



# VRTA Newsletter

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

Fall, 2011 Edition

## Are We Equipped to Be Salt, Light, and Hope?



As I write this article the last day of July, there seems to be a pervasive air of pessimism throughout our country. The political climate during the summer has given rise to this pessimism that stifles productivity and growth in countless areas. The Master

Teacher told his followers many years ago that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Over the years, teachers have encouraged hope in children and others in their communities, and we must continue to be salt and light giving hope to children and teachers in classrooms today.

In order to do that, we must fortify ourselves and encourage each other as we continue to advocate for public education and the professionals who are dealing with uncertainties and unprecedented demands. The information and inspiration available at the VRTA Fall Conference in Blackstone October 3-4 will help us meet the challenges of being salt, light, and hope.

To reach more attendees on Monday, October 3, the format of the legislative session has been revamped. Immediately after lunch, the VRS staff will make a presentation in the auditorium for everyone. Successful advocacy will be the focus of the Legislative Workshop held later in the afternoon. Bonnie Atwood and I will emphasize lobbying techniques and will provide information for use with candidates in the fall and legislators during the 2012 General Assembly session.

Successful advocacy is an ongoing process; however, January 24-31 will be a focused VRTA Advocacy Week when we will put all our lobbying skills to good use. Talking points on issues highlighted during the workshop will be emphasized to both the legislators and to the public during this time.

Information from the workshop can and should be shared with those in your unit, but it is very hard to take Blackstone inspiration home alone. Therefore, we look forward to seeing several from each unit at the Successful Advocacy Workshop as we prepare to be salt, light, and hope in a united advocacy program.

Bea Morris, VRTA Legislative Chair

### AARP Community Food Drive: September 9-10

Many thanks to the following 16 units for their planned participation in the AARP Community Food Drive this September!

- Botetourt ■ Buchanan County ■ Buckingham, Cumberland & Prince Edward ■ Charlotte County ■ Chesapeake ■ Franklin/Southampton ■ Greensville ■ Harrisonburg-Rockingham ■ King & Queen, King William-West Point ■ Newport News ■ Patrick County ■ Portsmouth ■ Scott County ■ Shenandoah ■ Suffolk ■ Wythe

Information has been sent to the food drive captains from these units containing ideas about how to participate.

If your unit wants to sign up, there's still time. Just send Amber Nightingale an email ([anightingale@aarp.org](mailto:anightingale@aarp.org)) or call her toll-free at [866-542-8164](tel:866-542-8164).

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"This election will determine whether the Democrats or the Republicans make up the majority of members of the Virginia Senate. That vote will decide whether our legislature follows a Republican agenda or whether, balancing a Republican House of Delegates, there remains a seesaw between the two parties. You decide!"



## A Message from VRTA President Helen Tippie

It is hard to believe that I have been president of the VRTA for more than a year. Our members are a wonderful group of people! I have traveled to many unit and district meetings, and I have seen an array of delightful programs. I have eaten some great meals and met many of our fascinating and hard working members. No two districts or units are the same, but all are working hard for their members and in their communities. I am truly proud to be the president of the VRTA!

We are still looking for a technology leader for the state. Our move toward the technology era is going very slowly. About 200 out of 7000 people who received our last newsletter responded to the survey about how they want to receive their newsletter. For that reason, everyone is getting a copy by mail this fall. There will also be a copy on the Web Site, [www.vrta.org](http://www.vrta.org).

We are looking forward to the fall conference, at Blackstone, on October 3-4. There will be a few changes in format. For example, everyone in attendance on Monday, October 3, will be able to attend an hour-long legislative workshop, which will be held in the auditorium. Following the legislative hour we will have a number of interesting and informative presentations in the usual classrooms at the Center. For example, AARP is going to have three sessions on Driving Tips. They will have a lot of good handouts. AAA is doing three sessions about travel and cruises. They will have handouts, a video, and some nice door prizes. We will learn how we can sponsor a cruise to raise money for our unit or to just have a great time with family and friends. There will be training for various offices such as treasurer, etc. There will be three sessions about insurance and benefits. Another session will focus on getting and retaining members and another on how to lobby on the local, state and national level. You will want to attend as many sessions as possible and share the information with other conference attendees and with your members at home.

Format changes are being made as a result of suggestions by members on their evaluation forms at the last two meetings. Also, we are not having a reception after the entertainment on Monday evening. Folks can just socialize or go on to bed. The reception has gotten very expensive so we will only have those on special occasions such as anniversaries.

