



February, 2009

Volume III, No.2

## Message from the President....

### WVASCD Annual Events

Over the past few years, WVASCD has been working to provide West Virginia educators with high-quality opportunities for professional growth and development, and has begun to raise members' awareness of state and national issues in education. Our **2008 annual conference** held at the Bridgeport Conference Center on Nov.20, was a great success. Our keynote speaker was well-known author Dr. Jane Pollock, who spoke about improving student learning one teacher at a time. Her entertaining and engaging style were very well received by conference attendees, and the breakout sessions and vendors representing a variety of educational products and services, made the day a wonderful opportunity to network and catch up with friends and colleagues. We are looking forward to our next conference at the same location next Fall, and we hope you will join us for that event.



This February 25<sup>th</sup> will mark another annual WVASCD event, as we hold our second **Legislative Retreat** at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. At last year's Retreat, members were invited to participate in a presentation by Dr. Jack Yeager, Professor Emeritus at Marshall University Graduate College. We then had the opportunity to engage in one-on-one discussions about educational issues with state legislators at an informal reception. Both last year's retreat and this year's have been made possible through ASCD Influence Grants secured by Executive Director, Peggy McMaster. If you have never attended such an event, I encourage all members to find time to join us for an important (and delightful) evening. More information about the retreat is included in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of WVASCD! Your input is important to us, so if I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

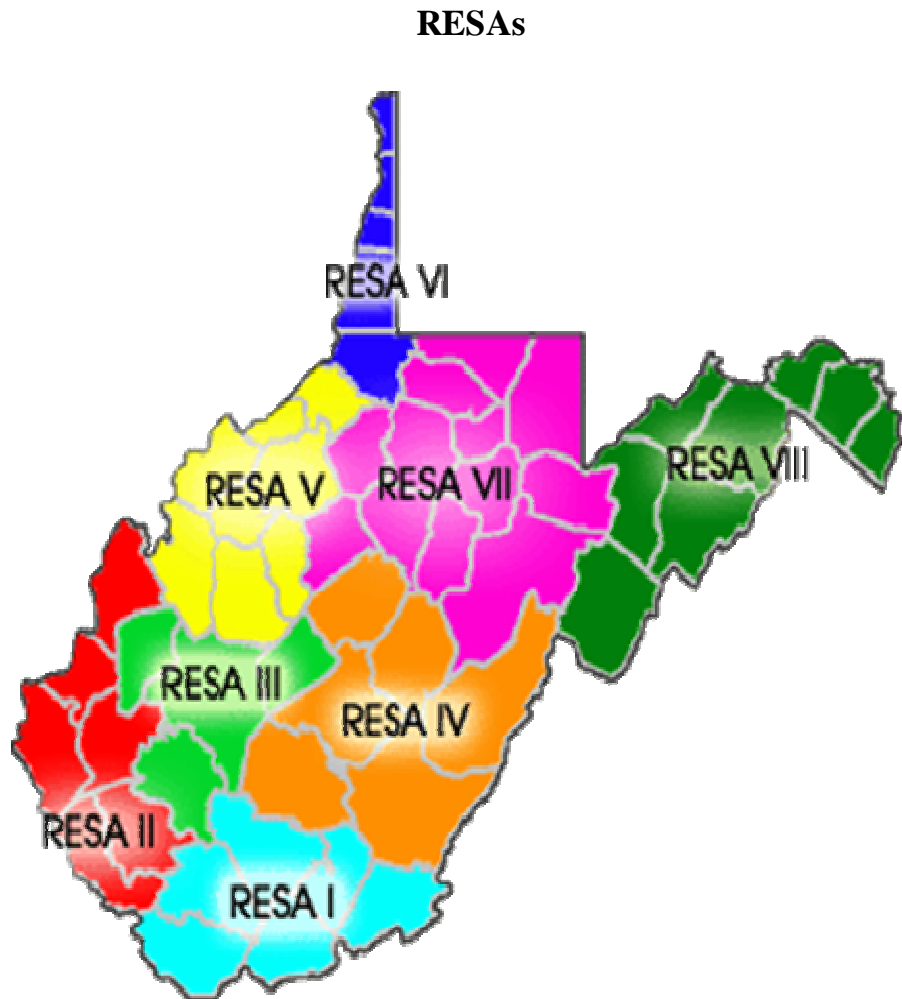
Sincerely,  
Mary Harris-John, Ed.D.  
President

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<http://wvascd.org>

# WVASCD Board of Directors

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# **WVASCD Legislative Retreat**

**February 25, 2009**

**Embassy Suites**

**Charleston, WV**

**4:00 PM**

**Informative session with  
Dr. Jack Yeager**

**5:30–7:00 PM**

**Reception with Legislators**

**February 26, 2009**

**Visit Capitol to Confer  
With Your Representatives**

The goal of the Legislative Retreat is to establish a relationship between WV legislators and WV educators. Discussions with Dr. Yeager will inform us of topics being considered by legislators and give us an opportunity to refine the message we take to our representatives. Topics that have been suggested for discussion are adjustments to the school calendar, funding of school staff, alternative criteria for course credit, and increased technology, including broadband availability. The plan is to continue our conversations with legislators after we return to our local districts.

The Legislative Retreat is open to legislators and educators in West Virginia at no cost. If you plan to join us, it would be helpful for you to RSVP to Dr. Mary Harris-John at [johnm@marshall.edu](mailto:johnm@marshall.edu) or 304-746-1913.

## Message from the Executive Director

We would like to issue a special welcome to those of you who became members of the West Virginia ASCD at the November conference. We invite you to participate to the level that your interests and schedule allow. You notice in this issue that our two major events of the school year are the Annual Conference in November and the Legislative Retreat in February. In between those months newsletters will keep you informed of other opportunities that may arise.

