

West Virginia Professional Educators

A Student's Mind Is Too Precious To Be Bargained For

Website: wvprofed.org

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WVPE: Supporting Learners and Supporting Educators Special Announcements

The Executive Board is pleased to announce the Ernest Page Memorial Classroom Grants. WVPE members can apply for up to \$250 for a classroom project or materials to support student learning. With students as the organization's top priority, this is a new way of assisting educators and their work. The application can be found on WVPE's website at wvprofed.org. The deadline for submitting an application is January 1, 2019; grants will be awarded by February 1, 2019. The projects and grants will be featured in future newsletters.

Grants are also available for individuals, groups, or county chapters to help promote WVPE. These grants of \$250 are to be used for promotional items, gatherings for

old and new members, setting up a booth or table at a county or state event, newspaper ads, etc. A county chapter should not apply if sufficient funds are available in its treasury. These funds cannot be used for fund-raising or for an activity that benefits members only. To apply for this grant, send a letter of request to the Executive Director or State President. The letter must include a description of the activity and a budget of funding needed. If awarded, the member will be notified and funds will be issued. Receipts for items must be sent to the Treasurer along with any unused funds.

Executive Director David Gladkosky is working on an initiative to help organize and build county chapters. Any chapter that has ten or more members can form a chapter and do a variety of projects or

(Continued on page 2)

Annual Survey Enclosed Deadline is Dec. 1, 2018

This newsletter includes a hard copy of WVPE's annual survey. Members can complete and mail this copy, OR complete the survey online using the link at the top of the survey. Members on the listserv will also receive an email with the link. Don't wait! Make your voice heard!

In This Issue...

- President's Message
- Editor's Corner
- From the Desk of the Associate Director:
David Gladkosky
- Important Contract Information for Teachers

WEST VIRGINIA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

DAVID GLADKOSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2525 WOODLAND AVENUE
SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV 25303
(304) 550-1598
E-MAIL: DAVID@WVPROFED.ORG
WEBSITE: WVPROFED.ORG

ALMA PAGE
OFFICE MANAGER & MEMBERSHIP
10587 CHARLESTON ROAD
RED HOUSE, WV 25168
E-MAIL: WVPE@AOL.COM • (304) 586-3451

SUSAN ADKINS, GRIEVANCE MANAGER
143 WARREN ROAD • HUNTINGTON, WV 25704
(304) 429-8434 - HOME • (304) 633-5515 - CELL

CURRENT STATE OFFICERS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2019

PRESIDENT:
JACQUELINE A. MCDANIELS • (304) 472-7520
133 PHILLIPS DAIRY ROAD
BUCKHANNON, WV 26201

VICE PRESIDENT:
BETH POST • (304) 472-3361
10 THIRD AVENUE, BUCKHANNON, WV 26201

RECORDING SECRETARY & NEWSLETTER:
LIBBY SURFACE • (304) 295-4817
707 37TH STREET • VIENNA, WV 26105

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
JANE YOKUM • (304) 257-1285
9530 FRANKLIN PIKE
PETERSBURG, WV 26847

TREASURER & PAST PRESIDENT:
ALICIA MULLINS • (304) 583-6858
P.O. BOX 209
DAVIN, WV 25617

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN:
MARK HIGGINBOTHAM • (304) 757-0012
1023 MARINA DRIVE #5
HURRICANE, WV 25526

EDITOR OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT:
ELIZABETH MOW
ONE BELL TOWER DRIVE, APT. 2206
WATERVLIET, NY 12189

PRESIDENTS OF EACH LOCAL CHAPTER
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Editor's Corner



Libby Surface

Recently David Gladkosky, Jackie McDaniels and I attended the CEIA Conference. This coalition is made of independent state organizations and has annual meetings to share information and ideas for supporting students and educators. We learned of numerous things an organization can offer its members, and we are eager to put new ideas into practice. One thing was strikingly clear: WVPE needs to grow its membership in order to expand what we can offer members.

It is never too late for members to help recruit colleagues and new educators. It is never too late to distribute our printed materials, new educator booklets, and posters. It is never too late to start a county chapter. With this issue, please pay attention to the articles on county chapter organization and our grant opportunities. Now is the time to get involved! Contact any staff member or Executive Board member for information and assistance.

Need Assistance with an Employment Concern or Issue?

WVPE is always ready to help its members. Susan Adkins and Don Bucher are both eager to talk with you and come along side you if needed. Contact Susan Adkins at 304-429-8434 or 304-633-5515. Contact information is also noted on desk calendars and other print materials. Don't hesitate to call!



