



VOLUME 30 • NUMBER 1

Summer • 2020

From the Sages at the Top: President-elect Scarberry and President Ferris

This COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching consequences for the entire world, and it has certainly affected our WVARSE membership in ways that we had never dreamed: county meetings, Leadership Conference and Regional meetings canceled; Executive Board meetings held on Zoom; numerous personal sacrifices, heightened health scares, etc., to name only a few. We feel confident that you are safe and healthy during these difficult times, and we pray that you will continue to take all necessary precautions to maintain your health and well-being. As we are managing to adjust to the “new normal”, we hope that a little levity and advice from us will help you cope.

President Ferris has some humor from an article in “The Shinnston News...”:

As we practice social distancing, we probably need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator and all the snacks.

Try on your jeans every few days just to make sure they still fit. Loose-fitting pajamas and sweats can give you a false sense that you’re still looking fine.

I’m so excited! Today I get to venture out to take the garbage to the curb. What should I wear?

On quarantine Day 2, I went to this new restaurant called The Kitchen. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place stays in business!

On Day 6 of homeschooling my child/grandchild, he/she said to me, “I sure hope I don’t have the same teacher next year.” I was very offended.

So, after this quarantine is lifted, will the producers of “My 600 Pound Life” find me, or do I need to contact them?

This morning I saw my neighbor talking to her cat and it was obvious that she thought her cat understood her. I came back into my house and told my dog what I had seen, and we both laughed like crazy.

President-elect Scarberry recently discovered an article where an individual stated that during this difficult time the best advice he could give was to “make-up”.

This “make-up” does not, as you might initially think, have anything to do with the lotions, lipsticks, or creams that we might use. Rather, this refers to the way to live a productive life. Several suggestions were made to “make up” for positive, productive daily living. These all sound so simple, but they require some thought and initiative on our part. President-elect Scarberry shares some of this advice below:

Start your day by “making up” your bed. This may sound somewhat amusing to us since it’s such a simple task. The idea proposed that in our making the bed, we are making the point that we are smoothing out the wrinkles from the night before and launching ourselves for

smooth sailing into the new day that is before us.

Next, “make-up” your mind to identify something positive in your environment. Perhaps it is the sunshine coming through your window, or maybe it’s the chirping of the birds, or the scampering rabbits or squirrels on the lawn. Now that the wrinkles have been smoothed, we can observe that the new day holds a brighter, active plan for us to encounter in a positive way.

Then, take time to read or meditate on a positive passage, even if it’s the same one each day. This will remind us to “make up” our minds to accentuate the positive rather than to allow ourselves to be consumed with the negatives. The wrinkles are smoothed, the day shows promise, and we have set our minds to adopt a positive attitude whatever the day may bring.

Finally, take time to share yourself with others, a family member, a friend, a former colleague, or whomever. This suggests that we “make-up” our minds to fulfill what I perceive to be one of our purposes in life, the sharing of ourselves with others and, “To serve and not to Be Served.” Let us not allow this pandemic to pull us down, but rather “make up” our minds to enjoy life together. If we allow a little humor into our lives and follow this advice, we will survive this pandemic.

From Your President

As I began my last message to you as your president, there are many things I want to say. I will start by referring to one of my favorite poems, “The Dash”. This poem refers to the dash between the birth and death dates of the person being eulogized. I’m not quite ready for that one just yet; so my dash will refer to the years between 2016-2020—my term as president-elect and president. During this very short period, we in WVARSE have accomplished many things. Yes, I say “we” because all of you have helped me in so many ways. During my dash, I was blessed to work with a fantastic president Jo Ann Harman, president-elect Irvin Scarberry, Executive Director Bill Milam, and all my Board members. I was privileged to travel to all six regions and several counties where I met many of you whom I consider my new friends.



