action and plans for next year's legislative session. Scott Rogers, Humana representative, explained the 2017-18 PEIA/Human Care Program, emphasizing the need for managing diabetes in our state with a high rate of the disease. Following Committee meetings and reports Jeff Wamsley Curator of the Mothman Museum spoke on the attraction and the upcoming Mothman Festival.

Region V held their meeting at the Mine Academy in Beaver with 45 members attending. Due to heavy rain several people could not make it. Angela Vance with WVAARP was the main speaker. She updated the group on legislation passed this year and how AARP was successful in getting 5 bills passed that will benefit all seniors. The county presidents were introduced and they gave a short overview of what their counties had done this past year. We always have a great lunch at the Mine Academy and it only cost \$9 including a light breakfast. Thanks to WVAARP for sponsoring our meeting.

The site of the **Region VI** meeting was peaceful, delightful Cacapon Resort State Park. Kathy Yost and her group from Morgan County gave all of us such a warm welcome that we wanted to visit for a few days. All counties in the Region were well represented with forty-nine (49) attending. That so many attended shows just how important our work is in WVARSE. We left with new information and good strategies to increase our membership plus a delightful goody bag prepared by the Morgan County Unit. Our stomachs were pleased with the wonderful luncheon the chef prepared for us. It was a pleasure to take part in this affair.

HUMANA MEETINGS

Humana will be conducting Open Enrollment meetings during the month of October at the following locations. Please try to attend and get your questions answered.

Date	Time	Seating	City	Location
10/10/2017	9-11AM	100	Bluefield	Quality Hotel 3350 Big Laurel Highway
10/10/2017	1:30-3:30PM	100	Beckley	Tamarack 1 Tamarack Park
10/11/2017	9-11AM	30	Lewisburg	Holiday Inn 222 Hunters Lane
10/11/2017	1:30-3:30PM	30	Lewisburg	Holiday Inn 222 Hunters Lane
10/12/2017	9-11AM	100	Barboursville	Holiday Inn Express 3551 Route 60 E
10/12/2017	1:30-3:30PM	50	Logan	Chief Logan Lodge 1000 Conference Center
10/17/2017	9:00-11:00AM	100	Martinsburg	Holiday Inn Express 301 Foxcroft Ave.
10/17/2017	1:30-3:30PM	50	Romney	South Branch Inn 64 Heritage Circle
10/18/2017	9:00-11:00AM	100	Morgantown	To be determined
10/18/2017	1:30-3:30PM	100	Clarksburg	Bridgeport Conference Center
10/19/2017	9:00-11:00AM	100	Parkersburg	Comfort Suites 167 Elizabeth Pike
10/24/2017	9:00-11:00AM	100	Weirton	Holiday Inn 350 Three Springs Drive
10/24/2017	1:30-3:30PM	100	Wheeling	Ogelbay
10/25/2017	9-11:00AM	50	Buckhannon	Hampton Inn 1 Commerce Blvd
10/25/2017	1:30-3:30PM	100	Flatwoods	Days Inn 350 Days Drive
10/26/2017	9-11:00AM	100	Charleston	Holiday Inn 400 2nd Ave
10/26/2017	1:30-3:30PM	100	Charleston	Holiday Inn 400 2nd Ave

VOLUNTEER HOURS

A Message from the State Community Service Chair

Every year since 2010 the members of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees have volunteered over a million hours each year. This year the total hours volunteered was 1,417,209. That represents a monetary value of \$31,178,598 that citizens in West Virginia would have had to pay someone to get the help they needed.

Several counties did not report ANY hours to their Regional Chairs. Members living in the following counties are encouraged to make sure that someone in your county collects hours and report them to your regional Community Service Chair. Counties not reporting are: Region II –Doddridge, Region III-Clay & Ritchie, Region IV- Logan, Region V-Monroe, Wyoming, Raleigh, & Summers. Even if your county's total is small, several small totals add up to a considerable number. To paraphrase a popular hymn, "We Need Your Every Hour."

