



NewsNotes

A Quarterly Publication of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association
2005 Second Quarter, April-June No. 18

New Presidential Pondering by Robin Metcalf

Well, here it is April 2005 and I got off to a little bit of a late start this year as President of VRA due to our house fire in December, but I think we are back on track now with the help of an excellent board and some very active and invested members. Many thanks to VRA for the generosity and thoughtfulness shown to us after the fire.

VRA members did attend the National Rehabilitation Association Annual Conference and Training in Philadelphia this past October and found it to be a very valuable experience. The training this coming year will be in Alexandria and it is my hope more members will be able to attend since it will be close to home for many. It is a truly valuable experience and with Linda Winslow's recent acceptance of the Executive Director position of NRA we may see an even more informative and exciting training.

David Williams has continued to represent VRA at the VA General Assembly and has done an excellent job as always of keeping us informed about pertinent legislation. Many VRA members attended our legislative day and reception on January 24th. The reception was well attended and we managed to escape a repeat of last year's snowstorm.

On a National level Teri Bertsch represented us at the NRA Summit in Washington, DC on March 13-15th. Teri logged over five miles on Tuesday the 15th as she visited with Senators and Congressmen distributing information regarding VRA and the issues at stake. We owe a big thanks to Teri for all of her hard work and to everyone who took the time to write letters to their legislators in support of our causes. As I travel around the country performing CARF surveys I am more aware than ever of the necessity of all of us being involved in the effort to track and fight legislative efforts not in the interest of the people we serve. This is an example of your efforts making a difference because every voice is heard.

Our next Board Meeting will be held on July 22nd at 9:30 a.m.. All members are welcome to attend our board meetings and we welcome any and all assistance with the work of the various committees. VRA is the lead organization for Collaborations this year and I'm sure we could use the help of as many members as possible to ensure the success of the conference. If you are aware of any good speakers who can speak on pertinent topics please pass this information along to Margaret Gillespie, Eleanor Williams, or Shirley Lyons. Please keep in mind in recent years Collaborations has served as our biggest fundraiser of the year.

VRA will be represented by David Williams and myself in a meeting with Commissioner Rothrock on March 17th to discuss DRS's current status and on-going planning process. Topics to be discussed include :

Discussion of past session and on going themes of the Warner Administration, review of DRS status regarding client services, WWRC and fiscal to include an overview of the Order of Selection, discussion of most recent Congressional efforts regarding HR 27 and WIA and an overview of DRS planning process to include review of Critical Issues proposed by DRS Staff. A summary of the issues will be reported in the next newsletter.

New Presidential Pondering (continued on page 2)

The next VRA Meeting will be July 22nd



New Presidential Pondering (Continued from page 1)

I know our Education Committee is hard at work and education and training for our members continues to be a goal of VRA. A training has been scheduled for August 19th on the "Culture of Poverty", a very timely topic for people in the field of rehabilitation. Other topics apparently of interest include Communication Skills, Critical Thinking and Decision Making Skills, Professional Ethics, Brain Injury, Autism, and Dual Diagnosis. Rehabilitation Counselor Day has been scheduled for May 5th, so please mark your calendars and take the time out of your busy schedules to celebrate the one day of the year for those of us who give our time and efforts to others the entire rest of the year.

Increasing membership continues to be a goal of VRA and this year's President, so please look around your offices and your rehabilitation community to identify folks who may be interested in joining and contributing their talents. With so much attrition in the field of rehabilitation there are many new folks in the field and it is never too early to get involved even if it is on a small scale in the beginning. I have already recruited several folks and hope all of you will do the same.

Our other big fundraiser is the golf tournament, so please recruit all of your golfing buddies and show your support for VRA and Howard Green who pulls off this excellent fundraiser every year almost single handedly. The tournament is scheduled for September 13th at Hunting Hawk Golf Course. Last year was our first year at this course and it was very well received.

Last, but not least, we would like to extend our thanks and best wishes to Beth Phillips as she makes a move to Florida. We welcome Tracy Broadnax and thank her for being willing to fill Beth's board position. I am looking forward to a happy, healthy, safe and productive year for VRA and all of our members.

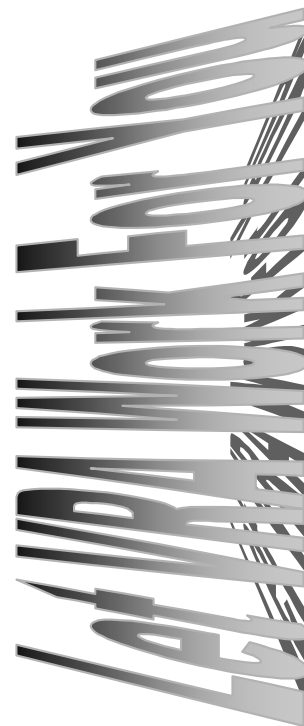
Submitted by Robin Metcalf, VRA President

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Come Join Us In Golf!!

