



## *2014 RGS Governor: Bonnie Walton*



Elected as Justices of the Supreme Court by the 2014 Rhododendron Girls State citizens are (above) Mackenzie Bosley, Jana El-Khatib, Chief Jillian Kinder, Genna Liu and Tori Anderson.

Bonnie Walton learned she was elected the 2014 RGS Governor Wednesday evening, June 12, during the All Citizens Assembly at Troy Theater. Walton and the Board of Public Works (above left) include: (front) Secretary of State Peyton Panger, Governor Bonnie Walton, Attorney General Ashley Bruner, (back) Commissioner of Agriculture Taylor Stewart, Auditor Kathryn Quillen, Treasurer Maggie France.

## *2014 RGS Board of Public Works*

### GOVERNOR

Bonnie Walton

### SECRETARY OF STATE

Peyton Panger

### AUDITOR

Kathryn Quillen

### TREASURER

Maggie France

### COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Taylor Stewart

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ashley Bruner

### JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT

Jillian Kinder, Chief  
Mackenzie Bosley  
Tori Anderson, Genna Liu  
Jana El-Khatib



Janice Gamberdinger (left) presented "The Poppy Story" to RGS citizens Wednesday. "The Poppy Story" was written by Laura B. Mercer, during Girls State in 1982. The story revolves around the red poppies growing on Flander's Field, the only touch of life and beauty amid the rubble of war.

## Girls State Senators

**Braxton:** Callan Banks, Emily Bennett  
**Calhoun:** Lindsay Jones, Olivia Friel  
**Kanawha:** Sarah Hart, Gabby Lovell  
**Lewis:** Ciera Yoho, Clara Haizlett  
**Marion:** Erin Bradley, Jackie Higgins  
**Monongalia:** Emily Akers, Caroline Moore  
**Monroe:** Nicole Taylor, Caleigh Neil  
**Northern Panhandle:** Megan Blount, McKenna Price  
**Randolph:** Sloane Miller, Cristin Dolan  
**Upshur:** Mariam Khan, Jaycie Saseen  
**Webster:** Kaylee Burdette, Kristi Warner

## Girls State by YouTube Broadcast

ALA Rhododendron Girls State and WJU will broadcast Inauguration 2014 via YouTube Thursday, June 12, 2014, at 3:45 PM.

The stream will be available at: [www.wvgirlsstate.org](http://www.wvgirlsstate.org)

The playback of the General Elections webcast is also on the Girls State website. The Inauguration Ceremony will also be available for playback.

You can also order your community pictures, party, elected officials, parade and candid shots at the Girls State website or [p.wvgirlsstate.org](http://p.wvgirlsstate.org)

**CASH - Paulette Anderson (right) served as Banker throughout the week at Girls State, Sunday-Friday, June 8-13, 2014.**



## House of Delegates

**Braxton:** Jilliam O'Connell, Lisa Karickhoff, Katelyn Skadra, Sommer Dilly  
**Calhoun:** Gabrielle Abad, Michelle Joseph, Cora McDaniels, Brianna Farnsworth  
**Kanawha:** Lily Mirfakhraie, Cassie Oltman, Morgan Clutter  
**Lewis:** Ashley Felock, Madeline Nanners, Megan Dean, Faithlynn Walker  
**Marion:** Mariah Zickefoose, Adriana Thomas, Marissa Bragg, Paige Halstead  
**Monongalia:** Mary Grace Workman, Kylie Wombeldorff, Sarah Wilson, Cheryl Romine  
**Monroe:** Nicole Fama, Morgan Kanell, Kathleen Shaffer, Ashley Mullens  
**Northern Panhandle:** Courtney Wallace, Taylor Allison, Haley Biller  
**Randolph:** Aishwarya Vijay, Sarah Badnar, Allyson Carter, Jordan Strickland, Leanna Hinkle  
**Upshur:** Jaylin Johnson, Elizabeth Young, Emily Kroll  
**Webster:** Courtney Jack, Haleigh Shawyer, Shelby McCracken, Katherine Friday

## Female Veterans Speak to Girls State Citizens

By Sydney Pander, Braxton

Two female veterans, Marie Graham and Rozalind Oldaker, spoke to Rhododendron Girls State at Wheeling Jesuit University this past Wednesday, June 11, at 7 p.m.

Each reported of their history of service and inspirations.

Graham, a retired U.S. Coastguard, tells that much of her family, including both her brother and sister, joined the military which eventually led her to the decision to do the same.

