

SALS JOURNAL

*a publication of the
Southern Appalachian Labor School*



Volume 41 Issue 2

www.sals.info

Winter 2018-19

Good Tidings for You, Wherever Your Seeds are Sown

by Marcus Wilkes, SALS Board Chair

SALS is excited to move forward with our partners as we all continue to prepare the next generation of workers who, otherwise, would be limited in aspirations and goals. After all is said and done, reflections on your contributions will be seen in the lives of those we supported in overcoming individual challenges.

During the Holiday season, the staff at SALS took extra-ordinary steps to keep the focus on youth and young adults who need a hand to lift them up with recognition of accomplishments made at year's end, because they gained personal skills that helped someone. These participants in SALS programs are encouraged to seek to improve what is learned and to move on for improvements through higher education, employment opportunities, or entrepreneurship.

As SALS reflect on those private and non-profit contributors to this important work, we are at a loss as to how to properly reward them for their compassion for less fortunate individuals that we serve. Newspaper accounts of those contributors seem to offer very little in recognition of the difference made by them.

Improvements in living conditions of families with young children, seniors with disabilities, or individuals who need a decent place to stay happens due to people and organizations that want to make a difference. As a result, children learn in after-school programs, young adults learn skills in the construction trade, SALS staff increase their skills through competency programs, and volunteers from across the nation have a base to deliver their services

SALS Journal



Barbara Painter (far right) with YouthBuild members displaying award certificates during SALS holiday celebration at our Historic Oak Hill School.

From L to R: Cheyenne Biggs; Michael Weis; Justin Turley; Nick Edwards; Leonard Higginbotham; Alicia Biggs; and Tiffany Cook.

throughout our service area.

Needless to say, the needs for forgotten West Virginia families can easily be hidden in the hollers of coal mining communities. Thanks to our partners, SALS is able to reach out and offer opportunities for learning and self-help. With the help of our partners there is a renewed vision for increased development in housing and skill development. Plans such as the Helen M. Powell housing project can be a reality, same as Regina Apartments, or SALS Coalfield Development Housing.

Plans for continued development will continue with resources needed for reaching underserved populations in our rural service area, with recruitment and sustainability of our AmeriCorp volunteers and staff, learning programs, maintaining a housing stock for development, and the compassion of our partners. To our partners, thank you for all you do for West Virginians who need it most.

The Great American Economic Reality Looming Ahead

by John David Oct 12, 2018

Every day, the national press reports glowing news about the United States economy. But there is a major dark side.

Several factors of immense concern loom on the horizon. Inflation is one of them, as evidenced by the methodical rise of interest rates — with several more already planned — by the Federal Reserve System.

However, the major issue is who benefits from the economic situation. Most are not among the fortunate like U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who recently listed his Manhattan home for sale at \$32.5 million. The group that is not among the fortunate are those with little or no income. Even part-time work, often designed to offer short hours that avoid required benefit thresholds from kicking in, has a national downturn.

According to a Wall Street Journal analysis, J.C. Penney now has an average of 112 employees per store, down from 145 a decade ago, with similar cutbacks at Kohl's, Target, and Walmart. Yet, at the same time, consumers are facing higher prices. In fact, according to the current issue of Harper's Magazine, the average percentage by which the price of a U.S. product exceeded its production cost in 1980 was 10 percent; in 2016 it was 60 percent.

In a recent report, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the percentage of families living on half of the official poverty income has doubled since 1975. National Public Radio reports that on any given night, 15,000 people in Los Angeles, many working full- or part-time, are homeless and sleeping in vehicles. In Oak Hill, homelessness has suddenly increased with people sleeping in wooded areas and in crawl spaces under buildings. While blaming the victims is often noted, that reaction camouflages the problem.

Those at the bottom, for whatever reason, are an underclass that is skyrocketing in number. Speaking in September in Charleston at the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises Annual Meeting, Andrea Lavere, President of Prosperity Now, noted that one out of four people nationally working full-time is in poverty, with a third of the jobs in West Virginia in that category. She noted even if people are working, they are not moving out of poverty.

Furthermore, she concluded, 42 percent of

those in West Virginia have a state of financial insecurity compared to 37 percent nationally, meaning the inability of people to survive more than three months with existing assets.

Entities involved with food pantries, affordable housing, and rehabilitative services face an overwhelming need in West Virginia. Much has been said about the situation with substance abuse but some needs, like affordable housing are also serious. West Virginia has too many dilapidated houses that are not habitable and are energy inefficient. Efforts to remedy that situation by entities like the Southern Appalachian Labor School are stymied by red tape, heartlessness, and vindictiveness.

Recently, the Beckley Register-Herald noted a report "that 19.1 percent of West Virginians were living in poverty in 2017, with the state being one of four in the nation where that figure is greater than 18 percent," while the national average was 12.7 percent. This translated into 336,301 West Virginians living in poverty including 91,734 children, a deplorable state for human dignity and prospective economic development. The report continued to note that "in the Third Congressional District, made up mostly of the southern part of the state along with portions of the eastern mountains and the Ohio Valley, the estimated percentage of residents living below the poverty line jumped to 23.3 percent, with an additional 12.5 percent of residents living between 100 percent and 150 percent of the poverty line."

Most are aware of the recently passed tax cuts. Few are fully aware of the impact and major beneficiaries. Even fewer are aware of the consequences.

