



Mirta M. Martin, Ph.D. Fairmont State University, will be the featured speaker at the 2018 Annual Council

The Board of Governors appointed Mirta M. Martin, Ph.D. the fifteenth president of Fairmont State University effective January 1, 2018. Dr. Martin holds a baccalaureate in psychology and political science from Duke University; a Master of Business Administration from the University of Richmond; and a doctorate with an emphasis in strategic management and leadership from Virginia

Commonwealth University. Dr. Martin's career involves work in both the public and private sectors. As a senior banking executive, Dr. Martin was recognized as a highly effective and innovative practitioner, positioning companies for growth and profitability. Her higher education experience is equally diverse and successful. She has served in various academic roles, including senior education

adviser to former Mexican President Vicente Fox; president of Fort Hays State University; dean and professor of management at the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University; special assistant to the chancellor of the Virginia Community College System; and Executive Vice President and

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Mirta M. Martin

2018 W.Va. Teacher of the year will speak at the Annual Council Banquet

Katlin Thorsell is an agriculture teacher at Washington High School in Charles Town, West Virginia and the 2018 West Virginia Teacher of the Year. While her main interest is in animal science, she teaches courses in Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Companion Animal Care, Greenhouse Production and Horticulture. She also serves as a FFA advisor and helps her students develop

their leadership potential and grow as individuals. She received her Master of Science from West Virginia University in Agriculture with an emphasis on Agriculture and Extension Education. Through her classroom experiences, she has developed an interest in special education and autism and has received additional teaching endorsements in those areas.

Thorsell has served on

her school's Local School Improvement Council and Guidance Advisory Council and was elected as president of the Faculty Senate. She was the 2015 Teacher Turn the Key representative for West Virginia at the National Association of Agriculture Educators Convention and she currently holds the office of reporter for the West

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Katlin Thorsell

From Your President

I thank each WVARSE member who responded to our request for attendance at the PEIA Task Force hearings to speak on behalf of retirees. My husband and I both addressed our concerns, and I read the letter from our organization which I also mailed to the complete Task Force. I viewed most of the hearings via my computer. Our retirees were obviously present and for the most part their messages were consistent with the concerns which we had addressed. We need to be cognizant of the outcome and be ready to respond appropriately.

Our insurance benefits continue to be of prime importance. Nevertheless, we need to increase awareness of our pension concerns. As in the award-winning television show, THIS IS US, my thoughts gravitate from my circumstances now back to the beginning of my retirement. I retired in June of 2002. President George W. Bush signed the bill which created the cabinet-level department of

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JO ANN HARMAN
WVARSE President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

From the Executive Director



William G. 'Bill' Milam
Executive Director

During the past year, many changes have occurred. Educators and Service Personnel walked out taking a stand for more money and better PEIA benefits. In my opinion, PEIA was the main focus of the strike. PEIA issues have still not been resolved and may result in another walk-out this fall. WVARSE

appreciates all the retirees who attended PEIA Task Force meetings and spoke. We will have some new faces on the 2018-19 WVARSE Board. Legislative Chair Bill Hammonds is stepping down and incoming president Mary Ann Ferris plans to appoint John Taylor to that position. Bill served

WVARSE Legislative Chair for the last eight years and has done an impressive job leading the committee in creating legislative goals for each of those years. Bill will be missed. We will be electing new regional directors for Regions II, IV and VI this year. John Taylor, Rick White and Patty Adkins have performed

their jobs well as regional directors. I attended each regional meeting this year and all were well-planned and executed. We will miss the leadership and companionship of the three directors who will not be serving those positions after the Annual Council. The cost of the Banquet is \$20.00. The 2018 WV Teacher

of the year will speak at the banquet followed by a Sing-a-long led by Pat Schillings, Carol Williams and Denis Chapman. Annual Council Registration forms will be posted on the website.

Please complete the form and click the submit button to return it to me.

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President

From Page 1

Homeland Security which has become significantly important in our current society. The Euro began official circulation in the European Countries. Minimum wage was \$5.15 an hour. Life expectancy was 77.2 years. When I walked away from Room 22 at Petersburg High School and from my forty-year career, I made a few purchases. I bought a first-class stamp for 34¢. At the grocery store I purchased a loaf of bread for \$1.00, a pound of margarine for 86¢, and a half gallon of milk for \$1.16. I bought gasoline for \$1.38 a gallon. I could afford those purchases with my salary, based on

a Master's Degree plus 30 graduate hours and the amount of experience which I had acquired. Now, just as in the television show THIS IS US, I flash forward to the present. Hourly minimum wage has now escalated to \$8.75. I made comparable purchases, but now the first-class stamp costs 50¢, the loaf of bread is \$2.50, the cheapest pound of margarine is \$1.00, definitely not the quality that I purchased in 2002, the half gallon of milk is \$1.37, and gas is \$2.85! My 2002 purchases totaled \$4.80; my 2018 purchases totaled \$8.22. That is nearly doubled in price! My pension is based on my 2002 salary, and insurance has gnawed away at it! I am 77 years

old, so I have achieved the life expectancy projected in 2002, but how can I survive in 2018? Retirees, THIS IS US! And THIS is why I am concerned about the future of retirees in WV. Let us unite to adopt legislative goals to address both our insurance and pension concerns.

My crusade during my term as president has been to increase and invigorate membership. I have not seen the increase in numbers that I anticipated, but I appreciate every effort made to recruit retired school employees as members and spouses, retired state workers, and others as associate members. I urge everyone to continue this campaign. I am excited that we will implement a new brochure

to attract members with the help of AMBA.