Tuesday's meeting will be very informative and we have a well-known keynote speaker. I can't wait to see **YOU** at Blackstone!

*Continued from page 1*

### AARP Food Drive

As a reminder, AARP is offering awards of \$150 to five units (names drawn at random) that donate at least 25 large grocery bags (or 150 pounds) of food to a local food bank. We also will include in the drawing the names of those units that donate \$150 or more to a food bank in 2011. The food drive captains have all the details.

In addition, we will be offering one or more Challenge Awards for creative and successful food collection efforts. The winners of the Challenge Awards will be selected by a volunteer and staff team, looking at those food drives that generated 500 or more pounds of food.

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

### Virginia Retired Teachers Association

*"Organized November 28, 1936"*

#### 2010-2012 Officers

President	Helen Tippie	(540)330-3863 htippie@comcast.net
President-Elect	James Bradford	(540)261-3242 drjcb@embarqmail.com
Vice-President	Denise Carson	(757)898-1289 dewcarson@aol.com
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## VRTA Update From the Treasurer

By Betty Craft, Treasurer

Thanks to all for your cooperation during 2010-2011. Please continue to send me names of deceased members so that the VRTA Membership Roster can be kept current. For the Memorial Service in October, please include the names being recognized to Kennon Bland. For units with newly elected treasurers, please feel free to contact the State Treasurer if you have questions about submitting dues, the IRS Group Tax Exemption, or need Membership Enrollment Forms or Dues Settlement Forms.

A reminder to all districts and units that are approved as a part of the VRTA Group Tax Exemption for IRS (Group Number 5658) that documentation on file with the treasurer must include the following: IRS Policy Statement signed by two officers and the date approved (if you have one on file you do not need to submit another one); Constitution/Bylaws signed by two officers and the date approved or amended (if you have already submitted one, you do not need to submit another one unless you have approved a new document or amended the one on file); and a budget signed by two officers and the date approved. The current budget must be submitted for 2011-2012 prior to March 2012. Documentation must be on file for IRS for your district or unit to continue to be a part of the Group Tax Exemption for VRTA. You may file your e-postcard on line with your EIN from July 1– November 15, 2011. If your district or unit is not currently part of the VRTA Group Tax Exemption Plan under section 501 © 4 of the Code, you may submit the necessary documentation to the treasurer prior to March 1, 2012 with an \$18.00 IRS Assessment Fee.

### Get to Know Your Candidates!

By Bonnie Atwood,  
VRTA Lobbyist



I was talking with an election campaign worker the other day. He was from another state. He said, “Don’t call campaigns to get in touch with the candidates. They’re too busy to talk to you. Wait until after the election.”

You know what? I’m not buying it. If you don’t call, life may be easier for the campaign worker, but it won’t do anything for your association’s legislative agenda. My advice is this:

1. Learn who your candidates are.
2. Get to know them early.
3. Tell them who you are, and what you want.
4. Vote.

I have found that candidates can be very good listeners—especially before the election. Get in there and tell them your name. Tell them you are proud to be a member of Virginia Retired Teachers Association. Ask them some questions. Tell them where you stand. Tell them VRTA wants defined benefits and support for current and retired public school teachers. Tell them that you are a voter.

Mark these two dates on your calendar: **August 23** is our statewide primary election. **November 8** is our statewide general election. Cherish your right to vote, and use it. Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or neither, you can help determine who will be on the slate, and later, who will be elected. You say you’re disgusted with politics? All the more reason to vote!

This year is especially critical in Virginia. This election will determine whether the Democrats or the Republicans make up the majority of members of the Virginia Senate. That vote will decide whether our legislature follows a Republican agenda or whether, balancing a Republican House of Delegates, there remains a seesaw between the two parties. You decide!

You are important. You know the old saying, “it’s not what you know- - it’s who you know.” That’s not quite right. It’s not who you know- - it’s who knows *you*.

