



# VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2018 Edition

## A Message from the VRTA President



As I begin my term of office as your President, I want to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing leadership of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association, led by Nina McClanahan, for the knowledge and guidance given to me. I plan to keep the focus of the association on our **mission statement** ... “to be the voice, resource and connection for all retired school personnel” and our **vision statement**... “all retired school personnel will be safe, productive, informed and financially secure in retirement.”

Our VRTA fall conference will be on **Tuesday, October 2** and **Wednesday, October 3, 2018**, at the DoubleTree-Midlothian hotel. Please note the change in dates. Historically we had our conferences on a Monday and Tuesday. Starting with this conference, we will move to a Tuesday and Wednesday format to avoid other conflicts with the hotel and allow members to participate fully in their weekend activities.

Our fall conference is designed to support our mission and vision. I challenge all unit and district presidents to “sound the call” and encourage even more VRTA members to see first-hand what VRTA has to offer. Get ready to experience the positive energies which flow from our many conversations and interactions. Then carry this energy and information back to the units and districts throughout the commonwealth.

Delegate Schuyler VanValkenburg, **a teacher**, will be our keynote speaker on Tuesday during our luncheon. That’s right! A teacher! What a wonderful example of a young man with a commitment to our young students as well as the vision to do more for the Commonwealth. Join with me as I hope to hear positive messages about the state of the Commonwealth.

On Wednesday, a highlight will be the always useful presentation from the Virginia Retirement System. You will have the ability to interact with VRS staff and assess your financial security and stability.

We will have breakout sessions on a myriad of topics including: social media and the election, Facebook, desegregation of Virginia education, membership recruitment ideas, leadership skills, information for treasurers, community service, our founder, Dr. Andrus, brain health and movement, and fraud watch. Jim DuBrueler, our VRTA Agent of Record, will present current information on Medicare, Medicare supplements, long term care and, fixed annuities. The ever-important, legislative workshop with Bonnie Atwood, lobbyist extraordinaire, and Bea Morris, our legislative chair, (and our version of the Energizer Bunny) will inform us of the political climate and the upcoming elections in November. A more detailed description of the breakout sessions will follow later in this newsletter. We will hold a necrology service, reflecting on our deceased members and honoring their service throughout their careers.

Plan to attend our fall conference. The postmark deadline for registration at the hotel is Monday, September 10, 2018, and the postmark deadline for registration for the conference is Friday, September 14, 2018. When you call the DoubleTree for your room reservation tell them you want the discounted room rate for the VRTA conference. The phone number is 1-804-379-3800.

Throughout the conference attendees will have a chance to win prizes. Attendees to the breakout sessions will have the chance to win a gift card from Walmart. There will be a 50/50 drawing at the end of the luncheon on Tuesday. One lucky recipient will be chosen at random to receive \$25 towards their hotel bill. On Tuesday night we will have trivia, bingo and board games. Prizes will be given to the winners of trivia and bingo.

Ben McCartney

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Page 4 —“One important point about the lobbyist’s job is that he works WITH the association. Lobbyists are more effective if the members learn the issues, contact the lawmakers, and show up to testify.”

## Meet Your VRTA Officers

### Ben McCartney—President

Ben McCartney grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, and upon graduation from high school, attended the University of Richmond. After graduation, Ben started teaching for the Fauquier County Public Schools. Over the course of thirty-five years he taught various social studies courses including US Government, AP US Government, US History, World Geography, Psychology and AP Psychology.

He was twice named Teacher of the Year, locally, during his career and was nominated twice for the prestigious Agnes Meyer Award sponsored by the Washington Post.

After retirement in 2008, he continues working with students. He teaches psychology seminars for Mountain Vista Governors School and is still active in helping to coordinate a foreign exchange program with a high school in mid-Wales, which he started in 1996. Ben works with the Fauquier County Board of Elections and instituted the Election Page Program in Fauquier County, which he still coordinates.

Ben has been active in the Fauquier Retired Teachers Association since retirement. He is currently serving his fourth term as President of FRTA. He is on the Board of Directors for the University of Virginia Community Credit Union, Chairman of an investment group and active in his church, St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church.

Ben has been married to his wife, Mary Pat, since 1979. She was a career educator who retired the same year as Ben. They have two grown children and two young grandchildren. "My wife is the most wonderful person I know." She is a wonderful partner, mother, grandmother and friend to all. She has been so supportive of all the endeavors I have tried over the years. In our leisure time, we like to spend quality time with our grown children and grandchildren as well as doing some travel and visiting our local wineries in the northern piedmont.

I look forward to growing professionally as President of VRTA and promise to do my best for our organization.

### Glen Pair, Sr. – President-elect

Glen Pair had 31 years of teaching experience in Maryland and eight years in Virginia. He holds a BS degree from St. Paul's College and a Master of Education degree from Bowie State University. During his teaching career, Glenn was history department head at Greenville High School and has experience as a supervisor in secondary administration. He served as president of the Greenville County Education Association and is a lifetime member of both the Virginian Education Association and the National Education Association. In retirement Glenn has served as president of the Greenville Retired Teachers Association and as chaplain of VRTA. He was the founder of Christians Boys Club Ministry and is a deacon at First Baptist Church South in Richmond, Virginia.