This is my final article as president. I could not have asked for a finer group of members to serve. I appreciate the hospitality extended to both me and my husband as we have traveled throughout our beautiful state. The three Regional Meetings which I attended were well-organized by the Regional Directors and well-attended by the membership. I have been blessed with an Executive Board par excellence. Our president-elect, Mary Ann Ferris, and I have worked together on many aspects of WVARSE, and I am unconditionally assured that she will lead our organization with skill, dignity and enthusiasm.

Martin

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Executive Director of the John Tyler Community College Foundation. West Virginia Governor Jim Justice appointed Dr. Martin to the Blue-Ribbon Commission. Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell appointed Dr. Martin to the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges and to the Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innova-

tion and Investment. She was appointed by former Governor Tim Kaine to serve on the Virginia Council on the Status of Women. She is active in many educational, civic and charitable organizations. Most recently, she was appointed a director for Marion County Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Marion County and became a member of the Fairmont Rotary Club. For her leadership, Dr. Martin has re-

ceived numerous awards, among which are:

- The Humanitarian Award for Academic Excellence;
- The Presidential Volunteer Service Award from the President of the United States;
- The Hispanic College Fund Legacy Award;
- Finalist for the Innovation in Education Educator of the Year Award.

Born in Havana, Cuba, and an immigrant to the

United States, Dr. Martin uses her interpersonal and cultural expertise to work diligently to promote access to affordable educational opportunities. She and her husband, John, who is an engineer, have two children. Katherine earned a doctoral degree from the University of Miami, and Patrick earned a master's degree from Wake Forest University.

They both reside in Washington D.C.

Thorsell

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Virginia Association of Agriculture Educators. She serves her community as a

volunteer firefighter and EMT as well as a member of the Jefferson County Fair Board of Directors. She credits a love for the agriculture industry and the insistence

of her own high school FFA advisor for her career choice in education. Thorsell hopes that every day she creates a warm and welcoming environment in her classroom

and that when her students leave the halls of Washington High School behind, they will always remember that they have someone who truly believes in them.

Know Your Candidates

Election day is November 6, 2018. Provided in this article are the certified candidates for all 117 legislative positions to be filled in the November election. Each of you should look at the voting records of the incumbents and what each of the other candidates stand for before making your decisions. As we proceed into the November General election, use this information in choosing Legislators who will be supportive of **PUBLIC** school personnel and funding for PEIA. Incumbents are Bold.

House of Delegates

1st Delegate District
(R) MARK ZATEZALO
(R) PAT MCGEEHAN
(D) DIANA MAGNONE
(D) RANDY SWARTZMILLER

2nd Delegate District
(R) GRACE DAVIS
(D) PHILLIP W DISERIO

3rd Delegate District
(R) DALTON HAAS
(R) ERIKKA STORCH
(D) SHAWN FLUHARTY

4th Delegate District
(R) CHARLIE REYNOLDS
(D) JOE CANESTRARO
(D) LISA ZUKOFF

5th Delegate District
(R) PHILLIP WILEY
(D) DAVE PETHTEL

6th Delegate District
(R) DAVID L. KELLY
(D) T. CHRIS COMBS

7th Delegate District
(R) JASON S. HARSHBARGER
(M) LISSA LUCAS

8th Delegate District
(R) BILL ANDERSON
(D) DAVID BLAND

9th Delegate District
(R) RAY HOLLEN
(D) JIM MARION

10th Delegate District
(R) FRANK DEEM
(R) JOHN R KELLY
(R) VERNON CRISS
(D) ANDY DANIEL
(D) HARRY DEITZLER
(D) J. MORGAN LEACH

11th Delegate District
(R) MARTIN “RICK” ATKINSON III
(D) JAMES ALAN PICKENS

12th Delegate District
(R) STEVE WESTFALL
(D) MISSY MORRIS

13th Delegate District
(R) JOSHUA KURT HIGGINBOTHAM
(R) SCOTT CADLE
(D) SCOTT BREWER

14th Delegate District
(R) JIM BUTLER
(D) BRIANNE SOLOMON

15th Delegate District
(R) GEOFF FOSTER
(D) CASEY WADE HORTON

16th Delegate District
(R) DANIEL LINVILLE
(R) JOHN F. MANDT JR
(R) VERA MILLER
(D) DAKOTA NELSON
(D) MATT SPURLOCK
(D) SEAN HORNBUCKLE

17th Delegate District
(R) JOYCE W. HOLLAND
(R) MATTHEW ROHRBACH
(D) CHAD LOVEJOY
(D) JEANETTE M. ROWSEY

18th Delegate District
(R) EVAN WORRELL
(D) KAREN NANCE

19th Delegate District
(R) MARK ROSS
(D) KEN HICKS
(D) ROBERT THOMPSON

20th Delegate District
(D) NATHAN BROWN

21st Delegate District
(R) MARK DEAN
(D) PHYLLIS RIFFE WHITE

22nd Delegate District
(R) JOSEPH “JOE” JEFFRIES
(R) ZACK MAYNARD
(D) BILL BRYANT
(D) GARY MCCALLISTER

23rd Delegate District
(R) LAWRENCE “LARRY” LYON JR.
(D) RODNEY A MILLER

24th Delegate District
(R) AARON STONE
(R) JORDAN BRIDGES
(D) RALPH RODIGHIERO
(D) TIM TOMBLIN

25th Delegate District
(R) TONY PAYNTER
(D) ANDY VANCE

26th Delegate District
(R) DAVID COX
(D) ED EVANS

27th Delegate District
(R) ERIC PORTERFIELD
(R) JOE C. ELLINGTON, JR.
(R) JOHN H. SHOTT
(D) CAROL B. BAILEY
(D) LACY WATSON
(D) PHOEBE JEFFRIES
MEADOWS
(M) KAREN WHITE

28th Delegate District
(R) JEFFREY PACK
(R) ROY G COOPER
(D) ANDREW EVANS
(D) SANDY SHAW

