

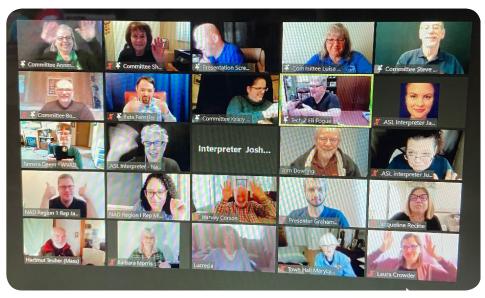
Volume 42, No. 3 Summer 2021

# WVAD Participates in Virtual NAD Region 1 State Association Day on May 1, 2021 By Tamera Deem

WVAD Secretary Tamera Deem, Trustee Laura Crowder, and Legislative Chair John Burdette participated in virtual NAD Region 1 State Association Day on May 1, 2021. The theme was "Making Connections, Creating Change."

It was a 1-day collaboration with TedX-style presentations and workshops for Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing people, and hearing allies/ advocates who live in the Region 1 area (West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine). The meeting provided workshops and panels. Discussions was also held about the Deaf/DeafBlind/hard of hearing issues that the community faces in our states. The goal of the event was to collaborate, support, create, and empower between Region 1 state associations. The meeting was free for Region 1 attendees.

The meeting was very informational and inspiring. The morning



Region 1 State Association Day participants.

presentation was "Creating Inclusive and Welcoming State Associations" by Stephanie "SJ" Hakulin, Massachusetts Association of the Deaf President, and Graham Forsey, DC Association of the Deaf President. The panel discussion was also presented: "State Association Leaders – Issues and Trends." The

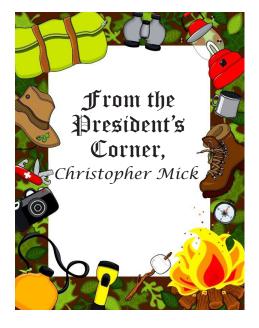
moderator was Danielle Loughlin (Rhode Island Association of the Deaf President).

The afternoon presentation was "Social Media Tips for State Associations" by Justin Cha, NAD Affiliate Representative. Panel discussion (WVAD Participates... on page 6)

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## PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES

The WVAD Quarter News newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., published four times a year (January, April, July, October). Free subscription with paid dues. All advertisements must be paid in advance. The WVAD Quarter News reserves the right to reject any advertisement. Make checks payable to WVAD. Send ads with payment and any news to Tamera Deem.

Full Page, 7 5/8" x 10" \$100.00 Half Page, 7 5/8" x 5" \$60.00

Hello and welcome to our summer newsletter!

I hope you have enjoyed the summer with your family and friends. Our family went camping at Pipestem Resort State Park for the 4th of July and had a wonderful time. It is a very beautiful state park!

WVAD is working on making location arrangements for our next conference scheduled for August 2023. We hope to make an announcement on this event very soon.

We are currently planning to have our Christmas party on December 4, 2021 (see flyer on page 20). The number of guests is limited to 200 people. We will keep you informed about the upcoming party on our Facebook page and www.wvad.org website.

Trustee Sylvia Mick and I went to Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV, to give a presentation about WVAD to young deaf campers at "Me of My Dreams! Summer Camp" on July 16, 2021. We also had a question/answer session about WVAD. We really enjoyed meeting and chatting with the young kids. They talked about issues they face in real life. We were supportive of them and encouraged them to do their best in life. Our two other trustees, Laura Crowder and Scott Hottle,

spent the week with the campers as staff members. It was good to see them there.

WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) reposted the Executive Director position on July 12, 2021, and are seeking for new candidates to interview for the position.

Feel free to ask me or any of our board members any questions you may have or offer any ideas to make our organization better.

Just a quick reminder for those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 23 for membership form), please send the form and payment to our Membership Coordinator, Jimmy Harrison. WVAD accepts debit and credit cards for membership fees, etc. We are currently accepting Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and PayPal. You may also pay through Cash Square apps but you will need to contact Jimmy (contact info is on the membership form) to make payment arrangements. If you are not a member of WVAD, please join. If you have any questions about joining WVAD, please contact Jimmy Harrison. Your support and dues help keep WVAD going. This would also be a good way to give someone a membership as a gift.

In closing, please check out our WVAD website (www.wvad.org) or WV Association of the Deaf page on Facebook for any ongoing information about WVAD. I will continue to share the West Virginia Governor's COVID-19 briefings on Facebook. This info is also on our www.wvad. org page.

Stay healthy and be safe,

Christopher of Mick

Christopher T. Mick



# IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please look at your newsletter address label for expiration date that was highlighted and renew before expiration date.



# WVAD Board Minutes

# WVAD Board Meeting Held via Sorenson Videophone, June 13, 2021

## West Virginia Association of the Deaf's Mission Statement:

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., (WVAD) operated by, of, for the Deaf Community, advocates, and promotes to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals including but not limited to deaf-blind individuals, parents of deaf children, interpreters, late-deafened adults, and children of deaf adults.

Members Present: Christopher Mick, Gloria Hollen, Tami Deem, Veronda Harrison, Laura Crowder, and Sylvia Mick.

<u>Visitors</u>: Charles Lyne and Jimmy Harrison.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held via Sorenson VP. President Chris Mick called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

The minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2021, were sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via videophone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting was published in Spring 2021 WVAD newsletter.

# <u>Treasurer Veronda Harrison's Financial Report:</u>

Financial report from February 20, 2021 to June 11, 2021: Balance in checking account – \$949.99; balance in savings account – \$4,083.44; Mingo County Fund: \$14,554.96; WVAD Conference Fund – \$6,518.50; Deaf Youth Program – \$478.00; Education Fund – \$288.15; Certificate of Deposit – \$7,000.00. The board accepted the report as read.

