

# WVRA 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



**November 16 – 17, 2023  
Greenbrier Resort  
White Sulphur Springs, WV**

# **Welcome to the 67<sup>th</sup> WVRA Conference**

## ***Reading Opens Doors to the Future***

Dear Conferees,

The West Virginia Reading Association (WVRA) began fifty-five years ago. Now in 2023, the Association remains the oldest professional organization in West Virginia committed to eradicating illiteracy in the Mountain State. In 1968, WVRA's key focus was improving reading instruction for all students. During these fifty-five years, since its founding, WVRA has evolved and made great strides to recognize student achievement in reading and provide professional development for all educators in reading.

### **WVRA: CHANGING LIVES THROUGH READING**

In 1968, we started reading (R)evolution as the first professional organization in our state dedicated to improving reading education. Then and now, WVRA members have consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to encouraging and supporting all West Virginia readers. More than 50 years later, we remain confident, committed, and caring West Virginians who are dedicated to the importance of reading and literacy.

### **CONFERENCE OVERVIEW**

This year, the 67th conference will celebrate and embrace how reading is the building block for all students to achieve the end goal after high school graduation of continued education, employment, or enlistment. The conference theme is *“Reading Opens Doors to the Future”* and reflects the amazing power that literacy offers to students from birth through adulthood. We have two amazing days of professional development planned. In addition to our nationally renowned keynote speakers, we have over 50 concurrent sessions planned. There is a wide range of literacy topics including representatives from the West Virginia Department of Education that will be presenting about the most recent legislation, the Third Grade Success Act. Along with the multitude of WVDE staff that are presenting, additional presenters include, reading specialists, board-certified teachers, faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from Marshall University, West Virginia University, Glenville University, and West Liberty University. The diverse and knowledgeable presenters ensure that you are receiving research-based information and innovative reading and literacy practices. Thank you for joining us for the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Enjoy!

## PLAN YOUR EXPERIENCE!

As you plan your conference activities, please note the following:

- QR Codes are your tickets to door prizes! You will find QR Codes throughout the conference, including vendors and sessions.
- Don't forget to visit our Selfie Station located in the Exhibit Hall! Share your pictures on social media for additional door prize chances.

### #wvraopenbooksopendoors

- Interested in joining and/or creating a local council? Contact Kathy Chapman for more information, [klchapman@k12.wv.us](mailto:klchapman@k12.wv.us)

## Schedule at a Glance

### Thursday, November 16, 2023

**7:30a – 4:00p** Vendors in Exhibit Hall

**7:30a** – Registration

**8:30a** – Chesapeake Room, Welcome! Pledge & Housekeeping

**8:35a** – Opening Speaker, Dr. Carla Warren, WVDE Director of Academic Support & Educator Development

**9:05a – 10:05a** Dr. Jennie Bectold Award presentation

Keynote Speaker: Lester Laminack, Sponsored by Scholastic

**10:15a – 12:00p** Concurrent Sessions: choice of one 90-minute session OR two 45-minute session, see pages 25 – 29 for descriptions

OR Paint Party, Highland Cow, Culinary Arts room \*fee

**12:00p – 1:25p** LUNCH

**Author's Luncheon** - Featured Author, Melody Pittman, *100 Things to do in West Virginia Before You Die*, Crystal Room \*ticketed event, fee

OR Lunch on your own \*see map for options, page 15

**1:30p – 2:35p** Chesapeake Room, Eddie C. Kennedy Award presentation;

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Heidi Ann Mesmer of Virginia Tech, Sponsored by Curriculum Associates

**2:45p – 3:30p** Concurrent Sessions: choice of one 45-minute session, see pages 30-32 for descriptions

OR **1:30p** Paint Party Highland Cow \*fee

**3:40p – 4:40p** Chesapeake Room, Madge McDaniel Award presentation and Keynote speaker: Dr. Gene Kerns, Sponsored by Renaissance

### Evening Entertainment:

**6:00pm Free** Magical Family Engagement, Culinary Arts Room, this activity gives you the opportunity to enjoy a sweet treat while learning and participating in activities that can be easily incorporated into a fun, family engagement activity for your school, sponsored by Renaissance

**7:00pm** Paint Party- Culinary Arts Room, State of West Virginia masterpiece \*fee

### Friday, November 17, 2023

**7:30a – 12:00p** Vendors in Exhibit Hall

**7:30a** – Registration & Networking

**8:30a** – Chesapeake Room, Welcome, Pledge & Housekeeping

**8:35a – 9:35a** Cynthia Lorentz Cook Award presentation

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Devin Kearns, Sponsored by Curriculum Associates

**9:40a – 10:20a** Student Literature Fair projects\*Exhibit Hall; Author's Tables\*Exhibit Hall; Roundtable Talks \*see page 34 for room assignments (9:40a-10:00a)

**10:25a – 12:00p** Concurrent Sessions: choice of one 90-minute session OR two 45-minute sessions, see pages 35-39 for session descriptions

**OR 9:40a** Paint Party with Kelly LaCava, inspired by Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome, Homesick Highland Cow \*fee

**12:00p – 1:30p** LUNCH

**Author's Luncheon** - Featured Author, Marc Harshman, *Following the Silence* and other poetry from his collection \*ticketed event, extra fee

or Lunch on your own \*see map for options, page 15

**1:30p – 3:15p** Chesapeake Room, Closing Session – Welcome Back; Evaluations, Award Presentation;

Poetry Out Loud Presentation, Jim Wolfe with student Willow Peyton, St. Mary's High School

Closing Keynote Speaker, 2023 West Virginia Teacher of the Year, Amber Nichols

2024 Theme Presentation; Election of 2024/2025 Officers; Door Prizes

Thank you for coming, see you next year!!

## CONFERENCE AND WVRA TEAM



Dr. Shelly Ratliff  
Immediate Past President



Dr. Angela Curfman  
President



Anna Holst  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Conference Chair



Kristin Walker  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President



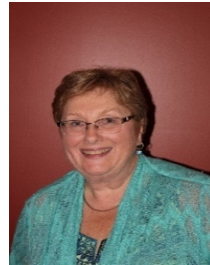
Jeannie Blake  
Secretary



Dr. Cheryl Jeffers  
Treasurer



Kathy Chapman  
WVRA State Coordinator



Kathy Blue  
Registration  
Host/Hostesses



Frances Horton  
Exhibits



Linda Childers  
Citations/Awards



Brian Bailey  
Membership



Teresa Brown  
Hospitality



Tony Nichols  
Strategic Planning



Leslie Baughman  
Technology



Helen Southall  
At Large BOD



Samantha Murphy  
Publications



Bruce Neal  
Executive Director



Connie Mundy  
Finance Director



Dr. Sarah Lee  
Literature Fair



Dr. Stephanie Burdette  
Authors



Dr. Elisha Lewis  
Studies & Research



Carol Turley  
Early Lit. Council

**WEST VIRGINIA READING ASSOCIATION  
LOCAL COUNCIL PRESIDENTS AND CONTACTS  
2023-2024**

Barbour County Reading Council – Connie Mundy, President

\*Brooke County Reading Council – President Needed

\*Boone County – President Needed

Cabell County Reading Council – Anna Holst, President

Gilmer County – Dr. Shara Curry, Contact

Glenville State College Student Reading Group – Dr. Shelly Ratliff and Connie O’Dell,  
Advisors

Jefferson County Reading Council – Sue Sours, President

\*Marion County Reading Council – President Needed

Marshall County Literacy Council – Jeannie Blake, President

Marshall University Reading Council – Dr. Stephanie Burdette, President

Mason County Reading Council – Elizabeth Knapp, President

Nicholas County Reading Council – Marcy Bragg and Monica Cox, Co-Presidents

Pocahontas County Reading Council – Michelle Murphy, President

Preston County Reading Council – Brian Bailey, President

\*Randolph County – President Needed

West Liberty Student Literacy Group – Dr. Angela Curfman, Advisor

\*Wood County Reading Council – President Needed

Webster Highlander Reading Council – Kathy Chapman, President

**Contact WVRA Coordinator, Kathy Chapman at  
klchapma@k12.wv.us  
for information about starting a local council or a group in higher education**

## **GRADUATE LEVEL CREDIT**

WVRA Conference attendees wishing to gain a 3-hour graduate level credit from West Liberty University may do so by applying to WLU Graduate Studies as a Special-Non-Degree Seeking Student. These credits can be used for certification renewal, salary increments, etc. Upon attending the conference, there will be beneficial assignments and summaries within the brief course which will conclude no later than December 8. The cost of the course is \$180 and an unofficial/official transcript is required upon submission of the application.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Richard L. Whitehead  
Interim Chair of Graduate Teaching and Learning  
Assistant Professor, Graduate Education  
Office: 304-336-8486  
[Richard.Whitehead@westliberty.edu](mailto:Richard.Whitehead@westliberty.edu)



**CONFERENCE PRESIDERS**

Thank you to everyone who served as a presider

Dr. Mindy Allenger Prewitt

Dr. Angela Curfman

Angie McDaniel

Helen Southall

Leslie Baughman

Dr. Cheryl Jeffers

Cliff Sullivan

Monica Cox

Jeannie Blake

Amiee Morewood

Canyon Lohnas

**CONFERENCE HOSTS AND HOSTESSES**

Thank you to everyone who served as a Host or Hostess

Elizabeth Kapp

*Thank  
You*

## THANK YOU

The power of partnership is amazing. There are many stakeholders that are an integral part of the West Virginia Reading Association. The presence and support of our conference is imperative to the growth of the organization and professional development of all members. For their contribution, we take this time to express our sincerest gratitude. Thank you to our corporate sponsors, including

Amanda Ansell  
Savvas Learning Company  
Stacy Muir  
Kim Marron  
Scholastic  
Melissa Webb  
Amplify  
Llianna Zuniga  
Lakeshore Learning Materials  
Mark Hurt  
Beth Pierce  
McGraw Hill  
Mindy Brinson  
Renaissance  
Skip Hackworth  
Steve McBride  
Curriculum Associates  
Mike Wilmeth  
Hatch Early Learning

