



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2019 Edition

A Message from the VRTA President



I am working, along with President-elect Glenn Pair, Jr., on our upcoming VRTA Fall Conference. We hope that we will be bringing a worthwhile conference for our VRTA members. Please encourage “newbies” to attend the fall conference. We have some exciting breakout sessions and as always the Virginia Retirement System will have a presentation for us. The fall conference will take place on October 15 and 16 at the DoubleTree-Midlothian Hilton. We have been very pleased by the accommodations provided by the hotel. I placed the registration form on our website back in

early July. Please make sure that you fill out the registration form and have it postmarked by Friday, September 13, 2019. There will be a \$10.00 late fee imposed if the registration is post-marked after that date. Please also secure your room at the Hilton before the block of rooms at the VRTA rate is sold out. Remember, you can share the cost of the room with a roommate, thus cutting your expenses.

The **VRTA Brand; “We enrich retired school personnel’s lives”** is certainly something Glenn and I are striving for. The information provided by the Virginia Retirement System is beneficial to all of us. The breakout sessions will be informative for our well-being. As it stands right now, we have breakout sessions on estate planning, fiduciary relationships and money management, health care supplemental programs, healthy metabolism incorporating movement and diet, AARP topics including RX Campaign Virginia, get out the vote, redistricting and other joint venture VRTA-AARP Virginia topics. We will also have breakouts for treasurers, units seeking by-law changes, membership and our invaluable legislative workshop.

Our **VRTA Mission Statement; “to be the voice, resource and connection for all retired school personnel”** will be well represented via the breakout session opportunities provided to our attendees.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Rosa Atkins, Superintendent of Charlottesville Public Schools. I have asked her to enlighten us on what school divisions are facing today in our divisive political climate, anxiety amongst students who may have parents arrested and detained by ICE, teacher shortages, school resource officers, etc.. It is obvious that the world of education has changed and the current educators are facing challenges that I did not face in my 35 years in the classroom to the extent that current staff has to deal with on a daily basis.

Our **VRTA Vision Statement; “all retired school personnel will be safe, productive, informed and financially secure in retirement”** will be met by the presentation from VRS and the enlightenment coming from Bea Morris in her legislative breakout session.

I am asking that attendees come to the breakout session on membership with the purpose of creating a letter to the editor in your locality, giving insight as to what you do on the local level and inviting retirees to join us. If you already have scripted letters please bring examples. Last year the membership breakout session worked on posters to be placed in the community. We have two posters on our website you may download, reproduce and distribute. It really is critical that we increase our membership state-wide. With that in mind, we need volunteers to step up and take leadership roles and committee members so that VRTA may function smoothly. We are always looking for talented persons who will be willing to guide VRTA. Currently, I need a chairperson for the Philanthropy Committee. Email me your interest. Longstanding chairpersons could use your help.

On Wednesday, Vice-president Reba Evans will once again remind us of our mortality as we pay our respects to the deceased members of VRTA over the past year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those wonderful persons who have passed on.

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Page 4 -*“Through the generosity of Virginia Retired Teachers Association and others, Virginia Voice is able to provide the Commonwealth with local information and culture for the entire community regardless of ability.”*

President’s Message continued

We will still have the 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to our VRTA philanthropy committee and we will still have the Marketplace. If your local unit wishes to have a table at the Marketplace, let me know ASAP. I will arrange to have a table in the foyer set up for you. Once again, my local unit, Fauquier Retired Teachers Association, will be raffling a one night stay at the Doubletree-Midlothian. Last year my local unit netted \$266 towards our scholarship. I will personally partially reimburse one attendee for their overnight stay, via a drawing. It comes from my own pocket. Last spring I paid out \$50. This fall I will pay \$75. We will also have ten gift cards from Walmart for attendees who participate in the breakout sessions.

On Tuesday night we will loosely schedule some entertainment in one of the breakout session rooms. If you do not like my trivia questions, it has been suggested that we play charades or cards. I am “game” for either of those endeavors.

Please encourage your members to register and attend. I am sure you will not regret it. Remember to bring your banners, along with a stand, scrapbooks and your wonderful enthusiasm. I will be waiting to greet you.

Ben McCartney, VRTA President

Stuff We Need to Know

Bea Morris — Legislative Chair

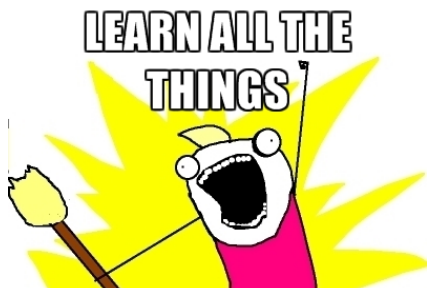


Sometimes I think I’m on information overload. How about you? As teachers, we are by nature curious, and we want to know things. We want to know the latest health news, the best bargains, the newest recipes, the latest, greatest way to make plants grow and to kill weeds, and on and on. We’re afraid not to keep up with what’s happening on the political scene. Where does it all end?

Are you drowning in newspapers as I am (I love newspapers!), or are you glued to the TV to be among the first to see the latest disaster or to the newest electronic device so you don’t miss something just posted on Facebook?

