Presidential Pondering by Jean Steveson

Welcome to 2015! I am proud to serve as your current VRA President and look forward to a year of successful achievements and happenings! Thanks for voting for me!

We’ve had our first board meeting for the year and are starting to plan for 2015. We have scheduled the meetings for the year and I would like to invite all VRA members to attend. The meetings are scheduled as follows: March 27, June 26, September 25 and December 11. They will typically be held at the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Aging, 1610 Forest Avenue, Henrico, VA and will begin at 10:00 a.m. I truly hope you will come and be a part. Committees are being formed and your help is needed. We are currently looking for a chair person for the Membership Committee, but all committees are open to any VRA member. For those of you who don’t know me I am entering my 28th year of working in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

I have been with DARS since 1987 and have served in the capacity of VR Counselor for 18 years, Transition Coordinator for four years and Eastern Regional Director for five years. I have also worked for several CSB’s across the state as a case manager in Clubhouse programs.

I feel very passionately about our role in the betterment of the lives of people with disabilities. Everyone deserves the opportunity to be employed and to succeed. I am originally from Lynchburg, VA and now make my home in Newport News. I have a 26 year old daughter Emily, whom I love to spend time with when possible.

My goals for VRA in 2015 are to continue to grow VRA by maintaining our current membership and adding new members. To do this I think we need to provide networking opportunities where we reach out to our profession to invite folks to join us and show them what we do and that we actually have fun doing it. I also want to offer as many quality educational opportunities across the state as possible. I have been to many a great VRA sponsored educational opportunity and learned the latest cutting edge information!

I want to thank Kim Shepard for a great 2014 and hope that I can lead us in the right direction during 2015. If you are interested in getting involved please let me (jean.steveson@dars.virginia.gov or 757-647-0957) or any officer or board member know. We need you and your talent!
Meet your Board!

Lisa Biler is currently employed by the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), where she has worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in the Williamsburg Field Office since February 2012. She began her career with DARS as a student intern at the Hampton Field Office from January through May of 2011. Lisa enjoys serving a general caseload, which affords her the opportunity to work with a variety of individuals with disabilities, from younger adults who are just beginning their careers to more seasoned seniors.

In addition to her role as a VR Counselor, Lisa is also involved in the DARS Autism Speaks Pilot Project, and serves as the “Subject Matter Expert” for the Williamsburg and Hampton Field Offices. Autism Spectrum Disorders are a special interest for Lisa, and through this project, she is able to collaborate closely with a team of professionals throughout the Commonwealth to serve individuals with an ASD diagnosis. Lisa greatly enjoys working with other VR Counselors and rehabilitation specialists to plan, implement, and monitor services to help individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder maintain gainful employment and increase their independence.

Lisa earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, with a minor in substance abuse intervention, from James Madison University in 2002. She obtained her Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2011, and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Lisa has worked with adults with disabilities in a variety of settings over the past fourteen years, serving as a residential counselor, residential supervisor, and case manager for several Community Services Boards within the Commonwealth of Virginia. She was heavily involved with training staff in the area of Person Centered Planning at Colonial Behavioral Health, and enjoyed attending Virginia General Assembly sessions to advocate for additional funding for mental health services, as well.

Lisa has been an active member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA) since she began her tenure at DARS, and is honored to serve as a Board Member this year. Specifically, she will be working with the Education/Training Committee to coordinate opportunities for education and professional development across the Commonwealth. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her family and partner, Will. She looks forward to serving the VRA!
Meet your Board!

Hello VRA Members! My name is Shawn L. Zimmerman and I am a Certified Vocational Evaluator with the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Rehabilitative Services. I have been with the agency for six years as an in-house, Vocational Evaluator. Previously, I work for a non-profit company in Minnesota conducting a mixture of in-house evaluations along with community based evaluations.