Volunteer Hours 2016-2017	
Region I	139,964
Region II	397,396
Region III	255,169
Region IV	134,620
Region V	244,124
Region VI	262,522
TOTAL	1,433,795

At the NRTA National hourly rate of \$22.00 for senior volunteer hours, our total represents a donation of \$31,543,490 to the state of West Virginia. Last year State Community service Chair Liz Bradford, set a goal of 1,500,000 hours for 2016, which we exceeded, but this year we missed our goal by 66,205. Let's get our total back up over 1,500,000 in 2018.

UPSHUR COUNTY



Upshur County Association of Retired School Employees Annual Auction raises funds for two \$1,000 scholarships that are presented each year to one student from the local high school and one from the trade school. Jim Johnson a retired teacher from the high school conducts the auction each year.

WIRT COUNTY



Wirt County WVARSE meeting attendees include everyone from age one to 101!!! Now, who can top that?? Pictured are Mary Louise Smith former teacher at Elizabeth Elementary School with Lincoln Goff, grandson of Dwight Goff, former Wirt County teacher and principal.

JACKSON COUNTY



JCARSE's Connie Hinkle Honored as Wood County Belle

Connie Hinkle, The Belle of Wood County, taught 26 of her 38 years in Jackson County. She represented Wood County in the WV Folk Festival held in Glenville June 16-18. Connie will travel to Maine in September, completing visits to all 50 states. Working with Habitat for Humanity, she has visited Alaska three times. Connie graduated from Nicholas County High School, Glenville State College and received her Master's Degree from WVU. She has participated in classes at Cedar Lakes, Ripley in basket making, stained glass decoration, rug hooking, dulcimer and twig chair making. She enjoys sewing, quilting, latch hook, crafts and Bell Choir. She is active in church, has taught Sunday School and Bible School as well as participated in many mission trips. She is truly a great representative of all retirees who refuse to sit around waiting.... but get up and go to the next activity available and volunteer for hours until exhausted, blessed, and refreshed!! Thankfully, Connie will have an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of home, family, moral values, how to take care of health, and preserve the values and skills of earlier generations as Belle of Wood County.

TAYLOR COUNTY



At the May meeting, Taylor County Associate member Lee Taylor was installed as treasurer by President-elect Sue Murphy. The installation also included items needed for the job: Several pens for recording things (but no red pen); White Out (because we are human); and tape (to keep things together). Alice Jean Westerman and Grace Shriver light the candles for the memorial service. Eleven individuals were remembered. Even though this was the last regular monthly meeting of the year, activities still include a reception for 13 retiring employees; participating in the 150th Memorial Day parade, and a family picnic in July...and preparing for a marvelous 2017-2018 year!



MORGAN COUNTY



Morgan County hosted the Region VI meeting on June 12 at the lovely Cacapon Resort State Park. Members hosting from left to right (sitting) Lula Belle Robertson, Kathy Yost, Bobbi Johnson, Eleanor Effland; (standing) Vicki Jenkins, Liz Eppinger, Jay Russell, Linda Martin, Julia Linaweaver. Unable to attend, but also hosting were Sythia Harvey and Mary Hansen.

Proposed Legislative Goals 2017-2018

By Bill Hamond
State Legislative Chair

This year the Legislative Committee proposes a change in direction for our Legislative goals. It does not appear there will be funds for increases during the coming year, so we propose to protect PEIA coverage and to promote legislation which would establish a continuing funding source for state retirees benefits. This would permit state retirees to receive additional pensions and benefits without affecting state income. You will note that we have proposed only two goals. This should make our task much easier when explaining our objectives to legislators.

GOALS

- That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in copays or reduction in benefits.
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to establish 1/2 of 1 percent tax on Marcellus, Utica and other lower sand gases together with 1/2 of 1 percent severance tax on any future cracker plants as a funding source for state public employees retiree benefits

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES That WVARSE

- Sponsor a statewide DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE. •Sponsor wearing RED to identify retired school personnel during visits to the Capital. •Support working with AARP and CORPE. •Support increased opportunities for media coverage.

CONTACT US

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**Where were you in 1957?
Bring pictures to Annual Council.**

Go to WVARSE.org, click on About and select Annual Council Registration to complete registration for Annual Council.

