



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2015 Edition

A LIFETIME OF LEARNING STARTS WITH A SINGLE DAY—OR TWO



September 1954: Time for Becky to start school, first grade, no kindergarten then. With reluctance, six year old Becky boarded the combination pick up/ school bus headed for school, knowing only a few neighbors. Upon arrival to the one room schoolhouse, all went well as long as she was allowed to sit with the seventh graders and they shared their moon pies with her. But that wasn't to last. The teacher pulled her desk, with Becky in it, to the front of the room to "where the other first graders sat." Soon the tears flooded the desk and dripped onto the wood floor with no relief in sight. Nothing would console Becky. A substitute was called in to take Becky home.

Next morning, she stayed in bed until the school bus passed; this avoidance procedure continued morning after morning. Becky had won—no school for her. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles were all distraught, all except Becky. What a fun filled year she had!

September 1955: A year has passed. There is talk of school—again. This time, a new seven classroom elementary school had been built in the community. This time, no amount of pleading could get Becky out of this tortuous situation. She was told her mother would be taken to jail if Becky didn't go to school.

The first day came--again. Becky started out with the black book bag and blue lunch box on this dreary day of her life. The first hurdle was reaching the first step of this new school bus; the second hurdle was finding a seat because all were full; she had to stand up.

Upon arrival to the new school, she stood in a line of first graders while pink paper pigs were hung around their necks. There were words and letter on the pig, but Becky couldn't read those words and letters. Then those new beginners were marched single file into this huge building to a classroom where a tall woman with a booming voice stood at the front of the room. Tears started to come again, but Becky sniffed them back while her chin continued to tremble.

The day inched on. Lunchtime came. Upon opening her lunchbox, Becky discovered a million little red ants running rampant across her bologna and soggy tomato sandwich, the result of setting her lunchbox on the floor instead of on the shelf she couldn't reach. Well, she wasn't hungry anyway.

At this point, Becky made some life decisions according to a seven year old. If she had to go to school to save her mother from a jail sentence, she would; but she didn't have to like it, she didn't have to learn, and she didn't have to talk to anyone. Furthermore, the very day she was old enough to step out of school forever, she would go out in a blaze of glory and get a job working in a factory. Plans were made!

And, thus, was the beginning of a lifetime of learning. This story is true. I know. I am the Becky.

I share this story with you because I want to challenge you to share an experience or memory of your school years or teaching with others in writing. My goal is to make a collection of our memories and get it published someday. Maybe it could start in your units and filter down. I haven't got it planned entirely, because I never plan anything entirely. I need your help. This collection will become my project after I leave the position of VRTA President. I am ready to read what you wish to share.

Phyllis Eastridge
President, VRTA



Inside this issue:

<i>Focus on the Task</i>	2
<i>VRTA Insurance</i>	3
<i>News from Around the Commonwealth</i>	4-12
<i>VRTA Fall Conference Information</i>	12-14
<i>VRTA Fall Conference Registration Form</i>	15
<i>Returned Newsletters</i>	16

"It is easy for units and districts to receive awards from VRTA. . . . Participation is strongly encouraged. Let's make the number of awards larger than last year."

Page 3



FOCUS ON THE TASK



No, you were not having a serious mental problem when you forgot why you went from the kitchen to the den. You just did not Focus on the Task. And you were not losing your touch when you cut your hand sawing that board. You were just thinking about what time you had to leave to pick up the grandkids and did not Focus on the Task.

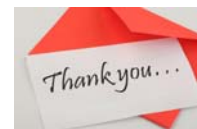
As we are bombarded with news 24/7 (much of which is not really “news”), we are tempted to say, “Just forget it all! I can’t and won’t deal with it!” What we really need to do is **Focus on the Task** as a good photographer focuses on his shot.

We hope you will join us in the Legislative Workshop at Blackstone on Monday, October 5, when we will Focus on the Tasks before us as the 2016 General Assembly approaches. We must cut away the distracting stuff and emphasize the relevant issues just as a photographer captures the real story in the midst of the hubbub. We will adjust our lens with information so that our lobbying efforts will have clarity, and we will recognize techniques that result in the picture we want to create. Those just taking up photography often learn from those more experienced, so we are looking forward to our faithful lobbyists in the past sharing tips with newcomers.

Bea Morris Legislative Chairperson

Dear VRTA Friends:

Thank you for your contributions to my recent campaign to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. With the help of individuals and organizations such as yours, we raised over \$12,000, most of which will be spent on research to find a cure for blood cancers, such as mine.



I thank you, and I wish you all good health.

Bonnie Atwood

**VRTA DAY AT THE GA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

**VRTA DAY ACCOMMODATIONS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
201 EAST CARY STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219
PHONE: 804-788-1600**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016**

Special rate for standard double/single rooms in the block:
\$104.00 + 13.3% tax

Rate includes: hot continental breakfast, free underground parking, and free shuttle to the Capitol. The shuttle will also take the group to dinner Monday evening.

Call the number listed above to **register by January 4**. Rooms not reserved by this date will be dropped from the block. Make reservations early. Be sure to ask to be in the VRTA block to get this reduced rate. Cancellations can be made later because of illness, inclement weather, etc. Contact Bea Morris (540-867-5109, beam1340@verizon.net) as soon as you make the reservation so she will know whether to add rooms to the block.