*Thank  
you!*



## MEETING ROOMS BY AREA

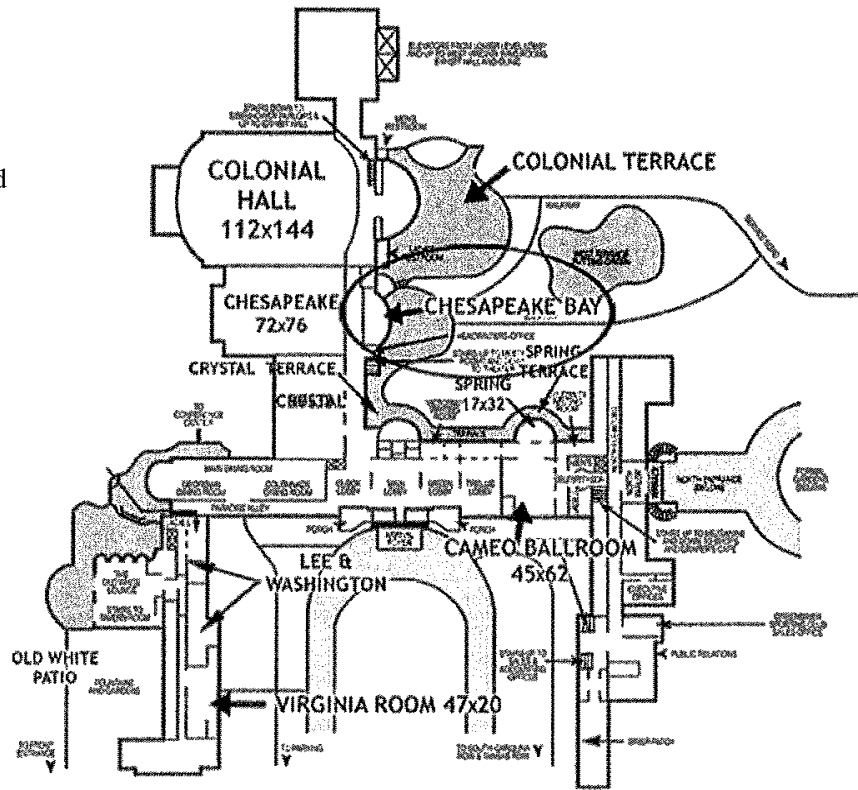
The meeting rooms are divided into three major areas: Upper Bunker Rooms, Bunker Level and Eisenhower Parlors.

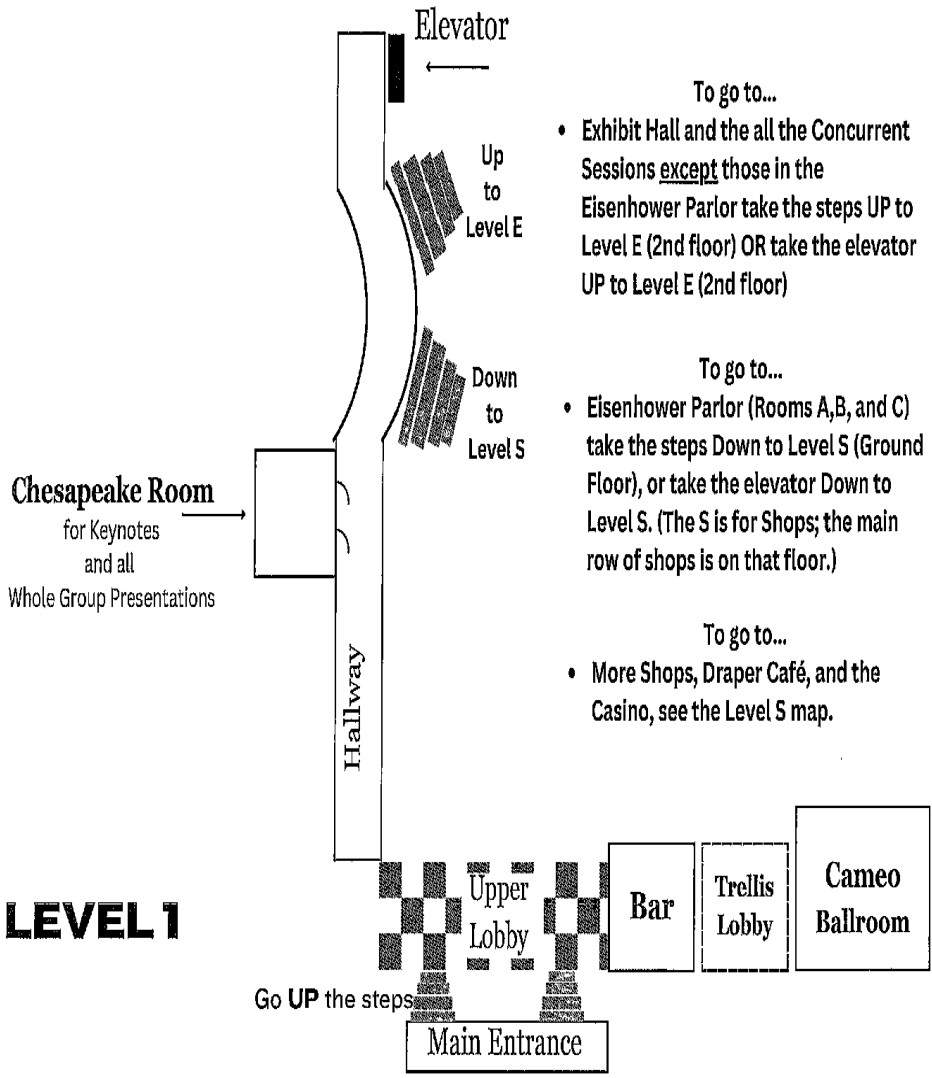
<p>Upper Bunker Rooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowland</li> <li>• Martin</li> <li>• Stewart A &amp; B</li> <li>• Johnson A &amp; B</li> <li>• Rayburn A &amp; B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the elevator at the far side of the Exhibit Hall.</li> </ul>
<p>Bunker Level Rooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibit Hall</li> <li>• Governor’s Hall</li> <li>• Mountaineer Room</li> <li>• Culinary Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the spiral staircase to the second floor or take the elevator. Push the E button.</li> </ul>
<p>Eisenhower Parlor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eisenhower A</li> <li>• Eisenhower B</li> <li>• Eisenhower C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the stairs down from the spiral staircase to the ground level (check in level) or take the elevator down to the ground level.</li> </ul>

All Keynotes and General Assemblies are held in the Chesapeake Room located at the bottom of the spiral staircases. Author luncheons are served in the Crystal Room located beside the Chesapeake Room. Vendors, The Student Literature Project Showcase and Sparking Early Literacy Growth poster session are hosted in the Exhibit Hall.

Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome, Homesick Highland Cow Paint Party is hosted in the Culinary Arts Room. Concurrent session locations vary and are included in the description.

Chesapeake and  
Crystal Rooms





**LEVEL 1**

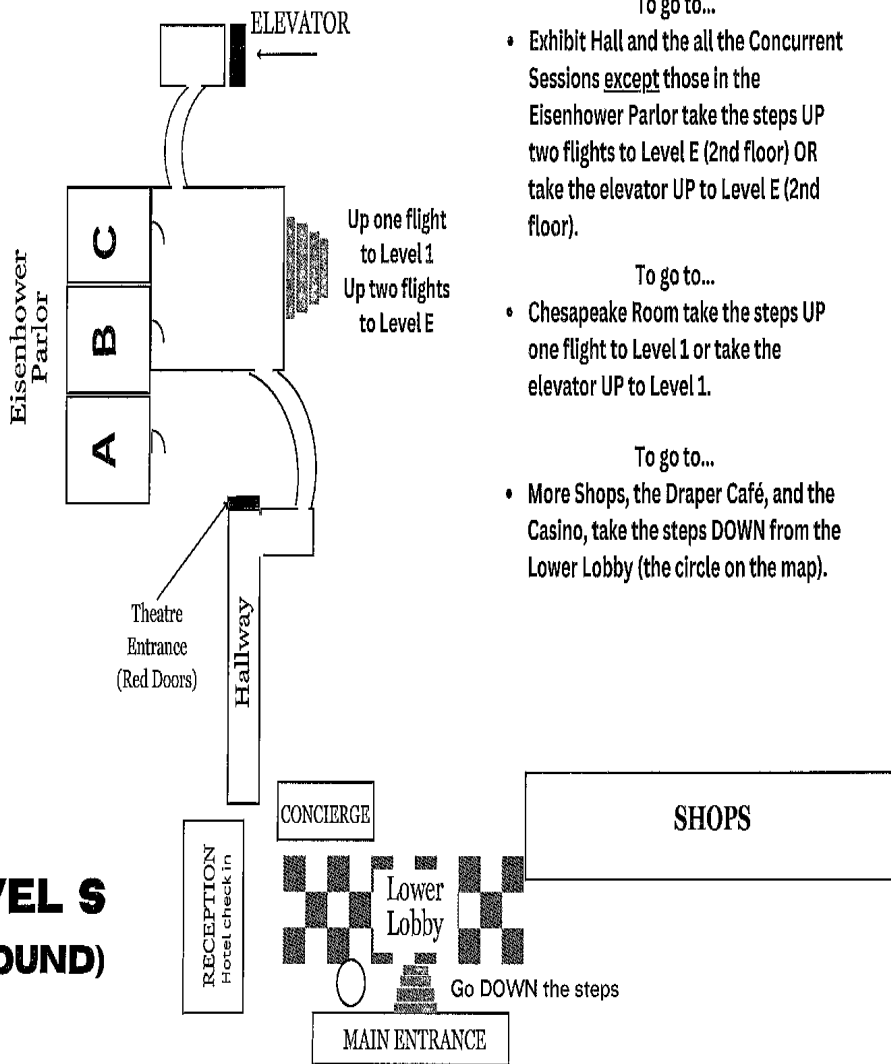
- To go to...
- Exhibit Hall and the all the Concurrent Sessions except those in the Eisenhower Parlor take the steps UP to Level E (2nd floor) OR take the elevator UP to Level E (2nd floor)

- To go to...
- Eisenhower Parlor (Rooms A,B, and C) take the steps Down to Level S (Ground Floor), or take the elevator Down to Level S. (The S is for Shops; the main row of shops is on that floor.)

- To go to...
- More Shops, Draper Café, and the Casino, see the Level S map.

Go UP the steps

**LEVEL S  
(GROUND)**



To go to...

