



NewsNotes

A Quarterly Publication of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association
2009 Third Quarter, July-Sept. No. 35

Presidential Pondering by Jane Bennett

I hope this finds everyone well and enjoying this great summer by taking some time to enjoy the warmer weather, getting some rest and relaxation and perhaps taking some much deserving time off to vacation at a place that helps you rejuvenate. It's been somewhat of a tough year for those of us in rehabilitation in regards to the economy and funding issues with our respective places of employment, so taking time for you is essential.

VRA and its divisions continue to be busy planning training opportunities, fund raisers, and other similar opportunities for its members. Recently, the VRA Ways and Means committee conducted a couple of fund raisers through Yard Sales in different locations around the state. The first one was on May 30 in the Richmond area. It was a HUGE success having raised over \$500 for VRA. The second sale was in the Charlottesville area on June 27 and was equally successful with a total raised of \$400. We are all set for our largest fund raiser – the annual VRA Golf Tournament which is set for Tuesday, September 15th at Hunting Hawk Golf Club in Glen Allen, VA. This is always a fun day and raises a considerable amount for VRA which allows us as an association to continue to provide our members with excellent services. So pull together your foursome and consider joining us for the great day of fun! On 7/17 we had Autism Training in Richmond.

Some of the upcoming trainings include:

7-21 VARL Training: **ALL ABOARD!!** – Amy Armstrong – professor at VCU will be presenting - In this workshop, we will explore how you can get on board to take a new route and/or continue your journey to be the best you possibly can be. You will learn about leadership, teamwork, roadblocks such as stress, self perception and change, and

develop a roadmap for yourself

Prince William Community Services Board
Ferlazzo Building, Leesylvania Room
15941 Donald Curtis Dr. Ste. 200
Woodbridge, VA 22191

10-4 & 5 – Collaborations Conference in Virginia Beach, VA – this is our annual conference that is filled with varying training opportunities. Location of the conference is at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront: Flyer about the conference can be found at this link:
<http://www.vra.org/ngw/articles/2009-collaborations-registration.htm>

10-29 VARL Training: "What Were You Thinking?" Sabrina Harmon, (NISH) Richmond, VA

VRA board continues to meet on a quarterly basis and the next meetings are scheduled for:

October 4 (at Collaborations Conference) and December 11, 2009.

VRA is always looking to provide more services for its members, so if you have ideas on what you as a member would like to see from VRA, please email me with your suggestions:
Jane.Bennett@drs.virginia.gov

Remember to check the VRA website often for updates on training opportunities, legislative news and other activities within VRA and its divisions. www.vra.org

Yours in Rehabilitation,

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

NRA Moment

I hope that this message finds everyone enjoying this summer weather...

Like so many other Associations, the National Rehabilitation Association is "going green".... You will be receiving your next edition of the Contemporary Rehab electronically. In your most recent issue, you will see more information on this and an opportunity to update your contact and most importantly, your electronic/email information. If you are not receiving regular information from the National Rehabilitation Association, training updates, The Washington Wire, information about Conferences, chances are that the NRA office may not have your most recent email. Please take a moment to let the NRA office know if you are not receiving information and to make sure that they have your correct email and mailing address. As the NRA moves to a more electronic format, this will become increasingly important so you can continue to receive the Contemporary Rehab and other electronic correspondence from the National office. Recently, the VRA sent out a notice encouraging this update.

Our Legislative Director, Patricia Leahy has been very busy recently... she is on Capitol Hill gathering up to the minute information concerning legislative issues that impact Rehabilitation services... from health care reform to WIA to coordinating our most recent teleseminar with Dr. Connie Garner, Sen. Kennedy's Chief Aide on Disability related issues. She is not only busy keeping NRA members informed but also a respected representative for the concerns of the rehabilitation community with her personal appearances with committee members and legislative aides. Your membership helps to support her efforts that in turn continue to create vocational opportunities for people with disabilities.

I encourage you to attend the upcoming National Rehabilitation Association conference in Louisville, Ky. There will be opportunities to network with rehabilitation professionals from across the nation. The program committee has received over 60 responses to their Call for Presentations and is busy behind the scenes selecting sessions that will be the best and brightest of our profession today. So join us in Louisville Sept. 10-13th... for professional development and lots of fun... a trip to Louisville is not complete without a tour of the Slugger Factory... this and more awaits you in Louisville! See you there! Check it out at <http://www.nationalrehab.org/>

Thank you for your membership in the National Rehabilitation Association....and have a GREAT summer!

Submitted by Bonnie Hawley

VRA Benjy Burnett Golf Tournament

The VRA Benjy Burnett Golf tournament will be on Tuesday Sept 15th , 2009, at Hunting Hawk Golf Course? It will be the Captain's Choice Format and people can register by going to VRA web site. It will be \$75.00 per person which includes golf, cart, lunch and prizes.