### Reba Evans — Vice President

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

Reba is single and lives with her mother and brother in Sparta, North Carolina, just seven miles from the Virginia line. She remains active in both Carroll County and in Sparta. She is the church clerk. She is also a secretary of the Alleghany County Public Library Friends of the Library. Since Reba is interested in history, she is a member of the Alleghany Historical and Genealogical Society and a member of the Alleghany Historical Museum committee.

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

### Leigh McKay –Secretary

Leigh McKay retired from Roanoke County Public Schools in 2004 after thirty-three years. She mainly taught biology and anatomy & physiology. She was an active member of her education association and is a lifetime member of VEA/NEA Retired. She has a BS from James Madison University, a MAT from Hollins University, and a National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adulthood Science. After retirement, she continues to work for Roanoke City Public Schools as a tutor and substitute at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School. Leigh is a lifetime VRTA member and the current president of District P. She has served in many offices for the district and her local, Roanoke County Retired Teachers Association.

Leigh and her husband, Charlie, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

### Spring 2019 Newsletter

The deadline for the spring newsletter is **Monday,**

**March 4, 2019.** Submit articles and pictures to

Susan Martin at:

susanmartin730@gmail.com

or at:

1049 Martins Lane

Fincastle, VA 24090

## Meet Your VRTA Officers, continued

### Weldon Martin -- Treasurer

Born and reared in Virginia, Weldon Martin has spent most of his life in the Roanoke Valley. He was born in Roanoke, Virginia, and moved to the family farm in Botetourt County at an early age. A graduate of the Botetourt County Schools, with a BA and MED from the University of Virginia, he returned to Botetourt as an elementary school teacher in 1971. He served the Botetourt County Schools for 32 years, first as an elementary school teacher, then a middle school assistant principal and finally as an elementary principal for 26 years. He retired in 2003.

Weldon is married to retired middle school teacher, Susan Martin, and they have one son, Benjamin, who is an environmental scientist. They continue to live on the Martin family farm, where they built a home in 1990, and Weldon keeps busy with a variety of volunteer jobs. He is an active church member where he serves as the lay delegate from his church to annual conference, member of the choir and treasurer. He also serves as executive director and treasurer of the Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. and Historical Museum, secretary of the Botetourt Kiwanis Club, active member of Catawba Masonic Lodge, a member of the board of Godwin Cemetery, Inc. and a member of the Botetourt Retired Educators. Along with his duties as treasurer of VRTA, these keep him very busy.

During his spare time, he enjoys traveling, reading, and playing with his son's dog, Cooper.

### Nina McClanahan — VRTA Immediate Past-President

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

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

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

### Awards! Awards! Awards!

Awards will be presented in October. I hope that you will be overloaded with them and will need help to take them home!

June 30<sup>th</sup> was a "red letter day," Did you meet the deadline? Did you remind your unit chairman? Some units and districts met the deadline; a few did not. I am happy to say you have shown improvement; in part maybe, because you would be contacted.

Thanks for your cooperation and support. Much work goes into the job, but kind comments and written notes and hundreds of certificates awarded makes it all worthwhile.

I look forward to seeing you in October.  
Canzata B. Turner, Awards Committee Chairman

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

### Virginia Retired Teachers Association

*"Organized November 28, 1936"*

#### 2018- 2020 Officers

President—Ben McCartney	(540)347-9516 <a href="mailto:bhmccart@gmail.com">bhmccart@gmail.com</a>
President-Elect—Glenn Pair, Sr.	(434)594-9661 <a href="mailto:gpair1949@gmail.com">gpair1949@gmail.com</a>
Vice President—Reba Evans	(366)200-1093 <a href="mailto:1924rlevans@gmail.com">1924rlevans@gmail.com</a>
Secretary—Leigh McKay	(540)989-4417 <a href="mailto:cwmck5@cox.net">cwmck5@cox.net</a>
Treasurer—Weldon Martin	(540)473-2636 <a href="mailto:hooman4949@gmail.com">hooman4949@gmail.com</a>
Immediate Past President Nina McClanahan	(276)935-5004 <a href="mailto:mcclanahannina@gmail.com">mcclanahannina@gmail.com</a>

## Lawyer or Lobbyist: What's the Difference?

Bonnie Atwood

Some people are confused about the difference between a lawyer (attorney) and a lobbyist. These professions do overlap. Some lawyers are also lobbyists, but a lawyer does not have to be a member of the bar association to lobby, as he would to practice law in a courtroom. Many very competent lobbyists have never set foot in a law school.

Many people wonder why a lawyer would represent a person who he knows committed a heinous crime. "Why in the world would he defend Jeffery Dahmer? The Unabomber? The Twin Towers conspirators?" Without thinking, we tend to hate a lawyer who would advocate for someone who is obviously guilty.

He does it because that's his job. He is obliged to defend his client "zealously," as the Code of Professional Ethics puts it. I look at it this way: He is defending something much bigger than an individual client. He is defending our system of justice. The police, the lawyers, and the courts, follow strict Rules of Law. That protects not just Jeffery Dahmer, but you and me. It protects all of us.

So, what does that have to do with lobbyists? Are lobbyists required to represent any clients who come their way? Well, some do just that. They see themselves as a resource for any association that needs a voice, whether they agree with the association's mission or not. It is, after all, a profession. It puts bread and butter on their family's table.

However, some lobbyists think differently. They have to agree with the values of the association before they are willing to speak out on its behalf. That's the kind of lobbyist I am. I cannot feel that I am doing a good job if I am arguing a point that I disagree with. And that's why I choose to represent groups like VRTA. Our values, our belief in the public school system, are the same.

