



# NewsNotes

A Quarterly Publication of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association  
2009 First Quarter, January–March No. 33

## Presidential Pondering by Jane Bennet

*A Word from the President....*

Welcome to 2009! I wish you all great prosperity during this New Year and that it is full of joy, peace and much fun!

VRA is beginning to do it's planning for 2009 and want you to be a part of it! We have scheduled our upcoming board meetings which are open to all members. I want to personally invite you to attend and get to know the officers of YOUR VRA. Our upcoming meetings are as follows:

Board meetings will take place at the Resources for Independent Living in Richmond from 10 am to 2 pm on *January 30, 2009, April 17, 2009, July 10, 2009 and December 11, 2009.*

Please join us to learn more about what YOUR VRA can do for you and how you can be a part of a great association.

I want to say a very special THANK YOU to Amy Miller – past President of VRA. Amy did a terrific job in this position. She made sure we stayed together as a cohesive group working to provide excellent trainings, celebrations, and was instrumental in making sure that VRA maintained a growing membership. We are glad she will still be around as Past-President so we can tap into her great leadership and wisdom. Thanks for all you work in 2008 Amy – it was much appreciated.

The same goes for our board members who have ended their terms with VRA. Those include: Dale Batton, Mark Hawkins, Sherman Gifford and Donna Grumiaux. A special thank you goes to

*Presidential Pondering (continued on page 2)*

## Past Presidential Pondering By Amy Miller

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 2009 is here. It is always exciting moving into a new year with a positive attitude and full of energy. Before looking ahead to 2009, I want to take a moment to reflect on 2008. VRA had some very informative, educational trainings throughout the year. Our membership committee was busy researching ways to increase our membership. In January, many of our members met with our legislators to provide awareness of disability issues and discuss our legislative agenda. We continued our discussion with the legislators and their aides at the Legislative Reception. In September, the First Annual Benjy Burnett Memorial Golf Tournament was a huge success! We had a great turnout for the 2008 Collaborations Conference with a fabulous keynote speaker, Denise Bisonette. A huge thank you to Alison Mundy and Jane Bennett for all their hard work on the Collaborations planning committee.

I have enjoyed my experience as VRA President. I appreciate the support of the officers and board members. I look forward to my role as Past President and working with Jane Bennett, our 2009 VRA President.

**Respectfully submitted by  
Amy Miller, Past President**





## Presidential Pondering

(Continued from page 1)

them as well for their time given to the success of VRA.

The board is looking forward to a successful 2009 and has new board members to help with that success. Those include: *President Elect* - Liz Smith - DRS - Central Office - Richmond; *Treasurer* - Eleanor Williams - DRS - Central Office - Richmond; *Secretary* - Tanya Portela - DRS - Petersburg; *Board Members*- Andrew Stowe - DRS - Charlottesville; Jennifer McDonough - VCU; Maggie Butler - Longwood College; Carol Thacker - DRS - Fairfax; Adair Jensen-Smith - The Choice Group - Richmond; Kelly Hickok - Resources for Independent Living - Richmond; Ron Simmons - DRS - Lynchburg; Samantha Ruppert—DRS—Henrico; Erica Umbarger—The Choice Group--Lynchburg

We have several committees within VRA that help to ensure that the membership is receiving the benefits of being a member. As a member of VRA if you are interested in serving on a committee, please let me know and I'll be happy to direct you to the chair person of that committee. VRA committees include: *Communications/Membership, Awards, Education, Legislative, and Ways and Means*

We are excited about 2009 and what we are planning for the membership. We are already at work on education opportunities, collaborating with the other divisions - VARL and VRCEA, Planning for Rehabilitation Counselor Day celebration (March 2008) and other activities and opportunities that will benefit the membership. If you have specific training needs and/or ideas, don't hesitate to contact any of the board members to share your thoughts. We are here to serve you, the members

## The Virginia Rehabilitation VRA Legislative Liaison

The upcoming session of the General Assembly (GA), which convenes Wednesday, January 14, promises to reflect the times we're living in; i.e. challenging. The GA and Governor Kaine are tasked with repairing a hole in the commonwealth's current \$ 77 billion budget estimated to be \$3.2 billion and may even be larger depending on the revenue collection figures due in early February. That said, the budget balancing will require either raising taxes - something that probably won't happen since all 100 seats in the House are up for re-election next fall - or borrowing more money (debt-backed bonds), or continue to cut spending.

