



# VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2014 Edition



## From Your President

I have been chosen by you, my VRTA friends, to lead this distinguished organization, and I take pride in doing so. It will be a challenging experience.

We have all given ourselves to the high calling of educating and influencing others and we must feel pride in our chosen professions and continue to carry on that calling through our volunteer work with the youth and community. It remains a calling for us to continue serving and supporting our local units, districts, and state RTA organizations. It is through our joint efforts that we have made Virginia RTA one of the most outstanding and highly recognized retired teachers' organizations in the nation. My goal, with your assistance, is to offer support to the current educators and to reach all retired educators and make their experiences in local, district, and state associations meaningful. Meanwhile, I thank you for your cooperation and efforts. I challenge you to keep up the good work, to get others involved, to make a difference wherever you are, and to be enthusiastic in the process.

I am excited that I have the opportunity to lead and serve my favorite people, the retired teachers. I take comfort in knowing that I have a team that I can call on for assistance. Finally, I ask the Master Planner and my Daily Leader for wisdom and guidance in my endeavors.

Phyllis Eastridge, President VRTA

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"... Every county and city in the state of Virginia needs an active RTA unit that is engaged and committed to promoting the general welfare of retired educational personnel, public schools, and the community. Retired educators can make a difference..." Page 13

## Meet Your Officers

### Phyllis Eastridge—President

Phyllis grew up on a farm in Carroll County, Virginia, and graduated from Hillsville High School. She holds an undergraduate degree from Radford University and a Master's of Arts Degree from Gardner-Webb University in English Education. She taught English, sociology, humanities, and speech communication for thirty-one years in the Patrick County School System, as well as coached drama and forensics. After her retirement in 2001, Phyllis taught ESL in Adult Education before she became an English instructor for Patrick Henry Community College where she still teaches.

Phyllis has served as vice-president and president of the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association, secretary and president of District E-VRTA, VRTA president-elect, and community service chair for VRTA. The highlight of her retirement has been working with youth. The Patrick County Retired Teachers Association has received the National Excellence Award for its Work with Youth five times. That recognition represents what the retired teachers are about and that is serving others.

Phyllis is active in her church and serves as a Sunday School teacher, board secretary, lay leader, and lay speaker. Besides being a member of three musical groups and a theater society that performs locally, she enjoys reading, traveling, learning to play the fiddle, and spending time with her two grandchildren.

### Nina McClanahan—President-elect

Nina holds a BA degree in Elementary Education from Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia (University of Virginia at Wise). Also, she has completed post graduate work in Computer Technology. After 33 years in the classroom, Nina retired from the Buchanan County, Virginia Public School System.

Nina has served as vice-president of the VRTA. She is currently treasurer of the Buchanan County Retired Teachers' Association and chairperson of BRTA's Community Food Drive. She organized her local unit to serve as chaperones for the *Countywide After-Graduation Party 2014*, sponsored by Buchanan County Youth Incorporated's Drug Free Community Coalition. Her local unit actively supports the *Imagination Library* and a variety of other community projects.

Since retiring, Nina has helped with science fairs, SOL remediation and has served as a long term substitute teacher. She enjoys local history and reading. Also, she is a member of the DAR and is involved with genealogy research, YMCA activities and scrapbooking.

## Meet Your Officers

### Leigh McKay—Vice President

Leigh received a BS from James Madison University, a MAT from Hollins University, and a National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adulthood Science. She began teaching earth science and biology at Lord Botetourt High School (1 year), but taught biology and anatomy and physiology most of her career at William Byrd High School (30 years) and Hidden Valley High School (2 years) in Roanoke County. After retiring in 2004, Lee mentored new teachers for Roanoke County Public Schools and completed a semester as an adjunct professor in science education at Hollins University. She has substituted for Roanoke County, Salem City, and Roanoke City Public Schools. Lee currently assists with science projects at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School and tutors at William Fleming High School in Roanoke City.

Leigh has been a member of the VRTA, VEA, NEA, BRAST, and VAST and has served in many leadership positions in those organizations. She is currently serving as President of RCRTA, Secretary of District P, and Chairman of the Arrangements Committee [registrar] for VRTA, and Chairman of the Most Active Member Award Committee for VRTA.

Leigh has been married to Charlie for 44 years and they have three daughters and five grandchildren. Two of their daughters and all of their grandchildren live in the Wilmington, North Carolina area, and one daughter lives in Roanoke. They also have five grand dogs!

### Daphne Miller—Secretary

Daphne Miller is serving as the VRTA secretary. She has a BA degree from Saint Augustine's College (University) in Raleigh, North Carolina. She received a MS and a CAS from Old Dominion University and has completed other postgraduate work. She is presently serving as president of Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association and has served as president of District "D" Retired Teachers' Association. She is also secretary of the Hampton Roads Alumni chapter of Saint Augustine's College (University) and financial secretary of her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Daphne is also active in her church and has and continues to participate in numerous community activities. She enjoys traveling, dancing, making crafts and photography. She is married to retired CPO Rufus L. Miller and has one daughter, Crystal.

### Weldon Martin—Treasurer

Weldon was born in Roanoke, Virginia, and grew up on the family farm in Botetourt County, where he graduated from Lord Botetourt High School. Weldon received a BA in history in 1971 and a Master of Ed. in 1975, both degrees coming from the University of Virginia. He began his teaching career as an elementary school teacher in Botetourt and continued his work there for 32 years, 27 of which were as an elementary school principal.

