Presidential Pondering by Ned Campbell

It is a time of year especially to reflect on what we are most thankful for, and we are certainly grateful for the many members and supporters, family, and friends that work diligently on behalf of disability rights and services. The NRA stands tall in representing the views and interests of vocational rehabilitation professionals and staff and the clients we serve. Take the pledge as a dedicated VRA member to spread the word, recruit and retain others, and participate in the training and advocacy efforts that enhance your professional development and educate policy makers that need your consultation and expertise.

Another successful conference! Thanks to everyone that worked hard to make the 2012 Collaborations Conference a huge success. The survey results and program evaluations indicate participants valued the experience and gave high marks to the presenters. We continue to be one of the best annual conferences in the country based on our participation in NRA survey groups that review these events. This cannot be achieved without the tremendous amount of work by the conference steering committee staffed by members from APSE, VaAccess, and VRA. We also cannot succeed without the continued support of our sponsors, including Didlake, Linden Resources, MVLE, DARS, Eggleston, Service Source, StandUp Inc., and Choice Group.

At Collaborations, we also celebrated the many award recipients, held a well-attended annual VRA business meeting (amazing who you can get to participate when you offer lunch), another wild corn-hole tournament following a great exhibitor reception that was serenaded by the VRA Foundation’s own “Touch of Jazz” (Bill Burnside, Mark Peterson, and Roxie Wilkerson).

We continue to be blessed with the ability to have a strong presence and bi-partisan voice in the legislative process. And we will have a lot of work to do in the coming year to keep Virginia moving ahead with essential services to citizens needing vocational rehabilitative services. Make sure to put the following dates on your calendar and let Bonnie Hawley and Becky Bowers-Lanier know that you are interested in participating.

**Legislative Day:**
Wednesday, January 23, 2013 - 10:00 - 5:00 pm

General Assembly Legislative Reception
Wednesday, January 23, 20132 - 5:30-8:00 pm
Old City Hall - Richmond

Fantastic golf tournament! Thanks to Howard Green’s hard work and skill, we had a lot of fun and raised funds to support our legislative and advocacy efforts. Following the successful program that Benjy promoted for so many years, we honored his memory by making sure we are able to underwrite advocacy efforts for 2013 through generous donations and sponsorships. It succeeded also due to the hard work of the committee members, volunteers and cheerleaders that came out on a beautiful day to watch foursomes exhibiting a wide range of skill levels make their way around Hunting Hawk.

If you can, please join us for our next VRA Board meeting on December 7 to help us celebrate and plan for an even better 2013. We cannot do it without you.

--Submitted by Ned Campbell
VRA News

VRA 2012 Elections

VRA Election Results Are In!
The results of the VRA Election were announced at the VRA Business Meeting on October 1, 2012. The following are your new officers and board members for 2013:

- President-Elect – Kim Shepard
- Secretary – Adair Jensen-Smith
- Treasurer – Eleanor Williams
- Board Members – Wendy Gradison & Patty (Roxanne) Slaughter

At the meeting, Margie Millner was nominated and unanimously voted in to replace one current vacancy on the Board.

Congratulations to all!  
--Submitted by Jennifer McDonough

Updating Your Membership Information is Easy!

Does your NRA Membership Contact information need to be changed?

Log in to the Members Only page of the NRA website found at http://www.nationalrehab.org to make name, address, phone, fax, email address changes on your own.

To log in, the default ID is your membership number and the passcode is the last four digits of your telephone number. Of course, Mary Kaye Johnston will be happy to help you with this process and she can be reached at info@vra.org.