## **President Chris Mick's Report:**

 On May 14, 2021, President Mick received an e-mail from April Hottle, asking him about who was on the LEAD-K Committee, any updates about WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH), and about deaf advocate. He responded back to her the

- next day that the LEAD-K team is still the same and that there were no updates about WVCDHH. He also told her that John Burdette is the Deaf Advocate.
- On May 26, 2021, President Mick received a few complaints from people about Capital High School in Charleston, WV. They did not provide full access to interpret the high school graduation. So President Mick talked to them and then he talked to Kim Bainco-Majeri (State Legislative Affairs Coordinator from National Association of the Deaf [NAD]) and Milmaglyn Morales (Region 1 Representative from NAD) about the issue. He asked Elizabeth Leisure to help him write a letter to the Kanawha County Board of Education Superintendent. He also sent a rough draft of the letter to Kim and has not received a response from her
- On May 26, 2021, President Mick received an e-mail from Deaf in Government (DIG) organization about having a virtual conference and expo on June 3, 2021. He forwarded the e-mail to the Board about this on May 29, 2021.
- NAD Region 1 meeting was on June 1, 2021. It was mostly about update on bills and conference. There was also an update about virtual NAD Leadership Training Conference. The conference will be on September 19-25, 2021. All events will be during the evenings, not day time.

## Vice President Gloria Hollen's Report:

- WVCDHH had several executive director position interviews and the interviews did not meet their standards. So they decided to re-post the position on July 12, 2021, and hope they will get more candidates to apply for the position.
- Chinese Raffle Vice President Gloria Hollen contacted the WV quilt group and they stated that they would be happy to donate a few quilt items. They are really nice items. She will send photos with item name to Treasurer Veronda Harrison soon.

## Secretary's Report:

• Secretary Tami Deem, Trustee Laura Crowder, and Legislative Chair John Burdette attended NAD's virtual Region 1 State Association Day on May 1, 2021. Secretary Tami Deem will write a story about it for the Summer 2021 newsletter (see page 1).

## **Trustee Laura Crowder's Report:**

• In May 2021 Trustee Laura Crowder met a new deaf senior citizen who just moved to the Cheat Lake area (near Morgantown, WV). She was notified by a church member about this deaf man and was told that he needed a connection with a deaf person as a friend. She met with him and created a friendship. During his living in Cheat Lake for few days, he faced hardship with finding interpreters for a lawyer, real estate realtor, etc. She referred him

(See Board Minutes on page 4)

## (Board Minutes from page 3)

to a good lawyer for home issues and it all worked out. However, he needs interpreters for meetings with realtors and lawyers. She will do some research on legal aid that would help him find an interpreter and will contact WV Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) for more information. She told this man few weeks ago that she would bring this issue up to her WVAD board members. She said that she needs guidance on where, who, and how to get legal aid for this man.

- Trustee Laura Crowder set up a birthday fundraiser on Facebook to raise money for WVAD.
- Trustee Laura Crowder shared information received from her co-worker that Morgantown, WV will be hosting a Depression Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Conference to be held on August 14, 2021. Time has not been announced yet but she will post DBSA flyer on Facebook when it comes out. Interpreter services will be provided. They will have two ASL interpreters at the conference. Please watch out for flyers for location, time, etc. It is strongly encouraged that deaf people come and learn how to fight depression. Goodies will be provided. I have been volunteering for DBSA organization to help other people.
- Trustee Laura Crowder is currently teaching sign language to four people (one adult from WV is interested in learning sign language to prepare for Sorenson and forensic linguistics and three homeschooled teenagers from Maryland who want

to learn about deaf culture and linguistics). It has been going really well and is very challenging.

## **Trustee Scott Hottle's Report:**

- There was a meeting about LEAD-K in Romney, WV, on May 26, 2021.
- WV Deaf Service Center (DSC) will have a family camp weekend at Holly Gray Park near Sutton, WV, for some families with deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH) children on June 25-27, 2021. They will have outside activities for everyone.
- WV DSC will have a week (Sunday noon to Friday noon) deaf camp (Me of My Dreams! Summer Camp) for D/HH students, ages 14-21, on July 11-16, 2021, at Cedar Lakes near Ripley, WV. The camp will support career and future success related to jobs and careers. They will have up to 15 campers who will be there.
- WV DSC will also have an ASL summer camp for D/HH campers, ages 8-14, at Chestnut Ridge Park near Morgantown, WV, on July 25-28, 2021. They currently have 8 kids signed up right now. These 3 camps were paid for by WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).
- Trustee Scott Hottle and April Hottle asked Sheri Farinha (CEO of NorCal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Principal Investigator, HRSA) to make a copy of ASL milestones for kids 0-5 years old for our WV LEAD-K. He would like to share with the board copies of ASL milestones from 0 to 5 years for D/HH children from California. Those copies were sent to Monica DellaMea (Director of Early and Elementary Learning, WV Department of Education) a couple weeks

ago. She is working on making a print of it for the next meeting on June 22, 2021.

## **Trustee Sylvia Mick's Report:**

 Trustee Sylvia Mick made a few things for the Chinese raffle and will be sending photos of them

## **Newsletter Editor's Report:**

Deadline for the next newsletter is June 20, 2021.

# Membership Coordinator Jimmy Harrison's Report:

At the last board meeting, there were 142 members. Currently there are 132 members.

# Legislative Chair John Burdette's Report:

- WVAD submitted an amendment for LEAD-K (change the start date and add deaf/hard of hearing in the bill) but that bill died. In this meeting, we are finding out through Trustee Scott Hottle that LEAD-K is moving forward.
- We will continue to submit open CC and closed CC bills in future legislature.

# Education Advocate April Hottle's Report:

No report.

## **Bylaws Committee Report:**

Nothing to report.

## <u>Fundraising Veronda Harrison's</u> <u>Report:</u>

Continue to do That's My Pan fundraiser. Deadline is June 21, 2021. Share the fundraiser on Facebook if possible. WVAD is planning to have a Chinese raffle soon to raise money for the conference. Some things will be for the Christmas party too.

#### **Old Business:**

Mask fundraiser is dropped.

## **New Business:**

MOTION: Secretary Tami Deem made a motion to appoint Trustee Laura Crowder to be Director of WVAD Youth Committee. Vice President Gloria Hollen seconded. CARRIED

(See Board Minutes on page 5)

# This is a West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) non-profit organization newsletter for our WVAD family and friends.

