



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2016 Edition

Meet Your VRTA Officers

Nina McClanahan — VRTA President

Nina McClanahan grew up on a farm near Rose Hill in Lee County, Virginia. She graduated from Thomas Walker High School and holds a BA degree in Elementary Education from Clinch Valley College, which is now University of Virginia at Wise. Also, she has completed post graduate work in Computer Technology.

In 1970 she began her teaching career in Walterboro, South Carolina. Her family moved to Grundy, Virginia, in 1973. After 33 years in the classroom, she retired from the Buchanan County Public School System in 2003.

Since retiring she has helped with Science Fairs, SOL remediation and has served as a long term substitute teacher. Previously, she served as Vice President and President-Elect of VRTA. She is currently treasurer of the Buchanan County Retired Teachers' Association and a member of the DAR, Friends of the Library, and Buchanan County Youth Incorporated. She enjoys local history and reading. Also, she is involved with genealogy research, YMCA activities, scrapbooking, and participates in community service projects. She also enjoys time spent with family and friends. Nina and her husband, Roger, have one son, Russell.

Ben McCartney — President-elect

Ben McCartney retired from the Fauquier County Public Schools after thirty-five years. He taught AP Psychology, Psychology, AP US Government, US Government and Psychology seminars for Mountain Vista Governors School. After retiring in 2008, he continues to work for the Fauquier County Public Schools, helping to coordinate short-term international exchange programs with Wales, Spain, Germany and France. He is married to Mary Pat, a retired elementary school counselor, with thirty-four years of experience with Fauquier County and Prince William County Public Schools. They have two adult children and two young grandchildren.

Ben is a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Virginia Community Credit Union, active in his church and coordinator of the Election Page program for Fauquier County. He has been a three term President for the Fauquier Retired Teacher Association. Ben and Mary Pat live in Warrenton and watch their grandchildren two days a week.

Reba Evans — Vice President

Reba Evans is a retired Elementary Librarian/Media Specialist. She was librarian at Oakland Elementary School in Carroll County for 30 years. After retirement, she joined the Carroll County Retired Teachers Association and moved to Sparta, North Carolina. She is a life member of District M, VRTA, VEA and NEA. She also belongs to NRTA. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Iota Virginia State and Alpha Kappa Chapter. She has served the CCRTA as Vice President and is President at this time. She also serves as President of District M. She is honored to serve as Vice President of VRTA.

Reba is single and lives with her mother and brother in Sparta, North Carolina, just seven miles from the Virginia line. She remains active in both Carroll County and in Sparta. She is the church clerk. She is also a secretary of the Alleghany County Public Library Friends of the Library. Since Reba is interested in history, she is a member of the Alleghany Historical and Genealogical Society and a member of the Alleghany Historical Museum committee. She serves as secretary of the board of directors and part-time employee of a small credit union called the Carroll County School Employees Federal Credit Union.

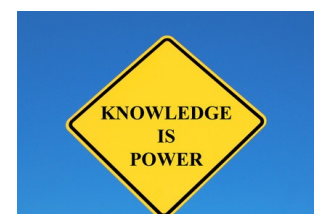
Her hobbies include reading especially historical novels, magazines, and humor; crafts especially knitting, crocheting, and embroidery. Reba also likes to play computer games.

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"Being knowledgeable is a continuing process, not a goal that can be reached. And today we are blessed with a myriad of ways to acquire both information and knowledge."



Daphne Miller — Secretary

Serving as secretary of VRTA is Daphne M. Miller. She has a BA Degree from Saint Augustine’s College (University) Raleigh, NC, MS and CAS from Old Dominion University, and math certification from Norfolk State University. She has completed other postgraduate studies. Presently, she is president of Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers’ Association and past president of District D Retired Teachers’ Association. Other duties include secretary of Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter of Saint Augustine’s University and financial secretary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Daphne is also active in church and participates in numerous community activities. Her hobbies are traveling, dancing, making crafts, scrapbooking 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.

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 fifth 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.

Installation of officers April 2016



**VRTA Returned Newsletters
Spring 2016**

VRTA’s Executive Committee has been working diligently for several years to establish an accurate database of VRTA members. The decision was made then that when a member’s VRTA Newsletter was returned three consecutive times their name would be removed from the mailing list. I began tracking returned newsletters in the spring of 2014 and I am still seeing a major problem. In the spring of 2016 we removed 50 names. There are 104 more members whose newsletter has been returned either 3 or 4 times but not consecutively. Even more disturbing is there were 118 members whose newsletter was returned for the first time. It appears that many of our members are temporarily away from their permanent address or have moved. If you are one of the members that spend part of the year at another location, please consider changing to the electronic version of the newsletter. Also, it is vital for Districts and Units to notify Weldon Martin, VRTA’s Treasurer (hooman4949@gmail.com) of address changes and deceased members. Those of you that use email regularly, I encourage you to consider receiving the newsletter electronically. Since the newsletter is VRTA’s greatest expense, we need to eliminate this problem.

Nina McClanahan—VRTA President
mcclanahannina@gmail.com

Virginia Retired Teachers Association

“Organized November 28, 1936”

2016 - 2018 Officers

President—Nina McClanahan	(276)935-5004 mcclanahannina@gmail.com
President-Elect—Ben McCartney	(540)347-9516 bhmccart@gmail.com
Vice President—Reba Evans	(366)372-4866 rlevans50@yahoo.com
Secretary—Daphne Miller	(757)638-1994 ma_d_miller@hotmail.com
Treasurer—Weldon Martin	(540)473-2636 hooman4949@gmail.com
Immediate Past President Phyllis Eastridge	(276)694-6766 pneastridge@embarqmail.com



What does a lobbyist do?

Bonnie Atwood

Many times, people ask me what a lobbyist does. Sometimes they picture the stereotypical man in the gray flannel three piece suit, smoking a cigar, drinking a whiskey, and slipping a legislator a wad of cash. Well, that picture is for Hollywood movies. I made a list of what lobbyists do. It turned out to be longer than I thought!