The spending cuts proposed by the Governor in December are painful for programs serving people with disabilities. All Health and Human Resources agencies went under the knife. Particularly painful were the cuts to the employment related programs for people with disabilities such as Extended Employment Service (EES) and the Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS) that totaled \$1.25 million. These two programs alone provide critical support for approximately 692 working Virginians with disabilities. The Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) - an agency that has been under an order of selection or a waiting list since 2004 because of insufficient funding to serve all eligible consumers - saw it's resources further diminished and on November 15<sup>th</sup>, closed the final service category serving the most severely disabled. This means DRS in all probability will not be serving any new consumers until next fiscal year (FY). It doesn't get any tougher than that.

That said, VRA will work with vaACCSES and the Coalition for the Mentally Disabled seeking resto-

*Presidential Pondering (Continued on page 3)*

*VRA Legislative Liaison (continued on page 4)*

# Let VRA Work For You



## Presidential Pondering (Continued from page 2)

of VRA.

Thank you for your continuous patronage to the Virginia Rehabilitation Association and we look forward to a great year!

**HAPPY 2009!**

**Yours in Rehab,**

**Jane E. Bennett, MA, CRC,  
CRP  
VRA President 2009-  
2010**



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## VRA Legislative Liaison

(Continued from page 2)

ration of cuts to EES and LTES and will also seek funds for the order of selection at DRS. VRA will support the Disability Commission's efforts to increase Medicaid eligibility from 80 percent of the federal poverty level to a 100 percent. We will also address changes to Medicaid Waivers and will support restoration of funding for the 200 Medicaid Mental Retardation (MR) Waiver slots that were slated to begin in April 2009 and new dollars for an additional 200 MR Waiver slots for a total of 400 in FY 2010 to meet emergencies for those on the urgent care waiting list.

None of this will be easy. There simply isn't any money. But, if you look back over the last five years, we're had bad times as well as good times where we actually had budget surpluses. Yet, DRS remained under an order of selection – not sufficiently funded to serve all eligible consumers. During this time, VRA kept this issue before the GA submitting budget amendments requesting additional funding and two years ago, supported the Governor's efforts to provide additional dollars to serve consumers on the waiting list.

When you look at where we are today, you know something has to change. Maybe it's time for a long-range plan – one that goes out 10 to 20 years - that not only addresses past and current shortfalls, but also provides a blueprint for how we meet anticipated challenges in the future. Something has to change -

**Submitted by David Williams**

## The Virginia Rehabilitation Foundation

One of the great benefits of your membership in the Virginia Rehabilitation Association is the VRA Foundation. The Foundation is committed to education, personal development and providing opportunities to its membership. Through an application process, the Foundation awards educational scholarships to VRA members and their family members.

The Foundation is currently conducting a fund raising campaign so that we will be able to better serve you. Your contributions to the VRA Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, are tax deductible and will grow our principal investment, increasing the amount available for distribution.

Contributions are accepted at any time, can be for any amount and can be sent to Mary Kaye Johnston at 4612 Kingsrow Drive, Glen Allen, VA. 23060.

Since implementation of this current capital campaign the following individuals have made contributions .

Al Dickerson  
Margaret Gillispie  
Bill Burnside  
Lynn Kushner  
Howard Green  
Sue Riggs  
Steve Sommer  
Keith Wright  
Mary Kaye Johnston

### **Submitted by Margaret T. Gillispie, M.S., CRC**

Blue Ridge Regional Director  
Department of Rehabilitative Services  
2250 Murrell Road, Suite F  
Lynchburg, VA 24501  
phone 434-947-6721  
fax 434-947-6723  
cell 434-238-7160

*Bill Burnside, Chairman; Mary Kaye, Vice Chair;  
Margaret Gillispie, Secretary/Treasurer*



## Legislative Committee

Hopefully everyone has had a fun yet relaxing holiday season, but don't get too comfortable; 2009 will be a year of great opportunity! As the General Assembly begins, we too will need to begin our 2009 advocacy efforts for vocational rehabilitation at a State and National level.

