



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2017 Edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Nina McClanahan



Members of the *Virginia Retired Teachers Association* have been the voice of Virginia's retired school personnel since 1935. Dr. Cornelia Storrs Adair and fifteen retirees met on November 28, 1935, in Richmond, Virginia, and formed VRTA as an affiliate of the Virginia Education Association. For 55 years VRTA was affiliated with VEA. VEA ended its relationship with VRTA in 1990. Members of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association continue to be the voice of Virginia's retired teachers.

VRTA is affiliated with NRTA: AARP's Educator Community. Since we are an all-volunteer organization we depend on the resources and training that they provide. I have been on the VRTA Executive Committee for over three years and so far, I have attended four training sessions. Benjamin McCartney, president-elect, has already attended a leadership conference in Chicago. In September he and Bea Morris, VRTA's legislative chair will be attending an advocacy conference in Washington, D.C. We strive to keep our voice clear and our information accurate. VRTA wants to be the connection to reliable information for all retired school personnel.

By attending the *Fall Conference*, you will see first-hand the work that AARP Virginia does for all Virginians over 50. Natalie Snider, AARP Program Specialist, will present a workshop on *Livable Communities*. This presentation is driven by research that shows the vast majority of people age 50 and older want to stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Also, Genea Luck, Associate State Director Multicultural Outreach, and Donna Newman Robinson, Community Ambassador, will conduct a session titled *Prepare to Care*. This workshop provides you with information and resources to help you better care for yourself and the ones you love. It is vital for VRTA and AARP Virginia to stay well connected.

I want to encourage all of you to attend the VRTA Fall Conference at Doubletree in Midlothian, Virginia, on October 2-3, 2017. Awards will be presented; deceased members will be honored and VRS representatives will give an update. There will also be a luncheon, a keynote speaker and the opportunity to attend three sessions on Monday afternoon. Attend the Fall Conference and become an advocate for all retired school personnel.

All activities for the *VRTA Fall Conference* will be on the first floor at Doubletree. Registration will be held in the James River Corridor beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, October 2, 2017. The luncheon will begin at 11:50 in the James River Ballroom (Parlor H). September 15, 2017, is the cut-off date for making a room reservation at Doubletree. I encourage you to make your room reservation early and send the VRTA Registration to Leigh McKay. VRTA depends on you!

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"No one can tell your truth quite like you can. The lobbyist may never have studied your trade. The politician and the bureaucrat may never have taught a single class. That's a true story that you, and you alone, can tell. Your government representatives need to hear it from you."



VRTA Delegate Assembly — April 2017

Telling Your Story- How to Lobby for What You Want

by Bonnie Atwood, VRTA Lobbyist

You've got a new state law to get passed-or maybe there's a law that you want to keep from being passed. It's an important one. It affects your industry, your livelihood, your family, your life.

You elect a representative to travel to Richmond to present your case. You have a professional lobbyist. You pay a university professor to present a study packed with facts and figures. You wait. That's all there is to it, right? Not quite.

Finding a professional spokesman is very effective, but you've left out an important part of the equation-yourself. How can you become a part of the winning equation? Some of the answers to that question can be found in a very useful book by Gerry Spence, the Wyoming attorney who has never lost a criminal trial. You've seen him on TV in his famous buckskin jacket. The bestseller is *How to Argue and Win Every Time* (St. Martin's Griffin, 1995). This article is an adaptation from that book.

Being Credible

"Fancy words and gilded phrases usually don't prevail," says Spence. "Always the argument is more in the person than the words, more in *being* credible than in *appearing* credible." That's why you need to show up, to be there, to be counted. In letters, in phone calls, in person. When your lobbyist tells the legislature that you care about something, you have to be there showing that it's true, that you do care. The lawmakers know that you can't be there all the time, like the lobbyist can, but on those days when you can come, or call, or write, it counts for a lot. It backs up what your lobbyist has been saying, especially to the legislators from your home district!

No one can tell your truth quite like you can. The lobbyist may never have studied your trade. The politician and the bureaucrat may never have taught a single class. That's a true story that you, and you alone, can tell. Your government representatives need to hear it from you.

"Saying how you feel," advises Spence, "is powerful."

How to Tell a Story

"All you need to know is what you already know." Spence reassures us that we are all experts on the story of our own lives.

Every argument- every strong argument-is a story. Storytelling has been the simplest, and yet the best, method of teaching and persuading from the beginning of time. We all-children and adults (yes, including lawmakers) are captivated by stories. Television ads are little stories; jokes and songs are stories; the lawyer's closing arguments are stories. We love stories. The most sincere, the most effective, and the easiest arguments to make are stories. You'll spend time in preparation, but you don't have to memorize it, because you already know it. You already know the whole story.

The legislator may be very interested in the facts and figures, the studies and the statistics. But he will be more likely to remember your story-the "word pictures" that you bring to the issue-why you want this bill to be passed; why your colleagues and your family need this bill to be passed.

What Do I Want

"Ah, the power of the honest who will but tell us *who they are* and *what they want!*" says Spence.

In the world of legislation, this is where your story begins and ends. What is the story that best makes the argument? What happened to you? What did you see happen to someone else? This gives a structure to your talk that is easy to prepare, and that your legislator will not soon forget.