29th Delegate District
(R) BRANDON STEELE
(D) RICKY MOYE

30th Delegate District
(D) MICK BATES

31st Delegate District
(R) CHRISTOPHER WAYNE TONEY
(D) RICHARD “RICK” SNUFFER II

32nd Delegate District
(R) AUSTIN HAYNES
(R) KAYLA KESSINGER
(R) TOM FAST
(D) LUKE LIVELY
(D) MARGARET ANNE STAGGERS
(D) MELVIN “MEL” KESSLER
(M) DAVID ELLIOTT PRITT

33rd Delegate District
(R) ROGER HANSHAW
(D) DAVID A WALKER

34th Delegate District
(R) LOGAN M. THOMPSON
(D) BRENT BOGGS

35th Delegate District
(R) CHARLOTTE R. LANE
(R) EDWARD R. BURGESS
(R) ERIC NELSON
(R) MOORE CAPITO
(D) ANDREW D. BYRD
(D) DOUG SKAFF JR.
(D) JAMES P. ROBINETTE
(D) RENATE PORE

36th Delegate District
(R) CHRIS PRITT
(R) ETHAN MORRIS
(R) MATTHEW JARRETT
(D) AMANDA ESTEP-BURTON
(D) ANDREW ROBINSON
(D) LARRY L. ROWE

37th Delegate District
(R) RICHARD I. PATRICK
(D) MIKE PUSHKIN

38th Delegate District
(R) DIANNA GRAVES
(D) TOM TULL

39th Delegate District
(R) SHARON LEWIS MALCOLM
(D) DAVID ‘WOODY’ HOLMES
(M) JESSE JOHNSON

40th Delegate District
(R) DEAN JEFFRIES
(D) MELISSA RIGGS HUFFMAN

41st Delegate District
(R) JORDAN HILL
(D) PAUL O’DELL, JR

42nd Delegate District
(R) DENNY R. CANTERBURY
(R) STEVE MALCOMB
(D) CINDY LAVENDER-BOWE
(D) JEFF CAMPBELL

43rd Delegate District
(R) MIKE HOUSE
(R) WILLIAM “TY” NESTOR
(D) BILL HARTMAN
(D) CODY H. THOMPSON

44th Delegate District
(R) CALEB HANNA
(D) DANAL LYNCH
(M) BARBARA DANIELS

45th Delegate District
(R) CARL “ROBBIE” MARTIN
(D) MATTHEW KERNER

46th Delegate District
(R) PATRICK S MARTIN
(D) ROBERT L. “BOB” STULTZ

47th Delegate District
(R) CHRIS PHILLIPS
(D) ED LARRY

48th Delegate District
(R) BEN QUEEN
(R) DANNY HAMRICK
(R) DEBRA S. SHRIEVES
(R) TERRY WAXMAN
(D) DEREK MCINTYRE
(D) RICHARD J. IAQUINTA
(D) ROBERT “ROB” GARCIA
(D) TIM MILEY

49th Delegate District
(R) AMY SUMMERS
(D) GEORGE ALLEN ABEL

50th Delegate District
(R) GUY WARD
(R) PHIL MALLOW
(D) LINDA LONGSTRETH
(D) MICHAEL ANGELUCCI
(D) MIKE CAPUTO

51st Delegate District
(R) CINDY FRICH
(R) DEBBIE WARNER
(R) JOE STATLER
(R) ROGER SHUTTLESWORTH
(D) BARBARA EVANS FLEISCHAUER
(D) DANIELLE WALKER
(D) EVAN HANSEN
(D) JOHN WILLIAMS
(D) RODNEY A. PYLES