MARY ANN FERRIS
WVARSE President

During my dash travels, I collected each county’s best programs and membership recruitment ideas. I collated these and sent the list to all county presidents and membership chairs. Hopefully sharing these ideas helped ignite a spark in your organization. At these same meetings, we discussed revising our tri-fold membership brochure. Thanks to membership chair John Riddle, his committee, and AMBA, we updated this brochure into a beautiful, new, color brochure. Speaking of AMBA, I was honored to be the first WVARSE president invited to their Round-up in San Antonio, Texas where I learned many things. AMBA’s representatives continue to be wonderful partners with WVARSE in many ways. My thanks to Richard Rowland and Garrett Mowrey and other AMBA representatives who continuously help WVARSE.

During each one of the first three years of my dash, WVARSE members have contributed over 1 million community service hours to the people of West Virginia. Our hours may be down somewhat this year due to COVID-19, but I know our members continue to volunteer and contribute to their communities even in these hard times.

In year three of my dash (last year), WVARSE created two awards. The first is the Rita Hammond membership award for the county who increases its membership each year. In 2019 Grant county won this award for its 42 per cent increase. Fantastic! The second award is the Bill Hammond Legislative Champion award. This award was given to Delegate Amy Summers and Senator Dave Sypolt for their sponsorship of our pension increase bill to help those retirees who need it the most. This is the first pension increase in many years. Many thanks for this are due to our Legislative chair John Taylor and his helpers for all the hard work that went into securing this pension bill’s passage. We at WVARSE also worked with AARP-WV on the passage of their RX transparent bill which will help keep drug costs down—a benefit to all our members and their families.

As you know, my goal for the years of my dash was to increase membership. Upon discovering the problems with membership, I was forced to revise this goal into getting

See President, Page 2

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



William G. 'Bill' Milam
Executive Director

Due to COVID-19, we canceled Leadership Conference and the regional meetings. Many of the local units have not met due to COVID-19. The WVARSE

Board, Legislative Committee and other segments of our organization have been meeting by ZOOM. We will be conducting our Annual Council by Zoom and hope many of you will attend. If you don't have the Zoom app, go to Zoom.Com and

download the app. Regional directors will send the link to the meeting to each unit.

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 162 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. 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.

President

From Page 1

our membership records in order so that we can move forward in the future. To accomplish this goal, I have worked with our previous

membership clerk Chuck Hammond, our current clerk Karen Nicholson, president-elect Irvin Scarberry, Executive Director Bill Milam, WVARSE membership chair John Riddle, and many, many local officials. Thank all of you for your patience, under-

standing, and co-operation in this matter. Membership chair Riddle and I have also been working on a letter to members in our floundering counties to offer our help in bringing these counties into active status. Hopefully, it will work.

Even though my presidential term will soon end, I am leaving WVARSE in the very capable hands of our president-elect Irvin Scarberry. I ask you to give him all the help, love, and support you have given me during my term of office. I

am truly grateful for all the wonderful people I have had the privilege of working with during my dash. Always know that I will continue to work for WVARSE and be available to help any of you whenever you need me. Thank you from the bottom of

my heart for making the years of my dash truly wonderful and rewarding. Take care, God bless you, and continue to work hard to make your dash very productive.

And always remember to SMILE, Mary Ann

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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AMBA Insurance Garrett Mowery

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WVARSE Membership Report

Monday, August 10, 2020

Processed for Year Ending 6/30/2020

REGION I Last Yr Current Potential

BROOKE	169	161	463
FAIRMONT	17	14	122
HANCOCK	224	180	559
MARION	239	194	884
MARSHALL	193	160	674
MONONGALIA	156	96	909
OHIO	314	273	594
PLEASANTS	86	68	172
TYLER	60	56	165
W. LIBERTY	1	1	42
WETZEL	65	45	346
WVU	27	26	556
TOTAL	1551	1274	5486