The title of the Legislative Workshop on Tuesday, October 15, is Stuff We Need to Know. Our goal is to provide “stuff we need to know” that will help us make sense of and be prepared to deal with the information that is bombarding us now and that’s likely to increase in the coming weeks. Where else can you hear in an hour Rachael Deane from the Alliance for Virginia’s Students, Linda Hale, Fire Marshal in Loudoun County, and Michael Jones from Major Security Counseling talk about legislation concerning education and school security likely to be before the General Assembly in 2020? And of course, the VRS staff gives us facts about the retirement system and answers questions that often originate from the media.

Don’t miss an opportunity to find out “stuff we need to know” with friends, acquaintances, and folks we haven’t met but with whom we have a lot in common. Hope to see you at the DoubleTree in Midlothian October 15 and 16.



VRTA Day at the General Assembly

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Details and registration will be available at the VRTA Fall Conference and from your local unit president.



Virginia Retired Teachers Association

“Organized November 28, 1936”

2018- 2020 Officers

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

“Virginia is for Learners”

Bonnie Atwood

Education is still front and center in the attention of the Virginia Executive Branch, judging by an initiative by Governor Ralph Northam that was announced last April. “Virginia is for Learners” includes a number of key components to help support and prepare students for success. Here is a summary:

- A Stronger Focus on Deeper Learning: critical thinking, creative thinking, and communication, are a few
- New High School Graduation Requirements and Career Pathways: Looking closely at what students need for life AFTER school
- Modernizing the Virginia Standards of Learning: New testing approaches
- More and better early childhood education: Virginia supports birth to five programming
- New Standards of Accreditation: New emphasis on real-world skills
- Maximizing the potential of all students: Focusing on the changing needs of a diverse student population

This initiative is supported by the Department of Education, the Board of Education, Jobs for the Future, and the PTA.

Focus on Awards

To win awards is easy, yet because of our growth the questions arises, “How do you win awards?” Review this article and do what it suggests.

The deadline for reporting is June 30th of each year.

- Units and districts must report by the deadline to receive the most awards.
- The first ten units reporting receive the Early Bird Award.
- Unit and district banners must be displayed at the fall and spring VRTA meetings each year.
- Districts with 100% of their units’ banners displayed receive an award.
- Awards are given to districts and units giving scholarships, no matter what the amount.
- If all the units in a district give a scholarship, the district receives an award.
- Awards are given to units with equalized membership in the unit, district and state.
- The district will receive an award if all units in the district have equalized membership.
- A special award is given yearly by the Awards Committee.



Reminder: Banners are checked on Tuesday between the hours of 12:00 PM and 4:30 PM.

We strongly encourage participation. Let’s improve.

Canzata Turner

Spring 2020 Newsletter

The deadline for the spring newsletter is Monday, March 2, 2020. Submit articles and pictures to Susan Martin at: susanmartin730@gmail.com

or at:

1049 Martins Lane
Fincastle, VA 24090

VRTA MISSION STATEMENT

“TO BE THE VOICE, RESOURCE, AND CONNECTION FOR ALL RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL”

VRTA VISION STATEMENT

“ALL RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL WILL BE SAFE, PRODUCTIVE, INFORMED AND FINANCIALLY SECURE IN RETIREMENT”

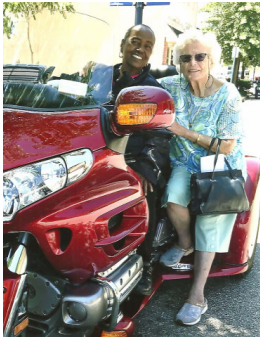
VRTA BRAND

“WE ENRICH RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL’S LIVES!”

News From Around the Commonwealth

Hopewell Retired Teachers

Hopewell Retired Teachers began the 2019--20 year learning about Health and Wellness as We Age. A \$1,000.00 scholarship was awarded to a local graduating senior. The organization donated \$200.00 for the New Teachers' Shower which assists new teachers in the system with personal supplies for their classrooms. HRTA supports the Annual John Randolph Golf Tournament which raises the money for our Scholarship Fund.



President Gloria Bailey, who recently returned from an African safari, shares her "Trike" with member, Mildred Basile. With such leadership, Hopewell retirees are energized.

Sussex County Retired Teachers Association

Following VRTS's Motto "To Serve, Not To Be Served" SCRTA focuses on being a positive role model throughout the community.

Members of SCRTA participated in and supported many celebrations during the year. They included:

- Sussex Central High School second annual Ralph Joyner Classic Basketball Event
- Sussex County Youth and Adult Recreation Association Community Day
- Teachers of Year/Division Teacher of Year Recognition (May 2019)
- Sussex Central High School Alumni Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony- May 4, 2019
- VRTA Spring Conference in April/May 2019 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Midlothian
- Who Reads? We Read! To the students at Sussex Central Elementary School though out the year especially during Read Across America Week

Others activities were grandparents week, Youth Summit Health Fair, career day, SOL night, nursing home visitation, donating school supplies, books and stuffed animals to children to brighten their day, National Night Out/Jarratt Park and Wakefield Park.

SCRTA annual scholarship banquet was chaired by Mrs. Ora J. Briggs, who created and designed gift baskets for all members over 80 years old. Mrs. Terry Massenburg was the mistress of ceremonies, Mrs. Maudie Scott, president of District D, welcomed everyone, and the speaker was Dr. Charles H. Harris III. The scrumptious meal was catered by Mrs. Stephanie Yates.