# News from Around the Commonwealth

## District M Hosts VRTA President Helen Tippie at April Meeting

District M met April 11, 2011, at the Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Building in Hillsville, Virginia. The meeting began with VRS representatives Donna Blatecky and Jeannie Chenault giving an up-date on VRS and what it offers to members. They also had a question and answer session and even met privately with some members to discuss their questions. Members were informed that it is important to keep their beneficiaries up-to-date. When a person dies, the insurance money goes to the beneficiary which supersedes any will that may be left. Following lunch and the business meeting, our guest speaker, VRTA President Helen Tippie addressed the group with highlights of the upcoming VRTA Spring Delegate Assembly and other items related to VRTA. All six units were represented with Past VRTA President Ruth Andrews attending. We also had another special guest, 100 year old Effie Brown.



Left to right: Elizabeth Huff, President of the Hale-Wilkinson-Carter House and retired teacher; Reba Evans, President Dist. M and Carroll County Retired Teachers; Helen Tippie, President VRTA; Donna Blatecky, VRS; Jeanne Chenault, VRS



Left to right: Barbara "Tinky" Layman, Co-President Pulaski RTA, Ruth Andrews, Past VRTA President and Galax/Grayson RTA Rep., Joanne Cecil Co-President Pulaski RTA, Pamela King President Montgomery RTA, Reba Evans President Dist. M and Carroll County RTA, Lorice O'Connor President Floyd RTA, Doris Lynch President Giles RTA



Effie Brown, 100 years old, from Floyd attended the April District M meeting.



## Amherst County Retired Teachers' Association

On June 14, 2011, ACRTA held its Annual Luncheon at Winton County Club in Amherst, Virginia. During this event, we celebrated our yearly accomplishments and honored 2011 retiring teachers and two scholarship winners.



ACRTA donated over \$900 to the Amherst Middle School Cougar Care Program. This program provides a backpack filled with goodies for disadvantaged children which enables them to have a well balanced diet during the weekend.



Two \$500 college scholarships were awarded to Brittany Fletcher who will be attending George Mason University and Robert Jordan who will be attending Longwood University..

The ACRTA will also provide teacher supplies to new teachers to help them start their teaching career in Amherst County Public Schools in August.

Donations are made each year to D.A.R.E., Amherst Historical Society, CALL Literacy Council, C.A.S.A., Amherst County Friends of the Library and Habitat for Humanity.

During our General Meetings this year, we participated in a home safety program, estate planning and health tips.

We are looking forward to our upcoming year and our continued purpose to further the cause of education, to promote the welfare of retired teachers in the areas of finance, health, and housing and to maintain high morale among teachers in general.



Bev Jones, President

## District E Celebrates at Luncheon

District E of VRTA held its annual luncheon and installation Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at Berry Hill Resort and Conference Center in South Boston, Virginia, with 42 members present from Charlotte County, Danville, Halifax/South Boston, Patrick County, Martinsville/Henry County, and Pittsylvania County.

Priscilla Merricks of Pittsylvania County RTA conducted a memorial service for deceased members.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Carrie Ashe, a retired middle school coordinator from Danville City Schools. She spoke of retired teachers as being encouragers who see possibilities when others stop, who care more about people than performance, and who don't pretend; they perform.

Armand Harrell of Henry County RTA installed officers for 2011-2012. They are Calvin Porter, President; Phyllis Eastridge, Secretary; and Ethel Frazier, Treasurer.

District E has adopted the motto of "Each one reach one" to increase membership.



*District E officers L-R: Calvin Porter, President; Phyllis Eastridge, Secretary; Ethel Frazier, Treasurer; Leeland Luck, Outgoing President.*

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## Botetourt Retired Educators Celebrate End of Year Meeting at Local Winery

The Botetourt Retired Educators held its final meeting of the 2010-2011 year on May 16 at the Blue Ridge Vineyards. Barbara Kolb, owner of the winery and a retired teacher, told the group about the history of wine making and specifically about her winery. She conducted tours and BRE members participated in wine tastings. The group enjoyed a picnic lunch at the winery.




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## Lancaster, Northumberland RTA Memorializes Well-Respected Member at October Meeting

The Lancaster, Northumberland Retired Teachers Association meets twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring. The unit has 15-20 members. The fall meeting is a business meeting, and the one in the spring is for fun.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a luncheon meeting with local entertainment featuring music and amusing local color. Local businesses help to pay for this event. Charles Shreve, who died in May, will also be memorialized at this meeting. He was a high school government teacher for 37 years and a well-respected member of the community.