REGION II Last Yr Current Potential

BARBOUR	105	93	289
BRAXTON	83	77	291
DODDRIDGE	20	7	141
GILMER	42	37	136
GLENVILLE	13	15	80
HARRISON	338	268	1145
LEWIS	107	82	294
PRESTON	161	126	510
RANDOLPH	181	153	470
TAYLOR	144	113	258
TUCKER	57	49	140
UPSHUR	262	242	435
WEBSTER	69	55	233
TOTAL	1582	1317	4422

REGION III Last Yr Current Potential

BOONE	228	202	518
CALHOUN	21	6	157
CLAY	15	15	218
JACKSON	137	123	460
KANAWHA	388	330	3281
RITCHIE	30	31	173
ROANE	57	59	265
STATE DEPT	36	26	396
WIRT	61	68	111
WOOD	343	244	1530
WVS	5	5	72
TOTAL	1321	1109	7181

REGION IV Last Yr Current Potential

CABELL	183	137	1456
LINCOLN	114	92	435
LOGAN	33	36	741
MASON	58	54	447
MINGO	28	24	664
MU	6	5	223
PUTNAM	151	121	786
WAYNE	150	86	808
TOTAL	723	555	5560

REGION V Last Yr Current Potential

CONCORD	3	1	65
FAYETTE	159	133	836
GREENBRIER	132	116	643
MCDOWELL	153	86	697
MERCER	241	184	1201
MONROE	16	13	226
NICHOLAS	110	95	518
POCAHONTAS	100	92	168
RALEIGH	172	97	1351
SUMMERS	110	83	235
WVIT	3	3	5
WYOMING	95	87	580
TOTAL	1294	990	6525

REGION VI Last Yr Current Potential

BERKELEY	174	172	952
DEAF & BLIND	35	26	175
GRANT	63	108	214
HAMPSHIRE	69	66	281
HARDY	33	35	199
JEFFERSON	123	97	516
MINERAL	125	135	442
MORGAN	82	74	211
PENDLETON	54	44	162
POTOMAC	5	3	7
SHEPHERD	5	4	29
TOTAL	768	764	3188

	Last Yr	Current	Potential
Total Members	7239	6009	32362

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

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.

~ In Memoriam ~

BERKELEY
Susan Greenwalt
Patsy Smith

BOONE
Charles Pete Arvon
William Scholl

BROOKE
Eva Belle Catlett
Gladys Wiles

CABELL
Mary Gill
Joandel Jackson
Roxie M Thompson
Lois White

FAYETTE
Robert Lindsay Brash
Brenda Casto
Mary Virginia Lewis
Elena Lubonia

GILMER
Elma Jean Woofer

GRANT
Jean DiGiustino
Mary Faye Wilkinson
Reginald Feaster

GREENBRIER
Wilma McMillion
Campbell
Cassie Brown Logan
Mary Reed Schoumacher
Ethel S Williams

HANCOCK
Eangeline Angelos
Sandy Flanagan
Mildred Keeder
Judy Shaffer
Kelsey Hayward

HAMPSHIRE
H Paul Clovis, II

HARDY
Max Park

HARRISON
Connie Barbee
Linda Louise Burns
John Richard Gaynor
Frances A Gensel

JACKSON
Nancy Burford
Beulah Sigman
Stephen Zakaski

KANAWHA
Barbara W Harper
Marie K Tinsley
Hilda Via

LEWIS
Betty Jo Harris

LINCOLN
Jasquelin Hall
Paul Winter, Jr

MCDOWELL
William Bill Kell
John Nofsinger

MARION
Charles Moody

MARSHALL
Shirley Frye

MERCER
Ralph C Baxter
Patty Jean Farmer
Stewart Fredeking
Frances Harrison
Corrine B Legere
Reba Jean Poe

Naomi C Raines
Sarah W Young

MINERAL
Thomas E O'Conner
Reva Shirley

MONONGALIA
Threresa Hlad
Connie S Watson

OHIO
Ron DiLorenzo
Thelma Gitlin
Marilyn Holderman
Eleanor Jean Kurre
Mary Lou Mauck
Suzanne Quinn

