

WVSSPA eNEWS



Update on the Special Session “Education Betterment”

House Bill 206, the House of Delegates version of the “Education Omnibus Bill” or “Omnibus 3.0”, passed the Senate with no amendments on Monday, June 24, 2019. The Governor has given every indication he will sign this bill into law.



Unfortunately, the bad components of this legislation far outweighs the good with the following changes: charter schools, open enrollment, job posting changes, pay equity repealed and county block grant funding. This legislation while terrible as a whole does have a few good things in it.

- Service Personnel will receive a \$1150 yearly raise (\$115 a month)
- Increased professional support staff
- Counties will keep more levy money
- Increased BRIM Coverage

Our friends in the House of Delegates and the Senate attempted to make this bill better with amendments. Some of the failed amendments include: \$2000 cost of living increase for retired school employees, requiring a county to conduct a referendum vote to establish charter schools, and including service personnel in the \$500 bonus for using less than 4 personal days. The leadership in both houses would not allow these amendments to pass.

It is more important than ever that we become involved in the 2020 elections. Just voting is not enough, we need to support good candidates and their campaigns. While we can not out spend Americans for Prosperity and ALEC, we can with the help of all 8,193 members outwork them.

Inside this issue

Legislative Update.....1
 Member Thank You.....1
 New Employee.....2
 President’s Wrap-Up.....2

WVSSPA Leadership

Linda Thompson - President
lthompson@wvsspa.org

Joe White - Executive Director
jwhite@wvsspa.org

Executive Committee

Jerry Ames - Vice President
james@wvsspa.org

Tammie Glover - Secretary
tglover@wvsspa.org

Kim Poland - Treasurer
kpoland@wvsspa.org

Sherri Talkington - Aide
stalkington@wvsspa.org

Twilla Lykins - Cook
tlykins@wvsspa.org

Larry Padgett - Custodian
lpadgett@wvsspa.org

Howard Meddings - Maintenance
hmeddings@wvsspa.org

Paul Black - Transportation
pblack@wvsspa.org

Terri O’dell - Office
todell@wvsspa.org

Lloyd Hinkle - Retiree
lhinkle@wvsspa.org

Pat Jack - State Employees
pjack@wvsspa.org



A Special Thank You to Nina Bragg!

Nina, a Nicholas county member, keeps our Grandma and Grandpa very well dressed. Grandma and Grandpa are displayed in the center window at the front entrance of the WVSSPA Building. Nina has made an outfit for every season and holiday, including their protest outfits pictured here.

WVSSPA Staff Contacts

Trey Morrone
Attorney
tmorrone@wvsspa.org

Jamie Mallory
Assistant to the Executive
Director
jmallory@wvsspa.org

Tim Bolick
Benefits/Field Staff
tbolick@wvsspa.org

Lisa Nestor
Field Staff
lnestor@wvsspa.org

Rod Stapler
Field Staff/Release Time
rstapler@wvsspa.org

Sherri Talkington
Field Staff/Release Time
stalkington@wvsspa.org

Cindy Shell
Field Staff/Release Time
cshell@wvsspa.org

Jordan Cook
Field Staff State Employees
jcook@wvsspa.org

Carolyn Johnson
Membership Secretary
cjohnson@wvsspa.org

Lisa Lipscomb
Financial Secretary
llipscomb@wvsspa.org

Cricket Reynolds
Legal Assistant
creynolds@wvsspa.org

WVSSPA

1610 Washington St. East
Charleston, WV 25311
Phone: (304) 346-3544/
1-800-642-9150
Fax: (304) 346-3548
Email: info@wvsspa.org
www.wvsspa.org

Connect with WVSSPA
Like us on Facebook:
West Virginia School
Service Personnel
Association



Follow us on Twitter



Please Welcome Cricket Reynolds to the WVSSPA Family!

Cricket is our new legal assistant. Below is a biography Cricket shared with us.

"I am a graduate of Ripley High School where I entered the arena of learning office equipment and secretarial duties through Vo-Tech. During my senior year, I worked part-time in the office at Ripley Middle School. That's where I found I was good at the clerical end of jobs and love office machines. After graduation, I landed a job as a typist with the State of West Virginia's Office of Technology. During my 7 1/2 years as a typist I not only obtained an associate degree in Computer Science at the National Institute of Technology, I also self-trained and taught others how to use the word processing equipment in the office.

After graduating from NIT of Cross Lanes, I became a Programmer Analyst Trainee with the Office of Technology. After 2 years, I realized this wasn't something I really wanted to do and left the agency. But I did not throw away my degree I just put it to use in another way. I found I can manipulate software and make it do things I want it to do.

After a couple years of hard living the wrong way, I landed a job with the State of West Virginia's Grievance Board. That's where many of you may know me from. I worked there for 26 years before finally taking my retirement this past January to try my hand at something else. I didn't go far in the business though. Not only did I take a job just blocks away from the Grievance Board, but I still work with many of the same people; it just comes at it from a different angle. I have thoroughly enjoyed the work so far.

As to my personal life, I met a man through friends on Facebook almost 10 years ago. Turned out we had lived next door to each other while in high school. I knew his sisters but was not so much aware of him during that time. We married 9 years ago where I took on a stepson who is 25 years old. I have been raising my 14-year-old great nephew for most of his life and he keeps me hopping to say the least. But the best news is we will have a newborn grandson within 24 hours of this writing. I also have a side business. I am a vendor that goes around selling my particular product at flea markets, festivals, and other types of venues. That is something I never thought I would enjoy but turns out it is very hard work but also fun."

-Cricket Reynolds, WVSSPA Legal Assistant



President Thompson's Wrap-Up

It's hard to believe that the end of June is near and we are still going to the capital dealing with legislative issues. We are saddened by the way things turned out. Unfortunately the house put out their own version of an Omnibus Education Bill and the Senate has passed it on to the Governor to sign. This is not the end but the beginning of what every service personnel and their friends and families must do in the coming months. Primary election day is Tuesday, May 12, 2020. The school employees must vote and their friends and family must vote. We need to get involved even seek an office in your district. Our friends in the House and Senate are counting on us to get them more help.

Okay, I got that off my chest and out of my heart so I can go on. I wish every one of you a happy and safe summer break, even those working summer jobs...rest is very important! I also look forward to seeing many of you at Summer School. We have so many topics scheduled to help all of us do our jobs better and make us stronger in mind and spirit. All of our faith has gotten us to where we are today, and we will continue the fight for better benefits for all.

-Linda Thompson, WVSSPA President