



# VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association  
Member, N.R.T.A.—Division of The AARP

Fall, 2010 Edition

## A Message From The President Celebrating 75 Years!



What an awesome responsibility, and yet a privilege, to be the new president of The Virginia Retired Teachers Association during our 75th anniversary celebration. Our motto is "To serve, not to be served." I promise to do my best to serve you as president for the next two exciting years.

It is good to remember that all of us are volunteers and that we are dedicated to the VRTA and to serving each other to the best of our abilities.

One purpose of the VRTA is to promote the general welfare of retired educational personnel, not just teachers, but also all who have worked in various capacities to serve and teach our children. The purpose of the October 4-5, 2010, Annual Fall Meeting is "Information, Inspiration, and Celebration". The fellowship should be outstanding as we get together with fellow educators, some that we only see twice a year. Sessions, speakers, and entertainment have been selected to attempt to please everyone in attendance. The anniversary celebration planned by Rosa Davis Overby is going to be fun on Monday evening, October 4. I hope we have a great, enthusiastic crowd to join us for the event.

Another of our purposes is to act for our membership in areas of vital interest. One vital area of action is with legislation. To that end, we are hiring a new lobbyist. Her name is Bonnie Atwood. She will be in attendance at the fall meeting, and I hope everyone will get to meet her. I am very impressed with her knowledge and her desire to serve us in Richmond. It is good for all of us to remember that the government is very much involved in educational and retirement issues. We must keep our eyes and ears open, and we must have a real voice in Richmond. With Bonnie as our lobbyist and Bea Morris as our legislative chair, we have the representation we need. I am confident they will look out for our best interests and keep us informed. This is one of the most important things we do for our members because we have to safe guard the

Virginia Retirement System and monitor changes that will affect teachers in the future.

Another of the VRTA's purposes is to assist district and local units in their activities. I plan to attend as many district and local meetings as possible. Please contact me with dates and locations if you want me to come to your meeting. My calendar is filling up fast, so please don't wait until the last minute. Problem solving is important too. The VRTA Executive Board and I are ready and willing to help where we are needed.

There is much to do, and our purposes and needs go far beyond those mentioned in this article. I am looking forward to the next two years as your president. I hope to see you in October. Let's celebrate together to jumpstart the next 75 years!

Helen Tippie  
14 Berkley Court  
Troutville, VA 24175  
540-330-3863  
htippie@comcast.net



### WANTED!! - All VRTA Past Presidents

If you have previously served VRTA as president, we really want you to attend our 75th Anniversary celebration. The party will be on Monday evening, October 4th at the VRTA Fall Conference. There will be some announcements and awards that night beginning at 7:00 PM, some great entertainment, and a 75th Anniversary party. Rosa Davis Overby has been planning this event since last year, and it is sure to be fun.

Please contact Helen Tippie at (540) 330-3863 or htippie@comcast.net to let us know if you will attend. If you are unable to come on October 4, contact Helen or Rosa with your greeting or message. We will read them that night as a part of our celebration.

See you in Blackstone!!

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"This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of VRTA. As part of the celebration, unit banners will be displayed in the registration area, so each unit is encouraged to bring a banner. Former VRTA presidents will be recognized at the anniversary reception on Monday evening. Rosa Davis Overby and her committee have some special things planned for the event. You won't want to miss it."



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR OFFICERS

### President Helen Tippie

Helen Tippie grew up on a farm in Botetourt County, Virginia. She is a lifetime 4-H All Star and was a national winner in the 4-H Dog Care and Training category. She graduated from Lord Botetourt High School in 1962 and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Radford University. Helen taught for the army in Germany after graduation, and then taught science, math and gifted education for 30 years in Botetourt County. She retired in 2003, and lives in a patio home in Troutville. Since retirement she has served as president of the Botetourt Retired Educators for five years and is active in District P and VRTA. Helen is a member of Journey Church where she serves on the media team. She is on the Troutville Town Council, a member of the Troutville Strategic Planning Committee, and the president of the Troutville Lion's Club. She is also a member of the Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, the VEA-Retired, and is secretary of the Botetourt Democratic Committee.

Helen loves to play scrabble, read, create church media programs, and tend her numerous houseplants. Her favorite hobby is quilting, making unique quilted gifts for herself, family and friends. She is an avid sports fan and played on an adult softball team until arthritis put her on the sidelines. Basketball, football and baseball are her favorite sports to watch. Helen is never bored and has lots of energy for her two children and six grandchildren. She has a Himalayan cat named "Baby" and a fish named "Prince". She loves her busy retirement and is committed to always doing her best for the VRTA.