--Submitted by Mary Kaye Johnston

2012 VRA Awards

The Norman C. Hammond 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. This year’s award goes to the Didlake Employment Services, Itouch Pilot Project Team for their work using the Itouch device in their daily lives for a period of two weeks. The nominator reported that the Itouch Pilot Project Team did more than she could have imagined in the two week and they continue to develop the use of the Itouch as a best practice with consumers. If it were not for the work of the Didlake Itouch Pilot Project Team, the technology would still be with the “academic research circle” and not being used successfully with consumers in the field. Accepting the 2012 Norman C. Hammond Award on behalf of the Didlake Employment Services, Itouch Pilot Project Team are Lisa Malone and Rebecca Pate-Johnson.

The Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence was established to recognize excellence in the field of service to persons with disabilities. The year’s award is recognizing two individuals for their contributions to the rehabilitation program, projects, and issues, and cause. The first recipient is Mr. David Leon. David has worked in the field of vocational rehabilitation for the past 16 years in many capacities. One nominator wrote he is a committed and energetic advocate for individuals with disabilities. As the Ticket to Work Coordinator for the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services he has played a very important role in expanding the availability of work incentive planning services for VR program clients receiving SSDI benefits. Another writes that because of his work with Partnership Plus...
agreements he is recognized as a national expert in the Partnership Plus model, and is a sought-after speaker at national conferences. Lastly, another writes when faced with a problem or issue Mr. Leon is willing to go the extra mile to come up with a creative solution to that problem. The accolades go on and on. Accepting the 2012 Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence was Mr. David Leon.

The second recipient of this award is Ms. Patricia “Patti” Goodall. Patti’s career is distinguished by many accomplishments in the field of brain injury. She has been an innovator, a contributor, and a writer. Since 1992 Patti has served as the Manager of the Brain Injury Coordination unit for the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Growing the program in ways that are difficult to measure, overseeing millions of dollars for services, driving the creation of brain injury clubhouses in Virginia, a state which has nearly as many as can be found in the rest of the country, playing an integral role in the implementation of the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund, and increasing the effectiveness of the Virginia Brain Injury Council are just a few of her many accomplishments and contributions to the rehabilitation program, projects, issues and cause. Accepting the 2012 Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence was Ms. Patricia “Patti” Goodall.

The R. N. Anderson Award for Leadership is given to a current member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association who has demonstrated excellence in services to persons with disabilities. This year’s award goes to Mr. Sherman Gifford. Sherman is a long time and committed member of VRA having served as a Board Member and Treasurer for six years. He holds memberships in many professional organizations and has served in one capacity or the other in all of them. Sherman joined The Choice Group in 1998 having completed twenty years in sales and marketing to the field of counseling and rehabilitation. In addition to providing direct services to clients Sherman is the vice President of The Choice Group. Throughout his career, Sherman has demonstrated leadership through his high quality of services, respect for clients, and mentoring of new staff. He has a tremendous commitment to providing excellent customer services to persons with disabilities and is always willing to learn new service models that enhance customer outcomes. He has also demonstrated a willingness to take on leadership roles in professional organizations to help create new organizations when needed to enhance professional development. For his long term commitment to leadership in the Rehabilitation field we proudly awarded the 2012 R. N. Anderson Award for Leadership to Mr. Sherman Gifford.

The Don T. Johnston President’s Award is given to a member or members selected by the President for outstanding services within the Chapter. It distinguishes a dedicated individual who provides services beyond those required by membership and prescribed offices. This year’s award goes to Ms. Kristina Blough. The VRA President writes “Several years ago when we lost our longtime NewsNotes editor we were not able to find anyone that would be able to take over the significant commitment to keep the newsletter going. It was a wonderful surprise when a new member volunteered to take the position, and she has been doing a fantastic job. Most members do not know how much the editor has to do to get the newsletters out. Some of us who tried to fill in before she took over certainly know all the work involved. For her dedication to member communications and her continued commitment to the success of VRA, I am personally proud to present the Don T. Johnston President’s Award to Kristina Blough.”