BARBOUR COUNTY



Past President Betty Daugherty Named Barbour County Belle

Each county of the state of West Virginia chooses a County Belle. Barbour County's new Belle is Betty Daugherty. Betty was WVARSE President 2005 to 2008. She will be going to various events throughout the state to represent the Barbour County Community Educational Outreach Service. She presented the pie contest awards at the Blue and Gray Reunion on Saturday, June 3. She attended the West Virginia Folk Festival held in Glenville on June 16 to 18 and will appear at the Barbour County Fair to be held in August. WVARSE is proud to see her serve as Belle of Barbour County.

BARBOUR COUNTY



The Braxton County Association of Retired School Employees met at the Braxton Senior Center on June 15, 2017. After the business meeting, membership participated in the annual Memorial Service for deceased members of the past year. In attendance were Carol Merzouk, Karin Gateless, Morna Greene, Lucy Williams, Beverley Monroe, Beth Adkins, Pat Blake and Pat McPherson.

MERCER COUNTY



Taking the term "life long learners" seriously, MCARSE members requested another technology class during their April meeting. Peggy Johnson and Lynn Gilpin gladly turned to Randy Sparks, Director of the MCTEC. He, in turn, contacted Jozett Cooper, Technology Specialist. Then the group of sixteen retired former Mercer County School employees (lovingly dubbed the Future Computer Geeks in MCARSE by member Michael Kessinger), reported for the Second Annual Technology for Seniors class the week of June 12, 2017. Participants learned computer basics, how to be aware of and avoid fraud and hacking schemes, alphabetizing data and creating spread sheets for purposes of record keeping, how to create, add, and delete information for purposes of mass mailings, how to create print and animated slides for presentations, where and how to access free games for use on various forms of devices, how to use Google and Skype, and much, much more. Good ideas for future technology classes were shared. One idea generated by Bill Erps was a future session at the local library for a hands-on session as to how to advertise, sell, and buy goods on eBay. Pictured below are MCARSE members giving the class a Thumbs Up!

SUMMERS COUNTY



The March meeting of the Summers County Association of Retired School Employees was held March 18, 2017 at the local Dairy Queen. Officers for next year were elected during the business meeting: President Douglas Wayne Harvey; Vice President Vaden Tabor; Secretary Judy Long; and Treasurer is Doris Yates. Mike Tabor gave an informative presentation about the Hinton Area Foundation. SCARSE member Margaret Woodrum was honored for recently celebrating her 97th birthday. Mrs. Woodrum graduated from Concord College in 1941 and taught English. She remains very active in her home and community today. She plays the piano for the Senior Citizen Center, attends and works in her church and is always willing to help with committees and meetings for SCARSE.



December 10, 2016 the SCARSE held a meeting at the Hinton First Methodist Church. The church provided a delicious meal. Following the regular business meeting a local trio performed a wonderful Christmas music program. Members of the trio include: Mary Pat Duncan (a retired school teacher), Farren Young, and Susan Richmond. Each year at our December meeting, SCARSE members bring gifts to be given to the residents of the Main Street Care Center.



The April 2017 meeting of the Summers County Association was held at Oak Grove Methodist Church. Guest speakers were state and regional officers of the WVARSE. Those attending were: Jo Ann Harmon, Bill Milam, Steve Bailey and Darlene Milam. Church members provided a delicious meal for those in attendance.

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Summers	Douglas Wayne Harvey	136 Southside Drive Hinton, WV 25951-8103	304 466 0429	
Taylor	Linda Sharp	115 Blue Ave, Grafton, WV 26354	304-265-1704	ljoyce18@gmail.com
Tucker	Eleanor Nester	7936 Dry Fork Rd, Hendricks, WV 26271-8016	304 866-4640	enestor@hughes.net
Tyler	Marion Haught	59 3rd Ave, Middlebourne, WV 26149	304 398-5717	marianwhite@frontiernet.net
Upshur	Sandra Bennett	PO Box 2675, Buckhannon WV 26201	304 472-9310	sdaisysue@gmail.com
Wayne	Herb Muncy	514 Davis Branch Road, Prichard, WV 25555	304 486-5531	herb_mu@yahoo.com
Webster	Martha Dean	756 Dean Drive, Sutton, WV 26601	304 644-4171	marddean@hotmail.com
Wetzel	Patricia Spangler	PO Box 53 Hundred WV 26575	304 775-2572	
Wirt	Patricia Egbert	2312 Palestine Road Palestine WV 26160	304 275-3197	egbertpat@gmail.com
Wood	Jerry Wharton	1722 20th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101	304 428-3395	j_wharton@suddenlink.net
Wyoming	Zenith Harless	Box 299, Clear Fork, WV 24822-0299	304 682-0068	carolyn.hatfield@gmail.com