Virginia Retired Teachers Association

“Organized November 28, 1936”

2014 - 2016 Officers

President—Phyllis Eastridge	(276)694-6766 pneastridge@embarqmail.com
President-Elect—Nina McClanahan	(276)935-5004 rognina@vmmicro.net
Vice President—Leigh McKay	(540)989-4417 cwmck5@cox.net
Secretary—Daphne Miller	(757)638-1994 ma_d_miller@hotmail.com
Treasurer—Weldon Martin	(540)473-2636 hooman4949@gmail.com
Immediate Past President James Bradford	(540)261-3242 drjcb@embarqmail.com

How to Win Many Awards

It is easy for units and districts to receive awards from VRTA. The deadline for reporting is June 30 of each year. Awards are given when meeting the following criteria:

- Units must report by the deadline.
- The first ten units reporting receive an Early Bird Award.
- Districts with 100% units reporting receive an award.
- Unit and district banners must be displayed at both VRTA meetings for the year.
- Districts with 100% of their banners displayed receive an award.
- Awards are given to districts and units giving scholarships, no matter what the amount.
- If all of a district's units give a scholarship, the district receives an award.
- Awards are earned for units with equalized membership in unit, district, and VRTA.
- The district will receive an award if all the units in the district have equalized membership.

Participation is strongly encouraged. Let's make the number of awards larger than last year.

REMINDER: Banners are checked on Monday between the hours of 12:00PM and 4:30PM.

Canzata Turner – Awards Chairperson

From the VRTA Treasurer

Thanks to all the local unit treasurers and presidents for your help and cooperation. It is very important that we all continue to encourage our local unit members and retired colleagues to join VRTA. **There is definitely strength in numbers**, and VRTA is a powerful advocate for Virginia's retired educators at the state and national level.

A few reminders for you are listed below.

A workshop for local unit treasurers is held at the spring and fall Blackstone gatherings.

A local unit treasurer's handbook has been developed and is updated regularly. If you are a local unit treasurer and have not received one at Blackstone recently, let me know and I will mail it to you.

If you are a part of our VRTA Group Tax Exemption for IRS (commonly referred to as the VRTA Tax Umbrella), please remember that your 2015-2016 budget, signed and dated by two officers, is due to me no later than December 31, 2015. Don't forget to file your E-Postcard by November 15 each year.

By action of the Spring Delegate Assembly, VRTA dues will increase to \$20 per member beginning with the 2016-2017 membership year. They continue to be \$15 per member for the current year (2015-2016).

Please continue to send me the names of your deceased members so that they can be removed from the VRTA rolls.

My contact information: Weldon Martin, Treasurer
1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090
hooman4949@gmail.com (540) 473-2636

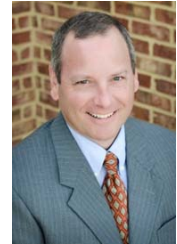
VRTA Insurance Program

Several offerings are now available:

- Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage and initial Part D enrollment
- Age 65+ dental/vision/fitness benefit plans
- Individual & family health insurance (30 second on-exchange quotes, 10 minute enrollment)
- Fixed annuities & fixed indexed annuities
- Long term care (traditional & asset-based options)

The VRTA Insurance Program representatives now utilize a web-based quote engine for purposes of finding the lowest cost on Medicare Supplement, Long Term Care and Fixed Annuity rates available for Virginia resident members. A simple call to (800) 467-5425 will connect you to a VRTA authorized insurance representative for more information. You can also reach a representative or view benefit offerings by visiting www.vrtabenefits.org website.

Jim DuBrueler Jr.,
Agent of Record



From Bonnie Atwood, our VRTA Lobbyist

In our modern society, the word "lobbyist" is sometimes seen in negative terms. It's true that some professional lobbyists overstep their bounds. We know that we see this in all occupations. If you'd like to see a sample of the standards to which good lobbyists hold themselves, read the "Standards of Practice" that all good lobbyists adhere to. It provides a good reminder that the best people are still honest, trustworthy, and respectable. You may read the Virginia Lobbyist Standards of Professional Practice and Competency online at:

Who We Are - Virginia Association of Professional Lobbyists



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 hooman4949@gmail.com
Deadline for the Spring 2016 newsletter is Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Alexandria Retired Teachers Have a Busy Spring and Summer

Alexandria Retired Teachers Association held its end of the year luncheon on May 18 at Fratelli's restaurant in Alexandria. Congressman Don Beyer of the 8th Congressional District was the guest speaker. He greeted each of the attendees and spoke to the group and answered questions for over an hour. It was a wonderful opportunity for the retirees to meet their new Congressman.

On June 18 a group from ARTA went to a garden tour and tea at Green Spring Garden Park in Alexandria.

On June 3 Alexandria Retired Teachers gave a \$2500 scholarship to Rosemary Morales who will be attending Northern Virginia Community College in the fall, and she hopes to transfer to James Madison and get a degree in education. She would like to come back and teach in Alexandria at her elementary school, William Ramsay.

ARTA has started a book group which meets every other month at Ramparts Restaurant in Alexandria. Our latest book is *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Eric Larson. Our meeting will be July 13.

Our new president is Barbara McClellan, a former social studies teacher in Alexandria. There will be an executive board meeting in August.



Congressman Don Beyer answers questions at ARTA Meeting.