Our 2009 committee members are Liz Smith, current VRA President-Elect; Bonnie Hawley, VRA Board Member and NRA Board Member at Large; Ericka Umbarger, Past VRA Legislative Committee Chair; and David Williams, VRA Legislative Liaison. We welcome any other individuals interested in assisting with advocacy efforts to ensure vocational rehabilitation continues as a critical service for individuals with disabilities.

VRA is proud to again be a Diamond sponsor for the 2009 VaACCSES Legislative Reception. We will have a strong VRA presence at the reception and we will need all VRA members to help with our State advocacy efforts. If you would, please call or email your legislators and support the VaACCSES and VACSB Talking Points. For a copy of both Talking Points, email [carol.thacker@drs.virginia.gov](mailto:carol.thacker@drs.virginia.gov) or call 703-277-3504.

To find your legislator on the Internet, click on the following Who's My Legislator or type in the following web address <http://legis.state.va.us/>, and click on the link at the top that says 'Who's My Legislator'. If you want additional information about your legislator, click on the following links: delegate and senator and the information from the General Assembly's homepage will be listed.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2009....

**Submitted by Carol Thacker**

## NRA Presidential-Elect Update

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**



# VARL

## LEADERSHIP

### *Virginia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership*

***"The VARL MISSION is to develop, improve and strengthen leadership skills and practices in both public and private rehabilitation organizations."***

The board members of VARL are eagerly anticipating another exciting and fruitful year. We function to serve the leaders of vocational rehabilitation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For me, it is a privilege to be a part of VARL. We look forward to your presence and ideas.

Since VARL had so many wonderful nominations for the Emerging Leader award we enthusiastically voted to keep this award as an annual event. Members of VARL are encouraged to make nominations for the 2009 Emerging Leader award. It is never too early to be thinking about the up and coming leader working in the field of vocational rehabilitation. It is important that we recognize these individuals. The winner of the award receives a membership to VARL.

VARL is presently considering what trainings would be beneficial for leaders in our field. It is our thought that every one involved in vocational rehabilitation is a leader. We seek to provide leadership training that will benefit you in your daily efforts to serve individuals who have disabilities. We would really like to hear about your suggestions.

The board members are here to serve all the members of VARL and we would like to have you attend our quarterly meetings. We will continue to bring the meetings close to you. February 12<sup>th</sup> we will be in Charlottesville and April 8<sup>th</sup> the meeting will be held in Manassas. Our annual training meeting will be held June 8<sup>th</sup> in Richmond. We will meet at Collaborations in October. On December 10, 2009 we will have our annual organizational meeting in Richmond. So please mark your calendars. If you can not join us in person make plans to join us via VTC. The quarterly meetings which will be held from 10:00 AM to noon, with a half-hour training experience starting at approx. 11:30 AM

We are very proud to proclaim that we are the largest chapter of our national organization. At the recent National Association of Rehabilitation convention in St. Louis, VARL was given an award for the having the best professional programming. That is exciting!

Our newly elected officers include President Elect Naomi Aitken, Board members Ralph Figaro and Kem Kirby and our re-elected Treasurer Eleana Boyer. We look forward to having their expertise on the board.

A big thanks to our board members who are rotating off the Board – Ned Campbell and Naomi Aitken. I would like to give a special thank you to Shirley Lyons who has been wonderful in her dedication to our organization.

We will be continuing to hold Lunchtime Leadership chats. Please join us for this easy and convenient way to communicate with other leaders in your area. It is exciting to have the opportunity to

*VARL Leaders Emerge! (continued on page 9 )*



## NRA Mid-Atlantic Region Awards

NRA Mid-Atlantic Region Board (MAR) announces the 2009 Award Campaign. The award categories, nomination form, and instructions are available below and on page 11 of this NewsNotes issue.