I have been with the National Rehabilitation Association since 2004. During my internship with the State of Georgia, I became the membership chair for the NRA Division, VEWAA (Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Training Association). Shortly after I graduated, I also served on the NRA Board as the Representative for VEWAA for six years (two terms). During that time, I also served as the VEWAA President and assisted with the National VECAP Forum and later became the Education Chair for VECAP. I was re-elected for President in 2014 for VEWAA and have decided to add VRA to my list of boards to serve on.

I have worked tirelessly for several years to keep the fight alive for the field of vocational evaluation and hope to continue to do so, on State and National levels. When CCWAVES dissolved, several people from University of Wisconsin-Stout (where I went to school), VECAP and VEWAA formed a committee that formed the Registry of Professional Evaluators. Currently, we have over 150 Registered Professional Evaluators and hope to keep the number growing. It is important to me that we keep the field of vocational evaluation and rehabilitation counseling relevant for future graduates. I hope to serve VRA well and welcome any dialogue you may have.

I have a Master of Science Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation, with a focus in Rehabilitation Counseling and Vocational Evaluation with a Specialization in Diverse Populations. I currently hold certifications in Rehabilitation Counseling and Vocational Evaluation and am a member (board and general) of Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluator. I went to University of Wisconsin-Stout for both Bachelor and Master degrees. I conducted my internship with the State of Georgia. I lived in Minnesota for additional year prior to moving to Virginia. I actually met a VRA member who recruited me for the job, and about six weeks later, here I was.

When I’m not fighting the good fight in rehab, I ride my horse Hope, go hiking, workout at the gym with my fiancé, and spend time with friends and family. I live in Manassas, VA and love to explore all areas around me. I also travel a lot for horse shows and in general and hope to do more this summer.

--Submitted by Shawn L. Zimmerman, Certified Vocational Evaluator at DARS
Meet your Education Foundation Chairperson!

Bill joined VRA in 1966 and has been an active member ever since. He was VRA President twice and served on the board in numerous capacities. He has been President of VARL twice and also served on the VARL Board. He served on the NRA Board of Directors for three years and represented NARL on the board for three years. He was president of NARL and served on the NARL Board for several terms.

Bill’s career started in 1963 when he was employed as a school teacher in Spotsylvania High School teaching American History, Consumers Math and Typing. He was also the Junior High Basketball Coach. He joined the Virginia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1966 as a Rehabilitation Counselor, Program Supervisor in 1969 and Regional Director in 1972. He retired from that position in 2003. Since retirement he has served on the Foundation Board and is Chairperson this year. He also has developed his musical skills and has provided entertainment for four Collaboration receptions.

Bill received his Masters Degree from VCU in Rehabilitation Counseling and from Salem College in West Virginia with a degree in Business Administration. He has received the RN Anderson Award for Leadership, NARL Leadership Award and VARL Leadership Award.

Bill has always encouraged staff at the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to be involved in VRA for the excellent training opportunities and leadership development. VRA is an excellent advocate for services for people with disabilities.

--Submitted by Bill Burnside, Education Foundation Chairperson

VRA needs YOU!

VRA needs YOU to help with a variety of functions of the organization. Please give of yourself, your time and your talents in ways that are fun and pleasing for you.

There are a number of committees and other behind the scenes work making VRA an effective, efficient and viable organization.

YOU can be an important LINK to the infra-structure and continuing work to build VRA and to make a real difference!
VRA 16th Annual Golf Tournament

16th Annual
Virginia Rehabilitation Association
Benjy Burnett Memorial Golf Classic
Stonehenge Golf & Country Club

Monday, Sept 14, 2015, 8:30 A.M.
Shotgun Start – All profits are used to support the advocacy of people with disabilities

Check-in: 7:45 - 8:30 A.M.  
SHOTGUN START: 8:30 A.M.
Format: 18 Hole Captain Choice - 4 person team
Entry Fee: $75.00 per person -- includes green fees, cart, food, prizes, and beverages (beer & soft drinks)

