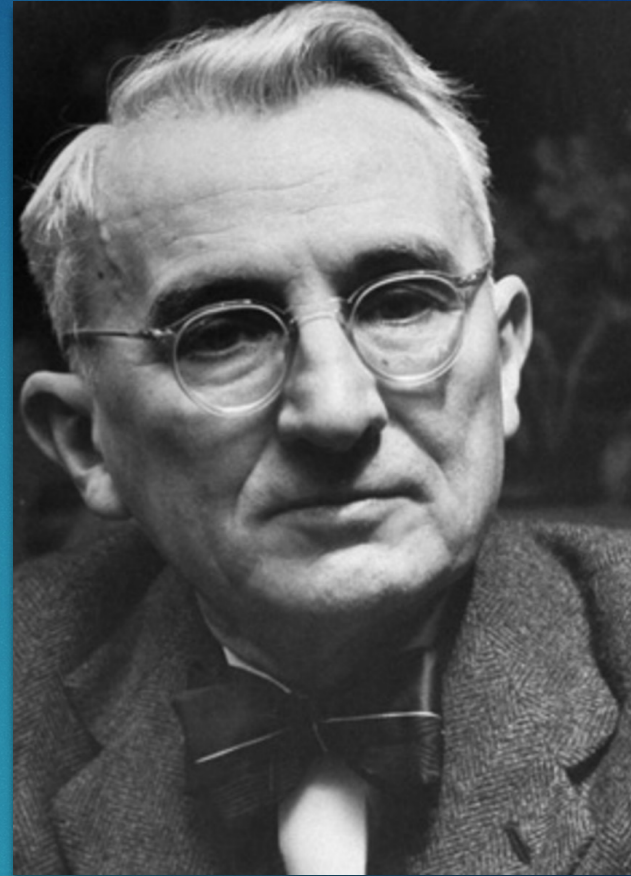# HOW TO INTERACT WITH YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Goals from this Presentation:

- How to Be Heard

- Who/Where to Communicate

- WV Legislature and Your Representatives

- The Legislative Process

- Other Organizations/Allies

Dale Carnegie

▸"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

▸"When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures bristling with prejudice and motivated by pride and vanity."

▸"You attract more flies with honey than vinegar."

▸ Be POSITIVE, ENTHUSIASTIC

How to Be Heard:

- **Be Seen**. Attend events where your public officials will be. "90% of it is just showing up."

- **Write letters (emails, yes).** Do letter-writing campaigns:
-specific to your issue
-personal
-important to the recipient (an accomplishment of theirs, family; health, etc)

- **Hold Public Events/Tours/Open-Houses. <u>INVITE</u>** your target audience

- **Make Phone Calls**

How to Be Heard:

▶ **Social Media sites** (provide honest, accurate information)

▶ **Volunteer for Campaigns**
-candidate
-Issue/advocacy
-charity

▶ **Fundraising** (Last, but NOT least)

Who/Where to Communicate:

▶ **Your Public Officials.** Elected, appointed; Community, County, State and Federal.

▶ **Non-Government Organizations/Advocacy Groups**

▶ **Your Neighbors.** If the issue affects your community, you need to tell them.

▶ **The Media:** Newspapers, TV, Radio, electronic media/social

c

▶ **Schools –** Secondary and Higher Education

▶ **Your Own Events**

The West Virginia Legislature

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm

House of Delegates
304-340.3200

Senate
304.357.7800

Leadership – House of Delegates

Speaker: Roger Hanshaw (Clay) – Roger.Hanshaw@wvhouse.gov   304.340.3210

Majority Leader: Eric Householder (Berkeley) – Eric.Householder@wvhouse.gov   304.340.3220

Finance Chair: Vernon Criss (Wood) – Vernon.Criss@wvhouse.gov   304.340.3230

Judiciary** Chair: Moore Capito (Kanawha) – Moore.Capito@wvhouse.gov   304.340.3252

Government Org**. Chair: Chris Phillips – Chris.Phillips@wvhouse.gov   304.340.3192

House of Delegates Roster: https://www.wvlegislature.gov/House/roster.cfm   304.340.3200 (House Clerk)

Hardy Co. Delegate/District 86: **Bryan Ward** – Bryan.Ward@wvhouse.gov
304.340.3154

Leadership – Senate

President: Craig Blair (Berkeley) – Craig.Blair@wvsenate.org   304-357.7801

Majority Leader: Tom Takubo (Kanawha) – Tom.Takubo@wvsenate.org   304.357.7990

Finance Chair: Eric Tarr (Putnam) – Eric.Tarr@wvsenate.gov   304.357.7901

Judiciary** Chair: Charles Trump, IV (Morgan) – Charles.Trump@wvsenate.gov   304.357.7880

Govt Org**. Chair: Jack Woodrum (Summers) – Jack.Woodrum@wvsenate.gov   304.357.7849

Senate Roster: https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm   304.357.7800 (Senate Clerk)

Hardy Co. Senators
   Randy Smith – Randy.Smith@wvsenate.gov   304.357.7995
   Jay Taylor -   Jay.Taylor@wvsenate.gov   304.357.7914

The West Virginia Legislature

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm

- ▶ **2024 Session: Wed, Jan. 10 thru Sat., March 10 (midnight**

- ▶ **Each morning, on legislative website, check:**
  - ▶ **Bulletin Board**
    https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bulletin_Board/Bulletin_Board_menu.cfm
  - ▶ **View**

    -House and Senate "Committee Schedules" for committee times and agendas
    -House *"Special Calendar"* and Senate *"Calendar"*
  - ▶ **Tune-In:** *Streaming Audio and Video Links* **(Main Page link)**

    http://www.wvlegislature.gov/live.cfm

The West Virginia Legislature (Main Page)

