



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Spring 2017 Edition

From the VRTA President

In October, the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association successfully concluded the first chapter of the journey from *Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center* to *DoubleTree* in Richmond-Midlothian, Virginia. The hotel staff was efficient, helpful, courteous and friendly. The Executive and Arrangements Committees worked many hours planning each detail of the Fall Conference. Plans for the *Spring Delegate Assembly* (April 24-25, 2017) are well underway and we are expecting to make this conference superior to the last one. The evaluation forms were carefully reviewed and we are paying attention to your suggestions. By working together, we will make VRTA stronger than ever.

The Executive Committee will meet Sunday, April 23, 2017, in the *Board Room* on first floor at *DoubleTree* from 7:00-9:00 PM. Monday morning, April 24th beginning at 9:00 AM the *Board of Directors* will meet in the *Anna Room*. All District Presidents and VRTA Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend and stay current on the happenings within VRTA.

All those attending the *Spring Delegate Assembly* will gather in the *Shenandoah Ballroom—Parlors C & D* at 11:50 AM for our opening ceremony and luncheon. To make this event more energizing Robbie Limon, will present a program of music. His performance will include songs from the 1930's, 40's, 50's 60's & 1970s. As his performance ends, we anticipate having an enthusiastic group of VRTA members, anxious to attend afternoon sessions.

Afternoon sessions will begin at 2:10 PM. Topics include, *Fraud Watch, Brain Health, Facebook Page for Local Units, Personality Colors—Leadership Styles, VRTA Benefits and the Legislative Workshop*. Also, there will be workshops for *Treasurers and Community Service Information*.

Mary Beth Dixon, our NRTA Advisor is joining us from New Hampshire. During her two days at *DoubleTree* she will address two of VRTA's concerns. On Monday, she will be conducting two sessions on **Facebook Page for Local Unit**. She will take an approach that "leaves no teacher behind" in this step-by-step walk through of how to set-up and leverage a local unit Facebook page. She will also provide information for accessing additional help from NRTA. Bring a Smart Phone, I Pad, Tablet or Laptop Computer and you will leave the session with a Facebook page for your unit. You need to have a personal Facebook page already set up.

On Tuesday, after the VRS Presentation, Ms. Dixon will address "**Attracting Younger Members.**" This presentation examines how to adapt your state REA's efforts to be more appealing to younger members. While enjoying a chocolate tasting, participants examine why recruitment and retention feels so challenging and learn three new models that will create more engaging experiences for members.

The *Spring Delegate Assembly* will end after the business session on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

I encourage all VRTA Members to join us for the *Spring Delegate Assembly* on April 24-25, 2017 at *DoubleTree*. To avoid penalties VRTA is required to reserve 75 rooms. Please make your reservations early; the cutoff date is April 8 and remember to ask for the VRTA rate. So, that everyone understands the reason for combining the luncheon and registration fee, I am going to explain a section of VRTA's contract with *DoubleTree*. We are required to spend \$3,000 on food, plus a 21% service charge and 5.3% sales tax. If we fail to spend this amount, the amount will be made up in room rentals. By meeting our requirement, we do not pay for our meeting rooms. We cannot expect those living within driving distance of *DoubleTree* to reserve rooms but we do need everyone to attend the luncheon. It is important to share the expenses equally. With everyone's cooperation we will have an enjoyable, successful *Spring Delegate Assembly*.

Nina McClanahan , VRTA President

Inside this issue:

<i>Don't Let Your Fire Go Out!</i>	2
<i>Expanding Your Advocacy</i>	3
<i>News from Around the Commonwealth</i>	5-8
<i>VRTA Fall Meeting Information</i>	9-10
<i>VRTA Fall Meeting Registration Form</i>	11
<i>2016 Awards</i>	12

Page 9

"Dr. Cornelia Adair of Richmond, Virginia, realized many years ago the need for a retired teachers association. Dr. Adair was the force that motivated the meeting of retired teachers in 1935. There were 15 members in attendance at that first meeting."

Don't Let Your Fire Go Out!