It is the purpose of WVAD Quarter News to be an informative communications newsletter by all WVAD members and non-members, addressing WVAD programs, activities, issues, and member interests. WVAD Quarter News strives to maintain a balance between program and general interest news. Contact the WVAD Quarter News editor at wvad.newsletter.editor@gmail.com concerning material appearing in WVAD Quarter News. WVAD Quarter News will publish materials submitted by anyone, subject to editorial review and approval. Please remember to send references of any outside sources you may use. Authors' names will be withheld from publication at their request. The views and opinions expressed by contributors to WVAD Quarter News are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of WVAD Quarter News.

## (Board Minutes from page 4)

MOTION: Vice President Gloria Hollen made a motion to have a Christmas party in December. Trustee Laura Crowder seconded. Party will be on December 4, 2021, at Clarksburg VFW. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Secretary Tami Deem made a motion to have a silent auction at the Christmas party. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Trustee Sylvia Mick motioned to have games at the Christmas party. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED

MOTION: Treasurer Veronda Harrison motioned Christmas party admission price be \$20.00. Vice President Gloria Hollen seconded. CARRIED Next board meeting will be held on September 26, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. at Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL) in Morgantown, WV.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tamera Deem Secretary

# Camp Can Do: Building Bridges to Success 2021 By Angela Williams, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Raleigh County Schools

"Camp Can Do: Building Bridges to Success 2021" was a five-day long face-to-face camp experience for deaf/hard of hearing students ages 14-21 offered by Angela Williams, deaf/hard of hearing instructor with Raleigh County Schools and CRP provider with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation.

Camp Can Do took place at Adventures on the Gorge (https://adventuresonthegorge.com/) in Lansing, WV (Fayette County) from July 19-23, 2021. Fourteen (14) deaf/hard of hearing students had the opportunity to complete a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) projects including building a birdhouse from reclaimed wood, dissecting owl pellets, honey bee investigation (students had four types of honey to sample and completed a 3D model of a honeybee), and bridge building.

During our bridge building lesson, students researched, designed, and built their bridges in teams for the ultimate challenge.

Transition instruction was provided to help students build bridges to successful employment. Fun and instructional activities included upper New River rafting and exploration, timber trek (obstacle course), swimming, zipline, bridge walk, and laser tag while teaching the fundamentals of instruction in self advocacy, work readiness, post-secondary education opportunities, and career exploration. Instruction was provided both in English and American Sign Language.

On Friday, July 23, 2021, students enjoyed watching "Tarzan" at Grandview Visitor Center at New River Gorge National Park put on by WV Public Theatre. The play was interpreted by Jim and Ressie Phillips.

Members of the deaf/hard of hearing community were invited to provide ASL instruction and share information on deaf culture. Keith Simmerman demonstrated the differences in English signing and ASL, and modeled a beautiful story using his ASL skills. The family of one of the students, Cate Kinder, spoke to our students about how deafness effects the entire family (Cate's dad is also hard of hearing), and Paula Canada spoke on overcoming the challenges of her deafness in the workplace. Paula is a deaf educator in Raleigh County.

Camp Can Do 2021 was a huge success. Many thanks to individual contributors and WV Division of Rehabilitation for supporting the event. A special thank you to Russell Cole and Crystal Facemire for encouraging the students to participate.



(See Camp Can Do Photos on page 15)

## (WVAD Participates... from page 1)

was also presented in the afternoon ("Young Adult Leaders and State Association Involvement"). The moderator for this panel discussion was Chanel Bonheyo (NAD Youth Programs Director).

Town hall discussion was held after the afternoon presentation. The topics discussed were interpreting, justice system, and senior citizens. The moderator for this town hall discussion was Feta Fernsler (Delaware Association of the Deaf President). Maryland Association of the Deaf donated \$1,000 (Gold sponsor); Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf donated \$500 (Silver sponsor); Connecticut Association of the Deaf, Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf, and New Jersey Association of the Deaf (\$200 each); and Empire State Association of the Deaf, Maine Association of the Deaf, New Hampshire Association of the Deaf, Rhode

Island Association of the Deaf, Virginia Association of the Deaf, and West Virginia Association of the Deaf (\$100 each) (Bronze sponsors). Region 1 State Association Day Committee gratefully appreciated all of the sponsors for making the State Association Day happen. The monetary donations went to interpreters, freebies, and any other expenses that was required to make the day happen.

Region 1 voted to have virtual State Association Day again in 2 years.





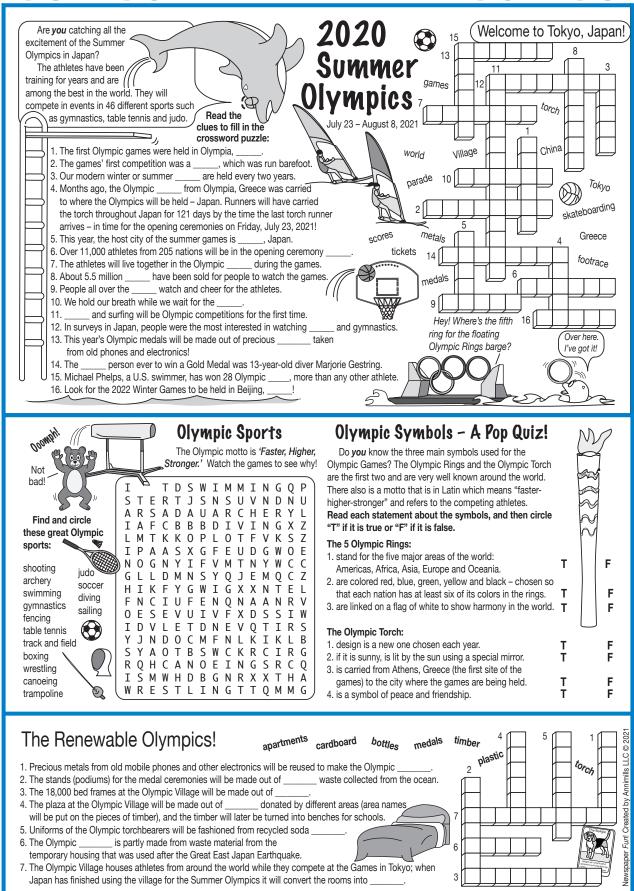














## Patricia D. Russell

Patricia Darlene Russell, 54, of McAndrews, KY passed away on May 1, 2021, at her residence. She was born August 28, 1966, in Dearborn, MI. She was the daughter of Gethel Marie "Blackburn" Lowe and the late Tommy Joe Russell.