### Weldon Martin—Treasurer, cont'd

Since his retirement, Weldon has been active in a variety of volunteer activities. He currently serves as treasurer of The Fincastle United Methodist Church and the church's lay member of the Virginia Annual Conference. His love of history led him to become involved with The Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. He currently serves as the unpaid executive director and treasurer of the historical society. He has served as vice-president of the Botetourt Retired Educators and as President of District P of VRTA. He is beginning his third year as treasurer of VRTA. He has also served as editor of the VRTA Newsletter, a presenter at the Blackstone conferences and as registrar for VRTA spring and fall meetings at Blackstone. He is a member of the Botetourt Kiwanis, where he serves as secretary and is an active member of the Catawba Masonic Lodge.

Weldon is married to Susan, who is a retired teacher from Botetourt County Schools and is currently serving as VRTA Newsletter editor. During his spare time, Weldon enjoys reading, attending UVA football and basketball games and traveling.

## Virginia Retired Teachers Association

*"Organized November 28, 1936"*

2014 - 2016 Officers

President—Phyllis Eastridge	(276)694-6766 pneastridge@embarqmail.com
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Immediate Past President James Bradford	(540)261-3242 drjcb@embarqmail.com

## Meet Your Officers

### Dr. James C. Bradford, Jr.—Immediate Past President

Dr. 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.

Dr. Bradford 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 articles in various newspapers and magazines. 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, the Virginia Senate, the Buena Vista City Council, and the school board for his outstanding service to public education.

He served as president of the Rockbridge Retired Teachers Association serving Rockbridge, Buena Vista, and Lexington from 2012 to 2014 and is now serving as the vice president.

## Past President's Message

### Working Together For the Present and Future Retired Teachers

Serving as the Past President of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association has permitted me an opportunity to develop a broad view of the legislative needs of educators at the local, state, and national levels of our government. Our members need factual information to guide the association in a meaningful way to address and accomplish our goals and objectives.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of our committee chairmen, officers, and membership in making many changes in our organization. The changes include streamlining the directory, updating the VRTA bylaws, keeping the members informed about legislative concerns at the state and national level, introducing bingo at our conferences, providing unit, district and officer training, providing excellent presenters and speakers at each conference. Registration for the conferences has improved. The VRTA newsletter has been expanded.

I ask that each member to continue the VRTA work that we started together. I ask that each member support President Phyllis Eastridge and her leadership team. She wants each of us to remain committed to being positive and to strengthen and improve the VRTA for each and every member. With the help of the membership, she can provide the leadership to overcome each and every challenge and to accomplish each and every goal of VRTA.

The desire of the membership "To serve, not be served" is a responsible and honorable way to serve our present and future retired educators. Our legislative objectives are about the present issues at the local, state and national levels of government. Each issue should be addressed with facts, persistence, and patience. I know with the help of each member that our association can make a meaningful difference. We need to continue our goal of reaching every retired educator through the local, district, and state associations.

May the "Great Architect" look favorably on our motto "To Serve, Not Be Served" in all our present and future endeavors.



Jim Bradford at VRTA  
Delegate Assembly 2014

**VRTA Newsletter** is published twice annually, in the spring and fall.

Submit articles to Editor Susan Martin at 1049 Martins Lane,  
Fincastle, VA 24090

or email at [wlmartin@ntelos.net](mailto:wlmartin@ntelos.net)

Deadline for the Spring 2015 newsletter is  
March 10, 2015.

## THE GREATEST LESSONS

Bea Morris, VRTA Legislative Chairperson



When introduced as a teacher, haven't we all been asked, "What did you teach?" And didn't we all answer math or first grade or history, etc.? Certainly, we all trust we taught what children should know about the various subjects, but late at night on those occasions when sleep eludes us and we are thinking about times past, are these really the things we hope we passed on to our students?

The recent soap opera-like trial in our state capital reinforces our belief that the really important things we "taught" are not facts that could be tested with right or wrong answers, not something reserved for those of a certain IQ, gender, athletic ability, or talent. What were those two life-determining qualities or "lessons" we instilled in the rich and the poor, the introvert and the extrovert as we supervised the playground, asked probing questions, and explained difficult concepts? Integrity and self respect. Our experience tells us that without these qualities, success will be fleeting or hollow for even our most accomplished students if the only lessons they learned were those that were tested with paper and pencil.

As we advocate for our issues, integrity and self respect are the qualities we must continue to model and "teach" as we work with our members and develop relationships with senators and delegates. They must be able to trust that we are giving them accurate information and that we have no ulterior motives. We do not pump big donations into political campaigns or try to ingratiate ourselves with gifts. We must remember that we have much greater powers. We have knowledge and experience and, most important, votes. At a time when the actions of leaders have brought embarrassment and disappointment to the state, we must demonstrate our belief that the political process does work for the best for all citizens when those involved maintain their integrity and self respect.

On October 6-7, VRTA members will attend the fall conference at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center to learn, to encourage each other, and to plan for the coming year's work. There will be many helpful and interesting workshops and speakers, and enjoyable activities. We look forward to the VRS staff presentation on the retirement system. A special guest in our Legislative Session on Monday afternoon will be Delegate Ken Plum, former school principal and long-time advocate for public education.

Please don't miss this opportunity to make new friends, renew old acquaintances, become better prepared to serve our members in many capacities, and affirm our commitment to continue to pass on our greatest lessons.

## Henrico Retired School Personal Association Has Been Active in the General Assembly

For the last four years, members of the Legislative Committee of Henrico Retired School Personnel Association have met with the Henrico County delegates and senators in the Virginia General Assembly to discuss and encourage support of HRSPA's and VRTA's priorities concerning VRS, public education, and the well being of seniors. Members of the committee have met with the delegates and senators individually before the General Assembly begins in January often at their regular places of business. Members are always armed with a priorities list and supporting data which is covered at the meeting. These teams leave a copy of it along with committee members' contact information for the legislators at the end of the meeting. After four years of engagement with our legislators, committee members have established a working relationship with them and feel they are more receptive of our priorities.