--Submitted by Eleanor Williams

Golf Tournament Update

The 13th annual VRA Benjy Burnett Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Hunting Hawk Golf Course in Glen Allen on September 11, 2012. It was a beautiful day to play golf and mingle with friends and colleagues. I would like to thank everyone who assisted in making this event successful. Thanks go to Susan Green, Ned Campbell, Beth Groff, Kristina Blough, Liz Smith, Eleanor Williams, Mary Kaye Johnston, Ericka Neville and Becky Bowers-Lanier.

This year there were 13 hole sponsors and 19 golf teams at the event. Many individuals donated items for prizes and once again several businesses donated gift certificates to the tournament. Based on initial figures, VRA will earn about $3000 from the tournament.
I would like to thank everyone and remind our members that we can raise more money if each member would be committed to get one business to sponsor a hole for the tournament. Money raised from the golf tournament is the primary fundraiser that supports the advocacy and legislative work of VRA. You can help by reaching out to someone or business that you know to obtain hole sponsorships for the September 2013 tournament. Sponsorships are $125/hole. Please start now!

Pictures from the event can be found on the VRA website.

--Submitted by Howard Green

1st Flight Winners, The Choice Group

VRA Division and Committee News

Legislative Liaison & Committee Report

With autumn comes the certainty of the Virginia General Assembly’s return to Richmond—in January. It’s right around the corner. And with the return of the General Assembly we should have a clearer picture of how federal policies and funding will have an impact on our own economic health and that of the people we serve. In the next few paragraphs I’ll describe briefly what is interrupting my sleep at night.

First, the federal landscape and the somewhat disquieting news. November 6th is Election Day, and with the results, we will know whether federal health reform through the Affordable Care Act will continue to be implemented or whether some other legislative entity will take its place. At the time of this writing, our Governor has elected to put on hold the establishment of a Virginia-run health insurance exchange and an expanded Medicaid program which is estimated to serve between 250,000 – 400,000 Virginians who currently are uninsured. Expanded Medicaid will not only serve more people but also create more jobs in health care—an economic boost that Virginia can use. Additionally, unless Congress acts, sequestration of funds for some discretionary and military spending will go into effect soon after the New Year. Sequestration has the potential impact of costing thousands of Virginians their jobs, something that no one wants to happen.

Now to the state’s budget picture. When our legislators return in January, they will be working on budget amendments to the biennial budget bill that began with the fiscal year July 1, 2012. In this last quarter, our revenue forecast was lower than expected, and we will know more about the availability of additional general funds by December. On December 17th, the Governor will lay out his budget amendments. Suffice to say that we do not want to fall victim to any reductions in the current DARS budget. Optimistically we want increased spending for our consumers. We will know more in December.

What about any legislative initiatives that we can support (or oppose)? The Disability Commission has met several times since the end of the 2012 legislative session and has deliberated on a series of potential pieces of legislation from amending zoning provisions to eliminating requirements for Certificate of Public Need for certain intermediate care facilities to increased funding for brain injury and personal assistance services. The Commission’s final list of recommendations will be determined near the beginning of the legislative session, so stay tuned for those.

What can you do?
Besides voting November 6th, you can think about a New Year’s resolution to visit with your state senator and delegate at least once this coming year. At the Collaborations Conference, I talked about story-telling as an effective advocacy tool. My guess is that your elected officials have no clue about what you do and whom you serve. And the only way they will learn is if someone spends a little bit of time describing both—your job and your consumers/clients. If you’ve never done this before, consider doing it in 2013. The General Assembly session begins January 9th and ends (hopefully) February 23, 2013. Plan on a visit. If you need help with what to say and how to do it, by all means, contact me, and I’ll help you get there.

