Presidential Pondering by Jean Steveson -- Submitted by Jean Stevenson, VRA President

With Summer on its way out it’s time to think about Fall, cooling temperatures and the VRA annual Golf Tournament. This event was held on September 14th at the Stonehenge Golf and Country Club in North Chesterfield. It was a beautiful day and numerous teams came out in support. Congratulations to all of the winners! A big thank you also to Kim Shepard who chaired this committee with the assistance of Howard Green.

Another great event is the Collaborations Conference which will be held at the Hilton Hotel Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. The conference will begin on November 11th and end on November 13th. This event is jointly sponsored by VRA, Virginia APSE, and Virginia ACCSES. It is an excellent conference that offers many training opportunities to include CRC credits as well as social networking.

A number of trainings have been sponsored or are planned by VRA this year. An upcoming opportunity on personality disorders will be held on September 22nd in the Portsmouth Office conference room. This training will be presented by Patrick Slifka, from the National Counseling Group. I have heard this presenter before and he is an excellent, knowledgeable clinician. For any updates regarding training please contact Margie Millner at Margie.millner@dars.virginia.gov.

Our next Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 25th in the DARS Central Office, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, VA in the Conference room West. I hope to see you there. The Education committees of VRA and VRCEA are working hard to provide training opportunities across the state with little to no cost for the attendees. Some of the training topics include ethics, brain injury and more. Margie Millner is the committee chair. Please contact her with your ideas and interest in helping with this effort.

There is so much going on right now in VRA. To really get the feel of what we do as an organization please consider attending our next board meeting and getting involved with one of the committees. Please continue your great work on behalf of people with disabilities and until next time… I remain your faithful servant.
Suzie Klein has worked at the Charlottesville DARS office since February of 2014 as a Rehabilitation Counselor. She came from Chugiak, Alaska and traveled to Charlottesville in 2013 to complete her Practicum and Internship for her Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s program with WVU. She achieved her CRC in March of 2014 and joined the VA chapter of NRA in August of 2014. She attended her first Collaborations Conference that November and enjoyed the beach as much as the conference! Suzie joined VRA as a way to stay informed and collaborate with others working for improving the quality of life for all persons with disabilities.

Suzie has a BA in Recreation Therapy with a concentration on psychology. She has over fifteen years of experience in providing support for people with substance abuse in treatment centers and halfway houses, working in Acute Adult and Adolescent Psychiatric units, and worked with Autism programs, including assisting young adults transitioning to independence. Suzie had her own business for 17 years and provided rehab for people with injuries.

Getting her Masters for Rehabilitation Counseling was a great way to combine all the acquired knowledge and experience to continue to help others. As a Rehab Counselor, she serves Albemarle county adults and transition students. She believes everyone has and deserves a purpose, and has something to contribute. That belief drives her passion to work with others and assist them to find their purpose and help them achieve their employment and life goals.

Suzie says, “I am adjusting to life in VA which is quite a contrast to Alaska! I am acclimating to the weather and really like it here, but my husky prefers the snow for sure!” Suzie sings in a chorus, is doing her first Women’s 4- miler training and race, and in her free time, she really likes to build things and rehab furniture. When she has the time, she loves to explore Virginia, her new home.

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!
The 1st place winner of this year’s Annual Golf Tournament went to John Cooke, Ranny Jarrelle, Matt Timmons, and John Botrico.

2nd place went to Randy Carter, Mac Watson, Doug Collins, Mike Mathison.

Also, 3rd place went to Cherry Allison, Jenny Boniface, Nevia Cashwell, and Trish Owens.

Winner of the 50/50 was Don Duncan. We sold $310 and he got $155. Winners of the Longest Drive for men were Martin Bolle and Jeff Juwa. Winner of the longest drive for women was Nevia Cashwell. Winners of ‘Closest to the Pin’ were Trish Owens and Doug Collins.

Call for 2015 VRA Award Nominations!
IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN. GET BUSY, LOOK AROUND, AND COMPLETE A NOMINATION PACKAGE FOR THAT DESERVING SOMEONE! The Awards Committee will be accepting nominations until October 15, 2015. Award descriptions as well as the nomination form are included here. Don’t put it off, take the time right now and nominate someone you feel is deserving of an award.

