



NewsNotes

A quarterly Publication of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association
2012 First Quarter, January-March, No. 45

Presidential Pondering by Ned Campbell



You might have observed that I sometimes wear a pin or two. The VRA pin is usually present along with one that commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Virginians with Disabilities Act (VDA). I was honored to be able to participate in the celebration in 2005 and meet the many influential leaders who were instrumental in shepherding this landmark legislation through the General Assembly after years of struggle. Signed by Governor Robb in 1985, the VDA subsequently became the model for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) five years later. Extraordinary. This pin should say, "We're number one!"



What is most significant is not just that the VDA pre-dated the ADA by five years. That is cool enough by itself. What was most inspirational to me is that the VDA represents an unprecedented collaboration among many diverse groups

that came together for a common purpose. Listening to their stories it was apparent that their efforts to

improve equality and inclusion of all citizens with disabilities was successful due to conscious decisions of more than sixty professional and citizen groups to work together to express an effective, bi-partisan front and a strong, unified voice. They drew out a roadmap that would later pave the way for eventual success with the ADA.

Twenty years is just the blink of an eye when you really think about it. During that time, it has been a tremendous accomplishment to define and defend the Act. It has also been a struggle to grow the professional foundations that insure the future against forces that would push the effort back. We continue to need a spirit of professionalism and collaboration to find pathways to advocate for and serve our diverse client populations.

The VRA continues to be recognized by the National Rehabilitation Association because of the support of the many individuals that have dedicated time and talent to education, advocacy and leadership. Thanks to everyone that rotated off the Board this year. You served the VRA membership well. Thanks also to everyone volunteering this year to serve on the VRA, VARL and VRCEA boards and committees. We start the year with a full slate of board members and officers, a good mix of young and old, experienced and willing to experience, a mix of geography, management background and service sectors. We will need all of those characteristics to provide well-rounded perspective to meet the challenges ahead. It is an honor to serve with you.

The commitment to the membership of the VRA is to advance our nationally recognized programs for professional development and to support our historically strong cross-organizational, bi-partisan advocacy efforts. Our members are the key to this commitment. It is up to you to engage in the many



educational programs for CRC credit, to participate in board and committee activities, tell your stories, wear your “pins,” so to speak, and invite conversation. While you are at it, have some fun, play some golf, go to a fish fry and other member events, and throw a beanbag to two. Who knows, if you participate and you are lucky, you might even win a fifty-fifty. See you on the path.

--Submitted by Ned Campbell

Past Presidential Ponderings by Jennifer McDonough

Wow! What a year it has been! Thank you so much for allowing me to work with VRA. It has been an honor and a pleasure. We have an amazing board and membership and all are so dedicated to the work they do for individuals with disabilities. Let me take a moment to thank the 2011 VRA Board for all of their hard work over the last 12 months. I know the past year brought us several challenges but you all met each one with an open mind and worked hard to tackle it and move forward. Thank you to everyone who helped me through my Presidency. I know I called some of you many times and asked for help on one thing or another and each of you gladly shared your knowledge. Thank you!

I want to wish Ned Campbell a wonderful year ahead! I know that Ned will lead VRA with pride and determination. As Past-President, I will serve on the steering committee for the 2012 Collaborations Committee and I know we will have another great time at the beach this year.

Thanks again to everyone. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you this year!

--Submitted by Jennifer McDonough

VRA News

VRA Dues Increase

As many of you know by now, the VRA dues have increased for 2012. These dues will apply in 2012 as memberships are initiated or as they come up for renewal. The new 2012 dues are:

Professional Member:	\$150/year
Student Member:	\$48/year
New Professional:	\$108/year
Affiliate Member:	\$108/year
Organizational Member:	\$700/year

Additionally, the Transition Specialties Division is increasing its dues to \$40/year. The other Divisions' dues remain unchanged.

Members who have dues drafted from a bank account monthly do not need to take any action, as the new amounts will be automatically withdrawn starting in January.

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2012 Collaborations Conference – Save the Date!

Please save the date for the 2012 Collaborations Conference which will be held on Sunday, September 30th – Tuesday, October 2nd, 2012 at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel!

Volunteers are currently needed for several planning committees. Please contact Naomi Aitken (Naomi.Aitken@drs.virginia.gov) to volunteer.

