



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Spring 2018 Edition

A Message from the VRTA President



My term as President of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association has been an inspiring experience that has brought about many positive changes. Moving VRTA's State Conferences from Blackstone Conference Center to DoubleTree was a major undertaking that required a tremendous amount of planning and team effort. Each and every detail was carefully considered. Those of us that travel a great distance to attend the state conferences appreciate the comfortable lodging and attractive surroundings. An updated venue has enhanced the learning experience. The purpose of VRTA's state conferences is to educate its members by keeping them strongly connected and informed.

VRTA's vision is that all retired school personnel will be safe, productive, informed and financially secure in retirement. In order for our vision to be a reality, it is important that all VRTA volunteers work as a team. This team includes state officers, committee chairs, district officers and unit leaders. Success begins at the state level and expands all the way to the local units. Communication is our lifeline and there are still many broken links. Since we are all volunteers and do not have a state office, sharing information is vital. I strongly encourage all District Presidents to attend the Spring Delegate Assembly or send a representative. Unit leaders and VRTA members are also encouraged to attend the conference on April 23-24, 2018. It takes a dedicated team working together to make VRTA the organization that entices new members. We want to keep retired school personnel strongly connected and informed.

Newsletters, Facebook and email are all affective means of communication. Most members are now computer savvy and we rely heavily on individuals checking email, reading newsletters, checking Facebook and sharing information at unit and district meetings.

Benjamin McCartney will become VRTA's President on July 1, 2018. His installation ceremony will be on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, during the Spring Delegate Assembly. Other VRTA officers will also be elected and installed at this time. Ben will be a great asset to our organization. With our support, he will be an enthusiastic leader that will help our organization expand its horizons. I encourage all of you to attend the Spring Delegate Assembly and welcome our new slate of officers for the years 2018-2020.

Nina McClanahan

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet Sunday, April 22, 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.

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"We talk a little less about the budget: the elephant in the room that throws its weight around behind the bills. The budget can make a bill, kill a bill, or make a bill completely ineffective."

It's Your Money: A Brief Introduction to the Budget Process

Bonnie Atwood, VRTA Lobbyist

In VRTA, we talk a lot about bills—the many bills that would affect education, retirement, seniors. The bills that would create new laws, revise existing laws, or repeal laws. We talk a little less about the budget: the elephant in the room that throws its weight around behind the bills. The budget can make a bill, kill a bill, or make a bill completely ineffective. The process is a little bit tricky. Let's take a look.

The budget is a two-year process. On even years, such as this year, 2018, the budget is adopted. These years are called “long sessions,” because they last longer than odd-numbered sessions. On odd-numbered years, next year, the budget is amended. Here are the basic steps. Keep in mind this is greatly abbreviated:

1. **State agencies analyze their needs.** They review their mission. They often collect input from their customers. They figure out how much money to ask for, and how it will be spent. They submit this information to the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB). This is usually done in the early fall.
2. **Budget is developed.** DPB analyzes the agencies' budget requests. They verify costs and confirm needs. All of this information is turned over to the Governor and his Cabinet Secretaries on or before December 20 in the form of a bill, called the “Budget Bill.” The Governor presents the Budget Bill to the legislators in a formal speech given in December.
3. **Legislature acts.** When the General Assembly convenes in January, the Governor's proposed budget is discussed in committees. In the House of Delegates, the budget is reviewed by the House Appropriations Committee. In the Senate, the budget is reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee. The committees may introduce amendments to the bill. When the bill has been reviewed and amended, it comes to the floor of each house. There, it may be amended further. Then each house votes on the amended budget bill. The resulting bills—a House version and a Senate version—then “cross over” to the other house. There, the bill is debated and voted on again. There are inevitably differences in the two finished products. Those differences are resolved by “conference committee” appointed by senior legislators. The final budget bill is then sent to the Governor for his signature.
4. **Governor reviews budget.** The Governor receives this bill. He can sign it, veto the entire bill or specific items, or recommend amendments. If the Governor vetoes the bill, or parts of the bill, then the bill goes back to the legislature for a “reconvened session” in April. If the Governor recommends amendments, they are considered by the legislature at this time. The legislature can vote changes in or out.
5. **Budget is executed.** The final budget passed by the General Assembly goes into effect on July 1 in even-numbered years, and on the date of passage in odd-numbered years.