I have mentioned in previous newsletter articles that good lawyers and lobbyists adhere to strict professional codes of ethics. They are a little different for lobbyists than for lawyers. The lawyer who works on your auto accident case can work on contingency, that is, you don't pay unless you win. Lobbyists are not allowed to do that. We lobbyists cannot promise success, and we cannot base our fee on success.

"You're supposed to be our lobbyist!" says the association president. "You were supposed to get our bill passed!" I think all VRTA members know that it doesn't work that way. Many factors are at play, and most bills take years to get passed or repealed or amended.

One important point about the lobbyist's job is that he works WITH the association. Lobbyists are more effective if the members learn the issues, contact the lawmakers, and show up to testify. That is a strength of VRTA. Let us keep that going and all work together.

### From the American Heart Association

Moderate exercise, such as walking for as little as 30 minutes a day, gives you these benefits:

- Improves blood circulation
- Keeps weight under control
- Helps in the battle to quit smoking
- Improves cholesterol levels
- Prevents and manages high blood pressure
- Prevents bone loss
- Boosts energy level
- Helps manage stress
- Releases tension
- Counters anxiety and depression



### Newsletter Articles

VRTA wants your news for the newsletters. It would be helpful if articles submitted for publishing would be emailed to the newsletter editor. If an article cannot be emailed, typing the article helps to ensure accuracy. Pictures can be emailed or mailed to the editor. The people that are pictured should have given permission for their pictures to be used in the newsletter. This is especially important if pictures of students are included with the article. Also, because of copyright issues, I cannot use pictures taken by a professional photographer. All submitted articles will be used if space permits. Articles received after the deadline will likely not be included. The deadline for the Spring 2019 newsletter is **Monday, March 4, 2019.**

Susan Martin, Newsletter Editor  
susanmartin730@gmail.com

### Ready for Your In-Service?

Bea Morris — Legislative Chairperson



As our colleagues who are in the classrooms begin their new school year, I hope they will be fortunate enough to experience in-service programs like some I remember from my teaching days. I was always curious about the changes that would be in place and was relieved when I got that information and could give structure to the nebulous thoughts I had been mulling during the summer about what I would bring to my students. I appreciated that my school system brought in excellent inspirational speakers who often were very entertaining as they encouraged a positive attitude and gave practical suggestions for a successful year. And of course, it was great to see my professional family after the summer break. "Professional family" may seem a strange term, but our town and school were just the right size for our faculty to know and care about each other. And in those days, we actually had time to enjoy going out to lunch on those beginning "work days" when we would get to know new teachers and give them their real orientation.

I was thinking that our VRTA fall conference is much like those in-service days. It will be wonderful to see the friends we have made over the years and to meet new ones as we have a delicious lunch on Tuesday, October 2, as the beginning event of the conference, have dinner together, or just relax later over a cup of coffee in the hotel restaurant.

I hope all our local members, and especially our local leaders, are looking forward to the excellent information and inspiration always found at our state meetings. The workshops give us great ideas for how to be effective leaders and ways to help our units to grow. And where else can you hear speakers such as the top staff of the VRS, often the director herself, who give the most current information and answer questions about our retirement system?

You won't want to miss the Legislative Workshop. Plans are to have a panel discussion on school safety, a topic that has concerned us all and has finally inspired state leaders to give serious study to this vital issue. Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, has agreed to participate as co-chair of Governor Northam's work group on school safety. This group of 17 leaders that have responsibilities related to students are to report their findings to the Governor October 1, the day before our meeting. Also on the panel will be someone from the bipartisan House Select Committee on School Safety appointed by Speaker Kirk Cox, and a representative from the House Democratic Caucus study group that will include gun violence.

Sometimes there were teachers who missed the opening in-service days because they were hired later or unfortunately were sick at that time, etc. They were given the necessary materials and information, but the spirit of those days could never really be communicated. I was always sorry that they missed the intangible things that would have meant so much to them during the year. I hope you will join us at the DoubleTree in Midlothian on October 2-3 for our in-service and a wonderful beginning of our new year.



### Participants in the Spring 2018 Legislative Workshop



Delegate Schuyler VanValkenburg speaks at the Legislative Workshop



### CELEBRATE RETIRED TEACHERS DAY IN VIRGINIA

On

### LOBBY DAY

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019**

(Details will be given at the Fall Conference.)

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Allegheny Retired Teachers

Members of the Allegheny Retired Teachers Association enjoyed working on a number of volunteer projects and programs during the 2017-2018 year.

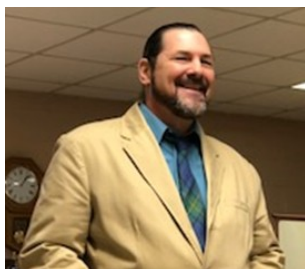
A few of the community service projects undertaken were: collecting school supplies for area elementary schools; donating food, toys, clothing, and money to the Allegheny Highlands Christmas Mother; and contributing food and money to the local food banks. In addition to participating in ARTA's community service projects, individual members reported 5,768 volunteer hours. Some of the volunteer work was related to education, area churches, the art center, the local hospital, civic organizations, or simply helping individuals with various needs. In addition, ARTA offered a scholarship to two area graduating seniors who plan careers in education.