**Attention Districts and Local Units!!!  
Don't forget to bring your banners and  
scrapbooks for display in the Registration  
Lobby at the Fall Conference in  
Blackstone!**

**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)

## District P Hears from Executive Director of Historical Society of Western Virginia

District P held its Spring Meeting on May 24, 2011, at Carlos Restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia. About 35 representatives from six of its local units attended the meeting. District P currently has about 400 members in seven local units. During a brief business meeting, the district presented grants to each local unit to help fund their local scholarships. A memorial service recognizing the 28 District P retired educators who passed on during the past year was led by Past President Virginia Nowlin.

The speaker for the meeting was Jeanne Bollendorf, executive director of the Historical Society of Western Virginia, which operates the history museum in Center in Square in downtown Roanoke. She told the group about upcoming plans for the historical society which includes renovation and expansion of the museum. Ms. Bollendorf talked about volunteer opportunities and how the historical society partners with local school divisions.

The Fall Meeting of District P, our annual Legislative Forum, is scheduled for October 25, 2011, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Plantation at Sunnybrook.



## District B has Varied Activities

The May 2011 District B luncheon meeting was held at The Chesapeake in Newport News, Virginia. The newly elected officers were installed: Martha Bradley, President; Selwa Fiskus, Treasurer; and Roberta DePollar, Secretary. Chesapeake resident and pianist, Billie Powell, and District B member and narrator, Bette Jirran, presented a program of patriotic music and stories about the music. Emma Novak, Tabb High School graduate, and Kristina Watkins, Gloucester High School graduate, were recognized as the District B scholarship recipients.



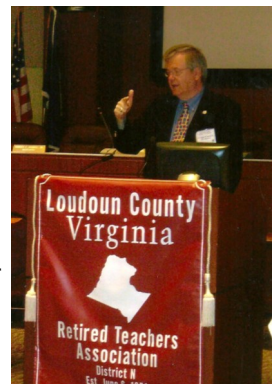
## Loudoun Retired Teachers Celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On June 2, 2011, the Loudoun Retired Teachers Association celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members and guests gathered at the Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building for a luncheon prepared by Loudoun Public Schools Food Services Department.



Co-Presidents Linda Robinson and Nancy Smith welcome everyone and introduce special guests.

A slide show prepared by students under the direction of Ms. Ivy Smith, Assistant Public Information Officer for the school system, highlighted the history of the unit. Our guest speaker was Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools, Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick, III. Entertainment was provided by the choral group from Newton-Lee Elementary School under the direction of Ms. Becky Mosley and Ms. Melody Harmon. Dennis Henry, District N President and Ron Harvey, President of Warren County Retired Teachers Association, attended the meeting.



Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick III, Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools, was the guest speaker.

## LRTA Historical Information Donated to Library

Thomas Balch Library, located in Leesburg, Virginia, has accepted scrapbooks and other historical information about the Loudoun Retired Teachers Association. The collection will be available for the public to view and learn about the association.



Linda Robinson, President of LRTA, presents historical information, including scrapbooks, to Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist of Thomas Balch Library.

## Productive Year for Roanoke City Retired Teachers



Roanoke City RTA president Roseanne Burgess (L) with scholarship recipients and parent.

Roanoke City Retired Teachers' Association had a productive 2010-11 year. We were fortunate to have outstanding speakers Robin Reed, WDBJ 7 meteorologist; Deanna Gordon, retired Roanoke County Public Schools' Superintendent; and Deedie Kagey, retired Roanoke County Public Schools' educator. We were entertained by "The Harmonizing Crescendos" at our December meeting at Hidden Valley Country Club. Our members were very generous in giving donations to The Salvation Army at Christmas. At our May meeting, we awarded two \$1000.00 scholarships each to two Roanoke City Public Schools' graduating seniors. Alexandra Foster, who will be attending James Madison University, and Birdie Trotter, who will be attending Hollins University, will be pursuing degrees in education in the fall of 2011.

## RICHMOND-HENRICO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (DISTRICT Q)

This three year journey has come to an end as of June. I thank each of you for your support, patience, prayers and most of all for your attendance at the meetings. I could not have traveled this journey without you. I also thank my husband John for his support.

R-HRTA is very pleased to report that our FOOD DRIVE was very successful. We donated \$150.00 and 160 pounds of canned goods to the Food Bank in March.