### President-Elect James C. Bradford, Jr.

Jim Bradford holds an undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech, a Master's degree from the University of Virginia, and a Doctor of Education degree in Administration and Supervision from Nova University. His experience includes positions as a secondary school teacher, an elementary and secondary principal and Superintendent. He has served as a Resident and Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Secondary Educational Leadership at James Madison University.

Jim has served as President and was the recipient of the "Four Seasons Award" presented annually by the National Association for Year-Round Education for his

"profound influence on the future of education within the schools of our nation." He was presented The American Association of School Administrators Outstanding Research Award in the Professorial Practitioner Research Category, The American Educational Research Award, and the Virginia Educational Research Award. He has served on the National Resolutions Committee of the American Association of School Administrators for creation of schools needed for the children in the 21st Century and liaison representative to the National School Boards Association Resolutions Committee. His national citations include USA Today, U.S. News and World Report, Nation's Business Magazine, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Time, and School Administrator. He is one of the authors in the book entitled Year--Round Education: A Collection of Articles. He has been recognized by the governor of Virginia and the Senate and the Buena Vista City Council and the School Board for his outstanding service to public education.

Jim was President of the Rockbridge Retired Teachers Association serving Rockbridge, Buena Vista, and Lexington from 2004 to 2008. He is now serving as their Vice-President.

### Vice-President Denise Carson

Denise Carson graduated from Florida State University and worked as a statistician for the Florida Board of Regents and budget officer for the Arlington, Virginia, school system before becoming a teacher. She taught at Montessori schools in a number of states. After earning her MEd from the College of William and Mary, Mary taught third grade in Hampton and gifted elementary students in Newport News.

She is currently president of the Newport News Retired Teachers Association, mentor with Pre-School Partners, regent of her Daughters of American Revolution chapter, secretary of her sorority, and active in her church. Her hobbies include hand stitching, genealogy, and traveling. As vice-president and membership chairman, Mary hopes to give local chapters ideas for increasing their membership.

### Secretary Mary Larson

Mary Larson is a native Virginian. Mary taught in Prince William County for thirty five years. Those years of service were all at Featherstone Elementary School in Woodbridge, Virginia. In 1971, Mary was selected as Virginia Teacher of the Year. She has served as President of the Prince William Teacher Association, President of District N of VEA, and as a member of the VEA Board. Since retirement, Mary has served two terms as President of Prince William Retired Teachers and chairman of the District N Scholarship Committee. She is an active member of Beta Lambda Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Mary is active in St. John's Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia, where she serves as Director of the Board of Operations for the Early Childhood Education Center. She is very active in the Braille Ministry, Wedding Committee and the Tender Loving Care Committee of St. John's Church. Mary lives in Manassas, Virginia, and has two daughters: Mary Llewellyn Larson, a pilot for Delta Airlines, living in Atlanta and Martha Larson, a professional photographer, residing in Seattle with her husband.

### Treasurer Betty Craft

Betty Craft holds degrees from Concord University, Central Michigan University, and Virginia Tech, where she received a doctoral degree in education. She also earned additional graduate credits from the University of Virginia. Betty holds a certificate of medical technology from Appalachian Regional Hospital in Beckley, West Virginia.

Betty has had a variety of work experiences. She was a secondary educator of general science, physical science, biology, chemistry, and physics. Betty served as a professor of medical laboratory technology at Wytheville Community College, where she was the program director. She also was a chief technologist and rotating bench technologist in clinical laboratories. Betty has been a member of numerous professional and civic organizations. Over the years she has received special appointments and received many awards.

### Past-President Kennon Bland

Kennon Bland, Jr. is a native of Lawrenceville, in Brunswick County, Virginia. He received his BS from St. Paul's College in 1961, his MS from A&T State University, North Carolina, and his CAGS from Virginia Tech.

He worked in the Danville Public Schools for 36 years, first as a science and math teacher, then as a middle and high school assistant principal. After three years as a supervisor for school food services operations, he retired in 1997.

Kennon has been active in Danville's White Rock Baptist Church as a trustee and as a Sunday School superintendent. He edits and publishes the Sunday School newsletter and is a director for the Book Buddies Reading Program at GLH Johnson Elementary School. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha, where he has received his 50 year membership certificate, and Phi Delta Kappa. He has also served as president of DRTA.