52nd Delegate District
(R) TERRI FUNK SYPOLT

53rd Delegate District
(R) D.R. “BUCK” JENNINGS
(D) CORY CHASE

54th Delegate District
(R) JOHN PAUL HOTT II

55th Delegate District
(R) JON HOF
(D) ISAAC SPONAUGLE

56th Delegate District
(R) GARY G. HOWELL
(D) TIMOTHY RYAN

57th Delegate District
(R) RUTH ROWAN

58th Delegate District
(R) DARRYL E. COWLES
(D) BIBI HAHN

59th Delegate District
(R) LARRY D. KUMP
(D) JOHN ISNER

60th Delegate District
(R) LARRY W FAIRCLOTH SR.
(R) S. MARSHALL WILSON

61st Delegate District
(R) ANTHONY J VITALE
(D) JASON BARRETT

62nd Delegate District
(R) KEVIN R. BOLEN
(D) CYNTHIA TODDLE

63rd Delegate District
(R) JOHN HARDY
(D) SAM BROWN

64th Delegate District
(R) ERIC LEE HOUSEHOLDER

65th Delegate District
(R) JILL UPSON
(D) SAMMI BROWN

66th Delegate District
(R) PAUL ESPINOSA
(D) DAVID M. DINGES

67th Delegate District
(R) RILEY MOORE
(D) JOHN DOYLE

State Senator

1st Senatorial District
(R) RYAN FERNS
(D) WILLIAM IHLENFELD

2nd Senatorial District
(R) CHARLES CLEMENTS
(D) DENNY LONGWELL

3rd Senatorial District
(R) MIKE AZINGER
(D) JIM LEACH

4th Senatorial District
(R) ERIC J. TARR
(D) BRIAN PRIM

5th Senatorial District
(R) LARRY BROOKE LUNSFORD
(D) MIKE WOELFEL

6th Senatorial District
(R) MARK R. MAYNARD
(D) CHARLES E. SAMMONS

7th Senatorial District
(R) JASON STEPHENS
(D) RON STOLLINGS

8th Senatorial District
(R) ED GAUNCH
(D) RICHARD LINDSAY

9th Senatorial District
(R) ROLLAN A. ROBERTS
(D) WILLIAM R. “BILL” WOOTON

10th Senatorial District
(R) GEORGE BOOGIE AMBLER
(D) STEPHEN BALDWIN

11th Senatorial District
(R) BILL HAMILTON
(D) LAURA M. FINCH

12th Senatorial District
(R) WAYMOND CORK II
(D) MIKE ROMANO

13th Senatorial District
(R) MIKE OLIVERIO
(D) BOB BEACH

14th Senatorial District
(R) DAVE SYPOLT
(D) STEPHANIE ZUCKER

15th Senatorial District
(R) CHARLES S TRUMP IV

16th Senatorial District
(R) MICHAEL CRAIG FOLK
(D) JOHN UNGER

17th Senatorial District
(R) TOM TAKUBO
(D) TERRELL ELLIS

WVARSE proposed legislative goals for 2018-2019

The following proposed legislative goals for 2018-2019 were approved at the July executive board meeting for presentation at annual council.

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 a 1 percent tax on Marcellus, Utica and other lower sand gases together with a 1 percent severance tax on any future cracker plants as a funding source for state public employee's retiree benefits.

- That WVARSE will promote legislation to increase the minimum pension to \$750.00 per month

for those retirees with at least 30 years of service

The only changes from last year's goals are the increase of 1/2 percent to 1 percent for taxes on the lower sand gas and the increase in the existing minimum pension for retirees with at least 30 years of service.

County Presidents 2018-2019

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Marion	Joe Waitkus	812 8th Street Fairmont WV 26554	304 366-3657	jvwaitkus@gmail.com
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Mingo	Freddie Newsome	1417 W. 5th Avenue, Williamson, WV 25661-3414	304 235-1994	fvcnewsome@gmail.com
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Monroe				
Morgan	Kathy Yost	430 Spring Valley Dr. Berkeley Springs WV 25411	304 258-1354	ayost12@frontier.com
Nicholas	John Staat	709 Bright Pond Rd., Summersville, WV 26651-1859	304 872-4757	john.staats2@frontier.com
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Randolph	Donna Auvil	PO Box 2674 Elkins WV 26241	304 636-6468	cvauvil@frontier.com
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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				

WEBSTER COUNTY



David Gillespie recounts the history of the Lover's Lane boardwalk to fellow members of the Webster County Association of Retired School Employees who visited the project as part of their June 6 meeting.

When a county meeting turns into a field trip!

The June 6, 2018 meeting of the Webster County Association of Retired School Employees began as usual, with a light lunch and short business meeting. What followed was an enjoyable day in the June sunshine and a stroll along Lovers' Lane. Association member and retired college librarian David Gillespie returned to his native home in Webster Springs several years ago, with the vision of restoring an historic, but long-gone wooden boardwalk known as Lovers' Lane back in the day, along a steep section of the Back fork of Elk River leading from what was once a hotel and gristmill into town. Investing his own funds as well as much appreciated donations, construction on the project began last September and gained momentum this spring. The sturdy and well-designed structure which has an information kiosk at the beginning and occasional benches, has been wending its way to completion. Following the meeting, Gillespie provided a fascinating introduction to the boardwalk's history; members then piled into their vehicles for a short drive to the start of the project up Back Fork. He pointed out where historic structures once stood and then delved into the details of construction; then it was time to stroll the ready portions of the boardwalk and to view the ongoing activity by workers who were busy measuring, cutting boards, and pounding nails. Everyone agreed that that this brief foray into Webster County's history was a wonderful way to end the meeting, and lauded member David Gillespie for his vision and determination to see the structure to completion. To aid in the effort, the WCARSE made a \$100 donation to the project.

ROANE COUNTY



On Thursday, June 14, the Roane County unit of WVARSE met at the Williams' Farm for a covered dish cookout. Bill & Darlene Milam were guests and Bill shared updates on PEIA and the proposed dues increase for WVARSE. There was a good turnout of about 30, a 50-50 drawing was held to raise money for a scholarship to the Roane County Scholarship Fund, and all enjoyed the food and fellowship.

MORGAN COUNTY



Raynette Lawyer Mock, Linda Martin (member) and Paul Mock

Members of the Morgan County Association of Retired School Employees recently had an exciting field trip (arranged by member Linda Martin) to Mock's greenhouse and farm. Mock's is located in Berkeley Springs and owned and operated by Paul and Raynette Mock. They are producers of year round pesticide free hydroponic produce, high tunnel berries and organic ginger root.

FAYETTE COUNTY



Doug Kincaid, Darlene Allen, and Sylvia Allen participated in the memorial presentation.

FCARSE holds memorial for 29

With a basket of 29 flowers to represent the number of Fayette County public school employees lost in the past year, Darlene Allen conducted a dignified and honorable memorial, Doug Kincaid respectfully read the names of the departed and Sylvia Allen read scripture.

CABELL COUNTY



Pictured are CCARSE members helping with reception, Peggy Sanders, Linda Forinash, Marla Racer, Bonnie Wilcox and Betty Edwards.

The Cabell County Association of Retired School Employees (CCARSE) initiated a project several years ago to celebrate and recognize the retiring county school employees. The organization hosted a reception for employees retiring this year. The reception was held at the Cabell County School Board Offices. “We want to recognize and celebrate the many years of service these fellow school employees have given and who are now retiring,” said Irvin Scarberry, CCARSE’s president.

MERCER COUNTY



Mercer County Association for Retired School Employees has wrapped up another successful year of interesting programs. Pictured here is MCS Technology Information Specialist, Jozette Cooper, instructor for the four day Technology for Seniors Summer Workshop offered through the Mercer County Technology Center. This has become a popular Summer class requested by MCARSE members.

MARION COUNTY



New officers of Marion County Association of Retired School Employees were installed in April by Region 1 Director Charmel Radcliff. Pictured are Joe Waitkus, President; Regional Director Charmel Radcliff, Barbara McDougal, Secretary; and Sandra Michael, Treasurer. Not pictured is Karen Richman, Vice President.

