### Presidential Pondering Oct. 2006 by Margaret Gillispie

Collaborations was outstanding this year and I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed it as much as I did. The weather was beautiful, the networking was great and the sessions were interesting and informative. We had our annual business meeting at Collaborations and had good attendance from our membership. Thanks to all who attended. We covered a lot of business including the revitalization of the Mid Atlantic Region, the revision of our Constitution and By-Laws, membership issues, training opportunities and our fund raising efforts to date. At the end of the meeting Evan Jones presented the distinguished Mary Switzer Award to Howard Green. The award was originally given to Howard at the NARL meeting last year but Howard was not in attendance. Howard accepted the award and said “If you believe in what you do, and it’s your talent to give back to a professional organization, then that’s what you need to do”. I could not agree more and commend Howard for all his support for VRA over the years.

It is now October and the year is winding down but we still have some exciting events that are scheduled for the near future. Upcoming trainings include “Ethics, a Case Study” scheduled for October 20th, “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” sponsored by VARL on November 1st as well as a training in the Tidewater area scheduled for November 11th. In addition we will be holding a raffle for a cruise that was donated by Travel Plans Unlimited and our own Board Member Philip Cook. Tickets will be available in the near future for sale. We will get them out to our board members and membership and hope that you all will take a chance to win the cruise!

### VRA Legislative Update

**Real Choice Systems Change Grant for Community Living – Virginia Selected**

Governor Kaine recently announced Virginia was one of eight states to be awarded the “Real Choice Systems Change Grant for Community Living”. The grant, which is for up to $3 million from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), will help build the infrastructure for a long-term support system that will allow Virginians with disabilities and seniors to live in a setting of their choice.

The grant couldn’t come at a better time. Under former Governor Warner, Virginia created a vision of “One Community” whereby people with disabilities would have the ability to live in the most integrated community setting of their choice - a dramatic departure from the past when funding and services were primarily directed to long-term care institutions.

But achieving the goal won’t be easy. For people with disabilities to have access to services and supports in their locality of choice and have more control over the type of services they receive, it will require systems change and innovative thinking - neither of which is easy or inexpensive. That’s why this grant is so important.

The grant has as its goals to: 1) improve access to long-term support services through expansion of a one-stop-system, 2) increase choice and control by enhancement of a self-directed service delivery system, and 3) transformation of informa-

**Legislative Update (Continued on page 2)**

### VRA Meeting will be December 8, 2006
Presidential Pondering
(Continued from page 1)

Relative to the development of the RCEA division a preliminary planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24th in the East Conference Room in the DRS Central Office in Richmond. Susan Cianfaglione has agreed to Chair this committee and if you are interested in getting involved please contact her at susan.cianfaglione@drs.virginia.gov.

Several VRA members will be attending the NRA Conference in Orlando, Florida in November. Those attending include Margaret Gillispie, Bonnie Hawley and Eleanor Williams. We are looking forward to the training opportunity as well as the chance to network and to make new NRA friends.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 15, 2006 at 9:30 at Resources for Independent Living, Inc., 4009 Fitzhugh Ave., Richmond. We invite you will join us for the meeting and to get involved in VRA activities.

It has been a great year with a lot accomplished thus far. Many thanks go to the officers, board and membership who have worked so hard to make the year such a success. Your dedication and commitment to VRA is commendable and it has been an honor to serve as the VRA president.

Submitted by Margaret Gillispie, VRA President

Legislative Update
(Continued from page 1)

tion technology (IT) to support systems change. By the conclusion of the grant project, it is anticipated that Virginia will:

· Expand Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) by increasing the number of ADRC sites, expanding the target population to persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, and creating a web-based ADRC for improved consumer access to and control of long-term supports statewide.

· Create individual budgeting and explore other consumer-directed options for individuals receiving or planning to receive home and community-based waiver services.

· Ensure a statewide infusion of the person-centered planning (PCP) and self-direction practices through ongoing training, technical assistance, and implementation incentives.

· Review and revise regulations, policies, and procedures to reflect PCP/self-direction.

· Establish a web-based care management IT application in the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability home and community-based waivers that streamlines consumer enrollment, preauthorization, and waitlist submission processes.

· Produce a critical incident and management reporting system as a part of the Commonwealth’s Quality Management System that interfaces with existing long-term support systems and facilitates uniform reporting, discovery, remediation, and systems improvement.

