

An NRA minute....

Thank you for your membership in the National Rehabilitation Association / Virginia Rehabilitation. Your membership represents an important role in a vital network to promote the profession of rehabilitation that provides services to assist people with disabilities in finding valued employment.

By way of a quick update on your National Office, at the last NRA Board meeting, it was voted to purchase "Weblink" a new membership database. This new software will enable NRA to keep more reliable and up to date membership information for all State Chapters, Regions and Divisions. For those members who work for DRS, you probably remember the conversion from our VRIS database to AWARE... such that it will be with WebLink. There will be a number of steps to go through so please be patient with this process, it will take some time, but the end result will be better membership information and service.

Thanks to the efforts of Carol Thacker, representatives from VRA met with the aides of elected representatives from Congress during NRA Legislative Summit held on March 8-10th. Many thanks to Carol for her efficient and effective advocacy as Legislative Chair of VRA and to members of the Virginia delegation who took the Issue Statements of NRA to Capitol Hill... Be sure to stay tuned to the Washington Wire for the latest updates on national legislative news that affects our Profession.

Congratulations to Susan Cianfaglione, newly elected Board Member at Large for RCEA and to Eleanor Williams, the new President Elect of NARL. These VRA members are working hard at both the local and national level of NRA to bring additional representation to you... and we thank them for their willingness to serve.

Also, if you are on Facebook, be sure to check out the new NRA site. Join in the fun of Facebook and get connected with NRA members and rehabilitation professionals across the United States.

Plans are underway for yet another great Annual Training Conference, this year in Louisville Kentucky. Check out the NRA website at <http://www.nationalrehab.org/> for all the details and save the date for September 10th – 13th...

In closing, I hope that all rehabilitation counselors enjoyed their day of appreciation on March 22, 2009... National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day.... It was a day of appreciation for all that rehabilitation counselors have done, continue to do, will do and can do! It is a pleasure and privilege to work with you in our mutual mission of full employment of people with disabilities.

I encourage each of you to reach out to a colleague and invite them to join the National Rehabilitation Association. Opportunities for training, information on professional advocacy and networking can all be found in one place... at the National Rehab Association...

If you have any questions/concerns/ideas, my email door is always open!

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Best wishes,
Bonnie Hawley
President-elect
National Rehabilitation Association