You and your lobbyist should work as a team to bolster your story with research. You'll alter your speech; you'll edit your letter. Your lobbyist will probably advise you to shorten it, and maybe add some words of appreciation to the legislator for prior support. But your basic story structure is still there. Your story is the unique, memorable testimony that you bring to the discussion table.

The Other Side of the Argument

Preparing your argument should entail looking at the other side, too. It's wise to anticipate what the other side will say. What are the expenses involved? What are the alternative solutions? What other groups have opposing interests? Do they have good points to make? Is their information up-to-date and accurate? Always be prepared to discuss the other side.

Telling Your Story, continued

Avoid Sarcasm, Scorn, and Ridicule

Not that everything has to be stiff and serious, but Spence advises you to use humor cautiously. And, though it may be difficult at times, hold back insult. Says Spence: "No one admires the cynic, the scoffer, the mocker, the small, and the petty. Giving respect to one's opponent elevates us. Those who insult and slight do so from low places."

Four Questions

Gerry Spence suggests that as you prepare your argument, you ask yourself these four questions:

- What do we want?
- What is the principal argument that supports us?
- Why should we win what we want? That is, what facts, what reasons, what justice exists to support the thesis?
- And, at last, what is the story that best makes all of the above arguments?

Reminders for Treasurers

Our local unit treasurers do an amazing and often under-appreciated job of handling membership records and collecting dues for our thousands of VRTA members. We depend on them to help our organization remain strong and vibrant and I greatly appreciate their hard work and cooperation.

Treasurers are encouraged to do all that you can to promote membership in VRTA when you are collecting dues. There is definitely strength in numbers and we can all be assured that representatives of our VRS take note of the number of members belonging to VRTA and that our elected representatives at the state level keep an eye on that as well. Help us to keep our VRTA voice strong in Virginia so that hard earned benefits can be protected.

If you have not already picked up one, the 2017-2018 VRTA Handbook for Local and District Treasurers is available for pick up at the Fall Meeting in Midlothian. Upon request, I will be happy to mail one to any of the local or district treasurers who have not received it or cannot pick one up at the Fall Meeting.

If you are a part of the VRTA IRS Tax Umbrella, please remember to submit your e-post card to the IRS to fulfill your reporting obligation to the IRS. The deadline for filing is November 15 annually and you must file the e-post card in order to maintain your tax-exempt status. In addition, please submit a copy of your approved budgets for 2017-2018, signed and dated by two officers prior to the deadline of December 31, 2017. We are required by the IRS to keep these on file in case of auditing.

Treasurers are asked to continue the good job that you do of submitting the names of VRTA deceased members so that I can remove them from the rolls in a timely fashion.

My contact information is listed below and can be found on the VRTA website. The best way to contact me is by email.

Weldon Martin, Treasurer
hooman4949@gmail.com
540-473-2636
1049 Martins Lane

Reminder — Teacher Stories

I am still accepting teacher stories. Put your memories on paper and email to me at pneastridge@embarqmail or mail to 2789 Wayside Road, Stuart, VA 24171.

Phyllis Eastridge

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

Charitable Contribution Committee

The 2017 VRTA Charitable Contributions Committee consisting of chair, Becky Goshorn, District R, Hannah Kern Guinn, District O, and Patricia Hogston, District K, reviewed twelve charities that were recommended by the membership. The goal was to select worthy organizations that serve all areas of Virginia. Of those reviewed, two had received VRTA assistance in the past and were recommended for continued assistance. Of the remaining ten, four were selected to receive funds in 2017. The committee recommended and the VRTA Delegate Assembly passed the motion that \$100 each be given from VRTA to these six organizations for a grand total of \$600 contributed. A thumbnail sketch of each selected organization is provided. Please visit the websites for additional information. Should you wish to recommend an organization for future consideration or serve on the committee, please email the chair at bygosh@comcast.net.

American Red Cross- Virginia Region (<http://www.redcross.org/local/virginia>)

The American Red Cross in the Virginia Region serves “118 independent cities and counties across the state with a population of 5.8 million. In the last year, they have responded to 1,437 local disasters including home fires, provided 15,935 emergency services for 4,634 military members and their families, provided 137 international communication services for 50 families, mobilized 3,923 volunteers, enrolled 70,801 individuals in preparedness health and safety courses and provided 405,349 total services in communities across the state.”

AARP Foundation (<http://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/our-work/>)

“For many Americans age 50 and older, a single event – a lost job, a health crisis, the loss of a spouse or partner – can quickly lead to catastrophic circumstances on many fronts. We don’t want anyone to have to choose between eating and keeping the lights on or seeking medical care. That’s why AARP Foundation has identified four interrelated priority areas where we can have the greatest impact: hunger, income, housing, and isolation. This work is supported by a longstanding commitment to legal advocacy on behalf of older Americans everywhere.”

Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Policy (www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org)

“The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis provides credible, independent and accessible information and analyses of fiscal and economic issues facing Virginia with particular attention to the impacts on low- and moderate-income persons. Their research is organized into three issue areas: **Budget, Tax & Fiscal Policy.**” Their information assists our legislative committee that those of the General Assembly in determining actual program costs and consequences.”

Legal Aid and Justice Alliance for Virginia’s Students (<https://www.justice4all.org/justchildren-program/alliance-for-virginias-students/>)

“The LAJC battles poverty and injustice by solving critical legal problems for individuals and communities. Then they use what was learned from those efforts to battle identify, investigate and battle systemic injustices. The LAJC is committed to providing a full range of services to clients including services that state and federal governments choose not to fund. They utilize a mix of zealous representation, group and class litigation, community organizing, policy advocacy and media relations.”