His hobbies include fishing and yard work. Kennon enjoys morning walks, riding the Amtrak to New York each year, and watching good westerns on TV. His favorite baseball team is the Yankees and football team is the Indianapolis Colts.

## UPDATE FROM VRTA TREASURER



As of August 10, 2010, the Internal Revenue Service considered the VRTA Group Exemption Letter and has recognized the subordinates, districts and units, whose names appeared on the submitted list as exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. The exempt status of all of VRTA participating subordinates, districts and units, is effective as of August 20, 2009. This is the date that the request was submitted and recognized by IRS.

Each District and Unit, listed by the IRS as subordinates of VRTA, with gross receipts of \$25,000 or less must file an electronic notice, Form 990-N (e-postcard) with IRS. Because the fiscal tax year ends June 30 annually, each district or unit in the Group Exemption has until November 15 to file with IRS. The VRTA Group Exemption Number is 5658. This number must be included along with the individual EIN on the return of each district or unit included in the Group Exemption of VRTA. A tax exempt organization must keep accurate records to support income, expenses, and credits

reported on the IRS Form 990 series or other tax returns.

If a district or unit chose not to participate when the initial group exemption letter was submitted in August 2009, they may be added when VRTA does its annual group exemption report. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires that non-profit organizations that do not file a required information form for three consecutive years automatically lose their Federal tax-exempt status. This requirement has been in effect since the beginning of 2007. Any income received between the revocation date and renewed exemption may be taxable or a penalty assessed by IRS.

A discussion session will be held during the October meeting at Blackstone. Additional information will be available at that time. A question and answer session will follow. Thanks to all districts and units which have been so patient during this long process.

Please submit your State dues as soon as possible. Advanced planning for VRTA is based on projected dues.



## News from Around the Commonwealth

### District B

District B hosted a luncheon meeting at The Chesapeake in Newport News, VA, at which members were given an overview of the Virginia Retirement System. The question and answer session which followed the presentation gave members an opportunity to receive additional information.

*Pictured left to right are District B President Janice Mort, VRS Deputy Director for Customer Relationships Donna Blatecky, and VRS Director of Public Relations Jenne Chenault.*



The May 2010 District B luncheon meeting was held at Schlesingers's at Port Warwick in Newport News, VA. After reviewing the issues which related to education and the Virginia Retirement System, which were addressed in the 2010 General Assembly Session, the Honorable John Miller, of the Virginia Senate, received the VRTA 75th Anniversary Pin from District B President Janice Mort (pictured at left).

Submitted by Evelyn Dawkins, Dist. B Publicity Chair



### Hampton Retired Teachers Association June Meeting

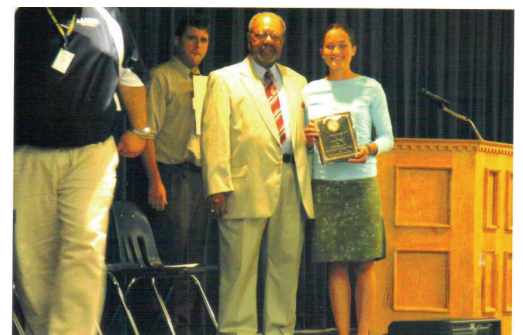
At the June 9, 2010, luncheon meeting of the Hampton Retired Teachers Association at the Holiday Inn in Hampton, the 2010-2012 officers were installed by the Parliamentarian. Front row, from the left: Treasurer Patricia Denton; President Kathleen Brown; President-Elect Michele Meadors. Back row, from left: Corresponding Secretary Emily Tangney; Recording Secretary Peggy Brooks; Vice-President, Alice Capehart; Parliamentarian Bette Jirran. Not pictured: Assistant Treasurer, Sandra Clements. Prior to the installation, a memorial service was held for Lucille Hagwood, and outgoing President Vivikka DeLoach gave remarks.



The Hampton Retired Teachers Association honored three scholarship recipients at the June luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Hampton, and congratulatory remarks were given by the HCS Superintendent. From left: Mikaela Thomas, Hampton High School graduate and winner of the \$500 HRTA Student Scholarship; Dr. Linda Shiflette, Superintendent of the Hampton City Schools; Mrs. Theresa Johnson, winner of the \$500 HRTA Instructional Assistants Scholarship and employee at Moton Early Childhood Center; and Kaitlin Bell, winner of the \$1000 Elizabeth Jordan Scholarship.