Over the past year the MAR Board dusted off the historical MAR award material, made appropriate revisions, and selected the Administration Award and the Rehabilitation Professional Development Award as our first award campaign in many years. The Board's plan is to expand upon these two categories in future years and that awards will be announced annually with a deadline of January 31st each year. The awards will be presented to the selected candidates at a MAR event or a MAR state chapter event to be determined at a later time.

Nominations must be received by no later than January 31, 2009. Please open the attached document for more information.

### NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION MID-ATLANTIC REGION AWARDS

2009

#### MID-ATLANTIC REGION ADMINISTRATION AWARD

This award honors an individual who has shown unusual initiative or creativeness in the development and administration of a program of demonstrated value for people with disabilities. The person eligible for this award should be: (1) an administrator of a rehabilitation program; (2) a director of a rehabilitation service provider; (3) a person who has helped to develop outstanding rehabilitation programs in untried areas, although not personally involved in direct service to individuals. *This recipient of this award can be nominated for the NRA Bell Greve Memorial Award. NRA membership is required*

#### MID-ATLANTIC REGION REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

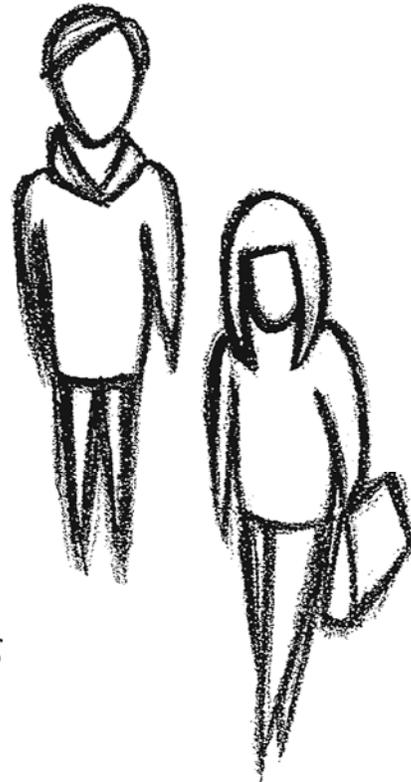
This award is to be presented to an individual NRA Mid-Atlantic Region member for significant contributions in the professional preparation and upgrading of rehabilitation personnel. The recipient may have initiated curriculum innovations, planned and implemented programs for a variety of rehabilitation personnel, inspired training in legislative and appropriations forums. The award signifies dedication and leadership in the pursuit of quality services to individuals with disabilities. *The recipient of this award can be nominated for the NRA W. F. Faulkes Award. NRA membership is required.*

NRA Mid-Atlantic Region Awards (Continued on page 10)



## THE CHOICE GROUP

- Independent Living Skills
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- Situational Assessments
- Job Development
- Job Placement and Training
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- Career Counseling



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## Education Committee



We are in the planning stages of scheduling our training sessions for this year. We are looking forward to our trainings on "How to work with difficult clients," "What is new in Assistive Technology, more on Autism Spectrum Disorder, and hopefully many more. We will be sending out the training notices soon, and we are looking forward to an educational year!

**Submitted by  
Samantha Ruppert**



Send VRA News for the April 2009 issue by **3/20/09**. Please send all the VRA articles by email to Steven Sommer at [steve.sommer@drs.virginia.gov](mailto:steve.sommer@drs.virginia.gov). Also read the NewsNotes at [www.vra.org](http://www.vra.org)

## VARL Leaders Emerge!

(Continued from page 6)

discuss leadership ideas in such a convenient manner. It is always a beneficial lunch time discussion.

As we start another new year, we have a wonderful opportunity to consider the ways that we can be positive role models and leaders to the people around us. We know that these times bring wonderful challenges. People are anxious and fearful about what 2009 will bring. How can we encourage and support the people around us? Reaching out to others is one way to help us all EMERGE!!!!