VRA Awards Nominations

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. GET BUSY, LOOK AROUND, AND COMPLETE A NOMINATION PACKAGE FOR THAT DESERVING SOMEONE! The year is 2012 and it is never too early to nominate your colleagues, businesses, and successful customers for their award winning EXCELLENCE!

The Awards Committee will be accepting nominations from January 1, 2012 through August 3, 2012. Award descriptions as well as the nomination form (page 5) are included here. 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
Fax: 804-662-7663
Email: Eleanor.williams@drs.virginia.gov

VRA AWARD 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 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.

--Submitted by Eleanor Williams

Benji Burnett Annual Golf Tournament Update

Dust off your clubs and mark your calendar. The 2012 VRA golf tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11th at the Hunting Hawk Golf Course in Glen Allen. It is important that we start planning early and we need each of you to get involved. I am pleased to announce that we now have three committees assisting us with the tournament. However, they need committee members. Please contact the following to offer your assistance:

Hole Sponsors – Beth Groff (beth.groff@drs.virginia.gov) and Ned Campbell (ned.campbell@drs.virginia.gov)

Golf Teams – Liz Smith (elizabeth.smith@drs.virginia.gov)

Prizes and Food – Eleanor Williams (eleanor.williams@drs.virginia.gov)

Thanks so much for your help. We have a goal of raising \$7,000 for the tournament (after expenses), so we need your help! Sign up now!

--Submitted by Howard Green



**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 3, 2012



VRA Division and Committee News

Communication/Membership Committee Update

For 2012, the committee will attempt to solicit new members to assist with the various duties of the joint communications/membership committee. Duties include the following:

- Sending new member letters and certificates;
- Contacting lapsed members;
- Updating website;
- Joining Kristina Blough in current NewsNotes activities;
- Keeping the social network going and improving.

Current members of the Communications & Membership Committee include Andrew Stowe, Mary Kaye Johnston, Kristina Blough and Kim Shepard. The committee is quite pleased with our new webmaster, Mike Cody.

Congratulations and please welcome the newest members of VRA!

Linda Barajas
Angela Edmonds
Rick Sizemore
Keri Walker

Goals for 2012 include:

- Maintain current membership through consistent outreach and communication to new, current, and lapsed members;
- Have a recruitment drive for new members.
- Increase advertising for *NewsNotes*.
- Delegate committee tasks to new members to engage them in the VRA process.

--Submitted by Andrew Stowe

Legislative Liaison & Committee Report

After being in session for 8 days, over two thousand bills have been filed in the General Assembly. Friday, January 20th, was the last day for legislators to file bills and by Thursday, January 19th, the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees had also posted legislators' budget amendments. More on that below.

Bills and resolutions

The VRA bill list contains bill items relevant to our interests. We are following:

- Del Brenda Pogge has introduced HB 382, the assistive technology devices bill that would permit a school division to transfer assistive technology devices purchased by the division for a child with a disability. The transfers could be made to a different school division to which the child transfers, to a child with a disability or the parents of a child with a disability, or to a state agency that provides services to a child with a disability upon the child's graduation or aging out of the school division's special education program. **VRA is supporting this bill.**
 - Del. Joe Morrissey and Senator Emmett Hanger have introduced identical Employment First resolutions, HJ 23 and SJ 127. These resolutions would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to encourage, adopt, and implement Employment First practices for Virginians with disabilities. **We are supporting these resolutions.**
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- At last count nine tax exemption/credit bills for the elderly and disabled were filed. While we take no position on these, if enacted, each would reduce the amount of local funds available to carry out core functions of the local governments. **VRA is monitoring these bills.**
- At least four bills have been filed that would create a housing trust fund authority administer the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. This fund would increase the capacity of community housing organizations and encourage private sector businesses and individuals to contribute capital to community-based housing organizations. The goal is to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to Virginia citizens. **We are monitoring these bills.**
- On behalf of the Disability Commission, Del. Bobby Orrock, the commission chair, introduced HB 79 to establish commission work groups. **We support this bill.**

The Governor’s government reform commission recommended the consolidation of DRS, VDA, Adult Protective Services of DSS, and DDHH into one agency. In order to accomplish this, two resolutions were introduced, HJ 49 and SJ 66. The purpose of these resolutions was to obtain consent of the General Assembly to move forward on the reorganization plan. HJ 49 was voted out unanimously by the House Rules Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee passed SJ 66 with amendments stripping some of the portions of the reorganization plan. The next step is for each house to approve the resolutions and to compromise on the differing resolution formats. Once that approval is obtained, the Governor will ask for bills to be introduced that will put into law the reorganization plan, should the bills be passed. With a majority in both houses, the plan will most likely be implemented.

