



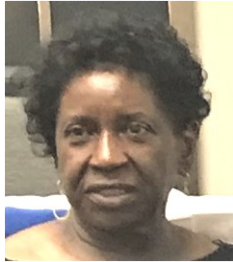
# VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2022 Edition

## My Role as VRTA President



Within most organizations, there is a president. This presiding officer is the one that members depend upon to make decisions that are in the best interest of the group. The president is expected to exhibit best practices that focus on achieving the goals set by the organization's bylaws. Goals within an organization cannot be realized without a cohesive relationship among its members. Dedicated committees and boards, along with the president are integral parts needed to ensure a successful outcome. As president, I look forward to devoting my time and effort to a team that is dedicated to uplifting the mission of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association.

The Fall Conference, October 17-19, 2022, will be our second in-person gathering since the COVID pandemic. The DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton in Midlothian, Virginia, will again host the event. Much of the procedure remains the same. The registration form contains a link that will enable members to reserve a room at a special rate for VRTA members. There is a cut-off date for making a room reservation and a deadline to register for the Fall Conference. This information is found on the registration form.

Units and districts will again be asked to display their banners, and refreshments will be available in the corridor near the registration table. Door prizes will be an added feature.

Besides VRTA business, informative sessions are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18-19, 2022. More details covering the Fall Conference will be in the September issue of the Creekside newsletter. Creekside newsletters, as well as the Spring and Fall newsletters, can be found on the website, [vrta.org](http://vrta.org), under the newsletter tab.

There is a wealth of information available to members on the website, [vrta.org](http://vrta.org). Members that do not have a personal Facebook page, can view VRTA's Facebook page from the website. The latest NRTA Resource Manual is on the website under the forms and documents tab. This Manual serves as a guide for REA leaders. It includes information on how to run a unit and provides AARP resources and contacts. Access to this goldmine will make life easier for every unit.

VRTA's mission is "to be the voice, resource and connection for all retired school personnel." The advocacy afforded to us by AARP and NRTA is important. Their history of support for state retired teacher associations is overwhelming. According to the Resource Manual, NRTA, a part of AARP's Office of Community Engagement, includes 49 affiliated state and city associations, and more than 2,400 local associations.

Our Vision Statement: "all retired school personnel will be safe, productive, informed and financially secure in retirement" is substantiated by programs and information through VRS, Creekside Insurance, AARP and NRTA.

Based on the results of the evaluation forms from the Spring Delegate Assembly, some changes have been implemented. Please attend the Fall Conference and enjoy the results of your input.

President: Jean Marrow

## Inside this issue:

<i>My Role as VRTA President</i>	1
<i>Meet the VRTA Officers</i>	2-3
<i>Miss Manners Sets the Table</i>	5
<i>Around the Commonwealth</i>	7-17
<i>Tentative Schedule for Fall Conference</i>	18
<i>VRTA Fall Conference Registration Form</i>	19-20

Page 5—"I started thinking. If VRTA held an elegant dinner, and we could invite whoever we wanted to, and they would come, would we know how to seat them? It's not just random."

### Save the Date:

VRTA 2023 Delegate Assembly  
Monday, April 17-Wednesday April 19, 2023  
DoubleTree Hotel—Midlothian, Virginia

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Meet the VRTA Officers



On May 4, 2022, during the Spring Delegate Assembly, Benjamin McCartney, a past-president of Virginia Retired Teachers Association, installed the current officers. The 2022-2024 term began on July 1, 2022. Pictured left to right: President: Jean Marrow, President-elect: Karen Whetzel, Vice-president: Mable Scott, Treasurer: Weldon Martin. Secretary: Reba Evans was unable to attend Spring Delegate Assembly

### President—Jean Marrow

Jean was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and attended North Carolina Central College, later known as North Carolina Central University. Inspired by teachers, Jean decided to get a degree in education. At the age of 20, she graduated with a major in English and a minor in French. Jean attended college on a scholarship, so she needed a job. There was a position open in Amelia, Virginia, so she ventured out on her own to Richmond for an interview. She met the principal at the Greyhound Bus Station. At the end of the interview, Jean was hired to teach students at Russell Grove High School in Amelia Court House. At the time Jean had never been to Amelia, but ending up staying there her entire teaching career.

Jean taught students in grades 8-11 during the day and in the evening, she taught adult GED classes. She worked part-time at a clothing store and in an antique shop. She also served as secretary for four different organizations. Later, Jean went on to earn a master's degree in Education Administration from Longwood College.

After Jean retired from the Amelia County Public School System, she moved to Chesterfield County. She began volunteering at the Chesterfield County Registrar's Office as an office helper. She served as a precinct chief for a number of years and later became a permanent part-time employee.

Jean is a member of Zion Hill Presbyterian Church in Amelia where she serves as a Ruling Elder and secretary of the Women's Missionary. For many years she served as secretary for District D. Currently, Jean is president of the local RTA unit in Amelia.

### President-Elect—Karen Whetzel

Karen Whetzel is a graduate of Madison College, where she got her BS in 1971, MS in 1975, and administrative endorsement in 1996. She worked for 38 years in Shenandoah County Public Schools, as an elementary librarian and high school administrator. She served 12 years on the Shenandoah County School Board after retirement. Whetzel was president of Shenandoah County RTA for six years and is currently president of District G- RTA. She served as VRTA Vice President and Membership Chair from 2020-2022. She volunteers with the New Market Area Library, the Shenandoah County Historical Society, and the New Market Area Chamber of Commerce.

### Vice-President—Mable Scott

As Mable begins her term of office as vice president it is her honor to share a little information about herself and her leadership skills. She is a graduate of Virginia State College (University) with a degree in health and physical education. She was employed by Pittsylvania County Schools for 30 years retiring in 1994. Mable has been married for 54 years to William F. Scott, Sr. and they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. She is an active member of North New Hope Baptist Church and chairperson of the Deaconess Board and publications coordinator.

Mable is past president of the Pittsylvania County Retired Teachers and currently serves as scholarship chairperson. She strives to be inclusive with members to provide scholarships, aid the local food bank and provide needy items for the local nursing home. Mable has received numerous awards for her leadership skills including a nomination for the National Student Council Association Warren Hull Advisor of the Year for Virginia. She is also vice president of District E.

As she serves in a new leadership position, she will work hard to make sure that this a smooth transition with the help of others. Mable thanks you for the confidence you have in her for continued growth in our organization, and serving is a powerful tool we can use to help change the world.