VRA Legislative Update (Continued on page 9)
At the National Rehabilitation Association Board meeting on September 20, 2006, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Mid Atlantic Region were approved. This paves the way for the Region to elect officers and increase representation for those NRA members residing the Mid Atlantic Region. The State Chapters active in this reorganization are DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Interested members of VRA are encouraged to submit their name or nominate an interested VRA colleague for the slate of the Mid Atlantic Region. Nomination Chairman is Evan T. Jones, Interim Treasurer and Past President of the Mid Atlantic Region and VRA member. Members of NRA who reside in inactive states in the Mid Atlantic Region (West Virginia and Delaware) are also eligible to be nominated for an office. It is the goal of the Mid Atlantic Reorganization Committee to see all State Chapters represented on the Mid Atlantic Region Board of Directors. Once the slate is established, a ballot will be distributed to members of the Mid Atlantic through the NRA office.

Each active state in the Mid Atlantic will also appoint two representatives to the Mid Atlantic Region Board of Directors. If you are interested in representing Virginia, please let Margaret Gillispie know of your interest. This is an additional leadership opportunity for members. Virginia members led the way for the re-organization efforts. Many thanks to these members who provided this leadership: Mark Fletcher, Mark Hawkins, Margaret Gillispie, Robin Metcalf, Eleanor Williams and Evan Jones.

Submitted by:
Bonnie Hawley, Mid Atlantic Ad-hoc Committee

The NewsNotes Staff encourages all VRA members to cast their NRA votes by Oct. 26, to re-elect Bonnie Hawley to serve another term as Board Member at Large with the NRA!!!
Virginia Rehabilitation Counseling Association
VRCA

presents

Stress Management for the Rehabilitation Professional

&

Working with Sexual Predators

Friday, November 3, 2006
10:00am-3:00pm

Dept. of Rehabilitative Services Central Office
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Richmond, VA 23229

CRC credits will be provided

VRCA members $15, non-members $30

Mail checks made payable to VRCA by Tuesday, October 31, 2006 to
Ed Navis at 2930 W. Broad Street, Suite 15, Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 367-9871

Lunch on your own
Yearly Award Presentations at Collaborations 2006

Award Presentations were made at the Collaborations Conference by each of the 3 sponsoring organizations – VRA, VaACCSES and vaAPSE. Congratulations to the recipients for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions!

VRA presented the following awards:

Norman C. Hammond Award
Rappahannock General Hospital, David Manning

Distinguished Achievement Award
Tim Downing, PBX Operator

Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence
Joseph M. Ashley, Ph.D., Director, Grants and Special Programs, Dept. of Rehabilitative Services

A. Ray Dawson Humanitarian Award
Bonnie Hawley, Rehabilitation Counselor, Dept. of Rehabilitative Services

R.N. Anderson Award for Leadership
James A. Rothrock, Commissioner, Dept. of Rehabilitative Services

Don T. Johnston President’s Award
Ellen Braswell, VRA Secretary, Rehabilitation Counselor, Dept. of Rehabilitative Services

VaACCSES presented the following awards:

Staff Recognition Award for Excellence in Service to People with Disabilities
Kristin Beindorf, Brain Injury Services of SW VA
David Leon, Hermitage Enterprises/Henrico Area MH/MR
Willamae Parrish-Mane, Worksource Enterprises

Community Partner Award
R.R. Donnelley & Sons, Friendship Industries

Employer Award
Aramark, Worksource Enterprises
Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES), MVLE

APSE presented the following awards:

Supported Employment Employee of the Year Sean Chrisemer Norfolk, Virginia

The Employer of the Year Award Marjorie Sferra – Human Resources Benchmark Hospitality at Virginia Crossing Resort, Glen Allen, Virginia

The Supported Employment Provider of the Year Sandra Rhymer, Bristol Virginia
I’d like to start our article a little differently this time. Instead of news of VARL, I want to begin by sharing with you some quotes on the subject of leadership.