Besides her biological father Tommy, she was preceded in death by her father who raised her, Freddie Lowe, and two brothers: Tommy Joe Russell Jr. and Michael Dean Lowe.

Patricia loved to spend time shopping, playing video games, and dancing.

In addition to her mother Gethel, those remaining to cherish her memory include a brother: Albert Patrick Gage Lowe (Melissa) of Nimitz, WV, an aunt: Dorothy Blackburn, four uncles: Larry Blackburn of McAndrews, KY, Albert (Paulette) Lowe of Jumping Branch, WV, Arnold (Geraldine) Lowe of McAndrews, KY, and Clayton (Deb) Blackburn of OH, a niece: Star Lowe of Covington, WV, a nephew: Patrick Gage Lowe of Fayetteville, WV, and a great nephew: Avery Crook of Nimitz, WV. She is also survived by a host of other extended family and friends.

Patricia graduated from the WV School for the Deaf in Romney, WV, in 1989.

A memorial service will be announced by the family.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Jones & West Funeral Home of Phelps, KY, 606-456-0656. You may sign the guestbook at https://www.westfuneralhomeky.com/obituary/Patricia-Russell?fbclid=IwAR3jME\_xg-dK2iLn\_yYSaJCOPehS8CfrAZF0uqa-EueZTwavIB7JcZZTy4E7k.





# Phillip Andrew Marks

Phillip Andrew Marks, 56, of Cabin Creek, WV, formerly of Morgantown, passed away on Friday, May 14, 2021, at the Charleston Area Medical Center, Memorial Hospital. He was born February 3, 1965, in Morgantown a son to Judy Dalton of Pace, FL, and the late Clifford 'Hippie' Marks.

Phillips graduated from the WV School for the Deaf and Blind in 1984. He loved cheering on the Mountaineers and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He loved spending time with his family and special cat. He had a special talent for drawing.

Phillip had lived in Charleston with his longtime girlfriend of nearly 20 years, Lauren Ruiz, and her two children, daughter, Charley Ruiz, and son, James Ruiz, and their children. In addition to his mother, Phillip is survived by his sister, Tina Harman, and two brothers, Nathan Keener and John 'Hippie' Marks all of Morgantown.

There will be a memorial service to celebrate Phillip's life at a later date. Cremation services have been arranged by the Fred Jenkins Funeral Home of Morgantown (https://www.fred-jenkinsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Phillip-Andrew-Marks?obId=21688662#/celebrationWall).



## Lillian Eileen Greathouse

Lillian Eileen Greathouse, 66, of Vienna, WV, passed away May 25, 2021, at her residence. She was born in Elizabeth, WV, December 14, 1954, the daughter of the late Woodrow and Myrtle Kyer Greathouse.

She was a 1974 graduate of the WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV. She had worked for over 30 years for the Wood County Board of Education as a custodian at Parkersburg South High School and Van Devender Junior High School. She had served as a former officer for the WV Association for the Deaf and was Past President of the Parkersburg Association for the Deaf. She loved her school at Romney and loved the local deaf community. She was a member of the Fairlawn Baptist Church.

She is survived by her sisters, Helen Burdette of Vienna, Mary Varner of Ritchie County, Holly Lambert of Chesapeake, WV, and Janet Phillips of Columbus, OH; one brother, Earl James of Reedsville, OH; and several nieces and nephew whom she loved dearly. She was preceded in death by her sister, Julia Talkington and her brother, Edward James.

Visitation was from 5:00 p.m. until funeral services at 7:00 p.m. on May 28, 2021, at the Leavitt Funeral Home in Parkersburg with Pastor Don Yeager officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the WV School for the Deaf and Blind, 301 E. Main Street, Romney, WV 26757 (https://www.leavittfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Lillian-E-Greahouse?obId=21217496&fbclid=IwAR0 PoO\_NrW3krj5Ay\_zdq77pJW0IEYC-QQCPy6s-rOX3LssCxxRlS1OCi0Ig#/obituaryInfo).

(See Obituaries on page 9)

## (Obituaries from page 8)



William H. Burke

William H. Burke, 75, of Dingess, WV, went home to be with the Lord on May 31, 2021, at his residence.

He was born January 18, 1946, in Logan, WV, the son of the late French Burke and Mary Jane Gore.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Howard Gore; two sisters, Sue Burke Muncey and Mildred Burke Gore; and four brothers-in-law, William Kirk, Don Muncey, Marvin Gore, and Roger Adkins.

Harold enjoyed traveling, fourwheeling, spending time with his family and friends, sports, games, and having fun.

He was a 1965 graduate of the WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV.

Those left to cherish his memory include his children, William (Sheila) Burke and Natasha Vlock both of Ohio; two sisters, Virginia (Jack) Dempsey of Dingess and Rosetta (Benton) Spaulding of Richmond, KY; two brothers, French (Peggy) Burke of Chapmanville and Eddie Burke of South Carolina; two grandchildren, Jamie and Cory; seven great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other loved family and friends.

Services was at 1:00 p.m., June 4, 2021, at the Dingess House of Prayer with Pastor Greg Taylor officiating. Burial followed at the Burke Cemetery, Varney, WV.

Freeman Funeral Home, Chapmanville, WV, was in charge of the funeral arrangements (https://www.freemanfuneralhomeinc.com/obituary/William-Burke?fbclid=IwAR10gSvo9vcDqXqW\_\_-u-GNZi4L4l0shr-6bajKowhKwzsI2A-7WW7rzN6o).



Norma Lee Favre

Norma Lee Favre, 87, of Craigsville, WV, passed away at her home on Friday, July 2, 2021.

Born April 6, 1934, at West Milford, WV, she was a daughter of the late Albert Worthy and Elizabeth Pearl Crouser Devericks. She was also preceded in death by her husband, John Favre.

She was a member of the Seasoned With Love Ministries Church at Craigsville, was a former custodian with Brown University, and loved to do crafts. She attended the WV School for the Deaf in 1940.

Survivors include her children, Dennis (Leslie) Browning of Craigsville and Terry Gigandet; siblings, Vernon (Worthy) Devericks, Florence Johnson, Charles Devericks, Blaine Devericks, and Shelia Swiger; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services was held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 17, 2021, at Romney, WV. In keeping with her wishes, she was cremated.