While touted that individuals will receive some modest benefits, the benefits have an expiration date in 2025. Meanwhile, companies amass permanent giant benefits. Looming on the horizon are cuts in Medicare, Social Security and other programs

The SALS Journal is published by the
Southern Appalachian Labor School,
a grassroots effort dedicated to social &
environmental justice
and workers rights.

We welcome articles and
submissions by our readers.

Send to:

Gary R. Zuckett, Editor,
SALS Journal,

POB 127 Kincaid, WV 25119.

Phone 304-250-7627

www.sals.info

United Assoc. of Labor Education
LABOR DONATED

impacting lower income families to pay the deficit bill, leading Rep. Lloyd Doggett from Texas to call the matter “a deficit busting tax giveaway.”

At the same time, the President signed a budget spending bill that has a deficit of \$1 trillion. All told, the cost of the cuts and expanded budget will require a major increase in the percent of the national budget devoted to debt payments payable to those who loan the U.S. money. In fact, the U.S. federal August budget deficit nearly doubled to \$214 billion. According to the Wall Street Journal, “the federal deficit is ballooning as government spending outpaces revenues,” especially since gross corporate taxes have been cut 20 percent this year.

Currently, government debt is forecast to surpass \$1 trillion next year. Of that amount, 43 percent is owed to foreign investors, primarily China and Japan. Concerned, the Wall Street Journal noted, “foreign demand for U.S. debt has waned, calling in to question who is going to purchase to roll-over debt as well as the newly increased debt and for those who do, at what increased interest rates.” At the same time, the Federal Reserve, another debt buyer, is reducing its holdings by another \$1 trillion or more.

There are serious issues that must be realized. One is the realization that the United States is owned by foreign sovereigns for which no wall is planned. Second, it is important to recognize the debt ownership issue has a huge bearing on international policies and trade with a country like China, which is the largest holder of U.S. debt. Third is control of

Continued on page ten



SALS Historic Oak Hill School was also a polling place for this essential function of our democracy!

Director's Report

by John David

It is the time of year that people are told to welcome a New Year that will be better than the previous one. We are hopeful that will be the case at SALS, since we leave 2018 with difficult news.

First, there was the devastating death of James Lanham, Ruth's son who was only 35. He was found in the family house on the very day he was scheduled to be trained for a promotion. Ruth has been the backbone of SALS since we began in 1978 as part of West Virginia Tech. She was with our University Year in ACTION program and then became both our academic secretary as well as the SALS administrator. After retirement from Tech, she joined SALS full time and is the person you usually reach when you call. She is the spirit of SALS and her and Tex's loss, is gut wrenching. In addition, we were saddened to learn that John deBlecourt, who directed the Storehouse for Believe in WV, passed away. John was a major supporter and friend of SALS.

The other problem relates to grants with various agencies that are needed to support what we do. For example, SALS received grants worth \$120,000 from the WV Affordable Housing Trust Fund in early 2018. They were unilaterally terminated when the agency merged into the WV Housing Development Fund in June 2018.....even though our housing rehabilitation work had begun. A similar issue occurred with another agency. The overall bottom line is that a dozen houses have been built or rehabilitated for low income families without a dime of cost reimbursement. Together, SALS is owed over \$300,000 which is a non-sustainable burden for us.

Without question, there has been a major shift with state and federal folks in dealing with affordable housing and related issues facing low income families in the coal fields. In essence, those in control are all looking for “Gotcha” moments and the former compassion/trust elements have been turned off.

Overall, our situation requires a new focus. We can no longer function as before. That is why we are asking for you to become a sustainer to our legacy fund that will “Create, Build, and Protect” SALS for the challenges of 2019 and future years. Your donation will be used for operational stability and essential services. In exchange, we offer you state and federal tax credits as well as a free way to contribute with your Kroger card in a multi-state area. There is need, there is us, and there is you. Together, we form a perfect union to make a difference.

Youthbuild News

by Kathryn South

For anyone who travels U.S. 19 to Oak Hill from Beckley, you might notice a billboard near the Bradley exit. That billboard (copied on the right) is a recruitment tool to try and target folks who travel on that highway. SALS has been recruiting new members for the YouthBuild program. Currently we need 40 youth to fulfill our grant. We have sent out flyers with pay checks, as well as put up posters all over Fayette County and surrounding counties to try to reach those youth who may need help with completing their education through a GED and who needs to earn money for daily expenses. If anyone out there knows of any youth who are interested in making a difference in his or her life by being a part of a huge network of young people all over the country, please send them our way. As a YouthBuild member the youth learn job skills and work on various certificates that make them more of an asset when looking for employment.

On another note about what our young people have been doing since Spring, two youth completed the electrical program at Fayette Institute of Technology and one of the youth is now working with James Harvey, our electrician, as a supervisor. Austin Flint has been with SALS for a few years as a trainee and is now a part of our staff. Sam Slater has also done very well with the program and was offered a job as an electrician travelling to various sites around the state.