Here are the basics:

- Register w/ Commonwealth of Virginia; file disclosure & other documents; get identification
- Sign up for government-sponsored email alerts
- Keep up with news
- Communicate with all interested parties
- Letters, visits, calls to legislators and others in all branches of government
- Meet with client groups, attend board meetings, learn priorities
- Learn the codes of ethics for lobbyists
- Keep up with schedules: legislative committees, government agency meetings
- Training about lobbying
- Networking with other lobbyists and interest groups
- Keep up with bills and budgets
- Report to clients
- Coordinate lobby days
- Coordinate press releases, press conferences, press relations
- Attend receptions
- Use media to advantage, by writing stories, letters to editor, consulting with media

Here are the extra things a lobbyist does to enhance his political capital:

- Learn legislators voting records
- Learn which legislators can swing the vote
- Learn which legislators are on key committees
- Study seniority
- Study where money comes from, i.e., campaign contributions
- Study where voting blocks come from
- Study geographic characteristics
- Learn where power lies
- Study political party ties
- Study who is in leadership in parties, caucuses
- Get well acquainted with staffers
- Study the population and economy of each district
- Study rising stars
- Development of strategies: when to be noisy, when to be quiet, long-term plans, contingency plans

That's what lobbyists do!

NRTA's 2016 Leadership Training Program

VRTA President Nina McClanahan and VRTA Past President Phyllis Eastridge participated in NRTA's 2016 Leadership Training Program in Chicago, Illinois, May 2-5. The training program was designed for retired educator volunteer executives and leaders to support succession planning, leadership engagement, younger member recruitment, and effective communication. The program also addressed pressing challenges and provided a format to learn, discuss, and share best practices.

Kristi Daniels, President of *Thrive 9-5: Your Guide to Peak Performance at Work*, facilitated many of the training sessions. Kristi is an executive coach helping to provide leadership and organizational consulting. Mary Beth Dixon, AARP Director, presented opportunities for gaining ideas and resources to take back and share with REA state leadership teams and association members. The goal of the program was to provide experiences that will make a positive difference for retired educators associations.

A follow-up program is planned for September in Chicago.



L-R: VRTA President Nina McClanahan, VRTA Past President Phyllis Eastridge, Tom Nicholls, AARP Senior Legislative Representative.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER written on the pages of a book is the main part of the VRTA logo, and between now and November 8, it must be our mantra!

How ironic it is that today we are drowning in information, that in the blink of an eye, information can be sent to billions of people around the world; yet, it seems knowledge is a scarcity.

Knowledge requires thoughtful analysis of information and ferreting out inaccuracies. We must be willing to do whatever it takes to be knowledgeable about what is happening in our state and country and what candidates' words indicate about their beliefs, their abilities, and their character. Truly, these are perilous times, and we can't afford the luxury of letting somebody else assume the responsibilities of citizenship while we babysit the grandchildren, play golf, or take the family on a cruise. These are poor excuses for the demands on our time when the results of not being knowledgeable could be unprepared, unethical, and undisciplined leaders.

It's possible for some to assume positions of power by clever manipulation rather than by a background of knowledge. We must insist that the power of our leaders on all levels be gained by knowledge about the people they represent, about the complexities of the issues to come before them, and about the ramifications of their choice of words and the decisions they will have to make.

Being knowledgeable is a continuing process, not a goal that can be reached. And today we are blessed with a myriad of ways to acquire both information and knowledge. One of those is the speakers and workshops at the VRTA fall conference. The VRS staff presentation will provide the assembly with facts about our retirement system. In "Speed Dating Our Way to the GA," the title of the Legislative Workshop, our potential "dates" will be Rob Jones, retired director of VEA's Division of Government Relations; Brian Cannon, executive director of One Virginia 2021; Dr. Clara Bell Wheeler, vice chair of the State Board of Elections; and Sandra Barnstead, Specialist with VEA's Office of Teaching and Learning. They will entice us to become better acquainted with the Retirement and Pension Study Commission, the issues surrounding redistricting, the importance of voting and wealth of information provided by the SBE website, and how the new ESSA (replacement of NCLB) might affect localities, respectively.

A new site will give rise to a somewhat revised program and schedule, but the conference will still provide fellowship with old friends, information that may not otherwise be available, and inspiration to tackle the work ahead of us. This is truly a conference you won't want to miss.

Bea Morris — Legislative Chair

VRTA DAY AT THE GA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017

Join us in Richmond as we celebrate Retired Teachers Day in Virginia! We will visit our legislators, be introduced in the House and Senate, and have lunch in the House Viewing Room. A block of rooms has been reserved for VRTA at the Holiday Inn Express on Cary Street for January 30. The rate of \$109 plus tax includes a hot continental breakfast, free parking, and use of the hotel shuttle. Reservations should be made with the hotel by Wednesday, January 11. Details will be sent to the email list and will be on the website in the late fall.

SAVE THE DATE!



E-newsletter from Creekside

Are you getting the monthly e-newsletter? If not, contact your unit president and district president. We thank Jim Dubruel and Creekside Insurance Advisors for providing this communication tool.

Structure and Bylaws

by Helen Tippie

It is always healthy to examine the structure of an organization and to make necessary changes to bylaws. For the VRTA, the Spring Delegate Assembly is the time for members to vote on changes and to create a vision for the future. As chairperson of the Structure and Bylaws committee, I am constantly searching for ways to strengthen and improve our association and its service to retired educators. Our committee welcomes ideas and suggestions from all members. Please talk with me at the Fall Conference and contact me at any time with your thoughts about the future of the VRTA. All ideas will be shared with the committee and will be presented to delegates if change is precipitated.

Call me at 540-330-3863 or email me at htippie70@gmail.com



Spring 2017 Delegate Assembly
April 24-25

DoubleTree by Hilton in
Midlothian, VA

News From Around the Commonwealth

Alexandria Retired Teachers

The Alexandria Retired Teachers Association (ARTA) District H met in March, April, and May. We were snowed out in February. In March we had Martha Washington (Mary Wiseman) from Mount Vernon in full Colonial dress give a wonderful story about her life with George Washington. Members of Arlington ARTA joined us as well. In April we had another Antique Road Show with Dr. Jerry Ford. Some of the retirees had some expensive items to show off.