White Funeral Home, Summers-ville, WV, was in charge of the funeral arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at https://www.whitefuneralhomewv.com/obituary/Norma-Favre?fbclid=IwAR3WBnNLOsRic8kzm2\_h8L-HurPLXXMomnfhnM7mmBDlcd\_LULCRnAsqoDrw.



Brenda Kay Buckbee

Brenda Kay Buckbee, 68, of Romney, WV, passed away on Wednesday July 21, 2021, at her home surrounded by her family while under the care of Hospice. Brenda was being cared for by her family while she battled melanoma.

Born on November 26, 1952, in Romney, she was the daughter of the late Noah Odell "Ed" Buckbee and Ilene D. McDonald Buckbee Ganoe.

Brenda worked for the WV School for the Deaf and Blind as a residential aide where she treated all the residents as if they were her own family. She was a graduate of Hampshire High School, Class of 1971.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her partner, Joe Eddy Corbin. Surviving are four siblings, Sharon Herriott (Andy) of Springfield, WV, Johnny Buckbee of Paw Paw, WV, Gloria Halle (Larry) of Amelia Island, FL, Edward Buckbee of Delray, WV, and nieces, Stacy Graves (Tim), Sarah McDonald (Sam), Johnna Buckbee, nephew, Johnny Buckbee, Jr., great-nephew, Nathaniel Graves, and great-niece, Elizabeth Graves.

Funeral services was on July 25, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., McKee Funeral Home, Romney, WV, with David Bradfield officiating. Interment followed at Delray Church of Christ Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Dawn's Cat Sanctuary, P.O. Box 1562, Fort Ashby, WV 26719 or Hospice of the Panhandle, 330 Hospice Lane, Kearneysville, WV 25430 (https://www.mckeefuneralhome.com/obituary/brenda-buckbee?lud=F04EA906DA3D5F4F6F6AE14A5EF7591F&fbclid=IwAR0IbjqXx3xyYvBVF-NvZJK3QYqv1qnxkQ6\_xLty-IbhoQV8RoJOM7FdOSZ4).

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# **Teleworking**

# Are you teleworking?

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability, and working from home, Relay Conference Captioning (RCC) makes it possible for you to stay connected to your workplace.

Actively participate through real-time captioning.



# NAD and ERC Invite State Agencies in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia to Collaborate in Addressing Illegal Disability Discrimination

(https://www.nad.org/2021/05/13/nad-erc-invite-agencies-in-md-va-wv-to-address-illegal-disability-discrimination/)

Washington, DC - May 13, 2021 -Today, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and the Equal Rights Center (ERC) alerted Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia state and county agencies about disability discrimination in the administration of public benefits that a recent investigation uncovered. The NAD and ERC invite these agencies to work quickly and collaboratively to ensure that no one is prevented from accessing critical public benefits, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. At the start of the pandemic, members of the disability community informed the NAD and the ERC that meaningful access to public benefits, particularly during the pandemic, is of paramount importance. As a result, the NAD and the ERC conducted a testing investigation of access to public benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the region.

The results of that investigation indicate that signing deaf and hard of hearing people have been denied meaningful and equal access to the assistance regional public benefits offices provide consumers in completing benefits applications because those state agencies have refused to provide any kind of interpretation assistance, including, but not limited to, qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, either in person or virtually. The investigation also uncovered inconsistent and illegal responses to callers who identify as deaf or who are calling on behalf of deaf relatives when they requested ASL interpretation. These failures violate Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which require public entities to provide disabled consumers with meaningful access to, and equal opportunity to participate in, all agency programs, activities, and services.

NAD CEO Howard A. Rosenblum comments "We understand that state and county benefits agencies have faced many challenges in operating their programs over the last year. Yet, state agencies cannot ignore deaf and hard

of hearing individuals, especially since they are among those most in need and marginalized, and that's why we're advocating for a collaborative solution."

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that unemployment rates for persons with a disability were substantially higher than those for persons without a disability and, in 2020, 17.9 percent of persons with a disability were employed, down from 19.3 percent in 2019 (Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics News Release (www.bls.gov). Last visited April 20, 2021). As members of the disability community, these numbers reflect the harsh reality for signing deaf persons and hard of hearing people, who face higher rates of unemployment than their non-disabled peers and who deserve and need equal access to public benefits.

The investigation was based on civil rights testing, an investigative tool used to gather evidence, usually in order to compare conduct to legal requirements or a policy. It usually involves one or more people covertly engaging in a transaction or interaction. In some tests, callers received a flat "no" in response to questions about whether agency representatives could arrange ASL interpretation for a deaf applicant trying to complete a benefits application. In contrast, agents told testers they could help a hearing applicant complete their application over the phone. Some agents told testers that they needed to arrange interpretation services themselves and hung up on testers who attempted to clarify the process for doing so. Another tester was told "Ma'am we don't do that" in response to a request for interpretation assistance on an application. A state employee explicitly told a hearing tester calling about a deaf sibling who needed interpretation, "Now, if he's deaf, he's not going to be able to do it over the phone." Testers were also repeatedly told that they would need to find a hearing person to assist them with the application, as agency offices were closed to the public due to the pandemic.

These examples represent egregious violations of federal law. The ADA and Section 504 require public entities to provide disabled consumers with

meaningful access to, and equal opportunity to participate in, all agency programs, activities, and services. According to federal regulations, the obligation to "furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a service, program, or activity conducted by a public entity" clearly falls on the public agency, not the individual with a disability. The ERC/NAD investigation shows a repeated failure on the part of the public entities in question to follow their obligations.

ERC Executive Director Kate Scott states "The pandemic has had a devastating impact on many communities, including the disability community. Access to public benefits like SNAP and TANF can be life-saving, so even though we are all facing unprecedented challenges, compliance with civil rights obligations is absolutely vital. We are hopeful that the agencies we've been in touch with will accept our invitation to fix the problems our investigation uncovered."

Rosenblum adds "Deaf and hard of hearing individuals need access to state services and are often neglected during disasters and health crises. State agencies must be prepared for such events and we offer our assistance to ensure that readiness includes being able to serve our community."

Anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing who has experienced discrimination in applying for public benefits is encouraged to report their experiences here.