--Submitted by Becky Bowers-Lanier

Membership Committee Update

Welcome new members! The following new members have joined VRA in 2012:

- Jessica Rouse, Winchester, VA
- Lisa Biler, Williamsburg, VA
- Rhonda Beavers-Chandler, Danville, VA
- Joetta Howard, Portsmouth, VA
- Frank Post, Chula Vista, VA
- Betsy Elwood, Glen Allen, VA
- Denise Squeira, Alexandria, VA
- Maggie McPherson, Bluffton, VA
- Sherri Reichel, South Boston, VA
- Ray Williams, Roanoke, VA
- Jeffrey Clayton, Martinsville, VA
- David Dean, Richmond, VA
- Elizabeth Scott, Fairfax, VA
- Lakeevia Sinkford, Roanoke, VA

According to recent NRA reports, there are currently 162 VRA members. This is down 18 members from last year, despite a record level of thirty-one (31) new members who joined since October 1st, 2011. It is noted that new members comprise almost 20% of the membership.

There are eight (8) members who can be identified who have 30+ years with the association. This does not include those who are Life Members as NRA stats do not show when Life Members joined. These eight individuals are: Frances DeMark, Susan and Howard Green, Doug James, Mary Kaye Johnston, Evan Jones, Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, and Helen Bolden Robertson.
VRA membership has fluctuated for the past four years from 139 members in 2008, 179 and 180 members in 2009-10 respectively, and 162 members this year (each as calculated from October of the previous year to end of September of the current year). Each of the two largest divisions, VARL and VRCEA, have also shown similar fluctuations in membership. To date, VARL has 48 members and VRCEA has 31.

VRA/DARS “Friending” Program. This has resulted in about a third of the first year members renewing beyond the first year. A special committee comprised of Ned Campbell, Mary Kaye Johnston, Andrew Stowe and others will meet to see what new ideas can be implemented to improve retaining these new members.

--Submitted by Andrew Stowe

**VRA Education Committee Update**

VRA workshop, entitled “Research to Practice: What you need to know to Support Individuals with ASD in Employment”, was offered on Friday, August 10, 2012 and provided attendees with background on Project SEARCH and best practices for supporting individuals on the Autism Spectrum in reaching their employment goals. A panel of experts to include Dr. Carol Schall from VCU-RRTC, Jennifer McDonough from VCU-RRTC and Sherrina Sewell, Unit Supervisor from DARS, shared their stories and experiences in working with individuals on the spectrum towards employment. Twenty-three participants were able to attend and the workshop netted a profit of approximately $235.00 for VRA.

--Submitted by Rob Froehlich

**VRA Foundation Update**

The VRA Foundation had a great year and was able to raise over $2,000 through the generosity of our members and friends of the Association. Lynn Kushner, a long time Foundation Board member, recently resigned from the Board. The Board is sad to lose a faithful and wonderful person on the Board; but is pleased to welcome Mark Fletcher to fill the Board vacancy.

The VRA Foundation is pleased to award this year’s scholarship award to Erica Stowe to assist with her college education at James Madison University! The VRA Foundation Board would like to encourage VRA members and their family members to apply for this wonderful benefit. The Board will explore other means of getting information to our members about the Foundation, the scholarship application and review process.

The Board’s officers for 2013 are Bonnie Hawley (President), Margaret Gillispie (Secretary) and DeeDee Batten (Treasurer).

Erica Stowe, James Madison University

2012 VRA Foundation Award Recipient

--Submitted by Howard Green
VRCEA Division Update

VRCEA Election Results

Bonnie Hawley, Treasurer
Matt Luther, Board Member Class of 2015
Lori Schultz, Board Member Class of 2014 (filling a vacant position)

Congratulations and many thanks to those VRCEA members!

There are still several positions to fill, Board member and Officers (Secretary, President Elect). Please let us know if you are willing to serve. You can contact Mary Kaye Johnston at marykaye.johnston@gmail.com

VRCEA Spirit Awards

Dr. Tony Gentry is an assistant professor in the occupational therapy department at VCU. Dr. Gentry's career has focused on neurological rehabilitation and assistive technology for people with physical disabilities. Over the past six years, he has in partnership with DARS, conducted a series of community-based research projects focused on exploring the efficacy of portable computers as cognitive aids for individuals who have autism, brain injury or multiple sclerosis. Most recently, Dr. Gentry's has partnered with VCU-RRTC and DARS on the Assistive Technology for Cognition Study (ATCS), developing and implementing evidence based research strategies to promote and evaluate the use of an iPod touch as a job coach supported PDA for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder. VRCEA is proud to recognize Dr. Gentry as the 2012 Spirit Award recipient in the Educator category.