Guest speakers shared information on some of the exciting new initiatives in area schools which challenge teachers and students to take a more positive approach to education. This initiative entitled "The Responsive Classroom" teaches and encourages teachers and students to always be positive in their communication, performance, and interaction. ARTA members learned that another local initiative provides students a gateway to graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree from our local community college. Two students accomplished this goal this year.

An environmentalist informed ARTA members of wetlands with a rare vernal pool within the city limits of Clifton Forge which may become a Destination Garden in a new Allegheny Highlands Vision 2025 Initiative. Members were given the opportunity to discuss investment and insurance concerns with Chuck Swope with Central Atlantic Insurance at one meeting.

A number of members attended District P, Lobby Day, and VRTA Delegate Assemblies and brought updates on the various events to the membership. Members look forward to getting more retirees to join ARTA in its goal and effort to support and advocate for our area students and schools.

March Food Drive



Naturalist Mike Hayslett, speaker at March meeting

### Buchanan County RTA

On May 26, 2018, 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 other coalition members to chaperone the event. The event was a huge success and Buchanan County Retired Teachers are extremely proud of supporting an event that is designed to provide a safe and fun graduation night for our graduates and their guests.



L-R: Roger McClanahan, Nina McClanahan, Penney Jennell, Cindy Matney, Patricia Hogston and Joan Boyd

### District G

District G of Virginia Retired Teachers Association (VRTA) has officers for 2018-20 in place. They are Karen Whetzel of New Market, President; Rich Thompson of Luray, Vice President; Sharon Lucas of Luray, Secretary; and Jim Hines of Mt. Jackson, Treasurer. District G covers the areas of Augusta County, Bath County, Highland County, Page County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, and cities within these counties.

For more information about District G RTA, contact Karen Whetzel, President, at 540-740-8589 or kswetzel@gmail.com. District G meets in the spring and fall; the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, at Traditions in Harrisonburg, VA.



New officers left to right: Sharon Lucas (Secretary) and Karen Whetzel (President) in front row; Jim Hines (Treasurer) and Rich Thompson (Vice President) in second row.

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

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Pittsylvania County Retired Teachers

Scholarship recipients and their parents were guests of Pittsylvania County Retired Teachers Association at its May meeting. Morgan Jones, graduating from Chatham High School, and Abigail Kost, graduating from Gretna High School, were each awarded a \$500 scholarship to continue their education in preparation for a career in the teaching profession. President Mable Scott presented each with a copy of Dr. Seuss's book, Oh, the Places You'll Go! The plaque recognizing the organization's sponsorship of Alexis Toufas of Tunstall High School as a Graduate of Merit was displayed.

A memorial service honored 30 Pittsylvania County Schools employees who have died since last May. Members who have given countless volunteer hours of service to church, school, and community throughout the year were recognized with a token of appreciation. New forms for reporting community service for next year were distributed.

A business meeting followed with reports from the Treasurer, Scrapbook Committee, and Legislative Chairperson. President Scott presented information obtained at the Virginia Retired Teachers Association (VRTA) Spring Delegate Assembly and announced the District E Luncheon at Ernie's Restaurant in South Boston on June 20 at 11:30 AM.

As the last order of business, Immediate Past President, Becky Smith, officiated an installation service for the 2018-2020 officers of PCRTA.

### Patrick County Retired Teachers

Patrick County Retired Teachers volunteer each year with the Reality Store project sponsored by Patrick County Extension Office, part of the Virginia Cooperative Extension. The activity is a financial simulation for high school sophomores and seniors. It teaches various life skills, decision making, education level, and budgeting in addition to personalizing career choices and giving insight into potential career paths.



L-R — Fern Agee, Phyllis Eastridge, Judy Lacks, Betty Perry, Ursula Allan, and Linda Wilson

### Shenandoah County Retired Teachers

The Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association presented two scholarships at their spring dinner meeting on May 2, 2018.

Margaret Figgins, scholarship chairman, introduced the two recipients and presented each with a \$1000 scholarship check. The recipients were:

Tiffany Dellinger, a special education teacher at Ashby-Lee Elementary School, has been teaching for ten years and is working on her master's degree in teaching English as a second language at Eastern Mennonite University

Hope Matthews, a paraprofessional in the Special Education department of Peter Muhlenberg Middle School, has completed the Competent Learner Model program and is working on obtaining her special education teaching degree at Liberty University.



From left to right:  
Hope Matthews,  
Margaret Figgins  
Tiffany Dellinger

Officers for 2018-20 were installed at the Shenandoah County Retired Teachers (SCRTA) spring dinner meeting at Peter Muhlenberg Middle School. New officers are: President, Ramona Daugherty; Vice President, Ann Sheetz; Secretary, Virginia Stultz; Treasurer, Pamela Green; and Past President Maryann Sherry.

Karen Whetzel, President of Virginia Retired Teachers Association District G and previous president of SCRTA, did the installation, and reported on the VRTA delegate assembly held in Richmond in April, at which she represented SCRTA.



Virginia Stultz, Secretary;  
Anne Sheetz, Vice President;  
Ramona Daugherty,  
President; Pamela Green,  
Treasurer

### Greenville Retired Teachers

The GRTA held their installation of officers for 2018-2019 on June 21, 2018, during their quarterly meeting. The officers are Genell Smith, President; Barbara Parker, Vice President; Minnie Mayes, Secretary; Carolyn High, Treasurer; and Victoria Clark, Financial Secretary. Rev. George Pugh conducted the installation and provided detailed responsibilities for each position and challenged the officers to perform to their fullest potential.