HRSPA has always participated in the Retired Teacher Day at the Virginia General Assembly and has hosted a legislative forum at its 2010 and 2013 luncheons. Delegates were invited to discuss retiree and public school issues presented to them beforehand. Both of these forums were very successful and have kept our priorities at the forefront.

The comment most often offered to committee members is "The squeaky wheel gets oiled." To this end, HRSPA encourages all VRTA districts to actively make personal contacts with your senators and delegates before the GA session in their home districts. Our voices need to be heard. **There is power in numbers!!!**

### Lobby Day

DON'T MISS  
VRTA Day at the General Assembly  
Thursday, January 29, 2015





## What to do BEFORE you say, “Let’s Make a Deal!”

By Bonnie Atwood, VRTA Lobbyist

Coming to agreements with other people, such as your elected and appointed government officials, often requires more than just asking. Sometimes you’ve got to negotiate. Some of the most useful presentations that I’ve seen are those that teach the principles of negotiation. There are things you can do to prepare, to get the outcome that you want, and to leave the room feeling that all is well. This is a very brief summary of some things that I’ve learned.

- Prepare before you go! Define for yourself what goals you hope to achieve. Answer these questions for yourself: What do I need? What do I want? Why do I want it? What do I hope to gain?
- Equally important: define what your counterpart needs and wants, and the reasons why he wants it. What does he hope to gain?
- Are there other parties? Determine whether there are other parties to consider. For example: agreements between educators and legislators also affect students. How will the students be affected? Will students participate in the outcomes? Will students care about the outcome? How will their reaction affect this agreement?
- Assess these elements: What things can we agree on? What resources does each party bring “to the table”? For example, if a legislator agrees to your proposal, will he receive support from you and your organization? Do you and your counterpart need each other? Why? Will you support each other, even if the going gets tough?
- Assess alternatives: What can you do on your own to achieve your goals? What kind of agreement are you proposing to your counterpart? What will you do if you do not reach an agreement? Do you have alternatives ready to present? For example: if you are asking for something with a fiscal impact, are you willing to settle for a lesser amount? If so, decide how much you are willing to compromise.
- Questions to ask yourself: Am I being fair? What do I need? Is this a fair proposal?
- Meeting action plan: If possible, let the other party speak first. Listen carefully to determine how far apart your interests may be. Maybe your counterpart has already decided to give you what you want. If you are winning, stop arguing! Don’t be the one who does all the talking. Be an active listener.
- How you communicate: Remember to use non-verbal as well as verbal communication. For example, look at the person to whom you are speaking; don’t just read from your notes; use a pleasant tone of voice; be confident; be dignified.

Some negotiations are easy. Some are tense. Some fall through completely. Work with your other VRTA members to prepare well, to support each other, to keep each other calm and on track, and to pick yourselves up if the negotiation fails. Negotiation is a skill. Make yourself a master negotiator!

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## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Allegheny Retired Teachers

The March meeting was held at the Allegheny Highlands Art and Craft Center in Clifton Forge. Our guest speaker was Jim Snyder, local attorney, who spoke on wills and estates. Lunch was provided by the volunteers of the art center and a donation was given to the center. Our service project was food for both food pantries in the area. A few members went on an outing to see the Attic Production “From Russia to Love”.

The May meeting was at Cucci’s Pizzeria. We honored our members who had passed. Harriet Snead did the installation of our secretary, Margaret Sams. We recognized the three scholarship recipients and their families. The three scholarship recipients were Covington High School’s Karie Forbes, and Sarah Blevins and

Mackenzie Kenny from Allegheny High School. Chuck Swope, from Central Atlantic Insurance gave us up dates on our insurance and on some upcoming changes.

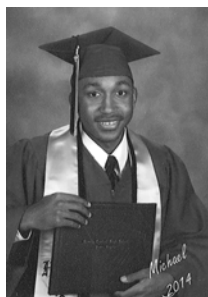
Fall Food Drive—Pictured: President Dewey Lawson, Treasurer Karen Brown, and Brenda Lawson.

Allegheny Co-presidents Brenda Lawson and Dewey Lawson with scholarship recipients.



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Sussex County Retired Teachers' Association



Michael Poarch, a graduate of Sussex Central High School received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Sussex County Retired Teachers Association. His GPA was 3.88. He was salutatorian of his class. He will be attending Hampton University in the fall of 2014.



### Danville Retired Teachers Association



Martai L. Payne (left) and Martia C. Payne (right) are twins who recently graduated from George Washington High School in Danville, Virginia. They are the recipients of the 2014 Danville Retired Teachers Association Academic Scholarship. They will each receive a five hundred dollar scholarship and will be attending Radford University this fall where they plan to major in education pursuant to a career in the teaching profession.

### District B Awards Scholarship



Hannah Hautz, a York High Senior, was awarded a \$500 college scholarship from the District B Retired Teachers. Hannah and her mom, Stephanie Hautz, attended the District B luncheon on May 13, 2014. District B includes retired teachers from York, Gloucester, Poquoson, Newport News, Hampton and Williamsburg. Hannah will be attending the University of Mary Washington in the fall.

### Franklin/Southampton RTA

#### Recognizes Scholarship Recipients

President Daphne M. Miller presented certificates to Ellis T. Cofield, III and Armirah K. Stephens as their scholarship recipients for 2014 at their last quarterly meeting which was held at Simply Divine Restaurant downtown Franklin. Ellis is a graduate of Southampton High School. He will be attending Paul D. Camp Community College, Franklin, Virginia, in the fall and continuing at a university upon completion. Armirah will enter as a junior at Spellman College, Atlanta, Georgia, due to her taking dual credits at Paul D. Camp Community College while attending Franklin High School. Members on hand to give them best wishes were: Mrs. Louise Bryant, Mrs. Mildred Claude, Mrs. Rose Galloway, Mrs. Brindle Hardy, Mrs. Rosalind Holland, Mrs. Annie Johnson, Mrs. Effie King, Mrs. Carol Logan, Mrs. Cheryl Roberts, Mrs. Nancy Sandidge, Mrs. Callie Williamson, Mrs. Catherine Wilson, Mr. James Wilson and Mrs. Daphne Miller. Also, guest retirees in attendance were Mr. Charles Haskins, Jr., Mrs. Alice Parker and Mrs. Toinetta Phillips.