Nominations will be accepted through October 15, 2015 and can be submitted by email/fax/mail to:

Alison M. Mundy, M.S., C.V.E.
c/o DARS
1300 Greensville County Circle,
Suite C, Room 105
Emporia, Virginia 23847
Phone: 434-634-4397
Fax: 434-634-9943
Email: alison.mundy@dars.virginia.gov
The 2015 VRA Awards celebration will be held in conjunction with the Collaborations Conference again in November of this year.

Please call or email with any questions you may have.

**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.

VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Name of Award__________________________________________________________

Name of Nominee___________________________________________
Nominee’s Address_______________________________________________________

SUPPORT FOR NOMINEE

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. Consider including 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:
Alison M. Mundy, M.S., C.V.E.
c/o DARS
1300 Greensville County Circle,
Suite C, Room 105
Emporia, Virginia 23847
Phone: 434-634-4397
Fax: 434-634-9943
Email: alison.mundy@dars.virginia.gov

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS October 15, 2015

VRA Division and Committee News

VRA Membership Committee Update -- Submitted by Andrew Stowe, Membership and Communications Committee Chair

VRA PODCASTING EFFORTS EXPLORED
Would You Like to Be in on the Ground Floor & Contribute?
The VRA Membership/Communications Committee is excited to announce an exploratory effort to produce our own podcast. Our goals are to invigorate our outreach to members, showcase our association work, further educational opportunities, share news and events, and highlight success stories of VR counselors in employing individuals with disabilities. As part of this exploration, we are reaching out to our members for ideas, resources, and experiences that would help us to stitch together these audio broadcasts. Thus far, we have conducted a series of phone conferences, enlisted the advice and encouragement of other podcasters, zeroed in on a possible broadcast studio, and discussed topics and speakers. We are very fortunate to have the counsel of VRA member and Wilson Workforce & Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Director, Rick Sizemore, who has successfully produced 7 podcasts as of this writing. Rick and the Membership Committee invite you to visit the VR Workforce Studio and listen to any of these podcasts through www.vrworkforcestudio.com. Fellow VRA member, Jim Rothrock, congratulates Rick and the Studio producers in the Premiere Episode and will soon be featured in the next podcast.

The next steps for the committee are to learn more about the logistics of podcasting itself and present information to the VRA Board for feedback and support. Should this concept catch your fancy, or light your imagination, and you would like to be in the ground floor of this exciting new venture, please contact Andrew Stowe at Andrew.stowe@dars.virginia.gov or Dawn Scott at Dawn.Scott@thechoicegroup.com.

Please join us in giving a huge welcome to our newest member! -- Mr. Tyler Schreffler of Dumfries

VRA Training Committee Update -- Submitted by Marjorie Millner, Committee Member

VRA hosted a training entitled Supporting Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder on May 19th at the Charlottesville One Stop location. Heather Norton, from DBHDS, and Chris Lavach, from The Choice Group, co-facilitated the training. Nineteen participants attended, representing a broad audience to include the following: Worksource Enterprises, Region 10 CSB, JABA, Rehabilitative Services and Vocational
Placement, Inc., Fairfax DRS, and Fredericksburg DRS. Completed evaluations indicate that the participants were highly satisfied with the effectiveness and quality of this presentation. CRC credits were available for registered participants. NRA/VRA promotional material was presented and new membership was encouraged.

VRA will be hosting the next training entitled Personality Disorders – Symptoms, Treatment, and Interventions on September 22nd in the Portsmouth DRS office. The trainer, J. Patrick Slifka, has worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Addictions Counselor in the state for over 25 years. His clinical experience includes the delivery of dual diagnosis treatment in residential, outpatient, and community based settings. Currently he is the Director of Training for the National Counseling Group, Inc. (NCG) and is a senior clinical consultant for the agency. Mr. Slifka has conducted over 300 statewide trainings to more than 4000 public and private mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice professionals and is part of NASW-VAs professional training team. Registration information is being distributed and participation is encouraged.