Have you ever watched a fire that's dying? Sometimes it's not fed, and slowly, gradually the flame flickers, the light from it fades, the warmth that once permeated the room gives way to a chill. The smoldering embers are useless. Finally, it serves no purpose.

We must not let this happen to the passion of our lobbying! Whether we realize it or not, many people depend on us: children who need a good education, teachers who are struggling against odds we never imagined, and retirees and near retirees who are fearful for their financial security. We must continue to stoke our passion with information. We must be steady in lighting the way without bursts that burn brightly but then burn themselves out and are useless. We must encourage each other and persevere as hot coals that last much longer when they're not scattered.

Approximately 25 members and spouses renewed their passion on VRTA Day at the GA on January 31 where they received information and met with their senators and delegates. Senator Jill Vogel introduced members in the Senate, and Delegate David Toscano made the introductions in the House. Both reported the contributions VRTA has made in scholarships and community service. Twelve of us enjoyed having dinner together and getting to know one another better the evening before.

The Spring Delegate Assembly will definitely provide opportunities to bank our passions. We are planning to have a legislator who is a strong supporter of education to be a speaker in our Legislative Workshop to recap the 2017 session and to give us fuel to prepare us for the 2018 session. Also, we are fortunate that VRS representatives make themselves available not only to make a presentation but to answer questions. And we will encourage each other as we discuss formally and informally our successes and weaknesses.

Let's keep our fire burning stronger by having several people from each unit across the state to attend our spring meeting April 24-25. We need each other! Don't let our fire go out!

Bea Morris — Legislative Chairperson

VRTA Members at the General Assembly on January 31



From the VRTA Treasurer

I want to remind you of several things.

- Submit your epost card, if you have not done so.
- Send me your unit's 2016-2017 budget.
- Continue to send me names of deceased members.
- Send changes in addresses and email addresses.

I will be available at the Delegate Assembly with materials that you need. I will also conduct a question and answer session for treasurers. I hope to see you in April.

Weldon Martin, Treasurer



**Expanding Your Advocacy
By Bonnie Atwood**

In VRTA, we are “all about advocacy.” We carry that out in a number of important ways: keeping up with the news, becoming active in our communities, voting, getting acquainted with our legislators, writing letters, participating in Lobby Day, and so on. Today, I’m going to talk about another way to expand your advocacy. I expect many of you are already doing this: serving on gubernatorial boards and commissions.

These boards all under the executive branch of government, so the members are appointed by the governor, and serve the governor. The administrative duties are carried out by the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The current secretary is Kelly Thomasson. She is a member of the governor’s cabinet (having replaced The Honorable Levar Stoney, who was just elected mayor of the City of Richmond). Ms. Thomasson’s staff finds people to serve on a myriad of boards. About 900 appointments are made throughout the year.

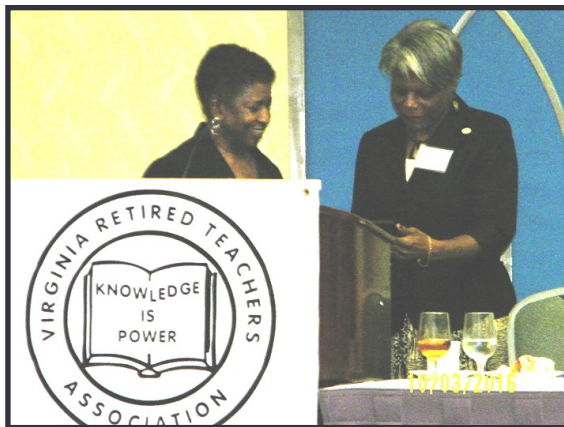
You might think that these people are all “cronies” of the governor, people who gave money to his campaign, and so forth. Not so. These gubernatorial appointees are people just like you and me. I have served on two boards: The Department of Rehabilitative Services Board (appointed by a Republican governor) and The Board for Asbestos, Lead, Mold and Home Inspectors (appointed by a Democratic governor).