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### York County Retired Teachers



The York Retired Teachers Association presented a \$1400 Scholarship to Anna Claire Harris, a 2018 Graduate of York High School. Anna will attend Northern Vermont University and major in Education. Pictured in the photo are Mrs. Ruth Harris, Anna and Helen Wilkerson, YRTA President.

### Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers

Retired Teachers of the Petersburg/Prince George Association have had a rewarding year and are gearing up for another one.

We have elected officers and have been quite busy. We supported "The Peabody Project" as Peabody School is one of the oldest black public schools in the South. The Petersburg/Prince George Choral group continues to sing on.

We meet regularly as scheduled. Included in our meetings are motivating and enlightening presenters. Thanks to our vice president, Patricia Bates, for doing a superb job when illness slowed our president, George Henderson. Also, thanks to our legislative chairman, Annie Mickens that kept us informed from the local to the national levels.

We often win the attendance award at the district meetings, even though we have thirteen (13) units at the meeting. We also often bring home more state award certificates.

To close the year, we awarded a \$500 scholarship to Cayla Vaughn Heishman, a 2018 graduate from Prince George County High School in Prince George, Virginia. She is the daughter of Raymond Heishman. Cayla's initial career goal is to become a registered nurse. She will attend John Tyler Community College in Chester, Virginia, and major in nursing to obtain an associate degree. After which, she will further her education, and pursue her ultimate career goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Charles D. Reese serves as the chairman of the Scholarship Committee for our association.



### Williamsburg James City County

Earlier this year, Harriet Lomax, a former Colonial Williamsburg interpreter, was a guest speaker who kept us captivated with information and stories about people and events during the American Revolutionary War period.

Shade Palmer, a member and past-president, was honored in a local magazine that profiles people living in the Williamsburg community. The interview highlighted how "his teaching experience, administration guidance and thoughtful leadership shaped many lives in the Williamsburg area over the past 60 years."

During our meeting in May, our unit hosted Dr. Olwen Herron, Superintendent of the WJCC Public Schools. She served as deputy superintendent for WJCCPS before being selected for the position as superintendent. She has thirty-five years of public education experience in two countries and three states. For WJCC she spoke about, "Our Vision: Pursing excellence and championing the success of all students." Dr. Herron reported that all 15 of our schools are fully accredited. Through hand-outs received, data was documented about our school system—Student Demographics; Test, Employee and Financial Data; Awards and Achievements. She described herself as a champion of continuous improvement. Challenges within our school system were shared as well as new initiatives. In concluding, Dr. Herron encouraged us to become involved in the WJCC Team through a variety of opportunities that were shared. She is pictured here conversing with some of our members at the conclusion of her presentation and lunch.



Dr. Herron visits with members of Williamsburg James City County Retired Teachers



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Arlington Retired Teachers Association

The Arlington Retired Teachers Association (ARTA) held its 46th anniversary end-of-the-year luncheon on Wednesday, May 23, at the Army Navy Country Club in Fairfax. More than 40 members gathered for socializing and a buffet lunch in a lovely balconied room overlooking the golf course.

The guest speaker was Meg Tuccillo, retired Arlington Public Schools (APS) Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services. In retirement, Meg has taken on a consultant role in the school system's Planning and Evaluation Department. Her *The Times, They are A-Changin'* presentation focused on the present planning challenges of APS, a school system that went from an enrollment of 26,000 in 1964 to 15,000 in 1981, with accompanying school closures, to more than 28,000 students this school year. Arlington's school-age population is projected to swell to 32,000 by 2027. Meg shared how APS is involving the community in its planning processes. She also described the plans already in place and in the works to accommodate the significant growth that is projected.

ARTA scholarship chair Cathy Eckbreth announced the names of the nine graduating APS seniors receiving \$2,500 ARTA scholarships. Each of the graduates is planning a career in education or a related field. She reiterated her thanks to the membership for their generous donations to the scholarship fund that enabled \$22,500 in ARTA scholarships to be awarded.

The day's program closed with the installation of ARTA's officers for 2018-19.



L to R — Sandi Green, Maureen Noonan Moore, Judy Jankowski and Cathy Eckbreth enjoyed time to socialize before the ARTA End-of-Year Luncheon last May at the Army-Navy Country Club in Fairfax.

### District C

Our District Spring Meeting was hosted by the Charles City / New Kent RTA and was held at Publix's- White Oak Village in Richmond. The fellowship and luncheon were enjoyed by all in attendance. Much information was discussed during the business session. A \$500.00 Scholarship was given from the District.

The new officers elected were:

President - Drucilla Tate and Treasurer - Fred Holmes.

We participated in the Fall and Spring VRTA Meetings.

Units in DISTRICT C are: Charles City / New Kent and King & Queen / King William / West Point RTA.



### Charles City/New Kent Retired Teachers

The Charles City/ New Kent Retired Teachers have had a busy year. However, we had a slow fall 2017. We were unable to carry out some of our activities that were scheduled before Christmas.

Mrs. Hazel Charity announced at our March meeting that as of June 30, 2018, she will be resigning from the president's position. She has been president of our unit since 2012 and she feels that she has served and represented the unit and District C well. It has been a good experience and she thanked everyone for working so diligently with her during her tenure.