LEWIS COUNTY



LCARSE held its annual Spring Banquet on April 17, 2018 at Broad St. Methodist Church in Weston. A delicious meal was served. Liz Bradford, Scholarship Chair, explained that two scholarships each year to two graduating seniors. The hat was passed and \$184.00 was collected. Carolyn Mulneix, Entertainment Chair, contacted Brian Bailey to sing for the group. He played his guitar and harmonica, and sang. His sister, Lindsey sang with him and played her violin. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

NAEP is looking for retired educators to administer the assessment for the Nation’s Report Card for 6 weeks January to March. AA’s are needed in Kanawha, Putnam and Lincoln counties. Pay is \$13.15 hourly. If you are interested, call Bob Clay (304)452-8670, for more information.

Newsletter Editor:
Darlene Milam
bmilam@suddenlink.net

**Newsletter
deadline:**
Oct. 15, 2018

GILMER COUNTY



Frances Fitzwater GCARSE Past President displaying one of the many Blizzard boxes that were filled by the members.

The Gilmer County Unit of WVARSE has wrapped up another year of community service and inspiring programs. Four scholarships were awarded to two graduating high school seniors, funded by several activities developed by the scholarship committee. Members donated a clothes basket full of personal hygiene items to the local schools, filled Blizzard boxes in conjunction with AARP's guidelines, co-sponsored a retirement planning workshop with Braxton County, donated apples and treats to Gilmer County schools and bus garage during WVARSE Week, and donated countless hours of volunteer hours in the local community. Programs for the year highlighted some of the local "unsung" businesses, an informative presentation for aging, and a touching memorial service. Guest were Jo Ann Harman, WVARSE president and WV State Delegate Brent Boggs.

SUMMERS COUNTY



L - R, Region V Director Steve Bailey and his wife Ruth; 97 year old member Margaret Woodrum; WVARSE Newsletter Editor Darlene Milam and her husband Bill, WVARSE Executive Director

On May 19th, 2018 the Summers County Association of Retired School Employees held its meeting at the historic Graham House in Lowell, WV. State representatives were invited to speak at this meeting. Bill Milam and his wife Darlene attended. Mr. Milam discussed state news from WVARSE. Steve Bailey and his wife Ruth also attended this meeting. Mr. Bailey talked about the need for a cost of living increase for retirees.

A delicious brunch was served by members of the Graham House

Preservation Committee. Pete Tabor conducted a memorial program for Summers County School Retirees that have passed away this year.

The Summers County Association of Retired School Employees met April 7th, 2018 at Oak Grove Methodist Church in Ballengee, WV. Delegates George Amber and Roy Cooper gave an update on current issues the state legislature is working on.

Debbie Clark spoke about the Yummy Bag Program in Summers County. She also explained the vot-

ing for the local BOE. There had been some confusion about the districts and the number of open seats for each district. Jane Meador spoke about local voter registration. She urged members to check before the election and make sure that they are still registered. A number of voters had been dropped from the rolls when their mailing addresses changed to their 911 physical addresses.

Oak Grove Church members served SCARSE members and visitors a delicious lunch and gave everyone in attendance a jar of homemade jelly.

OHIO COUNTY



Charmel Radcliff, Region 1 Director, recently installed the Officers of Ohio County Association of Retired School Employees. Pictured are Officers and Committee Chairpersons.

TYLER COUNTY

The Tyler County Association of Retired School Employees plan to participate in the Back to School Fair that will be held August 6th, 2018 at the Sistersville Elementary School, Sistersville, WV. This is held by the Family Resource Network and is headed by Katrina Byers. TCARSE donated \$200 to the Network for purchase of school supplies such as notebooks, to be given out to the students in Tyler County so they will be ready for school starting on August 13, 2018.

TCARSE donated money last year for notebooks and had a table at the Back to School Fair held at the Tyler Consolidated School in Middlebourne, WV and handed out notebooks to the students. Michele Burkhardt, Rene Hickman, and Marian Haught were there last year and really enjoyed handing out the notebooks to the students. A lot of the parents were former students at the schools when the ladies worked there, so it was a treat to see them and their children. They plan to hand out the notebooks again this year on August 6.

2017-2018 Volunteer Hours

By Liz Bradford

Once again, we exceeded a Million and a Half Hours of Volunteer Hours. At the NRTA National hourly rate of \$22.00 for senior volunteer hours, our total represents a donation of \$34,611,698.00 to the state of West Virginia. Five of the six regions increased their total Volunteer Hours over last year. Thank you to every volunteer who reported their hours this year and made this increase possible.

Region	Youth	Other	Total
1	28,318	114,331	142,649
2	104,685	276,600	381,285
3	12,920	244,777	257,697
4	40,299	63,531	103,830
5	62,874	182,703	245,577
6	63,829	378,392	442,221
Total:	312,925	1,260,334	1,573,259

BOONE COUNTY



Representing BCARSE at the 25th Coal Festival Parade.

Caution Needed

By Irvin Scarberry
Chair WVARSE I & P Committee

As I write to you as fellow WVARSE members, I begin with words you may have heard many times over – Beware of scams! Scams come in many forms. These may come to you via the internet, by phone, by US Mail or even through your local newspaper.

Never respond to internet messages from addresses you do not recognize or from businesses you do not know. If the contact is from a business that you are not currently dealing with or have other familiarity with, do not respond in any manner.

If you receive a telephone call from a number unknown to you, do not answer; but if you do, be extremely cautious. Never give your social security or bank account numbers to any unfamiliar caller. Know for a surety that the IRS or other government agencies DO NOT call and threaten to have you arrested. If you are told you have won a prize of any kind for which you have not registered, be cautious, for most likely you will be asked to submit some form of payment in the end.