“Leadership is not so much about technique and method as it is about opening the heart. Leadership is about inspiration – of oneself and others. Great leadership is about human experiences, not processes. Leadership is not a formula or a program, it is a human activity that comes from the heart and considers the hearts of others. It is an attitude, not a routine. More than anything else today, followers believe they are part of a system, a process that lacks heart. If there is one thing a leader can do to connect with followers at a human, or better still a spiritual level, it is to become engaged with them fully, to share experiences and emotions, and to set aside the processes of leadership we have learned by rote.” Lance Secretan, Leadership consultant/author/trainer

“Leadership is not magnetic personality – that can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not ‘making friends and influencing people’ – that is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person’s vision to higher sights, the raising of a person’s performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.” Peter Drucker, Management consultant/author

Consider these words and consider the logo of VARL i.e. Leaders Emerge! The thinking on leadership as described by Secretan and Drucker supports what VARL believes and that is that leadership is not a matter of one’s position on the organizational chart. Even the person who is at rock bottom can choose every day to lift the spirits of the others around them through connecting, caring, giving positive feedback, listening, and encouraging. An environment where this is happening will be overflowing with positive energy and where that happens, positive outcomes happen! How we treat each other will be a model for how we treat our consumers. Consumers receiving this type of positive regard, confidence, and inspiration from all of us will soar into successful and productive lives.

I encourage all of you to make a conscious decision today to let the leader in you emerge quite simply by 'lifting others vision to higher sights’. It will be marvelous for them and the payback for you is tremendous – not in dollars and cents – but in smiles and successes.

On to the business of VARL! As we move into the last stretch of 2006, there are still many exciting things to look forward to from VARL. Our November 1 workshop on the “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” is going to be huge. Our thanks to Sharon Harrup and STEPS, Inc for making it possible for VARL to have NISH here to do this for us. We are already discussing repeating it early next year hopefully in a more western part of the state.

We still have Brown Bag Leadership Chats coming. Look for more information about a chat at WWRC on November 16 and one at the DRS Central office on December 15. Topics are still a work in progress but it will be great! Take this chance to meet new people and expand your leadership development over a casual lunch. Want to host/facilitate a leadership chat in your area? Contact a VARL
Board member or officer and we will guide you!

Our July 20, Richmond and September 18, Collaborations workshops on Leadership were both very well received. The feedback to the insights of Shirley Lyons and Amy Armstrong, respectively, was that people wanted more!! We send our heartfelt gratitude to these two exceptional leaders for their gift to our organization.

Election results are in and our new Board members for 2007 will be Doug James and Teri Bertsch and our President-Elect will be Jim Hall all with the Dept. of Rehabilitative Services in the Northern Region. Eleana Boyer, Didlake, will return for another year as our Treasurer. Kudos to these great leaders for stepping up to the plate and serving their association in a big way!

Welcome to our newest VARL members: Eleanor Williams, Liz Smith, Paula Homes, and Jerry Kite! We invite each and every member and their guests to join us at our Board meetings. The next ones are on October 12 and December 7 at the Dept. of Mines and Minerals/ Dept. of Forestry in Charlottesville’s Fontaine Research Park.

Come join us, check us out, get involved, and let the Leader in you EMERGE!

Submitted by Susan Green,
804-726-1901,
susan.green@drs.virginia.gov

VARL 2006: President – Susan Green, President Elect – Carol Thacker, Past President – Margaret Gillispie, Treasurer - Eleana Boyer, Secretary – Bonnie Hawley, Board Members – John Phelps, Karen Stevens, Jim Hall, Shirley Lyons, Naomi Aitken, Ned Campbell

Senator Emmett Hanger received the 2006 Collaborations Leadership Award for being the Senate champion and sponsor of the Medicaid Buy-In State Plan Option budget amendment. The budget amendment directed DMAS to establish a Medicaid Buy-In program as a Medicaid State Plan Option and provided funding for both necessary staff and services dollars. In addition, he was recognized for his long-time commitment to individuals with disabilities through his work as Chairperson of the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee and a member of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Resources.

Delegate Harvey Morgan was the co-recipient of the 2006 Collaborations Leadership Award and sponsored the House Medicaid Buy-In budget amendment. Delegate Morgan has championed issues on behalf of individuals with disabilities through his work as Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Education and as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Resources.

Supported Employment Employee of the Year

Sean Chrisemer, Norfolk, Va., showed many signs of self empowerment, realizing his needs in the work community and working to resolve barriers at work to make his day to day job easier, and more accessible. Self Empowerment is often the answer to successful outcomes.

Employer of the Year

Virginia Crossing Resort in Glen Allen, Va., has worked with many community resources to provide jobs with persons with disabilities. Marjorie Sferra has gone out to hire persons with disabilities and provided worthwhile jobs for many of our consumers.