VRA Education Foundation Update -- Submitted by Bill Burnside and Mary Kaye Johnson, Education Foundation Chairperson

The Foundation Board regrets to announce that no one applied for the VRA Education Grant this year. This scholarship is specifically intended as a VRA membership benefit and targets members, their children or family members. Since its inception in 1985, 62 awards have been given amounting to a total in excess of $18,000. The principle account for the Foundation continues to grow, thus making possible larger financial awards each year. This year’s recipient would likely have received a grant amounting to $1,000. Surely, someone could have benefited from this award. So, if you are in school or have children in school, please consider submitting an application for the academic year beginning September 2016. The application format is on the website and can be submitted any time before a deadline in July 2016. Watch for notices in the VRA NewsNotes, via email, and on the website at https://www.vra.org on the Foundation page.

The Foundation has recently established its own VRA email address and can be contacted at Education@vra.org. The Foundation Board is planning its next board meeting on November 10th, at which time it will kick off the capital campaign for 2016. This is the one time of year that requests go out for financial support and donations to the education fund; however, donations are accepted all year.

Thanks for your support of the VRA Education Foundation!
Other News & Notes

WWRC Updates --Submitted by Jackie M. Davis, WWRC Representative

CVS Pharmacy Representatives Visit WWRC

On Wednesday, July 22, 2015, CVS Pharmacy representatives Duane Rohr Manager of Workforce Initiatives, Charneta Young, former Manager of Workforce Initiatives, and Stacey Butler, Regional Learning Center Manager, spent time at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center. The tour started with Sharon Russo, Physical Therapy Director, in the Physical Work Performance Evaluation area. There was a short visit to Vocational Evaluation and then we moved to the Materials Handling and Forklift areas to observe the students’ work activities. During this time, the Materials Handling instructors and CVS representatives explored the possibility of putting in a mock CVS store in the Materials Handling area so that our graduates would be prepared go to work in this type of business. The CVS representatives stayed for lunch in Woody’s where there was much conversation around how we could work as partners. They are willing to help us set up the CVS Training Store within the Materials Handling classroom and provide both product and teaching resources to get us started. It was a wonderfully creative and successful meeting. CVS Video Link

WWRC Building Trades at Art in the Park

On the weekend of May 23, the city of Staunton held their annual Art in the Park craft show. Over 200 artisans applied for space at the show, but only the top 82 artisans were allowed to show their wares. One of those artisan groups turned out to be the instructor and students from the WWRC Building Trades program. Students had the opportunity meet and talk with customers from around the state. The best news is that all of the items taken to the show were sold. Our Building Trades students collected over $2,000 from the items sold. This money goes back into the program to purchase more wood for the students to continue building their beautiful creations.
Manufacturing is coming to Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center

Vocational Training welcomes Jim Leech as the new Utility/Manufacturing Instructor. Jim is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Industrial Arts Education. However, his life’s work has been in the field of manufacturing as a manager and engineer with various levels of responsibility, including technical training and project management. After twenty years, he retired early from the Hershey Company and began working with Blue Ridge Community College being instrumental in the creation of the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program where he was a program manager. Jim will be developing a new Manufacturing Program designed to train students working towards the MT1 Industry recognized certificate.

Success Stories

Leslie Vinson started his training at WWRC in August 2014 as a Plumber’s Helper. He worked on campus with Dan Rocco, Plumbing Technician, for a few weeks and then trained with E & E Plumbing and Heating in Stuarts Draft. Leslie had some rough moments in the beginning, but successfully worked through his challenges. He became a reliable worker who picked up new tasks quickly and had good productivity. As he was nearing the end of his program, he started checking into possible companies he might work for back home. He returned home for a few days, lined up some interviews and was very fortunate to get on with Smith & Keene Air Conditioning, Heating and Plumbing; they are a contractor for the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown, Va. Leslie went to work for them in June at a rate of $38.00 an hour. His Field Counselor is Ami Williams in the Warsaw Office and Tom Blosser is his WWRC Counselor.

Daniel Mills completed the Personal Care Aide program at WWRC and moved into the Nurse Aide Program which he completed in August 2014. He participated in the “in-facility” testing at WWRC and passed both
parts of the testing on his first attempt. Daniel also worked very closely with Sharon Russo for physical conditioning and with Susan Hansborough for specialized equipment for his hearing needs. He started a new job on June 4 at an adult daycare center. His position will be full time with benefits at $11.00 per hour. His WWRC counselor was Wanda Ayers and his field counselor was Shirley Ferguson in the Richmond office.