Submitted by Howard Green



VRA Yard Sale

VRA Yard Sale - A Big Success!!

I want to thank everyone who donated items for the Va. Rehabilitation Association yard sale, those who were able to volunteer at the sale itself, and to the "big spenders" who came out to buy!! We got tons of items, it was a beautiful Saturday morning, a great location (thanks to Resources for Independent Living) and lots and lots of activity. VRA was mentioned on the radio (Lite '98) and Channel 12 as part of their public service work!! That was pretty cool.

I think we've taken in about \$500 and people who came to the sale were thrilled with their new treasures. Just about everything was sold and that which wasn't was given to Goodwill.

All in all, a BIG SUCCESS!!

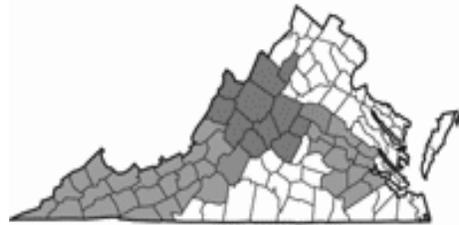
Special thanks to Dale Batten, Jennifer McDonough, Eleanor Williams, Mary Kaye Johnston, Steve Sommer, and Karen Akers (hope I didn't leave anyone out) for their invaluable assistance. Lots of tables were moved and lots of stuff loaded and unloaded.

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Al Dickerson Honored with Award for Excellence

Former Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services and Past President of the Virginia Counseling Association, **Al Dickerson**, has received the **Jean C. Harris Award for Excellence** for his service as president of the board of Ashland Christian Emergency Services (ACES). This award is the top annual award given by Hanover Community Services. Al Dickerson is at the helm of ACES, which provides food, household goods, transient aid, medical equipment loans, and emergency financial assistance for necessities such as electricity, medications, rent, and utilities. "Al Dickerson embodies the mission of Hanover Community Services by providing the community with a variety of goods and services within a volunteer setting," said Tim Slaven, executive director of Hanover Community Services. "His warmth, concern and compassion are evident to everyone who has the privilege of making his acquaintance. The spirit of the Jean C. Harris Award for Excellence reflects his years of selfless service and the character of a true servant of the people." The award was presented at a ceremony on May 12, 2009, at the Henry Clay Inn in Ashland, Virginia.

The late Jean c. Harris served 20 years on the Hanover CSB and was one of the community's greatest advocates for people with disabilities. The award named for her is presented annually to individuals who exemplify the many contributions that Harris made to the mission, purpose, and achievements of the CSB.

Submitted by Mary Kaye Johnston

DRS Honors Five with Roy J. Ward SRC Employee Leadership Award for Outstanding Service

On Monday, May 11th, the Department of Rehabilitative Services' (DRS) State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) presented the 2009 Roy J. Ward SRC Employee Leadership Recognition Awards to five DRS employees for their outstanding service and contribution to the field of vocational rehabilitation (VR) and the disability community. The ceremony was held in Richmond at the Central Office.

"This year's group of awardees demonstrated a level of leadership and dedication to service that is worthy of recognition," said DRS Commissioner, Jim Rothrock. "The breadth of knowledge, experience, and vision that these individuals possess has truly benefited our agency and beyond."

The SRC Employee Leadership Recognition Award honors select VR staff who have distinguished themselves not only by the quality of service they provide to VR clients, but by their contributions at the national, state, or local level to advance the employment and independence of people with disabilities. Each of the recipients actively serves on boards and organizations. They provide expertise and leadership in community or agency-based initiatives that enhance the delivery of VR services and develop future leaders of VR.

The award is named after Roy J. Ward, a long-time leader in the disability community, former member of the SRC and former chair of the DRS Board.

George Drummond, Field Rehabilitation Manager, Fishersville/Harrisonburg Field Offices -- Mr. Drummond has been a DRS employee for 40 years. Aside from managing two field offices, he

DRS Honors Five for Outstanding Service (continued on page 5)



DRS Honors Five with Roy J. Ward Leadership Award for Outstanding Service (Continued from page 4)

serves as the co-founder and facilitator for the Planning District-6 Equipment Reutilization Network in conjunction with Virginia Assistive Technology Network, as well as co-founder of the Blue Ridge/Southwest Virginia Ethics Committee. He served as president of the Shenandoah Valley Business Incubator and Tech Center's board of directors. He has been a member of the Shenandoah Valley Transition Council and Crossroads Brain Injury Services Screening Committee, where he was instrumental in helping to develop a vendorship for life skills training for customers with brain injury.

