Presidential Pondering in Spring 2006 by Margaret Gillispie

It’s spring again, my favorite time of year, and the dogwoods and azaleas are about to bloom. It is an exciting time of new beginnings and fresh new life. I equate this to NRA and the development of the new counseling division, NRA Rehabilitation and Educators Association (RCEA). NRA is in the process of developing RCEA by-laws, a slate of board member candidates for an upcoming election and an editorial board who will be publishing a Journal with relevant articles for RCEA members. VRA will also be working on the transition to the new RCEA division and is committed to supporting this critical component of VRA, its counselors and educators.

VRA has planned a number of educational opportunities for you this year. The first one is scheduled for May 19th in the Richmond area, is entitled “Change is not a Four Letter Word” and is presented by our own Shirley Lyons. Later in the summer we have planned for the Richmond area “Brain Injury 101, Employment Issues Related to Brain Injury and Overview of Available Resources” and in Roanoke “The disAbility in My Head” dealing with how to assist customers with mental health issues to return to work. During the fall additional trainings are planned for Richmond, Staunton, Tidewater and the Northern Virginia areas. Many thanks to Marie Worley, our Education Committee Chair for all her hard work on this committee. Stay tuned for details about each of these outstanding training opportunities.

Mark your calendars for Collaborations which is scheduled for September 17 - 19 at the Ramada Plaza Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. Consider being a presenter and sharing your special

VRA Legislative Update

Budget Impasse – Again

It’s becoming a spring ritual in Virginia. For the third time in six years, legislators have been unable to agree on a budget by the end of the session. With March madness coming to a rapid close, many wonder what will happen next – a budget agreement or the opening of the fall 2006 NFL season.

The cause of this year’s impasse is transportation. The issue has been a hot button in localities such as northern Virginia and Hampton Roads for years where past local referendums to raise taxes failed under the Warner administration. It was also an issue Governor Kaine used very effectively to his advantage in the fall elections, linking land use decisions to transportation decisions. Northern Virginia counties known to be Republican strongholds broke ranks and voted for Governor Kaine because of the issue.

Going into this year’s session, everyone knew if new taxes were going to be proposed as a means of fixing transportation woes (and they knew they would be), it had to be done this year because the next real opportunity wouldn’t be until 2010. Next year’s session precedes the November 2007 statewide elections where all 140 seats at the General Assembly are up for re-election. No one raises taxes going into an election year. Going forward we have national elections in 2008 and in 2009, all seats in the House are again up for re-election. That’s why this year’s session is critical for both the anti-tax House and the pro-tax Senate and Governor.

With that in mind, it’s easy to see why Trans-

Legislative Update (Continued on page 2)
New Presidential Pondering (Continued from page 1)

experts. The call for papers for workshop presentations is due by May 1. For more information about the conference or the call for papers you can visit www.vaaccses.org. Collaborations, as usual, will be a wonderful occasion for professional development, networking with your peers and getting your toes in the sand.

The 7th Annual VRA Golf Classic will be held at the Hunting Hawk Golf Course on Tuesday, September 12th. This is one of VRA’s major fund raisers. Howard Green is working to find hole sponsors, sign up golf teams, and solicit prizes for the event. You can register your golf team by visiting the VRA website at www.vra.org. And if you’d like to sponsor a hole, or have a prize to donate, please contact Howard at jgreen18@aol.com.

David Williams, our Legislative Liaison has continued to represent VRA well at the Virginia General Assembly this year. He also keeps us informed of legislative issues at the State and National level. Robin Metcalf graciously agreed to chair the Legislative Committee and plans to meet with her committee members in the near future. VRA and NRA continues to advocate so that every voice is heard legislatively. These efforts make a huge difference in service delivery for individuals with disabilities.