VAPAP for VA News (vpap.org)

“The nonprofit Virginia Public Access Project connects Virginians to nonpartisan information about Virginia politics in easily understood ways. Its singular focus is to give Virginians the information they need to make informed decisions. VPAP’s approach is grounded in facts taken directly from public documents such as campaign finance reports, election returns, conflicts disclosures and lobbyist registrations. VPAP breaks down the silos of government data and weaves in other information such as newspaper articles. This integrated approach provides the public with unique and valuable insights on politicians and issues that impact their families and communities.”

Virginia Voice (virginiavoice.org)

“A Nonprofit Audio Reading and Information Service designed specifically for the benefit of Individuals who are unable to independently read print material due to a vision impairment or other disability.”

DON'T MISS IT!

When I was in school, my dad often said, "I don't know why you always have to be the first one there and the last one to leave." My answer always was, "I don't want to miss anything!" Teacher types are curious by nature. They want to know things, and they want more than surface level knowledge. They want to know how things work and why they are the way they are.

On Monday afternoon October 2, there will be some interesting answers to what, where, how, when, and why in the Legislative Workshop at the fall VRTA Conference. Led by Chris Duncombe, policy analyst for The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, and Bonnie Atwood, our VRTA lobbyist, the two-fold workshop is titled Feed the Pig and Crack the Code. Now, don't we all want to know what's involved in doing these two things??

On Tuesday morning, the VRS staff will make a presentation to the assembly. Where else do you have an opportunity to hear these people and to ask questions of those who are directly responsible for operating our retirement system??

Some interesting stuff will be going on October 2-3, so come early and stay late. I know you won't want to miss anything!
Bea Morris, Legislative Chair

VRTA LOBBY DAY REGISTRATION**Wednesday, January 31, 2018****(DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING – JAN. 8, 2018)**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

UNIT _____ DISTRICT _____

Are you spending the night of January 30 at the Holiday Inn Express on Cary St.?

Yes _____ No _____

Photo Release: I grant my permission to VRTA to use my photograph on any VRTA media (newsletter, website, facebook).

Yes _____ No _____

By January 8, send the registration form information to:

Bea Morris

2669 Ralston Road

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

beam1340@verizon.net

540-867-5109

A block of rooms has been reserved for VRTA on January 30, 2018, at the Holiday Inn Express, 201 East Cary St., Richmond, VA 23219.

Make your reservation no later than January 8 by calling 804-788-1600.

Cost: Double Room - \$114.00 + 13.3% tax = \$129.16

Included in the cost: free underground parking, free shuttle to dinner on Tuesday night, free shuttle to the Capitol and back on Wednesday, hot continental breakfast on Wednesday morning (Please make your reservation early. You can cancel later if you cannot attend.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING JANUARY 31??

Some people make things happen.

Some people watch what's happening.

Some people don't know what's happening.

Join those who make things happen at the VRTA Lobby Day on January 31, 2018.

Details to follow on the VRTA website, in emails, and in the Creekside E-Newsletter

Send in the VRTA Lobby Day Registration Form early.

CONFERENCE DATES

FALL CONFERENCE—OCTOBER 2-3, 2017
(Cut-off date for room reservation is Sept. 15, 2017).
SPRING DELEGATE ASSEMBLY—April 23-24, 2018
(Cut-off date for room reservation is April 6, 2018).

SPRING NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for Spring 2018 Newsletter Articles—
Friday, March 2, 2018.

Send articles and pictures to Susan Martin at:
susanmartin730@gmail.com

or

1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090

News From Around the Commonwealth

Alexandria Retired Teachers Association

In February the Director of the African American Museum, Audrey Davis, spoke about her involvement with the PBS MERCY STREET television show. In March we had a woman impersonate a suffragette and she showed us a PowerPoint presentation about the movement and the Women's Lorton Prison Memorial. In April we had the author, Connie Lapallo speak about her third Jamestown book, *The Sun Is But a Morning Star*. On May 15 we had our annual ARTA luncheon with House Delegate Herring speaking. On May 31 our annual TC Williams scholarship was given to Anijah Willis who will attend Hampton University in the fall.

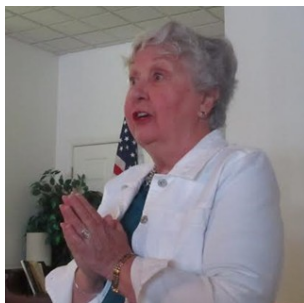


Scholarship recipient
Anijah Willis

District G

Virginia Retired Teachers Association District G held its spring meeting on Tuesday, May 16, at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg, VA. Guest speaker Rosemarie Palmer (retired JMU Professor) spoke on the Newtown Rosenwald School near Elkton, VA. Historical Marker Project. At the business meeting, a moment of silence was held for the late Shirley Crawford, of Verona, District G Vice President and past Augusta Retired Educators Association president. Reports were given by these attendees at the Virginia Retired Teachers Association Spring Delegate Assembly: Karen Whetzel, President Marcia Elliott, Jacqueline Stephens; and Bea Morris. Morris, who is state Legislative chair as well as Legislative Chair for District G, presented a legislative report.