Our unit sent three representatives to our District C Board Meeting which was held at the Olive Garden Restaurant in White Oak Mall on Laburnum Avenue in Richmond. The unit was also well represented at the VRTA Spring Conference in April 2018. This conference was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Midlothian.

On May 10, 2018, our unit was responsible for hosting the District C Spring Meeting. Several of our members attended this meeting which was held at Publix in the White Oak Mall on Laburnum Avenue, Richmond. The meeting was held in Publix's Community Room. We had a total of eighteen District C members present at this meeting.

The Charles City/New Kent members also gave a \$500.00 scholarship to a 2018 graduating senior from Charles City High School. Our scholarship recipient was Miss Adrianna Stewart.

On June 21, 2018, our group met at Dockside Restaurant in Prince George for our end-of-the-year luncheon. We enjoyed the fellowship, and everyone was encouraged to have a restful and enjoyable summer.



Luncheon at Dockside Restaurant

L to R standing: Muriel Miles, Carol Wilson, Maggie Edwards, Clemmie Miller. Joan James, Alethia Thomas  
Seated: Hazel Charity, President



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Chesapeake Retired Teachers Association

Our last meeting of CRTA was held at our Crazy Buffet in Chesapeake. We are happy to report that the year was filled with several activities and projects including the AARP Food Drive, school supplies to a local elementary school, and two wonderful social events. This last meeting was very exciting since we were able to give three \$2000.00 scholarships to graduating seniors. Our scholarship recipients were Catherine Bronson from Indian River High School, Paul W Robinson III from Oscar Smith and Meredith Glasco from Western Branch High School. Retired honorees chosen for special recognition included Mr. James Rayfield, Mrs. Ersel Selby and Ms. Frances Wells. We had a great time and enjoyed socializing with all attendees.



Year end celebration

### Floyd County Retired Teachers

Floyd County Retired Teachers had their annual picnic at Slusher Park. Our picnic was the culmination of a busy and sad year. Three current teachers and students were given mini-grants for special classroom projects. Money was raised from our silent auction and food sale. A Floyd County High School senior was given our \$1000 annual scholarship. Due to the passing of our past-president, friend, and colleague, Janie Blanchard; more donations were received allowing us to give two more \$1000 scholarships for the graduating class of 2018. A trip to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, NC has been planned for August.



Picnic at Slusher Park

### Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers

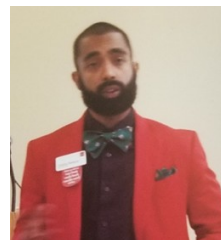
Members of Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association purchased backpacks and filled them basic school supplies for students at S.P. Morton Elementary School of Franklin City Public Schools located in Franklin, Virginia. The members present supplies at the beginning of the New Year after the Christmas holidays to ensure the students will begin the year with needed materials.



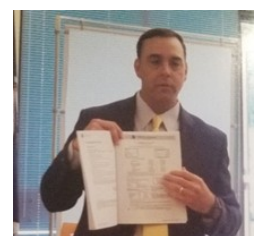
L-R: Mrs. Annie Johnson, Mr. Charles Haskins, students, Mrs. Carol Logan, Principal Dr. Davis, and Ms. Cheryl Roberts

### Hopewell Retired Teachers

Speakers from Banking and Health Care brought three potential new members to the July meeting of the Hopewell Retired Teachers. Cabinath "Chubbie" Maharaj, a personal banker from Wells Fargo spoke to the group about investments for seniors. In addition, David Charland, Chief of Operations from the Hopewell School Board informed attendees about the retirees' benefits for general health, dental and eye coverage.



Speakers at July Meeting



### Loudoun Retired Teachers

Thanks to our hard-working Loudoun Retired Teachers Association Backpack Buddies work crew. These hard workers pack and lift in the heat and the cold so needy students have food to eat on weekends.



Pictured are Pat Land, Joy Griffith, Dana Grier, Chris Stulga, Becky Ryan, Pam Smith, Jasper (Pam's grandson), Mike Nunnaly, Kelly Miller, Linda Greeley, Claire Scholz, Bertha Tiffany.

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Dinwiddie County Retired Teachers

The Dinwiddie County Retired Teachers Association presented a \$1000 scholarship check at a regularly scheduled meeting held on June 6, 2018, at Nottoway Restaurant in Mckenney. Cody Mills, son of Billy and Debbie Mills and a 2018 graduate of Dinwiddie High School, received the scholarship. Cody will attend Wheaton College to major in English with a minor in Japanese Studies. Cody plans to become a teacher. The president of the Dinwiddie Retired Teachers is Paula Lindholm.



Willa Harrison, retired guidance counselor, left, and Sharon Gibbs, guidance counselor, right, present Cody Mills with a \$1000 scholarship at Nottoway Restaurant in Mckenney on June 6, 2018.

### Mecklenburg Retired Teachers

The Mecklenburg Retired Teachers Association has been busy planning its three fall fundraisers for this year. These events include an afghan raffle in September, a basket raffle at the County Fair in October and another basket raffle at the local Bazaar in December. All proceeds will go toward the two scholarships we give each year to graduating seniors from our two county high schools.

Our unit also is excited to have a new treasurer for this upcoming year. Clarice Smith, a former business teacher, has joined our unit and was elected as our new treasurer.