The construction crew is working on several sites, two in Oak Hill and one in Mt. Hope. Most of the homes need a good bit of work so the process takes a while to complete. The youth also worked with a self-help program where the homeowner put in equity to complete the job. Often Family members assist with the work if the homeowner is not able to do the task. The homeowners are happy that SALS has the means to provide the service to them at no cost. Programs like self-help and other grant driven projects are becoming scarce and non-profits that provide these types of service are becoming fewer and fewer. Folks who do not have resources to get help with fixing up their homes are overlooked and the current climate in Washington DC doesn't seem

SALS Journal



YouthBuild ACADEMY
Paid-On-Job Training & GED Certification
Earn while your Learn!
40 Positions Available
for youth 16-24 yrs.
SALS.info
304-779-2772
or 250-7627

southern
appalachian
labor school
sals.info
connectingyoungpeoplebuildingfuture.com



to care about the little guy.

SALS has been around as an organization for over 40 years and has made a difference in a lot of folks lives by being there when they needed help with getting more education, or providing housing assistance or a new home. We pray that with your help the legacy will live on for 40 more years.

There is No Place like Home Building Walls that Matter

by Austin Flint

The last six months have been very productive for me here at the Southern Appalachian Labor School. In July and August I helped coordinate the YouthBuild building the walls for what eventually will be a set of handicap bathrooms. I also got to interact with a few of the Global Volunteers who come from all over the country to help us here in West Virginia.

After the construction of the wall I oversaw some of the YouthBuild and global volunteers hanging drywall. Once the walls were finished I coordinated with YouthBuild workers on installing wiring for GFCI outlets, light switches and hand dryers in the handicap bathrooms.

Then at the Bethia Austin site, I oversaw YouthBuild members as they removed a wall for the homeowner to be able to have a stretcher brought to the place since she is disabled.

After the wall was removed, I coordinated with the Youthbuilders on gutting and completely remodeling Ms. Austin's bathroom to make it handicap accessible. I instructed them on the wiring of a heat and exhaust light, as well as a light and GFCI outlet in the bathroom. I also oversaw the installation of a new shower with grab bars for Ms. Austin.

Planning and Planting for the Future

Kenna Bass & William Austin

This year's garden project had been a real success! Plenty of volunteers helped with all aspects of gardening which resulted in a great harvest. The only setback was high winds damaging the greenhouse but it's going to be repaired. Realizing that we can use the high tunnel to grow in the fall and winter we came up with the idea to incorporate solar power to the high tunnel to provide electricity to heat the high tunnel during the cold days and power the water pump used for watering the garden. Kenna and I attended the Try This Conference during the summer and applied for a mini grant to fund the solar project and were awarded \$1500, and, as a co-applicant with Nutter Fork Intermediate School, we were awarded \$1200 to create a Hydroponics garden.

The harvest provided plenty for the community and was used in meals cooked for the Energy Express Program held this summer. We still had plenty. So we included extra produce in the food boxes that we deliver to families monthly. Some time was spent trying to decide the right solar setup that would meet our needs. After attending a few classes on off-grid living we were able to determine the wattage needed. By December we had selected what items were needed. While we wait for the items to arrive we're assisting with the after school program and helping to raise funding for that project. The young kids enjoy helping feed the pigs, chickens, and rabbits and helping them in the garden.

We will let the kids help setup the solar project to introduce them to alternative energy. We've been



Volunteer reads to kids while they eat prepared lunches during SALS summer reading/feeding program

thinking about building a wind turbine by using a car alternator and fan to make a hybrid energy source by combining solar and wind power. In the meantime we're concentrating on funding for the Accent Education After-School Program. Funding for our program is getting cut each year while the expenses continue to increase. This program does a lot for the children. We have more competition from other entities now that have after school programs but they do not provide the quality of service that we provide. All donations for this project are appreciated.

Organizing the Town

by Jesse Parker

Summer has come and gone and we are now getting ready for the Winter events. Things haven't really slowed down for us around the SALS Historic Oak Hill School. Those in YouthBuild have been working on handicap restrooms which are coming along. We also had some of the volunteers help with the summer foods program, which was a lot of fun. By preparing delivery meals, you get to know the children in the community and your home town. They were even eager to get to know who we are and what we do in this small town of ours.

Our big SALS fundraiser, the haunted house, was in October and went very well. I had some of the volunteers help and see what we have to do to put together the haunted house. Lots of work goes into it and we get to know each other, exchange ideas for the haunted house, and make it better. We have been working a lot with the community and offering workshops for low income people and staying informed with the policies that may hurt the communities we live in. I am trying to also give tips on how to save money on power and water bills whenever the rates go up.

Keeping Hope Alive

by Vickie Mullins

We finished our summer program, which consisted of a team of AmeriCorps members, working as mentors, teaching 37 kids at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork. We were able to serve over 2,700 summer meals this year at seven sights, all hosted by SALS. Summer ended with a bang!

Each year brings new and exciting kids along with challenges that make us aware of the needs in

our rural area of Fayette County. It's hard to believe that so many kids are facing hunger problems but average families in our area of West Virginia don't have enough money to purchase healthy, nutritional foods for their families. Many of our parents are single moms who have to work and the kids come home from school with nothing in the pantry to snack on or prepared for them at dinner time.

During the summer and also the school year, SALS provides two meals a day for these kids, making sure everyone is fed. It is a blessing that programs like SALS still exist, and ours continues to be the only one that operates out of a community center in Fayette County. What makes our Accent Education unique is that we continue to operate without much funding, which makes it challenging on the staff, kids and others running the program. As a result we can't take educational trips, provide up-to-date software, and efficiently working computers.