The 6th Annual VRA Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 13th, 2005 at the Hunting Hawk Golf Course. Tee off time is 8:45 am. So, please plan on getting a foursome for the tournament. The cost is \$67.50 per person or \$270.00 for a team. It will be fun! You will love the course. Please visit the VRA web site for more details.

Your help is needed. We need hole sponsors and donations for prizes. If you know of a company who would like to sponsor a hole the fee is \$125.00 for a 2' x 3' sign. Please contact Howard Green at jgreen18aol.com to offer your assistance.

Submitted by Howard Green

VRA Foundation News

Summer is almost here and many of you and your family members are in the process of making decisions regarding college or just taking a couple of course to further your education. You should consider applying for a scholarship through the VRA Foundation. The application is on the VRA Web site and I would encourage you to apply. If you have questions please contact Howard Green or one of the other VRA Foundation Board members. They can assist you. The deadline for the applying is June 30th, 2005.

Submitted by Howard Green

Education Committee Report

The Education Committee is off to a slow start but will be picking up speed shortly !! Our committee is looking for more members to participate on the committee across the state in an effort to serve all of our members.

Margaret Gillespie and Ellen Braswell are enthusiastically working together to provide a training in Charlottesville on May 10th. It promises to be a very informative and timely presentation. The topic is "Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Injured Armed Forces Service Members". The training is FREE to VRA members and CRC credits will be provided. For more information please refer to the insert flyer. Our committee has received a request from a member to provide the same training in the Tidewater area and we are pursuing that possibility at this time.

For the Richmond area, we have planned a training August 19th on Culture Diversity and another in the Fall on Asperger's Syndrome. In Northern Virginia, George Washington University has committed to helping us with planning two trainings. We do not have representation on our committee at this time for the Northern Virginia area and I would welcome assistance.

The Education committee is requesting help from the member's in either assisting the committee with education topics that you would like to see presented or in your assistance by participating on the Education committee. So, if you have not been an active member to date, please do not hesitate to pick up the phone and call me with ideas or to say that you would like to join the committee. VRA would welcome your involvement. J I can be reached at 804-662-7160. Thank you for your support.

Submitted by Marie D. Worley

Check out this site today on your computer!!

www.vra.org





Vocational Rehabilitation Services for

Injured Armed Forces Service Members

The symposium will include a presentation by a soldier who was injured in Iraq, a rehabilitation counselor who will talk about vocational rehabilitative services, and a presentation from the training and outreach supervisor of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the VA's vocational rehabilitation services.

Sponsored by the
Virginia Rehabilitation Association

Presenters

Dr. Frederick Steier Ed.D.

Training and Outreach Supervisor, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service

Jeannie Lehowicz M.S., M.A., CRC, CRP

Director of Early Intervention Services for Wounded OIF and OEF Service Members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Christopher Johnson, Lance Corporal U.S. Marines

TUESDAY, May 10, 2005 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Registration to begin at 9:30 AM

At

Department of Forestry

In

Fontaine Research Park

900 Natural Resources Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22903

CRC Credit Provided

Reservation Deadline is May 4, 2005

To make reservations and to request accommodations contact

Margaret Gillispie at (434) 947-6721 or email Margaret.Gillispie@drs.virginia.gov

VRA Members FREE

Non Members \$10.00

Make checks payable to VRA

Continental breakfast will be provided



LEADERS EMERGE !

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

With 41 members as of February 2005, VARL has bragging rights as the largest chapter of the National Association for Rehabilitation Leadership in the country! Since our last newsletter it looks like we have added Felicia Martin, Chris Reid, and Carol Thacker to our membership roles. Welcome!!! Carol has not only joined but she has agreed to finish out the Board term of Susan Green through 2005. Thank you Carol!

Last time we mentioned that VARL would be having regional membership meetings in the early spring. After discussion at our last Board meeting, it was decided that it would be advantageous to have our June full membership meeting first and then have the regional meetings in early fall following the Collaborations Conference. Having the full membership meeting first will allow us to set the stage for what members would most want from smaller, local membership meetings. Speaking of the full membership meeting and training, it will be on June 9 in Richmond in the Community Room at Short Pump Town Center. Amy Armstrong who not only educated but entertained us at our meeting last summer has graciously agreed to return as our trainer on the topic of "Achieving your personal and professional best". Mark your calendar now and look for the flyer with registration details.

There was a leadership brown bag chat at Richmond Goodwill on March 31. The topic was from Peter Drucker's work, "Managing Oneself" and how each of us must take responsibility for work relationships. About 15 participants discussed this as it related to themselves as well as to our consumers.

There are more chats scheduled and we hope you can participate.