Bonnie Hawley, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Manassas Office

For the past 16 years, Ms. Hawley has been active on the local, state and national level supporting individuals with disabilities. She serves on the board of directors for the local Center for Independent Living and the ARC of Greater Prince William County. ***She has been a long-time member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA), served as president in 2002,*** and received the A. Ray Dawson Humanitarian Award from VRA in 2006. Ms. Hawley is currently the president-elect of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), past-president of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the NRA, and also serves on the National Association for Rehabilitation Leadership's board of directors. Additionally, she worked with the Prince William County Emergency Preparedness Committee to develop emergency bags with information for people with disabilities to develop an emergency preparedness plan.

Nancy Worley Martin, Lead Rehabilitation Counselor, Danville Office -- Ms. Martin has been with DRS since 1971. She is a member of the Danville Area Council of Community Services, where she previously served as a board member and chairperson. She currently serves on the Danville Speech and Hearing Center and the Danville City Schools Adult and Career Education Program Advisory Councils, as well as the Regional Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Council, and the Virginia Employment Commission's Employment Advisory Council. Ms. Martin has also been instrumental in developing the Teen GED Pathway Program, a collaboration between DRS and Danville City Schools that has helped hundreds of youth with disabilities to receive their GEDs and go to work.

Amy Miller, Lead Rehabilitation Counselor, DRS Chesterfield Office -- Ms. Miller was employed at DRS in 1994 and became the first lead counselor in 2001. She is a member of the Greater Richmond Inter-agency Transition Council. She has served on the Policy Advisory Group, served as a coach for the Skills for Leadership Team (a commitment of nine months to train/coach aspiring new VR leaders), and served for 10 years as the DRS liaison to the Chesterfield Disability Services Board to develop and provide orientation training for new members. ***In 2008, Amy served as president of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA).***

Sharon Russo, Physical Therapy Director, WWRC -- Ms. Russo has served as the physical therapy director for 14 years and is recognized as an exceptional leader and visionary at WWRC. In 2005, Ms. Russo took on a leadership role with the WWRC Integrated Case Management Team. She served on the State Board for the National Initiative for Healthy Virginians, and has been involved in several activities since its inception. One of her crowning achievements is the development and implementation of a master plan for the universally accessible fitness trail at WWRC. The trail received a Better Model for Development Award from the Valley Conservation Council.

Submitted by Aileen Colorado



VARL

LEADERS HP HUJH \$

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 involved in another exciting and fruitful year. We function to serve the leaders of vocational rehabilitation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. You are missing out by not attending our meetings.

Since Terrie Glass has always received positive evaluations, VARL once again hosted Terri on June 8, 2009 to speak about "How to Increase Optimism and Increase Success". Those in attendance once again indicated that the subject and Ms. Glass were very well received. This is a very timely subject considering the conditions of the day.

We are now looking forward to the next training on July 21st. Amy Armstrong is another speaker who has always been well received. Amy will be presenting a training sponsored by VARL in Prince William County (is there a venue?) when she will speak about developing and continuing your personal journey. The training is titled "All Aboard". You will learn about the potential that each of us has to make life a fun and satisfying ride.

There will be an exciting announcement coming out soon regarding our October training. Watch for more information.

In an effort to make it convenient for you to attend our meetings we will continue to make it a point to have our meetings available on a VTC facility near you. We have recently hosted meetings in Charlottesville and Manassas. Our next meeting will be in Portsmouth on August 13, 2009. At each meeting we have a short planned presentation covering an aspect of leadership. We always have fun while planning meaningful training opportunities for the development of leadership for vocational rehabilitation professionals.

It is time to be nominating those developing special professionals in the vocational rehabilitation field who deserve special recognition as an Emerging Leader. We would like to know who you think should be nominated to receive the 2nd Annual Emerging Leader Award. The person who is nominated does not need to be a VARL member. However he/she should be engaged in noteworthy activities that demonstrate he/she deserves this award. The award will be presented at Collaborations and will entitle the award winner to a VARL membership for a year.

The Virginia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership promotes the development of emerging leaders within all individuals working to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. VARL strives to develop, improve, and strengthen leadership skills and practices in both public and private rehabilitation organizations.

Would you like to host a leadership Lunchtime Chat in your area? This is an easy and convenient way to communicate with other leaders in your area. It is motivating to have the opportunity dis-

VARL Leaders Emerge! (continued on page 7)



VARL Leaders Emerge

(Continued from page 6)

cuss leadership ideas in such an accessible venue. Someone from VARL will come to your location, provide the materials and facilitate the discussion. We just ask you to schedule the office and help us publicize the lunchtime chat.

We all have a responsibility to provide a positive leadership example. It is incumbent upon us all to be the positive example in the office. Our smile and attitude are catchy. So let's all spread the optimism around and share it with our colleagues. We can and should be positive role models. Our customers will also catch our smile and the excitement in our voices. And who knows? It could make the world a better place. Encouraging 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.