From Lamont Bagby's
Session Newsletter

The Virginia Retired Teachers Association visited by to discuss how amazing it is to be retired, but more importantly how there organization supports educators and their students.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On Monday, April 23, 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.

VRTA IN THE KNOW

Bea Morris, Legislative Chair



I thank NRTA for the use of the catchy title, NRTA IN THE KNOW, their occasional but informative e-newsletter sent to state RTA leaders across the country. Both NRTA and VRTA keep retired teachers abreast of the important issues of the day and encourage them to enjoy this stage of their lives as they develop new interests and serve their communities in ways they never thought possible.

The Legislative Committee will make sure you are “in the know” about what happened in the General Assembly this year when you come to our workshop at the state meeting Monday afternoon, April 23. What effect did so many new delegates, a lot of them women, have on passing and defeating legislation? How might we be more effective next year? Are there other issues we need to consider in 2019? These and other questions will help us to be “in the know” as we look forward to another year. And a mystery guest legislator who is “in the know” will give us his perspective on the 2018 session and the things he sees in Virginia’s future.

We always want to be “in the know” about retirement, so the staff of VRS will be with us again on Tuesday morning, April 24, to bring us up to date on the status of the trust fund and any changes that have occurred or are anticipated.

Those of us who have been coming to the VRTA state meetings for a long time understand how helpful it is to hear the speakers, participate in discussions, and learn first hand about how this organization works. We value the friendships we have made and look forward to meeting other members. We try to relay information to the members of our units and districts when we go home, but it is impossible to recreate experiences. So, we hope to see members from every unit at the DoubleTree in Midlothian in April so there will be even more of us “in the know.”

Future Conference Dates

Spring Delegate Assembly—April 23-24, 2018

(Cut-off date for room reservation is **Friday, April 6, 2018** and the deadline to register for the conference is **Tuesday, April 10, 2018**)

Fall Conference—October 2-3, 2018 (Cut-off date for room reservation is Monday, **September 10, 2018.**)



Fall Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting an article for the Fall 2018 Newsletter is **Monday, August 6, 2018**. Email articles to Susan Martin at: susmartin730@gmail.com or mail them to:

Susan Martin
1049 Martins Lane
Fincastle, VA 24090

Nominating Committee Report

The following names have been submitted by the Nominating Committee. The election of officers will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 during the business session.

President-Elect---Glenn Pair, Sr.

Vice-President---Reba Evans

Secretary---Leigh McKay

Treasurer---Weldon Martin

Virginia Retired Teachers Association

“Organized November 28, 1936”

2016 - 2018 Officers

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

News From Around the Commonwealth

Alexandria Retired Teachers

The Alexandria Retired Teachers Association had Elaine Flynn interpret in full dress Alice Roosevelt Longworth. She told us all the political gossip stories of her time period. She then placed various hats, pearls or gloves on members to become eight past first ladies. In October we had the Five Pillars of Brain Health by AARP Community Ambassador, Suba Satyuarayan. We learned a lot about keeping our brain healthy. In November we attended Arlington's ARTA meeting on a new book about Hemingway. In December we heard the George Washington Middle School Orchestra perform a holiday concert for us. They were wonderful.



President Barbara McClellan portraying Helen "Nellie" Taft, who was the first lady who helped plant the cherry trees from Japan in DC



TC Williams Scholarship recipient, Anijah Willis, who is attending Hampton University to become a high school teacher

Buchanan County RTA

Twelve members of the Buchanan County Retired Teachers Association and four guests met December 11, 2017, at Peking Restaurant. Brad Napier, the guest speaker, talked about the Boys & Girls Club of Central Appalachia and the ways the organization serves the students in Buchanan County. BCRTA made donations to the Boys & Girls Club, Buchanan County Social Service's Coal Miners Christmas and Heritage Hall's activity department. Patricia Hogston, BCRTA President and Nina McClanahan, VRTA President presented checks to Brad Napier, Chairman of the Board for Boys and Girls and to Penney Jennell, activity's volunteer at Heritage Hall.