Jessica Stehle has worked to develop and support the implementation of innovative programs and services for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and promote excellence in the practice of Rehabilitation Counseling for serving persons with ASD. Jessica has taken on a lead role in the Northern Virginia Area to coordinate and support implementation of the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Autism Speaks Grant. In this role Jessica has worked closely with DRS counselors, WWRC staff, persons with ASD, and Employment Service Organizations to ensure successful implementation of this model program for DRS clients with ASD. She consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure successful employment outcomes for DRS clients with ASD and is willing to invest the time in energy in others to promote excellence across the VR service system. VRCEA is proud to honor Jessica Stehle with the 2012 Spirit Award in the Counselor category.

--Submitted by Sandra Mottesheard
Congratulations to Chris Lavach of The Choice Group for winning the VARL 2012 Emerging Leader Award!

Every year, VARL recognizes an individual who has demonstrated leadership potential within the field of Vocational Rehabilitation. This emerging leader will have demonstrated a commitment to the advancement and development of exemplary leadership qualities through innovative thinking, leadership of others, effective participation in leadership activities and research projects leading to a positive impact on the vocational rehabilitation community.

The nomination committee was very impressed by the letters they received in support of Mr. Lavach’s nomination, and it was evident that his colleagues especially appreciated his innovative thinking, professional integrity and active participation in various worthwhile activities that promote excellence in the rehabilitation field.

--Submitted by Ralph Figaro

NRA News

Letter from NRA President

Greetings Virginia!

It’s hard to believe this year is drawing to a close. The days are getting shorter and today there were snowflakes falling outside my window.

This year has been a year with tremendous challenges, changes and opportunities. I am so grateful for your dedication and membership in Virginia. Throughout the year we have been working on immediate issues regarding membership processing and our financial posture.

I am so pleased to report, membership process is caught up! This is due to all NRA staff working together, hiring some temporary help and using volunteers like Mary Kaye Johnston. NRA has a membership contest going on now – so this is a good time to promote membership!

We have sold the NRA office in Alexandria, VA. As of November 12, 2012, the NRA office will be operating in a Virtual Platform. The new address for NRA is:

National Rehabilitation Association
PO Box 150235
Alexandria, VA 22315
To prepare for this transition the NRA offices will be closed November 5 – 9. NRA staff are optimistic that this cost effective and nimble way of work will help the association move forward and grow stronger.

In December we will pay back all agreed upon rebates from Quarters 3 & 4 of 2010, all of 2011 and the first Quarter of 2012. I appreciate your patience and sacrifice.

Finally, we have two fundraisers. Mabel’s Labels are sticky labels where NRA gets a percentage of the proceeds from any online orders. The second is our annual Count Us In campaign. Please help us spread the word on both. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or ideas. Thanks again for your membership! Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter.

--Submitted by Sara Sundeen

NRA ‘Count Us In’ Campaign

The National Rehabilitation Association needs your support for the Count Us In campaign. What is Count Us In? It is our annual fund raising campaign. Every member counts, and we hope we can count on your support for this important project.

First, I want to thank you for your participation in the National Rehabilitation Association. We value your membership and your involvement with NRA. Our association’s prominence and longevity gives our organization a vital role in shaping rehabilitation policy. Donations to the Count Us In campaign will support NRA’s important advocacy work and help NRA provide continuing education conferences and seminars.

