



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Spring 2022 Edition

Spring Delegate Assembly Monday, May 2—Wednesday, May 4, 2022

More than three years have passed since we were all together for the Spring Delegate Assembly. We cannot ignore the fact that our daily activities were derailed by a virus and its variants. Virtual meetings replaced in-person meetings and masks and space were required in order to assemble.

Much of the protocol remains the same as was in place for past assemblies. The DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton in Midlothian, Virginia continues to be our hotel of choice. A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate for VRTA members; these rooms may be reserved by individuals via a link. The link can be found on the Registration form in the VRTA Newsletter.

Once again, Unit and District Banners will be on display in Parlor H. Because of Covid concerns, scrapbooks will not be on display. In addition, coffee, tea and pastries will be available in the corridor near the Registration table.

The major change in protocol for the Spring Delegate Assembly is that all presentations will take place within Parlor H. Members will not have to scurry from one room to the other in order to enjoy a specific speaker. Presenters will follow one after the other within one location.

For 80 years VRTA has dedicated its existence to uplifting the welfare of its members. The Association incorporates and cooperates with other retirement divisions to help achieve the goals expressed in its **Mission Statement: “to be the voice, resource and connection for all retired school personnel.”** Bea Morris, our legislative chair and Bonnie Atwood, lobbyist are experienced ladies that keep us informed and connected to the latest legislation or bill that will have an impact on our membership.

The **VRTA Brand: “We enrich retired school personnel’s lives,”** is accomplished through the many benefits offered by VRS. VRS members range from public school teachers to state agency employees. More than 742,000 active and inactive members make up this organization. It is the 18th largest public or private pension fund in the United States and the 41st largest in the world. Our **VRTA Vision Statement: “all retired school personnel will be safe, productive, informed and financially secure in retirement,”** is enhanced by the VRS award-winning Financial Wellness Program. Also, James M. DuBrueler, Jr., VRTA’s Insurance Agent of Record, along with other staff members from Creekside Insurance Advisors, Inc. are available to answer insurance and investment questions.

As stated in the VRTA Bylaws, The Board of Directors shall elect the Nominating Committee in odd numbered years at the Spring Delegate Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall consist of a chair and at least two additional VRTA members. The present Nominating Committee was elected via ZOOM. The committee is chaired by Patricia Hogston. Phyllis Eastridge and Elizabeth Goodson are committee members.

The Nominating Committee’s slate of officers includes: President-elect: Karen Whetzel, Vice President: Mabel Scott, Secretary: Reba Evans, Treasurer: Weldon Martin.

Officers will be elected on May 4, 2022, during the Spring Delegate Assembly’s Business Session. Ben McCartney, Immediate Past President, will perform the installation ceremony.

Also, Vice President, Karen Whetzel will lead the Necrology Service. Deceased VRTA members will be memorialized in a way that symbolizes their importance and that they will not be forgotten. We are dedicated to honor their memory.

Plan to attend the Spring Delegate Assembly, renew friendships and stay connected.

Jean Marrow—President-elect

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Page 3 —“We appreciate so much that **members have joined us in being heard** by contacting their legislators. We must spread the word that VRTA is active.”

Meet Our New Secretary of Education

By Bonnie Atwood

Behind every governor are the “Secretaries.” No, they don’t take dictation, their role is to advise the governor about specialized areas of needs. After all, the governor can’t possibly keep up with EVERYTHING. There are a dozen or so secretaries, and most are newly appointed by each incoming governor. They are almost invariably with his same political party and philosophy. It is important to know who they are, because if a constituent or group has a pressing need for a change in the law or the budget, they might respectfully contact the Secretary.

Our new Secretary of Education is Aimee Rogstad Guidera. She was appointed in December. She is a consultant and national expert on the use of data in education policy. Prior to her appointment, she was the head of the Guidera Strategy consulting firm and a former founder and leader of the Data Quality Campaign, a national nonprofit that advocates for using data to shape education.

Before founding DQC, Aimee served as the director of the Washington, DC office of the National Center for Educational Achievement. She previously was the vice president and chief of staff for the National Alliance of Business (NAB), worked in the education division of the National Governors Association’s Center for Best Practices, and taught for the Japanese Ministry of Education. Aimee received her bachelor’s degree from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned a master’s degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

VRTA Benefits - New for 2022!