PENDLETON
Byron Bland, Jr
Wendel E Warner

POCAHONTAS
Dolly Lou McLaughlin
MacArthur Jerry Buzzard

PRESTON
Betty J Johnson
Patricia Synder
Virginia Work

PUTNAM
Davy Burdette
Paul Callahan
Joanna Craigo
Ramona Erwin

RANDOLPH
Carolyn Dolly
Frances McLaughlin

RITCHIE
Marilyn E Hayhurst
Harold Hardbarger
Betty R Tustin

ROANE
Diane Vineyard

SUMMERS
Michael Allen
Jack Ashley
Patricia Talbott
Rowenna Tassos

TAYLOR
Mary Hines
Joetta Mayle
Sue Moore

TUCKER
Carol Marie Hott

UPSHUR
Anna Lee Cutright
Ruetta Mae Hanifan
Larry Phillip Loudin
Bonita Nantz
Karl Staubly

WAYNE
Patricia Blair
Wilma Chadwick
Lucille Napier

WEBSTER
Gwendolyn Carpenter
Louise Plymale

WIRT
John Matthew Ashley

NOTE: The deaths listed in the "In Memoriam" article include all the names that were reported to the Informative & Protective Services chair for the past year, but were not included in the Newsletter during the past year. We apologize to family members that this was overlooked.

BRAXTON COUNTY

Members Volunteer



BCARSE teachers have spent the summer assisting the Sutton Public Library with a summer reading/feeding program. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Mountaineer Foodbank, WV Department of Child Nutrition, and the Braxton County BOE. Each week the teachers help provide students K-12 with food and educational activity packets. Each packet provides a hands-on activity which enhances a story book experience provided online through the Sutton Public Libraries' Facebook page. Students also receive free books provided with funding assistance from the Braxton County BOE. This program will continue through September. The retired teacher volunteers have found it to be a very rewarding way to spend the morning.

Contact us: WVARSE, 200 Elizabeth St.,
Charleston, WV 25311

304-610-0192 www.wvarse.org

Keep informed... check out our facebook page:

[Facebook.com/NRTA.WV](https://www.facebook.com/NRTA.WV)

2019-2020 Volunteer Hours

By Liz Bradford

Covid-19 kept us all close to the home fires. Still WVARSE members were able to accumulate more than one and a quarter million volunteer hours. About 200,000 less than last year. That's remarkable under the conditions. At the NRTA National hourly rate of \$22.00 for senior volunteer hours, our total represents a donation of \$29,474,544.00 to the state of West Virginia. Thank you to every volunteer who reported hours this year.

Region	Youth	Other	Total
1		86,311	83,611
2	99,803	195,742	295,545
3		273,381	273,381
4	14,636	43,457	58,093
5		19,235	19,235
6		612,187	612,187
Total:	114,439	1,225,313	1,339,752

What have you been doing during Covid-19?

Send articles and pictures. Did your units meet? How? Did you or your unit make, bake or distribute items for others? We would like to share your response to this historic, hopefully once-in-a-lifetime event in the next newsletter so that it can be documented for the future.

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

Authorization to deduct WVARSE Membership dues Annual State Dues: \$ 15.04* Annual County Dues: \$ 5.00 Total: \$ 20.04 Last 4 digits of Social Security & Signature Required Social Security # xxx-xx- _____ By my signature below, I authorize the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) to deduct WVARSE dues in the amount of \$1.67 monthly. X _____ Signature		Please Print: (name as it appears on your retirement account) Name _____ Date _____ Last First Middle Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Old Address if changed _____ Phone () _____ Retired From _____ (Name of County, College, University, Other) Email _____ Membership is not tax deductible	
Please send complete application to:		WVARSE 200 Elizabeth Street Charleston WV 25311	
For WVARSE Office Implementation Date _____		* \$ 1.67 X 12 = \$20.04. The 4 cents is a WVARSE Service Fee.	