Judy McConville with Congress Don Beyer



ARTA members at Green Spring Garden Park

District E Virginia Retired Teachers Hold Luncheon

Members of District E-VRTA enjoyed their annual luncheon Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at Ernie's Restaurant in South Boston, Virginia, to the theme of "Teaching is a Work of Heart."

Outgoing President, Phyllis Eastridge, presided at the business meeting. Priscilla Merricks of Pittsylvania County led an inspiring necrology service in memory of the units' deceased members.

District E's scholarship winner, Megan Devin of Charlotte County, was present at the meeting and talked of her future plans of becoming a teacher.

Special guest and speaker was Linda Shepperd, director of Tourism for Halifax County. She informed the group of the wealth of tourist attractions available in our area.

Installation of new officers followed: District E President, Bobbi Hudson; President Elect, Calvin Porter; and Secretary/Treasurer, Pam Burgess.

Units that make up District E are Charlotte County, Danville, Halifax/South Boston, Henry County/Martinsville, Patrick County, and Pittsylvania County.

Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Present Scholarships

R-HRTA presented the W. Roland Gavin Scholarship to two Thomas Jefferson High School Seniors on May 26, 2015, at the Senior Awards Program. Johanna Cruz received \$1000.00 and Rakiyat Irbrahim received \$500.00. Both of these recipients plan to pursue a degree in the field of education. Miss Cruz will attend J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and then Hampton University. Miss Irbrahim will attend Brigham Young University. The W. Roland Gavin Scholarship was established to honor the memory of Mr. W. Roland Gavin who was a Science Teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School and a devoted member of Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Association. Our members look forward to supporting this scholarship each year.



Left to right: Kelly Devin, Megan Devin, scholarship recipient; Kaye Lucado, President of Charlotte County RTA; Ruth Brogdon, and Betsy Hanmer.

Visit VRTA's Website at VRTA.org

News From Around the Commonwealth

Allegheny Retired Teachers Association

At the September meeting Senator Deeds was one of the guest speakers. He gave us an update on the Virginia Retirement System and his mental health bill. Chuck Swope from Central Atlantic Insurance talked to the group about Medicare Supplement plans. We collected school supplies and monetary donations for both Allegheny Schools and Covington Schools.

In December the Clifton Middle School Choir Director Kathy Crutchfield brought her choir to perform Christmas and holiday songs. The Christmas Mother coordinator Patricia Hartman talked to the group about the needs for the program. We collected for the Christmas Mother program and presented a donation to Mrs. Hartman. The Board made and served the members with a delicious lunch.

In March we collected money for the scholarship fund and played 50/50. We also collected soup and crackers for the two local food pantries. Our Nomination Committee chose Cynthia Baroody for Vice-President.

In May the scholarship recipients were honored. The Allegheny High School honoree is Kaithlyn Rickett. The recipient for Covington High School is Derek Dressler. Each student received a \$ 500.00 scholarship from the ARTA. The installation of officers was conducted by Harriet Snead. The new officers are President Becky Smith and Vice-President Cynthia Baroody. Chuck Swope addressed the issue of changes in the long term care plans and advised members who held these plans to hold on to them. A hanging basket was presented to the Co-Presidents Dewey Lawson and Brenda Lawson for their service and leadership for the past two years.



Co-President Dewey Lawson, Kaithlyn Rickett, Derek Dressler, and Co-President Brenda Lawson

Sussex County



Pictured left to right: Mrs. Kathleen Smith; Mrs. Laura Reed Byrd, mother of scholarship recipient; Ebonee' Inez Byrd, 2015 scholarship recipient; who plans to attend Virginia Union University.

Floyd County Retired Teachers

Members of the Floyd County Retired Teachers Association have been adding value to children and adults through their community service hours. During the May meeting at Chateau Morrisette Winery, President, Reba Goff recognized reporting members who donated a total of 2,257 hours of service. Janet Keith (777), Connie Mitchell (570), Martha Bower(400) and Alice Slusher (276) reported the most service hours. FCRTA voted to increase their high school college scholarship from \$800 to \$1,000. This year's recipient was Holly Britt. She plans to pursue an education major at Emory and Henry College. The July meeting was dedicated to our members as a time to rest and rejuvenate with a picnic at Slusher Park. Thank you goes out to member and Treasurer, Alice Slusher, for sharing her family's home place for a delightful afternoon.



Floyd County Retired Teachers enjoy an outing.

Loudoun County Retired Teachers Participate in Service Projects

April through June LRTA packed and delivered food for needy students for The Loudoun County Public Schools Backpack Coalition.

This summer 12 LREA members worked with Kids R First to pack school supplies for needy students. Ninety schools in Fairfax and Loudoun County will receive new school supplies to begin the school year!



Pictured left to right Nancy Brown, Marlene Hersh, Nancy Vollmer, Ellen Bawiec, Bertha Tiffany.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Roanoke City Retired Educators Spring Activities



Officers for 2015-2017 pictured: Marie Bright, treasurer; Carolyn Patterson, recording secretary; Bonnie Mann, president; Leigh Meadows, corresponding secretary; Bob Iseminger, 1st vice president/president elect. Not pictured: Brenda Dellis, 2nd vice president.



Scholarship recipients: Erin Hilton and Jessica Mundy, both from William Fleming High School, Roanoke City, pictured with Donna Lee, scholarship chairperson. Both young ladies plan to become English teachers.