Should you receive a notice as to your great sweepstakes win through the US Mail, I encourage you not to respond unless you have previously entered such a sweepstake. Even then, be very cautious. An old adage we all heard in our younger life needs to be followed here — Nothing good or worth having comes free.

Exercise caution when you see advertisements for Free Lunch Seminars. There are several which may be very legitimate, but there are also those which are merely out to separate you and your money.

By this time you may have received your new card from Medicare. West Virginia recipients are included among the first states to receive these cards. If you haven't received this as yet, be alert that it is coming. Your new Medicare Card has an eleven character randomly generated number. You do not need to take any action or pay anyone to get your new card. As with your previous card, exercise caution in giving this information to anyone other than your healthcare providers

For additional information regarding this card, go to <https://www.medicare.gov/newcard>.

As I close, let me simply state that you have worked to earn your money and your benefits and you are to be commended for such. Do not let scammers of any nature rob you of any portion of those earnings.

Region VI Meeting



The Region VI Meeting was held on Monday, June 11, at the Forman Center in the picturesque village of Lahmansville. The program was under the direction of Patty Adkins, Regional Director, and hosted by the Grant County Association of Retired School Employees. Guests and presenters included Bill Milam, Executive Director of WVARSE; Mary Ann Ferris, President-elect of WVARSE; Darlene Milam, Newsletter Editor; Mary Gill, NRTA/WVARSE Coordinator; Rich Stonestreet AARP/WV President; Scott Rogers, Humana Account Executive; and Jo Ann Harman, WVARSE President. Workshop meetings were chaired by Mary Ann Ferris, Presidents; Orpha Orndorff, Community Service; Betty Inskeep, I & P; Legislative, David Adkins; Membership, Erma Moyers. A gourmet Italian buffet luncheon was catered by Puttin' on the Ritz, and favors were miniature bottles of maple syrup made in Grant County. Denis Chapman, a WVARSE member from Cabell County, who is an internationally known singer and dramatic reader, delightfully entertained the attendees.

TAYLOR COUNTY



Region II of the WV Association of Retired School Employees met June 13, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg. The program consisted of representatives from AMBA and Humana providing the group with benefit information and answering questions members may have also in attendance were AARP WV State President, the AARP Liaison and WVARSE President-elect and Executive Director. Break out committee meetings were held and reports given to the group. Taylor County Retirees held the annual picnic July 20 at 4:30 PM at the first Baptist Church pavilion, US 119 S.

YOUR

MEMBER GUIDE TO ASSOCIATION BENEFITS



Home Health Care Insurance

This policy is designed as an affordable solution that helps give you the flexibility and freedom to utilize the type of care that's right for you – in your very own home.

Long Term Care Insurance

AMBA will build a policy to match your needs. You select the daily benefit amount, elimination period, and benefit period which best suits your needs for care. The policy features include no prior hospital stay and no waiting period for pre-existing conditions.

Dental & Vision Plans

Freedom to use any dentist and no network required. Routine cleanings and exams are part of the plan and there are no referrals required for specialty care. Vision Service Plan (VSP) is the largest national eye care company. VSP offers one-stop shopping and discounts for all your eye care needs.

Medicare Supplement Plans

This plan offers the freedom of choice to select the doctors, hospitals, and clinics that members want, and they will never be cancelled because of age or health.

Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident Insurance

Benefits paid directly to you. Members select the benefit level that best suits their needs.

Final Expense Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance

Members can have peace of mind knowing that their premiums are guaranteed never to increase and their coverage is guaranteed never to decrease.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

MASA is dedicated to providing life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise.

Annuity

Tax-deferred accumulation of interest, guaranteed competitive interest rate, multiple payout options, and a nursing home waiver.

American Hearing Benefits (AHB)

AHB offers members a complete hearing evaluation, warranty on digital technology aids in any style, loss and damage protection, and batteries with a complete benefit package.

americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/amba

888-200-5701 | Discount code AMBA

DID YOU KNOW?

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Enroll today and start saving!

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La Quinta Inns & Suites Discount

15% discount at select locations nationwide.
800.531.5900 | www.LQ.com | Code: AMBA

Rental Car Discounts

Avis: 800.331.1212	www.avis.com	Code: AWD# G725000
Budget: 800.527.0700	www.budget.com	Code: (BCD) X925500
Hertz: 800.654.2210	www.hertz.com	Code: CDP# 1860896

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First-time Road Scholar participants are eligible for either a \$200 gift certificate good toward any international adventure or a \$75 gift certificate good for any North American Adventure.
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Code: AMBA

Apple

1-800-MY-APPLE | Code: AMBA
<http://store.apple.com/us/go/eppstore/amba>
Not all products are eligible.

Dell Computer Discounts

866.257.4711 | www.Dell.com/mpp/amba | Code: GS530005355936

Nationwide Pet Insurance

Get a 5% discount on new pet insurance policies:
www.petinsurance.com/amba

Some benefits not available in all states. Association membership required to obtain benefits. Some associations have made a special benefits website available to their members. Register at myAMBAbenefits.info.

Nominating Committee Report

The WVARSE nominating committee will submit the following names for consideration:

President-elect Irvin Scarberry, Cabell, Region IV
Secretary Pam Schimmel, Marshall, Region I
Region II Director Martha Dean, Webster
Region IV Director Denis Chapman, Cabell
Region VI Director John Moyers, Grant

Honoring our Vets

By Darlene Milam
Newsletter Editor

With this period of dis-sentation and disagreements in the US, it is important to remember our roots, the beginnings of our country, who we are and for what we stand. We do this by honoring the women and men who have fought in our military, keeping our country and families safe.