KANAWHA COUNTY

Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees met on May 17, 2017 at Saint John XXIII for the annual Spring Luncheon. Entertainment was provided by a group of ladies playing flutes while members sang familiar tunes. Special guests were WVARSE President Jo Ann Harman and her husband, Bob. Jo Ann installed KCARSE chapter officers. Pat Schillings, Karen Winter and Sue Hickok conducted the memorial service in memory of departed members during the past year.



WVARSE President Jo Ann Harman Installation of officers



L to R Past president Pat Schillings, WVARSE President Jo Ann Harman, President Irma Warden, Treasurer Sue Hickok and Secretary Brenda Thacker.

~ In Memoriam ~

BOONE
Sybilla Caudill- Life
Robert (Bob) Byus*
JACKSON
David Bourgeois -Life
Sarah Ruth Jarrett*
Carolyn Lantz Life
Polly Miller Life
Regina Newlon Life
Lewis Ressegger Life
Wilma Richardson Life
Judy Wiseman *
KANAWHA
Naomi G.H. Evans*
Dorothy T. Fox*
Ruth L.S. Kiser*
Richard D Milam-Life
MARION
Lenard Eddy
Ruth Joan Givens
Helen Payne
Sharon Stickley
Roger Lee Stover
Kathryn “Katie” Yost

MCDOWELL
Christine Gonzales
Oren Jennings
Margaret Stacks
Goldie Tessner
PRESTON
Joanne Wills
Naomi Nair
Hilda Lee
RANDOLPH
Ruby Hazel Kerns*
Martha Mero*
ROANE
Ann Anderson Hersman
William “Glenn” McKown
Lillian “Flip” Starcher
SUMMERS
Virginia E. Boyd*
Albert Lively*
Mary Lou Reid*
WIRT
Juanita Rue Channell
Phyllis L. Munday

Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee (Darlene Milam, chair; Irvin Scarberry, and Wilda Lockhart) will present the following slate to Annual Council:

- Region I Director – Charmel Ratliff (Pleasants)
- Region III Director – Carol Williams (Roane)
- Region V Director – Steve Bailey (Mercer)

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. If you are interested in being on the WVARSE Executive Board in the future, please contact any member of the Board or Nominating Committee.

Newsletter Editor:
Darlene Milam
bmilam@suddenlink.net

Newsletter deadline: Nov. 15, 2017

WVARSE Membership Report

Friday, July 28, 2017 Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2018

REGION I	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BROOKE	169	37	477
FAIRMONT	17	11	154
HANCOCK	224	79	575
MARION	239	128	917
MARSHALL	193	41	687
MONONGALIA	156	89	921
OHIO	314	214	645
PLEASANTS	86	33	177
TYLER	60	20	163
W. LIBERTY	1	1	51
WETZEL	65	37	360
WVU	27	22	681
TOTAL	1551	712	5808

REGION II	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BARBOUR	105	33	299
BRAXTON	83	28	305
DODDRIDGE	20	6	163
GILMER	42	25	140
GLENVILLE	13	9	98
HARRISON	338	80	1212
LEWIS	107	48	304
PRESTON	161	66	530
RANDOLPH	181	78	490
TAYLOR	144	81	273
TUCKER	57	49	145
UPSHUR	262	188	448
WEBSTER	69	45	244
TOTAL	1582	736	4651

REGION III	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BOONE	228	64	514
CALHOUN	21	7	163
CLAY	15	15	226
JACKSON	137	68	468
KANAWHA	388	221	3397
RITCHIE	30	29	189
ROANE	57	19	275
STATE DEPT	36	21	396
WIRT	61	62	111
WOOD	343	282	1546
WVS	5	5	72
TOTAL	1321	793	7357

If you are an active, annual state member, you can convert to a state life membership for only \$90. Your membership must be received by the WVARSE Membership Clerk by June 15. PLUS, your local unit will get a \$5 rebate.

