

SCHOOL BOARD ADVISORY OPINION NO. 2003-06

Issued On October 2, 2003 By The

WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION

OPINION SOUGHT

A Board Member asks if serving as a member of a County Extension Service Committee would bar him from serving on the County Board of Education.

FACTS RELIED UPON BY THE COMMISSION

The Board Member has been appointed to serve on the County Extension Service Committee. The Committee employs cooperative extension workers in partnership with West Virginia University, coordinates financial support for these activities with the County Commission and Board of Education, and provides guidance on the operation of the county cooperative extension service program. There is no compensation currently provided for this position.

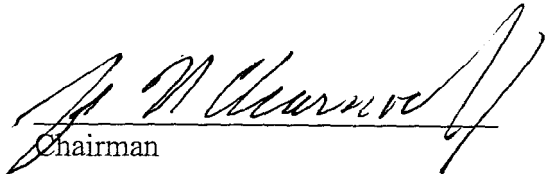
CODE PROVISIONS RELIED UPON BY THE COMMISSION

W. Va. Code § 19-8-1, provides in pertinent part:

The county extension service committee shall be composed of (a) the president of the county farm bureau, (b) the president of the county extension homemakers council, (c) the president of the county Four-H leaders' association, (d) a county commissioner designated by the president of the county commission, (e) **a member of the county board of education designated by the president of the county board of education**, (f) a county representative of the grange, and (g) two members who are residents of the county to be appointed by the board of advisors of West Virginia University....

ADVISORY OPINION

W. Va. Code § 19-8-1, last amended in 1990, specifically authorizes appointment of a County Board of Education Member to a County Extension Service Committee. The Commission finds that even if serving on a County Extension Service Committee involves holding a public office, such service is specifically permitted by W. Va. Code § 19-8-1. Therefore, the requester is not barred from simultaneously serving on a County Board of Education and a County Extension Service Committee in the same county.


Chairman