If you are or know a living WVARSE member who served in the military,

write an article about this Vet's experience in the military with any honors received. Include a picture during military service and a recent photo.

I chose our first article to be about Okey Edgell, a WVARSE member, and also the husband of past WVARSE President Arlene Edgell.

After reading the article, you will understand the choice.

Thanks to all our veterans, present and past.

~ In Memoriam ~

KANAWHA

Thelma Conley

Mary A. Price

NICHOLAS

Dorise F Brugnoli

Flora Rosalie Coe

Joseph A Hurd

Eunice W Kitchen

Robert Homer Summers

ROANE

Deborah Kay Ray

Wilca Lu Ann Stewart

WIRT

Mary Azalee Carr Perrine

Rev. Lewis Villers

WVARSE Membership Report

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2018

Membership Year
July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

	Last Yr	Current	Potential
UTA	0	1	0
TOTAL	0	1	0

REGION I	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BROOKE	169	173	463
FAIRMONT	17	14	122
HANCOCK	224	211	559
MARION	239	221	884
MARSHALL	193	189	674
MONONGALIA	156	148	909
OHIO	314	299	594
PLEASANTS	86	83	172
TYLER	60	64	165
W. LIBERTY	1	1	42
WETZEL	65	90	346
WVU	27	27	556
TOTAL	1551	1520	5486

REGION II	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BARBOUR	105	97	289
BRAXTON	83	89	291
DODDRIDGE	20	7	141
GILMER	42	56	136
GLENVILLE	13	15	80
HARRISON	338	327	1145
LEWIS	107	104	294
PRESTON	161	151	510
RANDOLPH	181	190	470
TAYLOR	144	132	258
TUCKER	57	58	140
UPSHUR	262	251	435
WEBSTER	69	60	233
TOTAL	1582	1537	4422

REGION III	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BOONE	228	231	518
CALHOUN	21	9	157
CLAY	15	15	218
JACKSON	137	136	460
KANAWHA	388	338	3281
RITCHIE	30	31	173
ROANE	57	62	265
STATE DEPT	36	33	396
WIRT	61	75	111
WOOD	343	299	1530
WVS	5	5	72
TOTAL	1321	1234	7181

REGION IV	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CABELL	183	191	1456
LINCOLN	114	110	435
LOGAN	33	36	741
MASON	58	65	447
MINGO	28	27	664
MU	6	6	223
PUTNAM	151	143	786
WAYNE	150	129	808
TOTAL	723	707	5560

REGION V	Last Yr	Current	Potential
CONCORD	3	1	65
FAYETTE	159	159	836
GREENBRIER	132	130	643
MCDOWELL	153	170	697
MERCER	241	253	1201
MONROE	16	15	226
NICHOLAS	110	111	518
POCAHONTAS	100	108	168
RALEIGH	172	159	1351
SUMMERS	110	112	235
WVIT	3	3	5
WYOMING	95	92	580
TOTAL	1294	1313	6525

REGION VI	Last Yr	Current	Potential
BERKELEY	174	190	952
DEAF & BLIND	35	29	175
GRANT	63	95	214
HAMPSHIRE	69	65	281
HARDY	33	39	199
JEFFERSON	123	120	516
MINERAL	125	140	442
MORGAN	82	76	211
PENDLETON	54	44	162
POTOMAC	5	7	7
SHEPHERD	5	4	29
TOTAL	768	809	3188

Total Members	Last Yr	Current	Potential
	7239	7121	32362

A	203
AN	43
D	188
L	2894
N	324
NL	212
R	2991
RN	268
Total	7121

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

Contact us:

WVARSE,
200
Elizabeth
St.,
Charleston,
WV 25311

304-
610-0192

www.
wvarse.org

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM

DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

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	\$ 15.00
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 _____ IF CHANGED
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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.