### Fauquier Retired Teachers Awards Scholarships

The Fauquier Retired Teacher Association, of District N, awarded three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from the three high schools in Fauquier County Public Schools. The recipients were chosen by our scholarship committee from a pool of applicants. The winners were; Hannah Budd from Fauquier High School, Anna Walther from Kettle Run High School and, Janette Harmon from Liberty High School. Hannah will attend UVa. Anna will attend VPI&SU. Janette will attend CNU.

The generous contributions from our members allow us to annually award scholarships and for 2015 we are debating increasing the amounts awarded.



Armira K. Stephens and Mrs. Daphne Miller

Mrs. Beneta Coefield, Ellis Cofield (Southampton High School recipient), president, Mrs. Daphne Miller and Mr. Cofield.



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Buchanan County RTA

On May 23, 2014, *Buchanan County Youth Incorporated's Drug Free Community Coalition* hosted a Countywide After-Graduation Party 2014 at the *Appalachian School of Law*. Buchanan County Retired Teachers joined with county educators and coalition members to chaperone the event.

Over 200 Buchanan County high school graduates and rising seniors attended the event which featured a foam dance party, laser tag, Dance Heads Recording Booth, billiards, foosball, giant Jenga, giant ladderball, movies and a video game tournament. Loads of free food was served and fantastic prizes were given away.

The event was a huge success and Buchanan County Retired Teachers are so proud of being a part of providing a safe and fun graduation night.



BRTA chaperones: Nina McClanahan, Mary Salyer, Penny Jennell, Judy Holland, Joan Boyd and Patricia Hogston

### Craig County Retired Teachers Complete Successful Year

The CCRTA met in New Castle for its spring meeting on June 3, 2014. At that time the group looked back on a very successful year. We had our highest membership in many years and completed some very worthwhile projects. One of our first projects was to provide all of our school personnel (from the superintendent, clerical personnel, administrators, teachers, and to other service workers within the school) with an apple to remember them during American Education Week. In December the group met and through donations, provided help for a needy family during Christmas. At our June meeting, the newly elected officers from our March meeting were presented: President: Panco Cantley; Vice-President: Joe Ann Duncan; Secretary: Mary Ann Childress; Treasurer: Jacquelyn Cantley; Local Reporter: Marie Dobyns; and State Reporter: Jane Barnes. The scholarship committee announced our District P and local scholarship winner was Haley Paige Burger. We were pleased that we were able to continue to increase our scholarship this year. Our school system is presently going through many renovations and we look forward to seeing them at our next meeting which will be on the first week of school when we join all the present teachers for lunch by invitation from the Craig County School Board and the superintendent.

### District B Has Spring Luncheon

There were several highlights at the Spring District B Luncheon which was held at The Chesapeake in Newport News, Virginia, on May 13, 2014, under the leadership of District B President Rick Jones. Newport News President Betty Dixon gave the invocation.

Representatives from two of our units introduced the scholarship recipients and their parents. Both Hannah Hautz, from York High School, and Ashley Reynolds, from Gloucester High School, will be attending the University of Mary Washington.

Kathy Young, former District B president, introduced the guest speaker. Chad Green, co-author of The Crown and Cardinal, discussed his intriguing, historical fiction work which is set in the District B area. After answering questions, he autographed copies of his book.

At the end of the meeting, representatives from each unit participated in the Memorial Service by announcing the names of their members who have died in the past year.

Throughout the program, music was provided by Sheila Rogers.

### Frederick County Awards Three Scholarships

The Frederick County Retired Teachers' Association honored their 2014 scholarship winners during their May 2014 meeting at the Travelodge in Winchester, Virginia. Each recipient received a one thousand dollar scholarship to use toward her education degree at a college of her choosing. The recipients represented the three high schools in Frederick County. The scholarship program is one of several programs that the local association sponsors through its community outreach programs. Other outreach programs include the Annual AARP Food Drive, supporting students at the local Winchester Day Care Program through donations of educational supplies, and individual community service programs. The local unit looks forward to another successful year supporting our schools and community during the 2014-2015 year.



2014 Scholarship Recipients from Frederick County RTA

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### District G Meets at Traditions Restaurant in May

Dr. Kelly Masters, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Shenandoah University, spoke to District G Retired Teachers Association at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg on May 7, 2014. Masters is a 1995 graduate of Sherando High School and received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been a staff pharmacist at Rite Aid, and completed a Pharmacy Practice residency with an emphasis on ambulatory care with Valley Health in 2004. She joined Shenandoah University after completing the residency and is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist and Certified Diabetes Educator. In her current position with the university, her specialty is women's health. Dr. Masters also manages the diabetic patients at Selma Medical Associates two to three days a week.



Dr. Kelly Masters

Masters spoke to the District G retired teachers from the Harrisonburg/Rockingham, Page County, Shenandoah County, and Augusta County/Staunton areas about the pharmacy curriculum at Shenandoah University, and how students are trained to help keep the aging population from mishaps. She answered many questions from the

audience, who enjoyed her informative presentation! Dr. Masters gave the presentation last fall to District N Retired Teachers Association in the Winchester/Frederick County area.

District G officers are Karen Whetzel, President (Shenandoah County); Randy Bailey, Vice President (Page County); Rich Thompson, Secretary (Page County), and Betty Carey, Treasurer (Shenandoah County). Bea Morris (Rockingham County) is legislative chairman and a member of the district board.