Advocacy letters were sent to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Virginia Department of Social Services, and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, along with various county agencies in the three states.

The NAD and the ERC are represented in this matter by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and Handley Farah & Anderson.

Contact: Kate Scott, Executive Director, Equal Rights Center, kscott@equalrightscenter.org, phone number: 202-370-3220.

# Campers Build Coops, Brighter Futures (Ripley, WV Convention and Visitors Bureau; Posted July 14, 2021 @ 3:29 p.m., https://www.facebook.com/RipleyWVCVB)

A canopied area of Cedar Lakes was a hub of activity this week. Nineteen (19) teenagers from across West Virginia were busy constructing five chicken coops.

It's not unusual to find industrious young people at the conference center. What sets this group apart is their inability to hear at various levels.

The week-long camp is organized by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Spokesperson April Hottle of the WV Deaf Services Center explains it's all about helping the campers, age 14-21, prepare for independent living.

"The goal is to help them get ready for a career," she said. "These experiences will have an impact on their lives. We want to show them that they can get and keep a good job if they're willing. If they are willing, they can have a comfortable, good life."

Her husband, Scott Hottle, is among more than a dozen role models at the

camp. Communicating through sign language, he explained the construction project's biggest challenge was not necessarily the lack of hearing.

"It was building five of them," he signed with a smile. "There is a lot of different parts that went into this project from putting them together to painting them."

The coops will have various destinations upon completion such as the Jackson County Junior Fair, the WVU Community Education Outreach Service (CEOS) at Gay, and the Jackson County Community Foundation.

Camp trips included a visit to the Post Office in Charleston, WV. Several deaf workers are employed there, including one who is approaching retirement. Other presentations were made by the local Walmart manager and Jamie Hart, a law enforcement officer in Ripley, WV.

Participants are taking home with them their own battery-operated power

drill and MacBook, donated by the Jackson County School System.

Campers were finding the computers helpful in preparing for their "Shark Tank" entrepreneurship competition. Designed after a popular TV show, they were divided into teams and challenged to create products that could make an impact on their lives.

One team is devising a hearing aid that utilizes a magnet so as not to interfere with the wearing of eyeglasses.

The camp is not all work, though. They will be making a day-long trip to the King's Island amusement park in addition to swimming and games offered at Cedar Lakes.

Actress Marlee Matlin offers an excellent thought on the point instilled by the camp. "The handicap of deafness is not in the ear; it's in the mind."

Editor's Note: For more photos, please visit WV Deaf Service Center's Facebook page.





# In the News



# Report Finds Multiple Areas of Noncompliance at West Virginia Schools for

**the Deaf and Blind** By Bailey Brautigan, WOWKTV 13News, Posted June 24, 2021, 7:12 PM (https://www.wowktv.com/news/west-virginia/report-finds-multiple-areas-of-non-compliance-at-west-virginia-schools-for-the-deaf-and-blind/)

CHARLESTON, WV (WOWK)—A report was released by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) called the "Special Circumstance Review Report of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind (WVSDB). A review conducted in April by the WVDE Office of Support and Accountability found issues of noncompliance in many key focus areas.

Throughout the 2020 school year, a change in administration caused the WVDE to provide support to the faculty at the WVSDB, which currently houses 93 students and 24 teachers. Further supports were needed in personnel, transportation, finance, special education, and the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP), which were all reasons for the Special Circumstance Review.

A team of 21 staff members conducted this review through 49 classroom observations, 29 instructional staff interviews, multiple classroom visits, a tour of facilities and a thorough examination of student files and financial records between April 27–29, 2021.

The investigation uncovered multiple areas of non-compliance in the focus areas of:

- 1. Student Care
- 2. Instruction
- 3. Special Education
- 4. Facilities
- 5. Transportation
- 6. Financial Indicators and Purchasing Compliance
- 7. Personnel
- 8. Leadership

Students' social-emotional support needs were not being adequately met, and improvements needed to be made to professional development and leadership infrastructure at the school. Improvements also need to be made in documentation, family communication, and the utilization and maintenance of facilities.

The WVSDB will create an action plan based on the recommendations

from the report in order to address the shortcomings and needs of the school. Part of this plan will include consolidating two schools, which will increase opportunities for them to interact with peers and have better access to services. Parents and community members will be met with more communication and engagement, and short courses providing intensive training will be made available across all of West Virginia's 55 counties.

"We will always focus on what is best for the children of our state, especially those in vulnerable circumstances," said West Virginia Board of Education President Miller Hall. "The Board is committed to the process of restoring the vision and mission of the school so that it can best serve this important role. It is going to take some time; however, it is essential that we understand the magnitude of the issues in order to begin implementing the necessary measures."

"My staff and I are dedicated to supporting the WVSDB in addressing the deficiencies outlined in the report," said State Superintendent of Schools W. Clayton Burch. "We will begin with immediate concerns in the process of transforming the school to become a center for excellence in the education of West Virginia students who are deaf/ hard of hearing or blind/low vision. This is the start of an intensive and deliberative process for the school that serves an important role in our state."

Technical assistance will be provided by the Instructional Resource Center housed at the school.

The Special Circumstance Review was conducted as outlined in WV Code §18-2E-5 WVBE Policy 2322 which establishes 11 efficiency indicators necessary to provide an effective school system. The West Virginia Board of Education has received the report and instructed the State Superintendent to prepare the public report on the findings and establish an intervention team to lead efforts to implement the action plan to address areas of non-compliance.

See the link of the complete report: https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/21958-WVSDB-Report.pdf.

Editor's Note: WV School for the Deaf Alumni Association President Ruby Losh posted 8 videos explaining each focus area issues in ASL. Please see link: https://www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=ruby+losh.



The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Administration Building in Romney, WV.

## (In the News from page 14)

# Intervention Team Spending Time at Schools for the Deaf and Blind

By Jeff Jenkins, *MetroNews*, Posted July 15, 2021, 1:12 p.m. (https://wvmetronews.com/2021/07/15/intervention-team-spending-time-at-schools-for-deaf-and-blind/)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — State School Superintendent Clayton Burch told members of the state Board of Education this week he plans to continue to spend a lot of time in the months ahead at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind (WVSDB) in Romney, WV.