Winchester Retired Teachers Association

Who knew that recycling could entail so much and be so wonderful and attractive? We had a visit from our landfill specialist and were pleasantly surprised at the changes made under the umbrella of recycling. It was amazing to see how far we have come as a community from just separating specific materials and taking them to a "dump" or landfill. We now have degreed personnel that plan and design for the best use of our designated land and recycle materials that may produce aesthetically delightful areas as well as redesign materials for future use.

VRTA had the pleasure of hosting a district N meeting. In addition to being wonderfully entertained by a performance from some talented students at Daniel Morgan Middle School with their original compositions, their choir under the direction of Peter Uhler brought music to life in a most delightful way. A trivia presentation on our historic area was enjoyed and many wonderful basketfuls of local apples and gifts from National Fruit Products and local apple groups adorned the tables and were enjoyed by everyone who went home with the area's honored fruit. WRTA President, Cecily Haston, was and continues to be very grateful to those who assisted in making this a memorable and wonderful experience for all who helped and participated in this great professional and enjoyable experience.

We continue to enjoy serving and working with our local students. The John Handley High School choir gave their annual Christmas concert for us and at the end of the year we gave a student there a scholarship to help her as she continues her studies in the field of education. The Captain at the Salvation Army spoke to us to let us know of the many and varied programs offered to the students in the area and we had the pleasure of attempting to fill the red kettle at our luncheon. In addition we were honored with a speaker from Bright Futures who explained their efforts to meet the varied needs of students in the area through one channel. We continue to be saddened and surprised at the number of homeless students and those in great need and were honored to be able to financially give generously to provide food and other needs for them through Bright Futures.

We look forward to another wonderful year full of serving, giving, and caring for the students while learning of wonderful things in our community and enjoying professional interactions.

SCRTA presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Yuseen Mona Jones, a 2019 graduate from Sussex Central High School, Sussex, Virginia. Mrs. Margaret T. Law served as the chairperson of the scholarship committee. Yuseen and her mother, Geneva Jones, attended the SCRTA meeting on June 19, 2019. Yuseen thanked the group for the gift to assist with her education. She stated that the scholarship has opened a door and will play a key role in shaping her future. She hopes that one day she will be in the position to bring a smile to another student's face in Sussex County.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Alexandria RTA Has Been Busy in 2019

Alexandria Retired Teachers Association did not meet in January. In February the new Superintendent of Alexandria County Schools, Dr. Gregory Hutchings, spoke about his goals for ACPS. He is a former graduate of TC Williams High School. In March we had a meeting with Arlington RTA in Alexandria. Dr. John Paul Colletta spoke about genealogy and sold some of his books. In April Mr. Quinn from the Quinn Auction House in Falls Church talked about our "antique treasures." On June 5th Barbara McClellan presented a \$2500 scholarship to Ms. Trinity Palacio who is planning to attend the University of Charleston in West Virginia.

Barbara McClellan and Trinity Palacio, scholarship recipient



Chesapeake Retired Teachers Association

Chesapeake RTA had a great year and is happy to report that we were able to give three, \$2000.00 scholarships to local graduates of Chesapeake High Schools. Ms. Destiny Askew-Payne from Deep Creek, Ms. Danielle Camlin from Grassfield, and Ms. Emily-Anne Anderson from Great Bridge each received a scholarship in honor or memory of three outstanding educators; Ann Myers, Judy Walker and the late Senator Harry Blevins. Our year was successful in many areas and we are very proud to relate that we were able to give food and clothing supplies plus school supplies to our local food pantries, local clothing collection center and schools. Also, as an ongoing project, our members again made a chili meal and served 39 under resourced youth as a part of the Get Smart Project. Along with several social outings and fun programs, CRTA had a wonderful year.



Chesapeake RTA members with scholarship winners

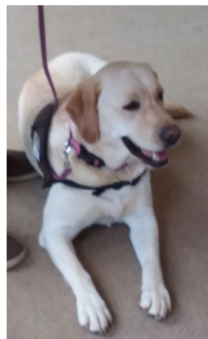
Botetourt Retired Educators

In May the Botetourt Retired Educators met at the Botetourt Golf and Swim Club. Two \$1,000 scholarships were presented to a senior at each of the county's high schools. The county schools' media specialists gave the BRE a wish list and two books were purchased for each library. The books were on display at the meeting and BRE members volunteered to deliver the books to each school. Sybille Nelson brought Indy, a pet therapy dog, to the meeting and told us about the work pet therapy teams in our community provide. After Indy visited with BRE members, the group enjoyed a picnic lunch.



Books ready to be delivered to the schools' libraries

Indy, visiting with BRE members



District T Meets in May

District T met in May for their semiannual meeting at Zino's in Chesapeake. We were very pleased to be able to present a \$300.00 scholarship to Carina C. Harris from I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth. Our scholarship was founded several years ago in honor of Iness Taylor, our past president for District T. We have been able to give a scholarship yearly, rotating one to each unit in our district, solely from our dues.



Pictured is Carina Harris receiving her check from Iva Foust, Portsmouth Retired Educators president, and Loula Brox, District T president.

Visit VRTA's Website at VRTA.org

News From Around the Commonwealth

District G Holds Spring Meeting

Educators from the four local units in District G of Virginia Retired Teachers Association which includes Bath/Highland Retired Teachers Association, Augusta Retired Educators Association, Page County Retired Teachers Association, and Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association gathered at Traditions in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for the spring District G meeting. The guest speaker was Penny Imeson who is director of the Heritage Museum. Ms. Imeson spoke about local history and what they do at the museum: collect, preserve, and educate. She talked about how collections grow and how items can be donated, how the environments for the collections are maintained to preserve and care for the collection, and how stories are shared. She noted that local history connects us. Imeson shared information about the various exhibits in the museum available to the public, as well as the genealogy center where research on ancestors can be done.