All of these things are needed to keep up with in-home programs in our local schools. We feel our program is just as important as all other After School programs, so we promote it by asking for help from all our donors that receive this newsletter. Please take time to read the different articles that talk about the difficult challenges that we face in our rural communities and how we strive to overcome them.

We will continue to keep our doors open to the families that need our help by providing a safe space for their kids to come for as long as we can. Funding is becoming hard to get but we're going to do all we can to keep the program going. Any donation to "Keep Hope Alive" will be appreciated.

Helping Veterans Live at Home

by James Harvey

I'm glad to say we have been very busy the last several months. Back in June we started having hundreds of volunteers working with the YouthBuild on various projects. My VISTA position of Veterans in Place permitted me to coordinate with some great volunteers from all over the U.S. as well as with YouthBuild members.

Fred Gray's house that SALS was doing a complete rehab throughout the past period, was a challenge that required the YouthBuild and volunteers to completely tear out all the outside walls, put insula-

SALS Journal



Jane (Robertson) Dunshie and Ellen Spencer toured the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, and dined with students in the Accent Education after-school program.

tion in, repair 2x4's in the walls, completely rewire the house, install a kitchen floor, and replace three bedroom floors and floor joists. They also installed all new windows, metal roofing, a new heat system, and put up new drywall.

I have enjoyed meeting all the volunteers who helped rehab Fred Grey's house, which was done in early November. Great job guys!

SALS received two donated stair lifts, making our 3rd floor handicap accessible for apartments at the Historic Oak Hill School, which is great news!

Toward the end of the summer, Joe Mario, one of our former volunteers, came in with a group and we all got to go on a rafting trip down the New River, which was very exciting to do.

Someone Else?

SALS was saddened to learn of the death of one of our most valuable members -- Someone Else.

Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else had been with us for many years and for every one of those years Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Whenever there was a job to do or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list -- "Let Someone Else do it"

It was common knowledge that Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human; but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now, Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do?

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow? Who is going to do all of the things that Someone Else did?

So if you have an opportunity to support and protect the Southern Appalachian Labor School, remember --
We can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

Home at Last

Vickie Smith

The last six months have been very busy to say the least. We completed the Self Help Project which took an incredible amount of time with paperwork, job preparation and homeowner hours. We managed to complete all the jobs and now are left with audit items and book keeping in order to complete the grant.

We also completed many rehabs for homeowners. All of which have me busy getting paperwork gathered and signed, getting bids, doing write-ups, hiring subcontractors when needed and scheduling crews... deadlines have put a strain on all of us.

Our volunteer groups have been a blessing this year and we look forward to their visits next year. A special shout out to Christian Endeavors for helping us get many jobs completed and serving the people of Fayette county. I must admit this group makes my job easier.

I held several housing counseling classes for the community in this past year, and worked one-on-one often. I write checks several times a month on my "I need to set at a desk days" to recover.

We have had several break-ins in the past year and it is always devastating to this organization. It hinders our efforts to help those in need; a truly sad situation for all.

We did invest more into our Oak Hill facility by installing a sprinkler system in part of the building. This is a very important item - not only for our volunteers but also as an emergency shelter for our area. We could use donations to complete the project and to pay for what has been installed thus far. As times get harder on our community and our nonprofit organization we must all work harder to get our mission completed. Our county commission has donated a small amount toward our system. It was very much appreciated, especially since our county has fallen on hard times itself. Please earmark if you can donate "sprinkler".

I would like to thank Vince Smith, Paul Cummings, Terry Black, Angela Black, Seth Davis, Small Fry, Brandi Davis, Jasmine Black, Jessie Parker, Lisa Manley, and several of our youth for donating time each week for a month volunteering in our haunted house. We were able to raise \$1400.00 toward the sprinkler system. It is always truly amazing to see people work for a common goal.

My health in this past year has been trying at times but I am thankful each day for God's blessing and all the friendships I have gained in this journey since I started with SALS in 1994. It has been a wild and crazy ride at times. I would not change any of it as I feel it has changed me as a person and helped me grow in many ways. God bless you all, and may your new year be productive, healthy and happy. Merry Christmas.



Brenda Warrick, far left, with volunteers performing service at SALS Regina low-income apartments.

Giving More to those with Less

By Barb Painter

Wow, time sure flies when you're having fun!

It seems just like yesterday that we were putting the summer newsletter together; we think it is tough to do a news article every six months, but think of the one putting all of the articles together! Thank you, Mr. Zuckett for the final product each time!

The Feed and Read program was a big hit this year! The children had a book or two to read daily and we also included an activity page about drugs, alcohol and such. The summer youth and our wonderful volunteers went over these activities daily. The children also got to take a book home each day and trade it for another. They got to keep a few as well. We had a police officer come and talk to them one day about wearing their seatbelts and asking Mom and Dad to wear theirs too so that they'd all be safe. I really enjoyed reading to the children and working with everyone this summer. We fed over 700 children from the Oak Hill site.

We continue to serve the low income families in the Plateau area through the Helen M. Powell Food Pantry. During the November Pantry, we served over 100 families. Our dining room here at the historic school was used as a polling place for the election so food was distributed on the upper landing at the front of the school. Thanks for the participants who came to pick up food and jumped right in and started helping. Thanks also to the youth that must have made 1000 trips up and down the steps in one day.