Budget amendments

VRA supports the Governor’s introduced budget that allocates \$3.4M for voc rehab. These funds form the 20% state match to draw a federal match of 80% for voc rehab services. We believe that these funds will help secure services of 3,842 Virginians who are on the wait list. Our partner organizations have sought budget amendments, and we support them all. Consult the table below for a listing of these amendments.

Service area	Funding FY 12-13/FY 13-14	House Item # and patron	Senate Item # and patron
Restore personal assistance services (recommendation of Disability Comm)	\$150K/\$150K	330 #1 h (Orrock)	
Increase community rehabilitation case management services (Recommendation of the Disability Comm)	\$800K/\$800K	330 #2h (Orrock)	
To increase services for brain injury (recommendation of the Disability Comm.)	\$6.5M/\$6.5M	330 #3h (Orrock)	330 #5s (Orrock)
Restore funding for LTESS and ESS	\$1.5M/\$1.8M	330 #4h (McClellan)	330 #3s (Hanger, Deeds, McEachin)
Restore funding to CILs	\$395K/\$395K \$307K/\$307K	330 #5h (Brink)	330 #2s (Hanger and Howell) 330 #8s (Howell)
Increase funding for Consumer Services Fund (recommendation of the Disability Comm)	\$75K/\$75K	330 #6h (Hope)	330 #1s (Favola)
Increase services by Foundation for Rehabilitation and Endowment (FREE)	\$300K/#300K	330 #7h (O. Ware)	330 #7s (Edwards)



Restores funding for community-based brain injury services	\$600K/\$600K	330 #8h (O. Ware)	330 #6s (Marsh)
Fund movement therapy program for civilians and vets with brain injury	\$150K/\$150K		330 #4s (Howell)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Becky Bowers-Lanier, VRA legislative liaison, at becky@B2Lconsulting.com or 804-382-0991.

--Submitted by Becky Bowers-Lanier

VRA Foundation News

The VRA Foundation Board completed an end of the year campaign in 2011. The Board sent letters to members, community partners and interested individuals to seek contribution to the Foundation. We are pleased to report that the campaign was successful and we raised over \$1,200 in the month of December. Since July 2011, the Foundation has raised \$1,605.

Now we need your help to generate some interest and share information about how the Foundation can benefit our members. Please visit our web page and share with others: www.vra.org/www/ngw/foundation.shtml.

--Submitted by Howard Green

VRA Education Committee Update

January 19, 2012 – The Virginia Rehabilitation Association Education Committee sponsored ‘**Assistive Technology: Applications to Support Employment Outcomes for Persons with Disabilities**’. The presenters, Carrie Clawson and Suzanne Simpson, showed participants how ipod touch, ipad, and iphone technology can be an effective work tool, training tool, aid for daily living, and positive behavioral support. In addition they shared case studies and answer your questions about the technology itself, and how to use it effectively with your consumers. Fifteen participants learned how to apply this information and the available resources to their work with consumers of their services.

Save the date - On April 24th, the VRA Education committee will offer a training entitled “Intentional Optimism / Emotional Intelligence.” Susan Green will assist participants to understand these constructs and to see how they can enhance their work with consumers and their general functioning overall. The training will be offered in the DRS Central Office in Richmond. For more information, contact Susan Gaillard at susan.gaillard@drs.virginia.gov.

--Submitted by Rob Froehlich

Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (VARL)

Greetings! During our 2011 final VARL Board meeting, I humbly accepted the gavel as VARL new president. I would like to thank Teri Bertsch for her steadfast leadership throughout the year. I hope I do her justice in following her footsteps in our mission to develop, improve, and strengthen the leadership skills and practices in the rehabilitation service organizations.