### VRTA Scholarship Awarded on June 2, 2010

The 2010 VRTA Scholarship was presented to Miss Leah Coates, a talented, gifted, outstanding and academically well rounded student at Washington and Lee High School in Montross, VA, on June 2, 2010. Present during the presentation of the scholarship was Mrs. Sarah Brown, President of the local unit from District A, and Shade J. Palmer, Chairperson of the VRTA Scholarship Committee. Mr. Palmer is shown in the picture presenting the scholarship to Miss Coates.



## District N

On April 19, 2010, the Warren County Retired Teachers hosted the District N spring meeting. The meeting was held at the Front Royal Church of the Brethren with sixty-three members, representing nine units, attending. Mr. Dennis Henry, of Warren County, and Dr. Susan Powell, of Prince William County, were installed as President and President-Elect. Building and renewing relationships in our district, our units and our communities will be the goal for District N for 2010-2011. District N will be providing the door prizes for the Fall VRTA meeting in Blackstone.



Betty Knowles, Prince Williams, cuts the first piece of the 75th Anniversary cake at the District N meeting held on April 19 in Front Royal.



Nancy Garr, Culpeper, Immediate Past President of District N, 2009-10, installs new officers (left to right): Dr. Michael Morrison, President 2009-10, Frederick, Nancy Garr, Immediate Past President 2009-10, Culpeper, Dr. Susan Powell, President-Elect, 2010-11, Prince William, Dennis Henry, President, 2010-11, Warren.

## District I

Forty members and guests enjoyed a delightful luncheon on May 20, 2010, at the Centre-Bristol, Tennessee, hosted by the Bristol RTA. Special guests attending were VRTA President, Kennon Bland and his wife, Vivian, as well as members from Russell County RTA. Those attending the luncheon were presented with delightful gifts from Bristol businesses and organizations. Following the luncheon, Bristol's own talented jazzical duet of Sarah Scott and Margaret Kearfott entertained with music for four hands at the piano. Their presentation of most rousing show tunes set the spirits soaring and the toes tapping.

The business meeting was conducted by James Sink, District I President. A previously announced slate of candidates for district office was presented, voting followed and new officers were installed by Kennon Bland.

Outgoing president, James Sink, was presented with a gift from District I members thanking him for his outstanding and dedicated service.

Smyth County RTA will host the District I fall meeting on November 4, 2010, at the Riverfront Restaurant in Chilhowie, Virginia, with registration beginning at 11:00 AM.



Betty Inman presenting to James Sink a gift of appreciation from District I as James leaves the office of president after his outstanding and dedicated service to the district.



District I officers for 2010-2012 being installed at District I VRTA Spring Meeting, May 20, 2010, by Kennon Bland, VRTA President (left to right): Betty Inman, District I President (Wythe County), Kennon Bland, VRTA President, Dotty Alexander, Vice-President (Wythe County), Claudine Roberts, Secretary (Washington County), and Brenda Bingham, Treasurer (Washington County).



## Greenville Retired Teachers' Association (GRTA)

*GRTA Upholds VRTA Theme "To Serve, Not to Be Served"*

In 2010 GRTA continued its goals of sharing, advocating and supporting the Greenville County community and its local RTA members. In June the association awarded scholarships to three Greenville County High School seniors: two \$200 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship. In order to augment its scholarship fund, GRTA held its first yard sale; and the Program Committee, chaired by Mrs. Ella Pugh, planned its third annual fall gospel concert.

In addition to raising funds for scholarship, GRTA donated school supplies to the Boys & Girls Club of Emporia. GRTA secretary, Mrs. Patricia Holland, served as GRTA liaison for this project. The unit also continued its community outreach by donating canned foods to the Samaritan Kitchen.

As part of the Community Service Projects, GRTA selected Rev. G.W. Pugh, the president of GRTA, as its 2010 Most Active Member; and the Scrapbook Committee, chaired by Ms. Keith E. Taylor, completed the 2010 scrapbook. In order to exhibit community solidarity and pride, the chair of the Community Service Projects, Mrs. Genell Smith, coordinated the association's participation in the annual Emporia "Peanut Festival" parade. GRTA showcased two entries in the parade. One of special note was the "With Our Youth" entry, organized by Mrs. Cleo Goodwyn.