Past President Judy McConville attended the Spring VRTA meeting and her husband, Jim McConville spoke about Elder Law. On May 16 sixty of us met at Fratelli's restaurant for a buffet luncheon and listened to the Honorable Mayor Allison Silberberg of Alexandria give a speech on education. On June 1 Barbara McClellan presented our \$2500 scholarship to senior Rebecca Quintero of TC Williams High School. She will major in Elementary Education at the University of Antillean in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.



Rebecca Quintero
and President
Barbara McClellan

Buchanan County RTA

VRTA's Spring Delegate Assembly was held April 25-26, 2016, at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center for the last time. The center closed its doors in early May. We are going to miss the friendly staff and the relaxed atmosphere that members of Virginia Retired Teachers' Association have experienced for many years. Several VRTA members from Buchanan County attended the conference for the first time. Buchanan County is more than 300 miles from Blackstone and nine members traveled the distance for the "Blackstone Experience." They also came to support one of their own members, Nina McClanahan, VRTA's new President.



Row 1—Ruby Looney, Lillian Dales, Nina McClanahan,
Penny Jennell, Patricia Hogston-- Row 2—Cindy Matney,
Mary Salyer, Patricia Dales, Brenda Ward

Carroll County Retired Teachers Association

Carroll County Retired Teachers Association met July 8, 2016, at Al's Café in Pulaski Virginia. Eighteen members and guest attended. Al's Café is located on the first floor of the Jackson Park Inn - Al's On First has the big city flair mixed with southern charm and home-style cooking. After a delicious lunch, we moved to the ballroom for our business meeting to finalize plans for the Relay for Life event in Carroll on July 22. We also held a donation raffle for groceries from Horton's Supermarket with the drawing to be the night of the Relay for Life event.



Francis Quesenberry,
Secretary and
Hallie Currin, Vice
President leaving
Al's Café.

The Relay for Life event was held July 22 with the Carroll County Retired Teachers Association taking part. Many of our members are survivors of cancer and it was a pleasure to be able to raise money for cancer research so many more lives can be saved and we hope to one day "Close the Book" on cancer. Our mini float won second place.

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 2017 newsletter is **Monday, February 20, 2017.**

News From Around the Commonwealth

Charles City/New Kent/District C Retired Teachers

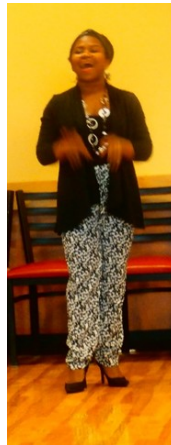
Charles City members Hazel Charity, Alethia Thomas, Carol Wilson, and Joyce Williams worked with District C President Emmaline Page to make plans for the annual District C spring meeting, hosted by Charles City Retired Teachers. The meeting was held at Martin's in Richmond on May 12, 2016.

At the meeting concerns were expressed about the decline in attendance at meetings. Recruiting new members for the district is a challenge. Fund raising for scholarships was also discussed. It is very important to continue to give financial support to our youth who will be attending various colleges upon completion of high school.

Courtney Macon Daley, an employee of Axiom Educators as an auditor of tutors, entertained the group by singing songs by various artists, including Nina Simone. At the close of her performance, Joyce Williams presented her with a gift of appreciation from the group. A business meeting followed a delicious lunch hosted by the Charles City Unit. Many thanks to all who planned and participated in the spring district meeting.



Mrs. Courtney Daley, our entertainer for our District C Spring Meeting



Pictured at District C Board Meeting Louise Carlton, Carol Wilson, Emmaline Page, Alvin Lomax, Joyce Williams, Alethia Thomas, and Hazel Charity

Alleghany Retried Teachers' Association

One of our guest speakers for the March meeting was Gary Wagner with the Lions Club. He talked about the Eye and Hearing Aide recovery center in Roanoke and about the Lions Club. Our Second guest speaker was Toby Jonas from Union Market Bank and Trust. He informed us on how to safeguard yourself against fraud and offer tips for safeguarding you on the internet. Our service project for March was to collect old eye glasses and empty prescription bottles. Karen Underwood donated a beautiful afghan which was raffled off for the scholarship fund. We formed two new committees which were the Hospitality Committee and the Community Service Committee. Our local membership has grown to 54 paid members.

In May we are able to give the four scholarships of \$650. The scholarships went to students at Alleghany High school and Covington High School. We invited the four scholarship recipients and their parents as our guests.

Chuck Swope from Central Atlantic Insurance spoke to us about changes in insurance. He was able to inform us about the new Medicare deduction and the deductions to Part D prescription plans for 2017.

Danville Retired Educators

The Danville Retired Teachers Association (DRTA) awarded four 2016 academic scholarships to the following graduating seniors form George Washington High School at its May 10, 2016, meeting held in the fellowship hall of the Melville Avenue Baptist Church. Each student received a \$500 scholarship. These monies are to be used by the students in the pursuit of a degree leading to a career in the teaching profession.



From the left Marissa Meadors, early childhood education major; Marisha Williams, music education major; Deloris Crews, DRTA president; Kameron Walker, music education major; and Ishmale Davis, music education major

District I

The District I Division of Virginia Retired Teachers Association held the spring meeting at the Abingdon Senior Center hosted by the Washington County Retired Teachers. Dr. Ron Diss, retired/ adjunct professor of Emory and Henry College was the Guest Speaker. He reminded the group of the legacy left by teachers. Our new district officers were installed and everyone had a wonderful meal and learned much about what happens when you retire as a Virginia teacher. Much thanks to our community donors who made our meeting enjoyable by contributing to door prizes and goodie bags.



Dr. Ron Diss



District I Officers

News From Around the Commonwealth

District G



Glenna Loving of Strasburg presented a program to District G of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association (VRTA) at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg recently. District G covers Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, Staunton/Waynesboro/Augusta County, Bath County, Highland County, Page County, and Shenandoah County.

Loving spoke about her research on Native Americans in the Shenandoah Valley, how she got the ideas for her children's books, the writing process, and how she got the books published. Her books are Shenandoah: Daughter of the Stars, a picture book suitable for young children and White Wolf and Shenandoah which is for older children. Loving was the author and the illustrator for both books. She is a retired instructional assistant who worked for Shenandoah County Public Schools for many years.