Reading in the schools was great for both the children and our readers. For the first time during my tenure, we had a male reader in the person of John Collins. The children and John had a ball with the story, THE FOURTH LITTLE PIG. We hope more of our male members will become readers in our schools because the children need to see more males. We were also blessed with author, Dr. Virgie Binford, who also read to the children. As an author of several books, she gave everyone on the reading team one of her books to share with the children. Each student received a sticker with our theme, "Read! Yes We Can." The readers enjoyed a reception given for them at J. B. Stuart School. Laburnum Elementary School presented each reader with a Dr. Seuss and R-HRTA button in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Readers represented R-HRTA with their time and donations of school supplies at the following Richmond Schools: Blackwell, Fairfield, J.B. Stuart, and Maymount; and these Henrico Schools: Chamberlayne, Harvie, and Laburnum.

The Membership Committee addressed ways of gaining new members by giving gifts at our May meeting to those members that brought in five or more members. The winners were Jacqueline Lawrence, Evelyn Price and Mary Collins.

Our Scholarship Committee gave a \$1,000.00 Scholarship to Arika Goode, who will attend Virginia State University in the fall.

Mary Collins, President (2008-11)

Patricia Spence, President (2011)

### Directions to VUMAC at 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

 *Mecklenburg Retired Teacher Association*

MRTA held three informative meetings this year. The members enjoyed a school visitation, a holiday luncheon and a visit to the Mecklenburg County Public School Board Office Complex.

Children books were presented to the Department of Social Services, and the organization presented two scholarships to local high school graduates. The scholarship, awarded to MRTA by District D, was presented to Ellie Rose of Bluestone High School, Skipwith, Va.

The “battle cry” for membership and legislative input was voiced through the words of “Pension or Bust”. It was written by Priscilla J. Walker, MRTA President and presented to the membership at the April 2011 meeting.

**“Pension or Bust”**

**If you want to keep your money,  
(Social Security, Medicare, VRS or etc.)  
You will need to get busy honey.  
Someone is trying to take your pension  
Retirees are not safe, I'd like to mention.**

**Senator Warner, Senator Webb,  
Representatives Hurt & Ruff, too.  
Our members of Congress,  
Need to hear from you.**

**We must stay together  
Committed, united and strong.  
If not, before you know it,  
“All the money will be gone.”**

**So bring a friend on board,  
Join us today, you see.  
Our lobbyist and delegates need your input  
And it all starts with YOU and ME.**

**PJW**

**Franklin/Southampton RTA Assist with Special Olympics Event**



*Daphne M. Miller, President and member Callie Williamson pose with winners of the Special Olympics Event*

Members of the Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association participated with the Special Olympics Virginia of Area 21 Track & Field Event. The event was hosted by Franklin High School on Saturday, April 30, 2011. Daphne M. Miller, president of Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association and District D assisted with the preparation of ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The unit also provided condiments for the cook-out that followed the event. Other members present were Callie Williamson and Deborah Faulk.



*President, Daphne M. Miller assist with preparing ribbons for winners.*

**Williamsburg-James City County RTA Re-establishes Newsletter**



*Bruton Heights Alumni Choir serenade association members at recent meeting. (This photo was included in their May 2011 newsletter.)*

One goal of the Williamsburg-James City County Retired Teachers Association was to re-establish a newsletter. In its May 2011 edition several events were highlighted. The group visited the historic First Baptist Church where they viewed historic displays and were serenaded by the Bruton Heights Alumni Choir. At end of the year a cookout was held on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The menu was fried fish and shrimp with all of the fixings. The unit submitted its first scrapbook at the state meeting where it received recognition. A \$500.00 scholarship was awarded at the June meeting.



## Henrico Retired School Personnel Association's Legislative Focus



*HRSPA Legislative Forum, Oct. 2010*

The HRSPA Luncheon at the beautiful Willow Oaks Country Club was the site of the HRSPA Legislative Forum. Moderated by VRTA Legislative Chair, Bea Morris, five of Henrico's delegates in the Virginia General Assembly participated in a 40-minute panel responding to questions about the future of VRS, health care issues for seniors and pending education policy issues. Of the ten invitees, four participated: Delegate Jimmie Massie, Delegate Joe Morrissey, Delegate John O'Bannon,, and Raymond Tademy (Legislative Assistant for Delegate Dolores McQuinn who was not feeling well).

This Forum was the launch of more legislative activity with the establishment of the HRSPA Legislative Committee. After attending training workshops, members of the committee met in small teams with individual representatives at their respective offices. Among its ongoing activities, the Committee

kept the members informed of pending legislation and provided contact information for them to contact legislators about issues of interest to them during the most recent Legislative Session. More members have joined this important committee. The HRSPA Legislative Committee has plans to expand its work during the next session.