Prizes: Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams; closest to the pin; longest drive, both men and women; and additional door prizes

Dress Code: Proper golf attire to be worn -- no jeans or cut-offs -- all shirts must have a collar.
SOFT SPIKED GOLF SHOES ONLY

Directions: For directions:
Stonehenge Golf & Country Club
1000 Farnham Drive, N. Chesterfield, VA


Mail entry form and fees, checks payable to Virginia Rehabilitation Association and send to:
Howard Green; 2641 Hillanne Drive; Midlothian, VA 23113

Information is also available on the VRA website at www.vra.org

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<th>Name</th>
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This tournament is limited to 36 teams. Call Howard Green at (804) 379-1286 home or (804) 305-3999 cell to reserve your spot. E-mail communication to: JGreen1949@verizon.net

Entry Deadline:
September 7, 2015

--Submitted by Howard Green

VRA Division and Committee News

VRA Membership News

Please join us in giving a huge welcome to all of our new members!

Sam Rothrock - Waynesboro
LaPearl Smith - Winchester
Gerald O’Neill - Richmond
Vincent Brown – Reston
Tymisha Robinson - Winchester
Tonya Virden - Midlothian

--Submitted by Mary Kaye Johnston

VRA Education Foundation Update

The VRA Foundation is off to another great start this year with our fund raising efforts. The capital campaign began in November at the Collaborations Conference and we have reached about 65% of our goal as of January 30th. The VRA Board has recently agreed to increase its support to the Foundation utilizing proceeds from the annual conference. We hope that you will also help us continue this trend by sending your contribution which ultimately assists you as members and your family members with much needed educational assistance. Donations can be sent to VRA Foundation, c/o Dale Batten, 3029 McManaway Drive, Midlothian, VA 23112

A GREAT big thanks goes to Margaret Gillispie for her leadership and years of dedicated service to the Foundation Board. She has decided to rotate off the board after serving as the chairperson last year. We are in the process of filling the vacancy created by her departure. Anyone interested in serving on the board should get in touch with me by March 1st at wburnside@verizon.net. You can also get in touch with any of the present board members who are listed below.

The board consisting of Bill Burnside - Chairperson, Mary Kaye Johnston - Vice Chairperson, Mark Fletcher - Secretary, Dale Batten - Treasurer, and board members Bonnie Henn, Howard Green and Member Emeritus, Al Dickerson, plan to meet on March 12th. Let us hear of your interest in serving.
The Foundation Educational Scholarship Applications are available on the VRA website as well as details outlining the criteria for eligibility. Please take advantage of this scholarship opportunity. VRA Members and their family members are eligible to apply for this membership benefit!

--Submitted by Bill Burnside, Education Foundation Chairperson

**Legislative Issues Committee Update**

As of this writing, we have completed our second full week of the General Assembly session with another four full weeks to go before adjournment. In the frenetic schedule that our General Assembly is keeping, approximately 2500-3000 bills have been filed and budget amendment requests have been submitted from many stakeholder groups through General Assembly members.

We have submitted two budget amendments to increase VR funding. Our budget patrons are Senator Steve Martin of Chesterfield and Dinwiddie and Delegate Ron Villanueva of Virginia Beach. Senator Martin is chair of the Senate Education and Health Committee, and Delegate Villanueva sits on the Disability Commission. We’re thankful for their sponsorship of our amendments. We’ve asked for $6.7 million, a very large amount, but it’s what DARS estimates is needed to eliminate the Order of Selection. It’s a real long shot, but in this work, if you don’t ask, you don’t get. Even if you ask, you probably won’t get, but you cannot lose your place in line (relatively speaking).

The bills listed below are those that we’re following. All of them so far are progressing through the legislative process. The chart has links to the bill language, the bill patron, and information on the committee to which each bill is assigned.

