West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees

Affiliated with AARP/NRTA







VOLUME 30 • NUMBER 4 Spring • 2021

Volunteer Hours 2021 Style

You know, last year when I was told we were collecting Volunteer hours, I almost said WHAAAAT? I couldn't imagine getting anything! I was shocked to call and have my collectors in Region III give me almost the same number of hours they had given me the year before!!! Only for different things. We must look at this with a different eye!

We know that Volunteerism means "DOING THINGS FOR OTHERS THAT WE DON'T GET PAID FOR!!!" Or "IF I DON'T DO IT, SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO PAY TO HAVE IT DONE!" Think COVID!!!

We were all in, many had not gotten shots and feared the worst if we went out. Church and Funerals mostly were closed; and some had caught Covid from our kids in school. Even the hairdresser was out of bounds. What did we do to help those who could not

(easily or at all) help themselves? Check on them? Get their groceries, medicines, or take them to the doctor? Who did you take a meal to or bring in their mail? Did you make that trip to get the free meals for kids or adults? Did you do a load of laundry or clean up a mess in their kitchen? Think of every little thing you did for them (YES, FAMILY too!!!). Maybe you moved in with them or brought them over during bad bad weather.

And what about the kids? Did you help tutor, babysit, help them concentrate and work with the virtual learning, pick them up after school and keep them until parents got home from work?

Did you help with food drives or food banks? Make phone calls and send cards?

All these take time, effort, and love. Be generous as you count the hours. And on your errands, count the time from when you started until you got home. If you stayed

constantly with an ill person, or they stayed nights with you, you may be counting 24/7 effort! They needed to be safe and cared for thru the night as well. It ALL counts and does not detract in any way from your help!

Maybe you are back to church now, teaching, singing, practicing, and preparing.

"ANYTHING YOU DO AND DON'T GET PAID FOR!!" Start counting.

Don't wait for your Community Service chair or caller to call you, get those hours to him/her by May 10th and really learn the creative ways we seniors are SERVING AND NOT BEING SERVED!

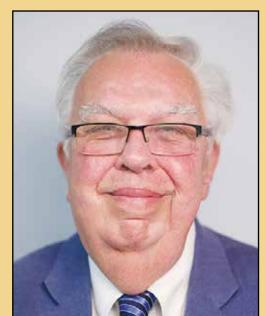
P.S. Callers, this is a handy dandy tool to use as you call your members and walk them through, collecting their hours!

Mary Pat Glover

From Your President

As I write this message, the sun is shining brightly, and the temperature is thirty plus degrees higher than the same day last week. The past few days have been equally pleasant. I sincerely hope this is a sign that spring is ready to edge out winter and assume its position of preeminence. I trust that each of you are well and safe and have been able to endure the winter without any major concerns. I am sure that each of us is ready to bid farewell to winter with its mixed bag of cold, freezing rain, snow, and ice. Spring, with all its glory, is truly welcome to come and stay for a period at my house.

I shared with you in my previous message how honored I feel to serve you in this position. That feeling remains as strong now as when I previously communicated it to you. WVARSE continues to be a strong, active organization despite the barriers presented to us through



IRVIN SCARBERRY WVARSE President

the pandemic. Our mission remains the same. Let me share with you once again our Mission Statement: "The West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees shall promote the professional, economic, intellectual and social wellbeing of its members and shall encourage volunteer opportunities throughout West Virginia."

Our Executive Board, our Executive Director and I remain committed to the fulfillment of this mission. Due to the present circumstances, our methods of accomplishing this mission have been altered, but I can assure you that the work of our organization continues. Instead of face-to-face meetings, we have utilized available technology to maintain contact. I readily admit that technology, specifically computer technology, and I have never had a strong relationship. Thankfully, our Executive Director Bill Milam and others have had a stronger relationship and have been able to guide us through this venture. While I may never reach the expert level in this area, I am much more comfortable than before.