I am both grateful and excited by the composition of the 2012 VARL Board. Together they embody the idea of Servant Leadership in our profession. Please join me in welcoming our 2012 VARL Board of Directors!



President – Ralph Figaro
President-Elect – Jim Hall
Past-President – Teri Bertsch
Treasurer – Eleana Boyer

Secretary – Kellie Tucker
Members-at-Large – Kem Kirby, Sharon Cheek, Doug James, Cindy Roberts, David Gitlin, Roxanne Slaughter, and Michelle Howard-Herbein

2012 VARL Board meeting dates are listed in the NewsNotes calendar at the end of the newsletter. During these meetings, a board member will facilitate the much anticipated “Leadership Board Chat.” When appropriate, we will post these chats and other leadership topics on our VARL LinkedIn page to enable VARL members and other in our field of practice to partake in our discussions, and to convey their feedback and pearls of wisdom. Please, let me know if you need an invitation to our LinkedIn page.

The VARL Board of Director agreed to sponsor four (4) training sessions this year. In addition, we will continue to deliver the brownbag training sessions around the state. The training calendar is being finalized, and you will be updated when we know all the details. Stay tuned!

Let me close by wishing everyone a prosperous new year. Judging by the ambitious agenda we set during our 2012 planning discussions, I am looking forward to an exciting year for the VARL Board. We made the commitment to approach the new year boldly and confidently with a faithful reminder of the heavy burden of our leadership responsibilities. As Robert Greenleaf reminded us, “Good leaders must first become good servants.” Let us know how we can be of service, or better yet, come serve with us!

--Submitted by Ralph Figaro

VRCEA President's Update

VRCEA is finalizing plans for Rehabilitation Counselors Day to be held on March 22nd. We are happy to announce that Dr. Amy Armstrong, Chair for VCU Dept of Rehabilitative Counseling has agreed to present on self care. VRCEA is also trying to secure an assistive technology presentation for that same afternoon to show rehabilitation professionals shortcuts to make their lives easier. Richard Kriner, DRS Autism Research Project Coordinator, presented on behalf of VRCEA in Fairfax on January 25th on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

VRCEA will conduct its first board meeting of the year on February 9th to continue to make plans for additional trainings along with a budget review.

VRCEA looks forward to a new year of growth and commitment to rehabilitation professionals and educators.

--Submitted by Sandra Mottesheard

NRA News

Announcement – 2012 NRA Annual Training Conference!

Join other members in Chicago for the National Rehabilitation Association 2012 Annual Training Conference!

When? August 24th-26th, 2012 (Pre-Conference sessions held on August 22nd)

Where? Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2333 S. Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago Illinois, 60616

Visit www.nationalrehab.org for more information. Members receive Conference discounts!



NRA Election Results

Election results are in, and here are the new faces for 2012!

David Beach, Kentucky, 2012 President-Elect



David's Statement: I have been a member of this proud organization since the dawn of my career and feel passionate about the mission embraced by its members. As President, I pledge to support the mission and continue tireless advocacy for persons with disabilities. I will work to help NRA continue its evolution to ensure relevance and value for its members, seeking services valuable to the changing membership demographic. I will also focus on fiscal issues through continued transparency, monitoring of costs, and a focus on increasing income through membership recruitment and the development of new funding opportunities.

A native of Kentucky, David has served his state chapter since 1996. He currently works as a VR Administrator in the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. He is also an Adjunct Professor for the University of Kentucky's Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling. David received his B.A. from Georgetown College in 1996 and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counselor from the University of Kentucky in 2006. He has also received a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Kentucky. David has served NRA as a NRA Leadership Representative since 2011 and as a Board Member At Large in 2009. He has previously served as a Board Member, Treasurer and President of the Kentucky Rehabilitation Association. David has also served as the Southeast Regional Representative to the NARL Board since 2008.

Lee Ann Rawlins, Tennessee, 2012 Board Member-at-Large

Lee Ann's Statement: Knowing that relationships and partnerships in the community are essential to our organization, I believe we must come together in order to be successful in the future. As a NRA Board Member at Large, I will use my experience to assist in the expansion and growth of NRA into the future. I will ensure that members are valued in the decision making process. Further, I will support our mission to provide advocacy, awareness and career advancement for professionals in the fields of rehabilitation while seeking opportunities to increase membership, and bring new professionals into this great organization.