### Spring 2023 Newsletter

The deadline for the spring newsletter is Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Submit articles and pictures to Susan Martin at:

susanmartin730@gmail.com

or at: 1049 Martins Lane Fincastle, VA 24090  
Fincastle, VA 24090

**Secretary—Reba Evans**

Reba Evans is a retired elementary librarian/media specialist. She was librarian at Oakland Elementary School in Carroll County for 30 years. After retirement, she joined the Carroll County Retired Teachers Association and moved to Sparta, North Carolina. She is a life member of District M, VRTA, VEA and NEA. She also belongs to NRTA. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Iota Virginia State and Alpha Kappa Chapter. She has served the CCRTA as president and vice president. She has served as president of District M. Rita lives in Sparta, North Carolina, just seven miles from the Virginia line. She remains active in both Carroll County and in Sparta. She has served as secretary of her church and the local historical society and the Alleghany County Public Library Friends of the Library. Since Reba is interested in history, she is a member of the Alleghany Historical and Genealogical Society and a member of the Alleghany Historical Museum committee. Her hobbies include reading; especially historical novels, magazines, and humor and crafting; especially knitting, crocheting, and embroidery. Reba also likes to play computer games.

**Treasurer—Weldon Martin**

Weldon Martin was born in Roanoke, Virginia, and is the oldest of five brothers. The family moved to Botetourt County when he was six years old. He grew up on the family farm near Fincastle, Virginia, attending Botetourt County Schools and graduating from Lord Botetourt High School in 1967. Weldon attended the University of Virginia, receiving a BA in history in 1971 and an MED in school administration in 1975. He returned to Botetourt County as an elementary school social studies teacher, moved into school administration, and retired in 2003, after 32 years of service. He served as an elementary school principal for 26 years.

Weldon is married to retired middle school teacher, Susan Martin, and they have one son, Benjamin, who is an environmental scientist. Susan is the newsletter editor for VRTA and is currently serving as president of the Botetourt Retired Educators. They continue to live on Martins Farm, where they built their home in 1990.

Weldon is very active in a variety of volunteer jobs. He serves in several leadership positions in his local church and at the district level, including serving as the lay delegate from his church to the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, singing in the church choir and serving as church treasurer. He is treasurer for the Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. and Museum; on the board of Godwin Cemetery; secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Botetourt County; and a member of the Botetourt Retired Educators. Along with his duties as treasurer of VRTA, these volunteer opportunities keep him very busy. During his spare time, he enjoys reading, traveling and playing with the family dog, Cooper.



**Immediate Past President—Glenn Pair, Sr.**

Glenn Pair, Sr. is a long time member of VRTA. He has served as president of the Greenville Retired Teachers Association, District D president, chaplain of VRTA. Mr. Pair is a lifetime member of the National Education Association. Glenn is the founder of Christian Boys Clubs Ministries and serves on the board of deacons at First Baptist Church in south Richmond.

Mr. Pair grew up in Emporia, Virginia, and was the first African American male to graduate from the formally all white school in Greenville County. Mr. Pair received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Saint Paul’s College in 1972 and a master’s of education degree with a specialty in secondary education administrative supervision from Bowie State University. He taught one year in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. For 31 years he was a teacher at Northeast High School in Pasadena, Maryland. Glenn also ran a successful home maintenance company there. After retiring from Northeast in 2004, Pair taught social studies until 2011 at Greenville High School in Emporia. At Greenville High School, he served as the head and lead teacher in the social studies department, was a mentor to new teachers and coordinated the placement of full time teachers with student teachers.



**Virginia Retired Teachers Association**

*“Organized November 28, 1936”*

2022- 2024 Officers

President—Jean Marrow	(804)275-7278 marrowj@aol.com
President-Elect—Karen Whetzel	(540)740-8589 kswhetzel@gmail.com
Vice President—Mable Scott	(434)836-1699 mesone@comcast.net
Secretary—Reba Evans	(366)200-1093 1924rlevans@gmail.com
Treasurer—Weldon Martin	(540)473-2636 hooman4949@gmail.com
Immediate Past President Glenn Pair, Sr.	(434)594-9661 gpair42@gmail.com

**Awards and Recognition**

Will your unit or district be recognized during the *Awards Ceremony*? Did you receive as many *Awards* as you should have? Did you receive any *Awards* at all?

Congratulations to units and districts that reported. Some units did respond to the reminder – some did not.

The Pandemic is not over, but make a new determination to be inspired and motivated to keep your standing high and to improve.

Remember publicity can be a recruiter. We must maintain and improve our membership.

The committee wishes you well and looks forward to seeing you this fall.

Canzata B. Turner  
Awards Chairperson



**From the VRTA Treasurer**

I hope to see many of you in person at our upcoming fall meeting. It looks like our leadership is planning an enjoyable and informative meeting. I will have membership forms, dues settlement forms and membership cards available for pick-up. I am also continuing to mail these out to those who cannot attend the fall meeting.

I am also planning to have the most up-to-date VRTA membership roll printed and ready for dissemination at the meeting. I will ask treasurers to review these for accuracy and provide updates that are needed.

Please remember that I can accept dues at any time. You should be collecting and submitting 2022-2023 dues at this time. I encourage you to reach out to those who have not yet submitted dues and send me the VRTA dues as soon as possible.

Finally, if you are a part of the VRTA IRS Group Exemption (tax umbrella), don't forget to file your e-postcard by the deadline of November 15<sup>th</sup>. It is important to maintain your tax exempt status, as required by law. I urge those units or districts that may have lost your exemption status to consider rejoining as soon as possible.

You are reminded to submit to me a copy of your 2022-2023 approved budget, signed and dated by two officers no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, please submit a signed copy (by two officers) of your by-laws any time that they are revised or up-dated.

I appreciate the good job our treasurers do in keeping me updated on any deceased members in your local units. Please keep up the good work.

Regards,  
Weldon Martin, Treasurer



**Present and Past VRTA Presidents**

Due to the pandemic, VRTA's Spring Delegate Assembly presented a new challenge for those in charge of arrangements. Dedicated members from the past, worked with the current officers to format a plan. Team work is important and that helps VRTA stay focused on its mission, "To be the voice, resource and connection for all retired school personnel."

Six, present and past VRTA Presidents, are dedicated members of the team and were present at the Spring Delegate Assembly. Phyllis Eastridge: 2014-2016, Jean Marrow: 2022-2024, Glenn Pair, Sr.: 2020-2022, Helen Tippie: 2010-2012, Benjamin McCartney: 2018-2022, Nina McClanahan: 2016-2018



**From the NRTA Website**

"NRTA is the seed that grew into AARP. Ethel Percy Andrus founded NRTA: AARP's Educator Community (then known as the National Retired Teachers Association) in 1947 to address educators' economic challenges and health insurance needs in retirement.

NRTA is America's leading national organization representing the interests of more than 850,000 working and retired educators age 50+. We work with a network of state-based Retired Educators Associations (REAs) across the nation to collaborate and provide strategic support to protect educators' financial security and foster collaboration and volunteerism.

We invite you to learn more about NRTA and how to engage with us and connect with your REA."