From our perspective, this is a relatively quiet session. Our bills are progressing, our budget amendments probably won’t progress, but we may see some success of our partners in getting more funding for their programs. The next step in the budget process takes place Sunday, February 8th, when the Appropriations and Finance Committees release their versions of the budget amendments. We’ll then see if there is any additional money in the budget versions for VR, LTESS, ESS, brain injury services, and other budget lines that may have an impact on our service delivery.

<table>
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<th>Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>HB 1565 - Orrock - Companion animals; authority of animal control officers.</td>
<td>(H) Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources</td>
<td>(H) Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1565H1</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>HB 1775 - Campbell - Medical malpractice proceedings; health care providers; expert testimony.</td>
<td>(H) Committee for Courts of Justice</td>
<td>(H) Read first time</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>SB 894 - Puller - Community Integration Advisory Commission; expands membership, extends sunset provision.</td>
<td>(S) Committee on Rules</td>
<td>(S) Read second time and engrossed</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
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### Education/Training Committee Update

The VRA Training Committee members for 2015 consist of Susan Gaillard, Wendy Gradison, Nora Tucker, Rob Froehlich, Lisa Biler, and Margie Millner.

The committee held their first meeting for 2015 on January 23rd, to outline plans for the year. The committee is hopeful to offer 3-4 training opportunities across the state.

Possible training topics include Autism Spectrum Disorder, Personality Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, Ethics, and Serving Persons with a Criminal History.

To highlight the year, VRA is excited that Howard Green is agreeable to lead a training, and we are looking at possibly co-hosting this training with VRCEA.

The first VRA training for the year is targeted for April 2015.

Details and registration information to come!
VARL Update

Jessica Stehle was the VARL “Emerging Leader” award recipient for 2014. The VARL Emerging Leader award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated leadership potential within the field of Vocational Rehabilitation and has been awarded annually to acknowledge emerging leadership within the field of rehabilitation in Virginia since 2008. The 2014 award was presented on Nov 17th at the Collaborations Conference in Virginia Beach.

Jessica is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) in the Fairfax field office. She works primarily with transitioning students from Fairfax County Public Schools, and has been significantly involved both locally and statewide with agency efforts to more effectively serve individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This emerging leader, Jessica Stehle, has demonstrated a commitment to the advancement and development of exemplary leadership qualities through innovative thinking, leadership of others, effective participation in leadership activities, and study leading to a positive impact on the vocational rehabilitation community.

Other News & Notes

2014 DARS Director’s Awards

We measure success in Virginia’s vocational rehabilitation program in many different ways. First and foremost, it’s about people obtaining jobs. In 2014, 4,087 DARS “job candidates” became successfully employed, nearly 1,000 more than in 2013. In addition, we saw a success rate of 62 percent, the highest in 25 years.

And while jobs are the most obvious measure of success, it is about more than people getting jobs. We measure success in how people are served through our program. I am proud to announce awards to our top DRS offices across the Commonwealth that embodied the values of “Intense Consumer Engagement” in this year’s Director’s Awards:

**Teamwork Award** – as evidenced through collaborative effort, enthusiasm, initiative and creativity as an office team to help “job candidates” become “employees”: Petersburg and Christiansburg offices

**Most Improved Award** – as demonstrated through analysis of performance data addressing: (1) time from employment plan to successful employment outcome; (2) number of successful employment outcomes; (3)
earnings; (4) time from services implemented to closure; and (5) job goal matching the plan goal. Performance outcomes were compared to those in the previous year: South Hampton Roads Office

**Timeliness Award** – as demonstrated through shortest length of time to move a consumer from being an applicant to having an employment plan implemented and therefore demonstrating a sense of urgency to consumer needs: Roanoke Office

**Quality Award** – as evidenced by highest rates for competitive employment outcomes, wages and hours worked at closure, thereby demonstrating respect for quality outcomes for consumers: Pounding Mill Office

