ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

West Virginia Chapter Board Chair 2025
Debra Spiker

Debra, a native of West Virginia, is a dedicated employee at UPS. She earned her BSBA from West Virginia University in 1991 and her MBA from Waynesburg University in 2001.

Her journey as an Alzheimer's advocate began in 2014 after the losing her mother to the disease and continued with the passing of her mother-in-law in 2024.

Debra is actively involved as the Tri-County Walk co-coordinator, an AIM volunteer, and a passionate fundraiser.

She is married to her husband Tim and they have two children, Allie and Landon. Debra cherishes creativity, family vacations, anything Disney, and attending WVU football games.

West Virginia Chapter Board Vice Chair 2025
Tate Blanchard

Tate Blanchard is the Chief Development Officer at The IC Group, where he oversees IC Care, IC Cab, and IC Staffing Solutions.

Deeply committed to community service, Tate serves on the boards of the Alzheimer's Association and Helping Heroes.

He is passionate about improving the lives of seniors, expanding transportation access, and creating local employment opportunities.

A dedicated advocate for the Ohio Valley, Tate blends business leadership with a heart for service, always working to connect people with the resources they need to thrive.

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West Virginia Chapter Board Member 2025
Dr. Joseph Malone

It is an absolute honor to be part of the Alzheimer's Association. I look forward to doing whatever I can to help!

Dr. Joseph Malone is a Behavioral Neurologist, Division Chief, Cognitive Neurology, and Director, RNI Procedure Suite at the Memory Health Clinic Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute at WVU Medicine.

He graduated summa cum laude from West Virginia University, earning his bachelor's degree; and West Virginia University School of Medicine where he earned his Doctor of Medicine.

He was a behavioral neurology fellow and behavioral neurology & neuropsychiatry fellow at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center; completed a residency in adult neurology at Penn State Health; and a fellowship in behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry at Penn State Health.

West Virginia Chapter Board Member 2025
Sarah Holt

A proud West Virginia native, Sarah Holt lives in Parkersburg with her husband, Bubba, their two children, Brett and Emma, and their three beloved hound dogs.

Her personal connection to Alzheimer's began early in life when her grandmother battled the disease for over a decade before passing at the age of 90. That experience left a lasting impact, shaping Sarah's deep understanding of how Alzheimer's affects not only those diagnosed, but also their families, friends, and caregivers.

Sarah holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Marietta College, a Master of Science in integrated marketing communications and MBA from West Virginia University. With over 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, she has dedicated her career to advancing causes through fundraising, marketing, development and organizational management.

In addition to her professional work, Sarah has served on the board of directors for Westbrook Health Services for 13 years, including two terms as board chairperson. She currently serves as vice chairperson.

She is also a passionate volunteer for Operation Thornwood, an annual event in Pocahontas County that supports disabled Veterans through therapeutic fly fishing – an initiative founded by her husband and a team of dedicated volunteers.

Sarah is the founder and owner of HillWilliam Innovations Consulting & Marketing, LLC, where she partners with businesses to enhance their marketing and operational strategies. She also serves as the Administrative Specialist for Fasteners & Supply, Inc., a family-owned business in Mineral Wells, WV.

Sarah is honored to join the board of directors of the West Virginia Chapter. She brings not only professional expertise but also a heartfelt commitment to raising awareness, supporting families, and advancing the mission to end Alzheimer's.

West Virginia Chapter Board Member 2025
Tara Manchin

Tara Manchin is a government relations professional based in Charleston, West Virginia, with a strong background in public policy, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement.

She brings a strategic approach to legislative affairs and coalition building, supported by an MBA from Glenville State University.

Tara is committed to fostering meaningful relationships and driving impactful policy solutions across sectors.

Assistant to the Executive Director, MBA
Appalachian Natural Gas Operators Coalition (ANGOC)

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West Virginia Chapter Board Member 2025
Joshua Higginbotham

Joshua Higginbotham grew up on a farm in rural West Virginia as the youngest of four children and the son of a welder. No one in his immediate family had ever attended college and none had left his hometown—until he decided to pursue his own American Dream.

Over the years, Joshua Higginbotham has learned that hard work pays off. He's always had an interest in politics and has been involved in the community from a noticeably young age. He served as a Student Ambassador in six European countries at age 15, worked as a Page in the United States Senate at 16, and was the President of West Virginia DECA and ran for their National President the same year. At age 19, he ran a successful campaign to become the youngest Delegate in the West Virginia Legislature in 2016.

Later, at age 22, he was chosen to be the youngest Economic Development Committee Chairman in West Virginia history, worked on major legal and tax reforms, established charter schools & the Hope Scholarship, oversaw teacher and police pay raises, supported the largest infrastructure investments in state history, and brought businesses to the Mountain State.

According to Joshua Higginbotham, it is his mission to serve his fellow West Virginians to the best of his ability. He believes that together, we can inspire a new generation of leaders by reminding them that hard work pays off and success can be achieved—even if you come from West Virginia.

Today, Joshua Higginbotham lives with his fiancé Ethan in Charleston with their dog Oliver. He is president of JH Consulting which provides marketing, advertising, business development and government relations services to companies, industry associations, political candidates and nonprofits.

He is an Elder at Charleston First Presbyterian Church. He is also an active member of local chambers of commerce, and he sits on the Boards of Directors for multiple nonprofits serving veterans, addiction recovery, education, mental health and social engagement.