Supported Employment Provider of the Year

Sandra Rhymer of Bristol, Virginia, has worked in the Bristol Community to provide job coaching services to Individuals with Severe Disabilities, making a difference in the lives of people in in the community of Bristol. She is highly respected by all she has served.
THE CHOICE GROUP

- Independent Living Skills
- Life Skills Training
- Job Seeking Skills Training
- Vocational Assessments
- Situational Assessments
- Job Development
- Job Placement and Training
- Long Term Follow Along
- Job Coach Training Services
- Support Employment
- Placement
- Educational Services
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Therapeutic Consultation
- Career Counseling

We Help People With Disabilities Live Up To Their Abilities

THE CHOICE GROUP
4807 Radford Avenue, Suite 106 • Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 278-9151 • Toll-free 877-374-5312
E-mail: info@thechoicegroup.com • www.thechoicegroup.com
Legislative Update
(continued from page 2)

These goals and objectives should help bring about a true system transformation that will afford Virginians simplified, meaningful, and integrated access to needed long-term supports.

A “well done” goes out to Governor Kaine and his administration for getting this important grant.

Ed Turner Named as Special Assistant to the Governor

In case you missed it, Governor Kaine announced Ed Turner will serve as a special advisor to the Governor on disability issues.

Ed has worked the past 13 years at the Research and Training Center at Virginia Commonwealth University and has 33 years of experience on disability rights issues. I personally can’t recall any disability issue of significance that Ed hasn’t been involved in or played a major role.

Once again the Governor is to be commended. He couldn’t have picked a better man to serve as his advisor.

Submitted by David William,
Legislative Liaison

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

Send VRA News for the January 2007 issue by 12/20/06. Please send all the VRA articles by email to Steven Sommer at steve.sommer@drs.virginia.gov.

Please visit www.vra.org for up to date information on what is happening in VRA!

This Ad Space Could Be Yours

Call Steve Sommer at 804-662-7159, and your ad will be seen by more than 250 leaders in the field of Rehabilitation, starting July 2006. Tell a friend!
Are you working with a consumer who is very articulate and would like to advocate for positive change? As you know, almost every activity or program in our state has some type of governing or advisory board to guide its work. For further information, please log onto the Secretary’s website:

http://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/

I am certain you will be just as amazed as I was, at both the volume and variety of opportunities that are available. Serving as a member of one of those boards is an excellent way to make sure that program or activity is accessible to all Virginians with disabilities. This does not mean an individual has to seek appointment to a board that oversees disability activities, programs, or services. In fact, my aim is to get individuals to get appointed to boards that are generic in nature because, the truth is, we should be able to participate in all phases of community life.

So, if you have a disability or know someone that does, please encourage them to either contact me at ed.turner@governor.virginia.gov or call me at 804-371-2666.

This is an excellent way to practice advocacy and really make a difference.

Submitted by Ed Turner
Senior Advisor - Disability Issues and Concerns

804-371-2666
Patrick Henry Building
1111 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

The CNI Trust Fund Advisory Board Announces Award of Seven Sites

The Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board is pleased to announce that seven organizations received grant funding beginning July 1, 2006, for developing and providing community-based rehabilitative services for people with traumatic brain injury or traumatic spinal cord injury. The Department of Rehabilitative Services administers the Trust Fund Grants Program. Grant recipients are:

- The Brain Injury Resource & Development Center, Inc.-Roanoke, VA ($450,000/3 years)
- Brain Injury Services, Inc.-Springfield, VA ($252,970/3 years)
- Virginia Commonwealth University-Richmond, VA ($321,388/3 years)
- Virginia Commonwealth University-Richmond, VA ($426,949/3 years)
- Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing-Wintergreen, VA ($50,765/3 years)
- Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, VA ($124,844.75/1 year)
- Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, VA ($448,266/3 years)

In announcing these grant awards, Dr. David Reid, Clinical Psychologist and Chair of the CNI Advisory Board stated, "I am thrilled that we have the opportunity to continue to support program development and groundbreaking medical research for our fellow citizens with spinal cord and brain injuries."

The Trust Fund is legislatively mandated to disburse funds equally to research and community-based rehabilitative service grants. Grants are funded for one to three year periods, at a maximum of $150,000 per year.