The Board of Directors has approved adding Home & Auto Insurance to VRTA Benefits! VRTA Benefits has the ability to instantly shop 29+ companies in order to find the best value for each VRTA member. Give them a call at (800) 467-5425 or visit www.VRTABenefits.org

Don't forget that your VRTA Agent of Record is available for local meeting programs if desired. It is important to keep your membership updated on all that VRTA Benefits has to offer. Please reach out to Janice Jones or Jim DuBrueler, Agent of Record at (800) 467-5425 to schedule.

- Home & Auto Bundles (NEW!)
- Medicare Supplement
- Long Term Care Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Financial Advisory Services
- Investment Management
- Annuities

Office locations in Winchester and Richmond, but telephone and Zoom appointments are also available. Call (800) 467-5425 for service.

Virginia Retired Teachers Association

“Organized November 28, 1936”

2020- 2022 Officers

President—Glenn Pair, Sr.	(434)594-9661 gpair1949@gmail.com
President-Elect—Jean Marrow	(804)275-7278 izybellha@verizon.net
Vice President—Karen Whetzel	(540)740-8589 kswhetzel@gmail.com
Secretary—Reba Evans	(366)200-1093 1924rlevans@gmail.com
Treasurer—Weldon Martin	(540)473-2636 hooman4949@gmail.com
Immediate Past President Ben McCartney	(540)347-9516 bhmccart@gmail.com

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.

SEEN AND HEARD



In spite of the slow down we all have continued to experience because of the coronavirus, the Legislative Committee assures you that VRTA has been seen and heard. **Communication** is a challenge even in the best of times, but thanks to the efforts of VRTA Vice President Karen Whetzel, we have been able to carry on the business of the organization when there were uncertain conditions and when it was impossible to meet in person. Karen led us in learning how to use Zoom and hosted a number of meetings. The Legislative Chair is not a voting member of the Executive Committee, but because this is such an active area of work, I always accept the invitation to attend as a non-voting representative to keep the leadership informed, solicit their advice, and assist in planning for the future. A number of these virtual meetings were held over the last several months. Although Zoom meetings are not as much fun as in-person gatherings, they did allow me to participate in the virtual programs of several units.

Maintaining contact with VRS is most important, regardless of the circumstances. Jeanne Chenault, VRS Director of Public Relations, and I communicated a number of times, once with especially good news. **In our August check, we will receive a 3.85% COLA increase, the largest increase in thirty years.** We have appreciated the efforts of VRS to keep us informed by working with us to provide special information on our website, but be sure to attend the Spring Delegate Assembly where Jeanne and other VRS staff will make a live presentation and answer questions.

The Legislative Committee has represented VRTA in two coalitions. Bonnie Atwood, VRTA lobbyist, and I attended several Zoom meetings of FOS (Fund Our Schools) as plans were made for advocating for public education during the General Assembly session. Also, Bonnie, Karen and I have attended bi-weekly Zoom meetings of the AARP led Nursing Home Reform coalition.

At Bonnie's suggestion, VRTA was able to **keep our presence before the legislators in a more personal way.** Weldon assisted us by having note pads made with our logo. Bonnie delivered one to each legislator's office and spoke briefly about our organization and advocacy. This was especially important since we didn't have lobby day.

On January 28, **as a celebration of Retired Teachers Day in Virginia, VRTA sponsored Va News,** an offering of VPAP (Virginia Public Access Project), which carried a short recognition of the day. This daily email containing newspaper articles from around the state is widely read by citizens as well as legislators.

Members heard directly from the Legislative Committee in two ways. **One was the Creekside E-Newsletter** which is emailed the 15th of each month. This is an excellent tool for explanations of issues and timely information. The other was the **legislative updates** members needed to advocate effectively during the GA session.

We appreciate so much that **members have joined us in being heard** by contacting their legislators. We must spread the word that VRTA is active. We need the support of increasing membership and renewed activity of current members. Details of the Legislative Committee presentation at the Spring Delegate Assembly have not been finalized as I write this article, but we are planning a special presentation that you won't want to miss. **Come and be seen and heard with us.**

Bea Morris, Legislative Chair

ARE YOUR AWARDS PUBLICIZED?