Submitted by Margaret Gillispie, VRA President

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<tr>
<th>Legislative Update (Continued from page 1)</th>
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<td>portation taxes is the 800-pound gorilla this session and is casting a big shadow on the reported budget versions. The House pulled every available dollar they could to come up with funding for transportation without tax increases. The Senate was far less draconian - but they could afford to be with the tax increases they proposed. They didn’t have to dip into other areas to find the money. That said, here’s some highlights from the two versions:</td>
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<td>The House: The House’s proposed budget supports the Governor’s proposal to rebuild four state mental health and mental retardation facilities and adds another 65 MR waiver slots to the governor’s introduced budget. Also, provided is $270,000 for MR waiver start-up funds, and funding to expand brain injury services for underserved areas of the state ($1,200,000). No funding or language was included to address any of the four budget amendments sponsored by VRA, i.e. creation of a Medicaid Buy-In, DRS Order of Selection, PERT, or the Life Skills Training Program at WWRC.</td>
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<td>The Senate: For VRA members, the good news is the inclusion of the Medicaid Buy-In, which again is a VRA sponsored amendment. Being reported out is no small feat given everything that’s going on with taxes and transportation. The Senate version also includes monies for enhancing brain injury (BI) services provided through centers for independent living ($1,600,000), provides case management services for people with BI ($300,000), increases the Personal Maintenance Allowance to 180% ($1,000,000), expands mental health services for jail diversions ($2,000,000), adds</td>
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VRA Legislative Update (Continued on page 11)
NRA Membership

Strapped for cash? Remember that NRA offers several methods for paying your dues. Now you can even pay through a monthly bank draft which could come out to as little as $10.50 a month for a professional membership! You can also have the bank draft be quarterly or annually. In addition, you can pay by installment plan over 3 consecutive months if you use your credit card. Please don’t let your membership lapse for financial reasons and let your colleagues know it is easy and hassle free to join.

Submitted by Susan Green

VRA Foundation

It is the time of year that many of you and your family members are making plans for college or taking a class or two to further your education. VRA members and their family are eligible to apply for scholarship assistance from the VRA Foundation. The application can be found on the VRA website at www.vra.org on the Foundation page and should be submitted to Lynn Kushner, Foundation Chair, c/o Dept of Rehabilitative Services, 3248 Academy Avenue, Portsmouth, VA 23703. If you have any questions, you may contact Lynn at 757-686-4999 or Lynn.Kushner@drs.virginia.org, or contact any other member of the VRA Foundation Board. Applications must be received by Friday, June 30th at 5 PM. Check it out!

Submitted for Lynn Kushner

Check out this site today on your computer!!

www.vra.org
Rehabilitation Counselor Day  
May 5, 2006  
It’s A Birthday Party!

What Birthday you ask? The 50th birthday of the Rehabilitation Counseling Dept at VCU.

VRCA and The VCU Dept of Rehabilitation Counseling are celebrating together this year. We have come together to celebrate our rehabilitation profession and 50 years of the Rehabilitation Counseling Dept at VCU. What a wonderful joint venture!

The Rehabilitation Counselor Day celebration will have much to offer this year, thanks to VCU planning committee of Charlotte Chapman, LPC and Dr. Lewis. A panel of noted rehabilitation professionals will address current issues in rehabilitation, a keynote speaker and two afternoon speakers who are planning to educate and inspire us. The evening will include a Faculty Roast and Dessert Reception with our own Dr. Luck as the Master of Ceremony. That is right, this year we will also have an evening activity which will allow us time to socialize with our colleagues!

We are very fortunate to have as keynote speaker, Andrew Imparato. He is the first full time President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), a national non profit membership organization for the political and economic development of all people with disabilities based in Washington, DC.

Prior to joining AAPD, Imparato was general counsel and director of policy for the National Council on Disability, an attorney advisor with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, and a staff attorney/Skadden Fellow with the Disability Law Center in Boston, Massachusetts.

Imparato, whose perspective is informed by his own experience with bipolar disorder, is frequently called upon to write, speak or provide testimony about disability issues.

A second day of celebration (Sat., May 6) will be sponsored by the VCU Rehabilitation Counseling Dept and Alumni Association. All VCU alumni are invited.

There will be a formal registration procedure this year to include completing a registration form and faxing it to VCU. More details on the registration procedure will follow.

The celebration event May 5th will include registration starting at 8 am and will be located at the Richmond Convention Center in downtown Richmond.