We are an affiliate of the international organization Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development whose main office is in Alexandria, VA. ASCD sponsors a legislative event each fall entitled “Leadership for Effective Advocacy and Practice” (LEAP). West Virginia ASCD is one of the affiliates that patterns a state legislative influence goal after this initiative. This past fall Dr. Helen Hazi of WVU and I attended LEAP and visited West Virginia representatives to the Federal Congress. Interested educators are invited to register for this event and can find information on the ASCD website.

While visiting the ASCD website, check out the link to the Whole Child Web site at [www.wholechildeducation.org](http://www.wholechildeducation.org). A few years ago Dr. Gene Carter, ASCD Executive Director, launched the whole child initiative. Many national organizations have signed a pledge to ensure that each child is

Healthy  
Safe  
Engaged  
Supported and  
Challenged.

A focus on the whole child provides a framework for considering the growing child’s total experience and is compatible with everything we want for children.

Peggy McMaster, ED.D  
Executive Director  
[mcmasterpb@AOL.com](mailto:mcmasterpb@AOL.com)  
304-856-1118

## **WVASCD 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**

### **November 19, 2009**

Only two months ago, WVASCD hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. All reviews by those in attendance were very positive and some were downright enthusiastic. They appreciated the variety of content in the concurrent sessions and they were very pleased with the keynote speaker, Dr. Jane Pollock.

It is the intention of WVASCD to continue to host an annual conference of quality and utility for the education professionals of West Virginia. In this spirit, I am pleased to announce preliminary details of the WVASCD 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference. The conference will be held at the Bridgeport Conference Center on November 19, 2009. You will definitely want to reserve that date in your calendar.

The conference will again offer a wide variety of quality concurrent sessions presented by representatives of our state universities, local schools and school districts. We have engaged a keynote speaker that I believe will inspire, inform and challenge those who attend this year's conference: Dr. Robyn R. Jackson.

Dr. Jackson brings a wealth of experience to us. She is a National Board Certified English Teacher who taught both regular and AP curricula at the high school level. As a middle school principal in Montgomery County, Maryland, she led her school to state and national Blue Ribbon awards. Dr. Jackson has taught at the university level and is a consultant working with schools throughout the country. As a senior fellow with Phelps Stokes Fund, she continues to do research on educational issues. Dr. Jackson has been featured on the PBS television series "the Washington Post" and on Lifetime Television's "Lifetime Live."

It is her recent book, published by ASCD, which caught my attention. The book's title, Never Work Harder Than Your Students, seems so unrealistic as to be almost surreal in today's climate of high stakes testing and high pressure politics for accountability. But when you read the book, the title makes perfect sense. This is a book for teachers.

Dr. Jackson's writing is clear and makes comprehensible some of the complexities of teaching today's students. Her experiences with her students are instantly recognizable and her solutions to teaching problems are both good common sense and inspiring. She makes you feel as if you, too, can be a master teacher. I am sure those who attend will thoroughly enjoy hearing from Dr. Jackson. And, just as we did at last year's conference, all conference attendees will receive the keynote speaker's book.

Tom Tull, Conference Chair

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

**WVASCD 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**  
**Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport, WV**  
**November 19, 2009**

## **Highlights of the 2008 Annual Conference**

The preconference visit to West Fairmont Middle School was very well received by participants. Thank you to Principal Rocky DeLorenzo and the school staff.

### **Thank you to the following concurrent session presenters:**

Missy Spivy, Assoc. Professor at Ohio Valley University

Leonard Allen, Senior Consultant with TeachFirst, Inc.

Carol Thom, Director of Staff Development, Kanawha County Schools  
and Ron Childress, Professor, Marshall University Graduate College

Louis Watts, Asst. Professor at Marshall University Graduate College,  
Peggy Sue Crowe, Teacher at Craigsville Elementary School,  
Sarah Lee, RTI Specialist for RESA IV, and Tina Lou Edwards,  
Director of Federal Programs at Ritchie County Schools  
Mary Ann Triplett, Curriculum Facilitator, and Anita Stephenson, Asst. Principal,  
Clay County Middle School

Todd Chicchirichi, Coordinator of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, RESA VIII and  
Peggy Hawse, Coordinator of Teacher Mentor Program, RESA VIII

Barbara Nicholson and Mike Cunningham, Professors, Marshall University

Anita Reynolds, Asst. Professor of Education, Concord University

Stan Maynard, Director, Barbara Maynard, Program Director, Holly Miles, Program  
Assistant, and Tarabeth Brumfield, Program Assistant, June Harless Center,  
Marshall University

## **“One Teacher at A Time”**

By Jane E. Pollock



### Participant Comments

“Enjoyed the two days at Bridgeport. Keynote speaker was really good and willing to meet needs of audience.”

“Enjoyed the keynote speaker. It reaffirmed a lot we already do and helped me to see some things we need to work towards.”

“I enjoyed hearing from a national speaker. I liked the format of a morning presentation followed by the afternoon session that focused on practical implementation.”

“Loved the conference and found the sessions very beneficial as a curriculum leader. Particularly liked the keynote speaker, Jane Pollock. I enjoyed her so much I stayed in both of her sessions in the afternoon.”



You may join WVASCD through the Joint Dues Program via ASCD annual renewal or by mailing a check to the WVASCD, HC 71 Box 86A, Capon Bridge, WV 26711. Membership annual dues: \$25.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School (if applicable) and School Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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HC 71 Box 86A  
Capon Bridge, WV 26711

**WVASCD Mission:** to provide resources and services toward influencing educational decision makers in promoting excellence in learning, teaching, and leadership.