District G officers for 2015-17 are Karen Whetzel of New Market, president; Shirley Crawford of Verona, vice-president; Katherine Ralston of McDowell, secretary; and Jim Hines of Mt. Jackson, treasurer. Bea Morris of Harrisonburg is legislative chairperson. Membership in VRTA is open to any retired educator in the area; contact Karen Whetzel at [540-740-8589](tel:540-740-8589) for membership information.

Franklin County Retired Teachers Association

At the April meeting of the Franklin County Retired Teachers Association, member Susan Temple presented a program, "Take Charge of Your Health". She gave information about being an advocate for your health. In June the Director of Development for the Franklin County YMCA, Andrea Fansler, spoke to the group on what the YMCA has to offer retirees.

Susan Temple and Betty Huffman were re-elected as vice president and treasurer at the June meeting. They join President, Sylvia Hutto, and Secretary, Vicki Hodges as officers for 2016-17.



As a fund raising activity for the scholarship fund, the members sold raffle tickets for a patriotic lap quilt. Vicki Hodges and Betty Huffman donated the materials for the quilt and the quilting was done by Betty Huffman with the assistance of Sylvia Hutto. The raffle raised about \$400 through ticket sales to members and District P members at the spring meeting. Susan Martin of Fincastle was the winner of the lap quilt.

Franklin/Southampton

Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association completed its second yearly community service project. Each member purchased pencils, crayons, notebooks, paper, glue, folders and other items they thought students might need. In January they presented school supplies to Capron Elementary School in Southampton County. Members decided that this would be an appropriate time to replenish supplies to begin the New Year.



Ms. Dorothy Jones presents school supplies on behalf of Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association to Principal Mrs. Allison Frances.

Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers

Each spring the Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Association (R-HRTA) awards the W. Roland Galvin Scholarship to a Thomas Jefferson High School senior. This scholarship was established to honor the memory of W. Roland Galvin, retired TJHS science teacher/administrator and R-HRTA Finance Committee Chair.

On June 3, 2016, Mai Asia Brown was the recipient of this scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 presented at the TJHS Senior Awards Program. Miss Brown will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University this coming fall.



Barbara Ulschmid, Scholarship Chairperson, presents scholarship to Mai Asia Brown.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Hampton Retired Teachers Association

On June 8th, the annual HRTA scholarship luncheon meeting was held in the Embassy Suites Ballroom in Hampton, VA. In addition to the traditional business meeting, five scholarship recipients and their guests were introduced to the almost 100 attendees. \$1,000 HRTA Student Scholarships were awarded to Kasey Cordner (Phoebus HS) and Caitlin Gendron (Hampton HS), a \$1,000 Jacobs Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Anna Patterson (Hampton HS), a \$1,000 Jordan Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Amani Epps (Bethel HS) and a \$1,000 Instructional Assistant Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Christopher Duke (Tucker Capps ES). HCS Superintendent Dr. Jeffery Smith spoke after the presentations. Officers for 2016-2018 were installed: Linda Hunt Byrd, President; Joan Davis, President Elect; Dorothy Harrell, Vice-President; Corlease Sills, Recording Secretary; Rose Brown, Corresponding Secretary; Patricia Denton, Treasurer; Sandra Clements, Assistant Treasurer; Parliamentarian, Kathleen Brown. During the memorial service for members who died in 2016, candles were lit for Naomi Chadwick, Cindy Phillips and Margaret Sykes.



2016-2018 Officers (from left to right): Kathleen Brown, Parliamentarian; Joan Davis, President Elect; Linda Hunt Byrd, President; Patricia Denton, Treasurer.

Suffolk Retired Teachers Association

The Suffolk Retired Teachers had a most successful 2015-2016 year. The meetings were in October, March and June. Some of the accomplishment for the year included:

- *A Senior Health Fair held at the Salvation Army
- *School supplies donated to the Driver Elementary School
- *Paper cleaning, and office supplies provided for the Western Tidewater Free Clinic
- *Presentation of \$1000.00 Scholarship to Ariel Joy Salerno of Lakeland High School. Miss Salerno will be attending Randolph Macon College. Her major will be Chemistry/ Science Education. Her desire is to become a teacher.
- *Individual volunteer tutoring, mentoring, working with youth, caring for sick neighbors, friends, family, and others.
- *Representatives were in attendance at the Fall and Spring Virginia Retired Teachers Association Meetings and all of the District T meetings.

The Superintendent, Dr. Daren Whitley, made arrangements for the SRTA to have a permanent place to meet in the school system. The first meeting was in June at Booker T Washington Elementary School.

The Executive Board met before each meeting.

The President of SRTA, Mary W Copeland, serves with Iva Foust as Co-Historians.



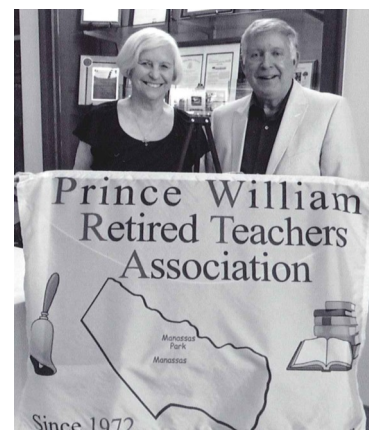
Marion Wright, Co-Chair Scholarship; Ariel Joy, Scholarship Recipient; Mary W. Copeland, President

Prince William Retired Teachers

Prince William Retired Teachers Co-Presidents Bruce and Lora Ker view scrap-books at the spring VRTA meeting at Blackstone.



Co-Presidents Lora and Bruce Ker greet new retirees.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Scholarships Awarded to Portsmouth Seniors

District T, composed of the cities of Chesapeake, Portsmouth, and Suffolk, recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to Tiara Benson, a senior at Woodrow Wilson High School. Tiara was an honor roll student throughout her high school years. She was involved in many school activities and had over 200 hours of community service.