Look for more information on the web site and via email. We hope many of you will join us to see what is happening in the world of Leadership development.

**Submitted by Jack Smith,  
VARL President**

[Jack.Smith@DRS.Virginia.Gov](mailto:Jack.Smith@DRS.Virginia.Gov)

*VARL 2009: President Elect – Naomi Aitken, Past-President – Shirley Lyons, Treasurer – Eleana Boyer, Secretary – Amy Mosher, Board Members, Teri Bertsch, Doug James, Jane Bennett, Kem Kirby, Ralph Figaro, and a vacant position*

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## **NRA Mid-Atlantic Region Awards** (Continued from page 7)

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**Award nominations described above should be submitted by January 31, 2009 on the attached nomination form. All material should be electronically submitted, WORD and/or PDF documents preferred.**

**In narrative form, state in full detail why this individual should receive the award. Your statement may be as long as you wish, but judging will rely more on content as to award criteria than on length. Explanatory or corroborating statements from others may be added. Statements should be specific as to the nature, scope and importance of the contributions made by the nominee to the rehabilitation of people with disabilities, their well being, or to professionals who provide relevant services. *Do not* use the nominee's name in the narrative. All statements must be signed.**

**The awards will be presented to the selected nominees at a NRA Mid-Atlantic Region or Chapter event to be announced.**

***Go to page 11 for the NRA Mid-Atlantic Region Award Nomination Form***

## **NRA Announces Its 28th Annual Government Affairs Summit**

For those who read on the run, this Washington Wire deals exclusively with the conduct of the National Rehabilitation Association's 28th Annual Government Affairs Summit.

The National Rehabilitation Association is proud to present its 28th Annual Government Affairs Summit which begins on Sunday, March 8, 2009, continues on Monday, March 9, and culminates on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, with NRA's Day on the Hill.

NRA's 2009 Government Affairs Summit, entitled "The Three R's of Effective Legislative Advocacy: Relationships, Return on Investment and Results," will be held in beautiful historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town Hotel, located at 1767 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria (703-837-0440), which is directly across the street from the King Street Metro.

All of Washington, D.C. is abuzz with the beginning of a new Administration and the many new names and faces of the Powerbrokers on the Potomac, including many new Senators and Congresspersons. The National Rehabilitation Association's Government Affairs Summit is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet your new Members of Congress and to reacquaint yourselves with your current Members of Congress and their staffs.

*Annual Government Affairs Summit (Continued on page 12)*



**NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION**  
**MID-ATLANTIC REGION AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

I. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Nominee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Nominee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone of Nominee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Email of Nominee)

II. The person named above is being nominated for the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Award.

Please include a resume or curriculum vitae, if available. The nominee **MUST** be a Mid-Atlantic Region NRA member.

III. Composed as an electronic document (WORD and/or PDF preferred). In narrative form, state in full detail why this individual should receive the award. Your statement may be as long as you wish, but judging will rely more on content as to award criteria than on length. Explanatory or corroborating statements from others may be added. Statements should be specific as to the nature, scope and importance of the contributions made by the nominee to the rehabilitation of people with disabilities, their well being, or to professionals that provide relevant services. *Do not* use the nominee's name in the narrative. All statements must be signed.

IV. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone of Nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Email of Nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Nomination)

Winners can be nominated for appropriate National Awards.  
Award nominations should be submitted by January 31, 2009 to:  
Carl L. Marshall, MAR Award Committee Chair,  
2304 Bellevue Road, Harrisburg, PA 17104  
cmarshall2304@verizon.net 717-238-3414



To register online for the Summit, you may do so by visiting the following website:

[www.prestoregister.com/cgi-bin/order.pl?ref=NationalRehab&fm=3](http://www.prestoregister.com/cgi-bin/order.pl?ref=NationalRehab&fm=3)

You may also visit our NRA website: [www.nationalrehab.org](http://www.nationalrehab.org), to access a registration form (word document), for those who wish to mail or fax in their registration form for the summit.

