Presidential Pondering

Well, here we are entering the fall season of the year. As I am writing this most of you are still recovering from Hurricane Isabel. I hope and pray that each of you were able to stay safe during the horrific storm. I think we all learned a lot about survival techniques.

By the time you are reading this message the Collaboration Conference will have come and gone and several of your VRA officers will have attended the National Rehabilitation Association’s annual workshop. VRA has sponsored several training events including a workshop on Diversity and Rehabilitation at the Collaboration’s 2003 conference. As you can see a lot of VRA business and activities have been completed since the last News Notes were published.

Let me congratulate our new officers and board members. I know they will be an active group and will help the association to continue it growth. Please take the time to contact your VRA representative to let them know what VRA can do to help you. VRA wants to be responsive to the needs of its members but we need to hear from you.

In the last news notes I ask for your help and assistance to help VRA grow and become a stronger voice for the needs for both people with disabilities and rehabilitation professional. I received a couple of calls but I would like to issue the challenge once again. We need you!!!! Eleanor Williams, your incoming VRA president will need your help. Please get involved!!! Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you!

Howard Green
VRA President

VRA Legislative Update
David Williams – VRA Legislative Liaison

VRA supports Governor Warner’s efforts to create a Medicaid Buy-In for working Virginians with disabilities.

VRA was invited to the recent bill signing ceremony for House Bill 1822 patroned by Delegate Harvey Morgan at the Capitol. The bill signed into law by Governor Warner directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to seek a research and demonstration waiver from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

Participants from left to right are: Jim Rothrock, Commissioner DRS, David Williams, VRA Legislative Liaison, Del. Marian Van Ladingham, Hayley Williams, Del. Harvey Morgan, The Honorable Jane H. Woods, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Gov. Mark Warner, Patrick W. Finnerty, Director Department of Medical Assistance Services, Hilary Malawer, Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy, Derek Fults, Lt.Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center

Submitted by David Williams

The next VRA Board Meeting is Dec. 5, 2003.
The Education Committee has been hard at work scheduling various trainings around the state of Virginia. We have scheduled a training event in Newport News, VA., on 11/07/03 on the topic of INTEGRATING PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES INTO THE WORKPLACE. Terry Gingras, Ph.D. will be our featured speaker, and this training will take place at the Newport News Main Library, 110 Main Street, Newport News, Virginia from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like additional information about this training or if you would like to register, please see the flyer in this newsletter, visit the VRA website (www.vra.org) or contact Annette Pope at 757-865-3105.

Shannon Peters from George Washington University provided training on the topic of Substance Abuse in Roanoke on 09/09/03, and this training was well received and attended. Due to the positive response we received from this training, we will be offering a repeat performance in Northern Virginia on 11/13/03 in the conference room at the Fairfax DRS office from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To register for this training opportunity or to obtain additional information, please refer to the enclosed flyer, visit the VRA website (www.vra.org), or contact Sharon Barton at 804-288-6272.

Future training events are being considered for the Southwest Virginia and Richmond areas in early 2004. We welcome your input about training topics and locations at any time. Please let us know if you have ideas on how we can better meet your training needs. We hope to see you all at a training event soon!

Submitted by Sharon Barton

At Collaborations 2003, VRA was able to give out numerous awards to individuals for exemplary services to and for persons with disabilities. The following awards were given:

Norman C. Hammond Award- Winner: Ukrop’s Supermarkets, Inc. (Dee Gordon & Virgil Davis)

Roy M. Hoover Award for Outstanding Medical Achievement: Winner: Dr. John D. Ward

Virginia Rehabilitation Association Distinguished Achievement Award: Winner: Karen Michelle Kohler

A. R. Dawson Humanitarian Award: Winner: John (Benjy) Burnett

Franz Stillfried Barrier Free Achievers Honor Roll: Winner: Gayl Brunk

Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence: Winner: Eleana M. Boyer

R. N. Anderson Award: Winner: J. Howard Green (VRA President, 2003)

Don T. Johnston President’s Award: Winner: Mary Kaye Johnston

Congratulations to all the recipients of the VRA Awards!