The board adopted the department's Special Circumstance Review Report concerning the school at Wednesday's state school board meeting.

The report, first released last month, cites eight areas of non-compliance at WVSDB, including student care, instruction, facilities, and leadership.

Burch and a team from the Department of Education's Office of Support and Accountability were back in Romney Thursday, meeting with faculty. Burch said he wanted to hear from teachers about what's needed at the school.

"I want to sit down, go through the report, and really hear from them on what we need to do," Burch said.

The team was also meeting with the faculty senate chair about scheduling professional development sessions with the school's teachers.

Other meetings Thursday and Friday were expected to focus on scheduling, admissions, and facilities.

Burch told state School Board members he anticipates changing the leadership structure at the school.

"There are 90 students, we don't need a superintendent," Burch said.

He indicated a new structure may include a schoolmaster instead.

Burch told the board the issues at the Schools for the Deaf and Blind won't be solved overnight.

"This is going to be hard, there's just no doubt about it," Burch said. "It's going to be a year of really, really tough decisions. The goal is we do a review again and it's better or we go in a different direction."

Burch said local community leaders have had a positive response to the state's intervention.

"We have yet to receive any negative response from them. In fact, the entire dialogue with them has been 'Can you put it back on track?"

Burch said during an appearance last month on *MetroNews* "Talkline" he'd have to give the WVSDB a failing grade as it currently stands.



W. Clayton Burch, WV State School Superintendent.

"It's something that we cannot ignore. We cannot take any amount of time (delay)." Burch said. "There's no waiting on this one. We need to be prepared in August when they (students) come back that we have begun the transformation of the school, modernizing it, and really expecting more."



(Camp Can Do... from page 5)



# FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

# **WVAD Hillbilly Whittler T-Shirts For Sale**

# \$15.00 EACH Plus \$5.00 for Shipping & Handling

# **Red Ring with Black Print**



**Royal Blue with White Print** 



**Blue Ring with Black Print** 



**Light Blue with Black Print** 



Proceeds will go towards the WVAD organization. If anyone is interested in purchasing a T-shirt, please contact Veronda Harrison (Treasurer) at 304-964-6025 Videophone or e-mail at verapple@aol.com. Feel free to let your family and friends know about this as they are welcome to purchase anything to support our organization.



WV Association of the Deaf is having a fundraiser with *That's My Pan!* If anyone is interested in shopping for bakewares or other items with your own preferred design, please contact one of the board members (Chris Mick, Gloria Hollen, Veronda Harrison, Tami Deem, Laura Crowder, Sylvia Mick, Scott Hottle, or John Burdette) if you need help. Order deadline is **November 13, 2021**. It would be a great gift for Christmas, birthday, wedding, anniversary, etc. To order online, see website link: https://www.thatsmypan.biz/wvad1915.

# KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS & AMAZON SMILE

## Free & Easy Ways You Can Help...

Check out our trusted partners and after a quick signup process or app download, they will donate to our WV Association of the Deaf organization every time you complete your shopping at the grocery store or on line. Thank you for your support!



SUPPORT WVAD! IT'S AS EASY AS SWIPING
YOUR KROGER REWARDS CARD EACH TIME YOU SHOP!

West Virginia Association of the Deaf has partnered with Kroger's Community Reward Program! This is a program where our organization receives 0.5% donations from Kroger EVERY TIME you purchase groceries in ANY of their stores using your rewards card at no additional cost! Sign up is easy!

Simply register online at https://www.kroger.com/account/ enrollCommunityRewardsNow/ and choose West Virginia Association of the Deaf! Please share this with your family and friends!

# <u>Directions on How to Sign WVAD Up on Your Kroger Rewards Card</u>

- 1. Go to https://www.kroger.com/account/enroll-CommunityRewardsNow/. Make sure you are registered on the Kroger website. If not, you will need to register so you can have an account with them.
- 2. Scroll down and click on I'm a Customer.
- 3. Select Find an Organization.
- 4. "Find an Organization" screen comes up. Type in **West Virginia Association of the Deaf**. Click on **Enroll** on the West Virginia Association of the Deaf box. Now you are all set! Thank you for supporting our organization!

If you need help with this, please contact Veronda Harrison at (304) 964-6025 or Tami Deem at (304) 212-2291.





SUPPORT WVAD! AMAZON SMILE WILL GIVE 0.5% OF YOUR ELIGIBLE PURCHASES TO WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF.

West Virginia Association of the Deaf has partnered with Amazon Smile Program! This is a program where our organization receives 0.5% donations from Amazon Smile EVERY TIME you shop on line at no additional cost! Sign up is easy! No need to re-register annually.

## Here's how to donate:

- Log into Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.com. If you do not have an account with Amazon, set one up.
- When you are logged in, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to give to.
- Scroll down to "pick your own charitable organization" and type in West Virginia Association of the Deaf.
- Select West Virginia Association of the Deaf. You only have to do this once and you are set to go!

Just login to Amazon Smile every time you shop on line. Enjoy shopping on Amazon Smile! Please share this with your family and friends!

## Officers' Contact Information

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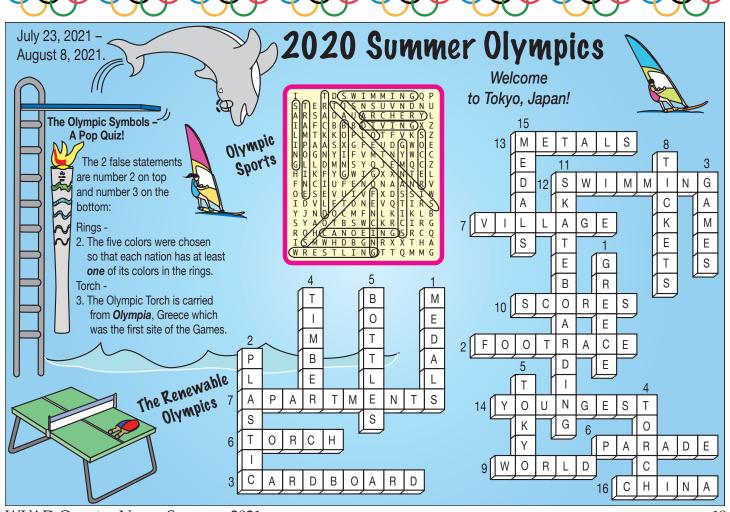
Laura Crowder, Trustee 31 Pine Tree Lane Morgantown, WV 26508 VP Number: 304-244-5206 lauracrwdr@gmail.com

# DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR WVAD NEWSLETTER IN E-MAIL?

You would get your newsletter faster than paper copy (about 2 weeks earlier). You can print your own newsletter on your printer if you prefer to read on paper. Once you receive your newsletter in e-mail, you will no longer receive papercopy newsletter.