**Engagement Award** – as demonstrated by meeting or exceeding all measured performance standards as outlined on the Commissioner’s Scorecard, including: (1) successful closures; (2) individual plans for employment written; (3) earnings; (4) competitive employment rate; and (5) success (rehabilitation) rate: Fairfax, Alexandria and Abingdon offices

Honorable mentions went to the following offices for meeting four of the five criteria for the Engagement Award – all were just slightly under the goal for wages: Franklin, Hampton/Newport News, Henrico, Martinsville, South Boston, Warsaw and Williamsburg. Pounding Mill DRS Office Staff

It is my honor to publically recognize and reward exceptional performance and quality service provision to all “DRS,” the Division of Rehabilitative Services, staff who embrace the values of teamwork, respect, a sense of urgency, client responsibility and engagement in their work. When staff focuses their contributions towards a common goal, consumers are able to increase their independence and quality of life through gainful employment. And that is our mission.

*To Left: Kathy Hayfield (Director, Division of Rehabilitative Services)*

--Submitted by Kathy Hayfield and Betsy McElfresh

**WWRC Updates**
A special thanks to all who supported the Staunton Christmas parade on December 1, 2014. Your message of disability employment was just excellent. Happy Holidays to all, especially our clients who represented us so well.

Ulises Aragon, Jr. is a WWRC ETO student who is training in HVAC at Western State Hospital (WSH). He just recently completed the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration one-night class at Valley Vocational Technical Center (VVTC). He plans to complete part two of the class beginning in January. Ulises is also enrolled in Sonseria Costa’s tutoring class and attends each day after he returns from WSH. He receives instruction in reading comprehension and work-related vocabulary which helped him pass the VVTC class.

At the end of the training, participants had the opportunity to tour Vocational Training and Medical Services. Thanks to all the PERT and Vocational Evaluation staff that made this a very successful experience.

Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition Training (PERT) -- On November 20 and 21, WWRC had teachers, special education coordinators and new DARS counselors on campus for a two-day on-site PERT training. These were new PERT Team Members in local school systems that will select future PERT students. The training heightened the participants understanding of the PERT process and provided exposure to a PERT student’s perspective on assessment. Participants sampled Vocational Evaluation Assessment areas, Independent Living Skills, and Recreation/Leisure skills assessment activities. They resided on campus overnight and had their meals in the cafeteria.
Jacinda Grady attended the WWRC Health Occupations training program from September 2013 to October 2014 with successful completion of both the Personal Care Attendant and Nurse Aide Assistant training. She passed her Nurse Aide exam and is now a certified CNA. While at the Center, Jacinda proved to be an excellent student with the ability to learn new tasks quickly and was noted to show a great deal of care and kindness to the residents she worked with during her student internship. Jacinda applied for a position with the Laurels, a Rehab and Nursing Home facility in Charlottesville and was hired as a CNA on October 27, 2014. She works 53 hours every two weeks and earns $10/hour. She continues to work whenever called in with hopes to gain a full-time position. Her DARS counselor is Laurie Cook. Emily Huffman was her counselor at WWRC.
Last week it was truly a pleasure to provide a tour of WWRC for Andros Foods and Hershey Chocolate with our Business Development Manager, Cindy Roberts, Patricia Delawder and Lesa Danner, Human Resource Director and Assistant Human Resource Director for Andros in Mt. Jackson, Virginia. Patricia Delawder relayed that Andros employs over 600 staff at its local operation. Andros produces unique, high quality fruit based foods and beverages and has positions for fork lift operators, administrative assistants, packers, warehouse workers and production techs. During the tour Ms. Delawder said that based on what she had seen of center programming she would be extremely interested in hiring WWRC graduates.

