

Marion County Education Association  
LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION! Newsletter  
March, 2007

## **RETIREMENT MERGER LAWSUIT DECIDED**

*On January 26, 2007, Judge Zakaib issued a ruling in the retirement merger system lawsuit. The merger was ruled Unconstitutional. But, the decision was being appealed to the Supreme Court.*

*In the meantime, WVEA introduced a bill in the legislature that would allow a one-time chance for all participants in the Defined Contribution Plan (new plan) to return to the old Teachers Retirement System or choose to remain the defined contribution plan. Delegate Craig, from Cabell County, is the lead sponsor of the bill.*

## **SALARY BILL UP TO 3.5% IN HOUSE:**

**STILL NOT ENOUGH !**

*House Bill 2777 originally contained the Governor's salary proposal. The Governor introduced a 2.5% pay increase for educators. NOT ENOUGH! House Education Chair Mary Poling persisted in raising the percentage to 3.5%. Better but still NOT ENOUGH! The bill travels to House Finance to continued to be worked. However, this is the Committee that needs to increase the funding. Contact members of the House Finance Committee. Their e-mail addresses and phone numbers are listed on the WVEA Web-Site at [www.wvea.org](http://www.wvea.org)*

*Also, contact the Governor. He's very comfortable sitting in his 2.5% chair. So comfortable, in fact, that he's not moving. Let's assist him in moving from this position. He's much too comfortable there! Contact him at [governor@wv.gov](mailto:governor@wv.gov) or call 1.888.438.2731.*

## **PEIA ISSUES IN H.B. 2070**

*WVEA's Legislation, House Bill 2070, if passed in its present form, provides PEIA benefits for long-term substitute teachers. The bill also places a maximum of 20% for the costs of employee premiums. The legislation also removes the requirement that the PEIA finance board transfer funds if the surplus reaches a particular percentage. Removing that provision would allow that money to be reinvested in the PEIA. Finally the proposed legislation requires the finance board to provide medical and prescription drug coverage to any Medicare eligible retired education employee. Stay tuned to the final results of this bill.*

## **RETIREE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER BILL PASSES**

*Through the diligence of the WVEA, the sunset provision in House Bill 2105, was corrected allowing retired teachers to substitute additional days above the maximum allowed without their retirement benefits being penalized. Delegate Mary Poling, the new chair of the House Education Committee, was instrumental in remedying this situation. The bill was fast-tracked in both chambers, passed and was sent to the Governor for his signature.*

### **STAY INFORMED ON EDUCATION ISSUES...**

**ON THE WEB AT [WWW.WVEA.ORG](http://WWW.WVEA.ORG) . DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD!  
STAY INVOLVED! CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS. THE SESSION ENDS  
MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>.**

**CONTACTS NEED TO BE MADE! LOBBY! E-MAIL! WRITE! PHONE! GET  
INVOLVED!**

*Tired of the propaganda you're hearing and receiving from the "OTHER" teachers' group?*

*Tired of having to defend your reasons for being a member of the nation's, state's and county's largest teachers' union?*

*Tired of the nit-picking constantly going on to undermine the NEA/WVEA/MCEA?  
You're not alone. Read on...*