We have started receiving two allocations of food each month. The calendar for 2019 will be available soon, and people need to check the dining room where they usually come in for the posting.

This fall, we have had more emergencies than usual. It is sad to see that many people in need. I had a phone call one Friday morning from a Mom whose apartment had been broken into the day before and everything was taken, including her food; She had no transportation. My husband and I went to our pantry and prepared her an emergency box including pizzas. When we arrived at her apartment the children were so hungry that they opened a box of cold pizza and sat down in the grass to eat it - the

Mom cried and thanked us. This is not something we can do all of the time, but this family truly needed it.

As usual, our appreciation goes out to the Mountaineer Food Bank for making this monthly event possible. Thanks to Little Caesars for the donation of the pizzas!

The tenants keep me busy on the days I visit Heritage House. The changes with Social Security and the health plans are time consuming. I have been busy setting up events for the holidays for them. I have recently earned my Notary Commission so there will be someone at Heritage House to notarize papers. We recently surprised a 90 year old gentleman with a birthday party. He was so surprised that he cried! He is the veteran of two wars. The folks there keep me smiling!

Educating to Make a Difference

By Latoya Ray

Our After School program ended in June, and then we headed into our summer session of events. Energy Express was a big part of our program. The kids look forward to sharing their summer reading and receiving free meals. No child is turned away. We then moved forward to Accent Education, where with the help of Kenna, a hydroponic garden was built in my class room for our STEM class. We are very excited about the outcome! It is projects such as this which cost and funds are low so we need your support to continue!

Creating a Caring Home

Brenda Warrick, VISTA

It has been a very busy time here at the SALS Regina Three Rivers Apartments in Gauley Bridge!

We started getting our plants in the last part of April and planted most around mid-May. Some were donated by the local hardware store and that gave us enough money to put plant boxes on the balconies. They turned out beautiful to say the least! We also planted the community garden and it grew well this year.....giving us enough fruit and vegetables to store for the tenants and for everyone to have fresh veggies on the table. The neighbors also donated more vegetables to help us store more food for the

brutal winter months and a pot of soup served to the tenants during the freezing months ahead. The tenants pulled together and gave John David a Birthday Party/cook-out I will be the first to say that we have some of the greatest folks living at Regina!

Summer turned into Fall and everyone was so excited to open Regina to the Community for a Chili Cook Off and Dessert Contest. We also had a live band and games for everyone to enjoy. The members of the community asked that we do this more often and we told them. "Will Do". One of our Community members (Ricky) won the chili cook off with tenant Ronald Bowe. Overall, first place went to our Dallas Hudnall, a tenant who won the dessert contest with his delicious Peanut Butter Pie. Second place went to Rebecca Morris, a community member with her Rhubarb Cobbler. The Fall mums turned out gorgeous with pumpkins surrounding them and the new outdoor furniture that Believe in West Virginia sent to the housing complex was an absolute winner and it seemed that Regina bloomed along with all of the flowers!

Thanksgiving brought us all something to be thankful for. We all had warm apartments, good company and everyone had their stomachs full! Thanks to the Lewis Center for bringing down hot meals and also Dale Phillips and Ronald Bowe for donating two turkeys. Dale Warrick baked his famous ham to insure that nobody went to bed hungry. We have truly been blessed! Even though some struggle, there is always someone else here who will share in their struggles and work together to pull each other through some hard times. Regina has come from a drug den with domestics on a nightly basis to almost a model community with everyone looking out for their neighbors.

John David has been the overseer to make a lot possible at Regina. It has become a warming station for those who have disabilities or have no families such as older tenants and Veterans to be able to stay warm in the event of this cold weather when the power goes off. We have power outages during the summer and cannot take a chance that the tenants will go cold or hungry during the winter months. So far we have been very lucky! Regina's warming station is ready to go just in case we have any issues.

The Holidays are hard on a lot of our folks so we gave them a Holiday Party with food and games and then, as with the past two Holidays, we make
SALS Journal

sure that everyone has something small in front of their doors on that special day. Sometimes it helps to let folks know that you genuinely care about them and we do care about our folks at Regina! Without their efforts the changes could not take place.

Regina's tenants are the best! What was once the Devil's arm pit is now a Haven of Hope and Dignity. All men and women deserve dignity and children deserve a safe haven to grow up in..... after all our children will be our legacy and what they usually see they learn by.

Global Love for SALS

by Artie Mullins

Global Volunteers had a fantastic year at SALS. Despite some problems that arose on the side of our Global Volunteers home office in Minnesota, the volunteers had a very positive experience with us. I stepped in to help out as team leader for two of our early summer groups. As a former Global Volunteer Team Leader, it was mix of fun and hard work. I had forgotten how much I learned from interacting with Global Volunteers.

The teams included volunteers from all over the United States (California, Oregon, Texas, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Ohio and Canada). There was a rich exchange of ideas and between the volunteers and our YouthBuild members. We always find the relationships developed between the youth and volunteers as a very enriching and life affirming for both youth and volunteers. We are proud of how open and welcoming our YouthBuild members are with all of our volunteers. Brenda Warrick was our fantastic cook who provided delicious West Virginia cuisine in abundance! Thanks Brenda.