A business meeting included election of officers: Karen Whetzel (Shenandoah County), President; Rich Thompson (Page County), Vice President; Sharon Lucas (Page County), Secretary; and Jim Hines (Shenandoah County), Treasurer.

Bea Morris, Legislative Chairperson for both Virginia Retired Teachers Association and District G, talked about the legislative session and upcoming elections.

The group remembered past treasurer, Betty Carey (Shenandoah County) who died soon after the spring 2018 meeting.



Penny Imeson, director of the Heritage Museum

Franklin/Southampton RTA's Honoree Luncheon

Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association held its honoree luncheon April 13, 2019, at Franklin Seafood and Steak Restaurant at 12 noon. The honoree was Mr. Jerrell King, the son of Mr. Willie and Mrs. Lois King. He has two brothers, Jerrod and Jemayne. He is a 2004 graduate of Southampton High School, Courtland, Virginia. In 2016, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Norfolk State University. Jerrell is currently pursuing a Master's of Arts Degree in education from Liberty University. He is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, where he serves as minister of music and the youth coordinator. He has been a special education teacher at Southampton Middle School, Courtland, Virginia, for 13 years. He is a proud mentor with Hope Focus Young Lions at First Baptist Church, Franklin, Virginia, and a member of Franklin/Southampton (VA) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. As a mentor, he develops workshops to assist young men in being well-rounded individuals, involving them in community service opportunities, etiquette classes, teaching/demonstrating appropriate business/formal attire, and assisting them in understanding the importance of a good academic record and good behavior. Jerrell believes in making a positive impact on the youth in the community and assisting others in maximizing their potential. His motto is "If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things." Albert Einstein



Left to Right: speaker, Mrs. Karen Walker-Lee; honoree, Mr. Jerrell King; and Miss Martina Rawlings, a friend, who introduced the speaker

Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Association



At the May luncheon meeting our President, Ernestine Dockery-Roy; Vice President, Margaret Smith; and Recording Secretary, Quentina Kinney were installed to serve a second term, 2019-2021.



Our members participated in Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Day at several District Q schools on March 1, 2019. During the May luncheon meeting members enjoyed the display of pictures and "thanks/appreciation" letters from the children.



On June 5, 2019, during the Thomas Jefferson High School Awards Program, R-HRTA presented two scholarships. The recipients were Mya Fife (\$1000.00) and Mikayle Rudolph (\$500.00). It is our goal to continue supporting the youth in District Q and contributing to the community.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers

The Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association awarded a \$500 scholarship to Southside Virginia Community College at the chapter's annual meeting at SVCC. The funds were accepted by Dr. Al Roberts, SVCC President. The funds were raised through a fund raiser and member donations.



Front: Evelyn Staples, Gloria Pinkney, Ella Harrell, Anne Stinson, Dr. Al Roberts, Crystal Wynn, Patricia Johnson, Florence Oliver, Ruby Ingram
Back: RoseAnn Sweetney, Ann Good, Linda Johnson, Alice Birkhead

The Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association prepared 400 goodie bags to be distributed during Opening Convocation Days in their respective public school systems.



Pictured are Linda Johnson, Patricia Johnson, Anne Stinson, Rose Ann Sweetney and Ann Good. Also present were Ruby Ingram and Crystal Wynn.



Pictured are Evelyn Staples, L-NRTA treasurer; John Eddy; and Anne Stinson, L-NRTA president.

The Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association awarded a \$250 scholarship to John Eddy during their July 18 meeting at the Blackstone Herb Cottage. John is a 2019 graduate of Nottoway High School and plans to attend Longwood University, studying math and secondary education. John is the son of William and Amy Eddy of Crewe. Another \$250 scholarship was awarded to Ester Grace Smith of Crewe.

Patrick County Retired Teachers Honor Their Own

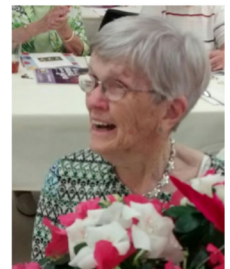
Patrick County Retired Teachers are having a busy summer. At the June 2019 meeting, they honored long time member, Jessie Mae Vernon, who turned 100 years old. Members presented Mrs. Vernon with a plant, balloons, and cards.

Two local scholarship winners were introduced. They were Lindsey Marshall, recipient of the 2019 PCRTA Scholarship; and Allyson Lawson, recipient of the 2019 District E-VRTA Scholarship.

Nancy Peters, program chairperson, presented an interesting program on "Improvements in Education: 1900 – Present Day." Members shared their first teaching experiences as to resources, testing, classroom size, and discipline.

Summer plans include an annual picnic; participating in and supporting "Kids on the Move," a 4-H day program; participating in "Community of Sharing," a back to school event that provides students with shoes, backpacks, books, and haircuts; and, finally, hosting a book signing for author A. D. Hopkins, formally of Patrick County, to highlight his new book The Boys Who Woke Up Early.

Individual members continue to serve the community and youth by working with art projects, Girls Scouts, writing the "Teacher Stories" for VRTA, and volunteering.