The Awards Committee is grateful to all units and districts that sent in their 2021 reports. Your certificates should be in your possession and displayed. They were mailed to District Chairpersons on October 27, 2021. None were returned, so we know all have been received.

In spite of the pandemic, many are doing things that meet certificate requirements.

Communication is very much alive across the state, so keep in mind the certificate qualifications.

Remember, your work being reported can result in a "Great Occasion."

Continue and dedicate yourselves to even greater work.

Canzata B. Turner
Awards Chairperson

Visit VRTA's Website at VRTA.org

From The Treasurer

Greetings from the Treasurer's Office! I am pleased that so many of you have found ways to collect dues and maintain membership during the past two years of the pandemic. Please continue to submit your dues to me and encourage renewal and new members to join. I can accept dues payments at any time. It is now time to start collecting dues for the 2022-2023 membership year. I plan to be at the spring meeting in Richmond and will have membership forms, dues settlement forms and membership cards to distribute. In the meantime, if you need forms or cards, I can mail them to you upon request.

Thank you to our local treasurers for all that you do to keep your local units together and, in the process, to strengthen the voice of VRTA!

Regards,

Weldon Martin, Treasurer VRTA



Most Active Member

Most Active Member awards were presented for 2021 at the virtual VRTA meeting on October 25th. Patricia Holland, chair of the Most Active Member Committee, presented certificates of recognition to second runner-up Ann Prokopchak of District N- Winchester RTA and first runner-up Dorothy Williams of District D-Sussex RTA. The Most Active Member was Mable Scott of District E-Pittsylvania RTA. She was awarded a plaque for her outstanding service.



Ann Prokopchak-second runner-up



Dorothy Williams-first runner-up



Mable Scott-Most Active Member

News From Around the Commonwealth

Arlington Retired Teachers Association (ARTA)

ARTA has continued to meet and host interesting speakers via ZOOM. On November 10, AARP volunteers Martin Bailey and Trudy Marotta shared a fascinating, somewhat scary, program on frauds and scams. We learned how to recognize the five top scams in our Metro area: identity theft and fraud, imposter scams, online shopping, sweepstakes and lottery, and tech support. It was an excellent learning opportunity for us and for the Alexandria RTA members who joined us for the program. Scam resources can be found at aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork. We got into the holiday spirit on December 8 by welcoming the talented musical duo of vocalist Tony Gudell and virtuoso pianist Chris Stiles who performed familiar holiday tunes. Dr. Scott Edwin Taylor, the president of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, was our well-received speaker on February 9. An Arlington native, Dr. Taylor engagingly discussed African American History in Arlington from President George Washington and slavery to the 21st century, with special emphasis on some of the unsung African American heroes. Visit www.arlingtonblackheritage.org for more information.

Yearly, ARTA sends financial support to other nonprofit groups in Arlington County. Though we have missed meeting in person locally and traveling to statewide VRTA meetings, the unused funds have been diverted to “sweeten” our support. This year we sent donations to the groups described below.

- The Arlington Outdoor Education Association’s Outdoor Education Lab in Fauquier County yearly hosts Arlington’s third, fifth and seventh graders and high school groups to enrich their science and outdoor learning experiences.
- Reading is Fundamental of Northern Virginia provides free books to 21,000 students at 37 school and program sites throughout NoVa, including 3,600 Arlington Public Schools’ students at 11 school and program sites.
- The Dr. Marjorie Hughes Fund supports the health needs of the county’s underserved students.
- The Arlington Free Clinic provides free high-quality healthcare to low-income, uninsured Arlington County adults through the generosity of donors and volunteers.
- The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) feeds “neighbors in need by providing dignified access to nutritious supplemental groceries.”
- The Mary Marshall Assisted Level Living Residence is a Volunteers of America senior living and care community that provides housing for low-income seniors with serious mental illness or intellectual or developmental disabilities.

News From Around the Commonwealth

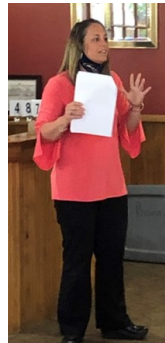
Allegheny Retired Teachers Association

Last year was an unusual year for ARTA, but we found ways to be of assistance and remain active in our community. A letter or an email was sent out before each scheduled meeting. Phone calls were made to each member using our calling committee to remind members of the service project at that time. We also continued to send cards to our members who were sick, shut in or had lost a family member. The ARTA board members did not let COVID-19 keep them from continuing to provide assistance to our community.