Normally, if you want to serve on a board, you first express an interest. If you go to the website: <https://commonwealth.virginia.gov/va-government/gubernatorial-appointments/> then you will see a list of current board openings. You will also see an online form which enables you to send an application to serve on a board. Some boards have specific qualifications set forth in Virginia Code, such as dentists who serve on the Board of Dentistry. Some boards require one or more “citizen members,” which means you do not have to have any certifications to apply.

It is an honor to serve on a board or commission. You take an oath to uphold the law, and you must be willing to commit to attend the meetings and keep up with the information pertinent to your board. You are also required to file a disclosure of any financial holdings of you or your family which may pose a conflict of interest for that board.

As members of VRTA, you are educated and responsible citizens. I would urge any of you to consider applying to be a member of a gubernatorial board. This is another form of serving the people. You learn a lot. And it is an effective way to expand your advocacy.

Most Active Member



Jean Marrow presents the Most Active Member Award to Maudie Scott at the VRTA Fall Meeting in Richmond this past October.



VRTA 2016 Fall Conference

Virginia Retired Teachers Association

“Organized November 28, 1936”

2016 - 2018 Officers

President—Nina McClanahan	(276)935-5004 mccclanahannina@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

NRTA's Leadership Training Program

VRTA Past President, Phyllis Eastridge, and VRTA President Elect, Ben McCartney, participated in the Second Session of NRTA's 2016 Leadership Training held in Chicago, September 26-29, 2016. The meeting was designed to provide opportunities for REA leaders and NRTA staff to become better acquainted and discuss association's strengths and areas of growth.

Kristi Daniels, President of *Thrive 9-5: Your Guide to Peak Performance at Work*, facilitated the training sessions. Kristi's focus was aimed toward working with retired educators to create enhanced understanding by sharing organizational issues and concerns, defining their mission and vision, and building training tools for leaders.

The goal of the program was to provide experiences that will make a positive difference for retired educators associations.



L-R: Mary Beth Dixon, AARP State Director; Kristi Daniels, Performance Consultant and Coach; Phyllis Eastridge, VRTA Past President; Ben McCartney, VRTA President Elect; Dara Dann, NRTA Vice President; and Tom Nicholls, AARP Senior Legislative Representative.

SAVE THE DATE

Future VRTA Conferences

Fall 2017 Conference — October 2-3, 2017

Cut off for room reservations — September 15

Spring 2018 Delegate Assembly — April 23-24

Fall 2017 Newsletter

The deadline for the fall newsletter is August 4, 2017. Submit articles and pictures to Susan Martin at: smartin@bcps.k12.va.us

or at:

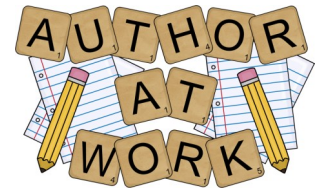
1049 Martins Lane
Fincastle, VA 24090



Writing Teacher Stories

VRTA is seeking volunteers and writers of "Teacher Stories" to write about memorable experiences of teaching. Telling our stories will help protect our retirement, as well as build our membership base.

Choose a volunteer coordinator in your unit. Find members and others who will write their stories about their experiences as teachers. The coordinator can collect information from each unit on the stories that have been developed. Also collect information on the writer of the story (name, number years in teaching, name of unit).



IDEAS:

- Memories of teaching
- Unforgettable experience
- Unforgettable student
- Unforgettable teacher
- Why did you become a teacher?
- How have you made a difference?
- Rewards of volunteering
- How has a teacher influenced you?
- A student who benefitted from you or how you benefitted from a student
- A life lesson from the classroom
- Recall a teacher or student who had a real impact on you

WHAT MAKES A GOOD STORY?

Good stories:

- Have a human face and voice from the heart
- Are concise and easy to retell
- Easy for media to cover
- Highlight IMPACT
- Are short and simple
- Are genuine
- Have beginning, middle, and end
- Provide interesting details
- Send a clear, concise message
- Are credible and relevant
- Have a title

Several of you have agreed to help with this project, and I appreciate your support. It is with your help and encouragement to others in your units and districts that this project will be successful and published into a book. You can bring any completed stories to the April meeting or you can mail them to Phyllis Eastridge. She will also send release forms when you need them.