Jessie Mae Vernon

Southside Retired School Personnel Association

Southside Retired School Personnel Association was established in 2017 as Unit 13 of District D, the largest district in the state. Since then the unit has participated in the AARP Food Drive and has awarded scholarships to high school graduates in the Emporia-Greenville area.

The unit may be small in number but is big on efforts to serve in the community. The unit is led by Pat Holland who is in the second year serving as president. In June she presented Miss D. Boone with a scholarship award as she pursues a career in nursing at Old Dominion University.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Loudoun Retired Educators Have a Busy Year

The Loudoun Retired Educators have been busy this year. In July volunteers worked with others in the Kids are First organization to assemble 29 school supply items to 30,000 students in 90 schools of Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

In August we welcomed new members to our growing organization with over 100 members to a potluck luncheon meeting.

In September nine volunteers collected over 1,000 pounds of non-perishable food items for Loudoun Hunger Relief at two local grocery stores.

In October over 20 LREA members joined others at the annual Inova Hospital Rummage sale. Donated items were sold by our volunteers in the linen and book departments. More than 10,000 books were sorted and sold providing \$10,000 for the hospital. We also held a silent auction at our monthly meeting. Designed to help raise money for our scholarships, we raised \$1,000 with handmade items that were crafted or baked by our members.

In November sixty LREA members contributed food items and Giant cards to create 15 complete turkey dinners for our local pantry. This included a \$10 card for turkey, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce and desserts.

In December LREA volunteers brought wrapped Christmas presents for the clients of Mobile Hope, which helps at risk young and adult clients.

In April we read 41 applications for our four \$1,000 scholarships to be given in June at the end of year awards ceremonies. Twelve volunteers helped with this activity.

Every Tuesday during the year, LREA members have met to assemble weekend food bags for Loudoun County students as part of an outreach program of the Loudoun Education Association. Youths that are assisted vary from 1133 to 1339 a week. Twenty-eight LREA volunteers help make this happen.

In addition to these activities, we have donated an average of \$1000 in money and food supplies each month at our regular meetings and contributed to the District N Community Service projects.

Loudoun REA Assemble School Supplies



Loudoun Retired Educators worked at Countryside Elementary School to assemble supplies for Kids R First on July 29, 2019. Kids R First provides school supplies in Fairfax and Loudoun County for students that qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Pictured from left- Karen Elliott, Marilyn Edmondson, Maureen Vanderslice, Linda Greeley, not pictured- Bertha Tiffany, Sharon Akerman

District N Members Attended VRTA Spring Delegate Assembly.



Scott County Retired Teachers Association Hold Annual Picnic

Scott County Retired Teachers Association met on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at Scott County Park and Golf Course for their annual picnic. 2019 graduating senior scholarship recipients were invited and introduced to the group. Seven newly retired teachers were welcomed: Randy Bledsoe, Rhonda Dorton, Rob Gardner, Betsy Humphries, Ralph Quesinberry, Tim Spicer and Linda Laney.

Following lunch, Judy Vicars presented a program highlighting her recent trip to Germany and Austria which included a display of colorful items collected during her trip.

Before adjournment to the business meeting, President Hannah Guinn presented a \$300 check from the association to the Scott County Imagination Library to help fund books mailed to Scott County children from birth to age five. Our organization has been a long-time supporter of the Imagination Library.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Scott Country Retired Teachers Association Awards Scholarships

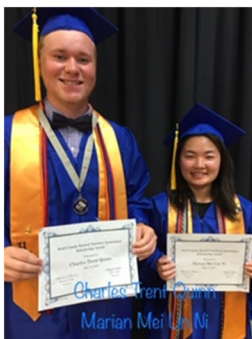
Scott County Retired Teachers Association recently awarded a total of \$6,000 in academic scholarships to six outstanding Scott County high school graduates in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Those receiving scholarships at Gate City High School were Marian Mei Lin Ni and Charles Trent Quinn. Mei Lin is the daughter of Tian Zhen Ni and Mei Fen Dong. Mei Lin plans to attend the University of Virginia and major in biology, pre-med track. Charles is the son of Tonya Quinn. Charles plans to attend Mountain Empire Community College in the fall, later transferring to VATech to major in mechanical engineering.

Receiving scholarships at Rye Cove High School were Joshua Dwight Jones and Abigail Grace Vicars. Joshua is the son of David and Penny Jones. Joshua will enroll at Liberty University to major in political science and later attend law school. Abigail is the daughter of Phillip and Jennifer Vicars. Abigail plans to begin her studies at Southwest Virginia Community College to pursue a career as an elementary teacher and coach.

Seniors receiving scholarships at Twin Springs High School were Kayla Brooke Deel and Abigail Grace Stapleton. Kayla is the daughter of Steven Deel. Kayla's plans are to enroll at the University of Virginia studying biology to become a high school biology teacher. Abigail is the daughter of Travis and Robin Stapleton. Abigail plans to attend the University of Virginia's College at Wise and major in English literature education. Abigail plans to become an ESL teacher.

Scott County Retired Teachers Association is the only unit in District O of far Southwest Virginia. While being the smallest unit in the state of Virginia, the association awards one of the largest dollar amounts in scholarships yearly. Awards are funded by the previous sales of Scott County history books, the Scott County Retired Teachers Cookbook, yard sales and private donations.