We were finally able to have our May 2021 meeting and presented our scholarship to Josie Fertig of Covington High School. She plans to attend James Madison University, studying to become a secondary teacher. Our speaker for the meeting was the Athletic Director and teacher at Covington High School, Charity Hale who spoke on "The Facts about COVID-19." Everyone was glad to be able to meet in person again.



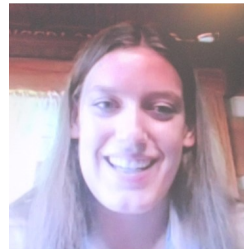
Josie Fertig,
receiving her scholarship



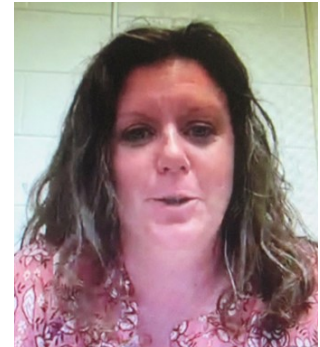
Charity Hale

Augusta Retired Educators Association

On May 6, 2021, Augusta Retired Educators Association held its first meeting in over a year and its first ever Zoom meeting. Twelve members, three guests, and Karen Whetzel, VRTA Vice President, attended. All were treated to an update on organization business, presentation of the annual Carrie Ann Cook scholarship to Fort Defiance Senior Madison Reeser, and information about school in the time of Covid by Staunton City Schools nurse Megan Marinelli and Stuarts Draft High School teacher Cynthia Kelley.



Madison Reeser



Megan Marinelli



Cynthia Kelly

Buchanan Retired Teachers

During the pandemic, Buchanan County Retired teachers have remained focused on VRTA's vision. In order to keep everyone safe, we have followed the CDC's guidelines for all in-person meetings and canceled when necessary. We have stayed productive in our community and kept our members informed by emailing the Creekside Newsletter and keeping our Facebook Page up to date. We also encourage our members to visit VRTA's website for information.

In August of 2021 the Buchanan County community of Hurley, Virginia, was devastated by a flash flood. Many homes were completely destroyed and others have extensive damage. Members of BCRTA donated food and cleaning supplies to the Hurley Relief Fund.

In October BCRTA sponsored a story board and distributed treats for Buchanan County Public Library's haunted story walk. Recently, contributions have been made to the Imagination Library, Shop with a Cop, Coal Miners Christmas and the Boys and Girls Club of Central Appalachia.

In December 12 members of BCRTA met to socialize and make plans for 2022.



Seated: Patricia Dales, Penny Jennell, Patricia Hogston, Doris Stiltner and Barbara Compton
Standing: Justine Roberts, Retha Pittman, Nina McClanahan, Judy Holland, Cindy Matney, Kim Ratliff and Donna Hager

News From Around the Commonwealth

Chesapeake Retired Teachers Association

The Chesapeake Retired Teachers Association has been meeting face-to-face for several months. Our membership is down but we continue to support several community organizations. Our membership made a pulled pork meal for several under resourced teens in support of The Get Smart project. We also gave food supplies, school supplies and money to the Buffalow Project in South Norfolk. Also, our group donated food and school supplies to community food banks and local elementary schools. Each year we are able to award three \$2000.00 scholarships to graduating seniors in our local high schools. Then of course we get together for social events with our members. The attached picture represents one of our recent programs on glass painting.



Recent Program on Glass Painting



Danville Retired Teachers

Danville Retired Teachers kicked off our first meeting of the year with the superintendent of Danville Public Schools, Dr. Angela Hairston, addressing us. She asked if we would support the bond referendum for schools by helping out at the polls. We supported and it did pass. Retirees served in shifts.

Our next meeting was during the holidays. We had great fellowship, door prizes, and donated items to "HAVEN," a shelter for battered people.

Danville Retired Teachers are currently seeking applications for scholarships at the local and district level.

These are some of the things we have done and currently doing in seeking to stay safe during the Pandemic.



