Presidential Pondering…
Bonnie Hawley

I hope that this message finds everyone in good health and enjoying our warm Virginia summertime.

Things are in full swing with planning for Collaborations and you will find registration information in this issue of NewsNotes. I hope to see many of you there this year. An exciting program is planned with a variety of new speakers with new ideas and well known speakers with new topics. Our annual membership meeting will be held at noon on August 5th. Meeting details will be available at the conference. Collaborations is also a great time to renew professional connections and make new ones, so mark your calendar for August 4th, 5th and 6th and see you in Richmond!

Another exciting part of Collaborations is the annual Awards Ceremony. This year Dee Dee Batton and Doug James have been hard at work encouraging nominations for several areas of recognition. If you know of someone who deserves that added acknowledgement, please contact Dee Dee or Doug and submit a nomination.

Past President, Mark Fletcher is also looking for nominations for Board positions. Look inside this issue for more information. Serving on the Board or as an officer is a wonderful way to get more involved in VRA and be part of the positive voice influencing our profession of rehabilitation. Contact Mark if you are interested (don’t be shy!) or if you know of someone who would be asset to our Board.

As many of you know, Russ Ward, President of VRCA, has decided to retire to the sunny state of Florida. Although we will all miss him and the

The Legacy of Justin Dart, Jr. 1930-2002

The Rehabilitation Community Mourns the passing of Justin Dart (1930-2002)
Justin Dart, Jr., a leader of the international disability rights movement and a renowned human rights activist, died on June 22, 2002, at his home in Washington D.C. He was widely recognized for his work toward the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was seventy-one years old. He is survived by his wife Yoshiko, their extended family of foster children, and his many friends and colleagues.

Dart was a leader in the disability rights movement for three decades. He was also the recipient of five presidential appointments and numerous honors, including the Hubert Humphrey Award of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Dart was on the podium on the White House lawn when President George H. Bush signed the ADA into law in July 1990.

Justin Dart (continued on page 2)
Tax Credits Reauthorized

On March 9th, 2002, the President signed into law the Job Creation and Workers Assistance Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-147) reauthorizing the two tax credits for two years. Contact your local Virginia Employment Commission office for specific details.

Submitted by Howard Green

Presidential Pondering

outstanding contributions that he has made to the field of rehabilitation for the past 30 years, we wish him well in his new life in Florida. His position with VRCA will be in the capable hands of Jane Bennett who will serve out the rest of the year as President. I look forward to working with Jane towards our mutual goals in VRA and VRCA.

It was a pleasure to have representatives from VARSS at our last Board Meeting. They are an important division of our organization and their contributions are outstanding. Our next Board meeting is on July 19 at the Henrico Mental Health Center. Board meetings are not just for Board members, so mark your calendars, and make plans to come.

New things are happening with the VRAA division and I encourage all VRA members who come to Collaborations to attend the VRAA meeting scheduled for Monday afternoon. Check your program books for more information and details.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the many members of VRA who took time to express their sympathy on the recent passing of my father. The basket of flowers sent by VRA was absolutely beautiful and much appreciated by my whole family. Thanks to everyone for their notes and phone calls. Each held a special meaning to me.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. I am looking forward to seeing you at either the upcoming Board meeting or at Collaborations.

Bonnie Hawley, President
VRA

GOVERNOR WARNER ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Governor Mark R. Warner announced the following appointment:

Board of Rehabilitative Services

Ed Turner of Richmond, director of a spinal cord injury project at Virginia Commonwealth University’s Medical College of Virginia. Congratulations, Ed!!!
Attention VRA Members: A Call for Nominations

We need nominations for Board Officers to include a President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, and three Board Members. Please contact Mark Fletcher, Howard Green, or Bonnie Hawley with your nominations.