Arlington/District U

Meeting in February on "Crossover Day", Arlington/District U, had a workshop to activate interaction with the Virginia Legislature, focused on issues pertinent to educators in the 2018 General Assembly. Jeanne Trabulsi, Legislative Chair, is shown in the photo with Vice President, Lynne Lilly and Anita Scott as they scribe focused notes to selected legislators. In preparation, print outs of the gist of four education related bills which came before the House of Delegates were presented and reviewed. Most did not receive sufficient votes to proceed to the next level of legislation, but they are worthy and may recur. Providing materials of pen, paper, names and Richmond addresses of persons who voted for or against having several bills come to the upper house, the ARTA members used the "un-cyber", but effective mode of handwritten letters to the "Honorable" delegates, thanking them for service and sharing opinions for the future. Most of the letters concentrated on bills that are now sidetracked but may appear again. The focused bills were on increasing mental health counselors for high schools, reducing the amount of SOL testing required by the state, developing and underwriting a corps of new teachers who will "pay back" their education by working in areas with underachieving children. The letters went out in the afternoon mail. This was a highly effective program and worthy of repetition.

Arlington/District U's "Crossover Day" workshop



District P Members at VRTA Fall 2017



Visit VRTA's Website at VRTA.org

News From Around the Commonwealth

Hampton Retired Teachers Association

The HRTA members celebrated the start of the 2017-2018 school year at The Paradise Ocean Club. As in the past, Hampton City Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeffery Smith shared highlights of the 2017 "Year in Review." The generosity of the members was evident by the large number of school supplies which were donated. Before packing up the supplies to be delivered to the students at Burbank Elementary School, HRTA members Bonnie Herncall, Calvin Mansfield and Doris Williams and Burbank Principal Ashley Ide displayed some of the items. Also, the members donated over \$700 which will be divided among the four elementary schools which have Uniform Closets. We are off to a great year!



Sample of school supplies collected

Almost 100 HRTA members met at the Paradise Ocean Club at Fort Monroe to award six scholarships, totaling \$4,500. From left to right, the participants were as follows: Azure Latimer, HRTA Student Scholar; Ashley Sell, Bessie Jacobs Memorial Scholar; Kasey Mosby, HRTA Student Scholar; HCS Superintendent Dr. Jeffery Smith; Angelina Ferris, Tonya Hutchinson and April Pitzer, HCS Instructional Assistant Scholars.



Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

The Henrico Retired School Personnel Association had its fall luncheon at the Willow Oaks Country Club on October 26, 2017. Besides the wonderful food and great socialization, members were delighted to visit with author Bill Pike and illustrator Nell Chesley and enjoy and purchase a copy of their new children's book The Principal's Pink Tutu Run. Members were given an update about their fall philanthropy project The Henrico Christmas Mother by Gay Rudis the 2017 Henrico Christmas Mother. Members also thoroughly enjoyed a performance by the singing group "Good Vibrations."

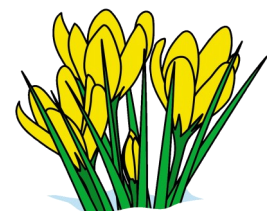


From top to bottom: Luncheon at Willow Oaks Country Club, Christmas Mother Gay Rudis, Bill Pike and Nell Chesley, and singing group "Good Vibrations"

District G

Delegate Todd Gilbert recognized Shenandoah County School Board Chair Karen Whetzel for being Regional School Board Member of the Year last year. He presented a resolution to the General Assembly and then had it framed. Karen is president of District G RTA.

Delegate Todd Gilbert and Karen Whetzel



News From Around the Commonwealth

Birthday Celebration



Iris Vann

Mrs. Iris Vann, a Shenandoah County Retired Teacher Association member (SCRTA) member, will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Oct. 7th. Mr. Tim Taylor videotaped her recently as she remembered the poems and stories she shared with her students. Iris taught at Fort Valley, Toms Brook, and Strasburg Elementary, now Sandy Hook, in Shenandoah County, VA.