Retirees working at the polls

DRTA officers with HAVEN directors and donations



Warren County Retired Teachers Association

Hello from Warren County, Virginia. Our Retired Teachers Association has been blessed to be able to continue meeting in person for this school year. We very much appreciate that and enjoy the food and fellowship once a month.

Our program for February was given by Teketia Smith and Samantha Barber. They are the organizers of our "Girls of Destiny" program in the Warren County/Skyline Middle and High Schools. This program is able to support under-resourced youth to be the best version of themselves with preparedness to face the world with hope, purpose and optimism. The group is able to work with the students and encourages the participation of the families. The program implements mentoring and community support programs. It also promotes leadership growth and challenges students and families to rise above their life's experiences to become their best selves and provide unique opportunities for all volunteers to give back. The Girls of Destiny program also works with Reaching Out Now. Within this program, Warren and Skyline High School students learn to prepare healthy meals with the instruction of their teacher, Mr. Devin Smith. The students learn to plan, buy, prepare and package meals for needy families in Warren County. These meals are distributed once a week to 185 families. This program is a huge addition as we help WC/Skyline students to be the BEST that they can be. If you would like to check out this program, the website is www.ReachingOutNow.org. Warren County Retired Teachers are pleased to donate to this organization.

District N on ZOOM

District N held a ZOOM fall meeting on November 8th. It was hosted by the Fauquier unit. President Janet Dye welcomed the 18 members present. Our speakers were Bea Morris—VRTA Legislative Chairperson and Ben McCarney – Immediate Past President of VRTA and current co-president of the Fauquier County RTA.

VRTA PHILANTHROPY

The VRTA makes charitable donations to the following:

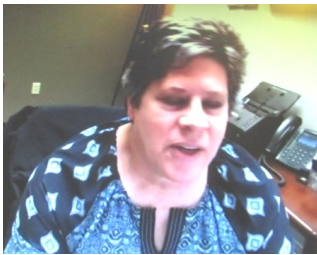
- American Red Cross- Virginia Region
<http://www.redcross.org/local/virginia>
420 East Cart St Richmond, VA 23219
804-780-2250
- AARP Foundation
<http://www.aarp.org-foundation/our-work/>
- Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Policy
www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org
- Legal Aid Just Children Program
123 E. Broad ST. Richmond, VA 23219
- Virginia Capitol Connections www.vccqm.org
1108 E. Main St. Suite 1200 Richmond, VA 23219
- VAPAP for VA News vpap.org
PO Box 1472 Richmond, VA 23218
- Virginia Voice virginiavoice.org PO Box 15546
Richmond, VA 23227

News From Around the Commonwealth

District G

Lisa Gooden, General Registrar and Director of Elections for Rockingham County, Virginia, recently spoke to District G of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association (VRTA) virtually. The program entitled "Yes, Virginia, There is Election Security" also included information on voting from Bea Morris from Rockingham County, who is District G and VRTA Legislative Chair.

Karen Whetzel of Shenandoah County RTA was re-elected as District President, and Rich Thompson of Page County REA was re-elected as District G Vice President. Other officers are Sharon Lucas of Page County REA, Secretary, and Jim Hines of Shenandoah County RTA, Treasurer.



Lisa Gooden speaks to VRTA District G virtually

Patrick County Retired Teachers

Patrick County Retired Teachers continue to hold regular meetings and have interesting and educational programs.

The unit continues to provide community projects while taking precautions against covid. Our new year started off by participating in the Community of Sharing by providing books, prizes for kids, and balloon animals. Other services for children are the backpacks with school supplies and food. The Head Lice Program is still ongoing with medicated shampoo provided to each school.

Patrick County RTA provided a pizza lunch for PARC Workshop, a center for handicapped individuals; and a monetary donation, paper supplies, and treats for the Patrick County Developmental Center, a facility for severely handicapped individuals. The retired teachers provided birthday bags for nursing home residents with December birthdays.

Other members participated in the Smithsonian Exhibit that traveled to Patrick County and highlighted aspects of the county's culture, assisted in Scout Troop and 4-H activities, volunteered at the Blood Bank, made masks to distribute to businesses and churches, and worked with Master Gardeners by giving demonstrations and beautifying areas in the community.

The retired teachers' book club continues to be active and meets monthly to discuss a book of choice.