Submitted by Dale Batten

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Theme 2003 – “America Works Best When All Americans Work”

October is designated as National Disability Employment Awareness Month by the U. S. Congress and the Shenandoah Valley Regional Disability Employment Awareness Committee is

WWRC News (Continued on page 6)
INTEGRATING PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES INTO THE WORKPLACE

As we continue to explore and promote vocational opportunities for customers with psychiatric disabilities, we need to increase our skills and knowledge of their unique and complex employment issues. This training will provide in depth and valuable information about the various disabilities that will assist in our professional effort to serve and assist this population.

Sponsored by the
Virginia Rehabilitation Association

Presented by Terry James Gingras, Ph.D.
Terry is a psychologist practicing in the Hampton/Newport News and surrounding community. In addition, he has had a long and illustrious career of service that includes psychological assessments and therapy, neuropsychological testing, supervision and administration in both the private and government sectors.

Friday, November 7, 2003
9:15 – 3:00
At
Main Street Library
110 Main Street
Newport News, VA 23601

RSVP to make your reservation and to request your accommodation needs to Annette Pope by October 30 at 757-865-3105

VRA Members $9.00 (Cost of lunch) Non Members $15.00 (Cost of registration/lunch)

Make checks payable to VRA

CRC Credit Available

www.vra.org
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

This training is targeted for the rehabilitation professional and will be a source of innovative ideas to assist individuals with substance abuse issues so that they can be successful in employment. Topics of discussion will include early identification, barriers to employment, working with referral sources regarding treatment options and how the diagnosis and treatment affects success in employment.

Presented by Shannon Peters, Ph.D., LPC
Human Resource Development Specialist
Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program
George Washington University

Sponsored by the
Virginia Rehabilitation Association

Thursday, November 13, 2003
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION - 8:30 – 9:00

Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Conference Room
11150 Main St., Suite 300
Fairfax, VA  22030

RSVP to make your reservation and to request your accommodation needs to Sharon Barton at sharonb@rvarehab.com or call 804-288-6272

VRA Members - FREE        Non Members $15.00
Make checks payable to VRA
CRC Credit Available
VRA Membership News and New Membership Contest Rules

Virginia Rehabilitation Association
Membership and Communication Annual Report September 29, 2003
Committee Members: Dale Batten, Jean Steveson, Shirley Lyons, Mary Kaye Johnston

Subcommittee: AWARDS
Committee Members: Doug James, Judy Howlett, and Dale Batten, Chairman.

The awards ceremony occurred at the Collaborations 2003 conference luncheon on Tuesday, September 30, 2003.

A call for nominations was submitted to the New Notes in June 2003. The original deadline for nominations was June 30, 2003. There were very few nominations by the deadline. The president agreed to extend the nominations until July 15, 2003. As a result of the extension, we received 9 nominations for 7 awards. The recipients of the awards can be found on page 2 of this issue.

Subcommittee: COMMUNICATIONS
Members: Steve Sommer, Shirley Lyons, Mary Kaye Johnston, Carl Nowakowski

NewsNotes have been printed on schedule during the 2003 calendar year. Distribution has been both by mail and through the web site www.VRA.org. A postcard was included in one of the early NewsNotes asking if people would forego a mailed copy and access their newsletter via the webpage. Approx. 20 members have taken advantage of this cost saving alternative.

VRCA has been providing an insert into the NewsNotes. This is a valuable resource to their group and helps keep all VRA members informed as to their activities.

The Website www.vra.org has been expanded and redesigned. There are now regular updates on the webpage (at least bi-weekly) and we hope that everyone will visit the page regularly. Updates include legislative issues and the NewsNotes. This year we will also post a running list of the status of the membership contest.