VRA Award Nominations

REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!
It's that time of year again - Virginia Rehabilitation Association awards nominations! This year the conference is being held in Richmond in early August, so nominations will need to be in sooner than ever. I have attached 2 documents: one is the Nomination Form for 2002 and the other provides you with more information regarding the nomination process as well as a brief description of each award. All nominations will be accepted through JULY 12th, 2002. You may email/fax/mail your nominations to me. Email or call me with any questions.
Thanks, Dee-Dee

Dale Batten
2930 W. Broad Street Suite 15
Richmond, VA
Phone: (804) 367-9880
Fax: (804) 367-1786
Email: Battends@drs.state.va.us

ADA News

Sands Anderson Employer’s Alert: The Supreme Court’s Recent ADA Interpretations, and Their Effects on Employers

The U.S. Supreme Court’s current term may well be best remembered for its rulings interpreting the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). With four cases before it, the Supreme Court seized the opportunity to dramatically modify the effect of the ADA in key areas.

The Supreme Court issued decisions favoring employers in each case. This alert, provided by Sands Anderson employment attorney, Mike Goff, will discuss the Court’s recent decisions interpreting the ADA, with an emphasis on the effects each decision has on employers.

* U. S. Airways v. Barnett, No. 00-1250
* Toyota Motors v. Williams, No. 00-1089
* Chevron v. Echazabel, No. 00-1406
* Barnes v. Gorman, No. 01-682

visit: http://www.sandsanderson.com/PressRelease/SupremeCourt_6_02.htm

Please contact one of our Employment Law attorneys if you have any questions or comments.

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Submitted by Norm Kropp

Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT)

Security For People With Disabilities
The Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT) is a statewide, nonprofit 501 (C) 3 organization that offers people with disabilities the opportunity to have a trust fund that does not jeopardize entitlement benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

CCT (continued on page 10)

The next VRA Board meeting is: July 19, 2002
Wanted: Sponsors for Collaborations 2002

Organizations, businesses, and individuals interested in sponsoring Virginia 2002 Collaborations conference, exhibiting, advertising, or sending bag inserts should contact Elena Boyer at E-mail: directorse@didlake.com to obtain a business development brochure.

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www.Vra.org
### VRA Schedule 2001-2002

**July**
- 8 – VRA Ballot to Membership
- 12 – Collaborations Steering Committee
- 18 – VRCA Board Meeting
- 19 - VRA Board Meeting

**August**
- 4-6 - Collaborations Conference
- 5 - VRA Annual Business Meeting @ noon
- 6 - VRCA Annual Business Meeting @ noon

**September**
- 13- VRA 3rd Annual Golf Tournament
- 15 - Deadline for October issue of NewsNotes

**October**
- 10 – VRCA Board Meeting
- 18 – VRA Board Meeting
- 24-27 – Indianapolis – NRA National Training Conference

**December**
- 5 – VRCA Board Meeting
- Annual report due to NRA
- 6 - VRA Annual Retreat
- 15 – Deadline for January 2003 NewsNotes

### VRA Foundation Call for Applications

The Foundation was created by VRA members for VRA members and their families. The Foundation is self-supporting and grants are based on income from the endowment. Contributions to the endowment are tax deductible and donations of honor and memorial are acknowledged as requested. Grant amounts are not always large; as the endowment grows so does the grants.

Each year the Foundation Board accepts applications from qualified persons. Criteria includes:

1) No major course of study is required for a child or spouse. If applicant is a VRA member, preference will be given to requests related to the field of rehabilitation.

2) Applicant must show evidence of acceptance by an institution of higher learning approved by the Association of Colleges and Schools. Preference will be given to applicants attending Virginia schools.

3) Applicant may apply annually and must maintain a “C” average or better in undergraduate programs to be eligible for reapplication.

4) Applicant must complete the application form provided by the Foundation.

*The application form can be found in the last issue of NEWSNOTES on Page 6.* Please complete and send it to: J. Benjamin Burnett, Jr., 133 Buffalo Road, Clarksville, VA 23927.

### Session on Advocacy at Collaborations 2002

The VRA Governmental Affairs/Legislative Committee is going to do a pre-conference session on **advocacy** at the Collaborations 2002 meeting at the Sheraton West on Sunday, August 4th, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m..

### Education Committee

In early June, VRA Central Region sponsored Using the Internet for Rehabilitation Professionals. The presenter was Maureen McGuire-Kuletz of G. W.U. Our group was small but allowed for a lot of group interaction on the topic. Ms. McGuire-Kuletz identified new and helpful ways to use the internet for job exploration and placement. We look forward to offering the membership other cutting edge training opportunities thru G.W.U. and Ms. McGuire-Kuletz.