Presently the PCRTA scholarship committee is reviewing applications for its retired teacher scholarship that will be presented at the Senior Honors Banquet in May.

Finally, our unit is deeply saddened by the loss of nine of its members. Members have made memorial donations to PCRTA and other organizations in their memory.

Franklin County Retired Teachers

The Franklin County Retired Teachers met in June 2021 for the first time since December 2019 with the presentation of 14 comfort quilts for the children at the Family Resource Center of Franklin County. Members had begun work during the winter on the quilts as part of their outreach program to nonprofits in the county. They met at the home of President, Sylvia Hutto, for sewing bees and continued sewing at their homes during the pandemic. The Center gives the quilts to children when they have to leave their homes and move to new locations.

As part of their outreach in the county, the members collect and donate paper items to various nonprofits. In the summer, items like plates, plastic utensils, paper towels and napkins are donated to Stepping Stone Mission which provides free meals to the community. Later in the fall, donations of craft items are made to the Henry Fork Service Center for the after school and summer programs for youth. FCRTA has designated four nonprofits which involve children that receive donations throughout the year, as well as, two high school scholarships for students entering the education field. These have been very rewarding projects for the members.

At the June meeting officers were elected. The officers for this term are Sylvia Hutto, President, Cathy Russell, Vice President, Virginia Seale, Secretary and Carla Barrell, Treasurer. We are looking forward to our spring meeting and the return of more members.



Pictured are Barbara Conners, Sylvia Hutto, Cathy Russell and Vicki Hodges with some of the donated quilts.



Members of Patrick County Retired Teachers Association

News From Around the Commonwealth

Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers Association

R-HRTA members did not allow a pandemic to defeat their 2021 projects. Our creative response to COVID has been to keep our members connected through the “Quick Blast” newsletters, cards, phone calls, and fun ZOOM meetings. We held our first School Supply/Hats and Gloves Donation Drive–Through on a cold, overcast December morning. The school supplies were delivered to four elementary schools and the gloves/hats to two preschool centers. Each school and center also received a Teacher Appreciation Box filled with packets of hot cocoa mix and a variety of green tea bags. R-HRTA plan to put forward more creative ideas in 2022.



Pictured — D. Dickerson-Wood, J. Mitchell, M. Smith, R. deCodova-Bolden, I. Nichols, M. Banks, E. Dockery-Roy masked-up and dressed warmly



M. Brown, B. Petty, and V. Hayes R. deCodova-Bolden, I. Nichols, M. Banks prepare to deliver bags of hats/gloves and a Teacher Appreciation Box to Blackwell Preschool Learning Center.

V. Hayes, M. Brown, B. Petty, and I. Nichols fill bags with pairs of hat/gloves for preschoolers



Group picture after a successful R-HRTA school supplies and hats/gloves drive-through.



Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association

The Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association (which also has members who are retired bus drivers, secretaries, instructional assistants, secretaries, custodians, administrators and all other types of retired educators) held the first in-person meeting since 2019 on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at Triplett Tech in Mt. Jackson. Over 60 members attended and enjoyed lunch prepared by Chef Paje Cross and her culinary arts students. Melody Shepperd, superintendent of Shenandoah County Public Schools, was the guest speaker. Officers were elected for 2022-24; they will take office on July 1, 2022. Current officers are Leigh Devier, President; JoAnn Racey, Vice President; Virginia Stultz, Secretary; Adina McInturff, Treasurer; and Ramona Daughterty, Past President.

The next meeting of the group will be a dinner meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at Peter Muhlenburg Middle School with registration starting at 5:30 pm. A memorial service and scholarship presentation will be done at the May meeting. Reservations will be required to attend. For information about membership or to pay dues, contact Adina McInturff at turff@shentel.net or 540-933-6676.



President Leigh Devier conducts the business meeting.

Shenandoah County School Superintendent Melody Shepperd speaks to the Shenandoah County Retired Teachers.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Portsmouth Retired Educators

Over the past 12 ½ years Iva S. Foust has served as president of the Portsmouth Retired Educators Association. On January 2, 2021, she began serving as scholarship chair. With the formation of a scholarship committee the group strived to complete the task of raising funds during the Pandemic. With the support of many retired teachers, family, and friends the mission was accomplished. For the first time in the history of the PREA a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to three seniors representing the three high schools in the city. At the May 10, 2021, meeting the recipients were acknowledged. On June 10 pictures were taken at I.C. Norcom High School.