Subcommittee: MEMBERSHIP
Members: Jean Steveson, Dale Batten, Shirley Lyons

As of the latest report from NRA, the Virginia chapter has a membership of 170. Of those 170 members, 122 belong to at least one division.

A membership drive was held this year in an effort to increase the number of members. From January 1, 2003 to the present time, we have increased our membership by just 1 member.

This is deceiving in that members have come and gone throughout the year. We have welcomed 12 new members, but have lost a similar number who have not renewed.

We would like to remember a Life member who passed away this year – Daniel Burns.

2003 Membership Contest Results:
Results of the contest show that the following members recruited a new member (based on information from NRA and those who responded to me via email): Howard Green, Mary Kaye Johnston, Dale Batten, Teri Bertsch, Maria DelGardo Worley, and Billy Smelser.

A random drawing gives the two prizes to Marie Worley and Billy Smelser. Congratulations.

2004 Membership Contest for the Virginia Rehabilitation Association
Objective: to make sure everyone renews their membership and to gain 200 members by the 2004 Fall Conference.
Rules:
2004 Membership Rules (Continued on page 6)
VRA Membership Contest
(Continued from page 5)

1. Each member who renews gets one point.
2. If that member has been influenced by someone to renew, they must email Shirley Lyons via the webpage (www.vra.org) to ensure credit is given where credit is due.
3. New members are asked to list the name of the recruiting member on their NRA Application. If this is done, NRA will notify me of the recruiter’s name.
4. Each person who recruits a new member gets two points. Each person who influences a renewing member gets one point.

Prizes:
Prizes will only be awarded to members of VRA. There will be a first, second and third place prize. Prizes will be awarded only if the top three persons have more than 5 points. Recruiting new or renewing members could earn these points. If there is a tie, the tiebreaker will be as follows:

1. the person who has earned the most points for new members
2. the person who has earned the most points for renewals
3. If there is still a tie, a coin toss will determine the winner.

The person who is renewing must verify renewal points. Failure for this verification will result in no point being awarded.

The contest will be overseen by the Membership Committee and their decisions are final.

Submitted by Shirley Lyons

Top 10 Reasons to Join the VRA

10. You get Contemporary Rehab – the newsletter of the National Rehabilitation Association on a quarterly basis as well as the NewsNotes the VRA quarterly newsletter.
9. You get discounted registration at the Collaborations Conference.
8. It is a great opportunity to network with other rehabilitation professionals.
7. VRA and NRA provides legislative advocacy for your profession on a state and federal level.
6. You get to attend local VRA trainings for free.
5. It’s a great resume builder and will give you professional credibility.
4. A portion of your NRA dues is tax deductible.
3. The fee for student membership is only $20.00.
2. When you join your state chapter you also join NRA, entitling you to the quarterly Journal of Rehabilitation.
1. VRA members are an incredibly energetic and fun group of people. They are dedicated to the profession and like to have a good time!

Submitted by Margaret Gillispie

WWRC News—National Disability Employment Awareness Month (continued from page 2)

again sponsoring a series of activities during the month of October to increase public awareness of persons with disabilities.
This committee is comprised of representatives of various public and private organizations which work from April – October of each year organizing the following activities: (1). Recognition of em-
The Virginia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership had a successful 'outing' at Collaborations 2003. The workshop we sponsored, "Ethical Considerations for Leaders" with presenter Dr. Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, had standing room only and was very well received. Based on some of the comments and discussion from that session, VARL has decided that training for rehabilitation professionals in support roles around ethical considerations would be helpful and we plan to pull this together in the months to come.

Also at Collaborations, VARL facilitated a leadership chat at the end of the day on Monday. VARL members as well as many VRCA members and others attended. Twenty-five plus individuals had a stimulating discussion in response to material about characteristics of self leaders. In addition, a drawing was held from our exhibit at Collaborations and the book, *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*, by John Maxwell, was given to Karen Morgret of SOC Enterprises in Arlington.