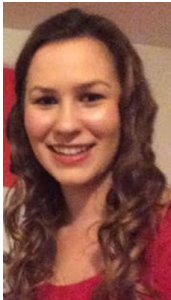
The Portsmouth Retired Educators Association also recognized two students with scholarships. Jamie Christina Nervil, a student at I.C. Norcom High School, received a \$350 scholarship. Jamie received many scholastic honors. She also volunteered in the Y-Street youth volunteer program and the National Honor Society Coat Drive.

Jordan Elyah Thornton, also from I.C. Norcom High School, received a \$250 scholarship. He has received numerous honors in both academics and sports.

The Portsmouth Retired Educators Association, Inc. is now accepting new members. You may contact Iva or Howard Foust by calling 757-630-9673 or 757-537-5166.

Shenandoah County Retired Teachers

The Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association awarded two \$1,000 scholarships at a recent dinner meeting. The first recipient was Christina Crider who graduated from Central High School and is a student at Virginia Tech. Her main area of study is career and technical education/family and consumer sciences. She will use the scholarship to complete a Master of Science degree in technical education. The second recipient was Brittany Crabill, also a graduate of Central High School. She has a BS degree in a non-teaching field, but will be completing a career switcher program to become a special education teacher. She works as a paraprofessional at Central High School in the special education department.



Christina Crider



Margaret Figgins and Brittany Crabill

Roanoke City Retired Educators

The Roanoke City Retired Educators Association has had a busy year filled with trips and speakers. Members took a fall trip to Apple Ridge Farm as guests of Director Peter Lewis where we toured the facility and enjoyed a delicious lunch. On May 3rd, President Bonnie Mann led a day trip to Mountain Lake, Smithfield Plantation, and Whitebarrel Winery. Teachers from Roanoke County, Floyd County, and Franklin County also participated in the trip.

At the March meeting, former Roanoke mayor, Nelson Harris spoke to the group about his new book on Roanoke history, *Then and Now*. On May 12th, the RCREA met at Covenant Presbyterian Church and welcomed guest speaker, Shannon Able, from the League of Older Americans. He discussed activities and programs available in Roanoke for retired persons and offered helpful hints for navigating the complexities of computer scams, identity theft, and long term life insurance. Janet Duncan conducted a moving "Remembrance Ceremony" for several members who had passed away this year and recognized their contributions to the organization. Patrick Henry student and aspiring teacher, Alyssa Lucas, was awarded a scholarship from RCREA President, Bonnie Mann, and scholarship chairman, Donna Lee.

After such a stellar year, members are eagerly looking forward to the fall meeting to be held September 8, 2016.



Alyssa Lucas accepting RCREA scholarship from President Bonnie Mann and chairman Donna Lee with her family



May 3rd trip to Mountain Lake, Smithfield Plantation, and Whitebarrel Winery.



Rockbridge County

Picture on left is a 100th birthday celebration. Picture on right is Jim Bradford who was installed as president for 2016-2018. Jim is a past president of VRTA.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Scott County Retired Teachers Association Awards Scholarships

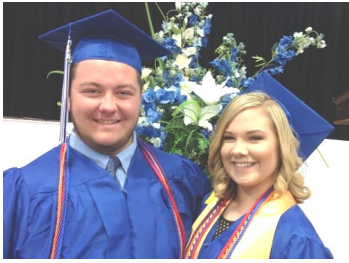
Scott County Retired Teachers Association recently awarded a total of \$6,000 in academic scholarships to six outstanding Scott County high school graduates.

Those receiving scholarships at Gate City High School were Tyler Sampson Oakes and Haley Renee Renfro. Tyler is the son of Tim and Kim Oakes of Gate City, VA. Tyler plans to attend Mountain Empire Community College and complete the General Studies university parallel transfer program. Haley is the daughter of Troy and Leslie Renfro of Gate City, VA. Haley plans to attend King University in the fall and aspires to become a high school English teacher.

Receiving scholarships at Rye Cove High School were Amanda Paige Dockery and Savannah Brooke Bowen. Amanda is the daughter of David and Pamela Dockery of Duffield, VA. Amanda will enroll at the University of Virginia's College at Wise and plans to major in mathematics in order to become an elementary math teacher. Savannah is the daughter of Thomas and Amy Bowen of Duffield, VA. Savannah also plans to attend the University of Virginia's College at Wise to pursue a degree in nursing.

Seniors receiving scholarships at Twin Springs High School were Kaylee Danae Payne and Patrick Wayne Deel. Kaylee is the daughter of Joan Payne of Fort Blackmore, VA. Kaylee's plans are to enroll at the University of Virginia's College at Wise and study English as a second language. Patrick is the son of Steven Deel of Coeburn, VA. Patrick also plans to attend the University of Virginia's College at Wise and major in nursing.

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.



Tyler Oakes and Haley Renfro



Amanda Dockery and Savannah Bowen



Kaylee Payne



Patrick Deel

Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association



Officers for 2016-2018 (Left to right) Past President - Karen Whetzel, President - Maryann Sherry, Vice President - Ramona Daughterty, Secretary - Virginia Stultz, Treasurer - Pamela Green

Karen Whetzel, outgoing president, presenting a thank you gift to Beverly Polk from Shenandoah County Public Schools Food Services who has catered the SCRTA spring banquet for the past several years; Polk recently celebrated her 50th year with SCPS!



Washington County Retired Teachers Association

The Washington County Retired Teachers Association honored an area student from each of the Washington County high schools who aspires to be an educator. They were recognized at the association's luncheon in May. The scholarship was awarded during the individual school awards assembly. The recipients of the scholarships are Emily Stinson, Abingdon High School, who plans to major in elementary education, Heaven Necessary, Holston High School, who plans to major in elementary education, Daphne Hawkins, John S. Battle High School, who plans to major in history education, and Hannah DeBarge, Patrick Henry High School, who plans to major in political science. We wish these young people the best!