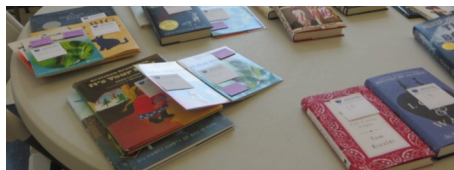
Our officers for 2018-2019 are Kathy Williams, President; Dora Garner, Vice President; Clarice Smith, Treasurer; and Dianne Turner, Secretary.

### Botetourt Retired Educators

The Botetourt Retired Educators held its final meeting of the year in May. At that meeting it was announced that a \$1,000 scholarship would be presented to Mikala Tolley, a senior at James River High School. She received the scholarship at the school's awards night.

Each year the BRE gives two books to each of the county's elementary, middle and high schools. The librarians at each school give the Book Committee several titles that they would like to have. Each elementary school also receives two books written by Rhonda McDonald, a member of BRE. Volunteers deliver the books to each school. This is a popular project that the BRE has completed for many years.

Books ready for delivery



### King & Queen / King William / West Point RT

Our unit meets on the second Monday in September, November, January, March and May. We volunteered at the Carrington Place Nursing Home, assisting the patients playing BINGO. Prospective members were invited to a covered dish luncheon at our May meeting. We participated in the district meetings and the VRTA Fall and Spring Meetings. We spend a lot of time on recruitment and were successful in getting one new member. Our group enjoys and has a lot of fun with trivia information that is brought to our meetings.

### Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers

On July Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association presented Danielle Foster a \$500 scholarship. Ms. Foster is a 2018 graduate of Nottoway High school and plans to attend the University of Virginia. The association raises scholarship money through donations and fund raising.



L to R: Anne Stinson, President; Danielle Foster, recipient; and Evelyn Staples, Treasurer

### Loudoun Retired Educators

Loudoun Retired Educators Association is happy for the return of its officers for a second term.



From left, front row: Cindy Hollingsworth, Nancy Colosi, Co-Treasurers; Nancy Vollmer, Co- President  
Back row from left, Connie Welke, Co-Vice President; Bertha Tiffany, Co-President; Linda Greeley, Recording Secretary; Becky Ryan, Co- Vice President; Elaine Farrah, Facebook Page.  
Not pictured: Alice Gildersleeve, Corresponding Secretary; Maureen Vanderslice, LREA

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Winchester Retired Teachers Association

Winchester Retired Teachers Association has had a focus on community, past and present. We worked closely with our historical society to assist in procuring exemplary guest speakers. Our planning commissioner, who has researched the origin of the names of the streets and their meaning presented to the group. We learned the varied origins and assignments of the names within given locations and their importance to the history of our community. To accompany the fascination of the names of the streets, we also had a guest speaker from preservation of historical Winchester share the architecture of the city and the unique buildings that we have. Each speaker brought to light the special community in which we live and brought smiles to us as we learned the historical background on many things which we notice but may not have taken the time to fully appreciate.

Moving from the past to the future, the vice president of operations and professional services of Valley Health shared a vision for the Winchester Medical Center and the growth of the new hospital campus which is currently being developed. We heard of the new medical opportunities that are being developed and the growth of medical practices and forthcoming arrival of new physicians with new and advanced areas of expertise as our area becomes a larger and more comprehensive medical center.

Our direction for working with children continued as we learned more about the Kids Club of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Their executive director spoke and shared their goals and an overview of the program. WRTA provided donations of supplies and a monetary gift to help them enhance their program.

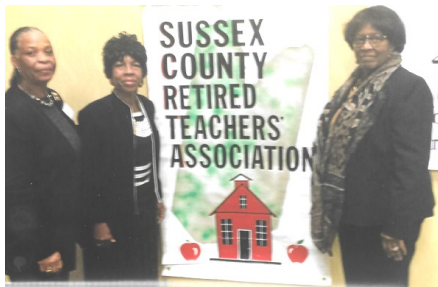
Christmas brought out the caring and the generosity of our members as we had the John Handley High School Choir share its talents as it surrounded us with the love of Christmas. We enjoyed being embraced with the joy of the season as we sang the final song with the choir. In our presence was a red kettle that we have come to associate with the season. A letter followed a few days later from the Salvation Army thanking us for the largest amount raised in a single kettle received by them. We were excited to share and help make the holiday special for many youths in our area and their families through this donation.

We were thankful to be able to offer a scholarship to a local student again this year. A John Handley High School senior was the recipient of a \$3000.00 scholarship. She will begin her studies at Lord Fairfax Community College this fall and intends to major in education.

### Sussex County Retired Teachers

Following VRTA's motto "To Serve, Not be Served" Sussex County Retired Teachers strive to be a positive role model to make a difference in the lives of others by reaching out to recruit and mentor teachers and others in the education profession. Specifically, members volunteered and visited schools during open houses, holiday celebrations, SOL nights, Read Across America, Dr. Seuss Breakfast, Grandparent's Day, Career Day, and Awards Day. Community activities include visiting nursing homes, working at food banks, donating school supplies, and donating healthy snacks for students.

Celebrations during the year included recognizing Rosa Davis Overby who founded the Sussex County Association of Retired Personnel. She also served as historian and president of VRTA. Members of SCRTA participated in Sussex Central High School's first annual Ralph Joyner Classic Basketball event to honor the SCHS Hall of Famer and district legend.