At the annual business meeting for VARL during Collaborations, new Officers and Board members for 2004 were announced. They are Margaret Gillispie, President-Elect and Karen Stevens and John Phelps, Board members. President Bill Burnside presented “Excellence in Leadership” awards to Asha Rodwell, Secretary and Susan Green, Board member for their leadership in assisting with VARL efforts over the past year.

For the future, VARL is continuing to make plans to repeat the “Leaders Emerge” workshop which was held in June and had such a great response. Debbie Augustin with George Washington University, who did such a fine job as presenter, is no longer available so we are working with GWU on availability to put this together with us again. It is hoped that this will be offered in December or in January.

Finally, brown bag leadership chats should be coming to a lunch room near you very soon. Our hope is to foster networking and leadership development for leaders from all rehabilitation venues and positions. Contact Susan Green at jgreen18@aol.com if you have an interest in participating in, hosting, or facilitating a chat. Topics are provided.

VARL is growing!! Recent new members include John Phelps, Mary Kaye Johnston, Antoinette Smith, and Eleanor Williams. Our membership has doubled this year and we want to continue to grow. The more members we have, the stronger our organization will be, and the greater will be our ability to offer training and other professional development opportunities to those in our field. Add VARL to your membership now!

Our next Board meeting will be on Thursday, October 30 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Forestry central office in Charlottesville. Come check us out!

Submitted by Susan Green

VARL Leaders in Collaboration (continued in next column)
VRA Calendar for 2003

December
Annual report due to NRA
5 - VRA Annual Retreat
15 – Deadline for January 2004 NewsNotes

VRA Golf Tournament

The golf tournament was very successful even though very wet. We had 72 golfers out on the course and they were real troopers. The winning teams are listed on our web site (www.vra.org). I want to congratulate the Allen, Allen, Allen, & Allen team who took home first place. RSVP finished second and The Choice Group was third.

I would like to thank all of the Corporate Sponsors who contributed to the success of the tournament. In addition, I would like to thank the businesses for their donated gifts used for door prizes and people like Bill Burnside, Benjy Burnett, Jack Hayek and a special thanks to Bob Canaday for the trophies. A special thanks goes to all of the volunteers on the day of the tournament. Susan Green did an outstanding job of getting everyone registered. Also, I would like to thank Marie Worley and Darlene Ackersman for helping out during registration. Mary Kaye Johnston and Ed Navis and Darlene Ackerman get special thanks for riding around in the rain to make sure everyone received the refreshments.

Let hope next year is dry.

SPECIAL NOTE: Planning for the next year tournament will be real soon and I am looking for a committee to work on the tournament. I have been doing most of the work for the tournament for the past four years and would like to seek help for next year. Please get in touch with me if you would like to serve on the golf committee. My number is 804-828-9548 or e-mail me at jgreen18@aol.com

Submitted by Howard Green

Run An Ad in the VRA NEWNOTES

1/4 PAGE
$ 15 / issue : $ 50 / year

1/2 PAGE
$ 24 / issue : $ 90 / year

Full Page
$ 50 / issue : $ 175 / year

This Ad Space Could Be Yours

Call Steve Sommer at 804-662-7159, and your ad will be seen by 250 leaders in the field of Rehabilitation, starting April 2003. Tell a friend!
Congratulations to All the Winners of VRA Awards!

VRA President-Elect with 3 VRA Presidents

Bonnie Hawley: Leadership and Past President Award

All the VRA Award Winners!!!

Ukrop’s Supermarkets, Inc.: Norman C. Hammond Award (Dee Gordon & Virgil Davis)

Karen Michelle Kohler: VRA Distinguished Achievement

Mary Kaye Johnston: Don T. Johnston President’s Award

Benjy’s Wife and Grandson Cheer for Benjy!!!

Benjy Burnett: A.R. Dawson Humanitarian Award

Eleana M. Boyer: Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence

J Howard Green: R.N. Anderson Award (VRA President 2003)

Gayl Brunk: Franz Stillfried Barrier Free Achievers Honor Roll