Day-trip along Blue Ridge Parkway south to Bent Mountain Bistro, Nancy's Candy, Mabry Mill, and Chateau Morrisette April 28. Twenty-six retired teachers and spouses from Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem City and Montgomery County enjoyed a beautiful day on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Another trip is being planned for October 13th to Apple Ridge Farm.

York Retired Teachers



The York Retired Teacher Association, has awarded a scholarship for \$1400 to Rebekah Nettleton, a graduate of Grafton High. Rebekah will be attending Liberty University in the fall. Rebekah was accompanied by her mother, Marcie Nettleton at the May YRTA luncheon.

Shenandoah Retired Teachers Give Teachers Scholarships



The Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association gave two scholarships this spring, \$1000 each, to current Shenandoah County teachers Amy Mauck and Adina McInturff, both of whom are working on their master's degrees. SCRTA scholarship chairperson Margaret Figgins is seen in the two photos (she is on right) presenting the scholarships.

Prince William Retired Teachers



PWRTA Co-Presidents Lora and Bruce Ker greeted new retirees at the Prince William County Schools' Reception in May.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

The Henrico Retired School Personnel Association hosted a legislative program at its May 28, 2015, luncheon held at the Willow Oaks Country Club in Richmond. Those “in the know” about public education and retirement issues in local government and the state legislature were present.

John Montgomery, Henrico County Public Schools Board Chairman, spoke about PREP (the Post Retirement Program) which the Board will continue to support and PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) which provides support and interventions for students and families of students who have made poor choices to help reduce discipline issues.

Bea Morris, VRTA Legislative Chair, outlined VRTA Priorities including education of the whole student, salaries and benefits that will attract the best teachers, and dignity for retirees through support of VRS funding.

Delegate Jimmy Massie, Virginia General Assembly, spoke about the General Assembly’s dedication to strengthening education, meeting VRS standards, and addressing concerns about excessive SOL testing and teacher paperwork.

Delegate Delores McQuinn, Virginia General Assembly, who described education as the “noblest profession” which has the goal of making productive citizens, has for the third time submitted a bill affording a health credit plan for ALL retired school personnel.

Pat Rollison, HRSPA Scholarship Chair, introduced McKenzie Terrell who is the 2015 HRSPA Scholarship winner. The Scholarship was given in honor of Elsie Pelfrey who was one of the founding members and a past president of HRSPA. Elsie’s two daughters were also present.



Delegate Jimmy Massie, Virginia General Assembly; Bea Morris, VRTA Legislative Chair; Delegate Delores McQuinn, Virginia General Assembly; Becky Goshorn, HRSPA President



Chairman John Montgomery, Henrico County Public Schools Board



Pat Rollison, HRSPA Scholarship Chair, McKenzie Terrell, Scholarship Winner, McKenzie’s mom

Franklin/Southampton

40th Anniversary Celebration

Members of Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers’ Association, along with invited educators, friends, and family, assembled on Friday afternoon April 17, at Station 1 to celebrate the 40th year of the organization.

The welcome was given by program chairman, Mrs. Effie King. President, Mrs. Daphne Miller presented what the organization is all about and historical background. Mrs. Carol Logan gave the invocation/prayer and Mrs. Rosalind Holland read a poem entitled “A Teacher for All Seasons” by Joanna Fuchs. Rev. Joseph Goode gave the grace before enjoying a delicious buffet prepared by Mrs. Preau and her staff.

A certificate was presented to Vice President Louise Bryant in recognition as a charter member of the organization. Happy birthday was sung to member, Mrs. Mary Powell in recognition of her milestone.

Scrapbooks were displayed to show events, awards and recognitions of members and the organization for outstanding community service.



L to R Front Row: Mary Powell, Mildred Claude, Effie King, Rosalind Holland, Chery Roberts and President, Daphne Miller. Second Row: Carol Logan, Brindle Hardy, Ann Johnson, Rose Galloway, Marvia Goode and Dorothy Jones.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Hampton Retired Teachers



On June 10, 2015, the Hampton Retired Teachers Association met at the Embassy Suites in Hampton, Virginia, for its spring luncheon meeting. Four thousand dollars in scholarships were awarded to six recipients. Pictured, left to right, are: Hampton City Schools Superintendent Linda Shifflette, Instructional Assistant Antoinette Hunt, Bessie Jacobs Memorial Scholar Alexis Bracey, HRTA Student Scholar Brandy Bateman, Elizabeth Jordan Memorial Scholar Jessica Cordner, Instructional Assistant Davida Tunstall and Instructional Assistant Tiffany Debreaux Smith.



With almost 100 members in attendance, HRTA President Jacqueline Smith-Watson, concluded the meeting with a memorial service for Mary Barr. The Remembrance Committee conducted the ceremony. Pictured, left to right, are: Linda Bess, Co-chair Doris Williams and Albernica Clark.



District B Has Spring Meeting

District B held its spring luncheon meeting at The Chesapeake in Newport News, Virginia, on May 12, 2015. At that time two students received \$500 scholarships. Pictured, from left to right, are Sylvia Cordner, her daughter, Scholar Jessica Cordner (Pheobus High School), District B President, Allison Sutton, Scholar Sarah Wright (Lafayette High School) and her mother, Debbie Wright. A memorial service was also conducted by Rick Jones for five members who have passed in the last year: Jean Ray Forrest, McCray Jones, Mike Hutchinson, Rachel Paulson, and Mary Barr. Music was provided by pianist Sheila Rogers.