Joy Bethea, a senior at Churchland High School, received one of the scholarships. She graduated with a grade point average of 4.372 and ranked 4th in her class. She plans to attend the University of Virginia. Joy’s special interests include basketball, volleyball, and biomedical engineering. Trinity Allen also received an \$1,000 scholarship. She graduated from I.C. Norcom High School and was an early collage scholar at Tidewater Community College. She plans to attend Howard University and pursue a degree in political science. Richard Bond was the scholarship recipient from Woodrow Wilson High School. He plans to attend the University of Virginia and study biochemistry. Richard writes “that as a recipient of this scholarship, I will make your organization more than proud.”



Left to right:
Trinity Allen,
Richard Bond,
Joy Bethea

Prince William Retired Teachers Meet

President Sally Kenavan led the PWRTA meeting on December 13th. The Hylton High School Troubadours entertained the 15 members present with beautiful Christmas music. Glenna Ohlms led everyone in singing “This is Your Group.” Glenna also sang Judy Bowen’s song “Teacher Stampede” and gave everyone a Judy Bowen CD called “Teacher of the Year.”

Glenna Ohlms
leads the group
in singing.



Alleghany Retired Teachers

During the first half of the 2021-2022 year, the Alleghany Retired Teachers have been staying busy amid COVID restrictions. In September we met at McCallister Presbyterian Church in Covington, VA. The program included a panel of volunteers from the food banks and the local hospital. It was very informative, and suggestions were given for our volunteer hours. We collected school supplies and donations for the four area elementary schools. Due to the generous donations from the members, we were able to give each school \$75 plus the supplies collected.

Our December meeting was held at Temple Baptist Church in Covington and the Alleghany High School choir presented a musical selection of holiday songs. For our program, Highlands Christmas Mother, Dr. Susan Rollinson, gave us an overview of the program and how it had changed since COVID. We collected toys, cleaning supplies, and \$415 in donations for the Christmas Mother.

For our March meeting, we plan to present four scholarships to area graduating seniors planning to enter the education field. Diane Garcia of Alleghany Foundation will present a program entitled “Fighting Poverty in the Highlands.” In conjunction with the meeting, we will be collecting food and donations for the local food banks.

Panel at
September
meeting from
the local
Food Banks
and the local
hospital



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

Roanoke City Retired Teachers

The Roanoke City Retired Educators Association met in person for both our Fall and Winter gatherings. The September luncheon meeting was held at the Roanoker Restaurant and our guest was Anthony Swann, the Virginia State Teacher of the Year. Mr. Swann is a vibrant motivational speaker who provided an inspirational start to our 2021-22 year of service.

The December holiday luncheon meeting took place at the Valley View Holiday Inn. A program of holiday music was presented by the William Fleming High School wind ensemble, see photograph below, and it was enjoyed by all who attended. Our service projects for the first half of the year have included the collection of a variety of personal-care products needed by our secondary homeless students, as well as blankets and other bedding needs. These were given to students at the Roanoke City high schools. We also participated in the Soup for Seniors program, collecting food for the aging population in the Roanoke Valley.

Our scholarship program is on-going, with a goal set of raising \$2,000 to be given to qualified Roanoke City seniors who plan on majoring in education. RCREA is pleased with the cooperation and participation of our members during the trying times of adjusting to Covid 19 restrictions.

William Fleming Wind Ensemble



Winchester Retired Teachers

The Winchester Retired Teachers Association met for the first time since March 2020 on September 7, 2021. Our guest was Jennifer Hall representing the United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Her topic was their new ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Program. We were able to meet again in December and were entertained by the amazing John Handley High School Chorus directed by Gloria Law. They performed selections from their holiday program. Our community projects have included: participating in the District N Spring school supply collection drive; collecting warm socks, hats, gloves and scarves for the Eagle Bluff Reservation in South Dakota; and collecting for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive. Our Spring 2022 focus will be on collecting funds for a scholarship to be given to a graduating John Handley High School senior who will pursue a career in education. We are most appreciative for Shenandoah University for providing us a location to hold our meetings and for providing a delicious meal.