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm

See RED boxes for:

- Bulletin Board

- Streaming Video/Audio

The West Virginia Legislature – Bulletin Board

Senate: click for
- Committee Schedule

- Calendar

House: click for
- Committee schedule

- Special Calendar

The West Virginia Legislature – Streaming Video-Audio

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/live.cfm

The West Virginia Legislature

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm

▶ **Check Committee pages (under each House and Senate tabs of Main page) for :**

  ▶ **Committee Meeting agendas**

  ▶ **Committee Members**

▶ **Other Tabs to explore for information**

  ▶ **Bill Status (where IS that bill (in the process)??**

  ▶ **State Law (Code, the Constitution)**

The West Virginia Legislature

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm

- **Major Committees:**
  - **Finance (with subcommittees)**
  - **Judiciary (with subcommittees)**
  - **Education**
  - **Health & Human Resources**
  - **Government Organization**
- **Minor Committees (several more than listed)**
  - **Energy**
  - **Economic Development & Tourism**
  - **Banking & Insurance**

The West Virginia Legislature - Committees

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/committees/senate/main.cfm

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/committees/house/main.cfm

MAJOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

VERY POWERFUL (Especially Finance and Judiciary)

➤ They decide what gets on a committee agenda

➤ They will only run bills that they want passed that are either Caucus Bills or Majority Party Bills

➤ Expect the member to vote for their bills both in committee and on the floor

➤ A vote against a majority bill is considered a slap in the face and members will be punished (ex. Removed as chair or vice chair or from a committee)

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

- ▶ Refer to them <u>by their title</u> (Senator/Delegate)
- ▶ Meet with them! Call them! Invite them!
- ▶ Tell them your concerns and the impact to your county and the state
- ▶ Be the person they call for answers

"When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures bristling with prejudice and motivated by pride and vanity."   *– Dale Carnegie*

INTRODUCED BILLS

▶ If a bill has a low number it generally means it is a majority party bill
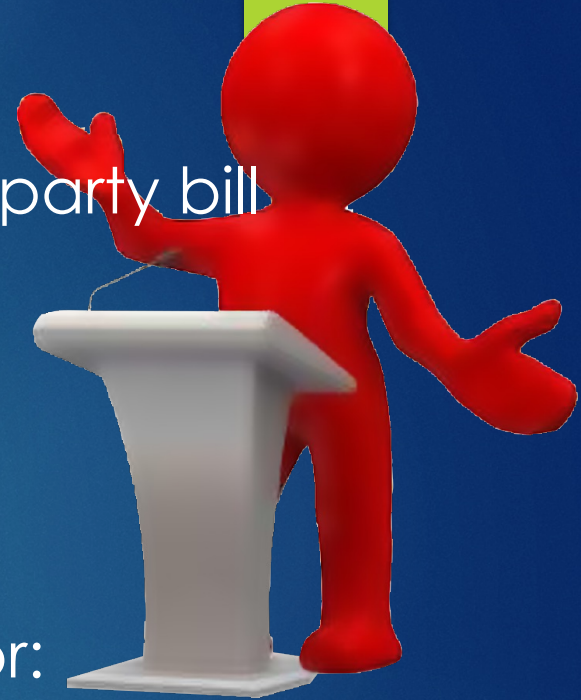   Examples: HB 2001; SB 1

▶ Single Reference Bills- go to only a major committee

▶ Double Reference Bills- go to two committees (minor/major: major/major)

▶ Triple Reference Bills- these have little to no chance of happening

CHECK THE BILL SPONSORS**

**** Work with/communicate with <u>sponsors first</u>**

The West Virginia Legislature – Bill Status

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bill_status.cfm

Party Bills

- Chair will only run a minority party bill if absolutely NOT on the majority party's main agenda

- Majority Party will pass a bill handily. If it is close, members will be whipped

- IF it is a good minority bill, a smart member of the minority will get a member of the majority party to be the lead sponsor

- **Again,** only bills or amendments the majority part wants are the ones that pass

- Generally around 2,000 bill are introduced and around 10% (200) pass

- There are some lobbyists that represent major contributors and are very strong and influential

Other Agencies/Organizations/Allies

► Who shares your interests or impacts your need/issue?

  ► **Non-Government Organizations (NGOs): local, state and national. Potomac Highlands; Audobon Society;**

  ► **Federal Agencies that may have oversight, regulatory responsibilities
  -FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission); DOE; FAA; EPA; DOD; Homeland Security; Fish & Wildlife**

WV Public Service Commission

201 Brooks Street
Charleston, WV 25301
Toll Free: 1-800-344-5113
FAX: 304-340-0325

Commissioners

▶ Charlotte R. Lane
   304-340-3183

▶ Renee A. Larrick

▶ William B. Raney "Bill"

Senator Shelley Moore Capito

500 Virginia St E Suite 950
Charleston, WV 25301
304-347-5372

300 Foxcroft Av Suite 202A
Martinsburg, WV 25401
304-262-9285

170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6472

Senator Joe Manchin

900 Pennsylvania Ave., Ste. 629

Charleston, WV 25302

P: 304-342-5855

F: 304-343-7144

261 Aikens Center, Ste. 305

Martinsburg, WV 25404

P: 304-264-4626

F: 304-262-3039

306 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington D.C. 20510

P: 202-224-3954

F: 202-228-0002

Congressman Alex Mooney

120 N George St Second Floor
Charles Town, WV 25414
P: 304-264-8810

2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
P: 202-225-2711
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