Scott County RTA
Scholarship winners

Prince William Retired Teachers' Association



Prince William Retired Teachers' Association hosted the District N Spring Meeting. Boxes of school supplies were collected for Lions Remote Medical Research in Wise, Virginia



Prince William
President Dr. Sally
Kenavan and Past
President
Dr. Susan Powell
greeted new Prince
William County
retirees.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Petersburg/Prince George RTA Scholarship Award



The Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship was awarded to Nichelle Nicole Evans in the amount of \$1,000. Nichelle is a 2019 graduate from Petersburg High School in Petersburg, Virginia. She will attend the College of William and Mary this fall and major in biology. Her career goal is to become a physician's assistant. After undergraduate school, she will enroll in graduate school where she will pursue a career as a pediatrician. She is the daughter of Ms. Sharon Evans and the younger of two children.

Arlington Retired Teachers Association Forty-Seventh Anniversary Luncheon

The Arlington Retired Teachers Association (ARTA) held its 47th anniversary luncheon on Wednesday, May 22, at the Army Navy Country Club in Fairfax. More than 40 members gathered for socializing and a delicious lunch in a room patriotically festooned with flags and red, white and blue linens.

The guest speaker was Gladis Bourdouane, an integrated project planner with the Arlington Public Schools (APS) Office of Planning and Evaluation. Gladis shared her front-line experiences with 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 27,000 students this past school year. Arlington's school-age population is projected to swell to 32,000 by 2027, making the data gathering, analysis and problem solving needed to accommodate this significant growth ongoing. She also shared how APS is involving the community in its planning processes and described the plans to open five new school sites in September of this year.

ARTA scholarship chair Cathy Eckbreth announced the names of the twenty-one graduating APS seniors receiving \$2,500 ARTA scholarships. Each of the graduates is planning a career in education. She reiterated her thanks to the membership for their generous donations to the scholarship fund.

The day's program included the cutting of a celebratory cake honoring the long and skilled service of Joann Levine, our outgoing treasurer. It closed with the installation of ARTA's officers for 2019-20. They are: Nancy King, president; Lynne Lilly, vice president; Cathy Eckbreth, secretary; and Randy McKnight, treasurer.

Creekside Insurance Advisors

Visit Creekside Insurance Advisors at www.creeksideadvisors.net to explore the new services that are being provided for VRTA members.

Richmond office is now open

Petersburg/Prince George RTA's Social Outing

Members of the Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers' Association gathered for a group photo after attending a production of "Steel Magnolias" at the Fort Lee Playhouse, Fort Lee, Virginia, on February 17, 2019. This play was written by Robert Harling and the play was both "hilarious and touching as it focused on the friendship of six southern women," said Alrene Anderson, a member of the association. The group enjoyed a delicious dinner afterward at The Globe in Old Towne Petersburg. Charles D. Reese is the president of the association.



Gloucester Retired Educator Association

The Gloucester Retired Educator Association (GREA) continues to help students and families in our community. Donations were given to the Gloucester County Public Schools to help with overcharged student cafeteria accounts to offset delinquent lunch charges. We were able to present scholarships to three students this year.

Recent guest speakers have included the topics:

- What Every Adult Should Know About Estate Planning and Elder Law
- How to Prevent Identity Theft

GREA continues to donate to the Woodville School which is the last standing witness in Gloucester to the commitment and sacrifices of the African American Community at the beginning of the 20th Century to provide an education for their children. The Foundation intends to return the school to the community as a resource for classes, meetings, or other community events.

HISTORIC
WOODVILLE
SCHOOL
1923 - 1932



(A Rosenwald School)

Portsmouth Retired Teachers

The Portsmouth Retired Educators Association (PREA) is happy to report that this past year was filled with activities that benefitted both the members and the community. Activities included the AARP Food Drive, school supplies to a local elementary school, basic necessities to the HER Shelter for victims of domestic abuse, food to the Salvation Army, and breakfast items to the hungry. Guest speakers provided vital information about fire safety and about the safe use of medication and drugs. Volunteerism was stressed, as was collecting money for scholarships.

Bland County RTA

On April 1, 2019, the Bland County RTA had been serving retirees for 40 years. On that date the unit had one living charter member, Marie C. Groseclose. The unit chose to wait until May 7 and celebrate the 40th anniversary as the RTA was hosting the District I Spring Gathering. Unfortunately, Marie passed away on May 7, leaving us with no charter members. The Spring Gathering was held as scheduled. VRTA President Ben McCartney attended the meeting and shared with us some very valuable information. Member Doris Sink gave the 40 year history. In 1979 the BCRTA was formed in the home of her parents, Raymond and Ora Gray Stowers. The unit has had a very rich 40 year history and hopes to serve educational retirees for many more years.



Marie Croseclose – Grand Marshall of the Bland County Sesquicentennial Parade in 2011

Dinwiddie Retired Teachers Present Annual Scholarship

The Dinwiddie County Retired Teachers Association (DCRTA) held a luncheon on June 5, 2019, at the Nottoway Restaurant, in McKenney, Virginia, where they presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Dinwiddie High School (DHS) senior Macy Beville. Scholarship recipients are required to be pursuing a career in education. The organization, which currently has twenty-nine (29) members, raises funds through personal donations and having fundraisers. Former DCRTA president, Mrs. TheElla Taylor, said, “We have been awarding scholarships since around 1983. The amount of the scholarships started at \$500 and now has risen to \$1,000. At one time, we were presenting two (2) \$700 scholarships per year.” Macy Beville, who will be majoring in health and physical education at Randolph-Mason College in Ashland, Virginia, says she “was excited about being chosen to receive the scholarship award. When I first found out that I had won, I was overwhelmed! I was beyond excited and appreciative that I had received this scholarship.”