NRA offers a wide variety of services and member benefits including: training conferences with opportunities to earn continuing education credits, access to websites on the local and national level with current rehabilitation information, regular e-mail notifications and announcements, a governmental affairs program that provides advocacy and legislative updates, publications such as the quarterly *Journal of Rehabilitation* which is internationally acclaimed and our bi-monthly publication *Contemporary Rehab* with general news and information. As you can imagine, annual membership dues alone can’t cover the necessary expense of providing all of our services and benefits, so your support for the Count Us In campaign is very important to accomplishing our goals.

Can we count on you to make your donation to support NRA? I hope so, as all of us working together will help NRA fulfill its mission! To recognize your support of this campaign, all donors will be listed on the Count Us In Honor Roll to be published in Contemporary Rehab and placed on the NRA website.

Thank you for considering an investment in the success of the National Rehabilitation Association. Please make your donation today.

--Submitted by Sara Sundeen
NOVEMBER 16, 2012

“Vocational Rehabilitation, Technology, Social Media and Ethical Considerations”
Presented by Rob Froehlich
Sponsored by the Virginia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

DSS Training Room
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229
9:00 to 12 noon
Registration beginning at 8:30
Cost: $15.00 VRA members, $20.00 non-members

Checks payable in advance, sent to:
Dale Batten, DARS, 2001 Maywell Street, Suite 202, Richmond, Va. 23230
Questions or requests for reasonable accommodations: Dale Batten (804) 588-3320
Other News & Notes

DARS Order of Selection Update

As a result of funds infused in our system on July 1, 2012, based on the support of our Governor and General Assembly, DARS was able to open one of our closed categories and invite approximately 6,500 clients on our waiting list into a service category. More than 5,000 on the waiting list contacted us and today are receiving some type of service. In fact about 300 have already become employed as a result of these services. During the most recent state fiscal year we served in excess of 30,000 Virginians with disabilities and are currently serving 18,223.

Yet we now face the same dilemma we did in March of 2011 when we closed all categories. At the current rate of authorization and anticipated expenditures, DARS would over expend our allocated case service dollars by year’s end; therefore, closure of the Most Severely Disabled category is necessary based on federal guidance. DARS will close the MSD category on November 15, 2012.

This is shared with you to alert you to this situation, and moreover to ask that you encourage your partners to continue to refer clients to our system. Many of these referrals will go onto our waiting list, but as the year progresses and funds become available, we will strategically bring them in for services. This is being done not only to preserve the impact of our funding, but to realize a steady and ongoing stream of new clients.

Thank you as always for your assistance in partnering to assist more Virginians with disabilities to enter our Commonwealth Workforce.

--Submitted by Jim Rothrock, DARS Commissioner

DARS Honors ‘Champions’ of Disability Employment

The Richmond Flying Squirrels’ vice president, Todd Parnell, discussed his team’s positive experience of hiring people with disabilities as the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services honored employers who champion disability employment awareness.

DARS Commissioner Jim Rothrock presented the agency’s Disability Employment Champions Awards to seven honorees whose outstanding business and employment practices encourage all Virginians to contribute their skills, ideas and talents to the Commonwealth’s workforce. The ceremony was held October 17th at the University of Richmond’s Jepson Alumni Center.

“Almost every week, I hear that another of our consumers has successfully joined Virginia’s workforce through one of our champions of disability employment,” Rothrock said. “Each October, we take the opportunity to thank these champions and encourage other employers to learn about the abilities of our consumers, the support and information we may be able to provide them, and the potential for our successful collaboration to realize a true ‘Commonwealth of Opportunity’ for all Virginians.”
Parnell, vice president and chief operating officer for the minor league baseball team, was the keynote speaker for the annual awards ceremony. The Flying Squirrels hired nine DARS clients for the team’s 2012 season.