Annual payment for membership. Must sign up annually.

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ENROLLMENT FORM

DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 20_20 - JUNE 30, 20_21

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

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

ANNUAL STATE DUES	\$ 15.00
ANNUAL COUNTY DUES	\$ 5.00
EXTRA COUNTY DUES	\$
TOTAL ANNUAL DUES	\$

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

NAME _____ **DATE** _____
 Last First Middle
ADDRESS _____ **OLD ADDRESS** _____
 IF CHANGED

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

RETIRED FROM _____ **PHONE** _____ **EMAIL** _____
 (NAME OF COUNTY, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OTHER)

Send to YOUR COUNTY MEMBERSHIP CHM.
 both forms & check payable to your unit.
 Members receive Newsletters, Travel Opportunities & representation at the legislature.

For info: contact www.wvarse.org for County Membership Chairman
 Or call: Karen Nicholson, WVARSE Membership Clerk 304-488-2860

"Dues are not tax deductible"

County Presidents 2020-2021

County	Name	Address	Phone	E-Mail
Barbour Berkeley	John G. Armentrout	PO Box 863, Belington, WV 26250-0803	304 823-1166	jctrout@citynet.net
	Patrick Murphy	1044 Trent Arden Court Martinsburg WV 25405	304-263-0586	phmmurphy48@aol.com
Boone Braxton Brooke	Ester Bell	50 Woodland Dr. Madison WV 25130	304 -369-3247	fred_ester@msn.com
	Mary “Boody” Talbott	PO Box 199, Burnsville WV 26335	304 853-2641	boodyt@frontier.com
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	Marie Schimmel	61 Holt Run Road, Glenville WV 26351	304 462-7968	mgschimmel@live.com
	Patty Adkins	23 Hillcrest Ct, Petersburg WV 26847	304 257 4446	pdadkins@frontiernet.net
Hampshire	Danny Gray	111 Foglesong Lane Ronceverte, WV 24970-9720	304 645-2529	dp135gray@verizon.net
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	Jerry DeFillio	3616 Marlamont Way, Weirton WV 26062	304 748-1695	Jerry_adk@hotmail.com
Harrison	Norma A. Taylor	32 Black Oak Hollow Road, Bridgeport, West Virginia 26330	304 842-4213	nataylor61@hotmail.com
	Frank Hughes	4725 Ripley Road Cottageville WV 25271	304 372-6795	Hughesfrank45@gmail.com
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Mason McDowell Mercer	Joe Waitkus	812 8th Street Fairmont WV 26554	304 366-3657	jvwaitkus@gmail.com
	Linda Snodgrass	5858 Waynesburg Pike Rd, Moundsville WV 26402	304 845-3170	
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Pendleton Pleasants Pocahontas	David L Sponaugle	PO Box 54, Circleville, WV 26804	304 567-2229	
	Charmel Radcliff	199 Huron Drive, Saint Marys, WV 26170	304 684-2133	charmelr@hotmail.com
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Upshur	Marion Haught	4667 Arvilla Road Friendly, WV 26146	304 398-5717	marianwhite@frontiernet.net
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Webster Wetzel Wirt Wood Wyoming	Patricia Spangler	PO Box 53 Hundred WV 26575	304 775-2572	
	Patricia Egbert	2312 Palestine Road Palestine WV 26160	304 275-3197	egbertpat@gmail.com
	Jerry Wharton	1722 20 th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101	304 428-3395	j_wharton@suddenlink.net
	Donna Sue Dixon	P.O. Box 163 Jesse, WV 24849	304-682-0132	rdixon@shentel.net

2020 Annual Council

Due to Covid-19, WVARSE has canceled all “Face-to-Face” meetings, as have most of the county units. The 2020 Annual Council will be virtual by Zoom. We hope as many of you as can, will join us in this meeting. Regional Directors will be contacting each of their county units to encourage attendance from each county. If you do not have the Zoom app, go to Zoom.com and download the free app. Below are the agendas for the meeting. During the Zoom meeting it is important that all participants remain muted until recognized by the chair to speak. I will be sending the zoom link for the meeting to the Board Members and the Regional Directors will send the link on to the county units.