Forrest Campbell successfully completed Food Service Training in June, and the first week of August he completed the Stand Alone Driver’s Education Program. On August 6, he called to say that he immediately started job hunting and his first stop was the Northside 29 Diner in Warrenton. Forrest said that they were so impressed with all of his credentials, ServSafe, Customer Service, and Career Readiness Certificate, that they hired him without even interviewing him. He started August 7 working 2:00 p.m. to closing at $11.00 per hour. He doesn’t have a set schedule yet, and he told them that being paid minimum wage would be fine. Their response was that they didn’t want to lose someone with his training and credentials, and therefore, offered him $11.00/hour. John Jackson was his Center Counselor, and his DARS Counselor was Lynn Stephenson.

**disAbility Resource Center Updates -- Submitted by Kimberly Lett, disAbility Program Coordinator**

**dRC Develops New Community Resources, Holds Halloween Bash, Plans AT Fair**

**CONTACT:** Kimberly Lett, Program Coordinator/Deputy Director  
540-373-2559 or klett@cildrc.org

Fredericksburg, VA --- The disAbility Resource Center was busy this fall developing more avenues to distribute information and resources to people with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and community members. The dRC developed three webinars: Community Long Term Care, All You Want to Know about Medicaid Waivers, and Workplace Accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. All three webinars can be found on the dRC website, www.cildrc.org under "Resources and Forms."

Also new at the dRC is the **RAD Blast**, the Rappahannock Area Disability news blast email group, a component of the dRC’s **IL Matters** initiative. The **RAD Blast**’s purpose is to educate and keep people with disabilities and other community members abreast of policy developments that impact independent living. The goal of **IL Matters** is to track and analyze policy impacting IL at the national, state, and local levels and work to develop productive relationships with national, state and local officials by providing information and positioning the dRC as a resource on IL issues and needs. To join the **RAD Blast** group contact Kevin Koziol, kkoziol@cildrc.org or link to [https://groups.google.com/d/forum/ilmatters](https://groups.google.com/d/forum/ilmatters).

Another publication of the dRC, the **dRC Progress**, began distribution this fall. The **Progress** will provide information on the dRC’s activities and events throughout the year. To be added to the **dRC Progress** distribution list, contact Kim Lett at klett@cildrc.org.

One of the events the **dRC Progress** will feature is the dRC’s annual Halloween Charity Bash. The Bash is a FUNdraiser to support dRC services and programs including the Equipment Connection, the dRC’s free durable medical equipment program. The Halloween Bash will be at the A. Smith Bowman Distillery October 24 at 7 p.m. and will include a Halloween contest, distillery spirit tasting, a live band, dancing, an auction,
food and drinks. Tickets are $50 each and can be purchased by linking to www.drchalloweenbash.eventbrite.com.

Also in the works at the dRC is an assistive technology fair at the Fredericksburg Expo Center on May 7, 2016. Mark your calendars. Anyone wishing to learn more or become a sponsor and/or vendor at the event should contact Debe Fults at 540-373-2559.

The “Empowerment to Prevent Institutionalization” grant, funded by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, is in its last quarter. The EPI grant centered around training medical and human service professionals across the state about local resources for long term care. Resource Directories were developed in eleven areas of the state listing local and state information for professionals to use and distribute to their patients and clients. From all accounts, the Resource Directories have been well received and reports indicate their use has led to individuals receiving waiver services, obtaining ramps for their homes, and other services that promote independent living. For more information on the grant or to provide feedback on positive outcomes due to use of the directories, contact Kim Lett, grant coordinator, at 540-373-2559 or klett@cildrc.org.

DARS Update! – Submitted by A.J. Hostetler, DARS Communications Director

July, of course, was a time of celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. DARS was very engaged in finding ways to remind the public of how far our society has come and that we are not finished with meeting the legislation’s promise. Gov. McAuliffe videotaped a captioned message about the ADA 25th anniversary, which was posted not only to the DARS YouTube channel (http://bit.ly/1K9C1os) but was also prominently posted on the Governor’s official website. A reporter for the public radio station serving Central Virginia interviewed DARS Commissioner Jim Rothrock about the 25th anniversary and his personal memories of witnessing the law’s signing by President George H.W. Bush on the White House lawn. The piece, which aired July 23, is online with a transcript at http://bit.ly/1HV56AX. Commissioner Rothrock wrote about his memories of July 26, 1990, and of seeing his hero, Justin Dart (aka “the godfather of the ADA”), in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, at http://bit.ly/1gdk8eX.