See President, Page 2

Medicare Advantage Plans offered on TV

Many of you are seeing ads on TV concerning Medicare Advantage plans which offer Dental, Vision and other items not available in our plan. These ads are not being paid by Medicare – but by venders and when you respond, they will use everything in their power to convince you that their plan is the best for you. Be incredibly careful when considering accepting any of these plans. Once you accept a plan – you will be automatically taken out of PEIA/Humana. It is a long process to get back into the plan. The PEIA/Humana plan has many features that are not available in any other Medicare Advantage plan. You do not want to lose the rich benefits in the PEIA plan. Those ads that offer money to those who participate do not tell you that only low-income people qualify. PEIA tells me that they are receiving many calls concerning this and prefer not to have to deal with it. Just ignore the ads, phone calls, emails and/or mailings. The PEIA/Humana plan is the best for retirees.

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WVARSE Newsletter 200 Elizabeth Street Charleston, WV 25311

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



William G. 'Bill' Milam **Executive Director**

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the Legislature will have completed this ses-

sion. WVARSE was not successful in getting it's bill passed asking for an increase of \$2 per month for each year experience for retirees who have been retired 25 or more years. It was introduced, but the wording was not correct. John Taylor talked with Delegate Graves about the needed corrections and was informed that our pensions bill will NOT run in any form this year. The House was pushing their own Income Tax Bill and they would NOT run anything else that has a cost to it.

Several bills were introduced (At the time of this writing Legislature is actively working on legislative bills) during the 2021 Legislative session which affect PEIA: SB 1

• Providing parity of payment for telehealth services between service inperson and service provided through telehealth platform. SB 39 • Prohibits insurance coverage from requiring prior authorization for tests to stage cancer. SB 398 • Limits eligibility of certain employers to participate in PEIA plans. SB 516 • Related to PEIA inpatient rates. HB 2005 • Relates to health care costs. **HB 2263**

• Updates the regulation of pharmacy benefit managers. **HB 2634 •** Coverage for the treatment of chronic pain. **HB 2965**

• Requires PEIA, Medicaid and other health insurance providers to cover treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders.

Presently, funding looks good for PEIA. I spoke with Ted Cheatham, PEIA Director, and he related the following to me, "There will be no changes in benefits or premiums in the next two years then there will be very minimal changes."

During the past year CO-VID-19 affected everyone. Many units didn't meet face to face, and some didn't meet at all. The WVARSE board met virtually via ZOOM and some units also met using ZOOM. The board met last week and decided that we will not have a Leadership Conference nor regional meetings this year. We are hopeful that we will be able to meet at least for a one-day Annual Council. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated. As they say in Ohio - "Don't hesitate -vaccinate".

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. Dues deductible as a method of paying dues works well and each unit should encourage members to use it. We currently have 175 members actively enrolled. We still accept the old enrollment forms and members can enroll on the website. 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 bmilam@ suddenlink.net so that I can update my files.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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AMBA Insurance Joe Maddalon (724) 766-1691 Joe.maddalon@amba.info

President

From Page 1

We have used conference telephone calls and Zoom meetings to stay connected. Since communication is an important element of the success of any organization, technology utilization has proven to be an unbelievably valuable tool for us. Our November 2020 was conducted via Zoom. Our board meetings of March 16, 2021 and May 4, 2021 will be utilizing this same app. The Leadership Training Conference on May 5, 2021 will be via Zoom. Additional details regarding the Leadership Training Conference will be forwarded to you when the planning for that event is finalized.

The board is monitoring future activities and how these will be conducted. Regional Meetings and Annual Council are two such activities being examined carefully. The situation with virus spread and vaccine progress are key factors regarding how these activities will be conducted. Each of our Regional Directors has been asked to proceed with making contacts and continue to make plans for

conducting Regional Meetings.Once again, you will be informed as to the final plans for your Region as soon as these decisions are made.

By the time you are reading this message, the Executive Board will have had its March 16 session. Any changes made in Honor Points, report deadlines or other related activities will be communicated to your local units in a timely manner. I suppose my final note here is stay tuned for future information.

Since I mentioned earlier in this communication my reluctance to utilizing technology, I would like to share some of my experiences in this realm. Since attendance at face-to-face meetings has not been possible, technology has provided me with the ability to remain actively engaged. The telephone has been utilized on several individual and conference calls. My 'new friend," the computer, has been my means of being a participant in many meetings. Contacts with several of my WVARSE colleagues have also been made using this "new friend."

Several members of our organization are members

of the West Virginia AARP Capitol Advocacy Team. All our trainings and regular legislative updates have been conducted via Zoom. Our WVARSE Legislative Committee met using this app, and this allowed our legislative chairs from all of our regions to participate.