Besides GRTA's outreach in the community, GRTA increased its membership by 20%, and for its September RTA unit meeting welcomed as its guest, the Superintendent of Greenville County Public Schools, Dr. Philip Lee Worrell.

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## Scott County Retired Teachers Association

The Scott County Retired Teachers Association has been quite active this past spring and fall. We have given three scholarships in the amount of \$2000 each, for a total of \$6000. We have three high schools in our county, and one scholarship was given at each of the three high schools. Part of the scholarship money was earned by the students by doing community service. Scholarship money has been raised by selling four volumes of Scott County and its People history books and Favorite Recipes of Scott County Teachers.

We recorded and turned in volunteer hours at our May meeting that were completed working with children. At present, we are gathering food for the AARP/Ruritan Food Drive, to be given to our local food pantry. Part has already been delivered and the rest will be delivered in September.

Several members attended the District I meeting in Bristol, TN. We also had a picnic meeting, with a local funeral home providing lunch. We are having our September meeting at Natural Tunnel State Park Cove Ridge Center. Planning is underway for a Craft Fair and a Yard Sale in October to raise funds for our scholarships.

Our annual memorial service will be held in November. One member attended the Spring 2010 VRTA Meeting in Blackstone and two members are planning to attend the Fall 2010 meeting.

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## Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Association

*2006 Scholarship Recipient Said Thanks at the R-HRTA Luncheon in May 2010*

We had a good year with many activities and speakers. Our meeting was topped when our 2006 Scholarship recipient came to our May 18, 2010, luncheon. Michael Pittman, a 2010 graduate with honors from Hampton University, will be going back to Hampton in the fall to pursue a Master's Degree in English so that he can become a teacher. He just wanted to thank us for giving him the Roland W. Galvin Scholarship and he told us that it helped him greatly. This year's scholarship recipient is Firne Alexander, and she has a 3.6 grade point average and will be attending Old Dominion University in the fall.

*"Read? Yes I Can"*

Our Education Committee gave out school supplies to seven elementary schools this year with the help of the association members. The schools that were visited were Blackwell, Chimborazo, Fairfield Court, Harvie, J.B. Stuart, Laburnum, and Maymount elementary schools. J.B. Stuart and Maymount Schools held a reception for the teacher who read to their children. Each student was given a sticker with the theme on it.

Visit the newly re-  
vamped VRTA website  
at  
[www.vrta.org](http://www.vrta.org)

**VRTA Newsletter** is published twice annually, in the spring and fall. Submit articles to Co-Editors Weldon and Susan Martin at 1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090 or email at [wlmartin@ntelos.net](mailto:wlmartin@ntelos.net)



## A TRIBUTE TO KENNON BLAND AND BETTY KNOWLES

by Helen Tippie

It has been both a joy and a privilege to work with Kennon Bland and Betty Knowles. Kennon was a great president of the VRTA. He worked really hard and always had the purposes of the organization and the members' needs in his mind and heart. I have never known a more generous man – generous with his time, his money, and his help or sensible advice. We, the members of VRTA, were well served by this dedicated man while he was president. Kennon continues his service as Immediate Past President, and I consider myself fortunate to have him to turn to during my term as president. In fact, he is a hard act to follow. Thank you, Kennon, for all that you have done for the VRTA and for all that you continue to do. It is a pleasure to know you.

Betty was a super secretary. She always had great ideas and was an excellent problem solver. She did her work well and always had reports written in great style. Everything was completed ahead of deadlines, was accurate, and easy to understand. She entertained us, the executive board, with interesting stories, and she baked wonderful brownies for our meetings. Thank you, Betty, for your loyal service to the VRTA.

### Don't Be Scammed:

## What You Need to Know About the \$250 Prescription Drug Rebate

If you reach the Part D prescription drug coverage gap—also known as the donut hole—and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help, you will receive a one-time, tax free check for \$250. This rebate is one of the benefits of the recently passed Health Care Reform law. The first checks were mailed in mid-June and checks will be mailed monthly after people have entered the coverage gap.

To help fight fraud and protect beneficiaries from potential scams, Medicare is reminding seniors there are no forms to fill out to receive this benefit. Medicare will automatically send a check. The envelope will have the US Department of Health and Human Services symbol on it and will say "Medicare Part D". Beneficiaries don't need to provide any personal information. They don't need to provide any information like Medicare, Social Security, or bank account numbers to get the rebate check. They are reminded not to give any personal information to anyone who calls about the \$250 rebate check.