Important Save the Dates and Trainings!

It's time once again for the VARL Emerging Leader Award. As you know, this award is given each year to someone in the rehabilitation community who has exhibited leadership potential. The nominator for this award must be a VARL member, but the individual nominated does not need to be. Again as was the case last year, the winner will be acknowledged during the November 11-13 Collaborations Conference in Virginia Beach.

Please submit nominations along with any supporting letters, emails, etc. to Doug James by Friday, October 2, 2015. All of the necessary information is included in the attachment, but please note I will be retired from DARS and no longer on their email network as of September 18, 2015. All emails should be directed to my personal email: drj922@gmail.com.

2015 VARL EMERGING LEADER AWARD
Eligibility

1. Individual must be involved in the field of vocational rehabilitation (employee, teacher, intern, volunteer, etc.).

2. No restrictions regarding age, years of experience in field or current role in the field.

3. Nominator must be a VARL member but nominee need not be a VARL or VRA member.

Criteria for Emerging Leader Award

The VARL Emerging Leader award 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 study leading to a positive impact on the vocational rehabilitation community.

Nomination Process

1. You may email, fax or mail nominations to Doug James. Nominations are due by October 2, 2015.

2. Please include with your nomination your contact information – name, email address and phone number.

3. Include in your nomination a statement as to why you believe your nominee is deserving of VARL’s “Emerging Leader” Award.

4. Please include any documents, letters, etc. in support of your nomination.

Nominations should be sent to Doug James no later than October 2, 2015

Email: drj922@gmail.com

Mailing address: 7584 Blanford Court, Alexandria, VA 22315

Questions? Email Doug James or call at (571) 215-7595
The Virginia Rehabilitation Association will be presenting:

*Personality Disorder: Symptoms, Treatment, and Interventions*

The presenter, J. Patrick Slifka has worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Addictions Counselor in the state for over 25 years. His clinical experience includes the delivery of dual diagnosis treatment in residential, outpatient, and community based settings. Currently he is the Director of Training for the National Counseling Group, Inc. (NCG) and is a senior clinical consultant for the agency. Mr. Slifka has conducted over 300 statewide trainings to more than 4000 public and private mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice professionals and is part of NASW-VAs professional training team.

**Date:** September 22, 2015  
**Time:** 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon  
**Location:** Portsmouth DRS Office  
Suites 22-26  
3248 Academy Avenue  
Portsmouth, VA

Register early! Space is limited!  
CRC Credits available

To reserve your place and for disability accommodation needs, contact Margie Millner by September 18, 2015 by email at margie.millner@dars.virginia.gov.

VRA members $10; Non members $15  
Checks made payable to VRA should be mailed to DARS/Margie Millner @ 303 Butler Farm Rd., Suite 105, Hampton, VA 23666
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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- Therapeutic Consultation
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4807 Radford Avenue, Suite 106 • Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 278-9151 • Toll-free 877-374-5312
E-mail: info@thechoicegroup.com • www.thechoicegroup.com
Editor’s Note – Submitted by Dawn Scott, NewsNotes Editor

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 purchased 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.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 9th</td>
<td>10am-12pm; VARL Board Meeting, Charlottesville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 14th</td>
<td>VRA Golf Tournament, Stonehenge Golf and Country Club</td>
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<td>Sept 25th</td>
<td>10am-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 30th</td>
<td>10am-12pm; VRCEA Board Meeting, Richmond</td>
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<td>Oct 5th-8th</td>
<td>2015 NRA Annual Training Conference, Biloxi, MS</td>
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<td>Nov 11th-13th</td>
<td><strong>Collaborations Conference, VA Beach</strong></td>
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<td>Dec 4th</td>
<td>10am-12pm; VRCEA Board Meeting, Richmond</td>
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<td>Dec 4th</td>
<td>VRA NewsNotes, 4th Quarter Deadline</td>
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**Deadline for next issue’s NewsNotes articles is December 4th, 2015**

Send to newsnotes@vra.org

VRA would like to hear from YOU! What would you like to see included in the NewsNotes? How do you use the NewsNotes and the information provided? What would be useful to you?

Thank you for your time in assisting us!
Next Deadline for NewsNotes: August 28th, 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
Glen Allen, VA 23060
804-965-0514