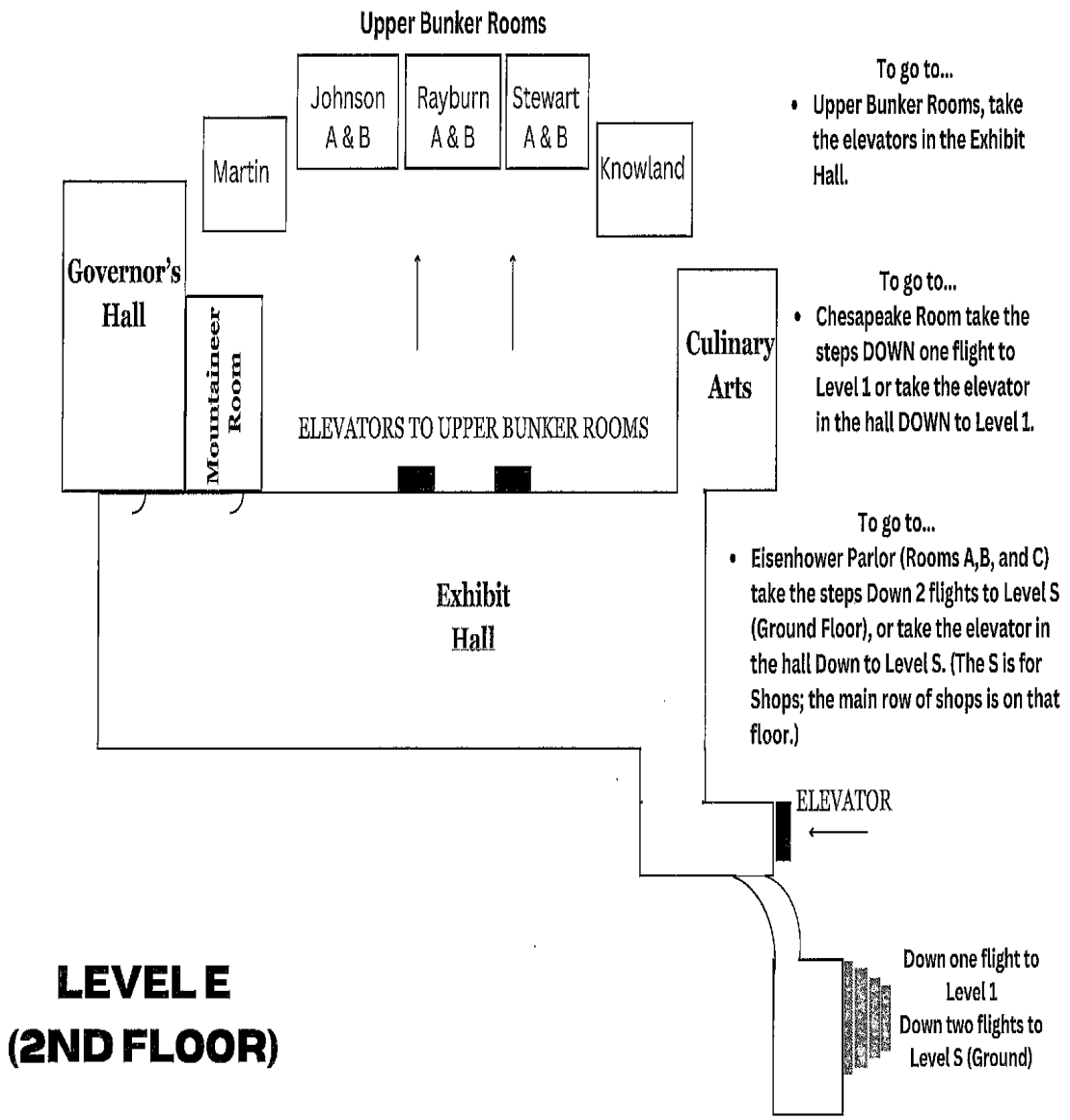
- Exhibit Hall and the all the Concurrent Sessions except those in the Eisenhower Parlor take the steps UP two flights to Level E (2nd floor) OR take the elevator UP to Level E (2nd floor).

To go to...

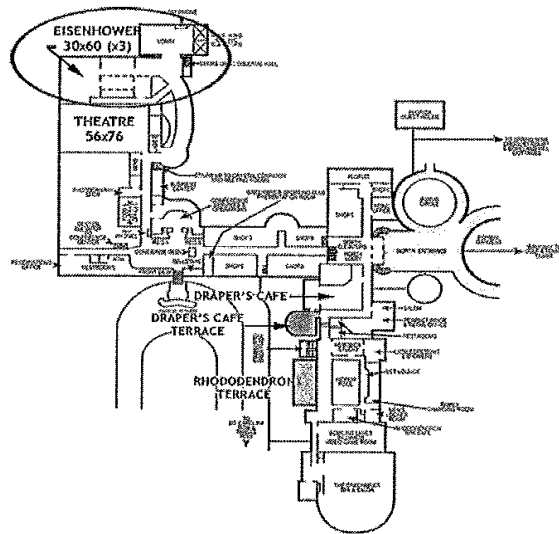
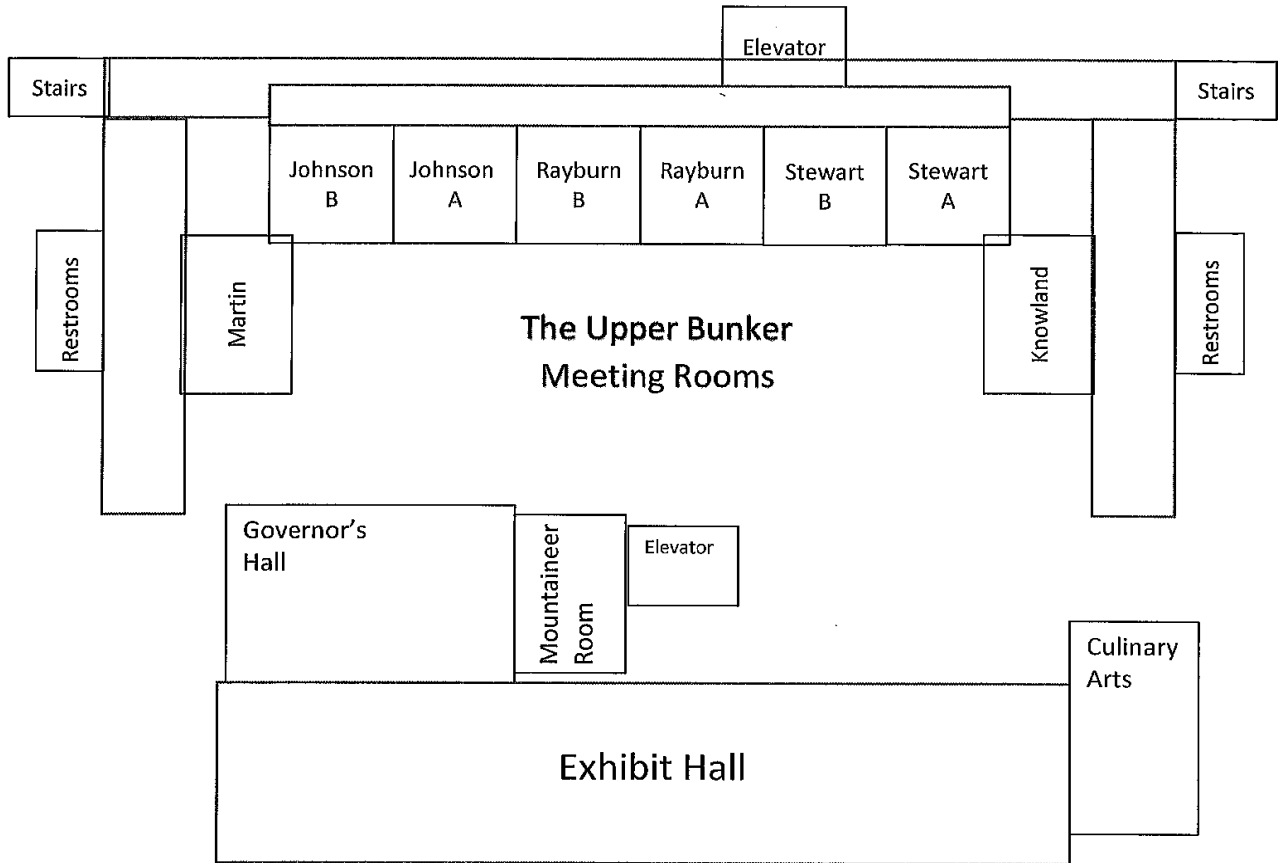
- Chesapeake Room take the steps UP one flight to Level 1 or take the elevator UP to Level 1.

To go to...