She reports of being a stubborn young lady when it comes to doubts and encouragement from others, promoting confidence to her listeners.

After being stationed in Portland, Maine and serving for two years, Graham began performing secretarial work at the identification center in Washington D.C. and finally retired at the age of 77.

Now a grandmother of five, she enjoys participating in functions sponsored by the Sacred Heart Church.

"I have no regrets of joining the military for two years, it was an experience," Graham stated.

Upon her leave, she also declared, "I think it's quite a privilege to be here."

Rozalind Oldaker is from Fort Jackson, South Carolina and served as an



**Rozalind Oldaker & Marie Graham**

honorable Morse code acceptor at the U.S. Army intelligence center in Massachusetts.

Performing this duty from 1987 to 1992 she has since then received many awards and earned a health management degree which Oldaker uses in her job at the United Hospital in Clarksburg, WV.

She enjoys any outdoor activities, including fishing and canoeing.

As she finished her speech, Oldaker left the girls with the statement "with work and determination, you will be successful."

Both women were awarded a plaque in honor of their service by RGS.



# Community Election Results

**Braxton**

Sheriff: Josie Hanna-F  
 Assessor: Kendra Lee-F  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Gabrielle Wagner-F  
 Circuit Judge: Jacqueline Boyd-F  
 Circuit Clerk: Rayven Bailey-N  
 County Clerk: Allison Pack-N  
 County Surveyor: Breydi Shenton-F  
 County Commission: Vishnu Kasireddy-F,  
 Abigail Rosiello-N, Alexis Pauley-N  
 Magistrate: Katie Ensinger-F, Josie Garland-F,  
 DeMonica Lathon-N  
 Family Court Judge: Page Shriver-N  
 Senate: Callan Banks-F, Emily Bennett-N  
 House of Delegates: Jillian O'Connell-F, Lisa  
 Karickhoff-F, Katelyn Skadra-N, Sommer  
 Dilly-N

**Calhoun**

Sheriff: Kyeisha Garland-F  
 Assessor: Alexandra Schaffer-N  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Haley Yeater-F  
 Circuit Judge: Hannah Dodson-N  
 Circuit Clerk: Lauren Magee-N  
 County Clerk: Alexandra Hayes-N  
 County Surveyor: Megan McCallister-F  
 County Commission: Brianna Lynch-F, Adri-  
 anne Montgomery-F, Haley Shanholtz-N  
 Magistrate: Megan Frampton-F, Emily Stuck-  
 N, Madison Slusher-N  
 Family Court Justice: Alexis Simmons-N  
 Senate: Lindsay Jones-F, Olivia Friel-N  
 House of Delegates: Gabrielle Abad-F,  
 Michelle Joseph-F, Cora McDaniels-N, Bri-  
 anna Fransworth-N

**Kanawha**

Sheriff: Ashley Walker-N  
 Assessor: Ann Wilson-N  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Mallory Rinker-F  
 Circuit Judge: Lydia Wade-N  
 Circuit Clerk: Jenna Marsh-F  
 County Clerk: Hannah Vincent-F  
 County Surveyor: Mac Cox-F  
 County Commission: Olivia Luten-F, Krista  
 Pride-N  
 Magistrate: Kayla DeLorenzo-F, Kristin  
 Hardesty-N, Delana Teets-N  
 Family Court Justice: Haley Stewart-F  
 Senate: Sarah Hart-F, Gabby Lovell-N  
 House of Delegates: Lily Mirfakhraie-F, Cas-  
 sie Oltman-N, Morgan Clutter-N

**Lewis**

Sheriff: Ashley Hartzell-F  
 Assessor: Carlie McCoy-F  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Arin Shatto-F  
 Circuit Judge: Katherine Gney-N  
 Circuit Clerk: Angela Sizemore-N  
 County Clerk: Courtney Helmstetter-F  
 County Surveyor: Aerial Deskins-N  
 County Commission: Gillian Ross-F, Monica  
 Black-F, Taylor Bailey-N  
 Magistrate: Baylee Abbott-F, Whitney Barker-

N, Taylor Legg-N  
 Family Court Justice: Sydney Kesling-F  
 Senate: Ciera Yoho-F, Clara Haizlett-F  
 House of Delegates: Ashley Felock-F, Made-  
 line Nanners-N, Megan Dean-N, Faithlynn  
 Walker-N