Front row: Macy’s mother, Rhonda Beville; Macy Beville; DCRTA president, Paula Lindholm; Back row: DHS guidance counselor, Shawn Winbush and retired guidance counselor, Willa Harrison

Carroll County RTA

Carroll County Retired Teacher Association met Friday, May 10, 2019, at Shoney’s in Hillsville, Virginia. The meeting began at 11:30 am. Our speaker was Gerald Goad, Carroll County Clerk of Court speaking about wills, estates and probate and other issues related to seniors. He told us about the importance of having our wishes for our estates to be recorded and on file at the Clerk of Court’s office to be sure our final wishes are known by everyone involved. We keep busy. We took part in Relay for Life in June. In July we met at a member’s home. Shirley Steele was our hostess with our program of music by Willard Gayheart, Carolyn Honeycutt and Dina Crowder, playing and singing. In August we went to Draper Mercantile and Trading Company in Draper, Virginia, for lunch and shopping.



Gerald Goad, Carroll County Clerk of Court, spoke to Carroll County Retired Teachers Association in May.

Hanover Retired School Employees Association

The Hanover Retired School Employees Association (HRSEA) met on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at The Hanover Center for Trades and Technology (THCTT) for a meeting and brunch that was created by the THCTT culinary students. Mr. Ned Sledge, a retired Social Security administrator spoke to the association about how their Social Security affects our members. It was a great opportunity for them to get informed about their Social Security benefits: retirement, Disability, death benefits, and Medicare. Our president, Deborah Roane, presented a \$500.00 scholarship on behalf of the HRSEA that was given on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at the LDHS Senior Awards to a Lee-Davis High School student pursuing a degree in the field of education. Our scholarship is funded through our dues, fundraisers and donations from our group. The Hanover Retired School Employees Association (HRSEA) will be meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2019, at 1:00 PM at the THCTT. We will be collecting school supplies that will be distributed to local Hanover County Public Schools.

Lunenburg-Nottoway RTA



The Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association presented school employees in Lunenburg and Nottoway Public Schools with gift bags on their respective Opening Convocations Days. Pictured left to right: Rose Ann Sweetney, Florence Oliver and Ruby Ingram.

OVERVIEW OF THE OCTOBER FALL CONFERENCE

In order to better serve all VRTA members who attend the Fall Conference on October 15, **beginning at 8:00 AM, coffee and tea will be available in the James River Corridor near the registration table.** The following morning, October 16, we will have the coffee, tea, water along with assorted muffin trays for you to enjoy.

For those who are not members of the Board of Directors, **information tables will be manned in the corridor during the Board of Directors meeting.** We will have a table manned by VRTA Treasurer, Weldon Martin, who will be able to assist unit and district leaders with their questions and concerns about dues and membership. Creekside Insurance will have a staffed table to answer your questions on Medicare, long-term care, and annuities. We will have a table for the 50/50 raffle, with proceeds going to one of our organized groups designated by the VRTA philanthropic committee. **The Marketplace will return.** Any unit or district who would like to set up a table and sell/raffle items for local scholarship may do so, as long as they contact me at bhmccart@gmail.com by the beginning of September so I may secure a spot in the corridor for each group needing a table. These tables will be manned by the unit or district requesting the table. So far, Fauquier Retired Teachers and Clarke County Retired Teachers will be in the MarketPlace. **Fauquier is raffling off several items with the biggest prize, a one night stay at the Doubletree-Midlothian, free of charge.**

As President of VRTA, I am going to once again draw a room number at random, at the end of the conference and write a **personal check for \$75.00** to the winner, to help offset the expense of the conference. I have increased my contribution the past 2 years.

We will still have 10 Walmart gift cards awarded at the end of the business session on Wednesday for those members who attended breakout sessions.

We will still have a game night on Tuesday evening. I love to do trivia questions, but if you would like to bring a board game or cards and play card games, great!

We have breakout session topics of interest for everyone. Please examine the topics and plan on attending as many as possible. Finally, Bea Morris is planning another very important legislative breakout session so make sure someone from your unit or district is in attendance for her session. She and Bonnie Atwood, our lobbyist, work long and hard for VRTA.

VRTA Fall Conference at a Glance



Tuesday, October 15

8:00am – 11:50 am Registration
 11:50 am – Luncheon
 12:30 pm – Keynote Speaker
 Awards
 2:00 pm – Breakout Sessions

Wednesday, October 16

9:00 am – Welcome
 9:10 am – Virginia Retirement System
 10:25 am – Necrology Service
 10:45 am – Business Meeting

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.

Breakout Sessions for Fall VRTA Conference

KICKING THE BUCKET WITH OUR BOOTS ON— Ed Mayhew, presenter. How to be healthy and fit for all the days of your life. Discover little-known gems concerning diet, metabolism, balance, exercise, sleep, mental techniques and more (includes participation in some fun activities –optional)

ESTATE PLANNING FOR VRTA MEMBERS Kevin McKannon from Glenloch Legal will go over essential estate planning every VRTA member and family should have. This is an exciting new benefit to all VRTA members and their families.