Phyllis Eastridge, 2789 Wayside Road, Stuart, VA 24171

ALL OF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Alexandria Retired Teacher's Association

The Alexandria Retired Teacher's Association had a great fall. In September we had the granddaughter of Robert Frost speak about her book about him, *You Come Too* by Leslie Lee Francis. In October Attorney Jim McConville spoke about Elder Law. In December we had the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Heritage Harmony Chorus give us a wonderful holiday concert. Most of the chorus are retired military men.



Heritage Harmony Chorus

Buchanan County RTA

Buchanan County Retired Teachers' Association met on December 12, 2016, to support *Heritage Hall's* Activity Director, Angie Cantrell. It had been brought to our attention that she needed a 40" flat screen TV and a DVD player. These items are to be used in the dining area for video games and movies. BCRTA President, Patricia Hogston presented Cantrell a check to cover the cost of the items. Pictured below is Lynn Cornett, Public Relations; Brandon Ratliff, Director; Tina Swiney, Assistant Director of Activities; Penny Jennell, Nina McClanahan, Patricia Hogston, BCRTA members and Angie Cantrell, Director of Activities.



Charles City/New Kent Retired Teachers

The Charles City/ New Kent Retired Teachers Association met on September 15, 2016. We finalized plans for our fall activities for the organization. We also made reservations for our Christmas luncheon which was held on December 8, 2016, at Opus 9 Steak House in Williamsburg, VA.

Mrs. Carol Wilson, District C President-Elect, was asked to represent our group at the 2016 Fall Conference. The conference was held October 2-4, 2016, and for the first time, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Midlothian, VA. Carol enjoyed being at a new location because the new site provided comfortable, convenient meeting areas for the speakers and award ceremonies. The afternoon sessions supplied members with useful and interesting information to take back to our retired teachers.

The Charles City/New Kent Retired Teachers asked our President, Hazel Charity, to inquire with the principal of the Charles City Elementary School to see if we could set up a schedule to read to students. The CC/NK Retired Teachers wanted to be granted permission to read to the Pre-K and Kindergarten students.

We had a wonderful time at our Christmas luncheon at Opus 9. We had twelve members and two guests participate in our luncheon. Everyone exchanged cards and gifts, and we enjoyed a delicious meal as we prepared for a festive Christmas season.

In June of 2017, our group is planning to give a deserving high student a \$500.00 scholarship.



Christmas Luncheon: L to R Front Row: Alethia Thomas, Joyce Williams, Joan James, Deborah Turner, Hazel Charity, Carol Wilson, Back Row L to R: Clemmie Miller, Doris Parker, Mary Colins, Mammie Loney

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.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Franklin/Southampton RTA Members Participate in College Fair

Retired educators of Franklin/Southampton participated in a College Fair that was held on Saturday, October 29, 2016, at Shiloh Baptist Church, Boykins, Virginia, where Rev. Dr. Lillie A. Faison is the senior pastor.

Each member represented his/her college/university with information provided for admission, financial aid, and areas of concentration. They also answered other questions of concerns from the students. Mrs. Miller represented Saint Augustine's University, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Logan represented Livingstone College and Ms. Roberts represented Norfolk State University.

There were door prizes during different intervals of the fair. No participant went home without receiving one or more prizes.

Mrs. Latorial W. Faison was the coordinator of the event, with assistance from Lambda Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Franklin, Virginia.



L-R: President Mrs. Daphne Miller, scholarship committee members Mrs. Annie Johnson, Mrs. Carol Logan, and Mrs. Cheryl Roberts, secretary.

Loudoun Backpack Coalition

LRTA is dedicated to the Loudoun Backpack Coalition. Every Tuesday our volunteers meet to pack and distribute food for needy Loudoun County Public Schools students. These foods feed them over the weekend. They have fun while helping Loudoun students and their families. From left- Joy Griffith, Becky Ryan, Barbara Mendoza (Program Coordinator for Backpack Coalition), Bertha Tiffany, Linda Greeley, Marilyn Edmondson, Sheree Hickman.