**From the AARP Website**



"Ethel Percy Andrus was born in the 19th century and helped transform the 20th. The indomitable woman who would go on to found AARP was born in San Francisco in 1881 to parents who instilled in her and her older sister, Maud, a love of learning and a progressive spirit. Those characteristics would drive her throughout her 85 years, from her days as a young teacher and a high school principal to later in life, when she made it her mission to improve the lives of older Americans."

## Don't Miss It

Bea Morris, Legislative Chair



Where can you get accurate information from people who work directly with education legislation and Virginia's laws three weeks before Election Day November 8? Plans for the Legislative Session at the VRTA meeting on Tuesday, October 18 include two highly involved speakers.

Chad Stewart, one of the leaders of the Fund Our Schools coalition, will bring us up to date on the most pressing current education issues and legislation we might expect in the 2023 General Assembly Session. Formerly with The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, Chad works now with Government Relations at VEA.

Senator George Barker, representing part of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Prince William, carried the legislation on nursing home reform in the 2022 GA Session and is still working with that issue. We have not received final confirmation from his office for this event, but we are optimistic that his schedule will allow him to participate in our 3:30 p.m. Legislative Session.

The VRS staff is looking forward to bringing us information concerning retirement on Wednesday morning, October 19.

This is a valuable opportunity for members and local leaders not only to hear knowledgeable presenters who work directly with legislative issues but to ask questions of those who are not available to us at home. The information we will receive will be very helpful as we plan for the upcoming election and for discussions with our Senators and Delegates prior to the January 2023 GA Session. Also, meetings such as this showcase VRTA as a vibrant organization composed of thoughtful, prepared voters.

## Miss Manners Sets the Table

By Bonnie Atwood

Do you enjoy studying etiquette as much as I do? I am in the process of giving away my collection of 11 (yes, 11!) etiquette books, from my favorite Julia Martin, to my least favorite Peggy Post. I used to write an etiquette column for my law school newspaper. If you can rein those kids in, you can do anything.

Anyway, I started thinking. If VRTA held an elegant dinner, and we could invite whoever we wanted to, and they would come, would we know how to seat them? It's not just random. There is strict protocol at both the U.S. Level and the state level. Hats off to Heather Massey of the *Congressional Quarterly* for this insider information.

The hierarchy (or pecking order) is crucial, especially in Asian cultures. If you get the ranks wrong, you might offend not only an individual, but a whole country! But let's just work with the state level:

At the head of the table, of course, is the governor. (You have to introduced him as "His excellency," which always bothered me a little.) Then, of course, the lieutenant governor followed by the attorney general.

Here's where it gets just a little tricky. Next is the chief of staff for the governor, then the cabinet secretaries. There are usually a dozen or so, in which case I play it safe and use alphabetical order. Except, of course, you want to space them out so that there's not a clump of men or a bunch of women. You may want to demonstrate diversity.

After the secretaries, comes the president of the Senate, followed by the state senators. Then you seat the speaker of the House, and all of the state delegates. (The senators and delegates probably disagree about who is more important, but protocol dictates it to be the senators.)

After that, you honor the mayors and county chairs, followed by the members of city councils and county boards of supervisors.

So, do you think you've got it now? No, you don't! What if you have dignitaries from the U.S. Government in the mix? That's a whole bunch more rules, starting with this: If the event is being held in our state, we have to seat the governor first, even before U.S. Ambassadors. Yes, there's much more to learn. And if the function involves the Asian culture? You've got to learn the rule about gift giving.

That's just a taste of high level protocol. I hope it will always be done in good taste.



### Hot Off the (Virtual) Presses: New NRTA Leadership Manual

The National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) has release a new [Leadership and Volunteer Engagement Resource Manual](#) designed to help leaders at the local, district and state level as they work to increase membership and engage members. The manual is electronic and there is a link on the VRTA website [vrta.org](http://vrta.org). NRTA would like feedback on the manual as it is approved for a year only! Al Campos, Director of NRTA, mentioned the manual would be coming out when he spoke to the VRTA Delegate Assembly during lunch in May,2022.

**VRTA Charitable Donations**

Every year the VRTA makes charitable donations of \$250 each to various organizations. This year the following received contributions:

- ◇ Virginia Voice
- ◇ VA Capital Connections
- ◇ VA Public Access for VA News
- ◇ Legal Aid and Justices Alliance for VA Students
- ◇ The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis
- ◇ American Red Cross—VA Region
- ◇ AARP Foundation
- ◇ Voices for Virginia Children

From the Virginia Capital Connections website:

“At Virginia Capitol Connections, we’re all things Virginia. We’re all things newsworthy. And we’re all things political—but in a balanced, non-partisan presentation. What’s the point? That we always offer a counterpoint! Get stories about newsmakers from the top—the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney Generals—to the unsung heroes who make our Commonwealth great. If you want to know what’s happening in Virginia, if you want to know what people are thinking in Virginia, if you want to understand your state government and how it works, if you want the insider’s view of the past and present in our great state, then you’ll be a regular reader of Virginia Capitol Connections publications.

Virginia Capitol Connections offers both print and online magazines, directories, and calendars, making information accessible across the Commonwealth.”

From the Commonwealth Institute of Fiscal Analysis website:

“TCI is working to achieve a commonwealth where everyone can thrive — no matter what they look like or how much is in their wallet. But we’re not doing that work alone.

TCI contributes a unique expertise with our policy research capabilities to an ecosystem of policy advocates that have a shared broad vision for building power with communities of color and people with low incomes.”

**VRTA Spring 2022 Delegate Assembly**



**COVID-19 Concerns**

The leadership of VRTA hopes that you will be able to attend the VRTA 2022 Fall Conference. Because COVID-19 is still a concern for many of us, VRTA wants to assure you that VRTA will follow rules and safety protocols established by the DoubleTree, the locality, and the CDC. Each person will have to decide about his/her own level of comfort.

**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?**

**On Tuesday, October 18, the Board of Directors will meet from 9:00-11:30 AM during the Fall 2022 conference.**

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.

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Alexandria Retired Teachers Association District H

In February 2022, ARTA invited Mr. Peter Balas, principal of Alexandria City High School (formerly T. C. Williams High School,) to speak to the group through a ZOOM meeting. Transitioning from virtual to in person learning has been quite difficult for many students, who had not been socialized in a school setting for two years. Mr. Balas discussed the problems and difficulties that students and teachers were experiencing. An area of deep concern was the number of teachers who were either planning to retire, or were resigning. This is not simply an Alexandria problem, but a major problem nationwide. He stressed that teachers needed to have support from parents and the community.

In March we held a combined ZOOM meeting with Arlington Retired Teachers. Our speaker was Rachel Thompson who has written a biography of General George Marshall. Her talk concentrated on his early life in Pennsylvania, his education at Virginia Military Institute, and his experience in World War I, all of which provided him with his leadership skills. Her talk ended with a lead up to WWII.