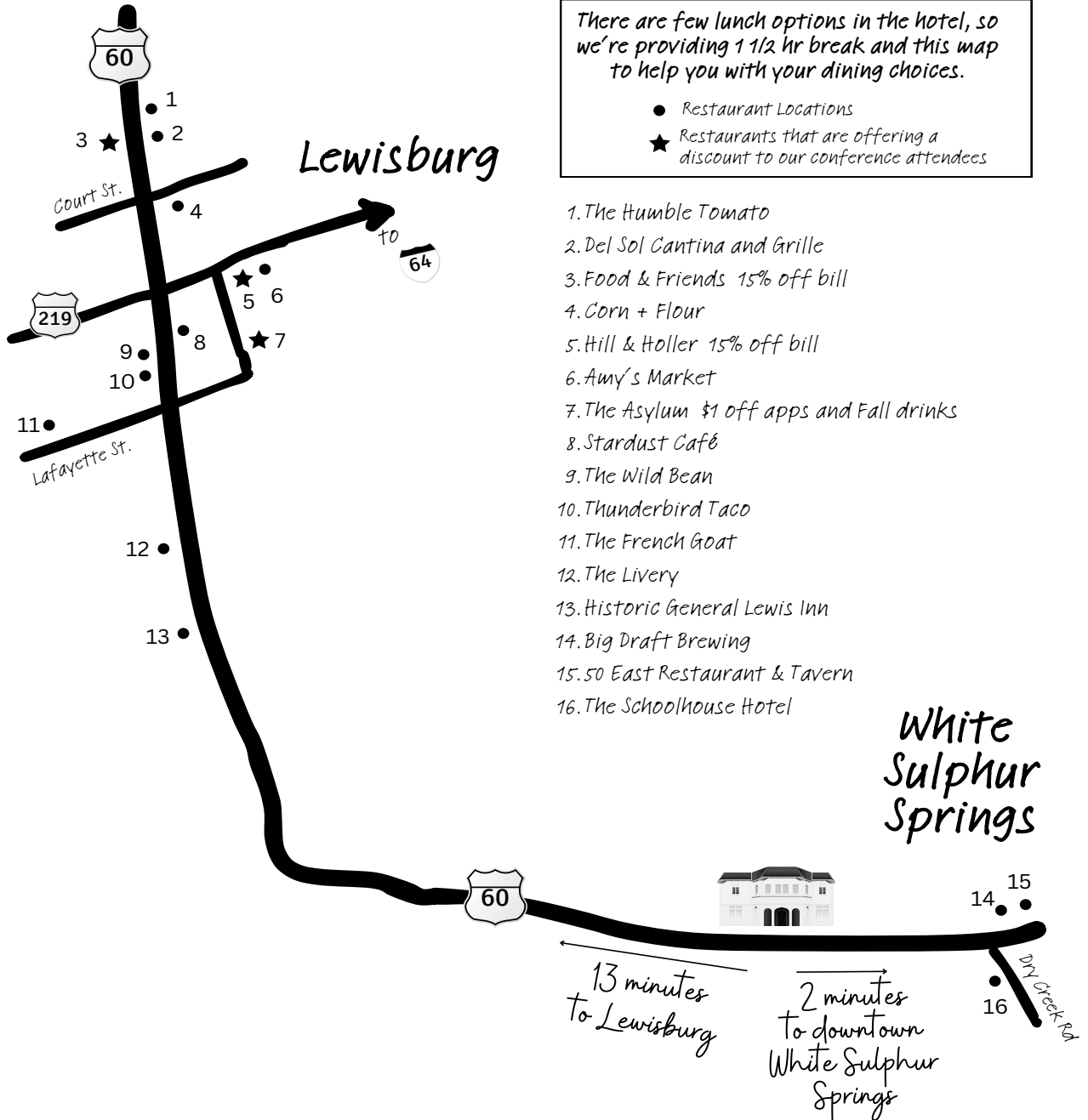
- More Shops, the Draper Café, and the Casino, take the steps DOWN from the Lower Lobby (the circle on the map).



## VISUAL DIRECTIONS-FLOOR PLAN



## A Guide for Some Restaurants in Lewisburg and White Sulphur Springs



## AUTHORS ON LOCATION

WVRA is honored to feature the following Authors at the 2023 WVRA 67th Annual Conference. Please visit their tables in the Exhibit Hall to purchase signed copies of their works, find out more information about them and/or snap a picture with these Authors.



Melody Pittman

\*Featured Author for Thursday's Luncheon



Marc Harshman

\*Featured Author for Friday's Luncheon

\*Ticket required for Author Luncheons



Andrea Lemon



Don Stansberry



Ashley Belote



Matt Browning



Anna Smucker



## THE EXHIBIT HALL \*\*CHECK HOURS

Hours: Thursday: 7:30am-4:00pm and Friday 7:30am-12:00pm

WVRA appreciates the dedicated vendors who support our conference. Please take time to visit their tables and learn about their resources and tools

### VENDOR

McGraw Hill  
Read Aloud West Virginia  
Kaplan Early Learning  
Curriculum Associates  
Amplify  
Savvas  
Reading Horizons  
Energy Express  
Carnegie Learning Company  
Scholastic Education  
Hatch Early Learning  
Hand2Mind  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Great Minds  
Save the Children  
Pixton Comics, Inc.  
Appalachian Center for Independent Living (ACIL)  
West Virginia Public Broadcasting  
Renaissance  
Lexia Learning  
NWEA  
West Virginia Public Education Collaborative  
Central Writing Project  
Voices of West Virginia  
95% Group  
Funetix  
Winsor Learning

### Representatives

Beth Pierce, Mark Hurt  
Dawn Miller  
Pam Bradley  
Skip Hackworth, Steve McBride  
Melissa Webb  
Amanda Ansell  
Brandon Bybee  
Mark Swiger, Christine Davis, Jennifer Emch, Dawn Swiger  
Regis D'Angelo, Cory Armes  
Kim Marron, Stacy Muir  
Mike Wilmeth  
William Shelly, Miranda Blount, Vickie Owens  
Jim Absten  
Kim Aguilar  
Cathryn Miller  
Dr. Tammy McGraw  
Emily Robinson  
Autumn Meadows  
Mindy Brinson  
Shannon Rankin  
Sylvia St. Cyr, Ashley Patterson  
Donna Peduto, Canyon Lohnas  
Stephanie Burdette  
Kate Long  
Laura Stewart, Jamie Bauer  
M. Kali Woodward, Esq.  
Diane Huettig

## WVRA AWARDS

Award ceremonies are hosted in the Chesapeake Room.

Award	Time/Date	Nominees
<p><i>The Dr. Jennie Bechtold Award</i> The award honors Dr. Jennie Bechtold who made numerous contributions to the West Virginia Reading Association over the years. Dr. Bechtold served as President, IRA Coordinator, and chaired many committees. She served on the prestigious IRA Nominations Committee. Her untiring commitment to the WVRA, IRA, and the countless students she mentored, was exemplary. Nominations must represent outstanding full-time elementary teachers, Title 1 reading specialists, or reading interventionists who have been employed for 1-5 years.</p>	<p>Thursday, November 16, 9:05am</p>	<p>Anna Malone Haley Tate Melissa Walker</p>
<p><i>The Eddie C. Kennedy Award</i> This award is named in honor of West Virginia University professor, Dr. Eddie C. Kennedy. Dr. Kennedy is an inspiration to the many students he taught (1953-1976) and to his membership in the West Virginia Reading Association and Local Reading Councils. Nominations must represent any certified teacher K-12, across the curriculum, who has made outstanding contributions to helping students become proficient readers and life-long learners.</p>	<p>Thursday, November 16, 1:30pm</p>	<p>Wanda Bailey Rachel Blankenship Tammy R. Fields Nicole Hess Nancy H. Kline Erin Murphy Whitney Stead Jamie Young</p>
<p><i>The Madge McDaniel Award</i> This award honors the memory of our first elected President of the West Virginia Reading Association, Madge McDaniel (1904-2004). Ms. McDaniel was – and continues to be – an inspiration to WVRA members and local reading councils. Nominations must represent an educator or administrator (K-12 or at the collegiate level) who has made outstanding contributions to the field of reading literacy. This may include, but is not limited to superintendents, principals, supervisors, Title I directors, county language arts coordinators/supervisors, reading specialists, and staff development coordinators.</p>	<p>Thursday, November 16, 3:40pm</p>	<p>Wanda Bailey Stephanie Burns Dr. Angela Curfman Kristin Giles Kelly Griffith Raquel McLeod Christy Schwartz</p>
<p><i>The Cynthia Lorentz-Cook Memorial Grant</i> This grant was created in 1982 to honor the memory of Cynthia Lorentz-Cook, a Charleston, West Virginia native. The purpose of this award is to provide funds (varies according to the number of applications received) to a local council or councils in need of development assistance for literacy programs and projects. Applications must be submitted through a local reading council or affiliate.</p>	<p>Friday, November 17, 8:35am</p>	<p>West Virginia University Reading Council</p>

## WVRA Awards Nominees

### Dr. Jennie Bechtold Award Nominees



**Anna Malone**  
Harrison County

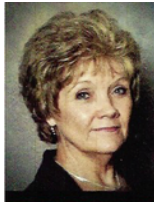


**Haley Tate**  
Mason County



**Melissa Walker**  
Pocahontas County

### Eddie C. Kennedy Award Nominees



**Wanda Bailey**  
Cabell County



**Rachel Blankenship**  
Mason County



**Tammy R. Fields**  
Hancock County



**Nicole Hess**  
Marshall County



**Nancy H. Kline**  
Mingo County



**Erin Murphy**  
Pocahontas County



**Whitney Stead**  
Cabell County



**Jaime Young**  
Ohio County

### Madge McDaniel Award Nominees



**Wanda Bailey**  
Cabell County



**Stephanie Burns**  
Pocahontas County



**Angela Curfman**  
West Liberty University



**Kristin Giles**  
Cabell County



**Kelly Griffith**  
WVDE



**Raquel McLeod**  
Ohio County



**Christy Schwartz**  
WVDE

**CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS  
AUTHOR LUNCHEONS  
CRYSTAL ROOM**

**Thursday, November 16**

**Melody Pittman, *100 Things to Do in West Virginia Before You Die***

Melody Pittman is a travel writer and influencer at Wherever I May Roam Blog, an MSN syndicated travel site that reaches nearly 4 million readers. She co-owns (with her daughter) a second blog, Travel the South Bloggers, and they also host an annual travel conference, Southern Travelers Explore. Melody freelances for several online and print publications, and this spring, published her first book, part of a national book series from Reedy Press, co-authored with a longtime friend since 6th grade, Angie Richards.

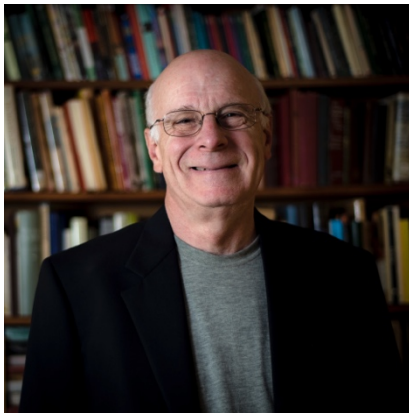
Melody spent 44 glorious years living and raising her family in Charleston. She currently resides in Mesquite, Nevada, but spent 4 months this summer traveling around the state of West Virginia promoting her book and getting WV content for the future.

Melody loves finding lesser-known towns and gems on her travels and sharing them with her social followers. She is a firm believer in buying and eating local, and loves living history, road trips, animals, cruising, and meeting people.



