

Happy New Year to all VRA members. As a former VRA President and current President Elect for NRA, I bring greetings to you in this New Year along with an update on what is happening at the National Rehabilitation Association. First, thank you for your membership in NRA and VRA as well as your continued dedication to assist people with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining employment.

The National Rehabilitation Association Board of Directors has hired as our new Executive Director, Ms. Beverlee Stafford. Ms. Stafford has enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and now brings her leadership to NRA. Please join with me in welcoming Ms. Stafford to the NRA and we look forward to her future stewardship of our Association.

Please take a moment to check out the NRA website. There you will find information about the upcoming Legislative Summit, held March 8-10 in Alexandria Virginia. This close to home conference has training, information and great networking opportunities. This annual event sponsored by NRA, provides information on legislative items for the upcoming year and opportunities to connect with your elected representative. Don't miss out on this event! Those who are attending for the first time are encouraged to apply for the Tom Stewart Scholarship. See the NRA website for all of the details.

<http://www.nationalrehab.org/>

It is never too early to plan! The NRA Annual Training Conference 2009 will be held in Louisville, Ky from Sept 10-13. Stay tuned to the NRA website for registration information and details to attend as well as opportunities to present a training session. Virginia has a wealth of talent in our private and public vocational rehabilitation programs and agencies... this is an excellent opportunity to share the good things that are happening in Virginia with our national colleagues!

Again, thank you for your membership in NRA/VRA. Please feel free to contact me should you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns to share with our National Board.

Best wishes for a wonderful year,

Bonnie Hawley  
President-elect  
National Rehabilitation Association