Rockbridge County



VRTA Legislative Chair Bea Morris, pictured with Jim Bradford, presented at the Rockbridge Retired Teachers Association's Legislative Update.

Warren County



The Warren County Retired Teachers participated in "A Taste of Book," the annual fundraiser for Samuel's Public Library in Front Royal. WCRTA presented the facts versus the Legend of Johnny Appleseed. Judi Good and Peggy Heyden are pictured serving apple caramel tarts, apple muffins, and apple cobbler.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Scott County Retired Teachers Association Awards Scholarships

Scott County Retired Teachers Association recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to three outstanding Scott County high school graduates. The scholarship amount will be increased to \$2,000 each upon the graduate's completion of a minimum of 50 hours of community service performed between high school graduation and college enrollment.

Receiving the scholarship at Rye Cove High School was Christa Hope Roach, daughter of Brandon and Cameron Waldon of Duffield, VA. She plans to enroll at King University to major in Security and Intelligence Studies.

Twin Spring High School's recipient was Kelly Lynn Osborne, daughter of Mark and Penny Osborne of Dungannon, VA. She plans to attend either East Tennessee State University or Northeast State Community College and major in Education.

At Gate City High School, the scholarship was awarded to Lindsay Jordan Thacker, daughter of Randy and Amy Thacker of Gate City, VA. She plans to enroll at Anderson University, majoring in Psychology.

Scott County Retired Teachers Association is the only unit in District O of far Southwest Virginia. While being the smallest unit in the state of Virginia, the association awards the second highest dollar amount in scholarships yearly. Awards are funded by the sale of Scott County history books, the *Scott County Retired Teachers Cookbook*, yard sales and private donations.

Frederick County Met in May

The Frederick County Retired Teachers' Association met on May 12, 2015, to celebrate another successful year of community service and fundraising. This year the FCRTA was able to support the area Food Bank through the Annual Food Drive during the September meeting, the local Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner by receiving food donations at its November meeting, the Annual Scholarship Auction Fundraiser during the March meeting, and the Winchester Preschool Day Nursery with donations of instructional supplies for the students during its May meeting.

During the May meeting of the FCRTA the membership welcomed the 2015 scholarship winners and their parents to a luncheon in their honor. The FCRTA awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to one graduating senior who plans to seek a degree in education from each of the three county high schools.



Roanoke County Retired Teachers Association Awards Scholarship



Megan Hubbard, a graduate of Northside, was awarded the Roanoke County Retired Teachers Association's 2015 \$1000 scholarship for exceptional character, top academics, and community participation.

Megan, daughter of Mark and Candy Hubbard, was active in numerous school clubs, played and was team captain in volleyball and softball and took AP classes while working two jobs.

Megan plans to attend Virginia Western Community College and Radford University to become a kindergarten teacher.

Retired Teachers Honor Their Own

Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers Association held its second awards luncheon meeting on May 19, 2015, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church at noon with the theme "Teachers Forever," honoring 16 members. Three were absent: Ida Allen, Inell Moody, and Shirley Taylor.

Former President William Cosby presided, prayer was led by Canzata Turner, purpose was given by Gretchen Parker, music was performed by David and Shirley Townsend, and the food was blessed by Marolyn Quarles before lunch.

After a most delicious lunch catered by Garrett Mason, Annie Mickens presented each honoree to the other members followed by a special tribute by William Cosby.

Vice-president Patricia Bates gave remarks and after the door prizes by Gretchen Parker and the singing of our VRTA song, the meeting was adjourned.



Standing: Edna Humphrey, Shirley Dobie, Susie Brown, Arnetta Jones, Annie Henderson, Elizabeth Westbrook, Ernestine Westbrook, Lula Divers, and Mary McCray. Seated: Eliza Day, Rosa Davis-Overby, Mavis Farrar, and Ruth Howard.

The three FCRTA 2015 winners pictured are: Allison Yost from James Wood High School who plans to attend James Madison University, Michelle Adams from Millbrook High School who plans to attend Shenandoah University, and Conner Stevenson from Sherando High School who plans to attend Emory and Henry College.

News From Around the Commonwealth

News from District G

The Daugherty Sisters presented a program on gospel music to the District G Retired Teachers Association recently at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg. The Daugherty Sisters, natives of Mathias, WV, have been singing together since they were very young. The group consists of Carolyn Combs, Cathy Willingham, Connie Wood, and Ramona Daugherty. Cathy, Connie, and Carolyn reside in the Mathias area, and Ramona lives in Woodstock. Cathy taught in Frederick County, VA, and Sacred Heart Catholic School before moving back to WV where she taught in Hardy County. Connie also taught in Hardy County prior to retirement and currently teaches piano lessons. Ramona was employed by D.J. Howard Vocational Center for nine years before moving to Woodstock and teaching in Shenandoah County. She is semi-retired because she has been a substitute teacher since retirement. Carolyn has been a lay speaker for the United Methodist Church and she, Connie, and Ramona all teach Sunday school. They sing at many events including hymn sings, revivals, and reunions. They sing primarily gospel music. Their primary musical influence was their late mother, Lacey Jenkins Daugherty, who wrote songs and poetry, and had music playing in their home most of the time as they grew up. Sister Cathy was unable to attend, but their 97 year old father, Raymond Daugherty, came along and threw in a few bass notes, as well as showed the group some of the books he had written. Ramona is a member of the Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association and serves as legislative chairperson.