**Friday, November 17**

**Mark Harshman, *Following the Silence***



Marc Harshman's *WOMAN IN RED ANORAK* (Lynx House/University of Washington) won the Blue Lynx Prize. His fourteenth children's book, *FALLINGWATER; THE BUILDING OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S MASTERPIECE*, co-authored with Anna Smucker, was published by Roaring Brook/Macmillan and named an Amazon Book of the Month, as well as a Junior Library Guild selection. He is co-winner of the 2019 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award and his poem, "Dispatch from the Mountain State," was printed in the 2020 Thanksgiving edition of the *The New York Times*. His most recent publication is *DARK HILLS OF HOME*, Monongahela Books, 2022. His

newest full-length collection, *FOLLOWING THE SILENCE*, is forthcoming from Press 53. He holds degrees from Bethany College, Yale Divinity School, and the University of Pittsburgh. Appointed in 2012, he is the seventh poet laureate of West Virginia.

Of an earlier collection Jim Daniels wrote: "Harshman knows these people, these places, and he has the wisdom of someone who knows when to be quiet, when to watch, and listen, so that he can come to us and tell these heart-felt stories. These poems earn their keep, weaving together the physical and spiritual worlds in a landscape that can both sustain us and break our hearts."

**CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**  
**PRESENTATIONS ARE HOSTED IN THE CHESPAEAKE ROOM**

**Thursday, November 16**



**Dr. Carla Warren** serves as the Officer for the Division of Academic Support and Educator Development at the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). Her background includes 20 years as an elementary classroom teacher and more than a decade supporting pre-service teachers, teacher induction, and National Board Certification. Dr. Warren leads PK-12 academics, educator certification, and educator preparation which includes multiple pathways into the profession to meet the need for high quality educators in the classroom.

Under her leadership, West Virginia became the second state in the nation to register the K-12 teaching occupation as a Registered Apprenticeship Program with the U.S. Department of Labor supporting the launch of the Grow Your Own WV Pathway to Teaching and the WV Apprenticeship Model, innovative initiatives designed to remove barriers for high school students interested in pursuing a career in education. A native West Virginian, Dr. Warren is a passionate supporter of teachers at every stage of the teacher lifecycle and the work they do every day in the trenches to advance the lives of the students in our state.

**Lester Laminack**, Professor Emeritus, Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina is a full-time writer and consultant working with schools throughout the United States and abroad. He is the author of over 25 books for teachers and children. His academic publications include *Climb Inside a Poem* (Heinemann) *Cracking Open the Author's Craft* (Scholastic), *Bullying Hurts: Teaching Kindness Through Read Aloud and Guided Conversations* (Heinemann), *The Writing Teacher's Troubleshooting Guide*(Heinemann), *Writers ARE Readers: Flipping Reading Strategies into Writing Instruction* (Heinemann), *Reading to Make a Difference*(Heinemann), *The Ultimate Read Aloud Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Scholastic) and *The Ultimate Read Aloud Collection Fiction and Nonfiction* (Scholastic). His newest work for educators is *Critical Comprehension: Lessons for Guiding Students to Deeper Meaning* (Corwin). Lester is also the author of several children's books including: *The Sunsets of Miss Olivia Wiggins*, *Trevor's Wiggly-Wobbly Tooth*, *Saturdays and Teacakes*, *Jake's 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School*, *Snow Day!*, *Three Hens and a Peacock* (2012 Children's Choice K-2 Book of the Year Award), and *The King of Bees* all published by Peachtree Publishers. His new book, *Three Hens, a Peacock, and the Enormous Egg* is now available, and *A Cat Like That* is scheduled for publication in 2025.



**Heidi Anne E. Mesmer, Ph.D.**, is a Professor in Literacy in the School of Education at Virginia Tech. She has studied beginning reading materials, text difficulty, and struggling readers since 1999. Her research has appeared in *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Educational Researcher*, *Elementary School Journal*, and *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*. She has written and directed eight grants aimed at improving reading instruction in K-5



classrooms. Dr. Mesmer is the author of several books including *Letter Lessons and First Words: Phonics Foundations that Work* (Heinemann, 2019), *Alphabetics for Emerging Learners: Building Strong Reading Foundations in PreK* (2021). *Teaching skills for complex text: Deepening reading in the classroom* (Teachers College Press, 2016) Her research has been supported by a National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation, and an American Educational Research Association/Institute of Education Sciences grant. She is the recipient of the Outreach Award, from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech, and the Promising Scholar Award, from the School of Education, Virginia Tech. In 2014, she delivered The George Graham Lecture in Reading at the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia. She is regularly called upon by states and professional organizations to deliver lectures in her area of expertise (e.g., International Literacy Association, State of Maryland)



As Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, **Dr. Gene Kerns** advises educators in both the US and the UK about academic trends and opportunities. Dr. Kerns is a leading authority on education standards in the US and England, learning progressions, formative assessment, personalized learning, and the application of insights from the “science of expertise” within K–12. He delivers highly sought-after presentations each year—often to standing-room-only crowds of educators and administrators. Prior to joining Renaissance: Dr. Kerns served as the Supervisor of Academic Services for the Milford School District in Delaware, was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Delaware, and held various other teaching and administrative positions in Delaware and Virginia. He received Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Longwood University in Virginia, and holds a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Delaware. He is co-author of two books, *Informative Assessment: When It’s Not About a Grade* and *Unlocking Student Talent: The New Science of Developing Expertise* (in press).

**CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS  
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS  
PRESENTATIONS ARE HOSTED IN THE CHESPAEAKE ROOM**

**Friday, November 17**



**Devin Kearns, Ph.D.** is an associate professor of Special Education in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut (UConn). He is a research scientist for the Center for Behavioral Education & Research and Haskins Laboratories. Dr. Kearns has a Master's degree in Elementary Literacy from Loyola Marymount University and a Ph.D. in Special Education from Vanderbilt University. He is an

affiliated faculty member for the UConn Institute for Brain and Cognitive Sciences (IBACS) and the UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy.

**Amber Nichols** is a kindergarten teacher at Eastwood Elementary School in Morgantown, West Virginia. Nichols currently holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Shepherd College and a Master of Education from West Virginia University. She has taught for 21 years. Nichols is an active member of Eastwood Elementary's leadership, curriculum, and behavior intervention teams, and she is a mentor teacher for future teachers. She always strives to set rigorous academic and social-emotional goals for each child in her class, and she prides herself on creating an enriching classroom environment in which all students feel safe, loved, and appreciated. Nichols also enjoys writing and spending time with her husband, three children and two dogs.



**Schedule at a Glance**  
**Thursday, November 16, 2023**



**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

**7:30a – 4:00p** Vendors in Exhibit Hall

**7:30a** – Registration

**8:30a** – Chesapeake Room, Welcome! Pledge & Housekeeping

**8:35a** – Opening Speaker, Dr. Carla Warren, WVDE Director of Academic Support and Educator Development

**9:05a – 10:05a** Dr. Jennie Bectold Award presentation;

Keynote Speaker: Lester Laminack, Sponsored by Scholastic

**10:15a – 12:00p** Concurrent Sessions: choice of one 90-minute session OR two 45-minute sessions, see pages 25 – 29 for session descriptions

OR Paint Party with Kelly LaCava, inspired by Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome, Homesick Highland Cow, Culinary Arts Room \*fee

**12:00p – 1:25p** LUNCH

Author's Luncheon - Featured Author, Melody Pittman, *100 Things to do in West Virginia Before You Die*, Crystal Room \*fee

OR Lunch on your own, see page 15 for options and a map

**1:30p – 2:35p** Chesapeake Room, Eddie C. Kennedy Award presentation;

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Heidi Ann Mesmer of Virginia Tech, Sponsored by Curriculum Associates

**2:45p – 3:30p** Concurrent Sessions: choice of one 45-minute session, see listing for room assignments, see pages 30 – 32 for session descriptions

OR **1:30p** Paint Party with Kelly LaCava, inspired by Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome, Homesick Highland Cow, Culinary Arts Room \*fee

**3:40p – 4:40p** Chesapeake Room, Madge McDaniel Award presentation;

Keynote speaker: Dr. Gene Kerns, Sponsored by Renaissance

**Evening Entertainment:**

**6:00pm Free** Magical Family Engagement, Culinary Arts Room - This activity gives you the opportunity to enjoy a sweet treat while learning and participating in activities that can be easily incorporated into a fun, family engagement activity for your school, sponsored by Renaissance

**7:00pm** join us for a Paint Party, Culinary Arts Room - You can create and take home your own State of West Virginia masterpiece \*fee



**\*\*\*Thursday Morning Concurrent Sessions, November 16, 2023\*\*\***

**10:15 AM – 12:00 PM**

Conferees select between two 45-minute sessions **OR** one 90-minute session

**10:15am – 11:00am, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Mountaineer Room:**

**Women in STEM Careers**

Use literature to enhance your Women in STEM unit. You will receive hands-on activities to use with your students.

**Presenter:** Jeannie Blake

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**Wilson Room:**

**Writing the Right Way! Writing Instruction in K-2 Classroom**

Learn the importance of daily dictation, free writing, and the vital role handwriting plays in development. As well as strategies to motivate young writers and modify writing for all learners to be successful.

**Presenter:** Amanda Meadows & Beth Nixon

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Rayburn A Room:**

**Open the Door and Let Them In – Using Multiple Means of Representation**

Using multiple means of representation can provide the student with a variety of keys to open doors that were once locked. Participants will leave with creative strategies to engage all students.

**Presenters:** Debra Clay & Amanda Kenneda

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**Governor's Hall**

**What's New with the Science of Reading?**

Everyone knows the five pillars, so what's all the fuss about the Science of Reading? Come and learn about which ineffective practices we should STOP using from previous reading movements and what we should START doing instead.

**Presenters:** Christy Schwartz & Kelly Griffith

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

**Jackson Room:**

**Soar into the Future with Reading in Motion**

Do you want to soar your students into the future of reading? This session is for you! We will focus on ways to get your students up and moving in the classroom that promotes students achievement and enhance students interest.

**Presenter:** Marissa Schomaker

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 5, Special Education

**\*Continued 10:15am – 11:00am, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Martin Room:**

**Building Confidence in Phonics & Vocabulary with 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Students**

Join us as we discuss how to reinforce vocabulary and phonics skills through explicit, multisensory strategies that enable students to master important skills as they open doors to their future.

**Presenter:** Dr. Miranda Blout

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 5, Special Education, Title I

**Grant Room:**

**Fun Foundations & Ignite: Nurturing Literacy Through Engaging Play**

Explore the benefits of both book- and tech-based playful learning: an innovative approach to early childhood education designed to ignite a lifelong love for learning and provide a strong foundation for literacy.