On December 2, 2008, the new Capitol Visitors Center opened on the Capitol grounds, which if your schedule permits, you should take the time to tour. To access additional information on the new Capitol Visitors Center, please visit their website at: [www.aoc.gov/cvc/](http://www.aoc.gov/cvc/).

The 2009 Government Affairs Summit will also provide an opportunity to meet or reacquaint you with NRA's new Executive Director, Beverlee Stafford, who began her distinguished, 34-year career in rehabilitation in RSA's Regional Office in Chicago, Illinois, her home town. Beverlee Stafford is one of the most knowledgeable professionals in the country on the programs administered under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Federal regulations, the Workforce Investment Act, just to name a few.

We will also be recognizing several NRA Board Members all of whom have served with distinction and dedication during their tenure. It is this level of commitment of Board Members like Ken Jones, Evan Jones, Carl Flowers, Sara Sundeen, Tony Newbauer and Gary Rainaldi that make NRA the great organization that it has been and is today.

NRA's Government Affairs Summit not only provides an opportunity for networking with some of the most influential individuals on disability policy in the Congress and in the Executive Branch, but also provides a friendly forum in which to discuss and strategize on effective and promising practices in the rehabilitation field.

We will be inviting representatives of President-Elect Obama's Administration and will have additional information in this regard in forthcoming Washington Wires.

This year, as in the past, we have invited Congressional staff, including Dr. Connie Garner of Senator Kennedy's staff. As we have mentioned in previous Washington Wires throughout this year, we anticipate the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, to be on Congress' radar screen in 2009.

Indeed, the staff of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) invited advocates in the community to present on their priorities for reauthorization on November 17, 2008. So, please anticipate, educate and advocate for maintaining the integrity of the programs authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and other important legislative issues, when you are in the Nation's Capital in March.

I was pleased to represent the National Rehabilitation Association in presenting our comments and concerns regarding the reauthorization of both the Workforce Investment Act and the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act, which we will be updating once the 2009 Government Affairs Committee completes its work on our 2009 Issues Statements.

As in the past, we will be conducting a Pre-Session for First-Time Attendees on Sunday, March 8, 2009. With 24 new Members in the U.S. House of Representatives and 7 (and counting) new Mem-

*Annual Government Affairs Summit (Continued on page 13)*

bers in the U.S. Senate, and a new President, this is certainly an exciting time to be in the Nation's Capital.

We have invited Sallie Rhodes of CESSI, the marketing component of the Ticket to Work, to present on the new Ticket to Work regulations and Partnership Plus.

Kathy West-Evans, the Founder and Director of the National Employment Team (NET) will, once again, host a Business Panel of employers who value the contributions that individuals with disabilities make to and in the business sector.

We will be honoring, once again, our qualified rehabilitation counselors at the 2009 Summit and have expanded this effort to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the U.S. Senate. We will have much more information on the National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day in forthcoming Washington Wires. I want to thank once again NRA Member, Dru Fentem, of the great State of Georgia, for the leadership role she continues to assume in ensuring that all qualified rehabilitation staff are recognized and appreciated for the incomparable services and supports they provide to so many individuals with disabilities.

One of the issues that was thematic throughout the November 17 meeting with Senate HELP Committee staff and the advocacy community was the importance of proper training by qualified professionals. The National Rehabilitation Association has always valued the qualified rehabilitation counselor and the qualified rehabilitation professionals throughout our great country.

Having the U.S. Congress recognize the enormous contributions that qualified rehabilitation counselors and qualified personnel make in the lives of individuals with disabilities is a distinction they have earned and deserve.

So, please mark your calendars to be in the Nation's Capital on March 8-10, 2009, for NRA's 28th Annual Summit, which promises to be a particularly exciting and exhilarating time for all.

**Submitted by Patricia Leahy**

**Interim Executive Director**

**Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy**

**National Rehabilitation Association**

**633 South Washington Street**

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**NRA Website - [www.nationalrehab.org](http://www.nationalrehab.org)**

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