The volunteers also interacted with our summer reading and nutrition program, Energy Express. They read to the students, taught them songs, painted with them, helped them tie dye tee shirts, played with them, and became BFFs or "best friends forever"! It was sheer entertainment to watch them at work and play. Can't wait to see what develops in the coming year. We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with Global Volunteers.



Eric Keith (right), interviews Alex Dadok, FAHE's Vice President for Advocacy, and VISTA member Michael telling FAHE's story around the world on SALS Mountain Radio W-A-G-E 106.5 FM. Eric Keith, is a SALS VISTA who coordinates outreach and communications on the SALS station.

Broadcasting SALS

Eric Keith

The room the WAGE Radio Broadcasts from is a small 15 foot by 15 foot area with internet cables set across the floor, white paint, a Bulova clock on the cork board, and two quiet computers running 24 hours a day. Without hesitation, the whole operation is run with bumps along the way, but even small efforts take work of a lot of individuals to keep it running. Early work from VISTA volunteers led to the initial placement of the first antenna, then setting up the connection between floors to the main radio room.

After the first year of broadcasting, it became a daily activity to have guests come to the Historic Oak Hill School and record interviews with WAGE radio. People from all over the United States would come to the little town of Oak Hill as volunteers. As they would finish their one week stints, they would stop by the little white room on the second floor and give WAGE Radio listeners a small look into their time here.

Dr. Jim Oxendale started a program called 'Conversations from the Schoolhouse' for the second year. He spoke to professors, doctors, writers, and professionals in the field of drug abuse, and the history of West Virginia. Dr. Oxendale had years of experience as a teacher, and time in radio, so he was a wonderful addition to the WAGE Radio.

To make things even more interesting, WAGE Radio also expanded into the World Wide Web! Many attempts were made to place an NPR style player on SALS.INFO, but nothing seemed to work. Then, we tried Facebook. That platform worked well

at first, but then we learned they limited the time we could play our programs. Finally, we moved to YouTube. On YouTube, we have unlimited play time, and ways to share a visual medium instead of just audio.

During holidays like Halloween and Christmas, WAGE Radio would take time to play some classics for our listeners; but with a twist. For Halloween, we would play suspense radio dramas like "Night Fall" and "War of the Worlds". Christmas time WAGE will play the classics known to everyone, but remixed. With a modern mix, the music is a refreshing playlist compared to the same-old stuff they play in stores over, and over, and over.

With the ending of 2018, we hope to see that 2019 is a year of more growth and expansion for WAGE Radio.

Economic Reality, continued from Page two

destiny. It is questionable that the U.S. can actually be an independent player and get its way on the world stage when it is owned by outside interests. Fourth, as unemployment falls in headline news, it is a misleading statistic since jobs have transitioned to part-time and lower wages. This translates into less traditional revenue to pay for increased services, thereby requiring politicians to raise the debt ceiling further or drastically cut survival benefits..

Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in his Inaugural Address on January 20, 1937 that "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." The time has come when we may be witnessing that America failed the test.

John David is a contributing columnist. Reprinted from the Charleston Gazette/Mail, 10/12/18

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

www.SALS.info

www.ConstructingChangeAndBridgingGaps.com

SALS Community Center in Beards Fork
SALS Historic Oak Hill School
SALS Kincaid Central Office voice or fax:

304-779-2772/ph/fax or 779-2280

304-465-4246 phone/fax

304-250-7627 or 304-250-7627

John David, Director - 304-250-7627

Vickie Smith, Const. : 304-640-3792, fax 469-9721

Ruth Lanham, Admin. Assistant - 304-250-7627

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Austin Flint	VISTA
James Harvey	VISTA
William Austin	VISTA
Kenna Bass	VISTA
Brenda Warrick	VISTA
Jesse Parker	VISTA
Eric Keith	VISTA

Board Officers

Marcus Wilkes	Chair
Joe Webb	Treasurer
John David*	Director jdavid@citynet.net
Barbara Painter	Secretary

Project Staff **are members of the SALS Leadership Team*

Kathryn South*	Program Support mustangkathryn@gmail.com
Vickie Smith*	Construction Manager vickiesmith1958@gmail.com
Gary Zuckett*	Health/Economic/Enviro Justice garyz@sals.info
Artie Mullins*	Community Center artiemullins@earthlink.net
Ruth Lanham	Administrative Assistant madelinelanham@hotmail.com
Lisa Manley	Housing - lisacmanley@hotmail.com
Barbara Painter	AmeriCorps/Green Coordinator bobbie761957@gmail.com
Jessica Sears	Counseling
Sid Yoho	Heavy Construction
Linda Dillard	Custodian
Vickie Mullins	Community Center
Terry Black	YouthBuild Trainer

'Accent Education' After School Program

Latoya Ray Site Coordinator

Energy Express

Tia Coleman Site Teacher

WVU Extension Service

Cassandra Bandy

WV Division of Juvenile Services

Youth Report Center/SALS Historic Oak Hill School

Chuck Taylor, Director

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham
Tom Bass, Artie Mullins

Special Events

Joe Mario



Yes, in these difficult times I understand the importance of an organization like the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Enclosed is my contribution to keep your essential work on track and moving forward.

