



WVAEA, Inc Board of Directors' Meeting

12/04/2025

Present:

Jared Bailey, Tina White

Jon Doherty, Anne Mezzanotte

Susan Ellison, Samantha Knauff

Kari Geary, Kim McConnaughy

Wendy Mick, Chanda Perry

Heather Tharp

- **President Tina White called the meeting to order**
- **Secretary Chanda Perry provided meeting notes from February 5, 2025, through Teams Chat for all to review.**
- A motion to approve minutes was given by Anne Mezzanotte and a second was made by Kari Geary.
- **Treasurer's report was given by Anne Mezzanotte:**
- WVAEA has \$59,228.00 in checking. 3 CDs at \$11,625; \$3,283, and \$2,664. The bill has been paid to the Marriott for the fall conference and all New Readers Press books that were ordered for teachers. Chanda Perry made a motion to accept the Treasurers' report and Jared Bailey seconded.
- **New Business:**
- President Tina White thanked outgoing members Liz Johnson, Malyka Knapp-Smith, and Emily Russell and our new members.
- Executive Director Kim McConnaughy spoke regarding WVAdultEd Day at the Legislature coming up on Friday, February 20, 2026. For the past few years, we have been piggybacked with CTE which

provides more foot traffic and success. Kim suggests encouraging teachers to take this time for field trips with their students. We will have a table for WVAdultEd from 9-2. Let's all plan to attend and spread the word.

- President Tina White introduced our SAAEF Advocate Heather Tharp for a Recap/Summary of the SAAEF Advocate Role:
- Heather thanked everyone for the opportunity to represent WVAEA as the SAAEF Advocate. She stated that it has been rewarding and challenging. She feels that we have made great strides in advocating this year for our program.
- Advocacy works, keep it up; the student's success stories are working. They love to see them in the Legislature.
- Heather has learned that adult education will be level funded in 2026.
- We still face the risk of funds being frozen.
- The DOL board still has an educational representative and still feels that we are vital.
- We should plan for funding delays.
- Continuing WorkForce partnerships and enrollment is very important.
- AE state grant will be flat, no increase, no decrease. Which means about 5-8 million dollars.
- There will probably be delayed allocations.
- Maintain strong data and partnerships.
- Heather and Jared Bailey went to the Senate to highlight students. They said they had no idea what all adult education did.
- COABE has offered Heather a position as a state advocate trainer; this will allow her to help new SAAEF advocates.
- ACT CTE represented the state as one of the tops100 CTE centers and they spoke about how adult education helped.
- Heather will provide us with a press release.
- **Executive Director Kim McConnaughey covered old business.**
- The contract that was approved at our Fall Conference meeting has been accepted by Loarie Butcher. She will provide us with regular updates and reports that would affect WVAdultED and PST.
- **President Tina White asked if there were any other business that needed discussed. If not, we would adjourn.**
- Susan Ellison made the motion to adjourn, and Anne Mezzanotte seconded.