Life membership — \$100 ... Life members — Remember to update your address and pay county membership dues

Membership Year
July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

REGION IV	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CABELL	183	125	1508
LINCOLN	114	78	455
LOGAN	33	32	785
MASON	58	35	469
MINGO	28	12	697
MU	6	5	246
PUTNAM	151	39	785
WAYNE	150	32	835
TOTAL	723	358	5780

REGION V	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CONCORD	3	1	77
FAYETTE	159	99	893
GREENBRIER	132	91	665
MCDOWELL	153	76	771
MERCER	241	77	1208
MONROE	16	12	234
NICHOLAS	110	84	535
POCAHONTAS	100	50	172
RALEIGH	172	94	1410
SUMMERS	110	69	256
WVIT	3	3	5
WYOMING	95	74	603
TOTAL	1294	730	6829

REGION VI	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BERKELEY	174	73	949
DEAF & BLIND	35	14	171
GRANT	63	44	220
HAMPSHIRE	69	18	284
HARDY	33	23	201
JEFFERSON	123	90	511
MINERAL	125	115	461
MORGAN	82	36	210
PENDLETON	54	42	169
POTOMAC	5	4	11
SHEPHERD	5	4	37
TOTAL	768	463	3224

Total Members	Last Yr	Current	Potential
	7239	3792	33649

60	8	1	2965	42	23	2	659	32	3792
A	AN	D	L	N	NL	NR	R	RN	Total

Which Would You Prefer?

A printed or digital newsletter on the WVARSE website? Express your opinion by sending an email to bmilam@suddenlink.net or write WVARSE c/o Bill Milam, 200 Elizabeth St., Charleston WV 25311.

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM

DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 20__ - JUNE 30, 20__

STATE LIFE MEMBER PAYING	
COUNTY DUES ONLY	\$ 5.00
SUPPLEMENTAL DUES	\$
TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES	\$

STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$ 100.00
PLUS ANNUAL COUNTY DUES	\$ 5.00
SUPPLEMENTAL DUES	\$
TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES	\$
COUNTY LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$

ANNUAL STATED DUES	\$ 10.00
ANNUAL COUNTY DUES	\$ 5.00
SUPPLEMENTAL DUES	\$
TOTAL ANNUAL DUES	\$

PLEASE PRINT: (Name as it appears on your retirement check)

NAME _____ DATE _____ Associate () Life ()
Last First Middle Renewal () New ()
ADDRESS _____ OLD ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ IF CHANGED -
RETIRED FROM _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
(NAME OF COUNTY, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OTHER)

Send to YOUR COUNTY:
both forms & check payable to your County.

For info: contact www.WVARSE.org for County Membership Chairman
Or call: Rita Hammond, WVARSE Membership Clerk 304-623-0929

“Dues are not tax deductible”

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

Proposed changes to the WVARSE State Constitution

Changes in Annual and Life dues

The WVARSE state budget is written each year based on the services provided and the income from membership dues. In order to balance the budget, the Executive Board voted at their June 29th meeting to increase annual dues from \$10 to \$15, and to increase life dues from \$100 to \$150.

Below is our constitution as of this date, followed by the proposed changes.

ARTICLE I DUES — Current

Section 1. Beginning July 1, 2010, the annual dues of the Association shall be as follows:

A. Active and Associate membership: \$15.00 for each member to be

divided as follows: \$10.00 per member for the state organization and \$5.00 for the local (county) organization.

B. Life membership (State Active and Associate) : \$100.00

ARTICLE I DUES — Proposed

Section 1. Beginning July 1, 2018, the annual dues of the Association shall be as follows:

Active and Associate membership: \$15.00 \$20.00 for each member to be divided as follows: \$10.00 \$15.00 per member for the state organization and \$5.00 for the local (county) organization.