District G Has Fall Meeting

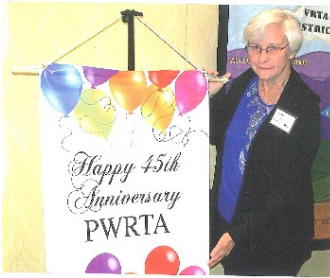


James DuBrueler, of Creekside Insurance in Winchester and Agent of Record for the Virginia Retired Teachers Association, was guest speaker at the Fall meeting of District G Retired Teachers Association at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg, VA. DuBrueler spoke on prescription

medicines for both Medicare and private insurance participants. He showed how to access the Medicare.gov website to select the best Rx insurance for those on Medicare. Karen Whetzel, President of District G RTA, is a member of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association Insurance committee, which DuBrueler advises.

The next District G RTA meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17, at Traditions in Harrisonburg. Local VRTA units included in District G are Augusta Retired Educators Association, Bath/Highland Retired Teachers Association, Page County Retired Educators Association, and Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association. All retired educators, regardless of where they worked, are invited to attend. Reservations must be made in advance; contact Karen Whetzel at 540-740-8589 or kswhetzel@gmail.com for more information and to make reservations.

Prince William Retired Teachers celebrated their 45th anniversary.



PWRTA President Lora Ker

Williamsburg RTA



The Williamsburg Unit of the VRTA ended the year with a cookout featuring live music, good food and games. Many retirees attended and thoroughly enjoyed everything. A recent illness for Mr. Shade Palmer did little to cramp his style- he was the same gracious host that he's always been. It was a wonderful affair.



Officer Dickinson of the WMBG Police Department spoke to the group about SCAMS- especially those directed towards the elderly. He also talked about abuse of the elderly and stated that we should not hesitate to involve the police if we feel that a loved one is being abused by a caretaker. He talked about how the police work with schools and parents to help monitor children's behavior in more positive ways. It was a very enlightening session.



Roanoke City Retired Educators

The Roanoke City Retired Educator's Association (RCREA) has met twice since the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. At our Fall meeting, several important legislative items were introduced by our legislative committee and discussed with the membership. These issues were going to be addressed at the District P Legislative Forum and the Fall VRTA Conference in Richmond. Our guest speaker for the day was Roanoke contributing writer and humorist Dan Casey, who authors regular columns for the Roanoke Times. He presented a very enjoyable memoir and the effect teachers had on his life.

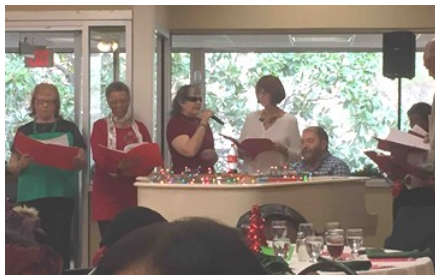
At our holiday gathering, we met at Montano's Restaurant. The legislative committee addressed and discussed issues pertaining to the Governor's proposed biennial state budget and Legislative Day in Richmond. The focus was on concerns that will impact educators statewide. Members were presented with the revised bylaws of the organization. Holiday entertainment was provided by the chamber music group Quintessence Strings.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Richmond Henrico Retired Teachers Association

The December luncheon program was dedicated to "Youth In Our Community." School supplies, mittens/gloves and hats were collected to be donated to eight (8) District Q Elementary Schools. R-HRTA Members also made a generous monetary donation to the Feed More/Back Pack Program. This program fills the nutrition gap for school age children in need. Many of our members will read to children at these eight schools during Black History Month and on Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Day.

The highlight of the December Luncheon Program was the holiday music presented by the Senior Connection Choir. The joy of giving and the holiday spirit was felt by all in attendance.



Senior Connection Choir

Supplies for Schools



Petersburg/Prince George Retirees Give Christmas Cheer

The Petersburg/Prince George unit of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association hosted its District D meeting at Zion Baptist Church in Petersburg on Monday, December 11, at noon and it was a resounding success.

After the call to order, the welcome, and the Pledge of Allegiance, they had a delicious lunch after which the P/PG Choral beautifully sang a medley of Christmas songs ending with a sing-a-long.

The business session started with the last meeting's minutes and continued with committee reports with some committee chairman absent. After the roll call for attendance awards, door prizes were issued but not before everyone received a gift!