District G membership is open to retired educators from anywhere; contact Karen Whetzel for more information at kswhetzel@gmail.com or 540-740-8589. The next District G meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, at Traditions.



Rosemarie Palmer

Allegheny Retired Teachers Association

The Allegheny Retired Teachers Association has focused on three main areas this past year: service projects, personal and professional development, and membership expansion.

Service projects are ongoing throughout the year and the following is a list of the most notable: collection of food and monetary donations for the local food pantries; collection of glasses and hearing aids in conjunction with the Lions Club; collection of prescription bottles for the Matthew 25 Ministries; collection of school supplies and monetary donations for local elementary schools; collection of toys, cleaning supplies and monetary donations for the Christmas Mother program; and presentation of scholarships to two area graduates.

In order to foster personal and professional growth, members are encouraged to attend District "P" meetings and VRTA conferences. The members that attended the VRTA conferences were complimentary of the format and facilities for this year's conferences. Representatives of ARTA also attended Lobby Day and alerted members of legislation important to education. Members were encouraged to use VRTA.org to keep up to date on current educational and legislative issues. Senator Creigh Deeds spoke at the May meeting on various new or proposed legislation which will have an indirect effect on Virginia schools and families. Other programs on local authors, the renovation of the historic Masonic Theater and flower arrangement were enjoyed by all.

ARTA President Becky Smith and Chairman of the New Members Committee Chair Joan Green have worked tirelessly to build the membership. Some strategies they have used are: sending out a newsletter to prospective members, inviting recent retirees to meetings and offering transportation if necessary; and encouraging all members to bring their friends who are retirees.



ARTA Members at the Masonic Theater



Senator Creigh Deeds

Information from Co-Historians

Are you a member of VRTA?
Do you know that as a member that you have VRTA Benefits?
To find out what VRTA Benefits are, go to vrtabenefits.org.
There you will find 8 sections/topics with information just for you.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Buchanan County RTA

On May 20, 2017, 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 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.



Retired Educators Recognize Scholarship Recipient

Members of Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association met on Wednesday, June 28th for their last meeting before summer vacation. They also recognized their 2017 scholarship recipient Destynie L. Sebrell, a 2017 honor graduate of Franklin High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society and W.I.T., Inc. (Walk in it). She is also a graduate of PDCCC where she received an associate degree in general studies. In the fall Destynie will attend Virginia Union University in Richmond, majoring in biology and will be classified as a junior. The members wished her much success in furthering her educational endeavors.



L to R front row: Mrs. Annie Johnson, Mrs. Bessie Smith, recipient Destynie L. Sebrell, President Mrs. Daphne Miller, Mrs. Carol Logan and Mrs. Rose Galloway;
L to R back row: Mr. Charles Haskins and Mr. Thomas Smith.

Charles City/New Kent Retired Teachers

The Charles City/New Kent Unit has been busy participating in community activities, and trying to get new members interested in joining our organization.

Our District C Board meeting was held in March 2017 and our unit was represented by Hazel Charity, Alethia Thomas, and Carol Wilson.

During the month of April, Mrs. Clemmie Miller, Mrs. Maggie Payne, Mrs. Francine Johnson, Mrs. Doris Parker and Mrs. Maggie Edwards participated in the Family Fun Day which was held at the Charles City County Community Center. Our members gave out healthy snacks, hygiene items and red delicious apples to the families who visited our booth. It was good for the retired teachers to be visible in the community.

The VRTA Spring Delegate Assembly was held on April 24-25, 2017, at the Double Tree Hotel (Koger Center) in (Richmond) Midlothian, VA. Mrs. Hazel Charity and Mrs. Carol Wilson represented our unit at this spring meeting. We enjoyed the conference and the accommodations at this hotel were very nice.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at Opus 9 Steakhouse in Williamsburg, VA.

Our unit gave a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduate from New Kent High School for the 2016-2017 school year. The recipient of our scholarship was Miss Haley Elizabeth Ashford. Haley will enroll at Randolph College. We wish for her much success as she pursues her educational endeavors.

On June 9, 2017, our unit met at the Upper Shirley Winery, overlooking the James River at the site of Shirley Plantation. We made plans to have a booth at the Charles City County Fair on September 9, 2017. Money raised from this activity will be used to fund our scholarship for the 2017-2018 school year. This will also give us the opportunity to be visible among the people from all communities in the Charles City/New Kent and surrounding areas. We do hope that this will be a fun-filled activity for our retired teachers.

Bedford County Retired Teachers

Every year at new teacher orientation, Bedford County Retired Teachers Association awards checks to three first year teachers. Names are selected, one from each of our three zones to receive a \$200 check to spend as needed. The three lucky winners this year are Yvonne McMahan from Bedford Middle School, Kurt Thiele from Jefferson Forest High School and Laura Blankenship from Staunton River High School.



News From Around the Commonwealth

King & Queen / King William / West Point Retired Teachers Association

The K&Q / KW / WP Retired Teachers Association met in November, January and March. Our president stepped down because of health reasons so we missed our September meeting.

We had a luncheon meeting at Lowry's Restaurant in Tappahannock, VA and made plans for the year.

We volunteered at the Carrington Place Nursing Home in Tappahannock, VA, and gave a \$200.00 donation to the Scholarship Foundation at Rappahannock Community College.

We had four members to attend the VRTA Fall Conference and three to attend the Spring VRTA Conference.