In April ARTA invited our new sheriff, Sean Casey, to speak IN PERSON! We had a large turnout, particularly since Mr. Casey is "one of our own," a graduate of James K. Polk Elementary, FC Hammond Middle School and T. C. Williams High School. He explained the role of Sheriff and talked about his role in the judicial system.

In May we were finally able to hold our annual luncheon and our speaker was Dr Gregory Hutchings, who has recently written a book about his experiences as a superintendent during the pandemic. Dr Hutchings is also, "one of our own" having graduated from TC Williams High School. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet together. We held a silent auction which raised hundreds of dollars for our scholarship fund and also elected officers.



Officers are: Judy McConville, President;  
Dona Hobbs, Treasurer; Carol Harn,  
Recording Secretary; Kathy Parnell,  
Corresponding Secretary



In June we awarded a \$3000 scholarship to Katie Vastola, a graduating senior from Alexandria City High School. She will be attending James Madison University where she plans to become an elementary school teachers!

### VRTA Website Is Redesigned

The VRTA website at [vrta.org](http://vrta.org) has been redesigned by web master Jason Winter. Funds from the NRTA We Care grant were used for the work. Members have made positive comments about the new design, which includes more photos and is more user friendly!

One new feature of the VRTA website is that the VRTA Facebook page can be accessed right on the website. Other features include archives of the VRTA newsletter which is published twice a year, and archives of the VRTA Creekside Electronic newsletter which is published by Creekside and distributed monthly by email to district presidents. District presidents are asked to forward to local unit presidents for distribution to all members with email addresses. Now, all issues may be viewed on the VRTA website. The Creekside newsletter has columns from the VRTA president, the VRTA Legislative Chair, important VRTA dates, as well as information on benefits that VRTA members can access.

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

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Buchanan Retired Teachers Association

Four members of the Buchanan County Retired Teachers Association attended the Spring Delegate Assembly in May. COVID changed the lives of many members and we appreciate those that remain dedicated to VRTA. Even though the format of the meeting changed, the learning experience was incredible. It is vital for units to stay informed and encourage new retirees to join the organization. In September, BCRTA will host a picnic and encourage new retirees, as well as other retired school personnel, to attend. Along with the picnic, we will conduct a food drive and donate all contributions to *Feeding My Sheep*, a local food pantry. Recently, parts of our county have been devastated by major flooding and we see first hand the importance of supporting our community.



L-R: Penny Jennell, Nina McClanahan, Patricia Hogston and Brenda Ward

### Floyd County Retired Teachers

The Floyd County Retired Teachers' Association has had a very busy and productive 2021-2022. We resumed our official meetings in October 2021 following the pandemic. At that time, we met on the premises of PLENTY of Floyd. PLENTY nourishes community and preserves Floyd County traditions by encouraging neighbors to grow and share food while enlivening the greater conversation about sustainable food practices. We enjoyed touring the premises following a soup and sandwich lunch.

We held our first meeting of 2022 in March where we met at the Jesse Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd. Floyd's own Ricky Cox, retiree of Radford University, presented an informative and entertaining talk titled "Houses With Two Front Doors." Our next meeting was held in May at the Farm Bureau Building in Floyd. Garry Collins, D.C., gave an interesting talk titled, "Regenesis" – Transitioning Towards Health. Our most current meeting was held in July at the beautiful Slusher Park. The meeting was hosted by Alice Slusher, former elementary school teacher in Floyd, and everyone enjoyed a potluck picnic. We were entertained by musician Ricky Cox and also had a Book Swap.

We will meet again in September, where we will tour the new addition to Floyd County High School, and enjoy lunch provided by the Food Service classes. Our last meeting of 2022 will be held in November at the Floyd Presbyterian Church where we will be honored with a Thanksgiving meal provided by the women of the church. We will also hold a Memorial Service for members of our organization who have passed during the year.

### District G

Jack Kearney, owner of the Thomas House Restaurant in Dayton, Virginia, presented the program for the first in-person meeting since 2019 for District G-RTA. Jack, who with his wife Brenda also owns Buckhorn Inn, had many great stories about the history of the Thomas House which was built in 1818.

Attendees also heard information from the first state-wide Virginia Retired Teachers Association meeting which was held May 2-4, 2022, and presidents were reminded of reports due. Representatives of the Augusta Retired Educators Association (AREA), the Page County Retired School Personnel (PCRSP) and Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) were present. The VRTA is not just for teachers; it is for any retired education employees. For more information on how to join, contact Karen Whetzel, President of District G RTA at 540-740-8589 or [kswhetzel@gmail.com](mailto:kswhetzel@gmail.com).



Jack Kearney talks to the retired educators group.

Our organization gave teacher mini-grants to Jennifer Sharp-Knotts and Alison Long at Floyd County High School, and also to Carolyn Tesauro at Check Elementary School. We awarded a scholarship to graduating senior Laura Vest. Our organization also made monetary contributions to Young Life, Reading is Fundamental in Floyd (RIFF), Christmas for Children, and the New River Community Action Backpack Program, all local organizations in Floyd.

Many of our members volunteer at Angels in the Attic throughout the year, which is a non-profit donation center and thrift store in Floyd. Its proceeds feed the hungry, aid the needy, and help children in various ways.

On June 1, our organization visited Smithfield Plantation in Blacksburg, VA, where we enjoyed a guided tour, and then we enjoyed a wonderful buffet at The Inn in Blacksburg, Va.

We continue to draw new members into the FCRTA, and we are looking forward to many more productive and exciting meetings and projects in the upcoming year. We have elected a new slate of hard-working officers who are supported by an active membership. With everyone working together, we can and will accomplish much!



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

Having held all of our Board meetings virtually and corresponding with members via emails for the last few years, the Executive Board was delighted to attend the Henrico County Public Schools 2022 Retiree Celebration in person at the Crossings Convention Center. We set up a table with goodies and information about our organization with a membership form and a personal invitation from us to join. We enjoyed connecting with the new retirees, participating in a delicious lunch and being entertained by a fantastic musical performance by Henrico Public School students from the Center for the Arts at Henrico High School.

We are looking forward to an in person luncheon in October.



Executive Board of Directors (l-r) Lee Reynolds-Newsletter Editor, Bonnie Thompson-Treasurer, Jackie Warren-President, Susan Howe-Membership Chair, Tina Whitaker-Vice-President

### Lynchburg Retired Teachers

Lynchburg Retired Teachers presented Emily Mullins, E. C. Glass High School, and Brianna Muller, Heritage High School, the Edward Christian Class Scholarship of \$2,500.00 each. Emily Mullin will attend Shenandoah University and Brianna Miller will attend Liberty University. The Edward Christian Glass Scholarship was created in 1986 by the Lynchburg Retired Teachers Association in memory of Lynchburg's first superintendent of public education. Donations from businesses and teachers created the scholarship for any student entering the field of education. The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation oversees the account today, and individuals contribute to the scholarship in memory or honor of an educator. Hannah Ness from E. C. Glass received the Edith B. Lee Scholarship of \$500.00 for an individual planning to major in elementary education. Edith B. Lee was an outstanding elementary educator in Lynchburg and her family created this scholarship.