**Marion**

Sheriff: Lindsay Masser-F  
 Assessor: Claire Gray-N  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Heather McIntyre-F  
 Circuit Judge: Aubrey Lewiz-N  
 Circuit Clerk: Erika Utt-F  
 County Clerk: Jessica Balash-N  
 County Surveyor: Brooke Alexander-F  
 County Commission: Katelyn Keckley-F,  
 Marion Emerson-F, Stephanie Hawkins-N  
 Magistrate: Lauren Cain-F, Jennifer Kinder-F,  
 Kelsey Wyss-N  
 Family Court Justice: Mary Fore-F  
 Senate: Erin Bradley-N, Jackie Higgins-N  
 House of Delegates: Mariah Zickerfoose-F,  
 Adriana Thomas-N, Marissa Bragg-N, Paige  
 Halstead-N

**Monongalia**

Sheriff: Samantha Pappas-N  
 Assessor: Gabrielle Bombard-F  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Anna Gaughenbaugh-  
 N  
 Circuit Judge: Rachel Cruickshank-F  
 Circuit Clerk: Emily Spainhour-N  
 County Clerk: Miranda Jett-N  
 County Surveyor: Krishna Redillas-F  
 County Commission: Allison Trimble-F,  
 Allison Keller-N, Ashley Smith-N  
 Magistrate: Alexandria Richards-F, Shirley  
 Zheng-N, Madison Craig-N  
 Family Court Justice: Savannah Carr-F  
 Senate: Emily Akers-F, Caroline Moore-N  
 House of Delegates: Mary Garce Workman-  
 F, Kylie Wombeldorff-F, Sarah Wilson-F,  
 Cheryl Romine-N

**Monroe**

Sheriff: Karly Cooper-F  
 Assessor: Shayla Klein-F  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Bre'ana Staunton-N  
 Circuit Judge: Karalee Flohr-F  
 Circuit Clerk: Nila Manivannan-N  
 County Clerk: Elizabeth Goetz-N  
 County Surveyor: Shannon Williams-F  
 County Commission: Bretta Kuhn-F, Olivia  
 Wilson-N, Olivia Richardson-N  
 Magistrate: Zoe Thompson-F, Courtney Oran-  
 -N, Sara Queen-N  
 Family Court Justice: Kyra Senchyshak-F  
 Senate: Nicole Taylor-F, Caleigh Neil-N  
 House of Delegates: Nicole Fama-F, Morgan  
 Karnell-F, Kathleen Shaffer-N, Ashley Mul-  
 lens-N

**Northern Panhandle**

Sheriff: Wyndsom Kendall-F  
 Assessor: Elizabeth Mearns-F

Prosecuting Attorney: Anika Solomon-N  
 Circuit Judge: Hannah Bonnell-F  
 Circuit Clerk: Jentzen Kowcheck-F  
 County Clerk: Danielle Schlapo-F  
 County Surveyor: Desiree King-F  
 County Commission: Jordan Hart-F, Haley  
 Coleman-N  
 Magistrate: Shannan Hoskins-N  
 Family Court Justice: Jordan Southern-F  
 Senate: Megan Blount-F, McKenna Price-N  
 House of Delegates: Courtnet Wallace-F,  
 Taylor Allison-N, Haley Biller-N

**Randolph**

Sheriff: Sylah Haight-F  
 Assessor: Jennifer Tassas-N  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Hannah Currence-F  
 Circuit Judge: Marissa Davis-F  
 Circuit Clerk: Catherine Bryan-N  
 County Clerk: Lindsay Peters-F  
 County Surveyor: Abby Yazvac-F  
 County Commission: Skylar Foster-F, Sierra  
 Hicjman-N  
 Magistrate: Samantha Hall-F, Adison Nor-  
 strom-N  
 Family Court Justice: Andrea Cooper-F  
 Senate: Sloane Miller-F, Cristin Dolan-N  
 House of Delegates: Aishwarya Vijay-F, Sarah  
 Badnar-F, Jordan Strickland-N, Leanna  
 Hunkle-N

**Upshur**

Sheriff: Emmy Delekt-N  
 Assessor: Bridget Matthews-N  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Kayla Haywood-F  
 Circuit Judge: Kelsey Dominion-F  
 Circuit Clerk: Laure Petty-N  
 County Clerk: Karol Almendarez-F  
 County Surveyor: Hannah Cherry-F  
 County Commission: Amber Elliot-F  
 Magistrate: Theresa Smith-F, Heidi Ha-F  
 Family Court Justice: Monica Rossi-N  
 Senate: Mariam Khan-F, Jaycie Saseen-N  
 House of Delegates: Jaylin Johnson-F, Eliza-  
 beth Young-N, Emily Kroll-N