Hampton Retired Teachers

For the September meeting of the Hampton Retired Teachers Association, our group moved to a new location, The Paradise Ocean Club, on the property of the former Fort Monroe military base. Dr. Jeffery Smith, Superintendent of the Hampton City Schools, presented copies of the 2016 "Year in Review" progress report. His presentation was a clear indicator of his motto, "Every child, every day, whatever it takes." The members showed their continuing generosity by bringing school supplies for Kraft Elementary students and contributing over \$800 for the Bassette school uniform fund.

At the December meeting, we were entertained by Kecoughtan High School's show choir, Harbor Lights. Another highlight of that day was the huge number of books which members brought for K-5 students at Machen Elementary. Hopefully, every child went home for the holidays with a book.



Proudly displaying some of the books which were donated are President Elect Joan Davis, Machen Principal Jennifer Humble, President Linda Hunt Byrd and HRTA member Mary Pickerill, who suggested the idea of doing the book project.

Loudoun December Project



At the December 2016 LRTA meeting members collected wrapped Christmas gifts for Mobile Hope of Loudoun. Mobile Hope of Loudoun provides help for at risk, homeless or precariously housed children in Loudoun county. LRTA members filled two cars! Thanks LRTA for your generosity!

Pictured- Ellen Bawiec delivering a car load of gifts.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Loudoun Volunteer Hours

Eighty-nine LRTA members contributed volunteer hours from July to November. Thirteen hundred volunteer hours were recorded in November. Pictured are members who were recognized for 300 volunteer hours. Susan Mills was recognized for 500 volunteer hours. Thanks for giving of yourselves to help our community.



From left- Francie Malone, Sue Clark, Ann Thorsen, Susan Mills, Nancy Vollmer, Bertha Tiffany.

Floyd County Retired Teachers Association

Members of the Floyd County Retired Teachers Association continue to be active serving students, teachers, retired teachers, and community citizens. FCRTA continues to support a graduating senior planning to go into education with a \$1000 scholarship. This February two teachers received \$200 each for special projects in their classrooms. Members reported volunteering 2,416 hours in classrooms, churches, and with community organizations. FCRTA lost two very special members in the summer of 2016, Jacqueline Blackwell and Lorice O'Connor. Lorice was an active District M member up until her death in July. Trips to Mountain Lake, Lincoln Theatre, and Christmas Show in Charlotte, NC were enjoyed by many members.



Lorice O'Conner's Birthday Party

Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Association

Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Association is committed to giving their time and resources in support of "Youth In Our Community." At our annual Christmas luncheon members made donations of school supplies, gloves/mittens and hat/capes to be given to eight schools in District Q.

We also presented a check in the amount of \$650 to the Feed More Back Pack Program. This program fills the nutrition gap for school-age children in need.

Dr. Delores Whitaker closed out our Christmas celebration with a "Christmas Song Fest". We left with smiles and the joy of giving to the "Youth in Our Community" projects.

Dr. Delores Whitaker



Roanoke City Retired Educators

The Roanoke City Retired Educators Association has had an exciting and fulfilling year. In September, Scott Leaman, a Roanoke City certified crime prevention specialist, spoke to the RCREA about crime and techniques that can help keep us safer.

In December, members enjoyed a luncheon with charming entertainment provided by the Greenvale Nursery School preschoolers who sang a variety of holiday songs. Each child received a gift bag as a thank you.

The RCREA Legislative Committee led by Virginia Newcomb has been very proactive on the political front visiting our legislators and discussing legislation that affects our members.