### Richmond –Henrico Retired Teachers Association

The highlight of R-HRTA is working toward the goal to stimulate children's interest in reading. Members volunteered to read Dr. Seuss books to children at several Richmond and Henrico Elementary Schools. The children also received Dr. Seuss stickers and bookmarks.

On May 28, 2014, R-HRTA presented the W. Roland Gavin Scholarship to two Thomas Jefferson High School graduating seniors, Christine Singleton and Myracle Cash. R-HRTA will continue to be active in these two youth projects.

### Lynchburg RTA Awards Future Teacher Scholarships



Ashley Blankinship, E.C. Glass, LRTA President Marie Waller, Chelsea Norman, Heritage High

Each spring the Lynchburg RTA awards a senior from each of its two high schools with the Edward Christian Glass Future Teacher Scholarship. The scholarship was established to honor the memory of Dr. Edward C. Glass, superintendent of the Lynchburg Public Schools from 1879-1931 and to recognize and encourage young people to choose education as a career.

The first scholarship was given in 1986 for \$500. Through the years this amount has increased and for the past seven years we have been able to award each recipient \$2,500. For the 28 years that we have recognized our future educators, we have given 57 scholarships for a total of \$84,000.

### Patrick County Installs New Officers



Patrick County Retired Teachers Association installs new officers at the June 2014 general meeting. From left to right is Betty Perry, President; Phyllis Eastridge, conducting the installation; Fern Agee, Treasurer; and Lena Martin, Vice President. Other officers are Martha Honse, Secretary, Ann Belcher, Reporter.



Past President, Mary Collins presents The Annual W. Roland Gavin Scholarship to Christine Singleton and Myracle Cash.



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Hampton Retired Teachers Met in June

When more than one hundred members convened on June 11, 2014, at The Embassy Suites in Hampton, Virginia, they enjoyed a delicious lunch and a varied program led by outgoing President Michele Meadors.

Three thousand five hundred dollars in scholarships, including a generous memorial donation from the three daughters of Mrs. Bessie Pear Jacobs, was awarded to six attendees. The scholarship recipients' guests were introduced, and Mrs. Joan Davis, retiring HCS Coordinator of Organizational Development, was recognized for her assistance to the HRTA Scholarship Committee. Superintendent Linda Shifflette gave remarks.

After a brief business meeting, Vivikka DeLoach installed the 2014-2016 officers. Newly installed President Jacqueline Smith-Watson gave certificates of appreciation to board members who had served from 2012-2014. A candle lighting memorial service, honoring Helen Kostyal, was conducted by Chaplain Doris Williams and Albernia Clark.



Scholarship Recognition: (left to right) David Grant, Jordan Scholar; HCS Superintendent Linda Shifflette; Shannon Schubert, HRTA Scholar; Erin McNeil, HRTA Scholar; Shalia Knight, HRTA Scholar; Ms. Tiffany Debreaux, HRTA Instructional Assistant Scholar; Devin Simmons, HRTA Scholar; Mr. David Pearson, HRTA Member and HCS School Board Member.



Installation of Officers: (left to right) President, Jacqueline Smith-Watson; President Elect, Linda Byrd; Vice President, Dorothy Harrell; Vivikka DeLoach; Corresponding Secretary, Rose Brown; and Treasurer, Patricia Denton. Not pictured are Recording Secretary, Peggy Brooks and Assistant Treasurer, Sandra Clements.

### Roanoke City REA

The Roanoke City Retired Educators' Association met at Covenant Presbyterian Church on March 13, 2014. Our program speakers, Alison Blanton and Maribeth Mills, were from the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation. The RVPF has worked the past 25 years to preserve our national historic and cultural resources and has campaigned for the Hotel Roanoke and the Explore Park. A silent auction and luncheon followed the program.

At our May meeting, the executive board and committee members were honored for their work this past year and were presented a gift of flowers. A \$1000.00 scholarship was awarded to Cary-Grace Clark, a senior at Patrick Henry High School, to help with her preparation in becoming a teacher. She will be a student at James Madison University in the fall of 2014. A reception followed the program.



Left to right: Mrs. Sandra Clark, mother, Cary-Grace Clark, Scholarship Recipient, and Ms. Donna Lee, Scholarship Chairperson



RCREA Executive Board recognized for their service for the 2013-14 year



RCREA Committee Members recognized for their service for the 2013-14 year

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Roanoke County RTA

At their May 2014 meeting the Roanoke County Retired Teachers Association honored Dr. Norma Jean Peters for her service to Roanoke County Schools and its students. She is seen here with Dr. Bayes Wilson, retired Superintendent for Roanoke County Schools, who spoke about her years of service. Several others spoke, too, about the impact she had on their lives and careers. Dr. Peters spent much of her career teaching social studies at Northside High School in Roanoke County, later becoming social studies supervisor as well as serving for a time as supervisor of foreign language and ESL.

Roanoke County Retired Teachers Association President for 2010-2014, Joyce E. Williams, has been given the highest honor that the Local Office on Aging gives in the Roanoke Valley for her role during the past three "Soup for Seniors" campaigns. Joyce was given the Babe and Sidney Louis Memorial Award at the annual LOA banquet and ceremony on April 2, 2014. Joyce credits her success to members of her chapter without whom she could not have won the award.



Dr. Norma Jean Peters and Dr. Bayes Wilson

### Warren County Gives Scholarships

Warren County RTA is pleased to give \$5,300 in scholarships to seniors at Warren County High School and Skyline High School. These scholarships are being given in honor of Cathie Trumbull. She turned "100" years young on June 23, 2014. Cathie is energetic and enjoys life. She worked as a teacher's aide in Warren County Public schools for many years.