Technology allowed me the privilege to visit with the Greenbrier County Unit in their February meeting, and I plan to meet with the Morgan County Unit in April. As mentioned earlier, the November 3, 2020, March 16,2021 board meetings were Zoom meetings, and our May 5, 2021 meeting will be as well. Again, I am, nor perhaps will I ever be the expert in technology use, but it has certainly proven to be an extremely beneficial tool in my ability to stay actively engaged in our organization.

As I conclude my remarks, I wish to encourage each of you to keep reaching out to recruit new members. Though the barriers may remain, may I also encourage you to keep your local unit as active as possible whether you meet using social distancing or via Zoom. Despite these

obstacles, I still believe we can accomplish a five percent or more increase in our membership. Our Past President Mary Ann Ferris asked us to SMILE - Seek Members in Locations Everywhere. I ask you to Keep on Smiling.

Hopefully if we follow the guidelines and get vaccinated, we will get that Herd Immunity and be able to meet face-to-face again in the extremely near future.

In closing, I would like to share with you a few expressions I read on decorative wall plaques. They are not earth-shaking statements but are perhaps tidbits worth pondering.

"There is always something to be grateful for."

"Enjoy the little things in life for someday you will realize they were the big things.'

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain."

"Life is like a camera. Focus on what is important. Capture good times. Develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, take another shot."

Stay safe and Keep on Smiling.

CONTACT US

WVARSE, 200 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV 25311 304-610-0192 • www.wvarse.org

BRAXTON COUNTY

Braxton County Association of Retired School Employees

This year has been a challenge for our whole world, but, as always, school personnel stepped up to support children. So, as students headed back in October, BCARSE wished them success and resilience. As a token of appreciation, BCARSE members supplied them with a few goodies.





GILMER COUNTY

The Gilmer County Senior Center is closed due to the pandemic; therefore, GCARSE has not been able to hold meetings. Even though they did not hold face to face meetings, they kept in contact via-internet. Members were shown how to contact legislators and were given speaking points to use in their communication. Also, members were informed of the invalid letter concerning Humana Insurance.

The Scholarship Committee conducted an extraordinarily successful on-line basket fund-raiser. In November, some members donated items to the Blessings Box, and a monetary gift was given to the Gilmer County High School to purchase toiletries for needy students.

Members have been encouraged to receive the vaccine; so, hopefully they can meet soon.

PUTNAM COUNTY

At their November meeting, members of the Putnam County Association of Retired School Employees voted to adopt two children for the Christmas Blessings Program in Putnam county. They obtained a list from the City of Hurricane for the items needed for the children to make their Christmas a happy one. Members have done this for the last two years and it is rewarding for everyone involved.

Newsletter Editor:
Darlene Milam
bmilam@suddenlink.net

MORGAN COUNTY



L One of the newest Morgan County Association of Retired School Employees members, Maritza Sadowsky presented a virtual piano recital at the March meeting.

Maritza Mascarenhas Sadowsky (Dr. "M") was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and came to the United States in 1981 to continue her graduate studies in music. She has a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Miami, FL, a Master of Arts in Music History and Piano Performance from the University of Pittsburgh, PA, and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the Rio de Janeiro Federal University, Brazil. In addition, she has continued studies in Music Education from the Universities of Miami, Virginia, Phoenix, and Piano Performance from the Hochschule fur Musik in Vienna, Austria.

Dr. "M" moved to Berkeley Springs in January 2020 after retiring from teaching at Elementary Schools in Arlington Public Schools, VA. One of her expertise has been teaching music to children who have been diagnosed with severe Autism Spectrum Disorder. In 2014, she received the "Bettie Keiger Best Music Educator Award" in Northern Virginia.

Dr. "M" is an accomplished pianist and has presented numerous lectures, workshops, and performances at conferences in Europe, South America, and the U.S. In addition, she is the past president for the Virginia Elementary Music Education Association (VEMEA) from 2018-2020. She is the author of two e-books published by Alfred Music: "The Tale of Guido D'Arezzo" and "JP's Sousaphone."

The Morgan County unit is so happy to have Maritza "Dr. M" a part of their group. What an asset and they can hardly wait to have Dr. M do an in-person recital!