People with Medicare should call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to report any suspected fraud or scams or with any questions.

*"I like to think that the greatest success of any life is the moment when a teacher touches a child's heart and it is never the same. . . Everything America is or ever hopes to be depends upon what happens in our schools' classrooms."*

Frosty Troy

### Directions to VUMAC in Blackstone

#### From the North:

I-95 South to I-85 South at Petersburg  
Take I-85 South to Route 460 West to Blackstone  
Take first Blackstone exit (Business 460) Main Street  
Follow Main Street into town, go through 5 traffic lights  
Take right on Fourth Street to VUMAC

#### From the East:

Route 460 West to Blackstone  
Take first Blackstone exit (Business 460) Main Street  
Follow Main Street into town, go through 5 traffic lights  
Take right on Fourth Street to VUMAC

#### From the South:

I-85 to South Hill Exit 15  
Route 138 North to Kenbridge  
Right turn at traffic light  
Route 40 into Blackstone on Main Street  
Follow Main Street into town to Fourth Street  
Left on Fourth Street to VUMAC

#### From the West:

Route 460 East to Nottoway Exit (Business 460)  
Route 460 Business into Blackstone on Church Street  
Right at College Avenue to VUMAC

## VRTA Fall Meeting-October 4 and 5 at Blackstone's VUMAC

An exciting fall meeting of VRTA is planned for October 4-5 at the Virginia Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone, Virginia. The Executive Board will meet on Sunday evening at 7:00 PM, and the Board of Directors will meet on Monday morning at 9:30 AM. These groups are busy planning the activities of VRTA.

This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of VRTA. As part of the celebration, unit banners will be displayed in the registration area, so each unit is encouraged to bring a banner. Former VRTA presidents will be recognized at the anniversary reception on Monday evening. Rosa Davis Overby and her committee have some special things planned for the event. You won't want to miss it.

On Monday afternoon many informative workshops will be

provided. You can attend up to three sessions such as VRTA insurance, Legislative Workshop, VRTA History, and Going Green-You Can. Many other interesting topics will be offered. On Monday evening Kelly Harris, a ventriloquist, singer, and piano player, will provide entertainment.

A memorial service to honor members who have died in the past year will be held on Tuesday morning. The keynote speaker for the session will be Bill Kallio who is the AARP State Director. The conference will conclude at midday on Tuesday.

Come to the fall meeting of VRTA to help celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other retired educators from across the state.

### Virginia AARP Director to Keynote Blackstone Conference

Bill Kallio, who has served as AARP's State Director for Virginia since 1995, will be the keynote speaker on the Tuesday morning, October 5, session of the Fall Conference at Blackstone. In that capacity he oversees AARP's program, community service and advocacy activities within the state. He has been with AARP for 22 years. He first served as a Senior Program Specialist in AARP's Program Division where he directed AARP's national Widowed Persons Service (WPS) with over 230 program sites across the United States. Later he served as a Legislative Representative where he organized AARP's federal advocacy activities and developed grassroots volunteer activities in 6 states.

In addition to his AARP responsibilities, Bill has served as a member of the board of directors for the Virginia Coalition for the Aging, the steering committee of the Healthcare For All Virginians Coalition, the Futures Board of the Center on Aging at Virginia Tech and is Chairperson of the Board of the Virginia Health Quality Center.

Prior to coming to AARP, he was the Executive Director of a Washington based national religious coalition addressing social policy issues in the United States, South Africa and Central America. Earlier in his career he was the Associate Director of a multi-service urban agency in Grand Rapids, MI.

Bill Kallio completed his undergraduate work in Political Science and holds master's degrees in Public Administration and Theological Studies.

#### In Memoriam—Polly Holloway

Polly Holloway, President of District P, passed away on October 9, 2009, while attending the Fall Conference at Blackstone, Virginia. She was 74 years old and had retired in 2000 with 34 years service in the Roanoke County Schools.

Polly grew up on a farm in Tazewell County, Virginia, and graduated from a two-room high school. She received her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in home economics and nutrition from Virginia Tech. She was a member of the "Old Guard" at Tech,

Polly was a recent recipient of the VRTA's most active member award and was very active in church, community and with her family.