*HRSPA Legislative Committee Workshop*

## Hampton Retired Teachers Association Presents Three Scholarships



On June 8, 2011, the Hampton Retired Teachers Association held its luncheon meeting at the Howard Johnson Plaza and Conference Center in Hampton, Virginia. Three scholarships were presented. From left, Mr. Troy Scarboro, winner of the \$500 Instructional Assistants Scholarship; Dr. Linda Shifflette, HCS Superintendent; Caitlin Kremp, HRTA \$1,000 Student Scholar; Jonathan McLean, \$1,000 Jordan Scholar; Kathleen Brown, HRTA President.

## Now for the News From Scott County Retired Teachers, District O

The Scott County Retired Teachers presented three Scholarships to seniors, one each at our three high schools in the county. Each scholarship was in the amount of \$2,000 for a total of \$6,000. Half of each scholarship was given at awards' days in the three high schools and the other half of the scholarship was earned by each of the recipients for doing 50 hours of community service. Money for the scholarships was raised by writing, publishing, and selling four volumes of Scott County and Its People (a history book of families, schools, churches, and other historical information about our county). We also wrote, published, and sold a cookbook, Favorite Recipes of Scott County Teachers. It featured recipes, pictures and information about all of our living teachers over 80 years old, plus quotes and short stories from retired teachers. We are still selling these books. We raised about \$600 from a yard sale in May. The proceeds from the yard sale, proceeds from the books sales, and other donations have gone into a CD savings account for the scholarships. Interest from the CD savings account has also added money to it.

We had a picnic at a local park in July and recent retirees were invited. A local business sponsored the picnic, and we had a good turnout. A \$500 donation was given to the Dolly Parton Imaginary Library program. We are participating in the food drive for our local food pantry and continue to serve our community through our organization.

***VRTA Bylaws are now online, as well as recent newsletters with color photos!***

***Visit your VRTA website often: [www.vrta.org](http://www.vrta.org)***

## VRTA Fall Conference October 3-4 at Blackstone's VUMAC

The VRTA Fall Conference will be held October 3-4, 2011, at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone, Virginia. The conference gives you the opportunity to connect with other retired educators throughout the state. Many people have requested that the legislative session be available for everyone in attendance. On Monday afternoon the VRS staff will hold a session for everyone. Among a variety of interesting small groups sessions will be tips for officers and helpful information regarding insurance.

On Monday evening the group will be entertained by "Angel Monet"

### Dr. Warren Stewart to Keynote Fall Conference of VRTA

The keynote speaker for this fall's VRTA Fall Conference will be Dr. Warren Stewart, Ed.D. He will be speaking on Tuesday morning, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Stewart's extensive background includes business, military service and education. He earned his Ed.D. in curriculum from the University of Virginia. In the 1970s, he served in the Virginia Army National Guard where he was a training and communications officer. He is a retired superintendent of schools. A recognized volunteer leader, he has served in more than 25 volunteer positions for community service organizations in Hampton Roads, across the state and beyond. He has received numerous awards for these efforts. Dr. Stewart presently serves as President of the Norfolk Crime Line and Bridging Boundaries International; and, past President or Vice President of the Ocean View Lions Club, Ocean View Kiwanis Club, Ocean View Shrine Club, Granby High School Alumni Association, Virginia Jefferson Association and Virginia Academic Decathlon. He is also a board member of the Norfolk Public Library, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, and Norfolk City Schools.

The members of VRTA look forward to Dr. Stewart's remarks entitled "Our Shared Story" during the fall meeting.

who is a songwriter, vocalist, and playwright. Her work includes inspirational and motivational topics for children. On Tuesday the keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Warren Stewart. Dr. Stewart's background includes business, military service, and education. His remarks are entitled "Our Shared Story."

The registration form for the fall conference is found in this newsletter and online on the VRTA website. Won't you join your fellow retired educators in Blackstone for an informative, educational and fun time together on October 4 and 5?