LEWIS COUNTY



Debby Walker, Vice President of the Lewis County Chapter of WVARSE, has been remarkably busy during the past year helping to promote a special project to benefit the youth of Lewis County. As President of the Lewis County 4-H Youth Foundation, she has worked with others to begin building a Lewis County 4-H Center. During the summer and fall, work began on a log structure that will be a multipurpose building for activities, project workshops and meetings. A Council Circle has been constructed and plans for a picnic pavilion are in the works. "This has been a dream for the 4-H Leaders in our county for many years", Walker said. "Even during this difficult time of the pandemic, so many volunteers and local businesses in the community have worked together to begin this project to make a place for 4-H to continue to grow. I am proud to serve with them. "

GREENBRIER COUNTY

ZOOM IN GREENBRER COUNTY!

Greenbrier County Association of Retired School Employees had not met or had any contact for over a year. Alice Roth, Membership Chairperson suggested they try a Zoom meeting. President Danny Gray set up a Zoom meeting on February 1, 2021 at 10;30. This meeting was set using the free zoom meetings. State President, Irvin Scarberry was the speaker for this meeting. Irvin gave an incredibly good talk about WVARSE, its goals and a legislative update. President Gray then ask for update for on illness or deaths of the members from Greenbrier County. A general discussion was held

on what members had been doing in the year they have not been able to meet in person. The meeting ended at 11:10 because free Zoom meeting are limited to 40 minutes. The group wanted to meet again on March 5 but wanted a longer meeting.

President Gray contacted Bill Milam to see if it was possible to use WVARSE Zoom license for the meeting. Bill told us he would be glad to help. So, on March 5, GCARSE had its second Zoom meeting using the WVARSE license so the meeting could last as long as wanted. Jane Marks, State AARP Volunteer President

was the speaker. Jane reviewed the work that AARP was doing during the legislative session for their members 50 plus. Again, the members reviewed any more deaths or illness for GCARSE. The third meeting was planned for April 2.

Give Zoom a try. It is quite simple. If Danny Gray can use it, anybody can use zoom. You can use a computer, I-pad, or phone for zoom. You can also have speakers who would have trouble visiting all our meeting locations on zoom with extraordinarily little work.

ROANE COUNTY

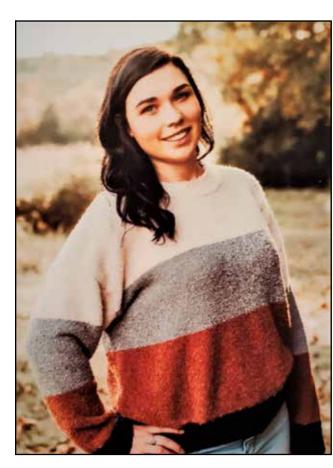
Roane County met on March 10th and celebrated the Festival of Life in the Cracks Day by finding the first signs of spring in the greenery in the cracks of the sidewalk. The Festival of Life in the Cracks is a day to celebrate rebirth and renewal in life, a day to see beauty and life everywhere. Members also checked out the new story, *Kite Day a Bear* and *Mole Story* by Will Hillenbrand. Members discussed fund raising ideas for the scholarship fund and ways to recruit new members. Barbara Owens was the door prize winner, a \$25.00 gift card from Main Street Exxon.



Barbara Owens



MERCER COUNTY



The Mercer County Retired School Employees Association is pleased to report that, for the first time since establishing the Marguerite Miller Mercer County Association for Retired School Employees Scholarship in 2017, we have a Spring 2021 recipient, Brianna Shrewsbury. Brianna is a product of Mercer County Schools and is currently finishing the student teaching portion of her education degree. She is the first in her family to attend college, has been the recipient of several community organization scholarships, and hopes to graduate with honors.

BARBOUR COUNTY

Barbour County's Game Day Designed to Beat the Winter Blues

Although it was disrupted by COVID restrictions this year, one of the mid-winter highlights of the Barbour County association's each year is its Fun-and-Games brunch get-together. Normally scheduled in mid-February to help fill the gap between fall and spring, the unofficial gathering features a series of games, quizzes and team-building exercises. For an hour or two, BCARSE members compete with one another and themselves in solving puzzles answering trivia questions and participating in movement events such as the Left-Right game.