Contributions to SALS are Tax deductible: Mail to SALS, POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119

Enclosed is: ___\$1,000 ___\$500 ___\$250 Other\$_____

Please send me a thank you gift. _____

\$50 + Donors will receive a hand-crafted pottery mug, or SALS license plate

E-mail _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/St/zip _____
Telephone _____

Give on the WEB at: www.sals.info/donate

SALS engages in solicitation to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.



FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

FAYETTEVILLE, WV 25840-0307

TELEPHONE (304) 574-4290

FAX (304) 574-4255

JOHN G. BRENEMEN
SCARBRO, WV
COMMISSIONER

MATTHEW D. WENDER
OAK HILL, WV
PRESIDENT

DENISE A. SCALPH
FAYETTEVILLE, WV
COMMISSIONER

DEBORAH A. BERRY
ADMINISTRATOR

September 14, 2018

SALS

Attention: John David

P.O. Box 127

Kincaid, West Virginia 25119

Dear John:

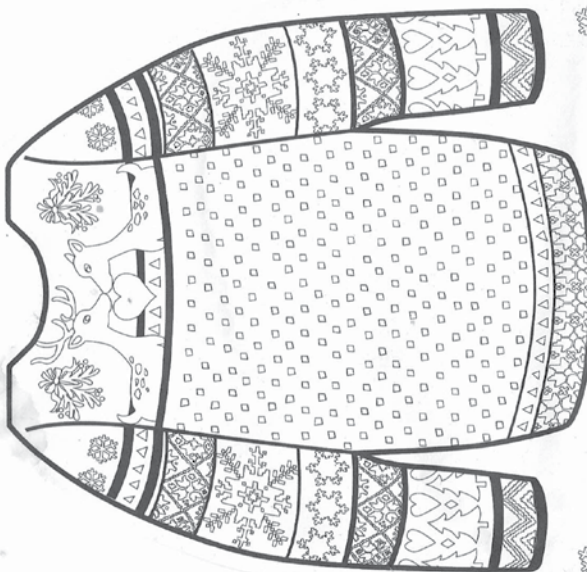
We want to thank you and everyone involved with the Southern Appalachian Labor School's Feed and Read program which served 2,764 meals to students under the age of 18 this summer. Your efforts to improve nutrition and education to these students should not go unnoticed.

Sincerely yours

Matthew D. Wender, President

Denise A. Scalp, Commissioner

John Brenemen, Commissioner



Each year, in
place of
gifts to good
friends we
tell them
"you have made
a contribution to
SALS as our
gift to you."

This is always received
with gratitude —
so here's their
check. — God Bless,
Paula K. Smart



A Special Message to a Friend of SALS:

Now is the time when we ask good friends of SALS for special support. May we please count on your charitable support to "Protect SALS"?

This is an especially important time for us. Tough challenges for us and those we serve are on the table in the coalfields of West Virginia. Our primary area is now designated as "distressed" by the Appalachian Regional Commission. As a result, we are increasing our annual fundraising goal to \$25,000 so we can continue to help people who are the most vulnerable among us through our programs. Any amount is greatly appreciated. And if you can afford to support the charitable work of SALS with a tax deductible gift of \$50 or more today, I will send you a wonderful gift: a SALS Coffee Mug that is a collector's pottery piece crafted and signed by board member Jim Hores. We also have a SALS front license plate if you have space.

Growing older can be a wonderful thing. We should be wiser and more experienced. We should have more time for family and friends. Unfortunately, that's not true for everyone. Many around us face serious problems like hunger, financial difficulties, being insecure in their homes, and the despair that comes from loneliness and isolation. Many have to deal with the loss of their home, their spouse, and their sense of purpose in life.

Your contribution to "Protect SALS" permits us to reach out to people in need and help improve the quality of their lives. Your voluntary support helps us do this, thanks to our programs that work to:

***Prevent Hunger:** People are at risk of going hungry, forced to skip meals, buy poor-quality food, or choose between paying for medicines or groceries. SALS has two pantries and distributes food. Over 2500 meals were provided to 7 sites this past summer.

***Fight Poverty:** People lack adequate financial resources to meet all of their basic needs. To address these financial hardships, we fight for the rights of workers, provide crucial job training and placement programs, and help people manage their limited incomes to make ends meet.

***Ensure Adequate Housing:** People cannot afford safe, adequate housing. SALS housing has repair (over 1,000 to date), rehab (over 200 to date), and new construction (over 25 to date) programs, plus a new apartment complex.

***Preserve Academic Achievement:** Five elementary schools in our area closed. SALS provides Accent Education after school and summer school programs for "at promise" children in a large rural service area.

***Build Community:** People are experiencing isolation, a major cause of poor health, drug abuse, and anger. SALS helps "keep hope alive", create self-esteem, and re-build community.

With your support we will be able to continue this work. But we need your help to raise \$25,000. If not us working together who will help "Make a Difference"?

Thank You!!

John David
Director/Southern Appalachian Labor School

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN LABOR SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 127 Kincaid, WV 25119
Phone/Fax: (304) 250-7627
SALS Community Center, Beards Fork
Phone: (304) 779-2280/Fax: (304) 779-2772
Historic Oak Hill School
Phone/Fax: (304) 465-4246
E-mail: sals@citynet.net Website: www.sals.info

Please See Page 2

Yes, in these difficult times I understand the importance of an organization like the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Enclosed is my contribution to keep your essential work on track and moving forward.