In March, we were visited by Butch Kelly from the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society who gave us information for a beautiful spring garden. New officers were installed. Bob Isminger will be our new president and Linda Wyatt will serve as first vice-president. Other officers will continue in their duties for the next year. Many thanks to outgoing President Bonnie Mann and other officers for all their hard work on our behalf.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Scott County Retired Teachers

Scott County Retired Teachers Association met September 4, 2016 in the classroom of the Cove Ridge Center at Natural Tunnel State Park near Duffield. Prior to our lunch, we were honored to have Grace Bradshaw from the Appalachian Writing Project to provide our program. She encouraged each of us to keep a daily journal to enhance our creative writing skills. As an activity, she instructed each of us to draw a blueprint of our childhood home. We were then to choose one room that evoked vivid memories of experiences or events associated with that room and make a listing of them. We then incorporated these memories into free-form poetry. We arrived in the morning with a desire to learn; we left in the afternoon motivated to become more knowledgeable writers.

On November 16, 2016, we held our SCRTA annual memorial service and luncheon, honoring 17 deceased Scott County School Board employees. Family members of those being honored were also invited to attend. Not only do we honor deceased teachers, but also include all support personnel, such as administrative personnel, teacher aides, school secretaries, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and maintenance staff. In so doing, we recognize the vital contributions of all those affiliated with our schools.

We met for our Christmas get-together on December 14, 2016, at Olive Garden in Kingsport, TN. After a festive lunch, we conducted a brief business meeting concerning reports due to VRTA by December 31. Fund raising for our scholarship program was also a topic of discussion. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Suffolk Retired Teachers

On a cold windy day, November 5th, members of the Suffolk Retired Teachers Association sponsored a canned food drive for the Salvation Army at the Walmart in Suffolk. Members of the SRTA unit in attendance were Iness Taylor, Virgie Sandifer, Mary W. Copeland and Mary Steverson. The SRTA was assisted by the students of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Club, and their advisors, Phyllis Elmore and Lawrence Strauss of Lakeland High School. The FCCLA students diligently supported the project by greeting prospective customers, handing out flyers, collecting canned and dry packaged food items. For their efforts, they received community service credit which is needed for high school graduation. For hard work put forth, approximately 1,000 of food was collected.

During the second semester, school supplies were donated to Oakland Elementary School.

SRTA will present two scholarships to two high school graduates this year. One of the scholarships will come from District T (\$500), and the other one from our unit (\$1000).

Washington County Retired Teachers



The Patrick Henry High School Rebel Voices Chamber Choir under the direction of Mr. David Carroll presented a wonderful program of Christmas songs at the Washington County Retired Teachers Association December meeting. These young people amazed our association with such a great performance. We appreciate the cooperation of the staff of Washington County Schools for allowing us to enjoy the tremendous talent that is in our public schools.

Patrick County Retired Teachers

Patrick County Retired Teachers spend a busy day the third Wednesday of each month. The day begins at 11:00 a.m. at the local library where the group has formed the Patrick County Retired Teachers Book Club. Each month, a book is chosen for everyone to read and a member leads a book discussion. On occasions, authors or guests have been invited to attend the book club to discuss their book or aspects of a book's content.

Following lunch on the same day, members of the retired teachers visit the local nursing home and provide a program of music, both secular and gospel.

Both activities are enriching experiences for those who attend.



Carol Vernon, Nancy Peters, Betty Perry, Lena Martin, Phyllis Eastridge, Janet Moore.

VRTA Returned to Birthplace Fall of 2016

How ironic that the VRTA returned to its birthplace in Richmond in 2016.

Dr. Cornelia Adair of Richmond, Virginia, realized many years ago the need for a retired teachers association. Dr. Adair was the force that motivated the meeting of retired teachers in 1935. There were 15 members in attendance at that first meeting. Today we boast a membership of approximately 6,100 members. The first elected president was Grace S. Taliaferro who served five years. The longest serving president was Miss Ada D. Ball, who held the office for 17 years. Over the next 40 years there were only two meetings held out of the Richmond area, Lynchburg in the spring of 1974 and Roanoke in the fall of 1974.

During these early years, the values and purposes of VRTA were formed. Today these are still our purposes. Let us refresh our memories.