At our May meeting we hosted our District C Annual Meeting at Third Union Baptist Church in King William. Members of District C are Charles City / New Kent / K&Q / KW and WP. Our special guest was Ms. Bernice Townes from Richmond, VA, who thrilled us with her beautiful renditions of hymns and anthems with her melodious voice.

After the business session, we had a delicious lunch that was catered by Christine Sutton of King William. Door prizes were given and we headed to our destinations to get ready for next year.



Scott County Retired Teachers Association

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 Audrey Beth Lucas and Kelsey Cheyanne Dockery. Audrey is the daughter of Scotty Lee Lucas and Tina Haynes Lucas of Gate City, VA. Audrey plans to attend the University of Virginia's College at Wise and major in elementary education. Kelsey is the daughter of Marvin Dockery and Traci LaForce of Church Hill, TN. Kelsey plans to attend East Tennessee State University majoring in biology (pre-dental). She aspires to become a pediatric dentist.

Receiving scholarships at Rye Cove High School were Kayla Anne Chambers and Emily Teresa LeeAnn Rhoton. Kayla is the daughter of Pete and Wendy Chambers of Duffield, VA. Kayla will enroll at Liberty University to major in exercise science, leading to a career in physical therapy. Emily is the daughter of Jason L. and Carrie A. Rhoton of Duffield, VA. Emily will attend Mountain Empire Community College and major in radiography.

Seniors receiving scholarships at Twin Springs High School were Daniel Kenneth Greene and Ashley Mikayla Castle. Daniel is the son of Laura Greene of Nickelsville, VA. Daniel's plans are to enroll at Virginia Tech and study engineering. Mikayla is the daughter of Jeff and Pam Castle of Nickelsville, VA. Mikayla plans to attend Wytheville Community College and major in dental hygiene.

Scott County Retired Teachers Association is the only unit in District O of far Southwest Virginia and the smallest unit in the state of Virginia. Awards are funded by the prior sales of Scott County history books, the Scott County Retired Teachers Cookbook, yard sales and private donations.

Loudoun County Retired Educators



These happy LREA members gathered in June to socialize and have fun sharing food and wine. Each painted their own picture at Painting with a Twist in Ashburn, VA.



Officers for 2017-2018

Front/L to R—Nancy Colosi, Treasurer
Loretta Hall, Chaplain
Alice Gildersleeve, Corresponding Secretary
Connie Wilke, Co- Vice President
Back/L to R
Claire Schulz, Legislative Committee
Maureen Vanderslice, Historian/Scrapbook
Cindy Hollingsworth, Treasurer
Bertha Tiffany, Co-President
Nancy Vollmer, Co-President
Linda Greeley, Recording Secretary



Our dedicated LREA workers for Backpack Buddies. Thanks for their hard work lifting and packing foods, in the cold and in the heat. Deliveries are made to all Loudoun County Schools. Backpack Buddies ensure our needy students don't go hungry over the weekend. From the front left- Bertha Tiffany, Willa Kiser, Claire Scholz, Pam Smith, Linda Greeley, Sissy Grimm, Marlene Hersh, Cindy Hollingsworth.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Patrick County Retired Teachers

Patrick County Retired Teachers enjoyed a fashion show at their June 2017 meeting. Members modeled fashions ranging from casual to formal attire, complete with matching accessories, provided by The Little Dress Shop in Floyd, Virginia. The dress shop employees were present at the meeting and presented each member with a discount ticket.

Plans were discussed about contacting other local clothing businesses and hosting a tea/fashion show for the public for a fundraiser.



June's Fashion Show



Floyd County Retired Teachers Association

Floyd County Retired Teachers Association members and a guest toured Poplar Forest, the summer home of Thomas Jefferson, and had lunch at Liberty Station, in Bedford County. Connie Quesenberry presented Makayla Conner with our \$1,000 college scholarship. The organizations receiving donations from FCRTA were Plenty, Reading is Fundamental in Floyd, Young Life, and Christmas for Children. Members turned in their volunteer hours totaling 2,416 for the year. Two mini-grants of \$200 each were awarded to local teachers. One mini-grant was to purchase bouncy-seats to be used in an elementary classroom. The other grant money was designated to purchase rooftop bird houses for the agriculture department. Members recorded teaching stories to be transcribed and sent to Phyllis Eastridge for the book she plans to publish. Alice Slusher provided information on how to preserve family heirlooms. Alice also invited members and potential members to her family's park for a picnic in July.



Visit to Poplar Forest

Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

Henrico Retired School Personnel Association held its spring luncheon on Thursday, April 27, 2017, at the Willow Oaks Country Club. In addition to lots of camaraderie and fun, the program included an update and overview of the 2017 General Assembly actions on education by Kitty Boitnott, former VEA President. Kitty also discussed what federal changes we might expect under Betsy Devos in the Trump administration.

HRSPA awarded its 2017 scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 to Sabrina Duarte from Godwin High School who plans to pursue an education degree from the University of Richmond. This year's scholarship was given in honor of Charlie Todd, an HRSPA member, Henrico administrator, and a Virginia educator for nearly 60 years. Charlie was very active in VRTA and the legislative process in the Virginia General Assembly.



Kitty Boitnott, former VEA President and HRSPA member



Pat Rollison, Scholarship Chair and Sabrina Duarte HRSPA 2017 scholarship winner

News From Around the Commonwealth

Shenandoah County Retired Teachers

SCRTA member Jean Allen Davis received the Mary Ann Williamson award from the Edinburg Heritage Foundation, and was featured in an article in the Free Press by Mona Casteel (7/6/17). Congratulations, Jean Allen!