John Handley High School Chorus

SPRING DELEGATE ASSEMBLY—WHAT'S NEW?

In order to better serve all VRTA members that attend the Spring Delegate Assembly beginning at 8:00 AM, coffee, tea, water and muffins will be available in the James River Corridor near the registration table on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please 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 specific questions on Medicare, long-term care, and annuities. We will have a sign-up for the 50/50 raffle, at the registration table, with proceeds going to one of our organized groups designated by the VRTA philanthropic committee.

We will still have a game night on Tuesday evening. We will do trivia questions, but if you would like to bring a board game or cards and play card games, great! It will be wonderful just to sit and socialize.

Your VRTA Executive Committee has worked long and hard to revive an in-person Delegate Assembly. Please spread the word to your home units and districts so that we can plan on a larger VRTA Fall Conference, including more breakout sessions.

From the Bylaws Committee

Helen Tippie has announced that the revisions to the VRTA Bylaws will be available on the website around the first of April. If you have questions about the bylaws you can email Helen at: htippie70@gmail.com.

Fall 2022 Newsletter

The deadline for the fall newsletter is Monday, August 8, 2022. Submit articles and pictures to Susan Martin at:

susanmartin730@gmail.com

or at:

1049 Martins Lane Fincastle, VA 24090

Monday, May 2
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETS IN "BOARD
ROOM"
7:00-9:00 PM

VRTA SPRING DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
May 2-May 4, 2022
DoubleTree
Richmond-Midlothian

Tuesday, May 3
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEET IN Parlor H
9:00-11:30 AM

Note: Registrations fees are per person. Each person attending the conference should fill out a Registration form.

Registration: Send a completed registrations form and a check for **\$60.00**, payable to **VRTA**, to Maudie Scott, P.O. Box 282, Amelia, VA 23002 postmarked by **Monday, April 11, 2022.** maudie@tds.net

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

- ◇ Grilled Tri Tip cut of Beef (Seasonal Vegetables, Oven Roasted Potatoes)
- ◇ Grilled Salmon (Topped with Lemon Beurre Blanc Sauce, Seasonal Vegetables, Oven Roasted Potatoes)
- ◇ Vegetarian—**This will be chef's choice.**

Garden salad, rolls and butter, coffee or tea and dessert, Death by Chocolate Cake are included with the meal.

1. **Room Registration:** Attendees make room reservations no later than **Monday, April 8, 2022**, by contacting the Hilton at **1-800-222-Tree** or **804-379-3800**. Attendees request the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association rate of \$129.00/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. The direct link for registration at the hotel is

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ricksdt-tra-5c4dcOce-d9c1-41d6-9a10-dc2e4cb73d52/>

The hotel prefers everyone to use the hyperlink to register.

2. Personal Information for Registration: Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

District and Unit: _____

Are you a voting delegate? Yes _____ No _____

3. Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

4. **Banner Information** District and local banners will be displayed in the banquet room at the assembly.

Units and districts are required to bring a stand to display their banners.

Virginia Retired
Teachers Association
Susan Martin
Newsletter Editor
1049 Martins Lane
Fincastle, VA 24090
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Note: All VRTA members are required to pay the registration fee. Those of you that have a travel companion who is not a VRTA member, can invite your companion to attend the luncheon by paying an additional \$35.00 to cover the cost of their meal and service fees. Add the cost to the registration and indicate their meal choice as well as yours.

- 5. If you are planning on attending the Delegate Assembly on Wednesday only, due to concerns of covid spread, or some other reason, the cost of registration will be \$30.00 per person. Please come Early enough for registration and coffee, tea, water and muffins before the session begins at 9:00am.**

Each person in your party must fill out a separate form.

Personal information for Delegate Assembly Registration. Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

District and Unit: _____

Are you a voting delegate? Yes _____ No _____

Send your completed registration form with a check for **\$30.00**, payable to VRTA, to Maudie Scott, P.O. Box 282, Amelia, VA 23002 postmarked by **Monday, April 8, 2019**. maudie@tds.net

Plan to come to Richmond early or stay later, after the assembly, and explore all that the Richmond area has to offer in the springtime. This is a great way for retirees to have a less expensive holiday in a richly rewarding environment.