Scholarship Winners (Left to right) Emily Stinson, Heaven Necessary, Daphne Hawkins, Hannah DeBarge

News From Around the Commonwealth

Winchester Retired Teachers

Winchester Retired Teachers have been very involved in several community projects during the last year. We began our 2015-2016 community projects by raising and donating \$1,000.00 toward the building of a free-standing cancer center to be built on the grounds of the Winchester Medical Center. WRTA members were given an overview of the building campaign and its progress by Kevin J. Callanan, CFRE, the Executive Director of the campaign. The purpose of the new cancer center is to provide all cancer services in one location and under one roof-medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology, clinical trial office, support services and more. Our \$1,000.00 was presented to Mr. Callanan immediately following his presentation. At our December meeting, we were able to raise over \$700.00 for our Boys and Girls Club. This club serves students after school and on weekends and even provides summer activities. These are provided at a nominal cost to families. The money was used to provide art supplies, games, batteries and other items on their wish list. These were delivered in time for the Christmas holiday. In March, we began our annual scholarship drive. We were able to collect \$3000.00 for this scholarship which was presented to Jesus Rojo Trejo, a graduating Handley High School student. Jesus is continuing his education at Eastern Mennonite University where he hopes to become an educator. In addition to this fundraiser, the WRTA gave a \$500.00 donation to our Free Medical Clinic which helps those in need of medicine and medical attention, but are lacking the financial resources. Winchester's retired teachers have been truly generous with their community assistance.

News from Loudoun County Retired Teachers

Ten members from Loudoun County Retired Educators Association volunteered to count and pack school supplies for the Kids R First Project in Reston, VA. Huge boxes were packed and sent to schools in Loudoun County and Fairfax County Virginia.

We also have monthly movie dates in Reston, VA. LREA members socialize with coffee and doughnuts before the movie.

LREA members enjoyed the artwork at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley and then went shopping and to lunch in downtown Winchester, Virginia, June 29, 2016.



From left- Cindy Hollingsworth, Nancy Vollmer, Connie Wilke, Sue Clark, Debbie Valcor at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Loudoun Retired Educators Association
May 5, 2016.

From left- Loretta Hall, Connie Welke, Linda Greeley, Nancy Vollmer, Maureen Vanderslice, Alice Gildersleeve, Bertha Tiffany.



York County Retired Teacher Association

The York Retired Teacher Association, has awarded a scholarship for \$1400 to Emily Wright, a graduate of Tabb High, York County. Emily will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall and will major in elementary education and mathematics.



Pictured is Sheila Rogers, President of YRTA, Emily and her mother, Joy Wright.

Mecklenburg Retired Teachers' Association

The Mecklenburg Retired Teachers' Association held their April 14th meeting at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Clarksville, Virginia. The unit elected new officers for the 2016-2018 calendar. They are Kathy Williams, President; Dora Garner, Vice-President; L. Dianne Turner, Secretary; Priscilla Walker, Treasurer and Marjorie Hudson, Assistant Treasurer. The unit held discussions on updating our constitution to be in line with District D and the state constitution; increasing our membership and stressing the importance of keeping proper records concerning community hours and With Our Youth hours. Several suggestions were given as to ways to help not only in the schools but also in the community at large that would qualify under these headings.

District E

The spring meeting of District E was held at Ernie's Restaurant in South Boston in June. The Danville unit had the most members present with 11. They also presented an outstanding scholarship recipient Ishmael Davis who just happened to be a former leadership student of District E President Bobbi Hudson. Ishmael gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moving Necrology service was conducted for our deceased members. After a short fun program by Bobbi, the group had a business session approving the budget, as well. Each unit was given the numbers the VRTA had for membership and checked the rolls for accuracy, finding many errors. The next meeting of the District E Board will be on August 24 in Danville at the Western Sizzling at 10 AM. After rewarding centerpieces and favors, the group left well fed, happy and full of fellowship and laughter.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Patrick County Retired Teachers

Patrick County Retired Teachers enjoy an evening of celebrating each year when they gather for their Appreciation Dinner. Entertainment is provided by a former student and certificates are presented to those who have accumulated hours of volunteer service.

PCRTA members have again been busy. They were involved in the AARP Food Drive collecting 1562 units of food and more than \$1200 in monetary donations for a local soup kitchen and the Patrick County Food Bank. Some assisted with the "Feed the Funnel" project filling over 20,000 bags of food.

Last year retired teachers organized a Book Club that meets monthly. The meeting is following by a Sing-A-Long at the local nursing home on the same day. Furthermore, retired teachers provide birthday bags for residents at the nursing home.

Two special activities carried out are a picnic for PARC, a facility for the mildly handicapped, and a visit to the Developmental Center for severely handicapped clients. Other volunteers visit these two facilities on a regular basis to provide entertainment. Finally the year ends with a walk for Relay for Life.

Patrick County Retired Teachers served 1726 hours to youth in the county. They funded cases of head lice medication to the schools, provided for Christmas Cheer, donated to 4-H scholarships as well as scholarships for Kids on the Move, another 4-H program. In addition some retired teachers served as volunteer helpers for this event. A \$500 scholarship is presented to a senior who plans to make a career in teaching. Finally, members carry out many other projects from supplying food for backpacks to making balloon animals for children.

The Patrick County Retired Teachers make a difference in the lives of youth and citizens in their community.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(All Members of the Board of Directors must be members of the VRTA)

VRTA President, President-elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

All past VRTA Presidents

District Presidents

VRTA Committee Chairpersons

Parliamentarian (ex-officio)

Editor of Publications (ex-officio)

Reminders for Treasurers

I am sorry that I will not be attending the Fall Meeting on October 3-4 in Richmond, since I had a prior commitment. Helen Tippie, past president of VRTA will be conducting the Treasurer's breakout session on October 3 and will be passing out Treasurer's Handbooks, membership rolls and forms to any local unit treasurers who may need them.

Please remember that VRTA dues are now \$20 per member, or \$200 for a life membership. You all do a great job of collecting and remitting your dues to the state and I really appreciate your cooperation. Please encourage your local members to join at the state level, as every member counts! A list of benefits of membership in VRTA is included in the treasurer's handbook.

If you are a part of the VRTA IRS Tax Umbrella, please remember to submit your e-postcard to the IRS to fulfill your reporting obligation to the IRS. The deadline is November 15 annually. In addition, please submit a copy of your approved budgets for 2016-2017, signed and dated by two officers to me no later than December 31, 2016. We are required by the IRS to keep these on file for possible auditing.