Please stay tuned as more information will follow at the end of March. Please mark your calendars for this history making day. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Submitted by Marie D. Worley, Education Chair
TO: Corporate Sponsors

FROM: Howard Green, Chairperson for VRA Golf Classic

RE: Request for Corporate Sponsorships

The Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA) provides advocacy for the employment and quality services for persons with disabilities within the Commonwealth. VRA is hosting its seventh golf classic to raise funds to support its efforts in advocating for people with disabilities and their effort to be productive citizens. In addition VRA offers many training activities to support both people with disabilities and individuals who serve them in the community. The golf classic will be held at The Hunting Hawk Golf Club on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 starting at 8:45 am with a shotgun start. We are seeking your SUPPORT!!!

For a $125.00 donation, we will place a 2' x 3' sign on one of the golf holes to advertise your business. In addition we will provide each golfer with a program that lists the names and addresses of our business sponsors.

You may also make a specific donation toward the cost for lunch and prizes and we will place a separate ad in the program as well as a banner on the course listing you as the sponsor for that particular event and prize.

If you sponsor a hole or make a donation toward the cost of food and prizes, VRA will provide you with a token of our appreciation. In addition we would love for your company to sign up and play with us. Please register a team from your business. It will be a fun day!!

Please check the appropriate box and send your donation, name of business, and check payable to:

Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA)
Howard Green
2641 Hillanne Drive
Midlothian, Virginia 23113
Phone (804-828-9548) w
(804-379-1286) h
(804-828-2193) fax
E-MAIL – jgreen18@aol.com

2'x3' sign to be placed on specific hole $125.
(Please attach logo or information to be placed on the sign)

in lieu of sign, specific donation for lunch, beverages, and prizes $ 50.00
$ 75.00
$100.00
$200.00

Submitted by Howard Green
7th Annual
Virginia Rehabilitation Association
Golf Classic
Hunting Hawk Golf Course
Tuesday, September 12, 2006 -- 8:45 a.m.
Shotgun Start -- All profits are used to support the advocacy of people with disabilities
Check-in: 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Format: 18 Hole Captain Choice -- 4 man team
Entry Fee: $68.00 per person -- $270.00 per team -- includes green fees, cart, food, prizes, and beverages (beer & soft drinks)
Prizes: Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams; closest to the pin; longest drive, both men and women; and many additional
door prizes
Dress Code: Proper golf attire to be worn -- no jeans or cut-offs -- all shirts must have a collar. SOFT SPIKED GOLF SHOES
ONLY.
Directions: From I-64 -- take Exit 173; go right on Rt. 623 for 3.2 miles
From I-295 -- take Exit 51; go north on Nuckols Rd. 5 miles, go right on 623 (Ashland Road), course is one mile
ahead on the right.
From Northern Virginia -- take I-95 South to Exit 92 Ashland; turn right, take a left at the 3rd stoplight onto Rt. 1
South, turn right onto Ashcake Rd. at the Luck Chevrolet Dealership and Sheetz Gas Station, Ashcake Rd.
becomes
Ashland Rd. and Hunting Hawk is approximately 9.3 miles from Rt. 1 on the left.
Fax or mail entry form and fees, payable to Virginia Rehabilitation Association to:
Howard Green; 2641 Hillanne Drive; Midlothian, VA 23113 or FAX to (804) 828-2193.
You can register yourself or your team by going to our web site: www.vra.org
Team:
Name Address Telephone No.
Player 1
Player 2
Player 3
Player 4
This tournament is limited to 36 teams. Call Howard Green at 804-379-1286 home or 804-828-9548
work to reserve your spot.
THE VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION (VRA) IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

"CHANGE IS NOT A FOUR LETTER WORD"

PRESENTED BY SHIRLEY LYONS, MS

MANAGER FOR HENRICO COUNTY, MHMR SERVICES WITH EXPERTISE IN THE AREA OF LEADERSHIP

THIS IS A WORKSHOP FOR ANYONE WHO HAS UNDERGONE CHANGE OR WHO WILL BE UNDERGOING CHANGE.
THIS DAY OF INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING WILL EXPLORE WHAT CHANGE IS AND HOW GOOD LEADERS LEAD CHANGE. IT WILL ALSO DISCUSS HOW TO HANDLE CHANGE IF YOU ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT.