**Webster**

Sheriff: Christen Mangano-N  
 Assessor: Mallory Estel-N  
 Prosecuting Attorney: Kacie Jo Brown-F  
 Circuit Judge: Haley Yeomans-F  
 Circuit Clerk: Emily Chandler-N  
 County Clerk: Amanda Young-F  
 County Surveyor: Alyssa Johns-F  
 County Commission: Ashley Vandall-F,  
 Katherine Duty-N  
 Magistrate: Taylor Saurborn-F, Taylor Stewart-  
 -N, Sarah Stone-N  
 Family Court Justice: Justice Clay-F  
 Senate: Kaylee Burdette-F, Kristi Warner-F  
 House of Delegates: Courtney Jack-F,  
 Hayleigh Shawyer-N, Shelby McCracken-N,  
 Katie Friday-N



# Feds Have Fun in the Sun!

*By Skylah Haught, Randolph*

Twas the final countdown before the parade. The Nats and the Feds had been preparing all day.

We couldn't wait to have so much fun! The only worry: would it be fun in the sun? The answer is yes, the rain held off.

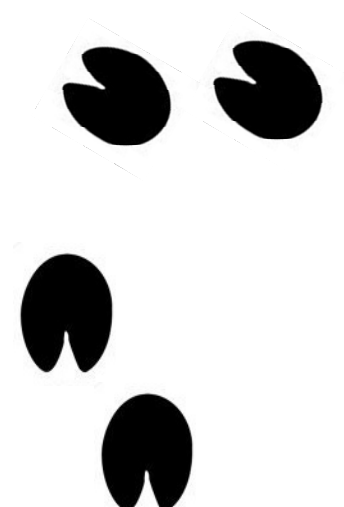
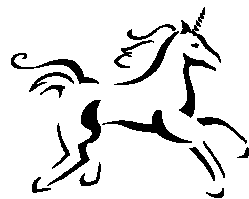
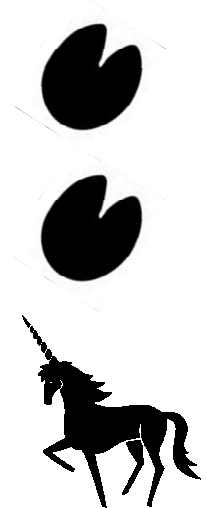
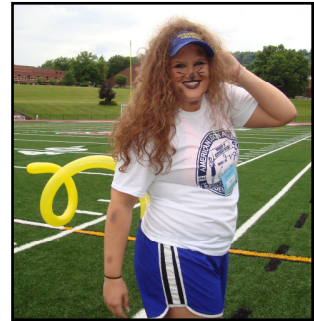
With the sun shining bright the parade outside went on. It was led by the Nats, then followed the Feds.

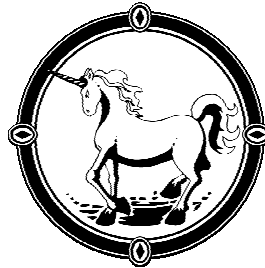
Each county presented a song, cheer, or skit. There was great creativity in each and every bit.

Looking at all the Federalists, there were various colored horns. Every beautiful girl was cheering on the Unicorns.

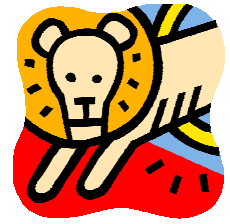
Each horn was different, unique like all of us. With this program we've built such trust.

We all had a great time, there's no doubt about that. Plus we all got to wear these snazzy topless hats!









## *Nationalists Rock Yellow Shorts, Visors*

*By Alison Pack, Braxton*

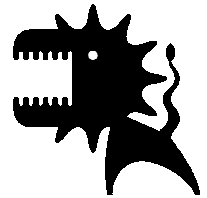
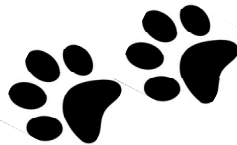
The Nationalist Party worked diligently all week to show appreciation to the American Legion Auxiliary.

The citizens prepared many a cheer, skit, and poster all to exemplify the excitement of their great-fulness of the once in a lifetime opportunity they are all taking advantage of.