I appreciate your continuing cooperation in sending me the names of deceased members so that I can remove them from the VRTA membership data base. Thanks for all that you do.

My contact information is listed below or can be found on the VRTA website.

Weldon Martin, Treasurer
hooman4949@gmail.com
 540.473.2636
 1049 Martins Lane
 Fincastle, VA 24090



Email Notification for Newsletter

We continue to add names of members who wish to receive newsletters by email notification. Some of the emails have been returned to us. If you still want this notification, send a correct email address to: Weldon Martin (hooman4949@gmail.com) or you can mail it to: 1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Newsletter Articles

Because of the change in location of the VRTA Fall Meeting, the deadline for this newsletter was changed. I tried to notify everyone of the change, but if you did not receive that information, I apologize. I am receiving many articles from the districts and units. Unfortunately space is limited, so I am finding that I am having to do some editing. If I receive an article after the deadline, I am not likely able to include it in the newsletter. I need to remind you that if you include pictures with your article, permission to use those pictures is needed. Professional photographs cannot be used because of copyright issues. The deadline for the Spring 2017 newsletter will be **Monday, February 20, 2017.**

Susan Martin, Newsletter Editor

Beginning a New Journey for VRTA at the Double Tree in Midlothian, Virginia



October 2-4, 2016

IMPORTANT MESSAGE—Fall Conference

October 2-4, 2016

VRTA President—Nina McClanahan

The Virginia Retired Teachers' Association is beginning a new journey. Since the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center closed in May, VRTA's Fall Conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Richmond-Midlothian. Leigh McKay, Arrangement's Committee chair, Helen Tippie, Glenn Pair and Louise Mont-Adams visited DoubleTree and negotiated the new contract. Phyllis Eastridge, our Immediate Past President, signed the contract in late May. Now it is time for VRTA Members to step up and make this change a memorable journey.

Benjamin McCartney, President-Elect; Rebecca Goshorn, Technology Chair; Glenn Pair, Chaplain and Arrangement's Committee member and I met with Robin Stannard, Convention Services Manager on July 13, 2016, to discuss the Fall Conference arrangements. Once all the information was compiled, I used NRTA's Conference Line for an Executive Committee Meeting to finalize details for the Fall Conference. The conference call participants also included members of the Arrangement's Committee and the Legislative Chair. After a lengthy discussion, we are now ready to begin our journey.

Our specific goal is to make our state conference an event that creates excitement and enthusiasm. We want to encourage our members to come to Richmond and take part in a journey that leads to new friendships, new information and rewarding experiences. VRTA's information is always being updated. The National Retired Teachers' Association (NRTA), AARP's Educator Community, provides us with onsite training sessions and webinars. Our symbol contains the words "Knowledge is Power." Join us in Richmond and gain the knowledge that will help make your unit or district more powerful.

VRTA's Fall Conference (October 2-4, 2016) format has changed to match our new location. The Executive Committee will still meet on Sunday evening from 7:00-9:00 PM and the Board of Directors on Monday morning. For the first time VRTA's Conference will begin with a special event at 12:00 noon on Monday. This event includes a banquet, keynote speaker and awards. The cost of the banquet is included in the \$60.00 registration fee. After a short break those attending the conference will have the opportunity to attend a variety of breakout sessions. All of the sessions are designed around topics that have been requested by our members. The sessions will conclude at 5:00 PM.

Tuesday's event will include an update from the Virginia Retirement System, a Memorial Tribute to our deceased members, a short business session and a guest speaker. The Fall Conference will end at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

With our new location members have ample opportunities for dining, shopping, and sightseeing. Individual attendees make their room reservations directly with Hilton at 1-800-222-Tree or 804-379-3800 and request Virginia Retired Teachers' Association rate. The VRTA room rate is \$99.00 +13.3% state and local tax. The maximum occupancy is 4 individuals per room. This rate is good three days prior and 3 days after the conference. The cut-off date to make a reservation is September 17, 2016.

I want to encourage all of you to attend VRTA's Fall Conference and be an active member in the organization that is designed to support all retired school personnel. It is our duty to do all that is in our power to keep VRS strong for future generations. If it had not been for the dedicated work of the generations before us, we would not have the financial security that a Defined Benefit Plan and Social Security has provided us.

A new conference location gives us the opportunity for change. Make your room reservation, complete the registration form and make this journey with us. New faces and new ideas will make this a conference to remember. If you have never been to a VRTA Conference, you are in for a real treat.

Visit VRTA's Website at VRTA.org



Visit the NRTA Website at:
www.aarp.org

Fall Conference Information

Since our Fall Conference is being held at DoubleTree, our format has changed. We are not planning a group breakfast. The hotel has a restaurant and the rooms have a coffee pot and microwave. Breakfast is on your own both Monday and Tuesday mornings. A banquet is planned for lunch on Monday. The cost of the banquet is included with the registration fee. The hotel is located in an area with lots of nearby restaurants. Dinner is on your own for Monday. You can either go out or eat at the hotel's restaurant. There will be a list of restaurants and their locations in your registration folder. The conference will conclude at 12:00 noon on Tuesday.

The Monday breakout sessions are mostly based on suggestions you listed on the spring evaluation sheets. Senior Travel, Training for Unit & District Presidents, Facebook & Smart Phones, Volunteer Opportunities, Community Service (WOY & MAM), Tips for Treasurers, Legislative Workshop, Story Telling, Concept of Aging, VRTA Insurance, and a hands-on activity are being planned.

MONDAY'S BANQUET MENUS

CHOOSE ONE AND MARK YOUR PREFERENCE ON THE REGISTRATION FORM

Sliced Flat Iron Steak--Served with Wild Mushroom Demi-Glace, Fresh Seasonal Vegetables and Oven Roasted Potatoes.

Tuscan Grilled Chicken Breast—Italian Herb Crusted Chicken Served with Olive Oil and Garlic and Finished with Tomato Coulis, Served with Oven Roasted Potatoes.