MAY 19 TH
FRIDAY, 9:30 AM-3 PM (9 AM SIGN IN)
LUNCH INCLUDED

CRC CREDITS WILL BE PROVIDED

KOGER CENTER
1604 SANTA ROSA ROAD, VISTA BUILDING
RICHMOND VA
(OFF OF THREE CHOPT RD AND FOREST AVE)

COST: $25 FOR NON-VRA MEMBERS AND $15 FOR MEMBERS PAY AT THE DOOR

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 11TH
REGISTER ONLINE AT MARIE.WORLEY@DRS.VIRGINIA.GOV
PLEASE NOTE ANY ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS QUESTIONS? MARIE AT 804-662-7160
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
VRA Dates to put on Your Calendar

06/23/06  VRA Board Meeting
09/18/06  VRA Board Meeting at Collaborations
12/08/06  VRA Board Meeting

THE 2006 WILLIAMSBURG CONFERENCE

Rehabilitation of the Adult and Child with Brain Injury: Practical Solutions to Real World Problems

June 8 - 9, 2006
Williamsburg Hospitality House
Hotel and Conference Center
Williamsburg, Virginia

Sponsored by:
Brain Injury Services, Inc.
National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury
VCU Traumatic Brain Injury Model System program

Empirically based, practical solutions to major problems after brain injury in three core areas will be emphasized: (1) community integration and long term needs; (2) cognitive and vocational rehabilitation and compensatory strategies; and (3) pediatric brain injury and academic reentry. Lectures, breakout sessions, and panel discussions are designed to enhance professional skills. Our faculty will include a nationally selected roster of leading rehabilitation experts. Continuing education credits will be offered for professionals in a variety of disciplines.

http://www.neuro.pmr.vcu.edu/announce/Williamsburg2006/index.html

Submitted by Karen W. Brown
Executive Director
Brain Injury Services, Inc.
8136 Old Keene Mill Road, B-102
Springfield, VA 22152
703-451-8881 (phone)
703-451-8820 (fax)
www.braininjurysvcs.org
United Way #8237

Send VRA News for the July 2006 issue by 6/20/06. 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!

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

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!
VARL Leaders Emerge!

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

Spring has ‘sprung’! Flowers, shrubs, and trees are popping out and so is VARL membership. From 14 members in 2002 when VARL re-energized, we have grown to 46-47 members as of February 2006. Recruitment of new members continues and 2-3 new members are anticipated by April’s end. REMEMBER! VARL is not for supervisors and administrators only. The only requirement for membership is an interest in growing and developing as a leader in whatever capacity you work. In fact when VARL reorganized in 2002, the previous VRA division of administrative support professionals merged with us. We truly want more rehabilitation support staff, counselors, and employment specialists to join us. Diversity in our ranks is what makes us strong!

VARL would like to recognize some VRA members whose leadership abilities have taken them places in their careers and service to persons with disabilities with the Dept. of Rehabilitative Services. Our very own VARL Board Member, John Phelps, is now Director of Field Rehabilitative Services and VRA Board Member, Dale Batten is now the Eastern Region Director. VARL member Teri Bertsch is now manager of the Alexandria field office; VARL member Marshall Smith is Lead Counselor in the Fairfax office; and VRA member Darlene Ackerman is now Lead Counselor in the Henrico office. Congratulations!! If someone in your organization has taken their leadership to new heights, please let us know. We want to recognize them in our VARL news updates.

Training plans for 2006 are ambitious and exciting. Our Northern Virginia VARL members have been meeting regularly and discussing a leadership initiative to address the successful employment of persons with autism and Asperger’s. The plans are not just for autism training but for an autism summit which will establish ongoing community teams to address the barriers and find solutions in localities and to continue to communicate in a sustained way. The Autism Summit will be scheduled in May. Look for flyers in your email.