P/PG Choral

Patrick County Retired Teachers

At a recent meeting of the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association, members made and designed bowls to be used in the upcoming Empty Bowl Event, a community soup meal with proceeds helping to support the local food bank. Norma Bozenmeyer demonstrated shaping the clay and making different designs on the clay. The next step is the firing of the bowls in a kiln and later the glazing, both done Bozenmeyer. Members made approximately twenty-five bowls. Those who attend the meal can keep the handmade bowls.

Other activities carried out by the Patrick County Retired teachers are conducting a local food drive to provide for the local food bank; providing a picnic for PARC, a center the employs disabled individuals; having Christmas Party of music for the developmental center, a center for severely handicapped; donating to Christmas Cheer, 4-H organization, and Back-Pack Program, and volunteers provide services and entertainment at the local nursing home and residential living center and tutor and read to students in the schools. Plans are in the making for preparing "Go Bags" for foster parents and donating lice medication to the elementary schools.



Patrick County Retired teacher Norma Bozenmeyer demonstrates shaping clay into bowls as Linda Wilson looks on.

Roanoke City REA Presents Scholarships



Kai Washington Brown; Donna Lee, scholarship chairperson; Kela Marquez; Bonnie Mann, president

News From Around the Commonwealth

District N Community Service Fall 2017

Each Fall, members in District N units are asked to bring new socks, gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves to bring to the District N meeting. The items are then sent to Rev. Ben Farrar of First Baptist Church in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, and distributed to the community Dakota Sioux.

From the December 17, 2017, blog spot. we learn: *"First Baptist Church is about half a mile away from the border between Dewey County and Ziebach County. These counties are the third poorest in the nation, and the poorest in the nation, respectively. So there is no shortage of immediate need in our community. Fortunately for us, we have friends from across America who have generous hearts and a willingness to share their bounty. They send a great quantity of clothes and other useful things to us, so we can distribute them to the poor. And whenever we have a good quantity of these things stored up, we host a big giveaway at the church. We had one of these this November, when dozens of people from all over the community came and took possession of high-quality donated clothes, without cost."* Additional information can be found at <http://eaglebuttefbc.blogspot.com/>

This year, many of the items donated were hand crafted by members and friends of the Winchester City Retired Teachers Association. We in District N are proud to be part of their big giveaways. Sending these items keep those who choose them warm; and, in turn, our hearts are warmed.



Socks, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for Community Service



District N members Janet Dye of Loudoun and Cecily Hasten of Winchester City show off the donations

Hanover Retired School Employees

Hanover Retired School Employees Association - District S held its fall meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2017 at The Hanover Center for Trades and Technology (THCTT) in Hanover County, Virginia. Before the business session, we had a delicious brunch that was catered by Chef Brian Huber and the THCTT culinary students. After an informative meeting, Justin Roerink, the principal gave us a tour of the facility so that we could see other Hanover County Public Schools students at work learning productive trades/skills as they prepare for their future careers and/or colleges.

During our meeting, members gave donations/contributions to the American Red Cross (ARC) that helped the ARC with emergency relief in the State of Virginia, particularly during the recent hurricanes.

We were encouraged by Deborah Roane, our president to build our membership and to continue volunteering in our local communities. In order to promote personal and professional growth, members are encouraged to attend the spring and fall meetings of District "S" and VRTA conferences. The HRSEA executive officers Deborah Roane, Marty McDonnell, Charla Cordle, and Janet Christopher have met to strategize on how to increase membership by electronically emailing and mailing newsletters to prospective members, inviting recent retirees to meetings and offering transportation if necessary; and encouraging all members to bring their friends who are retirees.

District S is excited about our recently created HRSEA Scrapbook and the new and beautiful quilted HRSEA Banner created by Dr. Janet Christopher that was taken and displayed at the Fall VRTA 2017 Meeting.

On March 15, 2018, we will have our annual spring HRSEA Meeting with an AARP Representative speaking on informative topics pertinent to all retirees. In May, our annual HRSEA Scholarship will be given to a Hanover High School senior who is pursuing a degree in education.

District S membership is open to all retired Hanover County Public School Employees. Contact: Janet Christopher for more information at janet.christopher@verizon.net or 804.737.5385.