Set for mid-morning, the relaxing event allows participants to enjoy socializing with each other while having a chance to win some modest prizes. A healthy menu that includes fruits, cheeses, pastries and assorted drinks is provided for refreshment. The organization hopes that the weather and decreasing health concerns will allow this enjoyable activity to return to the BCARSE calendar in 2022.

~ In Memoriam ~

BARBOUR

John Armentrout Charles "Digger" Schola

BERKELEY

Elinoe Edwards

BOONE

Norman Lee Harper Delores Ann Hill Katherine Ann Jarrell Kenneth Mabe

BRAXTON

Darlena Riffle

BROOKE

William C Bayless Paul "Bud" Billiard Rosalie A. Scherich

FAYETTE

Mary Virginia Lewis Annetta W Myers

GREENBRIER

Patricia Anne Brackenrich

HAMPSHIRE

Carolyn Bowman Dorothy R McCormick Dorothy Buckley Swisher

HANCOCK

Sue Allison Nicholas Mourat Linda Romitti

HARRISON

Thomas E. Bell William Randall Hall Sue Bice Livingston Mary Marie (Rose) Rice

JACKSON

Roy Dean Boggess Flora Lee Floto Lora Stone

JEFFERSON

Mary Belle Starliper

LINCOLN

Emma J. Miller Madeline M. Kiser

KANAWHA

Maxine Cottrell Joanne Crozier Carolyn E Miller Marion R Miller Marita S Reed Don Wilson

MARSHALL

Paul "Kenny" Kahlbaugh Robert "Bob" Hanket

MASON

Doris Cromley

MCDOWELL

Hester Anglin **Leroy Courts** Geneva Hatfield Robert Tibbs Dellis L. Martin

MERCER

Larry B. Snider Elsie M. Treolo

PUTNAM

Roy Alford

TAYLOR

Robert Edward Bartlett Richard Joseph Bolyard Betty M. Boylen Sylvia M Fuller G. Darlene Haddix Rosemary Jeannine Mankins Inez Sapp Geraldine M. Veltri

WEBSTER

Dr Stanley Anderson Cathy Van Skiver Gwendolyn Carpenter

WIRT

Mary Ellen Chapman Mary Louise Smith

DEAF& BLIND

Norma Czernicki

WVARSE Membership Report

Friday, March 19, 2021

Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2021

| REGION I | Last Yr | Current | Potential |
|------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| BROOKE | 169 | 159 | 463 |
| FAIRMONT | 17 | 12 | 122 |
| HANCOCK | 224 | 157 | 559 |
| MARION | 239 | 189 | 884 |
| MARSHALL | 193 | 128 | 674 |
| MONONGALIA | 156 | 94 | 909 |
| OHIO | 314 | 257 | 594 |
| PLEASANTS | 86 | 75 | 172 |
| TYLER | 60 | 48 | 165 |
| W. LIBERTY | 1 | 1 | 42 |
| WETZEL | 65 | 43 | 346 |
| WVU | 27 | 25 | 556 |
| TOTAL | 1551 | 1188 | 5486 |
| | | | |

| REGION II | Last Yr | Current | Potential |
|------------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| BARBOUR | 105 | 80 | 289 |
| BRAXTON | 83 | 85 | 291 |
| DODDRIDGE | 20 | 7 | 141 |
| GILMER | 42 | 28 | 136 |
| GLENVILLE | 13 | 10 | 80 |
| HARRISON | 338 | 267 | 1145 |
| LEWIS | 107 | 39 | 294 |
| PRESTON | 161 | 105 | 510 |
| RANDOLPH | 181 | 138 | 470 |
| TAYLOR | 144 | 105 | 258 |
| TUCKER | 57 | 62 | 140 |
| UPSHUR | 262 | 232 | 435 |
| WEBSTER | 69 | 49 | 233 |
| TOTAL | 1582 | 1207 | 4422 |

| REGION III | Last Yr | Current | Potential |
|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| BOONE | 228 | 187 | 518 |
| CALHOUN | 21 | 6 | 157 |
| CLAY | 15 | 17 | 218 |
| JACKSON | 137 | 111 | 460 |
| KANAWHA | 388 | 300 | 3281 |
| RITCHIE | 30 | 28 | 173 |
| ROANE | 57 | 63 | 265 |
| STATE DEPT | 36 | 26 | 396 |
| WIRT | 61 | 67 | 111 |
| WOOD | 343 | 228 | 1530 |
| WVS | 5 | 5 | 72 |
| TOTAL | 1321 | 1038 | 7181 |