VARL will have its general membership meeting in Richmond in June or July this year. This annual meeting is primarily focused on training with plans for the business meeting over lunch. Our Board has identified and agreed on several potential leadership training topics and speakers and the hope is to market it heavily to support staff, employment specialists, and counselors. Those speakers/topics that cannot be scheduled for this summer will become the source for a VARL sponsored concurrent session at the Collaborations Conference in September and for a late fall/early winter training.

In addition VARL has initiated planning for what now is being referred to as ‘legislator 101’ training. Interest and commitment to collaborate has been received from representatives from VRA, APSE, and vaACCSES. The plans are in the beginning stages but the goal is to have multiple locality based workshops throughout the year and all over Virginia where legislators from an area come in to speak to rehabilitation practitioners in that same area about how to address legislators most appropriately and effectively about the disability issues important to us so that they are heard.

On February 16, folks in the area of Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center got together for a VARL brown bag leadership chat. The topic was “Characteristics of the Leader as Servant” taken from The Servant Leader by James Autry. Karen Stevens reported that the discussion was lively.

There will be a leadership chat coming near you in 2006. If you have space to host a chat where people can bring their lunch, let us know! We also are interested in your ideas for topics.

NARL 2005 president, Ray Feroz, has started an innovative virtual mentoring program for interested NARL members to serve as mentors and as mentees. Some VARL members are expected to participate in both
VARL Leaders Emerge! (continued continued from page 10)
capacities. If you are interested, contact Susan Green for information.

Please join us at a VARL Board meeting. For the balance of 2006 our meetings are scheduled for May 18, July 20, October 12, and December 7.

“The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority.”
(Kenneth Blanchard)

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

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

Legislative Update
(Continued from page 2)
100 developmental disabilities (DD) waiver slots under the Medicaid program for the needs of children with autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or other illnesses ($2,595,653) and revises the Day Support Waiver to include Supported Employment (language).

With the session still in overtime it’s difficult to predict what the final version of the biennial budget will look like or even when it’ll occur. Betting on the Redskins this fall is probably easier.

Submitted by David Williams, VRA Legislative Liaison

Collaborations 2006
A Call for Papers

Collaborations In Virginia Beach Conference 2006

A CALL FOR PAPERS
For Presenters
September 17-19, 2006
Sponsored by VRA, VA-APSE, VaACCSES

Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront, Virginia Beach, VA
CRC & CEU Credits Available
Proposals are due by May 1, 2006.
Mail to Marilyn Morrison, 6295 Edsall Rd, Ste. 175, Alexandria, VA 22312 or Fax to 703-461-3906 attention:
Marilyn Morrison. You may also email to Mmorrison@ourpeoplework.org.

Questions – please contact Marilyn Morrison at 703-970-3675 or by email

OR Shirley Lyons at 804-262-6665 ext. 8803; lyo@co.henrico.va.us

Legislative Update
(Continued from page 2)
The Education Committee is busy planning events to come to your local area this year. We do hope that you come to our trainings not only as an opportunity for education but also as an opportunity to network with your colleagues.

The Richmond area will sponsor 3 training events this year. The first is the training on “Change is not a Four Letter Word” presented by Shirley Lyons, MS on Friday May 19th. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for additional information on this training.

The second training will be presented by Patti Goodall, MS on “Brain Injury and Strategies for Employment” on July 14th. The last training will be Friday Oct. 20th, and the title is “Case Study: When Religion, Politics and Ethics Collide” presented by Dr. Reid.

Jack Smith is planning on training in the Lynchburg area on “Returning to Work from the Perspective of a Mental Health Consumer” to be presented in the late summer.

Ellen Braswell is planning to replicate a training that received excellent feedback during the Transition Forum. She has coordinated a training on “Gangs in Virginia” to be presented during the Fall in Charlottesville.

Annette Pope and Jean Stevenson are planning a training for November in the Tidewater area on a topic that is disability specific.

As you can see, we are still looking for VRA member representation on the Education Committee in the NOVA area so that we can provide trainings there also.

The Education Committee is proud to present these trainings to you at low cost and as one method to obtain your CRC credits through out the year.

Lastly, please contact me if you have a particular topic that you would like to see the Education Committee coordinate. We would love to hear from our members!

See you at the Spring training in Richmond, May 19th!