### Loudoun Retired Educators

Loudoun Retired Educators increased their volunteer members from 32 to 46 members reporting their service hours. The unit as a whole increased its volunteer hours this year from 3,874 to 5,688 hours. We had a pretty good year in spite of COVID. This year's best efforts were in the areas of church and community. Within our unit, we raised money from dues, a silent auction, Happy Dollars and Lucky Three beside donations. This year we were able to increase our educational scholarships of \$1000 from 4 awardees to 6 exceptional applicants. (We had 12 that were all well qualified.)

Volunteer opportunities included 6 members who volunteered with Kids R First School Supplies Distribution, a local organization that services over 50 schools in Loudoun and Fairfax counties. We hosted a food drive in September with 35 members filling boxes and bags with durable food items. Six members joined the Inova Hospital Rummage Sale in October. This sale netted over \$171,000.00. Many departments were represented from books to clothing, furniture and holiday items. LREA participated in its District N Community Service drive with 40 members bringing hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks for the Eagle Butte Indian Reservation. This year, we brought items to make up 12 complete Thanksgiving dinners from turkey to cranberry sauce to be given to the Loudoun Hunger Relief pantry in Leesburg. Everyone participated in our Silent Auction by making or purchasing an item. Christmas gifts were collected in December for Mobile Hope. Two car trunk loads were taken for at risk clients, young and old. Over 40 members contributed to this effort. Ten members volunteered to read scholarship applications in the spring and, again, we were able to increase the recipients from 4 to 6 for spring awards. Many members brought in school supplies for the District N Spring collection. In addition, monthly food and financial donations to Loudoun Hunger Relief have continued. All in all, we have had a productive year.



Officers and Committee Chairs at the Loudoun Retired Education Association meeting on June 24, 2022. Front row left to right, Janet Dye, Loretta Hall, Karen Elliott Back row from left, Ellen Bawiec, Maureen Vanderslice, Nancy Vollmer, Chris Stulga, Denise Powers, Bobbie Johnson, Pam Smith, Barbara Gatewood, Linda Greeley

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Montgomery Retired Educators

Our chapter, under the leadership of our president, Kai Duncan, has survived and flourished during COVID. We held our membership at 50 and proudly shared 568 years of service to education. We purchased our own Zoom account which allowed us the freedom to talk and visit as long as we wanted.

We had wonderful programs this year – two in-person and the rest on Zoom. We learned about changes to Medicare from an amazing volunteer at the local Agency on Aging and we enjoyed hearing about the history of Warm Hearth Village, a local retirement and long-term health care facility. We learned all about genealogy and how we could start to trace our own family's history and we were pleased to hear about the creation of Montgomery County's own Hospice House and how we could support it.

During a week of low COVID numbers, we met at Christiansburg Institute for a wonderful tour of the only remaining building, the Edgar Long Building. Christiansburg Institute, or CI, was founded in Christiansburg, VA in 1866/1867 by Charles Schaeffer of the Freedmen's Bureau as an institution to educate freed slaves. Black students from 15 counties attended Christiansburg Institute.



Touring the Edgar Long Building at the Christiansburg Institute



### District N



District N collected school supplies for Appalachia. The Fauquier Unit hosted the spring meeting.



Tom and Sally Kenavan delivered the school supplies to Southwest Virginia.

### Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers

The Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers Association resumed regular meetings after a two-year pause due to the Pandemic with a luncheon at Mitchell's Restaurant in Blackstone. A moment of silence was held in memory of former VRTA life member, Mrs. Marjorie Powers, who devoted over 39 years to education. During the program segment of the meeting, Dr. Jacqueline Barnette, the author of *The Role and Training of Community Health Workers*, led a discussion on "Ways to Retain Your Cognition." The LNRTA, functioning under the umbrella of Virginia Retired Teachers Association, welcomes membership to all retired educational professionals, paraprofessionals and former support staff including librarians, counselors, nurses, secretaries, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, etc. We continue to dedicate our lives to helping children reach their full potential. President Ruby Ingram said, in our retirement LNRTA rejoices in seeing the successes of our former students.



LNRTA members pictured from left: Ruby Ingram-president, Chrystal Wynn-secretary, Evelyn Staples-treasurer, Dr. Jacqueline Barnette-guest speaker, Gloria Pinckney-member, Jean Overman-scholarship chair and Rose Ann Sweetney-historian. Not pictured: Doris Fisher-vice president, Barbara Jones, Alice Birkhead, Florence Oliver and Willette Hazelwood.

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Patrick County

Two outstanding Patrick County High School graduates, Geona Jenkins and James Epperly, were awarded scholarships in the amount of \$500 each by the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association. Geona plans to attend UNC-Greensboro and major in music education and aspires to be a band director. James will attend Virginia Tech this fall; his career goals are to obtain a master's degree in history education and later teach at the high school or community college level. The scholarships were made in memory of deceased Patrick County retired teachers Ann Belcher, Lena Mae Martin, Jo Moricle, and Jessie Mae Vernon.



Scholarship recipients  
Geona Jenkins and  
James Epperly

### Pittsylvania County Retired Teachers

Two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each were awarded to graduating county high school students planning a career in teaching at the May meeting of Pittsylvania County Retired Teachers Association. Hannah Grace Walton of Dan River High School and Brittany Leigh Terry of Tunstall High School were recipients. Camden Calloway of Tunstall High School received a Community Scholarship of \$100 from PCRTA at the 2022 Graduate of Merit banquet.

Mable Scott was honored with flowers from M & W Florists, framed pictures of her recognition by the Pittsylvania County School Board, and a certificate for her selection as Most Active Member of Virginia Retired Teachers Association for 2021. New officers were installed and a remembrance service was conducted in memory of 50 deceased PCS employees who have passed away since the group last met in February 2019. Five of these were members of the organization.

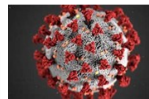
A business meeting followed with reports on the District E meeting and the Spring Delegate Assembly of VRTA. A brief summary of General Assembly actions affecting education and retirees was given. Membership is down due to pandemic restrictions; recovery of former members, as well as recruitment of new members is a priority before the September 2022 meeting.

### Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers

The Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship was awarded to Ishani Inez Jones in the amount of \$1,000.00. Ishani is a 2022 graduate from Petersburg High School in Petersburg, Virginia. She will attend Virginia Commonwealth University this fall and major in biology. Her career goal is to become a surgeon. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Jones and is the oldest of three younger children.