While rocking their

yellow shorts and visors Nationalist party citizens all went out and participated in the Rhododendron Girls State Parade on Wednesday afternoon.

The Parade was a huge success and again the girls of the Nationalist party would like to extend their thanks to the American Legion Auxiliary.





## The Poppy Story, by Laura B. Mercer, Girls State 1982

For more than 70 years, red poppies have been worn proudly by Americans to commemorate Memorial Day. I would like to tell you the significance of this flower.

From 1914 to 1918, the Battlefields of Europe were trampled by the boots of millions of fighting men. From 1917 to 1918, American troops were part of the Allied Forces, which fought to bring peace to Europe. In Flanders, the only touch of life and beauty they often saw was the wild poppies that bloomed amid the rubble of war. Along the trenches, around the shell craters, and among the barbed wire and wreckage, the little poppies grew and bloomed. The tiny blossoms also covered the graves of American fighting men who had fallen on the battlefield; they soon became a symbol of sacrifice to the living and dead.

Mrs. Mercers, two brothers were World War I casualties, one was killed in France and the other one was lost at sea on the USS Cyclops and was never heard of. Blake Brothers, American Legion Post 46, at Benwood, WV, was named for them.

The Poppy, as the memorial flower for American war dead, is a tradition, which began in the years following the First World War. Veterans returning to their homes in this country remembered the wild poppies, which lined the devastated battlefields of France and Flanders and the soldiers of all nations came to look upon the flower as a living symbol of their dead comrade's sacrifices.

We, in this country, wear the Poppy to signify the feeling of reverence in our hearts for the servicemen and women who died for America during World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Grenada/Lebanon War, Panama Conflict Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, Afghanistan War. The Poppy is their flower. However, in addition to serving as a memorial to the war dead, the Poppy helps lighten the burden carried by veterans who returned disabled in mind and body. Making Poppies gives employment to those who otherwise would not be able to earn support for themselves and their families. What form of aid could be more effective than helping veterans aid themselves with productive work?

The Veterans are paid for the work they do regardless of any government compensation and the job itself is a relief from long hours spent in a hospital ward with nothing to do. This occupational therapy breaks the monotonous routine of the hospital and gives them a new lease on life. As each Poppy leaves the hands of a disabled person, it contributes monetary assistance for necessities and comforts not supplied by the hospitals and a small amount of savings for the veteran towards the day he can leave the hospital, as well as financial assistance for his dependents. Veterans invariably ask the American Legion Auxiliary for permission to make more and more Poppies, not only for the money, but because the program offers them the opportunities to do something productive.

In our Department of West Virginia, all supplies for making Poppies are furnished by the Veterans and they are paid .05 cents for each Poppy made. The entire proceeds from the sale of the poppies are used solely for relief and welfare of Veterans within the local communities, thus aiding those Veterans at home who are in need. Veterans who rely upon Poppy-making for earning money to support their families are to be found in virtually every State in the Nation. Nationally, about 30,000 families are helped by the sale of Poppies each year.

A Canadian officer, Col. John McCree, who was killed during World War I, immortalized the Poppy by his famous poem, "Flanders Field," which I quote:



"In Flanders Field the Poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though Poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields."



America's Answer, written by R.W. Lillard:



Rest ye in peace, ye Flanders' dead  
The fight that you so bravely led  
We've taken up. And we will keep  
True faith with you who lie asleep  
With each a cross to mark his bed,  
And Poppies blowing overhead,  
When once his own life-blood ran red,  
So let your rest be sweet and deep  
In Flanders Fields.

Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
The Torch ye threw to us we caught,  
Ten millions hands will hold it high,  
And Freedom's light shall never die!  
We've learned the lesson that ye taught  
In Flanders Fields."



The American Legion Auxiliary has taken up the torch. When you see a Veteran-made Poppy and are asked to wear one, remember the many, many Veterans who gave their lives for this country and the Veterans in the hospitals who are making this memorial flower. Each Poppy tells its own story, as no two are fashioned alike. Each wearer of the Poppy tells a story of memorial tribute and aid to someone who needs that helping hand of understanding. A simple flower, 'tis true, But more, A symbol of that sacrifice, which made and kept us free, and so, lest memory dim with time, we wear, a Poppy for remembrance! Some day, in the future, you may be asked to help with this program. I hope you will do it proudly in remembrance of the Veterans who gave their all so you and I can enjoy a free life and continue to participate in this Girls State program, made possible by the American Legion Auxiliary.