President's Message

Jackie McDaniels

Dear Fellow WV Professional Educators:

Seasons change and so does your Executive Board. With the passing of Ernest Page, our Executive Director, we have had some big shoes to fill. Our new Executive Director, David Gladkosky, officially took the helm this past August, moving up from the Associate Director's position. We are confident he will continue the same excellent job he has been doing for WVPE. We also want to thank Diana Steed, a dedicated WVPE board member, who has been our treasurer for over 20 years! Over the summer, she handed over the reins to our immediate past president, Alicia Mullins. We thank you Alicia for your willing-

ness to take on this important job. Change is constant. The beat goes on. Teachers retire, new teachers are hired. Just as I am glad there are those who are willing to take on the duties of executive board members, I am glad that new teachers are willing to take on this tough job of educating our next generation. Unfortunately, not everyone stays and we are facing a shortage. Take a moment and think about what you can do to encourage new members to join our ranks. It is a tough job, but we need teachers. What can we do to help them to take the reins and stay?

Have a wonderful school year,

Jackie McDaniels
WVPE President

Special Announcements (Continued from page 1)

events. Having a county chapters gives members a voice and a presence in their county. A core group of WVPE members can easily form a chapter; David and members of the Executive Board are ready and waiting to assist you.

There are numerous ways a county chapter can function and support students. Some chapters have two meetings a year and/or communicate via email. Once a charter and a group of officers is formed, the work can begin. The county chapters receive ten dollars of each members' dues for its treasury. A county chapter can provide a booth or table at a county event, orientation, or opening school event. This is a great way to be visible and find new members. Some counties award scholarships to college students majoring in education and/or

graduate students from their funds. Meetings with county superintendents can give opportunity to share about WVPE and build rapport; inviting a county superintendent or other county administrators to be guest speakers is a great way for members to engage with those at that level. WVPE members can attend Board of Education meetings and look for committees to serve as representatives such as calendar committee or teacher of the year selection committee. If possible members can promote WVPE at student teaching events or seminars.

Please consider what you can do this year to help WVPE support students and educators. Don't hesitate to contact any staff or Executive Board member for assistance.



From the Desk of the Executive Director:

David Gladkosky

Your focus is our focus! As we find ourselves at the end of the first grading period, with a second semester just around the corner, it's that time to focus on what really matters to us as educators. Please give some thought to completing our annual survey, which helps WVPE focus on our goals for the coming legislative session. How can we best serve your needs?

My focus, as Executive Director, is to make WVPE and its philosophy more visible to teachers, county schools systems, administrators, legislators, and the WV Department of Education. This will in turn, help increase membership, bolster the upstart of county chapters, and make us stronger as a supportive teacher association. WVPE supports your focus, which is our #1 concern: providing the best education possible for our students without interruption from bargaining or work stoppage.

Here are highlights from recent WV State Board of Education meetings:

- The WVDE continues to revise and streamline its policies, including Policy 3232, updating it to align our Career & Technical Education (CTE) Centers to our industry's current and future workforce needs. The Standards for School Nutrition, policy 4321.1, allows schools to provide excess food for students who need it, decreasing food waste, and promoting the "Shared Table" initiative.

- The parameters of Step 7 monies have been revised in policy 5500 to allow counties to also use the funds to support teacher professional growth as well as instructional materials.

- School safety was addressed by the WV Intelligence Fusion Center, which is partnering with the WVDE, and have liaison offices that work

with county systems in monitoring school threats. They also offer training for school personnel. Student transportation safety issues were also discussed, led by the state bus inspector, who expressed his concern over the lack of qualified bus drivers, and the need for more effective driver training. He also stated that it is safer for Pre-K students to be seated in front, and that use of seat belts has not been proven to be the safest way to protect students in a crash. The Board will look at revising the school transportation policy (4334) in January.

- The WV Advisory Council for Exceptional Children reported on promoting parent engagement, and to help teachers deal with the behavior of students affected by the opioid issue. This report supports the Graduation 20/20 program that develops mentoring relationships with students with social/emotional needs, and helps them focus on graduation.

- Statewide standardized test scores and the new "balanced scorecards" were recently released by the WVDE. The report shows the scoring of schools based on a combination of those test scores, attendance, and other factors. These scorecards are the states new whole-school report cards, replacing the old A-F system, based mainly on standardized test scores. Go to wvde.state.wv.us/zoomwv to see the test score data, and myschool.org to view the balanced scorecards.

- The WVDE will provide teacher Mentor Program sessions around the state to help strengthen support for new teachers. The sessions will take place in various locations from Oct-Dec. Attendance at one session is all that is needed for certification. See the WVDE website for more information.

- The shortage of guidance counselors across the state was discussed, and with that, the concern that many are burdened with school administrative duties. This keeps them from effectively doing the job they were hired to do. I would like to hear from our members and their perspective on this concern, and how WVPE can assist.

Our WVPE president, recording secretary, and I attended the Coalition of Independent Education Associations (CIEA) Conference in Florida earlier this month. It was a great way for us to gain perspective on how well we support our members, compared to the other independent associations around the US. We left with new ideas and information that we will be sharing with you soon. And yes, we got out just in time to avoid hurricane Michael!

I recently attended the Education Alliance Summit which focused on student-centered learning. The presentations centered on performance based, customized learning experiences for life-long learners. These summits also encourage collaborations with our local and state businesses, and is an effective venue for discussions on prepping our students for the workforce.