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

Membership Year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

| REGION IV | Last Yr | Current | Potential |
|------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| CABELL | 183 | 127 | 1456 |
| LINCOLN | 114 | 89 | 435 |
| LOGAN | 33 | 34 | 741 |
| MASON | 58 | 36 | 447 |
| MINGO | 28 | 26 | 664 |
| MU | 6 | 5 | 223 |
| PUTNAM | 151 | 110 | 786 |
| WAYNE | 150 | 94 | 808 |
| TOTAL | 723 | 521 | 5560 |
| REGION V | Last Yr | Current | Potential |
| CONCORD | 2 | 4 | CF |

| 11201011 | Last 11 | Cultent | i otenna |
|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| CONCORD | 3 | 1 | 65 |
| FAYETTE | 159 | 130 | 836 |
| GREENBRIER | 132 | 105 | 643 |
| MCDOWELL | 153 | 73 | 697 |
| MERCER | 241 | 169 | 1201 |
| MONROE | 16 | 13 | 226 |
| NICHOLAS | 110 | 92 | 518 |
| POCAHONTAS | 100 | 96 | 168 |
| RALEIGH | 172 | 98 | 1351 |
| SUMMERS | 110 | 79 | 235 |
| WVIT | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| WYOMING | 95 | 77 | 580 |
| TOTAL | 1294 | 936 | 6525 |
| | | | |

| REGION VI | Last Yr | Current | Potential |
|------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| BERKELEY | 174 | 163 | 952 |
| DEAF & BLIND | 35 | 25 | 175 |
| GRANT | 63 | 102 | 214 |
| HAMPSHIRE | 69 | 59 | 281 |
| HARDY | 33 | 35 | 199 |
| JEFFERSON | 123 | 93 | 516 |
| MINERAL | 125 | 130 | 442 |
| MORGAN | 82 | 71 | 211 |
| PENDLETON | 54 | 40 | 162 |
| POTOMAC | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| SHEPHERD | 5 | 4 | 29 |
| TOTAL | 768 | 725 | 3188 |

Last Yr Current Potential **Total Members** 5615 32362

If you are an active, annual state member, you can convert to a state life membership for only \$85. Your membership must be received by the **WVARSE Membership Clerk by June 15.** PLUS, your local unit will get a \$5 rebate.

Legislative News

By John Taylor WVARSE Legislative Chair

Ah, where to start. This newsletter is coming to you, probably after the Legislative Session is over. I am writing it halfway through the session. There are several things we are keeping an eye on currently. PEIA seems to be good for the next couple of years. We got this from legislators and by Bill Milam checking with Ted Cheatham, the director. We are continuing to monitor PEIA. It will always be one of our primary goals.

Our pension is fully funded in the Governor's budget. The complication in that is that the complete budget has not been passed by the Legislature. The income tax reduction bills have just been introduced and there is still a substantial "hole" in the budget. That "hole" amounts to about \$185 million. The finance committees will be looking for places to cut or other taxes to raise to close that gap. We want to keep them from looking at the funding for our unfunded liability in our pension plan as a way of closing that gap. Right now, our Pension Liability is funded at 72.8%. That is up from 9% back in the 1990's. It is currently planned to be at 100% by 2034. Our goal is to keep this in the budget as is. We will work through your Legislative Chairs on this.

The next thing still in

those who retired 20 or more years ago. Our bill has been submitted, but it has not yet come back from bill drafting. They say they are very backed up and other bills have taken priority. There are several issues here. First, I have been told by multiple legislators that nothing that costs any money will be passed out of committee if the works is our pension the income tax bill passes. increase bill. \$2 per month If it fails, we may have a

per year of experience for

chance. It will be in the hopper to move if things go our way. There seems to be some resistance to the income tax reduction in the House. Only time will tell. We will continue to monitor the situation and seek help from the grass roots.

This has been a very different Legislative session. Several of us have been working with AARP as part of their Advocacy Team. AARP has about a dozen or so bills they are working

on improving or passing. These include broadband, financial security for seniors, etc. It would take a whole other column to add up all AARP is doing for seniors at the Legislature. We have used Zoom meetings, notes, phone calls, texts, and email to contact Legislators. It is not at all like being there. To those who have helped with our grass roots efforts, Thank You.