The next VRA sponsored training will be at the August Collaborations Conference where Dr. Gruszkos, a Richmond psychologist, will present on Mental Health and Vocational Planning. During the Fall, the Tidewater and Southwest regions will be offered VRA sponsored training’s. The Education Committee (continued on page 10)
The Nominations and Awards Committee is seeking nominations for awards to be presented at the 2002 Collaborations Conference to be held on August 4 – 6, 2002. We want to recognize and highlight VRA’s outstanding recipients for all seven distinguished awards. As a quick reference, here are the seven categories:

- · Excellence in Rehabilitation (Reedy)
- · Special Business (Hammond)
- · Professional (Dawson)
- · Physician (Hoover)
- · Excellence in Rehabilitation by a VRA Member (Anderson)
- · Leader in Removal of Barriers (Stillfried)
- · Person with a Disability (Distinguished Achievement)

A detailed description of the awards and the nomination form is attached below. Please be thinking about who you know deserves to receive recognition for their commitment to the field of rehabilitation. Because of the early date for the conference, the nomination period is short this year. The deadline for accepting nominations is July 12, 2002. Now is the time to ACT! Let’s show our appreciation for the Best of 2002. If you would like additional information or assistance you can contact me, Dale Batten at 804-367-9880 or battends@drs.state.va.us.

**AWARDS/DESCRIPTIONS**

**Norman C. Hammond Award:** Mr. Hammond was credited with creating “IBM Data Processing for the Handicapped” Program. This award was established to honor business and industry leaders whose contributions to the field of rehabilitation in Virginia are outstanding and resulted in the employment of persons with disabilities. Eligible for this award may be organizations or industrial leaders that have made a contribution to the well being of rehabilitation of disabled persons in activities over and beyond the purpose for which the organization was established. Preference is given to individuals or organizations that have effectively and actively advocated for individuals with disabilities; introduced innovative programs and approaches to rehabilitation; and the impact on rehabilitation is beyond the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Franz Stillfried Barrier Free Achievers Honor Roll:** Established in 1988 to recognize efforts made by individuals, businesses or organizations for the removing of architectural, attitudinal and environmental barriers. A plaque honoring Mr. Stillfried’s work for more accessible facilities was prepared and presented to Mr. Stillfried’s family when this award was established. Awarded to an individual who has exercised notable leadership in either removing environmental, attitudinal or legal barriers and/or has contributed to the attainment of independence for persons with disabilities by significantly supporting the growth of rehabilitation services throughout Virginia. The purpose of this award is threefold: (1) to develop a cooperative resource link between Virginia’s Mayors’ Committees/Commissions and the Virginia Rehabilitation Association; (2) to increase awareness and share information on innovative projects; and (3) to generate more activities and participation in barrier removal.

*Awards Descriptions (continued on page 7)*
Dr. Roy M. Hoover Award for Outstanding Medical Achievement: Dr. Hoover of Tallahassee, Florida, former Roanoke orthopedic surgeon and former medical director of Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, initiated this award at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. In 1969 WWRC requested that the Virginia Rehabilitation Association accept the responsibility for its administration. It honors a physician practicing in Virginia who has given outstanding medical rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities and whose contributions are substantial. This nominee may have a local, statewide, or regional impact on services to clients through rehabilitation, in the field of medicine or in any field, rehabilitative in nature. Length of service in Virginia and voluntary efforts is a consideration.

A. R. Dawson Humanitarian Award: In 1971, Dr. Dawson, who was director of geriatric and rehabilitation services for the Virginia Department of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals, initiated this award with a $1,000 grant and presented the first award. It is presented for outstanding services to the disabled by a practitioner, who is not in an administrative or supervisory position. Awarded to a professional person having direct contact with persons with disabilities in the rehabilitation process, and whose efforts have had a significant impact on their lives. Individuals may have worked in psychology, vocational evaluation, or medical specialties.

R. N. Anderson Award for Leadership: In 1986 a classroom at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Anderson, the first Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. Awarded to a current member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association who has demonstrated excellence in services to persons with disabilities. The first R. N. Anderson Award was presented in 1961.