### Vocalist and Playwright Angel Monet to Entertain at Fall Conference

Part of Monday's evening's activities during the VRTA Fall Conference in Blackstone will be entertainment by "Angel Monet." For the last 15 years, award winning Female Entertainer/Producer of New England's Urban Award "Angel Monet" has created a phenomenal revolution in the world of Inspirational & Children's music. As a song writer, vocalist, and playwright, her fresh blend of soulful vocals, positive lyrics and upbeat rhythms have children across the country raving for her latest CD "Children Are A Gift," filled with motivational and inspirational messages of love, family and self-esteem. She has opened up a musical window in children's music that lets in the likes of Caribbean, soca, latin and pop music. "Angel Monet" has performed in the show she created entitled The Children's Family Musical "Jack's World." She has received the parenting Media Award for the sound track she produced from Jack's World and was the featured opening act for the famous "UniverSoul Circus".



Monet A. Ledbetter-Glaude, better known as "Angel Monet," is also the producer, writer and creator of the band "So Amazing," consisting of young musicians whose band's mission is to encourage and uplift the human spirit of youth and adults through their performances of inspirational original songs of faith and hope. In their short existence, this fresh and innovative group has captivated the hearts and minds of their peers with their rich and soulful sounds bursting with energy. Now, with the release of her new single on Rossy Records, "Angel Monet" is sure to set new standards. The VRTA is fortunate to have her to entertain during the fall conference.

### A Matter of Record

By Helen Tippie, VRTA President

It is very important to keep accurate records of your unit's business and official papers. Each secretary should maintain a folder, which will contain the following:

- Current bylaws, signed by all members of bylaws' committee
- Budget
- Agendas and minutes of meetings
- Treasurer's reports
- Any other official papers

All documents should be signed and dated. For example, at each meeting approved minutes should be signed by the secretary and another officer and then placed in the designated folder along with the treasurer's report and other official papers from the meeting.

When a new secretary is elected, the folder should be passed on to that person. It is probably best to keep one folder per year so the secretary would need a small file as folders accumulate. Keep all folders for at least 5-7 years in case the records need to be produced for an IRS audit.

**VRTA Fall Conference**

October 3-4, 2011

Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

707 Fourth Street, Blackstone, VA 23824

Phone – 434-292-5308

<u>Monday</u>	8:45am – 11:45am – Registration,	9:30am – Board of Directors Meeting	
	12:45pm–Legislative Assembly	2:00pm–Workshop Sessions,	6:30pm–Evening Events
<u>Tuesday</u>	8:45am - Last Pickup of Registration Packets		
	9:15am – Morning Session and Keynote Message		

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

<b>A.</b>	<b>Registration</b> postmarked by September 19, 2011	\$25.00	_____
	<b>Registration</b> postmarked after September 19, 2011	\$35.00	_____
<b>B.</b>	<b>Lodging:</b> One night – per person	50.00	_____
	Two nights- per person	98.00	_____
<b>Sub Total for Registration and Lodging</b>			\$ _____

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

<b>C.</b>	<b>Meals:</b> Please indicate your choices with an X.		
	<u>Sunday</u> Boxed Supper – 6:00pm	\$9.00	_____
	<u>Monday</u>		
	Breakfast – 8:00am	7.00	_____
	Lunch – 11:45am	8.50	_____
	Supper – 5:30pm	10.50	_____
	<u>Tuesday</u>		
	Breakfast – 8:00am	7.00	_____
	Lunch – 12 Noon	8.50	_____
<b>Sub Total for Meals</b>			\$ _____

**D. Grand Total of enclosed check to VRTA (For total add Registration fee, Lodging and Meals) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Mail completed registration form and check, payable to VRTA, **no later than September 19, 2011.** 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 in detail or state None.) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

U. S POSTAGE  
PAID  
Daleville, VA  
Permit No. 38  
ZIP CODE 24085  
PRSRT STD

Return Service Requested

## Newsletter Distribution Survey (may be sent with Registration Form)

In order to better serve our members, we are exploring the possibility of emailing newsletters to those members who would prefer it. Below you will find a brief survey. Please take the time to fill it out and mail it to:

Helen Tippie  
14 Berkley Court  
Troutville, VA 24175

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to continue receiving the newsletter by mail. \_\_\_\_\_

I can access the newsletter through the VRTA website. \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to have the newsletter e-mailed to me. \_\_\_\_\_

My e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify us of any address changes.

In order to update our records, we need to know if an active or life member has not been receiving the newsletter. If you are aware of this, you may also let Helen Tippie know.

Thank you,

The Executive Board of VRTA