Back row: Left to right: Kami Robinson, Dominique Martin, Matthew Winters  
Middle row: Left to right: Kayla Gibbons, Logan Rutherford, Joshua Owens  
Front row: Cathie Trumbull

### York Retired Teachers Association



York Retired Teacher Association, presents a rose to Madison Young. Madison, a York High Senior, is the recipient of a \$1400 college scholarship from the YRTA. Madison will be attending James Madison University in the fall.

### Scott County RTA Meets at Historic Bush's Mill

In July, Scott County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) held its annual picnic to welcome new retirees. The meeting took place on the site of a historic Virginia landmark, Bush's Mill, which was built in 1896. The mill, a source of pride to residents of Scott County, has been restored and is once again operational.

Our guest speaker for the event, Mr. M.A. Lunsford, is the local representative for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. He noted that Scott was the first county to adopt the program in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Following his presentation, Treasurer Beth Culbertson presented Mr. Lunsford with a check for \$300.00 as our annual donation.

During the business session, the organization's new officers were installed by Past-president Judy Vicars. Officers for 2014-2016 are: President, Hannah Kern Quinn; Vice-president, Beth Culbertson; Treasurer, Dicey Ford; Secretary, Jane Bowlin; Legislative Chair and Chaplin, Elizabeth Mills.

A fund-raiser is scheduled for September with proceeds earmarked for the scholarship fund. SCRTA awards \$1,000 scholarships yearly to recipients from each of our three area high schools. In addition, the organization provides an additional \$1,000 to each scholarship recipient who completes 50 hours of documented community service. We are pleased that the majority of recipients have taken advantage of this opportunity. A typical year sees a total of \$6,000 in scholarships going to our local youth.



Officers for 2014-2016 (left to right): Hannah Kern Quinn-President, Beth Culbertson-Vice President, Elizabeth Mills-Legislative Chair and Chaplain, Dicey Ford-Treasurer, Judy Vicars-Past President, and Jane Bowlin-Secretary



Bush's Mill

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### The Amelia Retired Teachers' Association Named the Most Outstanding Unit in State

What the Amelia membership lacks in numbers, it makes up in innovative and forward – leaning activities and projects. Members have been active in community service for some time now. After numerous honorary certificates, the Amelia Retired Teachers' Association was named the Most Outstanding Unit in the state.

Amelia is a part of District D within the Virginia Retired Teachers Association which is made up of 17 counties within 12 units. The state has a total of 83 units. Members continually express their desire to be involved in church, community and schools by volunteering and serving in many capacities. Teaching Sunday School, giving scholarships, tutoring children, working with the elderly, and engaging in food drives are among the many projects in which members have been involved. Our last venture, the Decade of Winners, encompassed students from both the Amelia Public Schools and the Amelia Academy in a joint effort to recognize the students' academic and athletic accomplishments.

Members within the ARTA have outstanding individual achievements as well. A former chairman, Dr. H. J. Featherston, Jr. and the current chairperson, Catherine Wilkinson, of the Amelia County School Board are members. We have four former principals – H. J. Featherston, Catherine Wilkinson, Shirley Booker and Joyce Medley. Lillian Hicks is a former 4-H instructor and Connie Johnson is the former owner and operator of an assistant living facility for the elderly in Amelia. The president (Maudie Scott), the treasurer (H. J. Featherston, Jr.), the secretary (Jean Marrow), and the Most Active Member Chair of District D (Beatrice Head) are all members of the Amelia Unit.



Pictured left to right: Vice President Lillian Hicks, Treasurer Maudie Scott, Henry Featherston, Shirley Booker, Catherine Wilkinson, President Jean Marrow, Phyllis Brown, Connie Johnson, and Secretary Bea Head

### Loudoun Retired Educators Association

The Loudoun Retired Educators Association has been very busy and very giving. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 15 of our members volunteered to park cars for the Loudoun County Fair. Our reward was \$1,000 for our scholarship fund. LREA awarded three \$1,000 scholarships this year.

LREA members supplied Loudoun Interfaith Relief with 43 pounds of food and produce and \$1,250 at our May meeting. Members have donated \$14,250 and \$6,000 in food which helped to feed 81,000 needy Loudoun County residents.

A donation of \$2,110 was made for eleven culinary arts students to attend the national competition in San Antonio, Texas, which was held in July.

LREA made a quilt to present to Dr. Hatrick, retiring superintendent of schools. Janet Dye designed and cut out the squares for each school. Each square represented a school cluster with the high school, in the school colors, featured. The middle and elementary feeder school names were embroidered around each school. Bobbie Johnson spent more than 12 hours embroidering the Loudoun County Public Schools seal into the quilt. Hand sewing, ironing, rinsing, knotting, hours to assemble the 15 squares and lots of love went into this very unique quilt!



Janet Dye, getting ready to park cars



From left, Nancy Colosi, Ann Thorsen, Ellen Bawiec, Bobbie Johnson, Anna Sowers, Joy Griffith



Dr. Hatrick with his quilt made by LREA members

## VRTA Will Meet in October

VRTA will meet in Blackstone, Virginia, on October 6-7, 2014. On Monday members will have the opportunity to receive an up-date about the Virginia Retirement System. A variety of interesting sessions is planned for the afternoon. Several self-help sessions are planned such as recognizing fraud and scams and diabetes prescreening, including how diabetes affects family members. The legislative session will give attendees valuable information about the upcoming General Assembly session. Sessions for unit and district leaders will include duties of officers; creating handbooks, brochures, and newsletters; tips for treasurers; and how to recruit volunteers. Just for fun learn some flower arranging techniques.

On Monday night humorist, Gary Robertson, will entertain the group. Afterwards join your friends, old and new, for refreshments and bingo. You could win a prize! On Tuesday morning Tom Nicholls from NRTA will be the keynote speaker. Join VRTA members from around the state for an informative and fun-filled conference this October in Blackstone.