L to R: Sandra Ruffin, Treasurer; Dorothy Williams, President; Jeanetter Urquhart, Past Vice-President and Legislative Chairperson at VRTA Fall 2017 Meeting



Dorothy Williams, President; Rosalyn Shands, Vice-President; and other Dr. Seuss' Birthday Readers from the community.



Cecile Eke, scholarship winner, will attend Hampton University



## From the VRTA Treasurer

Fall is an important time for membership recruitment, especially for enlisting new members who have recently retired. Local unit treasurers are reminded to be sure and send complete information, including full postal addresses and email addresses, so that members can be added to the list to receive their VRTA Newsletter. Please remind your members to notify the treasurer or the newsletter editor if they wish to receive their newsletter electronically, instead of by paper copy.

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 to maintain your tax-exempt status. In addition, please submit a copy of your approved budgets for 2018-2019, signed and dated by two officers prior to the deadline of December 31, 2018. We are required by the IRS to keep these on file in case of auditing.

Local units and districts are encouraged to have more than one person authorized by your bank to sign checks for the unit or district. Several units have run in to problems when their treasurer is incapacitated or unavailable to sign checks and no one else is authorized to do so. Your bank can advise you on how to handle changing your account information to allow this if you have not already done so. Usually you are required to document who is authorized to sign checks in the minutes of a local meeting or a board meeting (if you have one) and then to sign the required documentation at the bank. Many units designate another officer to be authorized to sign checks, if needed.

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

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  
540-473-2636  
[hooman4949@gmail.com](mailto:hooman4949@gmail.com)  
1049 Martins Lane  
Fincastle, VA 24090



### Spring 2019 Delegate Assembly

April 29-May 1, 2019

DoubleTree

Richmond — Midlothian

**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 Sessions – October 2, 2018

On Tuesday afternoon at the Fall VRTA Meeting, there will be a variety of interesting sessions that participants at the conference may attend. One session entitled “D.O.V.E.—Desegregation of Virginia Education” focuses awareness of Virginia history and generates publicity around the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Massive Resistance, the Virginia school closings, and encourages research about school desegregation in Virginia. The project helps students today learn about this important Virginia history.

AARP will present a presentation entitled “Social Media and Voter Engagement.” Tips will be shared about how organizations and individuals are using Facebook and other social media sites to make their voices heard by their elected officials—especially candidates running for office. You will learn how your unit can use social media to share community outreach and service projects.

Ed Mayhew returns to present “Keeping Our Wits About Us.” You will learn some little things you can easily do to stay mentally sharp. Expect to participate in some fun activities.

The Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, will present a session on several of the educational methods the museum uses to engage visitors through tours, living history interpretation and educational programs. The museum’s mission is to engage people with the Bible through its history, narrative, and impact.

Other topics will include Community Service, Leadership Skills, Teachers Tell Stories, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus history, Membership Recruitment, VRTA Benefits, and Treasurer’s Information.

Plan to attend the VRTA Fall Conference on October 2-3 in Richmond.



Break-out session — Spring 2018

## Luncheon Menu

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Mixed Green Garden Salad with Choice of Two Dressings  
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Herbal Tea and Iced Tea  
Dessert-Red Velvet Cake

## CHOICE OF ENTRÉE

### GRILLED QUEEN CUT PRIME RIB OF BEEF

Seasonal Vegetables and Mashed Potatoes

### “VEGETARIAN OPTION”

This will be a chef’s choice

### GRILLED SALMON ( this is gluten free)

Topped with a Tarragon Butter  
Vegetable Medley and Mashed Potatoes

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet Monday, October 1, 2018, from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Boardroom on first floor at DoubleTree.

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 nonvoting member.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On Tuesday, October 2, 2018, the Board of Directors will meet from 9:00—11:30 am in the Anna Room on first floor at DoubleTree.

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.

## Necrology Service

District Presidents or a designee needs to be present on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 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](mailto:hooman4949@gmail.com).

Monday, October 1, 2018  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETS IN  
"BOARD ROOM"  
7:00-9:00 PM

## **VRTA FALL CONFERENCE**

**October 2-3, 2018**  
**DoubleTree**  
**Richmond-Midlothian**

Tuesday, October 2, 2018  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETS 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 Maudie Scott P.O. Box 282 Amelia, Va. 23002 postmarked by **Friday, September 14, 2018**.  
maudie@tds.net

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

- ◇ Grilled Queen Cut Prime Rib of Beef (Seasonal Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes)
- ◇ Grilled Salmon (Topped with a Tarragon Butter, Vegetable Medley, Mashed Potatoes)  
This is gluten free.
- ◇ Vegetarian—This will be the chef's choice.

**2. Room Registration:** Attendees make room reservations no later than **Monday, September 10, 2018** by contacting the Hilton at **1-800-222-Tree** or **804-379-3800**. Attendees request the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association rate of \$106.00/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: Please print clearly.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
District and Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Emergency Contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Banner/Scrapbook Information:** District and local banners will be displayed in the banquet room at the convention. **Units and Districts are required to bring a stand to display their banner.** Scrapbooks will be displayed on a table near the registration table.

**Note: All VRTA members are required to pay the registration fee. Those of you that have a travel companion that is not a VRTA member, can invite your companion to attend the luncheon by paying an additional \$33.00 to cover the cost of their meal and service fees. Add the cost to the registration and indicate their meal choice as well as yours.**

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

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### VRTA Spring 2018 Delegate Assembly