Contributions to SALS are Tax deductible: Mail to SALS, POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119

Enclosed is: ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$500 Other \$_____

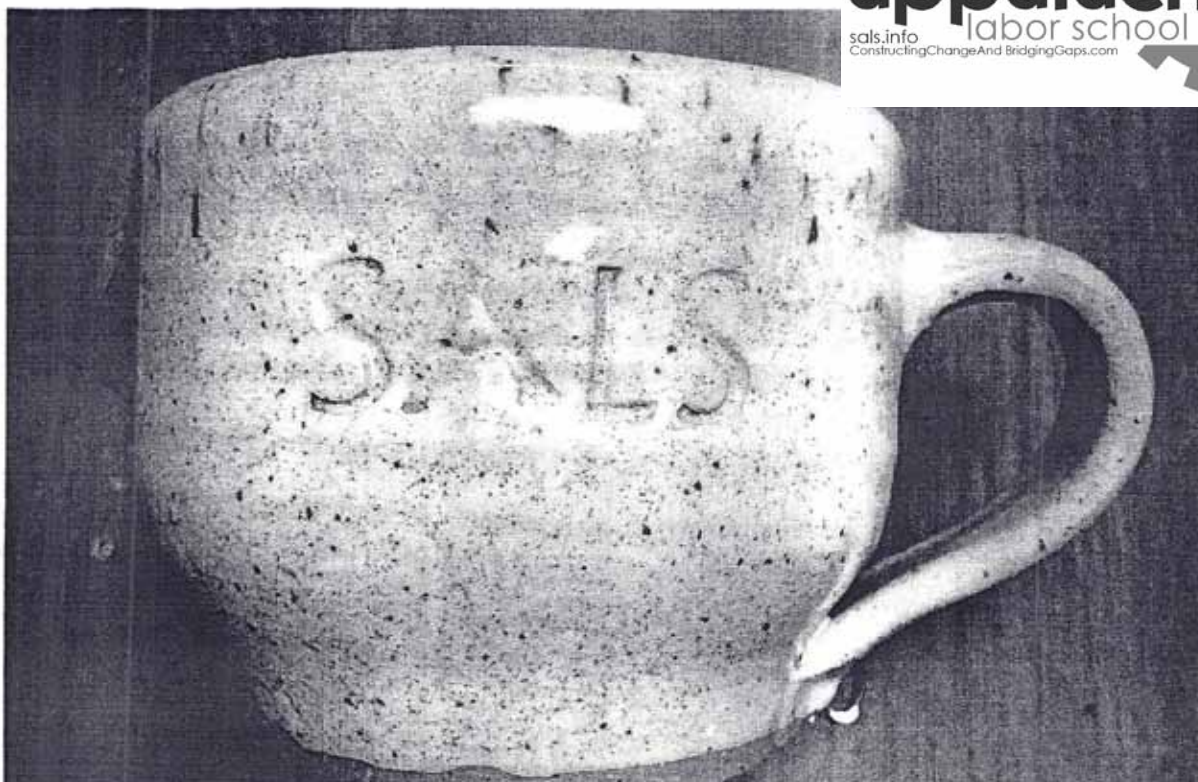
Please send me a thank you gift...___\$50 + Donors will receive a SALS License Plate, or Coffee Mug

Give on the WEB at: www.sals.info/donate

E-mail _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/St./Zip _____
Telephone _____

SALS engages in solicitation to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

In addition, there are "free" ways to donate. If you live in West Virginia or adjacent areas, you can link you Kroger card to SALS at no cost to you. In turn, Kroger donates to us. Simply sign up one time by going to Kroger community rewards and selecting SALS (Southern Appalachian Labor School) w your charity. <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNov> automatic whenever you use your card. Secondly, you can automatically donat Labor School on Amazon by logging in using "Amazon Smile". You access the sa now trigger a donation to us if you select us the first time.



SALS Journal
POB 127
Kincaid, WV 25119

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Kincaid WV 25119
Permit # 3



Visit us on the web: www.sals.info

**Win a Week Stay at Diamonds Resort
Beach Quarters, Virginia Beach, VA**

*Be the winner of this week at Diamonds Resort by sending
in this coupon with your \$20 raffle fee.*

No more than 200 tickets will be sold.

Drawing will be held every December

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Dates of reservations: Third week in February

Featuring a rooftop pool and restaurant overlooking the Atlantic Ocean; every room at this modern hotel on the Virginia Beach boardwalk offers a private balcony facing the beach.

The rooms contain a kitchenette with a microwave and a refrigerator. Cable TV and a dining area are included.

Beach Quarters guests can work out in the athletic club and use the on-site sauna and hot tub. Tennis and shuffleboard are played on the rooftop courts and children can play in their own activities center. www.diamondresorts.com/destinations/property/Beach-Quarters-Resort

Now Broadcasting:

SALS Mountain Radio

W-A-G-E 106.5 FM

***Committed to WAGE the Fight
for a Living Wage and
other Humane Priorities***

Listen live at www.youtube.com

Searchbar for WAGE Radio

Donate now at <http://bit.ly/28SlvP9>

***We also have a Facebook page at
WAGE RADIO 106.5FM!***

Make sure you're getting our E-Mailings!

Send a note to John David - jddavid@citynet.net
and

Madeline Lanham - madelinelanham@hotmail.com
with the subject 'Add me to List'
to get our e-communications too!