TREASURER’S WORKSHOP VRTA Treasurer Weldon Martin will meet with local unit officers and interested persons regarding dues transmittal forms, securing email addresses, purging of roles, filling out 990 forms in a timely fashion and answering any questions you may have.

VRTA-AARP VA JOINT VENTURES Natalie Snider, AARP, will go over such topics as Prescription RX Va, redistricting efforts in Virginia, get out the vote and those initiatives where local REA and AARP can work together.

NEW VRTA BENEFITS Jim DuBrueler, from Creekside has exciting news for us. A new office in the Richmond area to serve our clientele, fiduciary planning for your wealth to be safe and secure in these uncertain times; where and who should you put your money with? Medicare and Part D updates. Enrollment periods.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT VRTA Vice-President Reba Evans will lead this workshop. Last spring this workshop came up with two flyers which are now on our website and available to all REA units for the purpose of membership recruitment. This session will focus on putting together a boiler-plate letter to the editor all REA units may use answering the 5W’s in journalism, as we attempt to get and retain membership. Please come to this session with any examples of letters or other PR that your REA has used in the past so we do not have to start from zero.

BY-LAW CHANGES Once again, VRTA Parliamentarian Helen Tippie will lead this session. Attendees should bring copies of their by-laws as well as any potential changes they are looking to make. Helen is invaluable in her knowledge and will guide you in the right direction.

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP Bea Morris and Bonnie Atwood will lead this session. Everyone should attend. Where would we be without the dynamic duo. Every time they put on a program we are informed and we get a sense of direction for the political winds blowing in Richmond.



Future VRTA Conferences

Spring 2020 Delegate Assembly —
April 27-29, 2020
Fall 2020 VRTA Meeting —
October 6-7, 2020

conference
in session



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**The Executive Committee will meet
Monday, October 14, 2019, from
7:00-9:00 pm in the Boardroom on first floor
at the 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 15, 2019, 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.

**LUNCHEON CHOICES FOR VRTA FALL
CONFERENCE**

October 15, 2019

HERB CRUSTED LOIN OF PORK

Served with brandied apples, seasonal vegetables and oven roasted potatoes
Mixed green garden salad with choice of 2 dressings, rolls and butter
Freshly brewed coffee, decaf, herbal tea and iced tea
Death by chocolate cake

GRILLED FILET OF SALMON

Served with lemon beurre blanc sauce, mixed wild rice and seasonal vegetables
Mixed green garden salad with choice of 2 dressings, rolls and butter
Freshly brewed coffee, decaf, herbal tea and iced tea
Death by chocolate cake

Monday, October 14, 2019
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETS IN "BOARD
ROOM"
7:00-9:00 PM

VRTA FALL CONFERENCE
October 15-16, 2019
DoubleTree
Richmond-Midlothian

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
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.

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 13, 2019.** maudie@tds.net **REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE 13TH POSTMARK WILL BE \$70.00!** Avoid the late registration fee. Register early!

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.

- ◇ Herb crusted loin of pork(served with brandied apples, seasonal vegetables and oven roasted potatoes, garden salad, death by chocolate cake, coffee/tea)
- ◇ Grilled filet of Salmon (served with lemon beurre blanc sauce, mixed wild rice and seasonal vegetables, garden salad, death by chocolate cake, coffee/tea)
- ◇ Vegetarian—This will be the chef's choice.

Room Registration: Attendees make room reservations no later than **Friday, September 20, 2019**, by contacting the Hilton at **1-800-222-Tree** or **804-379-3800**. Attendees request the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association rate of \$108.00/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. **Richmond in the fall is a great vacation!**

Personal Information for Registration: Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Home Address: _____
Email Address: _____
District and Unit: _____

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Banner/Scrapbook Information: District and local banners will be displayed in the banquet room at the conference. **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. Please note your quest's choice for lunch on your form. Register early, to avoid a late charge, and take advantage of all that Richmond has to offer by extending your stay!

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

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Dr. Rosa Atkins — Keynote Speaker



Dr. Rosa Atkins, Superintendent of Charlottesville City Schools, will be the keynote speaker at the VRTA's Fall 2019 Meeting. Charlottesville City Schools serves economically, ethnically, and racially diverse students in nine schools. During Dr. Atkins' tenure, Charlottesville City Schools has become one of the top performing school divisions in the state with an on time graduation rate of 93% and one of the best Advanced Placement programs in the area. In 2011, she was named Virginia Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, as well as Virginia State University Alumna of the Year for Professional Education.

In 2015-16, she served as President of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents. Under her leadership, Charlottesville schools have been marked by innovation and collaboration. The creation of advanced manufacturing and engineering labs at Buford Middle School and Charlottesville High School – as well as new curricula and engineering pathways – have been made possible by a partnership with area businesses, school divisions, and the University of Virginia. Because of this commitment to innovation, Dr. Atkins was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of 100 Future Ready Superintendents in 2014 and invited to the American Association of School Administrators' Digital Consortium at the White House.

In October 2016, Dr. Atkins was named as one of two national finalists for the Women in School Leadership Award for Superintendents, presented annually by the School Superintendents Association (AASA) in cooperation with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She is the President for the Urban Superintendents Association of America. In June 2017, Governor McAuliffe appointed Dr. Atkins to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Dr. Atkins demonstrates her commitment to developing future leaders by serving as an Executive Board member and mentor for aspiring superintendents for AASA/Howard University Superintendents Academy. Dr. Atkins is an alumna of Virginia State University and Virginia Tech.