Virginia Rehabilitation Association Distinguished Achievement Award: Awarded to a person with a disability who has demonstrated imagination, perseverance, resolve, and an indomitable spirit in working to overcome barriers in their lives resulting in a better quality of life for themselves and others. When making nominations for this award volunteer work, part time and full time employment is a consideration but not a requirement.

Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence: This award was created in 1985 to honor Corbett Reedy who was a Virginia Rehabilitation Association service provider, as well as an official of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Upon his retirement to his native Virginia, he was appointed to serve on the policymaking Board of the Department of Rehabilitative Services. Awarded to a resident of Virginia currently involved in the rehabilitation field, but not limited to a rehabilitation professional. This person must have creatively pursued excellence in contributions to the rehabilitation program, projects, issues, publications or a significant rehabilitation cause. Excellence in the field of service to persons with disabilities is recognized through this award.

The Awards Nomination Form is Located on Page 9
Co-Editors, Norm and Steve thank all the VRA members who have been submitting their articles to the NewsNotes. We will need all your calendars, workshops, legislative insights, calls for nominations, and professional insights for the October 2002 issue. Those items sent by way of the US Postage Service, should be sent to Norm Kropp at DRS, 2930 W. Broad Street, Suite 15, Richmond, Va. 23230. Please send your articles by way of email to both Norm and Steve at KroppNV@drs.state.va.us and SommerSA@drs.state.va.us. We would also like to encourage you to sell some ads to the NewsNotes, by referring your favorite rehabilitation-related business to us. Your Officers and Board have been very supportive! We welcome your suggestions. It is great to have VRCA helping us to get the word out. Please check out www.vra.org today!

Collaborations Conference 2002
August 4th, 5th, and 6th
In Richmond, Virginia

The 3rd Annual VRA Golf Classic
COME JOIN US!!!!!!!!!!!

PLAY THE BEAUTIFUL HOLLOWS GOLF CLUB
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We need support from everyone. This is a key fund raiser for VRA, so please help out. Come out and play, sponsor a team or hole, solicit a gift or prize from your community. Please call Howard Green at 804-379-1286(h) or 804-828-9548(w) and let him know if you can play or help with donations.

The golf is $60.00 per person which includes lunch and lots of prizes. Look forward to seeing you there!
Please call Howard Green or email him at jhgreen@atlas.vcu.edu

Thanks for your help.

Submitted by Howard Green

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AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Award____________________________________________________________
Nominee__________________________________________________________
Nominee’s Address_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

SUPPORT FOR NOMINEE:

(1) On a separate page, please submit a statement detailing why the nominee is deserving of the award. Please provide historical information that supports the nomination. The nominee’s resume or curriculum vita may also be included.

(2) Please include supporting documents from others knowledgeable of the nominee’s outstanding accomplishments.

Nominator Name___________________________________________________
Nominator’s Address__________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Telephone Number_H__________________________W___________________
e-mail: __________________________________________________________________
Signature____________________________________________________________
Date:___________________________

Nominations and supporting documents must be received by Dale Batten, 2930 W. Broad Street, Suite 15, Richmond, VA 23230 or battends@drs.state.va.us.
Phone (W) 804-367-9880, Fax: 804-367-1786

Deadline for nominations is being extended to July 12th, 2002.
### Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT) (continued from page 3)

**CCT offers two types of trusts:**

*The Special Needs Trust (SNT)* can be established by the family or a friend for the benefit of a loved one with a disability. Some of the ways a trust can be funded are in a will, a life insurance policy or a death benefit through an employer.

*The Pooled Disability Trust (PDT) d4c Trust* is self-funded by the person with a disability who comes into a sum of money as the result of a personal injury award, Social Security back payment or an inheritance.

CCT was established in 1990 by parents of children with a disability and concerned individuals in the community. CCT is governed by a Board of Advisors. The Trust Company of Virginia manages and invests the funds. The fees are economical compared with banks and investment firms and there is no minimum amount necessary to establish a trust.

