

## Cabell County Swears in Board Members



Pictured left to right Janet Artirp, retiree member, Mary Neely, board member (re-elected), Rhonda Smalley, newly elected board member, President Linda Thompson, and Skip Parson, retired maintenance coordinator

Cabell County School Service Personnel Association with the support of the WVSSPA Political Action Committee endorsed candidates for the Board of Education in Cabell Co. The Coalition between CCSSPA and WVSSPA endorsed Mary Neely, the current board member and Rhonda Smalley, a new candidate.

This was the first time in the history of CCSSPA and WVSSPA to support candidates in a board election.

Both Candidates, Mary Neely and Rhonda Smalley were elected in May 2014 and sworn into office at the Cabell County Board Office July 2014.

## WVSSPA President Linda Thompson Appointed to AFT PSRP-PPC

**W**VSSPA President Linda Thompson has been appointed to AFT PSRP-PPC.

The Program and Policy Council includes 31 members from the PSRP Divi-

sion of AFT.

The PSRP-PPC is a constitutionally mandated body and provides direction to the division on Paraprofessional And School Related Personnel as well as assistance in the development of divi-

sional priorities and program activities.

The council meets throughout the year to discuss key issues aligned with the national AFT mission and to direct the work of AFT-PSRP division.

### Executive Committee

**Linda Thompson-President**

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**Ron Heath-Vice President**

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**Sandy Lamp-Secretary**

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**Carolyn Johnson-Secretary**

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# Ohio County Board of Education Rescinds Uniform Policy



## Mullins Named Logan County Service Personnel of the Year

**B**etty Mullins was recently named Service Personnel of the Year for Logan County Schools. Mullins has dedicated her career to working with special needs children in the school system for thirty years.

She has worked in several schools including Ralph R. Willis Career and Technical Center, Logan Elementary, Justice Elementary, Omar Elementary, and Logan Central Junior High. Mullins spent twelve years of her career as an aid for one student, who graduated and went on to pursue a higher education at the University of Charleston. She has also served as the president for the Logan County Schools' Service Personnel.

Mullins resides in Logan with her husband, Donsil. They are the parents of Shawn Propst, Jay Mullins, and Robin Wulf and have six grandchildren.

The Logan County Board of Education recognized Mullins for her career and dedication to the students of Logan County at its meeting on June 10, 2014. Mullins will be retiring at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.



WVSSPA-Ohio County presented a proposal to the Ohio County BOE, July 15, 2014 to rescind the current Uniform Policy for bus drivers, mechanics, custodians, and cafeteria employees. Jerry Ames, Vice-President, Ohio County told Board Members “they don’t feel comfortable with the punishment language in the current policy that says

a worker could be fired for failure to wear a uniform. The service employees believe the language targets service workers as it does not pertain to any other employees. We have a dress code policy that requires all employees to dress professionally or be subject to punishment determined by the building principal.” The Board took no action at this meeting. The Ohio County Board of Education on July 28, 2014 rescinded the Uniform Policy stating that service personnel can be fired for failure to properly

wear their uniforms. Ohio County Schools policy has required service workers to wear uniforms while on the job, and states if they fail to do so they can be subject to dismissal from their job.



**O**fficials with the Ohio County Board of Education announced Tuesday, July 29, 2014, that board member Gary Kestner will serve as the groups first-ever vice-president.

Before becoming a member of the board Mr. Kestner was employed by the county as director of transportation.

Mr. Kestner is currently a bus operator in Brooke County and a member of WVSSPA.

## WVSSPA

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Check us out on Facebook:  
West Virginia School Service Personnel  
Association



**We're on the web:**  
[www.wvsspa.org](http://www.wvsspa.org)

## WVSSPA Provides Additional AD&D Benefits

**W**VSSPA is pleased to announce that all dues paying members now have an additional \$3000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits provided by American Income Life Insurance Company, a company servicing working families for more than 60 year.

All members will be receiving a Beneficiary Card in the mail. All active members are automatically covered on the AD&D benefit. If you do not designate your beneficiary, the \$3,000 would be paid to your estate and may be taxable.

## AFT + Member Benefits

**W**ith access to a wealth of opportunities and resources, the AFT has something for you.

Insurance for your home, auto and life—even your pets

No fee credit card with special union-member features

A mortgage program with special features for AFT members

15 percent off wireless phone plans

With the purchasing power of 1.5 million members, together we are able to access a wide array of quality programs and services.

Many of the AFT's benefit offerings are through our affiliation with Union Plus, the AFL-CIO benefits program. New Union Plus programs have been added to the AFT + roster of benefits to bring you savings on an even wider array of products and services.

Access these benefits at:

[www.aft.org/benefits](http://www.aft.org/benefits)

## From the Executive Directors Desk:

**I** hope the e-news edition finds all of you well. We have had good responses from our first one. This is something that we will do monthly.

As I am writing this, I look back at the time and wonder where it went. The new school year is fast upon us and many of you have already gone back for your openings. There are a few differences that you will face this year with the school calendar and the ECCAT (early childhood

classroom assistant teacher) classification. The ECCAT legislation has taken a lot of time this summer and we have had several meetings across the state with members, legislators, school administrators and others. It seems clear that all are in agreement that we need to fix some things, and I can't agree more. I would like to go into detail, but I don't have room in this column.

But one thing I want to

stress is a BIG Thank You for being a member of the greatest association that has ever existed, and over 8300 fellow brothers and sisters agree. I look forward to the upcoming school year and what it has to bring. I also look forward to serving you, West Virginia's greatest resource.

In Unity, Joe White

## Announcements

**W**VSSPA has added a new Field Staff. Jonathan Bennett is from Mineral Co. and will cover Northern West Virginia. Welcome aboard Jonathan.

**P**residents Conference will be held Oct. 10 and 11, 2014 in Charleston. More to come.