B. Life membership (State Active and Associate) : \$100.00 \$150.00

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

— Current

c. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Any person eligible for membership may become a Life Member upon payment of the sum of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP — Proposed

c. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Any person eligible for membership may become a Life Member upon payment of the sum of ~~one hundred (\$100.00)~~ one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollars.

Change in Reserve Funds

ARTICLE VIII - FUNDS — Current

Section 2. Funds not immediately required for annual expenses shall be deposited into interest bearing ac-

counts. A sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) shall be held in reserve for Life Membership with only the interest earned being available for disbursement.

ARTICLE VIII - FUNDS — Proposed

Section 2. Funds not immediately required for annual expenses shall be deposited into interest bearing accounts. A sum of ~~seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000)~~ one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) shall be held in reserve for Life Membership with only the interest earned being available for disbursement.

The WVARSE Executive Board urges passage.

Welcome back Rick!!!

The WVARSE Board members and our endorsed partners, AMBA, are both pleased to announce the relocation and promotion to West Virginia State Manager position for our old friend, Rick Billeaud. Rick, pictured with his wife, Dara, of 26 years, was the original AMBA State Manager beginning with the inception of the WVARSE exclusive endorsement agreement with AMBA to provide benefits and services to all members and potential members.

Rick and his team spent the next 7 years enrolling hundreds of new members from all corners of our state into our organization, and we saw our membership numbers grow to new all-time highs. Rick attended each of our annual conventions, each Regional Conference meetings, and numerous chapter unit meetings throughout West Virginia. In the Fall of 2010, after 20 years with AMBA, Rick and Dara decided to relocate his family to Louisiana for his two daughters to begin attending nursing school at the U of Louisiana, home of the Ragin Cajuns, and for his son to play football at his old high school.

Rick states: "After three great years of all of the hunting, fishing, and charming Louisiana living, we have decided to relocate back to Ohio to head up the Ohio & West Virginia AMBA operation."



We look forward to having Rick attend our next Executive Board Meeting to discuss and share new membership growth strategies that can positively affect membership. Additionally, Rick will be available to participate and/or speak at upcoming Regional Meetings or Chapter Unit Meetings.

We can expect upcoming articles and future announcements describing exciting new programs and services being added to the list of WVARSE endorsed products and services list.

New plan from AMBA

One of AMBA's newest and most exciting plans is the "first-ever" Kemper Home Health Care Insurance plan that asks "no qualifying medical questions" for individuals between the ages of 41 to 85. In fact, most everyone can qualify for this plan except if you are currently living in a nursing home, an assisted living facility, or currently receiving home health care. Assuming an individual is physically able to perform routine daily activities without assistance, YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR THIS POLICY. The Kemper Home Health Care plan pays up to one year of care at \$150-\$300 per day for your care. The home health care benefits are paid directly to you regardless of any coverage you may have, including Medicare.

The premiums for this coverage are the second most surprising part of this plan!!! Here is the rate for any male or female between the ages of 71-75, the premium is \$77.25 per month. The Kemper Home Health Care Insurance plan is Guaranteed Renewable for Life and rates do not go up as you get older. This exciting new plan will be available starting August 1, 2017. Announcements will be provided in the next quarterly WVARSE newsletter and individual letters will be mailed to all current members before being mailed to non-members for the opportunity to take advantage of this very needed benefit. Rick Billeaud, Regional VP rick.billeaud@amba.info 800-258-7041 Ext. 186.

Roane County



The Roane County unit of WVARSE held their June meeting at Terry & RCARSE President Carol Williams' farm in Spencer. About 25 members & guests attended & enjoyed many delicious covered dishes. Two new retirees also attended after they had been honored by the Roane Bd. of Education for their service. Willa Shenkle, membership chair, encouraged all members to invite new retirees to join the group. Dianna Carpenter, Treasurer, was collected dues for the coming year. Carol Williams & Debbie Fox gave a report about the Region III meeting at Cedar Lakes.