After working to settle a case for a young burn victim, Ron Feinman, an Attorney in Lynchburg wrote the following about his experience with CCT for the newsletter he publishes: “I interviewed three separate attorneys that had established accounts with the Pooled Trust and found they were all very pleased with their experience. I also spoke with both the Executive Director and the Attorney/Founding Board member of the CCT and reviewed it’s written materials. I interviewed the Trust Company officer in charge of overseeing the accounts. I was left very impressed and was able to recommend the trust to the Guardian Ad Litem.”

You can learn more about CCT on the web site: [www.commonwealthcommunitytrust](http://www.commonwealthcommunitytrust) and the Frequently Asked Questions section contains a great deal of information.

For more information contact: **Joanne Marcus, MSW, Executive Director**

Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT)

P.O. Box 29408

Richmond, VA 23242-0408

804-740-6930

E-mail: jmarcuscomtrust@aol.com

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### Education Committee (continued from page 5)

Committee has some concern about whether or not the members want the committee to provide such training. Two trainings were offered earlier this year, both in the NOVA and Central Region areas. Both trainings offered were requested by membership, but we had fewer than 10 individuals registered for either training. Unfortunately, each training was cancelled as such a small audience does not warrant the presenters time, which was donated. The cost of training is still a wonderful price (less than $30) when most trainings provided by other sponsors are usually at least $50. The last training provided was only $5.00 for a member and the number of registrants was still low. Perhaps the topic lacked interest, however, the topic was well received in other regions, and it was requested by a local member. Future training costs will continue to be kept at a minimum. In addition, a preregistration cost will be added in order to assure that we have a minimum number of 15 persons in attendance. This is being done out of respect for the speaker’s time. The Education committee would like to present another training in both the Central Region and the NOVA areas, before 2003. Please contact any of our committee members with your ideas for a training topic. Our committee members are Margaret Gillespie, Jean Stevenson, Annette Pope, and Marie Del Gardo.

Finally, the Education Committee would like to bid a fond farewell to VRCA President Russ Ward on his retirement in sunny Florida. We wish he and his family the very best in their new home.

Submitted by Marie Del Gardo

### Free Tickets and Website

*The Ticket to Work* program is under way with a website to help explain the program. The program offers people with disabilities the services they need to help them go to work.

http://www.ssa.gov/work/Ticket/ticket_info.htm
Virginia 2002 Collaborations Conference
Sheraton Richmond West Hotel
6624 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia
August 4, 5, & 6, 2002
804-285-2000 or 1-800-325-3535

Preliminary Registration Form

Co-Hosted By
VRA: Virginia Rehabilitation Association
VA-APSE: Virginia Association for Persons In Supported Employment
VaACCSES: The Virginia Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs

Please type or print clearly, one form per registrant. Please send the completed registration form with payment to:
Collaborations, c/o Marylyn Morrison, Service Source, 6295 Edsall Road, Suite 175, Alexandria, VA 22310-2670

Name: ________________________________
Agency/Organization: ________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: __________________
Telephone: ( ) _______ Fax: ( ) _______ E-mail: ______________________________

Circle ALL organizations to which you or your organization belongs. Include current membership number:
APSE (mem#: __________________) NRA (mem#: __________________) ACCSES
APSE and NRA memberships are individual and require number. ACCSES membership is organizational and no number is required.
Nonmember rate applies if you are not a current member.

Training Conference Registration (Circle One)

Full Conference Registration Fee Schedule (Circle One)*

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*All conference registrations include conference sessions & materials, continental breakfasts, receptions, & breaks. Full payment or P.O. with accompanying registration form must be postmarked or received by Close of Business by July 5, 2002 to be considered Early Bird Rate & for Early Bird Drawing. If Payment or P.O. is not received by any postmark deadline date on fee schedule, participants & organizations will be billed the difference according to the applicable deadline rate. Federal Tax ID:54-1005797

Single Day Rate ** (Please circle day attending): 8/4/02 8/5/02 8/6/02

Received by 7/19/02: $125 $125 $125

Received after 7/19/02: $150 $150 $150

** Single day registration includes evening receptions.

Additional reception tickets may be purchased for individuals not attending the conference.

Additional Reception Ticket NAME(S): ____________________________________________

$30 per ticket per person

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (including additional reception tickets) $ __________________

Purchase Orders must include a list of approved attendees attached and must be paid in full upon receipt of invoice to avoid late fee.