If you want to receive newsletter through e-mail, please e-mail Tami Deem (wvad. newsletter.editor@gmail.com) or Veronda Harrison (verapple@ aol.com) and let us know.

(Fun Page Answers from page 7)





# 10th Annual WVAD Christmas Party



# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021

Doors Open at 1:00 p.m. to Midnight

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 430 West Pike Street Clarksburg, WV 26301

Age 18 and Above

Dinner Starts at 4:00 p.m.

Prize Giveaways Starts at 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Handicap Accessible (Elevator is Available)

TENTATIVE MENU: Chicken,

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Green Beans, Rolls, and Assorted Desserts

Please bring covered dish and/or dessert for an extra door prize ticket.



\$1,000 Door Prize Giveaway (Depends Upon Attendance)

Ugly Sweater Contest Various Gifts/Cash Prizes (Smart TV and More!) Door Prize Giveaway: Cash



\$20.00 per person includes Dinner and Door Prizes

Come One, Come All! Have Some Fun!

The uglier the sweater, will make the party better!

\* Building Occupancy Limit: 200 People \*

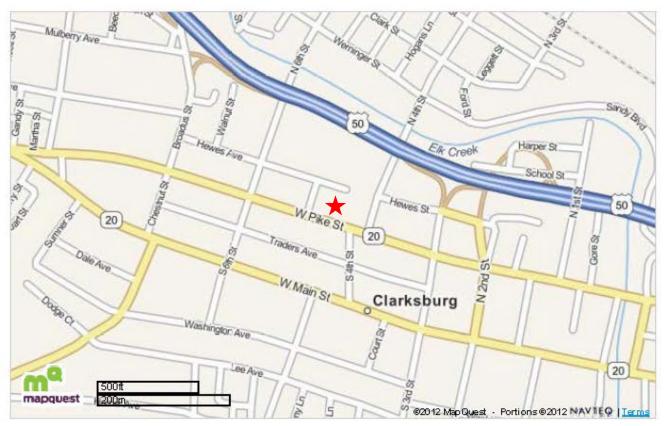
# Directions to Veterans of Foreign Wars 430 West Pike Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Traveling from North I-79, go South I-79, get on Exit 119, turn right on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from South I-79, go North I-79, get on Exit 119, turn left on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from East I-68, go West I-68 and merge onto South I-79 and get on Exit 119, turn right on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from Parkersburg, go on U.S. 50 East toward Clarksburg, get on Exit North 3rd Street. Turn right on West Pike Street.



#### STUFFED RED PEPPERS

Prep Time: 20 minutes; Cook Time: 20 minutes; Serves 4-6

(https://www.loveandlemons.com/summer-dinner-ideas/#wprm-recipe-container-58063)

4 red bell peppers 1½ cups white cheddar cheese Lime wedges, for serving Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling Avocado slices or guacamole, for serving Sea salt and freshly grounded black pepper

## Filling:

1 Tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil 2 jalapeños, diced, more for topping, if desired 1½ Tablespoons lime juice 1 teaspoon coriander 1 teaspoon sea salt 3 cups cooked white jasmine rice 1½ cups corn kernels

2 garlic cloves, grated
2 scallions, chopped
1 teaspoon lime zest
1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon cayenne
½ cup finely chopped cilantro
½ cups cooked black beans,
drained and rinsed



#### Directions:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 450 °F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Slice the peppers in half lengthwise, remove the seeds and membranes, and place on the baking sheet, cut side up. Drizzle with olive oil, salt, and pepper and bake 10 minutes. Tip out and discard any liquid that pools inside the peppers. Set the peppers aside.
- 2. Make the filling. In a large bowl, mix together the olive oil, garlic, jalapeños, scallions, lime zest, lime juice, cumin, coriander, cayenne, salt, and cilantro. Fold in the rice, black beans, and corn.
- 3. Scoop the filling into the pepper halves and top them with the cheese. Broil for 2 to 5 minutes or until the cheese is bubbling and browned. Alternatively, continue baking at 450 °F for 10 to 15 minutes until the cheese is melted. Serve with the avocado slices, lime wedges, and extra jalapenos, if desired.

**NOTE:** Vegan version – skip the cheese. Don't bake the peppers the second time and serve them with guacamole or chipotle sauce.



#### STUFFED ZUCCHINI BOATS

Prep Time: 10 minutes; Cook Time: 18 minutes; Serves 4-6 (https://www.loveandlemons.com/stuffed-zucchini-boats/)

2 large or 3 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise 3 cup grated Parmesan cheese 1/2 cup quartered cherry tomatoes 2 Tablespoons fresh thyme leaves Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling Sea salt

1 large egg, beaten 1 cup torn crusty bread, crumbled ½ garlic clove, minced 2 teaspoons lemon zest ¼ cup pine nuts Pesto, for serving Freshly ground black pepper



#### Directions:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 475 °F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- 2. Use a small spoon to hollow out the flesh of the zucchini, leaving a little more than ¼-inch thickness around the edges. Place them cut side-up on the baking sheet.
- 3. Make the filling. Place the scooped-out zucchini flesh into a mesh strainer and gently press out any excess water. You should be left with 1 cup flesh. Chop any coarse pieces and transfer to a medium bowl with the egg, bread crumbs, cheese, garlic, tomatoes, lemon zest, thyme, pine nuts, and ¼ teaspoon salt. Mix until combined, using your hands if necessary.
- 4. Drizzle the hollowed-out zucchini with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Spoon in the filling and bake for 16 to 18 minutes or until the filling is set and is golden brown and crisp on top.
- 5. Serve with pesto.

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☐ Interpreter	□ Interpreter
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□ \$25 for 2 Years — Regular	□ \$25 for 2 Years — Regular
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WVAD MEMBERSHIP FORM

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