Lee Ann has served her state chapter, The Volunteer State Rehabilitation Association (VSRA), for 11 years. She has a bachelor's degree in Human Services and a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counselor Education. Lee Ann is currently employed by the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Child and Family Studies with an emphasis on disability. Lee Ann has served as a Board Member, Secretary and President-Elect for VSRA. She has been active in the planning of the Southeast Regional National Rehabilitation Association Annual Conference since 2001. At a national level, she has served as an Editorial Board Member for the RCEA Journal, and a member of the NRA Leadership Committee as well as its Mentoring Subcommittee. Lee Ann has presented regularly at the NRA Annual Conference since 2001.



NRA Mid-Atlantic Region Report

The MAR Board was pleased to recognize and present the Administration Award to Rose M. Higby, CRS, and the Rehabilitation Professional Development Award to Ken C. Hergenrather, Ph.D., CRC on March 31, 2011 during the PRA 2011 Professional Development Institute.

Revisions to the MAR By-laws have been completed and approved by members at the NRA Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on Thursday, October 13, 2011 during their annual meeting. The revised by-laws have now been submitted to NRA for final approval.

Elections for 2012 were held and the following individuals were elected: President-Elect-Melissa James from the Maryland Chapter of NRA, Secretary-Debbie Veale from the Virginia Chapter of NRA, and

Treasurer-Michael Fiore from the Pennsylvania Chapter of NRA. The MAR President is Harriet Ann Litwin from the Delaware Chapter of NRA. As you can see there is representation from all of the active chapters in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The MAR Board is looking at ways to offer training to all members of MAR. One suggestion was to provide training through webinars. Plans are in the works to provide a webinar on Autism. As more information becomes available it will be passed along to the MAR Chapters.

The 2012 NRA Annual Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 2012.

--Submitted by Eleanor Williams

31st Annual NRA Government Affairs Summit

The National Rehabilitation Association is proud to present its 31st Annual Government Affairs Summit, which begins on Sunday, March 18th and culminates on Tuesday, March 20th, 2012 with NRA's Day on the Hill. This year's Summit will be held at the Hilton Old Town (also known as the King Street Hilton Hotel) in historic Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. The address of the King Street Hilton is 1767 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia (703-837-0440). To register for the Government Affairs Summit please visit our website at www.nationalrehab.org.

The legislative landscape is an interesting, but uncertain one as this is both a Presidential and Congressional election year, when we will elect or re-elect a President, all 435 Members in the U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the 100 Members in the Senate. But, this is also the best time to be with some of the powerbrokers on the Potomac in the most powerful city in the world -- the Nation's Capital.

The "makers and shakers" on Capitol Hill, the Executive Branch and in private practice who will present at NRA's legislative Summit are some of the best, brightest and well-informed professionals in the field of vocational rehabilitation and we are very proud to have them participate in what assuredly will be an exciting and informative Summit.

We encourage you to make your appointments with your respective Representatives and/or with their staff as soon as possible and, to ensure that you are on the schedule, to contact via e-mail, fax or phone not only the individual who is responsible to the Representative for vocational rehabilitation and job training, but also the Representatives' Scheduler (also known as the Appointments Secretary). Both contacts are extremely important to ensure that you will be on the Representatives' and staff schedule. Once your contact has been made, you should follow up within a week or so with the offices to ensure that your request has been received.

--Excerpt from NRA Wire from Patricia Leahy, Director of Government Affairs



Other News & Notes

Apply Now for the 2012 Youth Leadership Forum!

Ever heard of the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)? Students, teachers, and parents agree: it's a week of activity that is a life-changing experience for students with disabilities.

Those who are chosen to become Delegates learn about advocacy, disability history, and how to testify at the Capitol...and all costs (travel, lodging, personal care assistants, and training) are paid by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities!

Applications for Virginia students are now available online at (<http://bit.ly/yfl12>) and must be submitted by March 30, 2012 (including signed application, essay, and two letters of recommendation). This year's YLF will be

held from July 23-27, 2012, in Richmond, Virginia. Don't delay—only 25 students will be chosen to attend, and the process is competitive.