David Gladkosky with Cathy Demoisey of PEN, Professional Educators Network of Florida, at the CEIA Conference.

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10587 Charleston Road
Red House, WV 25168

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NEWS AROUND THE STATE



Editor's Note: Please send me any news about your chapter or the members in your county. Let's celebrate the accomplishments of our dedicated members!

WVPE Members Earn National Board Certification

Each year more educators complete and earn this distinction. Several WVPE members around the state certified in 2017. Congratulations to these distinguished educators:

Berkeley County—Laura Bohrer, Kristin Spataro

Hardy County—Sara Smouse

Wood County—Whitney Dobson, Sara Klesel, Lisa Smith

Amy Knicely Named Coordinator of Elementary Education

WVPE member and Wood County educator Amy Knicely will begin working at the State Department. Her new role will include providing leadership in the development of resources for elementary educators. Additionally, she will be

collaborating with colleagues to provide professional learning strategies and opportunities for educators and instructional leaders. Amy hopes to promote approaches that will increase student engagement and success. Congratulations Amy!

Erin Sponaugle Publishes First Book

Former West Virginia Teacher of the Year and Berkeley County educator recently published *The Adventures of Berkeley Bear*. As Erin's experience as the 2014 Teacher of the Year, she had the idea to use Berkeley the black bear and state symbols as the basis for this book. She photographed Berkeley in many West Virginia locations and visited schools throughout that year.

Wood County Chapter Activities

The Wood County Chapter of WVPE has been busy with several events that might serve as ideas for your chapter. Each August, the chapter sets up a table with infor-

mation and new teacher handbooks at the new hires orientation. The chapter also helps with the cost of refreshments for that day. At the beginning of the year, baskets of candy and WVPE brochures were delivered to the schools with the tag "Treat Yourself to a Great Year." The fall meeting was recently held and the county's new superintendent was invited to speak on the vision and direction for the year ahead. Members were also able to ask specific questions and share concerns.



WVPE 2018-2019 Annual Survey

Deadline: December 1, 2018

Please take time to answer this vital survey. Members may use the link below, QR code, or complete this paper copy and mail to Alma Page at 10587 Charleston Road, Red House, WV 25168.

Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wvpe2018>

QR Code:



1. In what setting do you work most of the time?
 PreK/Elementary Middle School High School Friend member/Retired
2. What is the size of the student body at the school you work with most?
 1-250 students 251-500 students 501-1000 students 1000+ students
3. Adequate mental health services for students with behavioral/social issues are provided at my school.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
4. At my school we have enough school counsels for the size of our student body.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
5. My county's guidance counselors perform their jobs without being interrupted with school administration duties.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
6. My county provides an adequate number of personnel and/or social workers to address truancy and family issues.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
7. The school in which I teach takes the required measures to insure student safety at all times.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
8. My school building is equipped to handle the addition of new technologies as they are introduced.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
9. WV has a shortage of certified teachers, and this has directly affected student learning, comprehension and test scores.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
10. Teacher salaries must continue to increase in order to attract and retain high quality educators.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
11. I support the proposed additional 5% pay raise.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
12. Faculty Senate Days should be returned to their full day format to allow school staff time for collaboration, documentation, data analysis, technology integration and parent contacts as well as the required Faculty Senate meeting.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
13. Half days are more difficult for working parents.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
14. Students should be held accountable for their performance on the general summative assessment or it to be taken seriously by students.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

15. Every secondary school should be required to have a full-time certified Library Media Specialist.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
16. At the secondary level, media specialists' schedules should remain flexible so that solid library media programs can be developed to assist in boosting student achievement.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
17. At the secondary level, class size should have limits.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
18. I am pleased with the work and the direction of the PEIA Task Force.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
19. The Governor's proposal to fix FEIA is an adequate solution.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
20. PEIA premiums should be based on coverage provided, not salaries.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
21. I have been affected by the change in the RESA structure.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
22. Students who are home-schooled should be allowed to play sports for their local school's teams.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
23. I support allowing for the creation of charter schools.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
24. Open ended question: Aside from pay raises and PEIA, what is the best thing the legislature could do to support the classroom teacher?
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

WVPE Membership Questions to Help Improve Services

1. I am aware and understand WVPE's representation, support, and educational philosophy.
 Yes No Do not know
2. I am receiving and reading WVPE's legislative updates, newsletters, and emails.
 Yes No Do not know
3. I am aware of the membership rebate program of \$25 per new member referred by me.
 Yes No Do not know
4. I would be willing to serve as an area or county contact to assist in building membership and promoting WVPE's benefits.
 Yes No Do not know
5. I would take advantage of professional development opportunities if offered by WVPE.
 Yes No Do not know
6. I would attend one-day state or regional WVPE conferences on current topics and issues, teaching strategies, and/or state initiatives.
 Yes No Do not know
7. I would be interested in an online portal or website of professional development modules if offered by WVPE.
 Yes No Do not know