Andros is a federal contractor and is scheduled to hire 65 new employees in the next few months. Our visitors were greeted at the front door with a beautiful sign made by our students in the Art room and presented by four of our Student Ambassadors; Alex Szudera, Jake Place, Roberto Lugo and Gerald Rick. The Ambassadors engaged in conversation with our visitors and represented WWRC well. The tour included visits to Physical Therapy with a demonstration of the Physical Work Performance Evaluation by Sharon Russo, the Career Readiness Certificate Lab with information from Kristi Pelina and Kati Mullen, Vocational Evaluation with Wendy Cullen-Lawhorn, Materials Handling classroom with Steve Sweeney, Forklift training with Joey Rodriguez and the Business Information and Technology with information presented by Renee McChesney and Tracey Lisi. Our team at WWRC, staff and clients alike, did an outstanding job with this tour. Thank you for your commitment to WWRC’s vision.
Rick Sizemore, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Director, Sharon Russo, Physical Therapy Director, and Steve Sweeney, Vocational Instructor assisted Cindy Roberts, Agency Business Development Manager, in presenting at the Hire Ed Conference this week. The focus of the presentation was on the Hershey Chocolate initiative to hire people with disabilities. Information was also presented on the initiative with CVS Pharmacy and federal contracting.

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center held their winter graduation on Friday, December 12, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium. The special guests were the Waynesboro Public Schools Gifted and Talented Music Students. A total of forty-six graduated with three students already employed. Diplomas were presented to the graduates by Center Director, Rick Sizemore. Fifteen graduates received at least the Bronze Level Career Readiness Certification while in training. Morgan Bean received the prestigious Birdsall Hoover Award which recognizes individuals for leadership, commitment, participation, goal attainment, service, personal growth and academic achievement. Morgan started work in January at Modernboy Woodshop in Staunton, Virginia. Morgan said, “This is my dream job and career; thank you WWRC/DRS for all of you help and support.”
Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) hosted an Assistive Technology (AT) Training this week for nineteen DRS Counselors representing all DARS regions of the state. A series of concurrent sessions were held over two half-day periods, December 9-10, 2014, and covered the following topics: Hand-held technologies; computer technologies; alternative and augmentative communication; AT for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; adaptive driving; and, wheelchair/seating options. Mark Wright, a DRS client from Madison Heights, Virginia, was the featured speaker at the opening lunch and provided an inspirational message highlighting, and demonstrating, his use of AT as it relates to his employment and quality of life. Participant feedback will be used for continuous quality improvement of this twice annual event at WWRC.

Wendy Cullen-Lawhorne, Director of Vocational Evaluation, attended a meeting with agency staff held by CVS Pharmacy so vocational evaluators can begin job analysis on CVS positions. The meeting was informative and lays the groundwork for Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center to further its relationship with CVS through establishing vocational evaluations specific to CVS. WWRC continues to support DRS efforts to place clients directly on the job at CVS and to use the Center for evaluations and training for CVS jobs.
Katie Cadigan completed the Life Skills Transition Program in 2013. Katie trained under Mark Bartosik in the Auto Servicing Technician as well as General Service Technician training at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) in 2014. She was hired at National Tire and Battery at 7759 Sudley Road in Manassas, VA as a General Service Technician on January 17, 2015. She completes a variety of tasks to include tire rotations, installing new tires, replacing Tire Pressure Monitoring System sensors, tire patching and oil changes. She earns $9.00/hour and works 5 days a week. She continues to use the lifting techniques shown during her physical therapy program at WWRC to carry out her job duties more efficiently and safely. Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services staff, which includes her sponsor Leslie Diaz Ortiz and placement counselor Jeannine Langrin assisted Katie during her job hunt and placement follow-up.

The Woodrow Wilson Lioness/Lions Club recently donated funds to the Health Occupations Training program, for the purchase of an electronic stethoscope for students with hearing impairments. Pictured are Pam Moore, RN, Instructor receiving the stethoscope from Karen Stevens, 1st Vice President of the WWLLC. The club meets the first Monday of each month at the Hometown Grill in Staunton at 6:00 p.m. New members are welcome!