**Presenter:** Nicole Nesheim

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 2

**11:10am-11:55am, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Rayburn A:**

**MWWBC Road Trip Opens Doors for US/National Parks Literary**

**Adventures,**

Travel across the US/National Parks with the Meadows Wildcat Wonder Book Club to see reading/writing open the doors for families by using maps, compasses, and books to create literary adventures.

**Presenter:** Dr. Cheryl Jeffers

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**Jackson:**

**Integration is Life! Grades K-2**

Building knowledge is a comprehension intervention, but how do we find the time to teach science, social studies, AND the Science Of Reading? Come and explore how to use integration as the doorway to student success.

**Presenter:** Keisha Runion Thompson

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Mountaineer Room:**

**What is Dyslexia Anyway?**

Learn what Dyslexia is, how to recognize it and what you can do for Dyslexic students in your classroom. There will be videos, discussions, and interactive activities in this session.

**Presenters:** Becky Ryder & Brandi Watson

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**\*Continued 11:10am-11:55am, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Wilson Room:**

**Opening the Reading Door for Students in Poverty**

Learn how poverty and stress impact the brain as well as how foundational skills are essential for helping students process and retain what is taught in the classroom.

**Presenter:** Cory Armes, M.Ed.

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**Governor's Hall:**

**Ready, Read, Write, West Virginia!**

Have you been wondering what the state is doing to address literacy gaps? Come and learn how you can be a part of this important work to help WV students. Free swag for participants!

**Presenters:** Kelly Griffith & Christy Schwartz

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 5, Special Education

**Martin Room:**

**Accelerating your Literacy Instruction with a Hands-On, Multisensory**

**Approach**

Enhance phonemic awareness, phonics and vocabulary through meaningful differentiation and multi-sensory learning opportunities to engage students as they are on their way to opening the door to their future.

**Presenter:** Dr. Miranda Blout

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2, Special Education

**Johnson Room:**

**One Gateway to Support Childhood Grief with Children's Literature**

This uplifting and positive session encourages teachers and families to read various books that discuss feelings of loss or anxiety and many other complicated experiences that a child may experience. Books and experiences will be shared.

**Presenters:** Amanda Preece, Julia Williamson, Mindy Allenger

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 5

**Grant Room:**

**Fun Foundations & Ignite: Nurturing Literacy Through Engaging Play**

Explore the benefits of both book- and tech-based playful learning: an innovative approach to early childhood education designed to ignite a lifelong love for learning and provide a strong foundation for literacy.

**Presenter:** Nicole Nesheim

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 2

**10:15am-11:55am, 90-minute sessions (with built-in break in the middle), pick one:**

**Rayburn B:**

**Using Picture Books to Teach Life Skills: Perseverance, Teamwork, and Leadership**

How children's picture books can be used to teach deeper lessons than implied from a simple reading. Participants will learn about the importance of setting goals working together, never give up, and how reading affects all aspects of life.

**Presenter:** Kathy Chapman

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 5

**Stewart Room:**

**The How and Why Behind Effective Phonics Instruction and an Introduction to the West Virginia Phonics Lessons, \*Phonics Cohort participants should NOT attend this session**

This session will explore the how and why behind effective phonics instruction, as well as provide participants with an introduction to the new and improved West Virginia Phonics resources.

**Presenters:** Brittany Fike & Samantha Sparks

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

**Chesapeake Room:**

**\*Feature Session\* Sparking Early Literacy Growth: Two Years of Literacy Transformation**

The WVPEC and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation recap the second round of the Sparking Early Literacy Growth in West Virginia initiative before hosting a poster session about individual projects.

**Presenters:** Donna Peduto, Melanie Claxton, Canyon Lohnas

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 2

**Knowland Room:**

**STREAM: Opens the Door to Interdisciplinary Success!**

Participants will gain knowledge as they are immersed in a collaborative literature-based learning experience that incorporates and addresses all components of STREAM, *Science, Technology, Reading, Arts, Engineering, and Mathematics*. Participant-centered and an inquiry-based approach drive this presentation experience. This session will conclude with the opportunity to design a STREAM learning experience, individualized for the participant's classroom.

**Presenters:** Dr. Angela Curfman, Melesa Swartz, Jillian Swinsinki, Brek Dimmick, Claudia Callahan

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 12

**\*Continued 10:15am-11:55am, 90-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Eisenhower B:**

**Creating an Inclusive Writing Community that Opens Doors to All Students and Develops Competent and Confident Writers**

Let's come together to experience and explore how being a contributing member of a writing community has the potential to open doors to the future for all students.

**Presenters:** Dr. Elizabeth W. English & Lisa Henline

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5, Special Education

**Eisenhower C:**

**Mining for Engagement: Utilizing Virtual World's for Literacy Instruction and Career Exploration**

Explore how immersing students into Minecraft worlds, created from novels related to career clusters, can engage and inspire students to delve deeper into reading and their future.

**Presenters:** Cliff Sullivan

**Audience:** Grade 6 – Grade 8

**Eisenhower A:**

**Accelerating Learning Through the MTSS Framework: K-12 Literacy,**

Take a data-driven approach to accelerating learning, promoting equity, and supporting the whole child.

**Presenter:** Mindy Brinson

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 12

**Culinary Arts Room: 10:15am**

**Paint Party: The Highland Cow**

Come paint a highland cow along with local artist Kelly LaCava with Wild & Wonderful Paint Parties as she creates a painting inspired by children's book, *Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome Homesick Highland Cow "Coo"*. Unleash your inner creative by putting brush to canvas while you enjoy a hand-picked playlist. You'll get step-by-step instruction, an apron to protect your nice clothes and all the materials you need to create your very own masterpiece. Walk away with a painting to be proud of on a 16x20in canvas that you can display in your home or office!

**Presenter:** Kelly LaCava, Owner, Artist

\$35 per person

Cash/Card/Venmo at the door



**\*\*\*Thursday, November 16 – Afternoon Concurrent Sessions\*\*\***

2:45pm – 3:30pm, Conferees select one 45-minute session

**Stewart Room:**

**Media & Literacy: Eyes and Ears of Reading**

Join us as we present PBS Kids pairings of media and readings to engage elementary learners in reading, science, math and social-emotional learning. We'll model it, chunk it, pair it and repeat. There will be tips and programs shared that encourage reading writing and collaboration.

**Presenters:** Autumn Meadows & Maggie Holley

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5, Special Education

**Wilson Room:**

**Connecting West Virginia: Supporting Teachers through Mentorship and Professional Development**

Literacy leaders need a stronger network across West Virginia. We will share ways we continue to develop this network through professional development and mentorship, and how WVRA members can join.

**Presenters:** Courtney Shimek, Amiee Morewood, Allison Swan Dagen

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**Johnson Room:**

**Keys to Reading Literacy: Unlocking a Positive Literacy Future**

This presentation gives insight to the pillars of the Science of Reading (SOR) and how they fit into West Virginia's HB3035. It also covers research-based strategies and approaches for each SOR pillar.

**Presenters:** Lisa McGee, Paige Wallace, Amanda Cordray

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

**Rayburn A Room:**

**Leaders of Literacy: A Past/Present/Future Look at WV's Initiative to Improve Literacy Through the Lens of Building Level Administrators**

A comparative look at how past and present literacy initiatives in West Virginia have impacted the role of school administrators in improving literacy within their schools.

**Presenters:** Dr. Stephanie Burdette & Dr. Elisha Lewis

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 12

**Martin Room:**

**The Importance of Identifying Dyslexia – Discussion style session**

Learn how to identify students with dyslexia, so that a diagnosis will follow. Join the discussion focusing on success stories!

**Presenter:** Lori Dubrawka

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**\*Continued Thursday, November 16, 2:45pm – 3:30pm, select one 45-minute session**

**Chesapeake Room:**

**Launch an Active Class...Make Reading a Blast**

3-2-1...BLAST OFF into reading with this galactic active session. Embark on an electrifying journey into space with an engaging reading experience tailored for third, fourth and fifth grade teachers. This interactive session will be sure to launch your reading classroom into another dimension. Join us to discover how active learning can unlock the cosmic portals into the future.

**Presenters:** Katherine Lambert-Dudley & Nina Tunstalle

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 5

**Governor's Hall:**

**Rhythmic Readers: A Fresh Approach to Reading Fluency**

We will share how to teach and build reading fluency by using song and rhythm.

**Presenters:** Jennifer Davis & Cathy Whorton

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 5

**Knowland Room:**

**Evidence-Based Reading Practices that Open Doors for Older Students:  
Accelerating Foundational Skills Acquisition**

There is an urgent need to provide support for older students who struggle to read. It is crucial to provide research-based instruction to this vulnerable group of students. Let's explore!

**Presenter:** Dr. Elizabeth English

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 8, Special Education

**Eisenhower A:**

**Oh, the Places We'll Go! To the Land of Language Comprehension in the Science of Reading**

Join me on a journey to explore how developing language comprehension is imperative to equitable learning. Let's explore how student voices can empower a reading community and build collective knowledge!

**Presenter:** Ashley Patterson

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Eisenhower B:**

**Integration is Life! Grades 3-5**

Building knowledge is a comprehension intervention, but how do we find the time to teach science, social studies and the Science of Reading? Come and explore how to use integration as the doorway to student success.

**Presenter:** Keisha Runion Thompson

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 5

**\*Continued Thursday, November 16, 2:45pm – 3:30pm, select one 45-minute session**

**Mountaineer Room:**

**Gateway to Comprehension: Using Anchor Charts to Build Engagement**

During this interactive session, participants will receive an in-depth look into how anchor charts create engagement and help to build comprehension of children's literature. These strategies can be used with both fiction and nonfiction texts for students of all ages and comprehension levels. Examples and handouts will be provided throughout the session, and we will complete several quick anchor charts together!

**Presenters:** Amanda Preece &. Dr. Mindy Allenger Prewitt

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 8

**Eisenhower C:**

**Empowering Readers: The Art of Literacy Coaching,**

Literacy coaching enhances reading and writing instruction via personalized strategies aiding educators in growth period join us to learn how coaches support the transition to the Science of Reading.