Photo of article and Jean Allen Davis

Southside Retired School Personnel

The Southside Retired School Personnel Association was established in March 2016 and became the 13th unit of District D and became a member of VRTA in April 2016. The organization is committed to familiarize retired school personnel with the benefits of membership in the local, district and state associations. The association provides an organizational framework through which retired school personnel can continue a life of service to fellow members, their active colleagues, and the community. It helps retired school personnel to maintain identity with the school system and to further the course of education. Finally, the organization offers an opportunity for retired school personnel to contribute their talents and experiences to the decision making process in their communities. Membership is available to any retired school personnel in the surrounding geographical area of southside Virginia.

Two projects have been completed by the membership. In April, a food drive was held at the local Piggly Wiggly. Over 600 pounds of food was collected and donated to the Samaritan Kitchen which provides meals to needy residents daily at lunch time. On June 1, our first scholarship in the amount of \$250.00 was awarded to Miss Megan Burke, a graduating senior at Greensville County High School.

The organization is currently under the leadership of Patricia Holland. The secretary/treasurer is Sylvia Vincent. The District D legislative chair is the Reverend Dr. Michael Alston.

Botetourt Retired Educators

The Botetourt Retired Educators were busy this spring. In March, Stacy Jones, principal of the STEM Academy, presented a program highlighting the various programs offered at the school. At the May meeting members told "teacher stories" which were collected to send to VRTA. At both meetings members donated money for two of BRE's service projects. Each year BRE gives a scholarship to a senior at each of the high schools in Botetourt County. This year each student received \$1,000. Each May the BRE gives two books to all the county schools' media centers. The schools' librarians submit a list of wanted books, books are purchased, and BRE members deliver the books to the schools.



BRE Book Project

Jean Allen with fellow SCRTA member Warren Halvorson, also a retired librarian, at her 90th birthday celebration!



York Retired Teachers Association

The York Retired Teachers Association presented a \$1400 Scholarship to Greg Dockery, a 2017 Graduate of Bruton High School. Greg will attend Randolph Macon College in Ashland, VA, and major in biology. He also plans to play football for the college. Pictured in the photo are Rosemarie Sharadin, President of YRTA and Greg Dockery with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Dockery.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Winchester Retired Teachers

The Winchester Retired Teachers Association was addressed by Kelly Bober, executive director of the Child Safe Center-CAC-in Winchester. The CAC was developed to protect children who have been abused, neglected, and hurt in many ways, from additional traumatization as their cases are being investigated and tried. The CAC has created a facility and services that are child-friendly, safe, and private. Professionals efficiently, sensitively, and respectfully help the child share information only once with all necessary individuals present, which then deletes the trauma of having to repeat the incidents multiple times. The center also offers therapeutic treatment programs tailored to each child's need as well as that of the family or caretaker. VRTA learned about the model used to help the children and how working as a team is a benefit to our community. A monetary donation to the center of \$300 was given for snacks and needs of family members who have to wait while the child is interviewed. Several children's books in Spanish, to increase the waiting room library, were also presented to the center.

Christmas time did not find Santa, but rather the John Handley High School Choir presenting a program of lovely and inspirational music. The choir left each of us feeling the joy of the season and the peace that we all aspire to achieve at that time of year. They accepted a monetary donation to help them with their annual spring trip. In addition, a familiar red kettle was on the table. At the end of the meal, the Salvation Army opened the kettle and was the recipient of just a couple dollars shy of \$1000.00 donated by the members in attendance at the meeting.

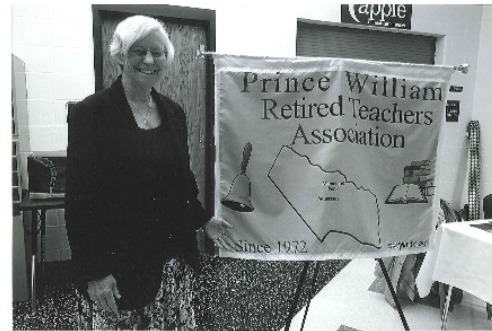
Joseph Rosenfeld, a junior at JHHS and his high school calculus teacher, Matt Foltz shared thoughts with us as Joe had received national recognition for achievements. Joseph, while visiting the Boston Museum of Science with his parents, discovered a mistake in an equation for the golden ratio that had stood for years. While humility was abounding through their talks, Mr. Foltz noted that Joe had attained a perfect score on his AP Calculus exam.

Natalie Gerometta, Student Support Specialist and Homeless Education Liaison updated the membership on the homeless situation in Winchester Public Schools. She shared some needs to help the students. VRTA membership responded with a collection and donation of \$400 to the homeless student fund to be used for personal necessities and healthy snacks to support the students through the end of the school year.

VRTA presented a scholarship in the amount of \$3000 to Sabrina Gonzales, a graduating senior at John Handley High School. Sabrina will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University this fall and plans to major in education.

Visit VRTA's Website at VRTA.org

Prince William Retired Teachers



Prince William retired Teachers' President Lora Ker greeted new county retirees.