---Submitted by Cindi Gochenour, WWRC Administrative Specialist

disAbility Resource Center Updates

KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO LONG-TERM CARE RESOURCES

Trainings on community resources for long-term care are taking place across the Commonwealth. The trainings, developed from the “Empowerment to Prevent Institutionalization” grant funded by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities and the Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living have resulted, thus far, in 139 health and human services professionals along with some community members becoming more knowledgeable about resources for long-term care in their communities. The trainings began last September and will continue until September of this year. The trainings focus on long-term care resources that help shift care for individuals with disabilities from nursing homes and institutional care to their individual homes.

The trainings include a variety of resources that can help prevent the institutionalization of people with disabilities so they can live a full life in their community. Ten different Resource Directories have been
developed listing local and state information for professionals to use and distribute to their patients and clients. The Directories are also proving to be a helpful resource for individuals and families as they search for long-term care resources. The Directories include information on Medicaid Waivers, consumer-directed personal attendant lists, durable medical supplies, environmental modifications, vehicle modifications, assistive technology, transportation (medical and non-medical), housing, crisis intervention, safety, exercise and nutrition, local and state service agencies, and statewide directories.

Doctors’ offices, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and other organizations are encouraged to sponsor a long-term care training for their staff. The trainings can be done at the organization’s office if requested. Trainings can be scheduled through September, 2015, by contacting a local Center for Independent Living (CIL). To find a CIL in your area, link to http://www.vacil.org/va_cils_directory.htm or contact Kim Lett at klett@cildrc.org. Ten CILs across Virginia are offering the long-term care resource training. CILs advocate for the integration and inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities and they develop and provide community education that will further integration and independent living for those with disabilities.

The VBPD is contributing 73% of the funding for the statewide trainings under the federal Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act. The mission of the Board is to create a Commonwealth that advances opportunities for independence, personal decision-making and full participation in community life for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. More information on the Board can be found at www.vaboard.org. Contact Kim Lett, grant coordinator, at 540-373-2559 or klett@cildrc.org for more information.

--Submitted by Kimberly Lett, disAbility Program Coordinator

**VRCEA Update**

Mark your calendars NOW for May 1st! VRCEA plans to sponsor a training and host a celebration in honor of Rehabilitation Counselors. RCEA recognizes Rehabilitation Counselors in March, but VRCEA has selected May 1, 2015 for the celebration this year. More details to come.
The disAbility Resource Center & The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team present this no cost workshop

Special Needs Life Planning Stages:
Across All Generations

When:
Tuesday, March 10th
6:30-8:30 pm

Where:
Hyatt Place
Fredericksburg-Mary Washington
1241 Jefferson Davis Highway
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

What:
This workshop is open to families, caregivers, case managers and anyone in the community who would like to learn about the various life planning stages for individuals with special needs. Individuals with special needs face many unique legal and financial issues, this workshop will explore many of those challenges with an eye to solutions and maintaining a best quality of life. Topics include: future planning, legal instruments such as Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts, successor caregiving and asset administration on a multi-generational basis will be discussed. Speakers: Jerry L. Hulick, CLU, ChFC, ChSNC, CLTC & Richelle D. Moore, Attorney at Law.

Please RSVP by Monday, March 9th to:
calford@financialguide.com
or (703) 865-6502
*Space is limited
TRAINING OPPORTUNITY
DATE: March 5, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(doors open 9:30 a.m.)
Registration in advance &
at door if space available.
Lunch provided
DARS Fairfax office
11150 Fairfax Blvd, Suite 300
Fairfax, VA 22030

THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL POWER

Presented by:
Brian J. Hoey, Training Specialist
Employee Development and Training
Veterans Benefit Administration

“Who are the most successful leaders you know?”
“If leadership is all about influencing others, what makes people willing to be influenced in the first place?”

Would you like to know more about influence?”
Social Influence...what’s in your wallet? Do you understand and know how to apply the concept of social power and its role in successful influence/leadership situations? Participants of this training will have the opportunity to take a personal social power assessment questionnaire, develop a planning template for gaining additional sources of social power to plan and influence their leadership opportunities. Join us for this interactive and educational session and learn more about the evolution of social power and its critical influence on your career path as a leader.