### Gary Robertson to Entertain at VRTA Fall Meeting



Gary Robertson will entertain VRTA members on Monday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Gary is currently a Virginia correspondent for the Thomson Reuters news service, a freelance writer for various regional business and feature publications and a member of the Virginia Speakers Association.

He is a former director of special projects for university relations at Virginia Commonwealth University and a former reporter, editor and columnist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch newspaper.

Gary also was an adjunct professor of journalism at Randolph-Macon College for 15 years. He has performed as Mark Twain, as has been an after-dinner speaker for various associations and groups.

He is a graduate of the University of Richmond.

### Power in Numbers

**EACH ONE REACH ONE!** Barbara Pickeral of District E coined this phrase as a means of increasing membership in her local, and agreed to let the VRTA adopt the idea to encourage attendance at the Fall Conference as well as membership in VRTA. It is especially important that each district and local unit are represented at all the state conventions, beginning now. Staying up to date with educational legislation, retirement issues, health insurance issues, etc. benefits the entire group. There are 146,295 retired teachers in Virginia, but the membership in VRTA is between 6000 and 7000! Where are the other 140,000 individuals? What can each of us do to change these numbers around because there is power in numbers? See you in Blackstone October 6-7. Leigh McKay, Vice President VRTA and Chair of the Arrangements Committee

### Tom Nicholls, Senior Legislative Representative for NRTA Will Deliver Keynote

Tom Nicholls will be the keynote speaker at the VRTA's Fall Meeting on Tuesday morning. Tom is a Senior Legislative Representative for NRTA: AARP's *Educator Community*, working on public pension issues. Prior to joining NRTA in November 2013, Tom served for five years as a lead federal lobbyist and policy expert on Social Security and pension matters in AARP's Government Affairs department. Before joining AARP, Tom served for six years as a staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives for Congressman Paul Kanjorski of Pennsylvania and Congressman Eliot Engel of New York. Tom holds a B.S. in Quantitative Business Analysis from the Pennsylvania State University and an M.A. in Political Management from George Washington University.

### Sharing Session

#### It's Time to Brag!



Several members have asked about a session on sharing ideas. There will be such a session led by Jean Marrow from Amelia at the Fall Conference in Blackstone. Please bring your ideas to share such as fundraising, projects, successes, etc. Materials will also be welcome in this session. Make it meaningful to you.

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

## It's a Small World!



Shirley Crawford (left) and Mary Lou Trimble (right) reconnected at the spring VRTA delegate assembly for the first time since high school. They both graduated in the class of 1953 from Wilson Memorial High School in

Augusta County. There were over 200 graduates and they had lost touch, until they discovered each other at the VRTA meeting!

Shirley will be president of the Augusta Retired Educators Association (AREA) next year. Mary Lou is a past president of VRTA and has served as chairman of the VRTA Nominating Committee.

### Department of Education Needs Assessment Administrators

We are seeking motivated individuals to proctor assessment sessions with 4th-, 8th-, and 12th- grade students in schools for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Must be available January 26–March 6, 2015. Paid training, paid time and mileage reimbursement for local driving, and weekly paychecks. This is a part-time, temporary position. To apply, visit our website at [www.westat.com/CAREERS](http://www.westat.com/CAREERS) and select "Search Field Data Collection Jobs." Search for your state, find the NAEP Assessment Administrator position and select the "apply to job" button. For more information e-mail [NAEPreruit@westat.com](mailto:NAEPreruit@westat.com) or call [1-888-237-8036](tel:1-888-237-8036).

## VRTA Membership

By Nina McClanahan

In order to keep our organization strong we need to find new ways to communicate with retired school personnel throughout our state. Every county and city in the state of Virginia needs an active RTA unit that is engaged and committed to promoting the general welfare of retired educational personnel, public schools, and the community. Retired educators can make a difference.

VRTA is a social service organization covered by the IRS code 501 (C) 4. It is vital that we stay connected with our nearly 7,000 current members and reach out to those that have recently retired. Fall is a perfect time to recruit new members and unify our local units so that we communicate more effectively. In the spring we had 468 newsletters returned because of incorrect addresses. Every unit is encouraged to keep members' addresses current and submit changes to the state treasurer. To be efficient we must all work together and keep our records accurate.

By working together we can create a sense of importance that will help our organization grow. Our mission is to strengthen VRTA by increasing membership, setting goals and encouraging commitments that make our organization's future secure.

Each year VRTA has a spring and fall conference in Blackstone, Virginia. I encourage each of you to make an effort to attend one of these meetings. You will make many new friends, learn the current status of the Virginia Retirement System, get legislative updates on bills that concern retirees and education and attend workshops. Entertainment and socializing is also provided in the evening. The cost is reasonable and you will get a firsthand look at the importance of being a member of the VRTA.

Nina McClanahan-President Elect [rognina@vmmicro.net](mailto:rognina@vmmicro.net)  
276-935-5004



**Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center — 707 Fourth Street Blackstone, VA 23824**

**Phone — 434-292-5308**

### Directions to Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

#### 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 BCRC

#### 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 BCRC

#### 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 BCRC

#### From the West:

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

**Future Conferences**



- 2015 Spring Delegate Assembly — April 27-28
- 2015 Fall VRTA Meeting — October 5-6
- 2016 Spring Delegate Assembly — April 25-26

**Newsletter Articles**

VRTA wants your news for the newsletters. It would be helpful if articles submitted for publishing would be emailed to the newsletter editor. If an article cannot be emailed, typing the article helps to ensure accuracy. Pictures can be emailed or mailed to the editor. The people that are pictured should have given permission for their pictures to be used in the newsletter. This is especially important if pictures of students are included with the article. All submitted articles will be used if space permits. Articles received after the deadline will likely not be included. The deadline for the Spring 2015 newsletter is March 10th.