Yours in leadership,

**Jack Smith, VARL President,
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 Shawn Zimmerman

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO

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CONFERENCE**

October 4-5, 2009

at

the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront

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VRA**

Programs to Include:

Ethics

Autism Spectrum

SSI/SSDI & Medicaid Works

The Assistive Technology Resource Center

Gala Awards Cocktail Reception

Box Lunch General Session & More!!

**Watch your Mail box in July 2009 for the full
schedule but it is not too early to register now!!
Please pass this announcement onto any lists that
you might have access to.**

For more information contact:

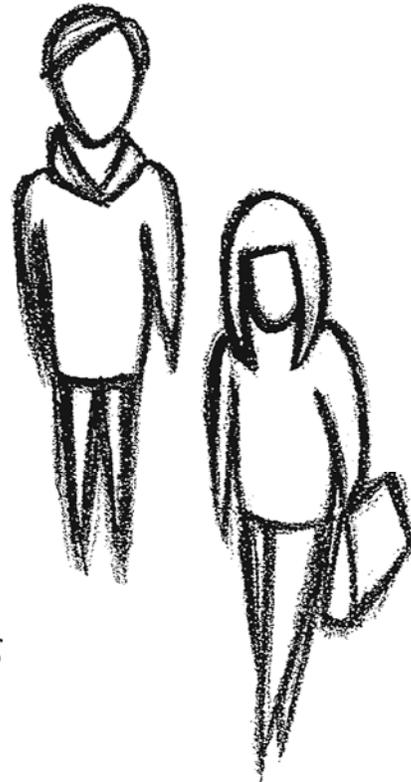
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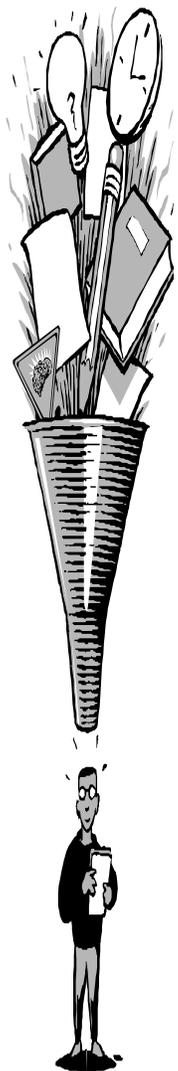
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Education Committee



I am happy to report that we have planned trainings in progress!

Upcoming trainings include:

- o Autism Spectrum Disorder Training is being planned in Richmond for September 21, 2009

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Education committee with creating VRA's successful training events! As always, if you may know of anyone that may be able to present for a VRA training please let Samantha Ruppert know (855-4114) so we can start planning! J

Previous 2008 trainings included:

- ü Dealing with Difficult People- Robert Froehlich- March 27, 2009
- ü The Latest and Greatest in Assistive Technology April 20, 2009

The Education Committee is in the planning stage for the autism training that is coming up this fall at the Vista training room across the street from DRS Central office. If you all have any questions, please contact me at ruppert_samantha@yahoo.com.

**Submitted by
Samantha Ruppert**



Send VRA News for the October 2009 issue by **10/1/09**. Please send all the VRA articles by email to Steven Sommer at steve.sommer@drs.virginia.gov. Also read the NewsNotes at www.vra.org

Run An Ad in the VRA NEWNOTES

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- Full Page**
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The VRA NewsNotes are now available in .txt format upon request. They will also be posted on the website at www.vra.org in this alternative format. As an accommodation, it can be sent directly to your email address upon request. Submit requests to



Call for the 2009 VRA Award Nominations

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE! The clock is ticking and time is running out to nominate your colleagues, businesses, and successful customers for their award winning EXCELLENCE! The Awards Committee has been and will continue to accept nominations through August 24, 2009. The award categories, descriptions of each, and nomination form are located within your NewsNotes, and are also available on the VRA website (www.vra.org). Don't put it off, take the time right now and nominate someone you feel is deserving of an award. Nominations can be submitted by email/mail to:

Eleanor Williams
c/o DRS - CBS Division
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229
Phone: 804-662-7075
Email: Eleanor.williams@drs.virginia.gov

VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Name of Award _____

Name of 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.

Name of Nominator _____

Nominator's Address _____

Telephone Number (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Nominations and supporting documents must be received by:

Eleanor Williams, @ DRS-CBS Division, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23229 or eleanor.williams@drs.virginia.gov

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS AUGUST 24, 2009



Descriptions For The Nominations for the 2009 VRA Awards

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 result in the employment of persons with disabilities. Eligible for this award may be organizations or industrial leaders that have made a contribution to the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities 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 impact rehabilitation 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.

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, 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 people with disabilities 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. This award is given 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 rehabilitation professionals. 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.

Virginia Rehabilitation Association
PO Box 71864
Richmond, VA 23229-9998
<http://www.vra.org>

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