Janet Christopher and the District S Banner

From The VRTA Treasurer

I appreciate what our local units and districts are doing to promote membership in VRTA with your local members. There is strength in numbers and we must protect our VRS benefits and monitor the activity of our legislature and governor in Richmond. Our representatives need our support and the backing of a large membership in VRTA. Please encourage all of your local members to join VRTA.

Here are a few reminders for our hardworking local unit treasurers:

- It is time to start collecting and submitting dues for the 2018-2019 membership year. State dues are \$20 per year or \$200 for a life membership.
- Continue to submit the names of deceased members so that the rolls can be updated.
- If you are a member of the VRTA IRS Group Tax Umbrella, don't forget to submit your approved budgets annually to the state treasurer signed and dated by two officers. Copies of your 2017-2018 budgets are past due. The 2018-2019 budgets will be due by December 31, 2018.
- Membership forms and Dues Settlement Statements will be available for pick up at the Spring Delegate Assembly in Richmond. They can also be mailed to you upon request if you are unable to attend the spring meeting.
- Contact Information: Weldon Martin, Treasurer
1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090
hooman4949@gmail.com

I will be available to answer questions and distribute forms at the spring meeting in Richmond. I hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes,
Weldon Martin,
Treasurer

LUNCHEON MENU

Monday, April 23, 2018

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

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE

TUSCAN GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST

Italian Herb Crusted Chicken Served with Olive Oil, Garlic, and Finished with Nut Free Presto Sauce—Served with Seasonal Vegetables and Oven Roasted Potatoes

GRILLED PRIME RIB OF BEEF

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

“VEGETARIAN OPTION”

VEGETARIAN SALISBURY “STEAK”

Steak made with Black Beans, Chickpeas, spinach and Served with Seasoned Vegetables

“GLUTEN FREE OPTION”

GRILLED SALMON

Topped with a Tarragon Butter Vegetable Medley and Roasted Potatoes

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.

Spring Delegate Assembly Sessions Monday, April 23, 2018

Knowledge is Power and VRTA members that attend state conferences and participate in the afternoon sessions are better equipped with factual information that is an inspiration to keep local members strongly connected and informed. Effective communication and proper training is necessary for VRTA to thrive. With this in mind, sessions are planned to enrich our lives and improve our organization.

- **LEADERSHIP**—Phyllis Eastridge, Immediate Past President, will present a two-part session on Leadership. Part 1 will include responsibilities of the officers, committees, and dates when activities should be completed. Part 2 will include Leadership Styles and using “Success Signals” for effective leadership. John Maxwell said, “The greatest skill needed for success is the ability to get along with other people.” Effective leaders know what signals to send for success. When you understand the signals of others and when you communicate in ways that get your intended message across, you send success signals.
- **RTA HISTORY**—Judy Dickerson and Joyce Williams of RCRT will present a session that traces current Medicare coverage back to a time when insurance coverage for retired teachers was absent. Ethel Percy Andrus, a teacher, saw a need and became an activist. Because of her efforts and with struggles, retirees have coverage today.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**—Reba Evans, VRTA Vice-President and Membership Chair’s, session will be a round table discussion. Establishing an improved plan for recruiting new members is vital. Are we asking too much or not enough of our members? How can we get our message out to all our members? What can VRTA do for its members? Do you have any ideas of things VRTA can do as a benefit to its members? Do local members know about VRTA and NRTA and their benefits? What are the problems with getting new members? What can we do to keep our members? Is your local unit growing in membership? What are you doing to make this growth happen? If you are losing members, what do you think is causing this? Do you do anything to promote your unit in newspapers, etc. Volunteering—do you do this as a group or individual? Do you report to VRTA?
- **VRTA BENEFITS**—Jim DuBrueler Jr., VRTA Agent of Record, will be presenting a session with current information on, Medicare, Long Term Care, Fixed Annuities and Medicare Supplements.
- **RICHMOND AREA TOURISM**—Tamera Wilkins-Harris, Manager of Events & Sponsorship and Jason Whitt, Convention Sales Manager will present a session on Richmond Tourism. As the Region’s primary marketer, Richmond Region Tourism welcomes meeting planners, tournament organizers, tour operators, travel media and leisure travelers. A nonprofit organization, Richmond Region Tourism offers a comprehensive array of information and services.
- **FACEBOOK**—Join AARP Virginia State Office’s Multicultural Outreach Director for a fun, hands-on interactive workshop, and learn how to get the most from your mobile device and Facebook. Social media has been a wonderfully easy way for many of us to stay connected with our old college friends and share those cute pictures of our grandchildren, but **Genéa Luck** will share tips on how to make your Facebook page livelier; as well as share the good news and community service projects of your VRTA Chapter. A quick and painless way of free community outreach and personal engagement with your constituents.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE**
- **TIPS FOR TREASURERS**
- **LEGISLATIVE**