Susan Martin  
Newsletter Editor

**VRTA Mailing List**

In order to make the VRTA mailing list more accurate, names of people whose newsletters have been returned to VRTA three times in a row will be removed from the list. If you know someone who should be receiving a newsletter and is not getting it, please inform the newsletter editor. Please continue to inform the VRTA treasurer about members' address changes and deaths of VRTA members. With your help VRTA can cut the cost of the postage for mailing the newsletters.

**VRTA Fall 2014 Meeting Schedule**

Sunday 7:00pm — Executive Committee Meeting

Monday 8:am — Breakfast

9:00am — 11:30am — Registration

9:30am — Board of Directors meeting

11:45am — Lunch

12:50pm — Virginia Retirement System Assembly

2:00pm — Workshop Sessions

6:00pm — Dinner

7:15pm — Entertainment

8:30pm — Popcorn and Bingo

Tuesday 8:00am — Breakfast

9:00am — Morning Session and Keynote Speaker

12.00noon — Lunch

**Menus for VRTA Conference**

**Monday, October 6**

Breakfast – Scrambled Eggs

- Bacon
- Diced Hash Browns
- Biscuits
- Cold Cereal

Lunch – Virginia Ham

- Potato Salad
- Corn
- Broccoli
- Sour Cream Pound Cake

Dinner – Baked Chicken

- Tossed Salad
- Baked Potato
- Green Beans
- Cobbler



**Tuesday, October 7**

Breakfast – Scrambled Eggs

- Sausage Pattie
- Fried Apples
- Muffins – Assorted
- Cold Cereal

Lunch – Hamburger (with lettuce, tomato, and onion available)

- Potato Wedges
- Baked Beans
- Ice Cream Sandwich

(Menus are subject to change.)

**VRTA Member Benefits**



One benefit of VRTA membership is the opportunity to consult with representatives from Central Atlantic Insurance Services. You can get advice about Medicare Supplements, Medicare Part D (prescription coverage), and senior dental and vision. You can also consult with a representative about long term health insurance and fixed annuities. This service is available to VRTA members. Someone from Central Atlantic will be in Blackstone on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> to further explain this valuable service.



Visit the VRTA Website at  
[VRTA.org](http://VRTA.org)

**VRTA Delegate Assembly**  
 October 6-7, 2014  
 Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

**Note: Registration fees and lodging rates are per person, not per room or per couple.**  
**Each person attending the conference should fill out a registration form.**

1. **Registration** postmarked by Tuesday, September 30, 2014 \$25.00   
 Amount paid (**Late registration --- \$35.00**) 1.

	<u>One Night</u>	<u>Two nights</u>	<u>Total</u>
2. <b>Lodging:</b> Main Building (one person/room -- \$47.50/night)	_____	_____	_____
(multiple persons -- \$43.75 <u>per person</u> /night)	_____	_____	_____
Goodson Lodge (one person/room -- \$58.00/night)	_____	_____	_____
(multiple persons/room -- \$53.25 <u>per person</u> /night)	_____	_____	_____
Roommates _____			
<b>Total for Lodging</b>			2. <span style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span>

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

3. **Meals:**

	Monday	Breakfast – 8:00 AM	\$7.50	_____	
		Lunch – 11:45 AM	\$12.00	_____	
		Supper – 6:00 PM	\$9.00	_____	
	Tuesday	Breakfast – 8:00 AM	\$7.50	_____	
		Tuesday – 12 Noon	\$11.00	_____	
		<b>Sub Total for Meals</b>			3. <span style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span>

4. **Total of enclosed check to VRTA** (For total add Registration Fee, Lodging, and Meals) 4.

5. NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMERGENCY CONTACT – NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME OF LOCAL UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (Will be honored, if possible)

6. Mail completed registration form and check, payable to VRTA, no later than Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Send to:  
 Leigh McKay, 3025 McVitty Forest Dr., #209, Roanoke, VA 24018, Phone: 540-989-4417 (home) or 540-529-5131 (cell), email – cwmck5@cox.net

Virginia Retired  
Teachers Association  
Susan Martin  
Newsletter Editor  
1049 Martins Lane  
Fincastle, VA 24090

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### **From the VRTA Treasurer**

Weldon Martin

I am beginning my second two year term as your VRTA Treasurer and I continue to be thankful for the great cooperation that I receive from the local and district treasurers. I appreciate your patience with me. If I fail to respond to your request for information or assistance in a timely manner, I hope you will be persistent in contacting me. Having dealt with a few health issues and doing some traveling, I know that I have probably failed to return some calls, and I apologize if yours is one that I have not returned. I am trying very hard to respond as quickly as I can, but I do not mind being called or emailed again if you do not hear back from me in a few days.

A few reminders for you are listed below:

1. Please continue to send me names of deceased members so that the VRTA Membership Roster can be kept current.
2. 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 your 2014-2015 budgets, signed and dated by two officers, must be submitted to the VRTA Treasurer no later than December 31, 2014. Documentation must be on file for the IRS in order for your district or unit to continue to be a part of the Group Tax Exemption for VRTA.
3. If you are a part of the IRS group exemption you must file your e-postcard on line (using your EIN) between July 1– November 15, 2014. Failure to file your annual e-postcard for three consecutive years will result in your being dropped from the VRTA Group Tax Exemption and reinstatement requires the payment of a substantial fee.
4. 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 VRTA treasurer prior to March 1, 2015 with an \$18.00 IRS Assessment Fee.
5. The VRTA Treasurer will conduct a small group session at the Fall Conference in Blackstone for local unit and district treasurers or representatives. A handbook for treasurers is distributed at that session and can also be requested from the VRTA treasurer to be mailed or emailed.