The Youth Leadership Forum educates students with disabilities about the principles of leadership, builds their self-confidence and advocacy skills, and prepares students for future career choices. Hear more from previous YLF graduates at (<http://bit.ly/wii3my>) about why you should take the time to apply today.

Watch the videos at (<http://bit.ly/z7fk7v>) and (<http://bit.ly/e4iGOX>) to learn more about why students with disabilities should apply today for the 2012 Youth Leadership Forum.

--Submitted by Barb Dodd

VA DRS and GW TACE Center

During this last reporting quarter, the GW TACE Center worked extensively with the VA DRS State Rehabilitation Council, facilitating the annual SRC Retreat (which was held in Richmond on November 14, 2011), providing new member training, and assisting in the 2011/2012 strategic planning process for the Council. Additionally, TACE Center staff provided leadership training for a cohort of emerging VA DRS leaders.

Another successful cohort of VA DRS, VA DBVI, and Virginia Employment Services Organization (ESO) staff just wrapped up their coursework and earned the ACRE (Association for Community Rehabilitation Education) National Employment Certificates, indicating they have mastered the continuum of employment related

competencies detailed by APSE. Another cohort begins the process on January 30th.

Look for the following online courses during the upcoming quarter:

- Tech Points Assistive Technology Online modules
- Med Aspects of Psychiatric Disability
- Ethics for VR Professionals
- Self Care for Rehabilitation Professionals

For more information, contact Rob Froehlich (rfro@gwu.edu) or visit www.gwcrcre.org

--Submitted by Rob Froehlich

Change of address?

Have a change of mailing address? Email address? Please keep VRA informed by updating your contact information at info@vra.org. Thank you!

--Submitted by Mary Kaye Johnston



*Providing job training and employment
to people with disabilities since 1967*

The WorkSource Order of Selection

Category 1 - Call Us!

(434) 972-1730

Chuck McElroy, President

Donna May, Rehabilitation Services Manager

Category 2 - Email Us!

info@worksourceva.org

Category 3 - Visit Us!

1311 Carlton Avenue

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Category 4 - Check Us Out!

www.worksourceva.org

All Categories Are Open!

*WorkSource is celebrating its 45th Anniversary
of Service to Virginians with Disabilities*



LinkedIn: Join with other members of VRA and VARL!

Do you have a story to share? Go to the VRA member LinkedIn discussion board. This is a secure, professional networking site devoted to issues and interests of our members. VARL also has a site for leadership topics.

VRA LinkedIn Network: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=2114298>

VARL LinkedIn Network: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=2613703>

Join the VRA Facebook Group

Network with other members of VRA by joining the VRA Facebook group! Members can discuss VRA issues and upcoming events on this social networking website:

<https://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/groups/258928867454860>

Please visit VRA.org

Please be sure to visit the VRA website at www.vra.org for important information about NRA and VRA news, updates on trainings and events, access to NewsNotes online, and photos of past VRA events!





VRA Events Calendar

Mark your calendars for these important dates for your state and national associations

Feb 14 th	VARL Board Meeting
Mar 15th	VRCEA Board Meeting
Mar 17 th - 20 th	NRA 31 st Annual Government Affairs Summit
April 17th	VARL Board Meeting
April 27 th	VRA Board Meeting, location TBD
	NewsNotes article submission deadline
May 17 th	VRCEA Board Meeting
June 12th	VARL Board Meeting
July 12 th	VRCEA Board Meeting
July 20th	VRA Board Meeting, Henrico/Richmond FRS Office, 2001 Maywill St, Richmond
	NewsNotes article submission deadline
Aug 14th	VARL Board Meeting
Aug 24 th -26 th	NRA Annual Training Conference, Chicago, IL
Sept 6th	VRCEA Board Meeting
Sept 21 st	VRA Board Meeting, DRS Central Office
Sept 30th - Oct 2nd	2012 Collaborations Conference, Virginia Beach
Oct (TBD)	Annual VRA Business Meeting, held during Collaborations Conference
Oct 19th	NewsNotes article submission deadline
Dec 6 th	VRCEA Board Meeting
Dec 7th	VRA Board Meeting, location TBD
Dec 11 th	VARL Board Meeting

Events and training programs also available on the VRA and NRA web sites.

Deadline for next issue's NewsNotes articles is April 27th, 2012.

Send to newsnotes@vra.org

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