#### Etc by Kelly to Provide Entertainment on Monday Evening at the Fall Conference

Understanding that her life is best lived outside the box, Kelly Harris' singing career began in the Buena Vista Baptist Church at age three. Adding ventriloquism, clowning, massage therapy, teaching and motivational speaking allows her a different adventure every day! Kelly's career has included real jobs, life on the road and cruise ships, playing music, and going back to finish her BA in journalism at the University of Richmond in 1998. Calling herself a re-native, she moved back to amazing Rockbridge County in 1999. Of all her accomplishments and awards, the one of which she is the most proud is being voted by the People's Choice awards in the area as Arts & Entertainment Volunteer of the Year in 2007. It's giving back to a community she loves!

#### IMPORTANCE OF A LOBBYIST

By definition, a lobbyist is one who tries to influence public officials. Therefore, all of us are lobbyists as we encourage our legislators to vote in accordance with our legislative priorities. However, almost every industry and group affected by legislation hires people with special knowledge and time to ensure that senators and delegates understand the effects, good or bad, that proposed legislation will have and to persuade them that funding certain causes would be in the best interests of Virginians.

Although the unethical practices of some lobbyists have tarnished the term, legislators who deal with several thousand bills each session, have come to depend on lobbyists to provide them with information necessary to make good decisions.

Therefore, if VRTA is to continue to be effective, we also must have a lobbyist, one who has integrity, knowledge of the issues, a thorough understanding of the legislative process, skill in working with legislators, and other desirable qualities. This person will literally be the face of VRTA at the General Assembly.

We believe we have found such a person. We hope you will be in Blackstone on Monday, October 4, to meet the new VRTA lobbyist.

Bea Morris, Legislative Chair  
540-867-5109



# VRTA Annual Fall Meeting Registration Form

October 4-5, 2010

Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

707 Fourth Street, Blackstone, VA 23824

Phone – 434-292-5308

Monday 8:45 am – 11:45 am – Registration 1:00pm – Workshop Sessions

9:30 am – Board of Directors 7:00pm – Evening Events

Tuesday

8:45 am - Last Pickup of Registration Packets

9:15 am – Fall meeting and Keynote Message

**NOTE: Registration fees and lodging rates and are per person, not per room or per couple.**

**Registration** postmarked by September 15, 2010 \$25.00

\*\*Registration postmarked after September 15, 2010 35.00

**Lodging:** One night – per person 46.00

Two nights- per person 92.00

**Total for Registration and Lodging \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Room assignments will be made based on the registration postmark. Later registrants may have to share a bathroom with an adjoining room.**

**Meals:** Please indicate your choices with an X.

Monday

\_\_\_\_\_ Breakfast – 8:00 am \$7.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch – 12:00 Noon 8.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Supper – 5:00pm 9.00

Tuesday

\_\_\_\_\_ Breakfast – 8:00 am 7.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch – 12 Noon 8.00

**Total for Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total of enclosed check to VRTA \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*(For total add Registration fee, plus Lodging and Meals)

Mail completed registration form and check, payable to VRTA, **no later than September 15, 2010.** Send to: Weldon Martin, 1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090 Phone: 540-473-2636 E-mail: wlmartin@ntelos.net

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT – NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF LOCAL UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ROOMMATE REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM PREFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_ (Will be honored, if possible, as forms are received.)

SUNDAY ARRIVAL TIME (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_. **(May register any time after 4:30 pm)**

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (List on back if necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE – Fill out one of these forms for each person attending.)**

VRTA  
Helen Tippie, President  
14 Berkley Court  
Troutville, VA 24175

PRSR STD  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Daleville, VA  
Permit No. 38



## **Celebrating 75 Years Of VRTA!**

On Monday, October 4, 2010, during the VRTA Fall Meeting, there will be a celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of the event, the number 75 will be strategically placed, and the founding scene with the founder's picture will be displayed at the entrance. Unit banners will be everywhere, and a special place mat will decorate the head table. Everyone present will receive an updated bookmark and a shopping bag. During the reception, a poem will be read, our collage will be displayed, and our song will be sung. Anniversary cake and punch will be served. Members will have a chance to socialize with friends from across the state.

Plan to attend the VRTA Fall Meeting and join the celebration!

VRTA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee

Ada Catron      Frances Charles

Bill Cosby      Patricia Holland

Doris Williams

Rosa D. Overby, chair