Both Meals Include

Mixed Green Garden Salad with Choice of Two Dressings

Rolls & Butter

Carrot Cake

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Herbal Tea, Iced Tea

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON RICHMOND-MIDLOTHIAN
1021 KOGER CENTER BOULEVARD*RICHMOND, VA 23235

804-379-2763
DIRECTIONS

From Washington D.C. Traveling I-95 South—Take Exit 79 (Powhite Parkway—195) Keep to left and follow Powhite to Midlothian Turnpike (Route 60—West). Follow Midlothian Turnpike 2 miles to Koger Center Boulevard. Take right to hotel.

From North Carolina Traveling I-95 North—Take Exit 67 (Chippenham Parkway). Follow 10 miles to (Route 60) Midlothian Turnpike West. Five miles to Koger Center Boulevard. Take right to hotel.

From Charlottesville—Traveling I-64 East—Take exit for Route 288—Will be on the right—Just before the I-295 Exit. Stay of Rt. 288 across the James River. Second exit after the river crossing will be Midlothian Turnpike (Route 60). Take exit east. Travel approximately four miles. You will see the Chesterfield Town Center Mall. Go two additional blocks. Be in far left hand lane and turn at traffic light onto Koger Center Boulevard. Take right to hotel.

From Virginia Beach and Richmond International Airport—Take I-64 West. Follow signs to I-95. Do not take I-295N. Stay on I-95 North to Powhite Parkway (195, Exit 79). Follow Powhite Parkway to Midlothian Turnpike (Route 60-West) for 2 miles to Koger Center Boulevard. Take right to hotel.

The DoubleTree by Hilton Richmond-Midlothian is located 22 miles from the airport and 11 miles from Downtown Richmond. Powhite Parkway is also listed as Route 76, south of the James River. Powhite Parkway is a toll road. First toll after crossing the James River is \$0.70 and the second toll at Midlothian Turnpike is \$0.25.

Session Leader at Fall Conference



Joanita Bbaale Senoga graduated from Uganda's Kibuli Teacher Training College in 1991 and began teaching second grade in a public school in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. As a teacher, her awareness of the deep unfairness of mandatory school fees grew, and she agonized over her second grade students leaving school in tears because their parents could not pay the fees.

In 1994, Joanita founded the Circle of Peace School (COPS) to offer education to students regardless of their ability to pay. She erected classrooms, taught and administered the school until she was forced to flee her native land.

In 1996 Joanita found herself in Richmond, Virginia, where she built a new life for herself and her two daughters. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2006 through the University of Richmond's School of Continuing Studies and became a US citizen in 2010.

In the United States, Joanita's passion for expanding educational opportunities led her to found Circle of Peace International (COPI). Joanita's deepest purpose is working with Americans and Ugandans to expand educational opportunities in both countries and to build cultural awareness and understanding between the two nations. She regularly speaks to community groups about Circle of Peace School and Circle of Peace.

VRTA Fall Meeting

October 2-4, 2016

DoubleTree Midlothian, Richmond, Virginia

Note: Registration fees are per person. Each person attending the conference should fill out a registration form.

1. Registration: Send a completed registration form and check for **\$60.00**,

payable to VRTA, to Leigh McKay, 3025 McVitty Forest Dr., #209, Roanoke, VA 24018,
postmarked by **Saturday, September 24, 2016**.

The registration fee includes all the organizational costs of the conference as well as the Monday Banquet at 12:00 noon. Please indicate your choice of entrée for the banquet.

- Tuscan Chicken
- Flank Steak
- Special Diet (vegetarian, gluten free, diabetic, no pork, no peanuts)

2. Room Registration: Attendees make room reservations no later than **September 17, 2016** by contacting the Hilton at **1-800-222-Tree** or **804-379-3800**. Attendees request the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association rate of \$99.00/night plus state and local taxes. This rate is good for up to 4 people per room. Additionally, this room rate is good 3 days prior to our event and 3 days after our event.

3. Personal Information for Registration:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

District and Unit: _____

4. Media Release Form: I hereby give my permission for Virginia Retired Teachers Association, to use my name, photo, and/or email address (as specified above), on/in any VRTA website, newsletter or facebook page, whether it be state, district, or unit.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

5. Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

6. Banner/Scrapbook Information: District and local banners to be displayed in the banquet room at the convention must be at the registration table by **10:00 AM, Monday, October 2, 2016** in order for them to be hung by the hotel staff.

- I am bringing a banner for District ____.
- I am bringing a banner for Unit _____.

Scrapbooks will be displayed on a table near the registration table.

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

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Celebrate Your Unit's History

Where did your unit get its start? Do you know? The time is now to begin researching your unit's history. As co-historians, Mary Copeland and Iva Foust would like for you to begin your research today and send us an update citing outstanding awards received by members and your unit during the past ten years.

VRTA was started in 1935 by Dr. Adair in the Richmond area. How ironic it is to return to that area in the fall of 2016 after 50+ years. Meetings have been held in Blackstone, Virginia, the past few decades. As we approach our 81st anniversary in the fall of 2016, let's take a look back.

Did you know that?

1. The Virginia Retired Teachers Association was formed in Richmond, Virginia, as an affiliate of the Virginia Education Association by Dr. Cornelia Storrs Adair.
2. In 1950 VRTA became affiliated with NRTA.
3. In 1957 blacks and whites met together.
4. Dr. Andrus started AARP in 1958. In 1968 the VRTA divided the state into 18 districts and local units. Local units in the districts began to form everywhere.
5. In 1969 VRTA had its first lifetime members.
6. Two meetings a year began in 1975.
7. In 1982 NRTA merged with AARP.
8. VEA ended its relationship with VRTA in 1990.
9. Virginia won third place "With Our Youth" 2000, NRTA.
10. Between 1999 and 2008 several units were honored or won NRTA Awards: Brunswick- twice, Sussex, Henrico, Patrick -twice and Suffolk.
11. There were special celebrations for the 70th (2005), 75th (2010), 80th (2015) VRTA Anniversaries.
12. VRTA membership in 2012 was 6,743.
13. VRTA increased its membership dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00 starting in 2016-2017.

The history notes will continue in the Spring Newsletter.

Co-Historians: Iva Foust and Mary W Copeland