District G RTA elected officers for 2015-17. They are Karen Whetzel, Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association, president; Shirley Crawford, Augusta Retired Educators Association, vice president; Katherine Ralston, Bath-Highland Retired Teachers Association, secretary; and Jim Hines, Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association, treasurer. Bea Morris, Augusta Retired Educators Association, serves as legislative chairperson.

Plans are being made for the District G RTA Fall Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg. The guest speaker will be Glenna Loving of Strasburg, who has written and published children's books on Native Americans in the Shenandoah Valley. Her books are *Shenandoah Daughter of the Stars a Children's Story* and *Shenandoah and White Wolf*. Loving will talk about Native Americans in the Valley as well as the process she uses in writing children's books and getting them published. Loving is a member of the Shenandoah County RTA.

Any interested retired educators are invited to attend the fall meeting; however, reservations must be made in advance. Contact Karen Whetzel, kswhetzel@gmail.com or [540-740-8589](tel:540-740-8589) for more information.



The Daugherty Sisters

Buchanan County RTA

On June 12, 2015, **Buchanan County Youth Incorporated's Drug Free Community Coalition** hosted a Countywide After-Graduation Party at the Buchanan County YMCA. Buchanan County Retired Teachers joined with county educators and coalition members to chaperone the event.

The event was a huge success and Buchanan County Retired Teachers are extremely proud of supporting an event designed to provide a safe and fun graduation night for our seniors and their guests.



BCRTA volunteers: Patricia Hogston, Nina McClanahan, Penny Jennell, Joan Boyd and Mary Salyer (not pictured).

Fauquier County Retired Teacher Association

Fauquier County Retired Teacher Association has participated in various service projects throughout the year. Its members accumulated 1,391 hours of service for 2014-2015. During the year 691 pounds of dry goods were contributed to the local food bank.

FCTA gave three \$600 scholarships to qualifying seniors from the county high schools. Nathan Krauss graduated from Fauquier High School. He plans to attend Emory and Henry College, majoring in history. Kathryn Culver will attend Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio, pursuing a career in nursing and to work as a Spanish translator in hospitals. She is a graduate of Liberty High School. Shea Alexandria Rowell graduated from Kettle Run High School and plans to attend Mount Saint Mary's University and to major in music.

Greenville Retired Teachers' Association



The Greenville Retired Teachers' Association had a successful Community Food Drive September 12 and 13, 2014. We were joined by 12 students from E.W.

Wyatt Middle School's civics class (see picture) and their teacher/advisor. We collected 72 bags of food and turned in \$106.50 to Samaritan Helping Hands Kitchen in Emporia, Virginia. Our donation location was at Piggly Wiggly on School Street in Emporia.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Suffolk Retired Teachers Association is on the Move

Members began the year with their meeting on June 10, 2015, at Bunny's Restaurant in Suffolk, Virginia. The guest speaker was the superintendent of Suffolk Public Schools, Dr. Deran Whitney. He gave highlights of Suffolk Public Schools.

During the meeting the group presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Taylor Harrell, a 2015 honor graduate from Kings Fork High School. Taylor's GPA was 3.98 and she plans to attend A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The association has been involved with community activities. Some of them include donating supplies to Elephant Fork Elementary School and collecting food for the Salvation Army. A donation was given to Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society.

Priscilla Benn was honored for 25 years of service through the Links Chapter in Suffolk and for mentoring students at Booker T. Washington Elementary School and Elephants Fork Elementary School. She serves on the Community Service Board for the Suffolk Retired Teachers Association, along with Mary B. Hicks.

Iness E. Taylor, past president of SRTA and District T was honored by District T with a certificate of appreciation for service for 2005-2014 following the meeting at Lillian's Restaurant in Chesapeake, Virginia. The certificate was later presented to her at her church, Tabernacle Christian Church in Suffolk where she is a deacon.

SRTA regrets the loss of some of our members: Bernice Maloney, James Dabney, Ledora Everett, Patricia Montgomery, and Carolyn Phillips. A memorial service will be held for these people at the SRTA October meeting.

Our officers are: Mary Copeland, president; Costellar Ledbetter, vice president; Marian Flood, secretary; Vivian Pruden, assistant secretary; Virgie Sandifer, treasurer; Marion Wright, advisor to the treasurer; Mary B. Hicks, chaplain; Mary Steverson, parliamentarian; Iva Mitchell, courtesy chairperson; Madeleine Stokes, legislative chairperson; Julia Liggins, scrapbook chairperson; Bertha B. Turner, corresponding secretary; Fran Atwood and Iness E. Taylor, advisors.

Taylor Harrell,
2015 Scholarship Winner



Iness E. Taylor,
District T
Certificate of
Appreciation for
service in SRTA
and District T



Patrick County Retired Teachers Association

Washington, D.C., 2015 – Retired educators with the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association have won the 2015 NRTA *With Our Youth!* Local Dedication Award. The Dedication Award highlights top award contenders that merited distinction for their exceptional work. These awards serve as “honorable mentions.” This prestigious award recognizes the organization's volunteer service to benefit the lives of youth in the county.