### Richmond-Henrico Retired Teachers



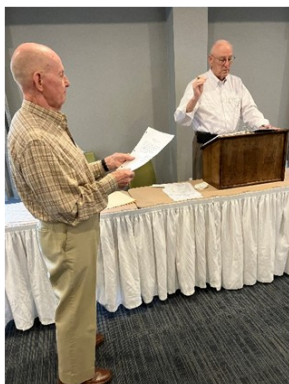
COVID Virus and the CDC Guidelines continue to alter our in-person meetings to virtual meetings. However, R-HRTA has kept our members connected through the VRTA Newsletter and the "R-HRTA" Quick Blast" Contact. We were able to successfully implement several community service projects. Plans are being made for our first in-person meeting in October.



On June 3, 2022, during the Thomas Jefferson High School Senior Awards Program, R-HRTA presented two scholarships. The recipients of the 2022 W. Roland Galvin Scholarship were Mya Ismail, \$1000.00 and Omar Ric Edwards, \$500.00. Both students will attend Old Dominion University in the fall.



### Rockbridge Retired Teachers



Dr. James Bradford Jr. takes oath for office of president administered by Clyde Keen, treasurer, at the June meeting held at the Holiday Inn Express



### District N



President, Janet Dye and President-elect Nancy Vollmer

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Scott County Retired Teachers

Scott County Retired Teachers Association met on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at The Family Bakery in Gate City, VA, for their spring luncheon. Following lunch, members of the scholarship committee reviewed scholarship evaluation rating sheets for twenty-one student applicants. Members of the committee were Jane Bowlin, Judy Vicars, Hannah Guinn, LaMerle Francisco, Mary Kiser, and Susie Ervin. A total of \$4,350 in academic scholarships were awarded to six graduating seniors from the three Scott County high schools in the amount of \$725 each.

Those receiving scholarships at Gate City High School were Kevin Kai-Wei Ni and Sydney Alexis Vaughn. Kevin plans to attend Virginia Tech and study architecture. Sydney will attend East Tennessee State University to study English education.

Receiving scholarships at Rye Cove High School were Trista Katara Snow and Rileigh Kate Parsons. Trista will enroll at Radford University and plans to study early childhood education. Rileigh plans to begin general studies at Mountain Empire Community College and then transfer to East Tennessee State University to study nutrition.

Seniors receiving scholarships at Twin Springs High School were Michael Allen Sluss and Tanner Scott Collins. Michael plans to begin his studies at Mountain Empire Community College and major in education. Tanner will attend North-east State Community College to study agricultural business and industrial technology.



Scholarship Committee members were Jane Bowlin, Judy Vicars, Hannah Guinn, and LaMerle Francisco. Mary Kiser and Susie Ervin were not pictured.

### Shenandoah County Retired Teachers

The new Shenandoah County Retired Teachers officers will begin their two year terms on July 1, 2022. The officers were elected in November 2022 and installed in May 2023 by outgoing Past President Ramona Daugherty. Officers are President: JoAnn Racey; Vice President: Carolyn Brittingham; Secretary: Virginia Stultz; Treasurer, Adina McInturff; and Past President Leigh Devier.

New Shenandoah County Retired Teachers officer (left to right) Racey, McInturff, Brittingham, Stultz, and Devier



### Shenandoah County Retired Teachers

The 2022 Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) scholarship recipient is Ms. Alyssa Bane. Ms. Bane was working as a special education paraprofessional at Strasburg High School when the scholarship was presented, but has now been hired as a special education teacher at Strasburg High School starting this fall. Ms. Bane is working on her master's degree in special education at Radford University. Alyssa is also a wife, a mother of two young children, and the assistant volleyball coach at Strasburg High School, with many responsibilities in addition to her studies. Her letter of recommendation in the scholarship application states that Ms. Bane's professional strengths are impressive, and noted that she is excellent at building positive relationships with the students by getting to know their stories so she can best serve their academic, behavior, and personal needs.



Margaret Figgins (left), SCRTA scholarship chair, presents the scholarship to Alyssa Bane, Strasburg High School, at the SCRTA dinner meeting

### Suffolk Retired Teachers Association

The Suffolk Retired Teachers Association (SRTA) has been using The Free Conference Calls to meet with members for several months. Our membership has decreased and we have been faced with many challenges. However, we have stayed focused and productive in our community. Members have been kept informed by emails and telephone conferences.

Members of the SRTA sponsored a Can and Dry Food Drive at The Salvation Army and donated several food items to help those in need; along with a monetary contribution. Also, school supplies were donated to Booker T. Washington Middle School. Recently, monetary contributions were made to the American Cancer Society, the Boys & Girls Club, and Genieve Shelter.

SRTA will award a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating senior from the Suffolk Public Schools who will attend college in the fall. Hopefully, this amount will be increased in 2023.

Our goals for this fiscal year are to increase membership, partnership with other organizations, and be more visible within the community.

***"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."***

-Helen Keller-

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Williamsburg/James City County

The WJCC Retired Teachers Association awarded Samaiya Dixon a \$1000.00 scholarship. She is an outstanding student and a graduate of Lafayette High School. Samaiya will be attending James Madison University.



Pictured with Samaiya are scholarship committee members Vivian Short, Virgie Jackson and Ruth Frazier.

### Portsmouth Retired Educators

Besides doubling our membership to 50 members, PREA members found creative ways to meet bi-monthly, remained informed and connectively supported various community initiatives throughout this year. This included the Back to School Supply Drive for the Portsmouth Schools Foundation and contribution of canned goods and food products for the OASIS Food Pantry Thanksgiving Meal Project. We toasted the New Year at exactly 12 noon at our January 2022 meeting. We provided much needed and requested household items during the Pack the Bus for the HER Shelter Community Campaign in March at the Effingham St. YMCA and shared in the Women's History Month Luncheon following the community project. Easter treats were provided for the Coping to Coding with Footprints for Homeless Children Spring Break project and we gave teacher appreciation treats to the Brighton Elementary School staff.

PREA also donated \$100 to: OASIS Food Pantry, Salvation Army, Ida Barbour Learning Center, Effingham St. YMCA, Union Mission and the HER Shelter of Portsmouth. We also presented three \$1,000 Scholarships to high school seniors through donations from other retired educators, family, friends and community support.



President Valerie Brown (middle) with Linda Ellis, (left) Community & Services Chairperson and Gail Porter, (right) Scholarship Chairperson attending the 2022 VRTA Spring Delegate Assembly.

### Sussex County Retired Teachers

Members adjusted to the change and challenges along with demands of COVID-19 restrictions to stay "SAFE". We encouraged each other to remain positive through telephone chats, cards and letters.

Sussex County Retired Teachers found many ways to remain active in the community.