Presenter: Brian J. Hoey is currently a training specialist with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration in Washington, DC. He has extensive knowledge and expertise in training, mentoring, leadership development, problem-based instruction and coaching, multiple additional areas of expertise while serving an illustrious career in the United States Army. He is a highly decorated former service member, and as a civilian has been awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award, Army Staff Lapel Pin and Commander’s Award for Civilian Service.

This training is appropriate for ESO managers; Employment Specialists, DARS managers, DARS counselors, and other human services staff. CRC’s have been requested.

Registration Form
The Evolution of Social Power – March 5, 2015

DARS Fairfax Office Conference Room 11150 Fairfax Blvd, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030

Name: ________________________________________ Title: __________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________
Agency/Business: __________________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________ Phone: _________________________

10$ - VARL members; $20 – VRA members; $30 non members – LUNCH included
Please make your check payable to: VARL

Send check & registration to: Bonnie Henn 11150 Fairfax Blvd, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030, no later than 2/25/15
Have you MOVED, changed jobs, or email addresses? If so, please contact NRA or VRA at info@vra.org with the new information so we will know how to contact you!

Please visit www.vra.org also to contact us!
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www.pinterest.com/vaeo55
The Choice Group

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- 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
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The Choice Group
4807 Radford Avenue, Suite 106 • Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 278-9151 • Toll-free 877-374-5312
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Editor’s Note

VRA wants to thank you for your continued support and advertisement in this quarterly membership newsletter. It is made available to all VRA members, occasionally legislators, and is posted on the website at www.vra.org with exposure to the public. The rates remain the same and are as follows:

¼ a page is $15 per issue or $50 for the full year

½ a page is $24 per issue or $90 for the full year

A full page is $50 per issue or $175 for the entire year

A billing form is available for completion and should be submitted with payment to VRA. Ads may be purchases throughout the year and should be submitted as a Word document. Article submissions are also appreciated to be in the Word format and pictures are welcome as separate attachments. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact me at dawn.scott@vra.org or phone at 434-326-2185.

--Submitted by Dawn Scott, NewsNotes Editor

Connect with other members of VRA!

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

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
VRA Events Calendar
Mark your calendars for these important dates for your state and national associations

March 5th  10am-3pm; VARL Training, Fairfax
March 6th  10am-12pm; VRCEA Board Meeting, Richmond
March 11th 10am-12pm; VARL Board Meeting, Charlottesville
March 12th 10am-12pm; Foundation Board Meeting, Richmond
March 22nd -24th  2015 NRA Government Affairs Summit, Alexandria
March 27th  10am-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond
May 1st  VRCEA Rehabilitation Counselor Day
June 1st  VARL Annual Training and Meeting, Richmond
June 6th  10am-12pm; VRCEA Board Meeting, Richmond
June 26th  10am-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond
Sept 9th  10am-12pm; VARL Board Meeting, Charlottesville
Sept 14th  VRA Golf Tournament, Stonehenge Golf and Country Club
Sept 18th  10am-12pm; VRCEA Board Meeting, Richmond
Sept 25th  10am-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond
Oct 5th-8th  2015 NRA Annual Training Conference, Biloxi, MS
Dec 4th  10am-12pm; VRCEA Board Meeting, Richmond
Dec 9th  10am-12pm; VARL Board Meeting, Charlottesville
Dec 11th  10am-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond

Deadline for next issue’s NewsNotes articles is April 3rd 2015
Send to newsnotes@vra.org
Next Deadline for NewsNotes: April 3rd 2015

Please Submit NewsNotes articles to Dawn Scott by Email at: newsnotes@vra.org

Or send by US Mail to: VRA NewsNotes c/o Mary Kaye Johnston
4612 Kingsrow Drive