

## Newsnotes – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition January 2010

The VARL Board met on December 8<sup>th</sup> and Jack Smith passed the presidential gavel to me, Naomi Aitken. I think back to 1996 when I served as VRA president. That was a year of learning, sharing and growing new relationships and skills. I anticipate 2010 to be another year with many opportunities for each of us to chose to be leaders, for ourselves and our customers.

Please join me in a welcome to our 2010 Board – Past President - Jack Smith; President – Naomi Aitken; President-elect - Teri Bertsch; Secretary - Robin Metcalf; Treasurer - Eleana Boyer; Membership -Bill Burnside; Education -Susan Green; Awards - Doug James & Kem Kirby; NARL President - Eleanor Williams; Board Members-at-large - Term ends 2009 – Jane Bennett and Shawn Zimmerman; Term ends 2010 – Kem Kirby and Ralph Figaro; Term ends 2011 – Doug James and Sharon Cheek.

The VARL Board Meetings have been scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual August 11<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. We are scheduling 4 trainings this year with one schedule for June 8<sup>th</sup>. We will send information as details are known.

I would like to end this report with an exerpt from Jon Gordon's weekly newsletter. He has written several books that have helped me to grow as a Leader. These first 2 points for how to lead is from *The Shark and the Goldfish*

**1. "Lead with Optimism** - Negativity and fear are likely knocking your people off balance and it's time to regroup, refocus, and unite to create a winning mindset, culture and positive team environment. Now, more than ever, is a time for positive leadership. Now is the time to uplift, encourage and inspire your teams. When your folks talk about the challenges, you talk about the opportunities. When others talk about why they can't succeed, you give them every reason why they can. So often the difference between success and failure is belief and as a positive leader you need to inspire this belief and optimism in your people."

**2. "Jump into the Trenches** – You need to be humble and hungry. Humble in that you seek to learn, grow, and improve every day, and hungry with a passion to work harder than everyone else. Now is not a time to be barricaded in your office. Now is a time to be in the trenches with your people, leading, working, and building a successful future"