



# NewsNotes

A Quarterly Publication of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association  
1998 First Quarter - January, February, March

## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERING

We have a great deal of important work to get done this year and we seem to have a good start. As I stated at the Annual Meeting, my main objective this year is to energize the membership to be a part of the VRA whole. Remember, we are a MEMBER organization.

I hope you will read this issue of the News Notes and try to see where YOU fit into all these plans for 1998 and beyond. There is a list of committee chairpersons, each of whom are trying to find 2 or 3 people to help them reach their objectives. If you see something that interests you or that you think you can contribute, call the person listed, myself, Mary Kaye Johnston or any Board member.

If every member (currently there are about 250 of us) contributes one small part, think how much we can accomplish for the people with disabilities with whom we work.

## UPDATES AND NEWS

Although you may have heard some plans, we are still in the process of negotiating and finalizing dates and location for the Annual Workshop. The initial site, located in Fredericksburg, is not accessible. As it has always been the policy of VRA and VaAPSE to hold our workshop in a site accessible to everyone, we have decided to find another lo-

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## RETREAT WAS A SUCCESS AT CONFEDERATE HILLS

SHIRLEY LYONS

The VRA Officers and Board members from 1997 and 1998 met at the Confederate Hills Recreation Center in Henrico County, Virginia to plan for the year. Many things were openly discussed and some interesting twists and turns were taken in an attempt to get more involvement from members, who may find the thought of some leadership positions daunting. Here are some of the highlights from the day:

- A. John Luckey was elected by the Board to fill a vacant Board position. He will be serving for 1 year.
- B. The slate of committee chairpersons was approved (see page 8).
- C. The budget is in very good shape, with VRA receiving a profit of approximately \$1,700.00 from last year's Collaborations workshop.
- D. The audit for the 1995 and 1996 books was completed, with no problems noted.
- E. The Duties and Responsibilities Manual was reviewed in detail and many sections were revised. The most notable change was for the President, President-elect and Past-President.

- It was agreed that the Past-President would be an integral part of the Workshop planning committee, in a co-chairmen role. This will eliminate the sole responsibility of the Workshop for the President-elect.
- It was agreed that the Past-President and President-elect would provide more assistance to the President by splitting the committees among the three of them, and adding the responsibility of being a support and contact for those committee chairpersons to whom they are assigned. This would provide more support to the chairpersons, while spreading the labor to more individuals. The division of committees is as follows:

- **President:** Audit/Budget, Legislative, Membership, NewsNotes and Resolutions.
- **President-Elect:** Program co-chair, Community Alliance, Education, Historian, and Awards.
- **Past-President:** Program co-chair, By-laws, Nominations, Public Information, Ways & Means.

F. Meeting dates for the year were set. Members are welcome. Planned dates are: March 6, June 12 and Sept. 18. The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the workshop. The Board and Officers retreat tentative date is January 8 and 9, 1999. All Board meetings are expected to be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Richmond area to accommodate those traveling. Please contact Shirley Lyons for exact locations. ❖

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## VARSS

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cation. We will get word out to you as quickly as possible once negotiations are complete.

I hope many of you took advantage of the legislative alerts sent out this year by the Legislative Chairperson, Maureen McGuire-Kuletz. If you would like to be added to her list (e-mail is preferred), please contact her. Most importantly, I hope you contact your Delegates, Senators and Representatives to let them know you support additional money for services for persons with disabilities, especially at the State level.

As per our discussion at the retreat in January, we are trying to make the Virginia Rehabilitation Association known in the General Assembly. Two exciting things have occurred so far this year:

1. VRA was a co-sponsor of a Legislative Reception on January 15 at the John Marshall building. We had an informational table and members who spent the 2 hours talking to the Delegates, Senators and Commissioners about VRA and the need to support services for people with disabilities. Thanks to: Mary Kaye Johnston, Naomi Aitken, Eleanor Fukushima, Benjy Burnett and Joe Ashley. If I missed any other members there, thank you for your support.

2. Thanks to efforts by Benjy Burnett, arrangements were made to read a small description of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association and introduce Benjy and me at the start of the Senate assembly on Feb. 6th. Special appreciation goes to Senator Louise Lucas for her support in this recognition.

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### FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT LINDA WHEATLEY

As outgoing President of VARS, I had a wonderful year with the help of all the VARS members. I also am very honored to have received the Don T. Johnston, Presidents Award at the Conference. VARS had a productive year and brought in one new member Glenna Cason from WWRC. Every year we are available to help VRA with the conference wherever we are needed, and this year it was to help w/exhibits. Working with the exhibitors was a great learning experience, and what fellowship we had in the exhibit hall as we all had our displays for raffles and materials for our individual groups. We are looking forward to 1998 with our new name and new leadership. <<

### FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT BERNICE CHATTIN

#### NEW NAME FOR SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION

At the 1998 annual meeting of the National Association of Rehabilitation Secretaries (NARS), the membership accepted a recommendation to change the Division's name. As of January 1, 1998, the Division became the National Association of Rehabilitation Support Staff (NARSS).

The Virginia Chapter supported this change and applauded the action of the National Division. It is now possible for **all support staff** to enjoy the membership and privileges of the Chapter.

Any new support staff member who joins NRA/VRA in 1998 may qualify for **a free membership in VARSS the first year**. Information regarding membership may be obtained by contacting any current member or the President, Bernice Chattin at 804.273.0939 or [BerChat@aol.com](mailto:BerChat@aol.com). <<

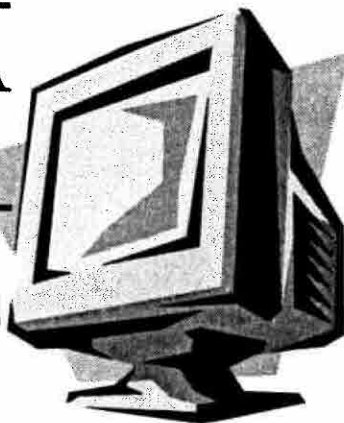
#### 1998 NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF VARSS:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Bernice Chattin	<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>
<b>PRESIDENT-ELECT:</b>	Gloria O'Neal	Jayne Crawford
<b>PAST PRESIDENT:</b>	Linda Wheatley	Phillippa Holley
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Betty Hale	Glenna Cason
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Diane Hinch	Janet Simmons

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