**Presenters:** Amanda Riggleman, Laura Tanner, Katie Veazey-Keener

**Audience:** Grade K – Grade 5

**Grant Room:**

**Fun Foundations & Ignite: Nurturing Literacy Through Engaging Play**

Session: Explore the benefits of both book- and tech-based playful learning: an innovative approach to early childhood education designed to ignite a lifelong love for learning and provide a strong foundation for literacy.

**Presenter:** Nicole Nesheim

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**\*\*SESSION BEGINS AT 1:30 PM - Culinary Arts Room:**

**Paint Party: The Highland Cow**

Come paint a highland cow along with local artist Kelly LaCava with Wild & Wonderful Paint Parties as she creates a painting inspired by children's book, *Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome Homesick Highland Cow "Coo"*. Unleash your inner creative by putting brush to canvas while you enjoy a hand-picked playlist. You'll get step-by-step instruction, an apron to protect your nice clothes and all the materials you need to create your very own masterpiece. Walk away with a painting to be proud of on a 16x20in canvas that you can display in your home or office!

**Presenter:** Kelly LaCava, Owner, Artist

\$35 per person

Cash/Card/Venmo at the door





**Schedule at a Glance**  
**Friday, November 17, 2023**



**Friday, November 17, 2023**

**7:30a – 12:00p** Vendors in Exhibit Hall

**7:30a** – Registration & Networking

**8:30a** – Chesapeake Room, Welcome, Pledge & Housekeeping

**8:35a – 9:35a** Cynthia Lorentz Cook Award presentation;

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Devin Kearns, Sponsored by Curriculum Associates

**9:40a – 10:20a** Student Literature Fair projects\*Exhibit Hall; Author's Tables\*Exhibit Hall; Roundtable Talks (9:40a-10:00a) \*see page 34 for room assignments

**10:25a – 12:00p** Concurrent Sessions: choice of one 90-minute session OR two 45-minute sessions \*see pages 35-39 for session descriptions

**OR 9:40a** Paint Party with Kelly LaCava, inspired by Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome, Homesick Highland Cow, Culinary Arts Room \*fee

**12:00p – 1:30p** LUNCH

Author's Luncheon, Crystal Room - Featured Author Author's Lunch  
Marc Harshman, *Following the Silence* and other poetry from his collection  
\*ticketed event, extra fee

or Lunch on your own, see page 15 for options and map

**1:30p – 3:15p** Chesapeake Room, Closing Session – Welcome Back; Evaluations, Award Presentation; Poetry Out Loud, Jim Wolfe with student Willow Peyton, St. Mary's High School;

Closing Keynote Speaker, 2023 West Virginia Teacher of the Year, Amber Nichols

2024 Theme Presentation; Election of 2024/2025 Officers; Door Prizes

Thank you for coming, see you next year!!

**\*\*Friday Roundtable Talks, November 17, 2023 \*\***  
**9:40 – 10:00 AM**

**Room: Johnson**

**Title:** Parents and Reading

**Facilitator:** Kristin Walker

**Room: Stewart**

**Title:** Importance of Identifying Dyslexia

**Facilitator:** Lori Dubrawka

**Room: Rayburn**

**Title:** Deepening Our Understanding of Evidence Based Practices

**Facilitator:** Dr. Elizabeth English

**Room: Martin**

**Title:** A Practical Look at the Science of Reading

**Facilitator:** Dr. Mindy Allenger Prewitt

**Room: Knowland**

**Title:** Connecting Science of Reading and Professional Reading

**Facilitator:** Beverly Kingery

**Student Literature Fair Displays**

**Exhibit Hall**

**9:40 – 10:20 AM**

**Stop by and enjoy the Regional winners displays**

What is Literature Fair? Project board based on set of judging criteria to showcase a book students have read, similar to a Science or Social Studies Fair

**Author's Tables**

**Exhibit Hall**

**9:40 – 10:20 AM**

**Showcasing their works and have books available for purchase**

Melody Pittman

Marc Harshman

Andrea Lemon

Ashley Belote

Matt Browning

Anna Smucker

Don Stansberry

**\*\*\*Friday Morning Concurrent Sessions, November 17, 2023\*\*\***

**10:25 AM – 12:00 PM**

Conferees select between two 45-minute sessions **OR** one 90-minute session

**10:25am – 11:10am, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Stewart Room:**

**Shinning, Shimmering, Splendid – A Whole New World Unlocked Through Figurative Language**

Climb aboard our magic carpet as we explore the many ways in which reading, writing, speaking, listening, and real-world connections can be enhanced using figurative language in the classroom.

**Presenters:** Taylor Paynter & Erika Lusk

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 8, Special Education

**Johnson Room:**

**Parents and Reading**

Come learn about WVRA's Parents and Reading program, how you can get involved and the benefits.

**Presenter:** Kristen Walker

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**Mountaineer Room:**

**\*Featured Session\* Sparking Early Literacy Growth in West Virginia: Grant Informational Session**

The WVPEC and the Claude Worthington Benedum foundation recap the second round of the Sparking Early Literacy Growth in West Virginia initiative before hosting a poster session about individual projects.

**Presenters:** Donna Peduto, Melanie Claxton, Canyon Lohnas, Alison Swan Dagen

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 2

**Eisenhower C:**

**Let's Rumble: Building Research Skills One Round at a Time**

Build your students research skills one round at a time using the popular *Who Would Win Ultimate Rumble* books with the most intense rumble bracket to happen in your classroom!

**Presenter:** Mindy McCartney

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 5

**Eisenhower B:**

**Keys to Reading Literacy: Unlocking a Positive Literacy Future**

This presentation gives insight to the pillars of the Science of Reading (SOR) and how they fit into West Virginia's HB3035. It also covers research-based strategies and approaches for each SOR pillar.

**Presenters:** Lisa McGee, Amanda Cordray and Paige Wallace

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

**10:25am – 11:10am, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Grant:**

**Fun Foundations & Ignite: Nurturing Literacy Through Engaging Play**

Explore the benefits of both book- and tech-based playful learning: an innovative approach to early childhood education designed to ignite a lifelong love for learning and provide a strong foundation for literacy.

**Presenter:** Nicole Nesheim

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**11:15 AM – 12:00 PM, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Mountaineer Room:**

**Literacy + Student Success Standards = SUCCESS!**

How can we align our instructional practices to our West Virginia content and student success standards to prepare our students for education employment enlistment in everyday living?

**Presenters:** Susie Garrison & Lauren Landry

**Audience:** Grade 6 – Grade 12

**Johnson Room:**

**Diverse Literature: Gateway to Combining Social Studies and Literacy in Pre-K and Kindergarten**

Early Learning experiences have the potential to set the tone of how children understand the world around them through literature and literacy. Dr. DellaMea is an experienced teacher, administrator, and researcher in best practices with our young learners.

**Presenters:** Dr. Monica DellaMea & Dr. Mindy Allenger Prewitt

**Audience:** PreK - Kindergarten

**Eisenhower B:**

**Daily Routines That Work (Based on Science of Reading)**

Learn daily routines and resources that will make your students better readers and writers. Resources are free or have a free alternative.

**Presenter:** April Rearick

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Eisenhower C:**

**From Play to Proficiency: Innovative Approaches to Merging Learning and Movement**

How can your students have fun AND learn fundamental skills? Let us show you hands-on activities you can easily implement in your classroom, after-school programs, and family engagement events.

**Presenters:** Sarah Weber & Sasha Hamrick

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

**11:15 AM – 12:00 PM, 45-minute sessions, pick one:**

**Grant Room:**

**Engaging Students in Literature Through Digital Comic Making**

Learn how comic making can be used to help students forge deeper connections to literature while providing insight into their thinking and understanding. Discover simple-to-use tools, compelling content, and proven strategies.

**Presenter:** Dr. Tammy McGraw

**Audience:** Pre-K – Grade 12

**10:25 AM – 12:00 PM, 90-minute sessions (with built-in break in the middle), pick one:**

**Martin Room:**

**What's New in Children's Books?**

The best in 2023 children's books will be shared, accompanied by suggested extension activities, bibliography as well as audience participation.

**Presenters:** Barbara Ornstein & Bill Bingman

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 8

**Rayburn A:**

**The Brain's Backdoor: Brain Science Unlocks the Phonics Code for All Learners**

Unlocking learning through the back door of the brain. Giving students all the keys to open any door when they are ready to read means they have the best chance to read any word with any given phonics pattern.

**Presenter:** Amy Mitchell

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2, Special Education

**Wilson Room:**

**Human Trafficking for Educators: What is Human Trafficking and How to See it in Students**

Human trafficking is all around us. Come and hear what human trafficking is, what it isn't, and how to see the signs of human trafficking around you.

**Presenters:** D. Gayle Bailey

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**Jackson Room:**

**Heavy Hitters: Efficient Instruction to Accelerate Vocabulary Growth**

This session will showcase efficient instruction to help upper elementary students get the job

done: replicable, reliable routines to teach our students to fearlessly attack big words while building morphological understandings to accelerate vocabulary growth.

**Presenter:** Laura Stewart

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 5

**10:25 AM – 12:00 PM, 90-minute sessions (with built-in break in the middle), pick one:**

**Knowland Room:**

**Igniting Curiosity, Illuminating Literacy: Discovering the Future Through STEAM Education**

Explore how STEAM education sparks curiosity and enhances literacy. Uncover the transformative power of integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and math to shape the future of engaging and innovative learning experiences.

**Presenter:** Angela McDaniel & Melissa Bane

**Audience:** Grade 6 – Grade 12, Special Education

**Rayburn B Room:**

**Success with Writing Grades 3-5**

Flip the culture of writing in your classroom or school with evidence-based mastery strategies and procedures. Get students engaged and excited to read and write with formulated mnemonic devices, Science and Social Studies integration, and provide them with a learning opportunity that embeds 20+ standards in one lesson!

**Presenter:** Vanessa Hayes

**Audience:** Grade 3 – Grade 5

**Chesapeake Room:**

**The Keys to Comprehension**

Have you been teaching comprehension strategies only to find that your students can't use them on test day? Come and learn the keys to successful comprehension instruction that will open the door to your students' future career choices.

**Presenter:** Christy Schwartz

**Audience:** Kindergarten - Grade 5

**Eisenhower A Room:**

**Taking a Closer Look at Dyslexia and Assessment**

The exquisite urgency of now: HB3035 The Third-Grade Success Act. Come learn about Kindergarten through 3rd grade screening assessments for literacy numeracy and indicators of dyslexia.