District N



District N members attend VRTA Delegate Assembly in Midlothian

Members' Services Shine

The stars (members) of Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers Association are shining examples of volunteers serving their neighborhoods and communities in schools, churches, social and civic organizations, sororities and fraternities, alumni associations, political campaigns, and they have held all known offices and positions. These members (stars) uphold the Virginia Retired Teachers Association's motto: "To serve, not be served."

If any retired educational personnel wish to join the fun and fellowship, call (804)526-8614 or (804)691-7494 for more information.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Suffolk Retired Teachers

Members of the Suffolk Retired Teachers Association continue to be active and serving in community activities. Some of the Unit projects for 2016-2017 year included: school supplies collected and donated to Oakland Elementary School; paper products and office supplies donated to Western Tidewater Free Clinic; canned foods collected and donated to the Salvation Army for its food distribution—approximately 1000 pounds. Two scholarships--\$1000 to one of the local high schools and \$500 from District T. District T includes Chesapeake, Portsmouth, and Suffolk. The \$1000 scholarship was awarded to Maya Lewis of Kings Fork High School. Miss Lewis will enroll at Old Dominion University majoring in elementary education. The \$500 scholarship was awarded to Ashley Duke of Nansemond River High School. Miss Duke will attend Mary Washington University and major in elementary education.

The delegates who were present at the VRTA Fall Conference and Spring Delegate Assembly were Mary W. Copeland, president; Mary Hicks, chaplain; Mary Steverson, parliamentarian; and Iness Taylor, adviser.

Courtesies were extended to several members who had been or were presently ill.

A memorial service was conducted for deceased members.

Shenandoah County Retired Teachers

The Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) presented a \$1000 scholarship to Julia Sigler at the spring meeting of the group. Ms. Sigler is a liberal studies major in elementary education at Bridgewater College. At the age of 17, she took out her first loan in order to put herself through college. She worked at many jobs to pay for her education. Julia stated in her application: "I have learned to take the initiative for myself in order to further my education." She also said, "I want to be a teacher that students can confide in, be excited to come into my class room to learn every day and to challenge students to reach beyond their potential." Margaret Figgins, scholarship chairperson for SCRTA, states that "this young lady has a thirst for knowledge and a quest to share that knowledge with the youth placed in her care. She is indeed a very deserving young lady."



Left to right - Julia Sigler; Margaret Figgins scholarship chairperson for SCRTA

Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers

The R-HRTA held its spring luncheon meeting on May 16, 2017, at Brookdale Imperial Plaza. The guest speaker was Ms. Genea M. Luck, Associate State Director of Multicultural Outreach-AARP. She presented information concerning the AARP Virginia Speakers Bureau and the various workshops.

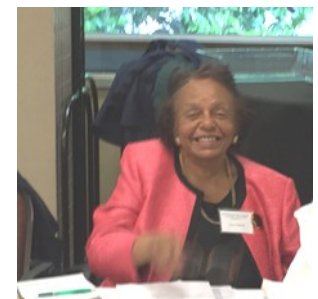
The following officers for 2017-2018 were installed: President, Ernestine Dockery-Roy; 1st Vice President, Margaret Smith; Treasurer, Lena Morgan and Recording Secretary, Quentina Kinney.

On May 25, 2017, during the Thomas Jefferson High School Senior Awards Program, R-HRTA presented two scholarships. The recipients were Tenejah Burrell, \$1000.00 and Jaylee Fowlkes, \$500.00

Vera Wheeler-Arnold was presented with a Surprise Cash Bag for her twenty (20) years as R-HRTA Treasurer.



Genea M. Luck,
AARP Guest
Speaker



Vera Wheeler,
Retiring R-HRTA
Treasurer

Email Notification for Newsletter

We continue to add names of members who wish to receive newsletters by email notification. If your email address has changed or you want to be added to the email notification list, send a correct email address to: Weldon Martin (hooman4949@gmail.com) or you can mail it to: 1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Fall Conference IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VRTA's Executive and Arrangement Committees are dedicated to making the *Fall Conference* (October 2-3, 2017) an enjoyable, learning experience. It is designed to connect retired school personnel from across the state and increase communication between state, districts and local units. We encourage all VRTA members to attend the Fall Conference at DoubleTree in Midlothian, Virginia. You will not be disappointed.

DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS—

September 15, 2017

DEADLINE FOR VRTA REGISTRATION—

September 20, 2017

Necrology Service

District Presidents or their designees need to be present on Tuesday morning, October 3, 2017 to announce the number of deceased members in their district at the necrology service. We will be honoring our deceased members.

Names of each deceased member should be reported to Weldon Martin at hooman4949@gmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members of the Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the President-elect, the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, all past VRTA Presidents, District Presidents, and VRTA committee chairpersons. The parliamentarian and the editor of publications shall be ex-officio, non-voting members. All members of the Board of Directors must be members of the VRTA.

Luncheon Menu Monday, October 2, 2017

Mixed Green Garden Salad with Choice of Two Dressings
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Herbal Tea and Iced Tea
Dessert-Kentucky Bourbon Pecan Pie

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE COFFEE RUBBED GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST

Seasoned Chicken Breast Served with a Brown Butter Sauce
Seasonal Vegetables and Sour Cream Mashed Potatoes

GRILLED PRIME RIB OF BEEF

Grilled Queen Cut Prime Rib of Beef
Seasonal Vegetables and Mashed Potatoes

“VEGETARIAN OPTION” SPINACH AND MUSHROOM QUICHE

Served with Steamed Broccoli Spears

“GLUTEN FREE OPTION” GRILLED SALMON

Topped with a Tarragon Butter
Vegetable Medley and Roasted Potatoes

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President-elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past President. The parliamentarian shall be a non-voting member.