- ◇ Teaching computer skills to seniors and others
- ◇ Teaching Bible study
- ◇ Participating in audio conferences in various states
- ◇ Volunteering as caregivers, mentors and tutors as needed
- ◇ Purchasing back to school supplies
- ◇ Celebrating longevity through drive bys for birthdays (90 plus years of life)
- ◇ Sending older members balloons and cards
- ◇ Supporting one another when sickness and death of loved ones occurred
- ◇ Supporting food banks as workers and delivering items to others in the community
- ◇ Assisting students with college applications and fees
- ◇ Supporting youth in the community by attending sports events
- ◇ Purchasing items for Toys for Tots

We were able to continue our scholarship program. Niara Carter, a senior at Sussex Central High School, received the \$1,000 donation from SCTA. She plans to attend Norfolk State University in the fall.

Sussex County Retired Teachers have learned that we are making a difference and have accomplished many goals and successes. New officers are being trained and will be soon be our leaders as we resume normal meetings in the future. It has been a pleasure meeting so many wonderful people that have the thrill of educating children. The friendships that have developed and grown will be an everlasting ones.

### Prince William Retired Teachers

Prince William Retired Teachers celebrated 50 years in May.



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Arlington Retired Teachers Association, ARTA

#### Congratulations to Us!

“What a wonderful year to begin my leadership of ARTA,” said our new President Lynne Lilly. We are all excited because we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year in existence. Begun in 1972 with a small group of retired teachers we have grown to a membership of over 415 people from across the United States. Having to present our programs via Zoom for the past 2 years, many of our out-of-town members have been able to join us from afar. How exciting it has been to see their faces and hear what they have been doing. Once again, we will hold our meetings on Zoom this year.

Our March meeting provided us with a wonderful portrayal of Rosie the Riveter. Award-Winning Actress & Smithsonian Scholar Mary Ann Jung presented the delightful story of Rosie through the eyes of Rose Leigh Monroe, who worked at the largest aircraft factory in the world, Willow Run, Michigan. We discovered what came first. Was it Rosie posters, song, or real women who worked in factories to help America win the war? Who was the real Rosie? You may want to discover that on Mary Ann’s website <http://maryannjung.com/>

Author and motivational speaker Wilma Jones, who grew up in the African-American neighborhood of Halls Hill was our speaker in April. Wilma’s presentation titled “Experience Black Arlington,” was a timeline of African Americans in Arlington from Freedman’s Village until the 1960s, as it related to institutional racism and discrimination and its effects on Black neighborhoods and residents. Wilma’s recently published book, *My Halls Hill Family: More than a Neighborhood*, is available on Amazon.

And excitedly we finished our year by meeting in person for our traditional Spring Luncheon in May. Our speakers were Dr Emma Violand-Sanchez and Karen Vallejos Corrales. ARTA member and previous school board member, Emma, served as supervisor of programs for English Language Learners and founded the Dream Project, Inc. The Dream Project works to empower students whose immigration status creates barriers to education to access and succeed in college through scholarships, mentoring, family engagement and advocacy. Karen, the Project’s Executive Director, experienced first-hand as a student the frustrations of being an undocumented student. As a lawyer, she focuses on immigration rights and educational law. Together they spoke of the successes the Project students have realized and the challenges the Project will continue to address. What a wonderful way to bring our year to an end.

Our Luncheon Speakers,  
Dr Emma Violand-Sanchez,  
Founder of the Dream Project,  
Karen Vallejos Corrales, Project  
Executive Director and Nancy  
King, ARTA Past President



Nancy King, ARTA  
Past President and  
Lynne Lilly,  
President-Elect at  
Spring Luncheon



### Augusta Retired Educators Association



Augusta Retired Educators Association presented its annual scholarship to Adasyn Hollinger from Riverheads High School at the group’s May meeting. Holding the organization’s banner with Adasyn are Georgianne Hull, chairman of the scholarship committee, and parents Sherelle and David Hollinger.

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Bland County Retired Teachers Association Honors James Sink

The Bland County Retired Teachers Association proudly recognizes James Sink, president of our organization for the last 22 years. Mr. Sink retired from Rocky Gap High School in June 1999 where he was a successful math teacher and assistant principal. As a new member, the Bland County Retired Teachers Association selected him to be their president. Mr. Sink accepted the Presidency in July 2000 and held this position for 22 years, closing out his tenure with our June 2022 meeting.

During his local tenure, he also served as president of District I for two terms, a total of four years. He attended twenty-two state Spring and Fall Delegate Assemblies where he learned the inner workings of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association which he carried back to our local organization.



Mr. Sink was instrumental in securing a significant increase in our retiree health monthly benefit. We owe a great deal of thanks to him for this increase in our retirement check.

Scholarship awards to graduates of Bland County High School have grown from \$200 when he first became president to \$3,200 this year.

Mr. Sink encouraged members to volunteer and to record our volunteer hours. This year a total of 1,293 service hours were reported to the state.

Our organization also contributes a \$50 Charity Gift to a county organization each year.

The organization received several certificates each year from the state for meeting various guidelines.

At our June 2022 meeting, Mr. Sink was presented a plaque recognizing his contribution to our organization. The plaque reads as follows:

"It is impossible to calculate the magnitude of his positive influence on this organization. From intricately planning worthwhile meetings of interest to retired persons, to

financially supporting the organization in numerous ways -- paying first year dues for new members, sponsoring scholarships for the youth of Bland County, sending birthday and anniversary wishes to members, collecting pictorial evidence of important moments in our meetings, preparing scrapbooks to record the history of the organization, and countless other successful accomplishments for members at the local, district, and state levels. His guardianship of the organization has been unprecedented, and his genuine care and calm leadership of the organization has been enormous."

The members of the Bland County Retired Teachers Association thank Mr. Sink for his dedication to our organization.

### Roanoke City Retired Educators

The Roanoke City Retired Educators Association met in virtually on Zoom for our March meeting and we met in person for our May meeting. The speaker for our March gathering was Christy Day, an interior designer. She gave excellent advice on inexpensive ways to spruce up one's home, since so many of us have been spending extra time indoors due to the pandemic. It was an appropriate program for Zoom because Christy could show examples of her design ideas.

The last meeting of the year took place in the Community Room of the Williamson Road Branch Library. Our speaker for this meeting was Eboni Harrington, who was the Roanoke City Public Schools Teacher of the Year as well as the Region 6 Teacher of the Year. She spoke about her journey of becoming a teacher, her positive influences along the way and her love for her students.

The 2022 RCREA scholarship recipients were introduced at this meeting. We were able to award two \$2,000 scholarships to Nevaeh Olibrus and Taylor Frazier, both seniors at Patrick Henry High School. Nevaeh is attending Hollins University and Taylor is enrolled in Vassar College. Both girls had outstanding credentials and will be pursuing careers related to education.



Scholarship recipients, Taylor Frazier and Nevaeh Olibrus

## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers

Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association is not meeting in person as a group to carry out community service together, but there are members who are involved in serving the community on an individual basis wherever needed. We communicate via telephone, texting, or email to stay abreast of any issues.