Submitted by Education Chair, Marie D. Worley
Notes from the VRA Retreat on January 20, 2006 regarding the future of VRCA

VRCA: VRCA board meeting was 1/19/06. NRCA has pulled out of NRA and will have it’s own organization. NRA has established a new counselor division (NRA-NRCA). There was extensive discussion regarding the question about what VRCA will do. A transition year is expected for VRCA to develop a position. VRCA is a division (by it’s by-laws) of VRA, which is a division of NRA, therefore VRCA is currently a division of NRA. Only members who join NRA can be members of VRCA, if VRCA is remaining a division of VRA. Discussed the 2 counseling associations at length (NRCA vs. NRA-NRCA). By-laws will need revision regarding NRA’s new counseling division and NRCA. If everyone on current VRCA board joins VRA/NRA, nothing changes; however, if current VRCA members choose not to continue with VRA, it could have significant impact on our membership. 25% of VRA members are VRCA, therefore we are concerned about the possibility of losing members. Robin Metcalf asked for guidance from the national level and she shared information received from Wisconsin’s (WRCA) chapter which is telling their members that they will be part of the new division. The VRA Board agrees that the President, Past President and President Elect need to reach out to VRCA and welcome them to remain part of our organization and maintain NRA and VRA membership. If VRCA stays with NRA-NRCA, we will welcome them to continue affiliation with VRA/NRA, and if VRCA moves to the non-NRA NRCA, a name change is needed. The President and Past President will draft a letter to VRCA board and members – to remain part of VRA, pay NRA dues and stay with VRA. Margaret Gillispie will follow-up with Billy Smelser, VRCA President, regarding commitment to VRCA remaining active at the board meeting on 4/6/06.

Collaborations 2006—Virginia Beach—An Invitation to You

Mark your calendars for September 17 thru 19 in Virginia Beach at the Ramada Resort Hotel to celebrate the Collaborations Conference TENTH Anniversary conference.

It is amazing to think how far we have come. This year will include some special events/giveaways in honor of the 10th Anniversary. We hope you can all join us.

Many VRA members have stepped up to the plate once again to assist in the planning by serving on one of the committees. They include: Mark Fletcher, Robin Metcalf, Alison Mundy, Marie Gibson, Naomi Aitken, Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, Bonnie Hawley. If I missed anyone, please accept my apologies. WE NEED YOUR HELP with business development. Last year, thanks to a tremendous effort by the entire committee, superbly led by VRA members Mark Fletcher and Elena Boyer, we raised enough money to exceed past payouts by over $1000 per association. Since this is the primary fundraiser (along with the golf tournament) for VRA, our treasury was extremely grateful. Please contact Mark Fletcher at Mark.Fletcher@drs.virginia.gov to volunteer to make some follow up phone calls and get exhibitors and sponsors. Talk to the vendors you use in your work and ask them if they might want to sponsor or exhibit so that they reach over 270 rehabilitation professionals from all over the commonwealth.

The CALL FOR PROPOSALS is out. The deadline for submission is MAY 1, 2006. Please find the call on the www.vra.org.

Finally, submit nominations for Awards to the Awards committee. These are the highlight of the conference and with the new expedient way of presentation, the ceremony truly is a celebration of the dedication and contributions of the winners. Keep your eyes open for registration information and we will SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER AT THE BEACH.

Submitted by Shirley Lyons, Collaborations Chairperson
PRESIDENT: Margaret Gillispie
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Alison Mundy
PAST PRESIDENT: Robin Metcalf
TREASURER: Sherman Gifford
SECRETARY: Ellen Braswell
BOARD MEMBERS: Dale Batten
               Donna Grumiaux
               Mark Hawkins
               Marie Worley
               Jack Smith
               Philip Cooke
               Judy Howlett
               Cheryl McDonnell
               Marie Gibson
VRCA PRESIDENT: Billy Smelser
VARL
NewsNotes EDITOR: Steven Sommer

Please submit NewsNotes articles to the editor by Email at:
Steve.Sommer@drs.virginia.gov

Or send by US Mail to:
VRA NewsNotes c/o Steven Sommer,
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Richmond, Virginia 23230
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