Wednesday, June 1 at 12:00
Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
2520 Melrose Avenue, NW
Roanoke, VA

For information, Margaret Gillispie, 434-947-6721

VARL Leaders Emerge (continued on page 7)

VRA Calendar for 2005

April 22 9:30 VRA Meeting
July 22 9:30 VRA Meeting
Sept. 13 (Tuesday) 2005 VRA Golf Tournament
Sept. 26 Annual VRA Meeting at Collaborations
2005 Luncheon, Virginia Beach
Dec. 9 VRA Meeting and Retreat



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VARL Leaders Emerge (Continued from page 5)

Wednesday, July 20 at 12:30
DRS Fairfax Office
11150 Main Street, Suite 300
Fairfax, VA

For information, Doug James 703-277-3562

If you would like a chat in your area, contact a VARL member and let them know.

VARL President, Margaret Gillispie, approached Dick Luck, Director of the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center about how VARL might be a part of their renewal process by sponsoring leadership development training. A planning committee of VARL and WWRC folks met following our April Board meeting. Plans are now underway to look at a workshop that will support WWRC's shared values of being egalitarian, ethical, and effective.

Other activities in the planning stages are VARL workshops at the Collaborations Conference and the NRA Conference in Alexandria in October.

Please consider joining VARL and coming to our Board meetings. They are open to everyone and several people join us who are not on the Board. It's a great way to get to know your division members, get involved if you choose, and its fun! The remaining 2005 Board meetings are on June 9 (following the membership training/meeting), August 11, and November 17. Except for the June meeting which is in Richmond, all Board meetings run from 10 a.m. to about noon and are held in the Dept. of Forestry offices in Charlottesville.

VARL 2005: President -Margaret Gillispie, President Elect - Susan Green, Past President - Mark Fletcher, Treasurer - Eleana Boyer, Secretary - Alice Berman, Board Members – Janet Davies, John Phelps, Karen Stevens, Jim Hall, Sharon Harrup, Carol Thacker

Submitted by Susan Green, 804-674-2326, susan.green@drs.virginia.gov

Enjoyable Moments at the 2005 Virginia Transition Forum

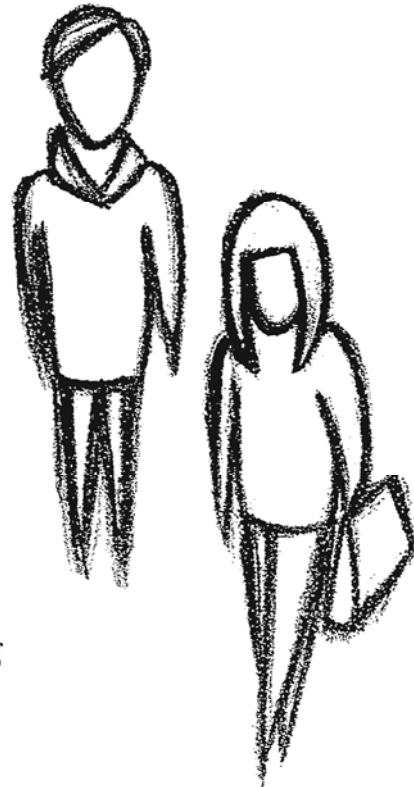


Pictures Left to Right: Mariann Martin of Radford provides laughs and giggles; DRS Commissioner, Jim Rothrock provides some impromptu humor for the crowd; Garth Larcen and son, Max, accept an Employer of the Year Award for the new Positive Vibe Café in Richmond, VA.. Pictures by Steve Sommer



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Collaborations Conference 2005

<http://www.vaaccses.org/index.htm>

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Join us to showcase your business to rehabilitation professionals and organizations from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The 9th Annual 2005 Collaborations Conference will be held at the scenic Ramada Inn Ocean Front, in Virginia Beach on September 25th – 27th, 2005. This is a wonderful time to visit a beach, make new friends and to network with professionals. Our statewide conference provides you with excellent opportunities to promote your products and services, to meet new business contacts, and to consult with business and state agency leaders across the Commonwealth of Virginia. We also want to remind you about our tax-exempt status in the event you choose to write off some of the costs. The Collaborations Conference is co-sponsored by the Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA), the Virginia Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs (vaACCSES) and the Virginia Association for Persons in Supported Employment (VA-APSE).

This is an opportunity to:

- Establish new business contacts and awareness of your products and services
- Exchange information and ideas with rehabilitation leaders

We offer a number of excellent opportunities – corporate partnerships, exhibiting, and program booklet advertising, as well as, placing your company's info in our conference bags. The choices are up to you on how you want to invest in showcasing your agency. Please take a look at the enclosed business brochure to select your company's marketing options.

We will be calling you to assist you with any questions you may have about participating in our conference. We look forward to partnering with you.

Submitted by
Eleana M. Boyer & Mark C. Fletcher,
Co-Chairs, Business Development Committee



Send VRA News for the July 2005 issue by **6/18/05**. 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!

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