The late Senator Emily Couric successfully sponsored legislation in 1997 to establish the CNI Trust Fund. For more information on the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund, visit www.vacni.org or contact Kristie Chamberlain, at Kristie.Chamberlain@drs.virginia.gov, 804/662-7154.

Submitted by Kristie L. Chamberlain, CHES
Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund
A CASE STUDY:
WHEN POLITICS, RELIGION AND ETHICS COLLIDE

BY DR. CHRIS REID
Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University
Dept. of Rehabilitation Counseling

Training to include an Overview of principles underlying the CRC code of Ethics, Viewing of a documentary and Discussion

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2006
9 AM – 12 NOON
DRS CENTRAL OFFICE
8004 FRANKLIN FARMS DRIVE
RICHMOND VA 23288

CRC CREDITS PROVIDED

COST: $15 MEMBERS AND $25 NON MEMBERS

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION (VRA) MAIL CHECKS
TO: MARIE WORLEY, HENRICO DRS, 1601 WILLOW LAWN DRIVE #370-A RICHMOND VA 23230

TO REGISTER EMAIL MARIE.WORLEY@DRS.VIRGINIA.GOV
OR CALL (804) 662-7160

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED AN ACCOMODATION IN ADVANCE
Ethics Training Announcement

Virginia Rehabilitation Association
& VA APSE

Are proud to announce…

Ethics Training: *Real World Ethics*


**WHEN:** Friday, November 3, 2006

**WHERE:** Main Street Library
110 Main Street
Newport News, Virginia 23607

**TIME:** Registration begins @ 9:30 am
Session: 10am – 2:30pm

**COST:** VRA & VA APSE Members: $15 (cost of lunch)
Non Members: $25 (cost of registration/lunch)
Make checks payable to: VRA

**RSVP:** Contact Annette Pope and/or Kim Shepard by Oct. 25 to register and/or request accommodations
Phone: (757) 865-4863

*Who should attend?*
DRS counselors, Lead Counselors, Managers, Employment Specialists.

*CRC Credit Available*
Call For Proposals for the Virginia Transition Forum 2007

The following Call for Proposals is being shared with you for your consideration. The Virginia Transition Forum will be held on March 12-14, 2007 in Norfolk

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

· Proposal Submission Form: An incomplete form may result in the discarding of your proposal.

· Abstract: In 75 words or less, please outline the nature of the proposal, presentation format, role of presenter(s), target audience, and benefits to session participants.

· Deadline: You may submit via email, fax or have it postmarked by NOVEMBER 17, 2006.

Forward Proposal to:
Kristin Holst
Email: mailto:kjhols@wm.edu+
Fax: 757-221-5053
Address: Virginia Department of Education
Training and Technical Assistance Center
The College of William & Mary
The School of Education
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

Selection Criteria: Proposals are selected by the Presentation Committee and Strand Chairs based upon relevance to strand topics and contribution to the field of transition.

Accepted Proposals: SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSAL REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT BY ALL PRESENTERS TO REGISTER FOR THE VIRGINIA TRANSITION FORUM 2007 WHICH INCLUDES PAYMENT OF THE REGISTRATION FEE.

Art Show by Persons with Disabilities

Resources for Independent Living is hosting its 3rd Annual Juried Exhibition and sale of art and crafts created by artists with disabilities from across Virginia. Items include jewelry, paintings, drawings, pottery, weavings, woodcarving, candles and much more. No admission charge. Saturday, November 11th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Resources for Independent Living, 4009 Fitzhugh Ave., Richmond, Virginia. For more details, call 804-353-6503.

Submitted by Freida Woodson

Distinguished Achievement Award, Tim Downing, PBX operator at Rappahannock General Hospital
The recipient of the 2006 **Norman C. Hammond Award** was **Mr. David C. Manning**, Manager and Director of Patient Financial Services at Rappahannock General Hospital in Kilmarnock, Virginia. Mr. Manning found the time to meet, unscheduled, with Alma Anderson, Counselor at the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, to discuss her customer’s abilities, not disabilities. He was very positive and immediately supportive of hiring her customer. Mr. Manning and Rappahannock General have shown how much is possible if both sides only believe and trust in their abilities to work together for the support of the goals of all parties.