Our hero: Okla 'Okey' Edgell

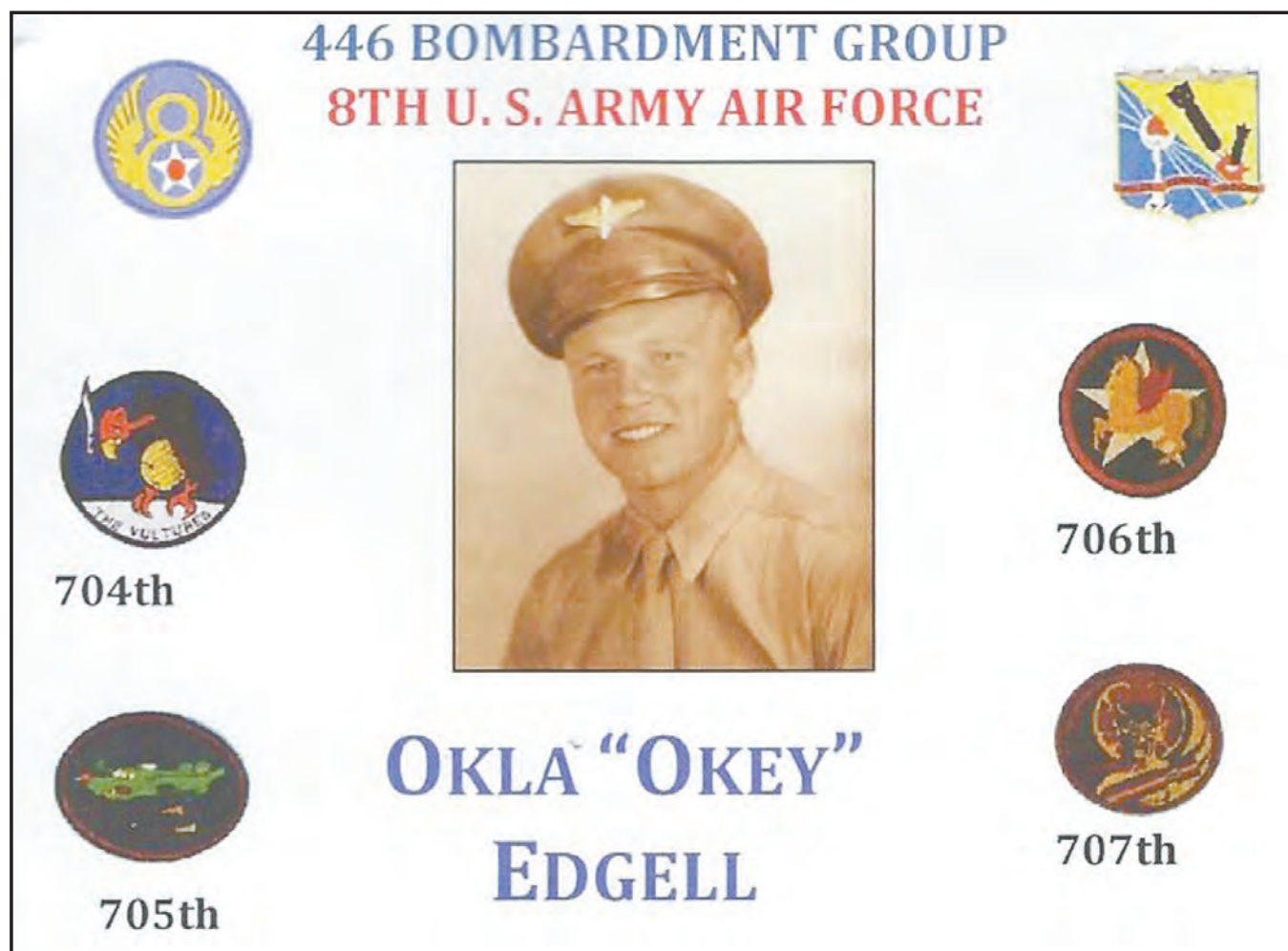
Okla Edgell, a Life Member of the Taylor County ARSE and the West Virginia ARSE, was born and raised in Marion County. He graduated from Monongah High School in 1944. When he was 17, he dropped out of school to join the Army Air Corps because he did not want to be drafted into the Army. He already had enough credits to graduate from high school. He had enrolled in classes at Fairmont State College to guarantee his graduation.

Okla was sent to Kentucky when he entered the Air Force. He was then sent to Miami Beach, FL, for basic training. He had signed up for pilot training but all the enlistees were sent elsewhere because there were too many men who wanted to be pilots. Okey, as he was known, then signed up for gunnery school. He was sent to a commando school to go fight behind the Japanese lines in Burma. While he was packing for this trip, his request came through for gunnery school. Out of 100 guys, 32 were picked to go to Burma, including Okey. He refused to sign the release so he continued to gunnery school. He was sent to Panama City, FL, where he was trained on B-17 bombers. From there he was sent to South Carolina where he was trained on B-24s. He was then shipped overseas and was stationed in Bungay, England. All airmen were sent to bomb targets in Germany.

It was on his 13th mission on April 5, 1944, to bomb the ball bearing factory in Bayreuth, German, that his crew encountered bad weather conditions. The formation had to spread out and break up. The pilot found some open clouds and pulled up behind four B-17 Flying Fortresses. All planes headed for home over the Netherlands and the English Channel. The group immediately encountered heavy flak. Two

B-17s were hit and one crashed in France. Five chutes were seen dropping from the other one. Those five men were later sent to the same prison camp that Okey was in. Okey's plane was then hit and one engine was knocked out while the second one was damaged. Another flak hit the bomb bay and jammed the doors shut. The plane turned toward France. They dropped through the lower clouds West of Amsterdam. German tracers now looked like a snow storm. It looked like all the tulips were firing at them. Four of the eight crew members were killed and four crashed with the Co-pilot at the wheel. They were all severely injured and captured by the Germans.

The four survivors were first taken to a farm house (on the back of a truck) where they were hidden in the attic. Then they were transported to the rear of a medical center and were laid on the floor in the dining room. The next day they were taken to a hospital and kept until they recuperated. Okey was taken to a jail in Rotterdam and placed on a fir-



ing squad platform. The regular German soldiers fought with the SS and Okey was then taken to a solid dark isolation cell for three days. On the third day, the regular soldiers smuggled him, before daybreak, out of the cell, and took him to a prison camp in Aalsmeer, Holland, and he remained there until all prisoners were liberated on May 9, 1945. Okey is the only member of this crew who is still alive.

When he finally arrived back in the States, he attended an electrical school in Illinois. He served his entire working life as a Certified Electrician. He joined an AX-POW group in Washington and was an active member. He also joined another AX-POW group in Arizona.

In 2006, after the death of his spouse, he returned to West Virginia and married his high school sweetheart, Arlene Marteney Decker. They both became life members of the AX-POW Association and the West Virginia Chapter. He served as a State Commander for four years and still plays an active role in the Organization. He and Arlene attended seven National Conventions.

Okey is also a life member of the Purple Heart Association, the 446 Bomb Group Association, the Anmoore CEOS, and the Harrison County CEOS. Okey gave the opening speech of the Purple Heart Association on Veterans Day 2017 and he has spoken several times at other military groups. After his speech, he served as Parade Marshall and led



Arlene and Okey Edgell

the parade.

Okey was selected by Kip Price in 2017 as a WWII Veteran from Marion County and his picture was placed in an ornament in the Marion County Court House. An 8 x 10 picture also hangs on the Wall of Valor in Walmart in Fairmont and in the WWII Museum in Weston. He was presented with a book containing

the photographs of all veterans from Marion County and this fall his story will be written in the next publication.

Okey has written a book, with many pictures, of his military experiences and this book will be published during the 2nd week of July. It will be available by contacting him and will bear his signature.