**Presenter:** Mindy Brinson

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

**Stewart Room:**

**Science of Reading: West Virginia Teachers Building Upon What They Know**

Science of Reading is a very hot topic in our field. This presentation will describe how practicing teachers in the WVU literacy education program are building upon their knowledge to include SOR more explicitly in their literacy instruction.

**Presenters:** Aimee Morewood, Courtney Shimek, and Alison Swan Dagen

**Audience:** PreK – Grade 12

**10:25 AM – 12:00 PM, 90-minute sessions (with built-in break in the middle), pick one:**

**Washington Room:**

**Free, Futurostic App called FUNetix, Guarantees Student Reading Success**  
A Magic Balloon Ride, a Treasure Hunt, a Secret/Magic Code, All New, 100% Free  
Phonemic Awareness App Called FUNetix, Teaches Any Child How to Read in Just 12  
Hours!

**Presenter:** M. Kali Woodward, Esq.

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**\*\*This Session begins at 9:40 AM - Culinary Arts Room:**

**Paint Party: The Highland Cow**

Come paint a highland cow along with local artist Kelly LaCava with Wild & Wonderful Paint Parties as she creates a painting inspired by children’s book, *Haggis the Hardy, Hairy, Handsome Homesick Highland Cow “Coo”*. Unleash your inner creative by putting brush to canvas while you enjoy a hand-picked playlist. You’ll get step-by-step instruction, an apron to protect your nice clothes and all the materials you need to create your very own masterpiece. Walk away with a painting to be proud of on a 16x20in canvas that you can display in your home or office!

**Presenter:** Kelly LaCava, Owner, Artist

\$35 per person

Cash/Card/Venmo at the door



Session Planner – Thursday,  
November 16

Your choice – pick two 45-minute  
sessions OR one 90-minute session

45-minute session 10:15a – 11:00a

Room:

Session:

45-minute session 11:10a – 11:55a

Room:

Session:

**OR** 90-minute session 10:15a –  
11:55a

Room:

Session:

Pick one 45-minute session 2:45p –  
3:30p

Room:

Session:

Session Planner – Friday, November  
17

Your choice – pick two 45-minute  
sessions OR one 90-minute session

45-minute session 10:25a – 11:10a

Room:

Session:

45-minute session 11:15a – 12:00p

Room:

Session:

**OR** 90-minute session 10:25a – 12:00p

Room:

Session:

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA READING ASSOCIATION

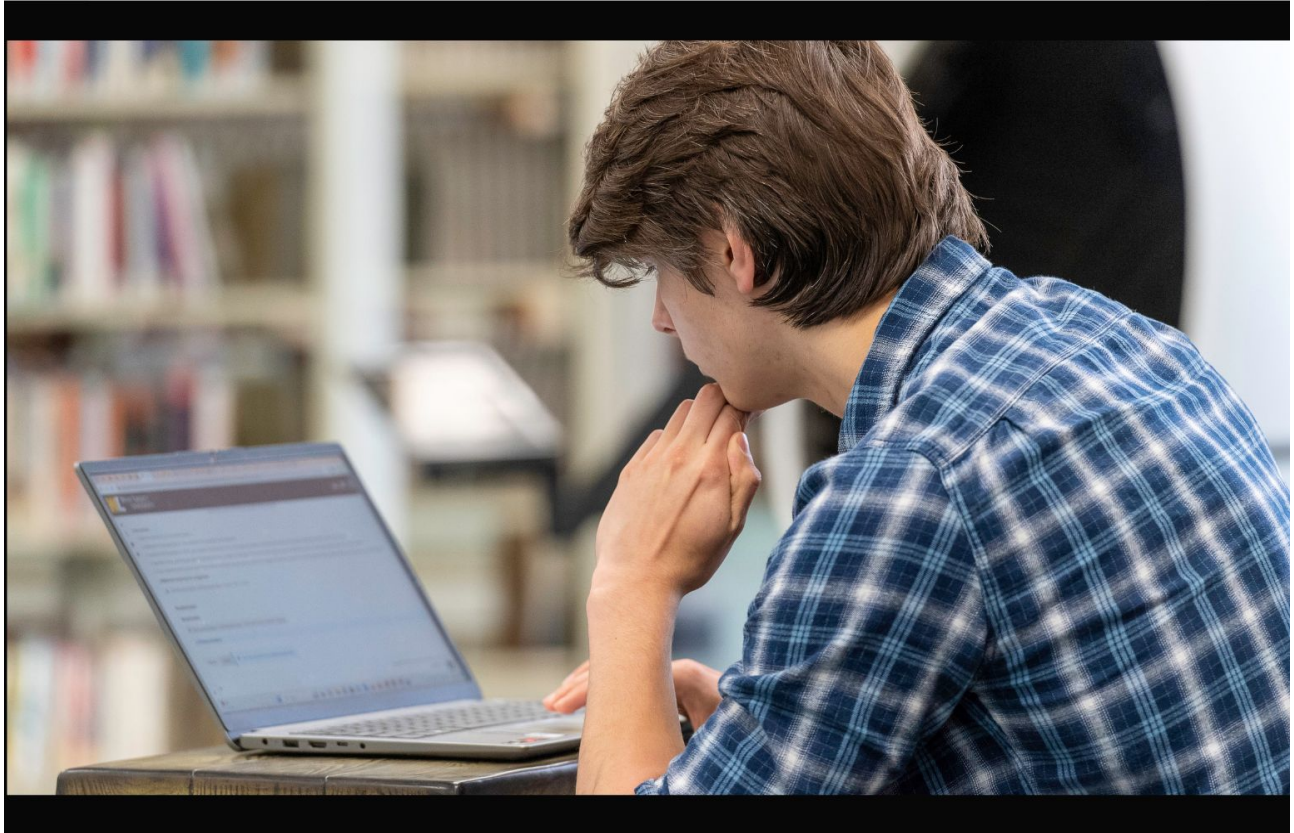
*Thank you for your service to WVRA!*

**\* Deceased**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Year in Office</b>
*	<b>Dr. Arreta Jaranko</b>	<b>1967 - 1968</b>
*	<b>Madge McDaniel</b>	<b>1968 - 1969</b>
*	<b>Pearle Bennett</b>	<b>1969 - 1970</b>
*	<b>Dr. Thomas Hatcher</b>	<b>1970 - 1971</b>
*	<b>Mary Pearl Compton</b>	<b>1971 - 1972</b>
*	<b>Billie Karnell</b>	<b>1972 - 1973</b>
	<b>Dr. Taylor Turner</b>	<b>1973 - 1974</b>
	<b>Dr. Ruth Lewis</b>	<b>1974 - 1975</b>
	<b>Dr. Mary Marockie</b>	<b>1975 - 1976</b>
*	<b>Dr. Jennie Bechtold</b>	<b>1976 - 1977</b>
*	<b>Dr. Caroline Neal</b>	<b>1977 - 1978</b>
*	<b>Margie Leap</b>	<b>1978 - 1979</b>
	<b>Dr. Pat Smith</b>	<b>1979 - 1980</b>
	<b>Melvin Graham</b>	<b>1980 - 1982</b>
	<b>Robert Harris</b>	<b>1982 - 1983</b>
*	<b>Jeanette Malson</b>	<b>1983 - 1984</b>
	<b>Carol Morgan</b>	<b>1984 - 1985</b>
*	<b>Sister Barbara Jean Campbell</b>	<b>1985 - 1986</b>
	<b>Joyce Morris</b>	<b>1986 - 1987</b>
	<b>Ann Beck</b>	<b>1987 - 1988</b>
	<b>Clara Williams</b>	<b>1988 - 1988</b>
	<b>Debra Province</b>	<b>1989 - 1990</b>
	<b>Julia Butler</b>	<b>1990 - 1991</b>
	<b>Dianna Wood</b>	<b>1991 - 1992</b>
	<b>Linda Reid</b>	<b>1992 - 1993</b>
	<b>Lois Meadows</b>	<b>1993 - 1994</b>
	<b>Sharon Diaz</b>	<b>1994 - 1995</b>
	<b>Frances Horton</b>	<b>1995 - 1996</b>
	<b>Frank Mace</b>	<b>1996 - 1997</b>
	<b>John Griffith</b>	<b>1997 - 1998</b>
	<b>Millie Lively</b>	<b>1998 - 1999</b>
	<b>Barbara Korn</b>	<b>1999 - 2000</b>
	<b>Jean Workman</b>	<b>2000 - 2001</b>
	<b>Denise White</b>	<b>2001 - 2002</b>
	<b>Sue Talbott</b>	<b>2002 - 2003</b>
	<b>Dennis Caldwell</b>	<b>2003 - 2004</b>
*	<b>Donna Adams</b>	<b>2004 - 2005</b>
	<b>Karen Ashbrook</b>	<b>2005 - 2006</b>



	<b>Aleda Hileman</b>	<b>2006 - 2007</b>
	<b>H. Moke Post</b>	<b>2007 - 2008</b>
	<b>Viki Caldwell</b>	<b>2008 - 2009</b>
	<b>Mary Kay Wensyel</b>	<b>2009 - 2010</b>
*	<b>Brenda Chadwell</b>	<b>2010 - 2011</b>
	<b>Kim Burris</b>	<b>2011 - 2012</b>
	<b>Jone Hersch</b>	<b>2012 - 2013</b>
	<b>Kathy Chapman</b>	<b>2013 - 2014</b>
	<b>Dr. Bob Harrison</b>	<b>2014 - 2015</b>
	<b>Tony Nichols</b>	<b>2015 - 2016</b>
	<b>Bruce Neal</b>	<b>2016 - 2017</b>
*	<b>Ronald Chadwell</b>	<b>2017 - 2018</b>
	<b>Kathy Blue</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
	<b>Tila Boyce</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
	<b>Connie Mundy</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
	<b>Dr. Shelly Ratliff</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>



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COMMUNITY & ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP -  
SPORTS LEADERSHIP & COACHING - VISUAL ART EDUCATION***



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**Thank You for Coming!**  
**We Hope to See You at the WVRA 68<sup>th</sup>**  
**Conference November 14 - 15, 2024:**

***“Si, Podemos! Yes, We Can!”***