Wednesday, August 26, 2020
10:00 am

Presiding Mary Ann Ferris, President
Devotions & Pledge of Allegiance Jo Ann Harman, Grant County
Welcome & Introductions Mary Ann Ferris
Remarks Bill Milam, Executive Director
AMBA Garrett Mowery
Humana Scott Rogers
WV AARP Jane Marks State President
Keynote Speaker Jennifer Schwertfeger , 2020 WV Teacher of the Year

Reports of Committee Chairs (5 min or less)

Moderator..... Irvin Scarberry, President-Elect
Community Service Elizabeth Bradford
Information & Protective Services Norma Taylor, Harrison
Membership John Riddle, Jackson
Scholarship Sharon Vance, Pocahontas
NRTA/WVARSE Liaison Jo Ann Harman

Business Session - Call to Order

Rules of the Council Danny Gray (inside Front cover)
Minutes of 2018 Annual Council Pam Schimmel, Secretary
Budget 2020-2021, Treasurer report Judy Staubly, Treasurer
Historian Mary Pat Glover , Jackson
Membership Report Karen Nicholson, Membership Clerk
Newsletter Darlene Milam, Kanawha
Audit Committee Report Danny Gray
Legislative Program 2019-2020 John Taylor, Legislation (p 7)
Nominating Committee Report Darlene Milam, Kanawha
Nominations from the floor Introduction and responses of candidates
Election of officers
Installation of Officers 2019-2020 Jo Ann Harman, Past President

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial: Norma Taylor will read each region with the number of deaths and the number of those who were members. She will also specifically recognize four who were very active in WVARSE: Past President Garry Lynn Shearer of Lewis County, Bill Hammond of Harrison County, Connie Watson of Monongalia County and Mary Gill of Cabell County.

WVARSE Scholarship Recipients Deal With COVID-19

COVID*19 affected our scholarship winners. Sharon Vance received the following comments from a couple of the scholarship recipients.

“Hello, I was able to complete my student teaching this spring despite the closing of the schools due to COVID-19. Instead of being in the classroom with my class of 4th graders every day, I met with them over Google Meets each day. Every morn-

ing I videotaped my self reading from a novel for the students to watch. The class read Shiloh, Maniac Magee, and Holes. During our video chats every day, I would lead a discussion about the chapters in the books that they read that day. These video chats also gave the students time to share what had been going on in their personal lives with each other. The students also completed comprehen-

sion worksheets via google slides that corresponded with each chapter. Students would email me their completed slides and I would check over them daily. On Fridays, I checked the students’ weekly Friday letters in which they wrote a letter home to someone they were close with. This person would respond to the students. The students also had math assignments daily. Social studies and

science assignments alternated weekly. The students used their Chromebooks to complete these assignments via iReady, Ducksters, and Mystery Science. I also answered a lot of questions from parents using the class dojo app or email as the class transitioned to online learning.” - **Jada Adlington**

“Hello! I was placed in a Title I school in Wheeling,

WV for student teaching. I was a year-long residency student, so I had the opportunity to be with my class my entire senior year. I was unable to finish out the school year due to Covid-19. This was not what I expected to happen during my student teaching semester! Many of my students did not have access to internet, so online assignments were not given. However, as time went by, we

were able to get a few students together to Zoom. We played games, talked about what we have been doing, and offered help with assignments. I am sad that I did not get to finish out the year with my kids, but this experience has allowed me to adapt to new circumstances. I feel more equipped to teach in the fall and am looking forward to being hired!”
- **Calesha Williamson**