“Across Virginia, educators remain active in retirement and continue to improve the lives of children and their local communities. These Patrick County volunteers symbolize the giving spirit of the NRTA *With Our Youth!* Award,” said Dara Dann, vice president for NRTA: AARP's *Educator Community*. “We thank them for their steadfast passion to serve Virginia's youth who are in need of support from a caring adult,” Dann said.

This year, 53 Patrick County retired teachers volunteered some 845 hours in support of more than 1460 youth in five key resource areas: an ongoing relationship with caring adults; a healthy start in life; safe places to learn and grow; marketable skills upon graduation; and an opportunity for youth to serve their communities.

One retiree healthcare volunteer initiative was particularly important this year. Retired teachers provided three cases of head lice removal kits to impacted families across the county. The county's social services department lacked the funds to purchase these medicated kits. Retired educators filled the need by purchasing the head lice medication in a large quantity at a reduced cost. The kits then were provided to families at no cost, helping to protect individual, disadvantaged families and public health.

The recipients of NRTA's 16th Annual *With Our Youth!* awards were chosen by an independent selection panel for their outstanding service to youth in the local and individual categories.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Charles City/New Kent County Retired Teachers' Association

The Charles City/New Kent Retired Teachers' Association has had a busy year. We have a total of 26 members and we are encouraging our younger retired teachers to join our organization. We meet on the third Thursday in March, June, September, and December.

Our teachers have participated in several community activities such as the Family Fun Day and Health Fair. We represented our organization by giving out literature about our group and by giving out healthy snacks and apples.

We offer a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who plans to enroll at a two or four year college. Several businesses in the area donated gift cards to be used as prizes for our spring 2015 giveaway. This was a very successful activity. Our scholarship for the 2015 school year was awarded to DeMonte Greene who will be attending VA Union University in Richmond and will be majoring in music. Many of us attend graduations in order to support the recipients of our scholarship.

We also gave our retiring superintendents, Dr. Janet Crawley of Charles City County and Dr. Robert Richardson, Jr. of New Kent County, a special recognition luncheon for their years of dedicated service to education. We assured them that we would be happy to have them as members of our organization.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at Opus Steak House in Newtown, Williamsburg, Virginia.

We were pleased to have two of our members Hazel Charity and Joyce Williams attend the VRTA Day 2015 at the General Assembly. They enjoyed the experience of meeting and conversing with their representatives. They asked the representatives for their support of various bills that will aid the retired teacher population and also for those who are still working in the teaching profession.

We have two persons who will be serving as officers in District C. Mrs. Hazel Charity is the District C secretary and Mrs. Carol Wilson is the District C president-elect. These are just a few of the activities that we have sponsored and supported during the 2014-2015 year.



District C Officers
Left to Right: Alvin Lomax, treasurer;
Hazel Charity, secretary;
Carol Wilson, president elect; and
Emmaline Page, District C president

Highlights of VRTA Conference

Please mark your calendar for the VRTA Conference, October 5-6, 2015, in Blackstone. Bring RTA friends with you. Let's increase our VRTA membership.

Monday afternoon sessions include icebreakers, hearing loss, Staying Sharp, scrapbooking, reverse mortgage basics, community service updates, as well as insurance matters by Jim DuBrueler, VRTA Treasurer's updates by Weldon Martin, and legislative goals and objectives by Bea Morris and Bonnie Atwood.

Tuesday morning's highlights will begin with the necrology service led by VRTA Past President, Helen Tippie. Louise Mont-Tucker will honor units that have submitted volunteer hours and announce a Most Active Unit. Joyce Williams will announce Most Active Member Award.

Life Reimagined comes to VRTA in the keynote address presented by Anne Herbster of AARP. The focus is on living with purpose, living longer, happier, and healthier lives.

Come see your old friends and make new ones. See you there!

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

Reminder:

Dues for VRTA will increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 beginning in 2016-2017 membership year.



Anne Herbster to Speak at VRTA's Fall Meeting



Anne Herbster will be the keynote speaker on Tuesday morning at the VRTA Fall Meeting. She is a marketing and sales executive with more than 20 years' experience in financial services and affinity marketing. Recently, Anne assumed responsibility for leading local face-to-face experiences for Life Reimagined, an AARP subsidiary. Life Reimagined is a new way of thinking about "What's Next?" in your life. It's all about possibilities—envisioning them, evaluating them and making them a reality through unique tools, resources and experiences. Working with Life Reimagined, Anne helps people identify their "What's Next?" possibilities.

Prior to joining AARP, Anne was the vice president for Affinity Marketing for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, managing their \$2 billion affinity business. In addition, she has held numerous management positions in Fortune 100 companies. Anne has a BS in Math from Jacksonville University and an MBA in Finance and Marketing from Columbia University.

Come hear what Anne has to say about "What's Next?" in your life.



Talent Search



Monday, October 5, 2015, at the Fall VRTA meeting, we will be celebrating our 80th birthday. We want to make this an in-house entertainment celebration with a member delegate Talent Show. All talented delegates, who are willing, are encouraged to participate. Presidents of Districts, Units, and VRTA officers encourage members to come, especially talented members who are willing to participate.