The recipient of the 2006 **VRA Distinguished Achievement Award** was **Mr. Timothy F. Downey, Jr.**, a C4-C5 quadriplegic, who has a very positive attitude, determination, and great follow through. Mr. Downey, according to Mr. David Manning, his manager, has carried over these same traits to his employment as a PBX operator at Rappahannock General Hospital, and in dealing with his co-workers and the general public. Based on his high degree of motivation and intelligence he persevered and successfully completed Rappahannock Community College and Old Dominion University with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a minor in Human Services Counseling. His manager always states he would like to have 20 more employees with Mr. Downey’s work ethic.

The recipient of the 2006 **Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence** was **Joseph M. Ashley, RhD.**, Assistant commissioner for Grants and Special Programs at the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. Dr. Ashley is recognized as an innovative leader whose contributions have ranged from research and development to multi-partner systems change initiatives that create and nurture successful collaboration with public and private stakeholders. At the heart of his pursuit for excellence in rehabilitation is a personal and professional passion for improving employment outcomes and quality of life for persons with disabilities.

The recipient of the 2006 **A. R. Dawson Humanitarian Award** was **Bonnie S. Hawley**, Rehabilitation Counselor at the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. Ms. Hawley is very involved with disability advocacy and service delivery both inside and outside of her workplace. She is known for going above and beyond the call of duty in serving her customers, colleagues, family and friends. Ms. Hawley is truly a very dedicated service provider always focusing on her customers’ abilities rather than their disabilities, a leader professionally, and above all a very caring human being.

The recipient of the 2006 **R. N. Anderson Leadership Award** was **James A. Rothrock**, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. Mr. Rothrock is a leader who inspires others to be leaders through his actions on a daily basis. He doesn’t just direct and expect people to follow his orders, he makes people feel like he genuinely cares about them, their aspirations, their goals, and their morale. He is down to earth, honest, and respected as a leader in the field of rehabilitation because of his grass roots experience literally in the field of rehabilitation and his education in rehabilitation counseling. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Mr. Rothrock is truly a “trail blazer” and this is why others feel encouraged to do, as well as through is leadership.

The recipient of the 2006 **Don T. Johnston President’s Award** was **Ellen Braswell**, Rehabilitation Counselor at the Department of Rehabilitative Services. Ms. Braswell has served as the VRA Secretary for the past two years and has also worked diligently on the Education Committee. She is very organized, says what she says she is going to do and does it in a timely manner. As secretary she has served as VRA’s collective memory and keeps the officers and board straight on all that has occurred at past meetings. In addition to all of her extra curricula duties with VRA she performs her job duties at DRS with excellence, positively impacting her customers and the community she serves. She is an invaluable member of the VRA team and the consummate professional.
The VRA Education Committee proudly sponsored Dr. Hebda at the 10th Annual Collaborations Conference in September. Dr. Hebda presented “The Neuropsychological Evaluation: Practical Applications for the Vocational Counselor”. His presentation focused on the practical aspects of the neuropsychological evaluation. He further identified essential referral questions, what information a counselor should insist on obtaining in the report, and how to better understand some of the common scores of an evaluation. Dr. Hebda’s session was very highly rated. I would like to thank DRS Counselor, Bonnie Hawley, for arranging this speaker to present at the Collaborations Conference.

Two ethics presentations will be sponsored by VRA this Fall. On Friday, October 20th, Dr. Reid will present on “A Case Study: When Ethics, Politics, and Religion Collide” in Richmond. We welcome Dr. Reid who has been a lecturer for VRA many times in the past. Dr. Reid is a professor and past Chair in the Dept. of Rehabilitation Counseling at Virginia Commonwealth University. Then on Friday, November 3rd, “Real World Ethics”, will be presented by Robin Metcalf in Newport News. Robin is the President of The Choice Group, a private vocational rehabilitation company serving persons with disabilities across Virginia.

For further information on either training please refer to our VRA website at www.vra.org

Please send me ideas for future trainings at marie.Worley@drs.virginia.gov We would love to hear from you!

Submitted by Education Chair, Marie D.Worley

Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence, Joseph M. Ashley, Ph.D.,
A. Ray Dawson Humanitarian Award, Bonnie Hawley
R.N. Anderson Award for Leadership, James A. Rothrock
Don T. Johnston President’s Award, Ellen Braswell,
2006 Collaborations Leadership Award, Senator Emmett Hanger

Pictures Provided by Judy Hill and Norm Kropp