The statewide 2012 Disability Employment Champions award recipients are:

- Busch Gardens, Williamsburg
- CW Resources at Fort Lee Commissary
- Carilion Clinic, Roanoke
- The Home Depot, Ashburn
- T.J. Maxx, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg and Staunton stores
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Christopher Coleman, owner of Performance pet Care Inc., Reston

In addition, Rothrock presented the agency’s Colorado Award to William Francis Vineyard, a former client now employed as deputy code official and plans examiner for the City of Charlottesville. The Colorado award honors DARS clients who have maximized their employment opportunities, independence and full inclusion into society.

--Submitted as an excerpt, DARS press release 10/20/12

**BRILC Hosts Ukrainian Delegation**

Blue Ridge Independent Living Center (BRILC) recently hosted a Ukrainian delegation during Legacy International’s Fall 2012 Community Connections program. The group has safely returned to Kyiv but they shared some of the results of their experience.

The delegation expressed overwhelming appreciation for the many new concepts learned. BRILC staff provided not only warm welcomes, but new perspectives, ideas, and program models which ensured the success of their action project planning. One of the main items they commented on included the importance of shifting the framework of thinking in Ukraine, from the medical approach (seeing disability as a disease needing a cure), to one of seeing disability as part of the spectrum of characteristics that make up an individual. Despite the fact that the delegates are professionals working in this field, it was hard for them to consistently think in this manner, let alone Ukrainian parents and the general public!

While discussing their “action projects,” it was clear that the delegates plan to draw on the extensive materials, observations, presentations and discussions that made up their program. Participants chose to design and implement individual plans as well as be part of a group project. Group projects focused on: 1) professional development for teachers, and 2) creating a network utilizing social media to educate parents and the general public, where teachers will learn how to develop blogs and use other technologies.

Individual projects include:

- Training 93 families with severely disabled children to advocate & lobby for their needs.
- Establishing “parent resource centers” for 200 families, similar to Roanoke County Public Schools’ model.
- Adapting university training courses for teachers of special education.

BRILC has hosted delegations brought to the United States by Legacy International in the past and looks forward to hosting future delegations.

--Submitted by Karen Michalski, BRILC Executive Director
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
WorkSource Enterprises
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

Nov 16th  “Vocational Rehabilitation, Technology, Social Media and Ethical Considerations” training, DSS Training Room, Richmond, VA
Dec 4th  NRA Mid-Atlantic Region Board meeting (by teleconference; 12:00pm)
Dec 6th  VRCEA Board Meeting
Dec 7th  VRA Board Meeting, location TBD
Dec 11th  VARL Board Meeting, Richmond
Jan  VRA Board Meeting – Date TBA
Jan 23rd  VRA Legislative Day & General Assembly Legislative Reception
March 17-19th  NRA Legislative Summit
March 22nd  VRCEA Rehabilitation Counselor Day, Richmond
Aug 18-20th  NRA 2013 Annual Training Conference, New York, NY
Sept  2013 Annual Benjy Burnett Golf Tournament – Date TBA
Sept 29th- 2013 Collaborations Conference, Virginia Beach, VA
Oct 1st

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

Deadline for next issue’s NewsNotes articles is January 25th, 2013.
Send to newsnotes@vra.org
Virginia Rehabilitation Association

VRA President  Ned Campbell
President-Elect  Rob Froehlich
Past President  Jennifer McDonough
Treasurer  Eleanor Williams
Secretary  Adair Jensen-Smith
Board Members  Andrew Stowe, Kim Shepard, Kelly Hickok, Naomi Aitken, Sandra Mottesheard, Debbie Veale, David Gitlin, Jean Steveson, Antoinette Smith

VRCEA President  Sandra Mottesheard
VARL President  Ralph Figaro
NewsNotes Editor  Kristina Blough

Next Deadline for NewsNotes: Jan 25th.
Please Submit NewsNotes articles to Kristina Blough by Email at:
newsnotes@vra.org

Or send by US Mail to:
VRA NewsNotes c/o Mary Kaye Johnston
4612 Kingsrow Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23060
804-965-0514

http://www.vra.org
Henrico, VA 23225
P.O. Box 7184
Virginia Rehabilitation Association

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