Mrs. Carol Logan assists her chapter, Lambda Psi Omega of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. of Franklin, Virginia, with the distribution of food as partners with Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Franklin, Virginia, on every second Sunday of each month.

Mrs. Sylvia Claud is busy with the distribution of food in the Southampton Meadows neighborhood and Sussex County Food Bank.



Mrs. Daphne Miller assists with 45 students via Zoom in the BNOG (Boykins Neighborhood Out Reach Center) on each Monday night from 6:00-7:00 pm. The session begins in September and concludes in August with a back to school activity. The students are assisted in the areas of math, reading, English, history and writing. The ages of the youth ranges from kindergarten through nineteen. Rev. Dr. Lillie A. Faison is the CEO and founder of the program.

President Miller volunteered to help with dismissal of students in the Star Base Summer Camp, which is S.T.E. M. based. The camp is sponsored by Portsmouth City Public Schools held at Victory Elementary School, under the direction of Mr. Richard Neefe.



L to R: President Miller, Co-worker Mrs. Yvette Davis-Valentin and Director of Starbase, Mr. Richard Neefe

### Brunswick Retired Teachers

In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week May 2, 2022, the Brunswick Retired Teachers Association honored county teachers and staff by presenting each school with colorful wall posters. The posters highlighted the many tasks teachers are engaged in daily and expressed appreciation for the amazing job they do, noting "We appreciate all that you do."



Pictured (L to R) Bessie Bland, Committee Member, Darlene Brown, Title I/Dean of Students, Totaro Elementary School and Virginia Thompson, BRTA President

### District N Attends VRTA 2022 Spring Delegate Assembly



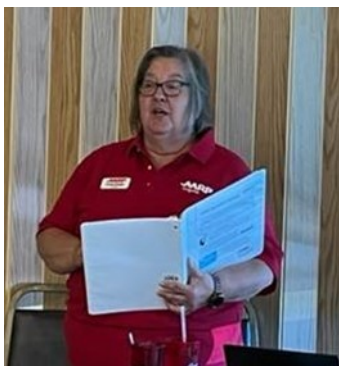


## News From Around the Commonwealth

### Allegheny Retired Teachers Association

At the March 1st meeting, ARTA met at Epworth United Methodist Church. The meeting was catered by Scott Hill Retirement of Clifton Forge. Diane Garcia, the educational consultant for the Allegheny Foundation presented the program which described "Fighting Poverty in the Highlands." Food items and monetary donations for the local food pantries were collected at the meeting. ARTA was able to give each of the three local food pantries \$84 plus the food items collected. We have such a generous membership. ARTA was able to give four \$500 scholarships at the March meeting to four well deserving high school seniors. This year the scholarships were given to Grace Field and Kyleigh Plott from Allegheny High School, and Ambrosia Persinger and Megan Rickett of Covington High School. Each recipient was recognized and given a gift. The scholarship recipients and their parents were guests for the luncheon following the meeting.

In May, we met at Cucci's in Covington. Our guest speaker, Connie Scaggs, an AARP presenter, discussed "Decluttering and Downsizing- You Can't Take It with You." One useful strategy she gave us was to sort things in four piles: Keep, Sell, Donate, and Trash. ARTA officers for 2022-2023 were installed at the meeting.



Connie Scaggs, AARP



Diane Garcia, Allegheny Foundation Educational Consultant



2022 ARTA Scholarship Recipients

### Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers

Lunenburg-Nottoway RTA president and school board member, Ruby B. Ingram encouraged citizens to be heard by registering and exercising their right to VOTE at the Kenbridge July Jubilee Celebration.



**VRTA Benefits**  
Agent/Advisor of Record:  
Jim DuBrueler, Jr.

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 Jim DuBrueler, Agent of Record at (800) 467-5425 to schedule or visit [www.VRTABenefits.org](http://www.VRTABenefits.org)

Benefits offered include:

- ◇ Life, Health, and Annuity Benefits
- ◇ Home, Auto, Farm, Umbrella Benefits
- ◇ Financial Advisory Services
- ◇ Investment Management
- ◇ Estate Planning Document Preparation

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

#### 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!"

## Virginia Retired Teachers Association Fall Conference

Monday, October 17—Wednesday October 19, 2022

### Preliminary Schedule of Events

#### Monday, October 17, 2022

7:00—9:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

#### Tuesday, October 18, 2022

**Beginning at 8:00 A.M., coffee, tea and pastries will be available near the Registration Table.**

8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Registration—Maudie Scott

9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting

11:00 a.m.—12:00 noon ***VRTA members will vacate the room***

**(Hotel staff will set up for Luncheon)**

**12:00 pm First event for those not on the Exec Committee or Board of Directors**

12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. Luncheon, Guest Speaker TBD

2:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m. Door Prizes followed by Break

2:15 p.m.—3:15 p.m. VRTA Insurance Benefits: Jim DuBrueler

3:15 p.m.—3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. Legislative Session: Bea Morris

Evening Social Activities TBD

#### Wednesday, October 19, 2022

**Beginning at 8:00 A.M., coffee, tea and muffins will be available near the Registration Table.**

8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. Registration—Maudie Scott

9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Presentation

10:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m.—12:00 noon Memorial Service – Phyllis Eastridge

Business Session & Door Prizes

Locations for the various events will be assigned by the DoubleTree Hotel. Each registrant will receive this information in a packet when checking in at the Registration Table.

**\* Monday, October 17  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETS  
7:00-9:00 PM**

**VRTA FALL CONFERENCE**  
Monday, October 17-Wednesday, October 19, 2022  
**DoubleTree Hotel**  
**Richmond-Midlothian**

**Tuesday, October 18  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETS  
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 **Friday, September 30, 2022.** [maudie@tds.net](mailto: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.**

- ◇ HERB CRUSTED LOIN OF PORK with Brandied Apples, Seasonal Vegetables, Oven Roasted Potatoes Grilled
- ◇ TUSCAN GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST Italian Crusted Chicken with Olive Oil, Garlic Finished with Nut Free Pesto Sauce with Seasonal Vegetables and Oven Roasted Potatoes
- ◇ Vegetarian—**This will be chef's choice.**

Spinach Salad, rolls and butter, coffee or tea and dessert, Carrot Cake, are included with each meal.

**Room Registration:** Attendees make room reservations no later than **Saturday, September 17, 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 (\$147.06 with tax). **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-vt2-ecf33865-e748-4fd6-a5ca-08d18a7980e7/>

Should your guests decide to make their reservation directly through Hiton.com the three letter group **code they should use is VT2.**

1. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Emergency Contact:**

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

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

**Local and District Units are required to bring a stand to display their banners.**

\* Only members of the Executive Committee will meet on Monday the 17th.

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

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

**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 Fall Conference on **Wednesday only**, 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 Fall Conference Registration. Please print clearly.**

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

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

District and Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

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 **Friday, September 30, 2022** [maudie@tds.net](mailto:maudie@tds.net)

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