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON RICHMOND-MIDLOTHIAN
1021 KOGER CENTER BOULEVARD***RICHMOND, VA 23235**
804-379-3800
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.

**VRTA FALL CONFERENCE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017
AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

Keeping Our Wits About Us—Presenter is Ed Mayhew, Educational Consultant and author of *Smarter Stronger Children*.

How—no matter our age! —new learning/memory brain cells can not only increase, but increase faster than the natural loss of “old” ones

Prepare to Care—Presenters are Genea Luck, Associate State Director Multicultural Outreach in AARP Virginia’s State Office and Donna Newman Robinson, Community Ambassador.

AARP’s *Prepare to Care* workshop provides you with information and resources to help you better care for yourself and the ones you love.

In this workshop, participants will learn five steps every caregiver should take: How to Start the Conversation; Forming a Team; Making a Family Plan, Finding Support; and the Importance of Caring for Yourself.

AARP wants family caregivers to know there is support and resources out there that can help make this important work a little easier. They don’t have to do this on their own.

American Red Cross—Virginia Region—Presenter is Della Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator American Red Cross.

We always need caring, compassionate, and committed people to assist in our lines of service. Our greatest volunteer needs, which vary by city/county, currently lie within our Biomedical division, the Red Cross Campus Clubs, and Services to Armed Forces. Our Biomedical Donor Ambassadors greet and sign in blood donors at blood drives in this life-saving Red Cross mission, while Biomedical Transportation Specialist Coordinators provide support to our youth clubs and help youth within the community become involved in the Red Cross mission. Our Services to Armed Forces volunteers provide support to the military and their families, as well as refer them to resources when a need arises. We hope that you will explore these and other opportunities to find one that is right for you, whether at the Red Cross sessions during the VRTA October state conference or anytime at www.redcross.org!

Livable Communities—Presenter is Natalie Snider, Program Specialist AARP Virginia.

“AARP Livable Communities supports the efforts of cities, towns, counties and states to provide safe, walkable streets; age-friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

Our work is driven by research that shows the vast majority of people age 50 and older want to stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Well-designed, livable communities promote better health and sustain economic growth, and they make for happier, healthier residents—of every age, in all life stages.

To empower communities nationwide, we work with relevant nonprofit organizations, business interests and philanthropic groups to raise awareness about the need for age-friendly, livable communities.

We also work with elected officials, policy makers, community leaders, citizen activists and people age-50-plus in our policy, advocacy and education efforts involving housing, mobility, transportation, and land use and planning issues. Because livable communities work is about enhancing the livability of local communities, AARP’s efforts are typically implemented by AARP State Office staff.”

VRTA Benefits—Presenter is James DuBrueler, Jr, Creekside Insurance Advisors, Inc.

- A. 2017 Medicare updates
- B. 2017 Medicare Enrollment Period
- C. Safety of Retirement Savings
- D. Review of Annuity Options & Interest Rates
- E. Asset-Based Long-Term Care Benefits

Other afternoon sessions that are on the agenda include:

- A. Community Service (MAM & WOY)
- B. Tips for Treasurers
- C. Legislative Workshop
- D. Craft

SUNDAY, OCT. 1, 2017
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETS IN "BOARD ROOM"
7:00-9:00 PM

VRTA FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2-3, 2017
DoubleTree

MONDAY, OCT. 2, 2017
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEET IN "ANNA ROOM"
9:00-11:30 AM

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 **Wednesday, September 20, 2017**.

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

- Coffee Grilled Chicken Breast
- Grilled Prime Rib of Beef
- Gluten Free—Grilled Salmon
- Vegetarian—Spinach and Mushroom Quiche

- 2. Room Registration:** Attendees make room reservations no later than **September 15, 2017** by contacting the Hilton at **1-800-222-Tree** or **804-379-3800**. Attendees request the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association rate of \$104.00/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. Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

- 5. 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, 2017** in order for them to be hung by the hotel staff. Units and Districts can bring their own stand.

- 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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VRTA Membership Committee

The VRTA Membership Committee sent out a survey before the VRTA Delegate Assembly. The surveys indicated that VRTA members participate in many different activities. We hope you find something you can use in your unit. Some of the many activities include:

- Giving scholarships
- Participating in Relay for Life
- Conducting food and charity drives
- Helping with food programs
for students over the weekend
- Providing homework bags for kindergarten
students
- Having a September luncheon for new
members
- Conducting programs on various topics-
retirement, community college offerings,
voter registration, travel opportunities
- Visiting nursing homes and development centers
- Publishing letters and newsletters to membership
- Supporting lunch buddies and backpacks in the
schools
- Purchasing items for angel trees
- Scheduling field trips for members
- Sponsoring performances by school choirs
- Providing an emphasis on elder care
- Volunteering at local festivals
- Explaining health benefits programs
- Having a summer picnic for members and
their families
- Reporting from each school in the district at
unit meetings

The members are also involved in many other organizations as volunteers.

If you did not receive a survey or did not send it back, don't despair. It will be sent out again soon. We want everyone to have input in this. The results may be of use to everyone in the organization in planning the future of our units, districts and state.