Choose one membership form

Automatic monthly deductions from pension. Once you have signed up, you never have to sign up again.



WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WWW.WVARSE.org

WVARSE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

| EXTRA COUNTY DUES \$_ TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES \$_ | | EXTRA COUNTY DUES TOTAL LIFE/COUNTY DUES COUNTY LIFE MEMBERS | | <u></u> | ANNUAL DUES | \$ \$ |
|--|------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------|
| STATE LIFE MEMBER PAYING COUNTY DUES ONLY \$ | 5.00 | STATE LIFEMEMBERSHIP PLUS ANNUAL COUNTY D | ************************************** | DO ANNU | I, 20 <u>21</u> - JUN ALSTATEDUES ALCOUNTYDUES | \$ 15.00 \$ 5.00 |
| For WVARSE Office | Annual pay | ion Date ment for members | hip. Must | 200 Eliz Charlest \$ 1.67 X 12 =\$20.04. sign up annu | ally. | |
| Last 4 digits of Social Securi Social Security # xxx-xx By my signature below, I Retirement System (TRS) in the amount of \$1.67 m | authorize the Te | quired cachers' RSE dues City Old Address Phone () Email | if changed | StateRetired Fro | Zip | |

Due to the continued pandemic, there will not be regional meetings this summer. The Leadership Conference will be virtual on May 5th. You will be notified as to the procedure for attendance.

The WVARSE Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020-2021 School Year



Allyson Boland

Payton Brown

Payton Brown, a native of Berkeley Springs, has always wanted to pursue a career in education, following in the footsteps of both her parents. Payton is gifted in many areas. She has always been a gifted athlete in multiple sports, twice earning her the title of "Athlete of the Year". This passion for sports is only rivaled by her love and dedication to all things artistic.

Payton has participated in numerous visual art programs/ experiences since entering high school, but she discovered her true purpose as a WVU student. While at WVU, she was able to combine her love of the arts and her desire to serve others through various independent projects. After she sold a drawing of a koala bear she subsequently donated all of the proceeds in the support of the wildfire relief efforts in Australia.

Ultimately, Payton intends to attend graduate school at WVU with the goal of achieving a master's degree in either Painting or Art Education. Here "dream" job would be a position teaching art in elementary although her degree will be Art Education k-12. She did her student teaching at Eastwood Elementary School in January.

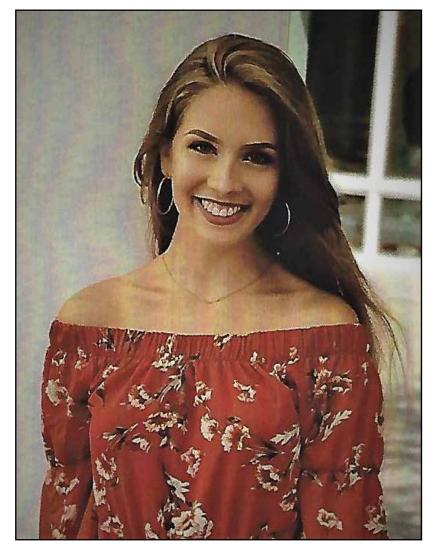
Allyson Boland

Allyson Boland was a graduate of Greater Beckley Christian School and the church is a large part of her life. Allyson's religious foundation is fundamental to her desire to help others. Becoming a middle school teacher is a small part of this dream. Allyson's mission trip to the Dominican Republic coupled with her own middle school difficulties provided the impetus to choose middle school education as her course focus.

Allyson manages several small jobs while attending college including tutoring, freelance writing, and teaching ESL for a Chinese-based company. Allyson has already received her TESOL certification and would also like to become certified in ASL. Children and expectant mothers seem to be her preferred populations to serve, but she perpetually seeks opportunities to assist her fellow man (or woman).

Allyson's supervisor believes that she "will make a difference" in her chosen field and that she will be an "effective teacher". Allyson is a bright student, having made the Dean's List 6 of 8 semesters during her tenure at Concord University. She did her student teaching in English at Pikeville Middle School.

Ultimately, Allyson plans to teach middle school English in the Raleigh/Mercer County area.



Payton Brown