Willing to participate, contact Co-Historians by September 23, 2015:

Mary Copeland
1220 Exchange Street
Suffolk, VA 23434
757-539-0904
marycopeland@verizon.net

Iva Foust
1002 Taft Street
Portsmouth, VA 23701
757-487-6734
isfoust@cox.net

Let's Celebrate — Happy 80th Birthday

VRTA will be celebrating its 80th Birthday. Iva Foust and Mary Copeland, co-chairs of Historical Records, are busy making plans for the celebration to be held on Monday evening, October 5. Additions to the program will be vocals by Louise Mont-Tucker and a presentation by Dr. Jim Bradford on the establishment of NRTA, AARP, VRTA, and local units and the documentation of retirement benefits. The evening will be both entertaining and informative. We've come a long way!



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



2016 Spring Delegate Assembly — April 25-26
 2016 Fall VRTA Meeting — October 10-11

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. Also, because of copyright issues, I cannot use pictures taken by a professional photographer. All submitted articles will be used if space permits. Articles received after the deadline will likely not be included. The deadline for the Spring 2016 newsletter is **Wednesday, March 2.**

Susan Martin, Newsletter Editor

Menus for VRTA Conference

Monday, October 5

Breakfast – Scrambled Eggs
 Bacon
 Diced Hash Browns
 Biscuits
 Cold Cereal



Lunch – Oven Fried Chicken
 Side Salad
 Green Beans
 Mashed Potatoes with gravy
 Brownies

Dinner – Soup and Salad Bar
 Cobbler

Tuesday, October 6

Breakfast – Scrambled Eggs
 Sausage Pattie
 Fried Apples
 Biscuits
 Cold Cereal

Lunch – Virginia Ham
 Side Salad
 Roasted Potatoes
 Fresh Fruit
 Ice Cream Bowl

(Menus are subject to change.)



Email Notification for Newsletter

Beginning with this VRTA Newsletter, at your request some of you received notification that the newsletter was available online at the VRTA website (VRTA.org). We will continue to add people who want to receive their newsletter in this way to our email list. If you gave us your email and did not receive a notification, it may be that your email was transposed incorrectly. Send it to us again. You may send your email address to:

Weldon Martin (hooman4949@gmail.com) or you can mail it to: 1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090.

VRTA 2015 Fall 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 — Welcome and Lunch
 12:50pm — General Session —Virginia Retirement System
 2:00pm - 5:30pm — Concurrent Workshop Sessions
 6:00pm — Dinner
 7:30pm — 80th Birthday Celebration
Tuesday 8:00am — Breakfast
 9:00am — VRTA meeting and Keynote Speaker
 12.00noon — Lunch
 (Times could change. Check your VRTA Fall Meeting Program)

Necrology Service Reminder

Will all District Presidents appoint someone from your district to be present on Tuesday morning to announce the number of deceased members in your district at the necrology service? We owe that respect to our deceased members.

The names of the deceased need to be reported to Weldon Martin at hooman4949@gmail.com.



Visit the NRTA Website at:

www.aarp.org

VRTA Fall Meeting
 October 5-6, 2015
 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 Saturday, September 26, 2015 \$25.00
 Amount paid (**Late registration --- \$35.00**) 1.

	<u>One Night</u>	<u>Two nights</u>	<u>Total</u>
2. Lodging: Main Building (one person/room -- \$50.10/night)	_____	_____	_____
(multiple persons -- \$46.20 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
Goodson Lodge (one person/room -- \$61.25/night)	_____	_____	_____
(multiple persons/room -- \$56.20 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
Roommates _____			
Total for Lodging			2.

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	\$8.50	_____	
		Dinner – 6:00 PM	\$11.00	_____	
	Tuesday	Breakfast – 8:00 AM	\$7.50	_____	
		Tuesday – 12 Noon	\$11.75	_____	
		Sub Total for Meals			3.

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; use back of form to list dietary issues)

6. Mail completed registration form and check, payable to VRTA, no later than Saturday, September 26, 2015. 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

U. S POSTAGE
PAID
Daleville, VA
Permit No. 38
ZIP CODE 24083
PRSR STD

Return Service Requested

Returned Newsletters

VRTA has been plagued with an abundance of returned newsletters. Since producing and mailing the newsletters are one of VRTA's greatest expenses, it is important to all of us that we take control of the situation. An effort is being made to rectify the problem by documenting the names and addresses that are on the returned newsletters. The VRTA Executive Committee has determined that once a person's newsletter has been returned three times, the name will be removed from the mailing list. If you are a VRTA member and do not get a newsletter, you need to contact Weldon Martin, VRTA Treasurer, at hooman4949@gmail.com to verify your mailing address.

I began tracking returned newsletters in the spring of 2014. Since then 710 VRTA Members have had a newsletter returned one or more times marked as non-deliverable. It cost VRTA \$0.49 for each returned newsletter. In order to keep membership records current it is necessary to request the post office to return the newsletters that cannot be delivered. After documenting the returned spring 2015 newsletters, there are 163 VRTA members that have had their newsletter returned 3 times and have been removed from the mailing list. Once we correct the problem of returned newsletters, we will be saving money as well as having an accurate member database.

It is important for each district and unit to keep their membership records accurate and notify Weldon Martin of address changes and deceased members. With the help of all our members the newsletter situation will soon be under control.

With the cost of postage continuing to be on the rise, it is time for us to seriously consider delivering the newsletters electronically to those who have computers and are willing. The voice of all our members is important and we want to hear from you.

Nina McClanahan, President-Elect mcclanahannina@gmail.com