Robbie Limon to Entertain at VRTA Delegate Assembly



Once again Robbie Limon will entertain at the luncheon at the VRTA Spring Delegate Assembly. Accompanying himself on the acoustic guitar, Robbie sings the best music of the 1970s. His talent and experiences continue to earn him high praise. He was nominated and was runner-up in 2014 for best actor in a musical performance (professional/non-tour) at Broadway World in Washington, DC. Also, in 2014 he received the award for best actor in a musical (professional/non-tour) and best musical director at DC Metro Arts. We look forward to his entertainment in April at the Delegate Assembly.

STANDING RULES (ATTENTION) Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Unit Presidents must send the VRTA President the names of delegates to the Spring Delegate Assembly prior to the meeting.

VOTING DELEGATES

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 the VRTA.

SUNDAY, April 22, 2018
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETS IN "BOARD ROOM"
7:00-9:00 PM

VRTA Spring Delegate Assembly
April 23-24, 2018
DoubleTree

MONDAY, April 23, 2018
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 **Tuesday, April 10, 2018**

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

- Tuscan Grilled Chicken Breast (Italian Herb Crusted Chicken, Seasonal Vegetables, Oven Roasted Potatoes)
- Grilled Prime Rib of Beef (Seasonal Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes)
- Gluten Free—Grilled Salmon (Topped with a Tarragon Butter, Vegetable Medley, Roasted Potatoes)
- Vegetarian—Vegetarian Salisbury "Steak" (Made with Black Beans, Chickpeas, spinach and served with Seasoned Vegetables)

- 2. Room Registration:** Attendees make room reservations no later than **Friday, April 6, 2018**, by contacting the Hilton at **1-800-222-Tree** or **804-379-3800**. Attendees request the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association rate of \$104.00/night plus state and local taxes. This rate is good for up to 4 people per room. Additionally, this room rate is good 3 days prior to our event and 3 days after our event.

3. Personal Information for Registration:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

District and Unit: _____

- 4. Are you a voting delegate?** Yes _____ No _____

5. Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

- 6. Banner/Scrapbook Information:** District and local banners to 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.

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

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SPRING DELEGATE ASSEMBLY—WHAT'S NEW

In order to better serve all VRTA members that attend the Spring Delegate Assembly on April 23-24, 2018 the Executive Committee is initiating a change for Monday morning, April 23. **Beginning at 8:00 AM, coffee, tea and muffins will be available in the James River Corridor near the registration table.** For those that will not be attending the Board of Directors meeting, information tables will be staffed by approximately 9:30 AM. Three tables will be set up in the corridor.

- **Richmond Region Tourism representatives** will be available to offer a comprehensive array of information and services.
- **Jim DuBrueler, Jr., COO, VRTA Agent of Record** will be on hand to answer questions concerning Medicare, Long Term Care and Fixed Annuity. He will also answer questions about your personal circumstances. One-on-one consultations will be available if desired.
- **Weldon Martin, VRTA Treasurer**, will be distributing membership forms to unit and district treasurers. Treasurers that have questions about e-postcard, etc. can get the facts.



Email Notification for Newsletter

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

BANNERS AND SCRAPBOOKS (NEW INFORMATION)

DoubleTree is resurfacing the walls in *James River Ballroom*. Since the hotel staff will no longer be allowed to use tape to hang banners, the VRTA Executive Committee is asking the districts and units to bring an easel or stand to display their banner. The banners will be displayed along the wall during the *Spring Delegate Assembly* and future conferences. Scrapbooks will be displayed in the corridor near the registration table.