- To promote the general welfare of retired educational personnel
- To act for the membership in area of vital interest
- To cooperate with the NRTA division of AARP and other associations of retired people
- To provide the means of interchange of information, ideas and opinions
- To assist districts and local units of VRTA in their activities
- To encourage the utilization of the talents, skills, judgement and meaningful community, area and statewide service activities

Retired educational personnel includes anyone who has retired from the public school system. This includes school nurses, custodians, secretaries, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, teacher assistants, principals, superintendents, teachers, central office personnel, etc. Since VRTA promotes the general welfare of the above-mentioned individuals, invite them to join VRTA.

Mary W. Copeland and Iva Foust, Co-historians

From the VRTA Fall 2016 Conference



VRTA Past Presidents



Head Table — Fall Conference



Bea Morris at Fall Conference in Richmond

In Loving Memory

Jonathan Bell, president of Virginia Retired Teachers Association from 2002 - 2004, died on April 13, 2016. Bell was from Luray, VA and a member of Page County RTA and District G RTA.

Entertainment at Delegate Assembly



Robbie Limon will be entertaining during lunch on April 24 at the VRTA Delegate Assembly. He is a talented singer-songwriter from the Winchester area. His diverse experience and talent has earned him high praise. Robbie entertained attendees at the District N fall conference.

Special thanks goes out to Jim DuBrueler at Creekside, for helping to underwrite the cost of Mr. Limon.

MEMBERS OF THE 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.

SPRING DELEGATE ASSEMBLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VRTA's Executive and Arrangements Committees are dedicated to making the *Spring Delegate Assembly* (April 24-25, 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. The Spring Delegate Assembly's Luncheon will include meal choices and entertainment. Monday afternoon workshops are designed to provide information that keep us healthy, safe and financially secure. Tuesday, April 25 will also be filled with an abundance of information. Besides the Delegate Assembly, the morning will include the VRS Presentation. Mary Beth Dixon, NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association) Advisor will close the conference with her keynote address. We encourage all VRTA members to attend the *Spring Delegate Assembly* at DoubleTree in Midlothian, Virginia. You will not be disappointed.

- **DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATION
APRIL 2, 2017**
- **DEADLINE FOR VRTA REGISTRATION
APRIL 8, 2017**

Spring Delegate Assembly Voting Members

Voting members of the Spring Delegate Assembly shall be members of the Executive Committee, District Presidents, Unit Presidents and two delegates from each local unit. If a unit has over 100 VRTA members, it shall have an additional delegate for each 50 VRTA members or fraction thereof. All voting delegates to the Spring Delegate Assembly must be members of VRTA.

Luncheon Menu

Monday, April 24, 2017

Mixed Green Garden Salad with Choice of Two Dressings
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Herbal Tea and Iced Tea
Dessert-Fresh Seasonal Fruit Plate

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

Visit VRTA's Website at VRTA.org

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 Spring Delegate Assembly

April 24-25, 2017

DoubleTree

Richmond-Midlothian

APRIL 23, 2017

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETS IN "BOARD ROOM"
7:00-9:00 PM

APRIL 24, 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 **Saturday, April 8, 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 banquet.

- 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 **April 2, 2017** 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:** SIGN ONLY IF YOU DO NOT want Virginia Retired Teachers Association, to use your 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, April 24, 2017** 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

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

Return Service Requested

2016 Awards News

Is your unit included in the 2016 awards report? Could you have done better? Did you pass on the information so that your unit could be represented? Resolve to improve in 2017.

In 2016:

- 52 units reported by June 30
- 16 units reported after June 30
- 9 districts had all units report by the deadline
- 21 unit banners were displayed at the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 conferences
- 3 districts had all units displaying banners at the fall and spring conferences
- 6 district banners were displayed both in the fall and spring conferences
- 66 units gave scholarships
- 6 districts gave scholarships
- \$123,386.00 was given in scholarships
- 14 districts had all units give scholarships
- 19 units have equalized membership in the unit, district and state
- 2 districts have all units with equalized membership

The districts with the most awards were:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| District D — 48 | District P — 18 |
| District N — 23 | District E — 17 |
| District T — 20 | District I — 16 |

There were 214 total awards given on October 3, 2016.

Thanks to all who participated and we encourage all to be involved in the future.
Canzata B. Turner, Awards Chairman



Canzata Turner presenting awards