The atmosphere is changing. The weather is finally getting warmer. Let’s enjoy this great Spring/Summer together. Since my last reporting, VRA membership has not increased a lot but new members are becoming active in VRA Committees.

One of my goals this year is to have every member involved and offer opportunities to our new members. This is happening. Great news!

Thanks to Susan Gaillard for taking on the Membership chair position and working with our new members in selecting committees to participate. We have been able to encourage new member enrollment at each Education Training event this year. Thanks to the Education committee for taking on this supportive effort.

Another initiative or goal I have this year as President is to start a student chapter at the Colleges and Universities in our areas. I am working with VCU and other Universities to explore this possibility. Stay tuned for an update.

VRCEA hosted Rehabilitation Counselor’s Day in May. Thanks to the coordinators of this event, Marie Worley and Karen Akers, for making this day special to all Counselors.

A couple of dates to remember:

- July 22, 2016-VRA Board Meeting in Richmond, VA. You are invited!
- September 12, 2016-VRA Golf Tournament, Richmond, VA. Please support the VRA Golf Tournament by soliciting sponsors and golfers for this event. There is additional information about this on page 17!
- September 12-15, 2016- NRA Conference in Richmond, VA. The NRA Conference is a great opportunity to meet professionals from other states, share best practices and collaborate on new initiatives. NRA awards nominations are still open until July 15, 2016. Please review the award
descriptions and nominate a great VA person or business for one of these awards. November 16-18, 2016-Collaboration Conference in VA Beach, VA. Again please review the awards for VRA and nominate a business, organization, or person for one of these awards. These awards will be given out at Collaboration Conference in November 2016.

VRA News

Meet our new Members! – Submitted by Deana Holinka, MA, CRC

Deana recently joined the Manassas, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) office in October 2015. She is one of three transition caseload Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in the office, joining an existing team of two to serve a growing transition-age population in Prince William County.

Deana came to this position with established relationships since she had previously been employed within the Prince William County School system for over 14 years, working as the administrator of the county’s transition program and as a school-based transition counselor. Prior to her school system experience, Deana worked in the supported employment field in various roles including director and assistant director of supported employment, assessment specialist, and job coach.

When she is not at work, Deana is busy with her two children, a 14 year old son and an 11 year old daughter. Her children keep her busy with sports, activities, and their own social lives, but Deana does her best to escape to her favorite relaxation spot – the beach – whenever she can!

2016 Golf Tournament Updates! – Submitted by Dale Batten and Kimberly Shepard, Chair

The 2016 VRA Golf Tournament will be held on MONDAY, September 12th, at the STONEHENGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB and it is a beautiful course!

The committee will be sending a reminder letter to potential donors as well as golfers who have participated in the past. Please encourage members to get at least one hole sponsor. Mark your calendars now!

More information can be found on the Events tab of the VRA website (www.vra.org).
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. We are also looking to fill 2017 VRA Board positions!

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

Meet your Newest Board Member! -- Submitted by Sue Collins

My name is Susan Collins and I am a new, excited and thankful Board Member. I informed the VRA Board that I am Rehabilitation Counselor who has been lost in Education and I am grateful to return to my profession to serve VRA. I have been involved in helping individuals with disabilities for close to 35 years. I am a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Certified Vocational Evaluator.

My experiences include workman’s compensation rehabilitation, brain injury rehabilitation, mental health counseling and community intervention and 19 years’ experience in special education/vocational evaluation/transition collaborating with county, state and federal agencies to serve students with disabilities. I have also proudly served in the United States Army, Army Reserves and the Maryland Army National Guard for 12 years in the Medical Corp.

VRA Division and Committee News

VRA Membership Committee Update -- Submitted by Susan Gaillard, Membership Chair

As a reminder, for all members in their first year of membership in the Va. Rehabilitation Association: As part of your free first year membership you were assigned a VRA Friend and you were told you may attend a VRA training event of your choice in your first year, free!

If you haven’t used that option yet, I want to be sure you have are made aware of all of the amazing trainings being offered throughout the year. Recently, VARL generously agreed to offer this to you as your free training option. Of course if you already happened to be a member of the VARL division, it was free to you anyway. For VRA members who are not members of VARL it was $20.
Dr. Amy Armstrong, chair of the School of Rehabilitation Counseling at VCU, was the speaker on the topic of Positive Leadership. She is always fun and has a lot of wisdom to offer. Leadership training isn’t just for people in supervisory positions. It was ‘live’ with Dr. Armstrong in Richmond and via VTC in several other locations making travel easier.

We will continue to update you with trainings throughout the state on topics such as this and look forward to meeting all of you!

**VARL Update – Submitted by Robin Metcalf, VARL President**

Greetings from Robin Metcalf, this year’s VARL President. I am excited to lead VARL through another productive year as we seek new members and provide educational opportunities to our current leaders as well as individuals seeking leadership positions or considering their potential as future leaders.

The new mission of the National Rehabilitation Association is to provide exemplary leadership through social advocacy and legislation, advancing cultural awareness competence across communities, promoting excellence in research and practice, and supporting professionals engaged in the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities.

True to the mission of NRA, by the time you read this we will have already provided our first leadership training of the year, “Appreciative Leadership: Developing Ripples” presented by the ever favorite Amy J. Armstrong, chair and associate professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling at Virginia Commonwealth University.

VARL will also sponsor both Amy Armstrong and Chris Reid for a three hour “Ethics” pre-con session at this year’s Collaborations Conference to be held on November 16, 17 and 18 in Virginia Beach at the Hilton Hotel.

Please join us at Collaborations and consider joining VARL if you are not already a member. While you are considering membership, please also consider a position with the board. It is a great way to meet and network with the current leaders in the field and help pave the way for your future in leadership. If you have questions, please feel free to call me at 804-615-6231 or by email at robin.metcalf@thechoicegroup.com

**VRA Education Foundation Update -- Submitted by Mary Kaye Johnson, Education Foundation Chairperson**

For 2016, the VRA Education Foundation Board selected the topic of Transition as the focus area to honor Kristi Lockhart and the important impact she had on vocational rehabilitation and employment service organizations in Virginia, relative to transition aged youth. See the below application and criteria for the newly established scholarships awarded for continuing education (CE). Applications should be sent to Mary Kaye Johnston at marykaye.johnston@gmail.com or the Foundation at education@vra.org
These scholarships are a benefit of membership for those individuals belonging to VRA and are in addition to the traditional educational scholarship awarded annually to a VRA member or family member. The continuing education scholarships will allow members to apply for grants for CE opportunities. Each year, the VRA Foundation will designate the CE scholarships to be given in honor or memory of a rehabilitation professional.

- Who is eligible: All VRA members are eligible to apply;
- What: The VRA Foundation will offer three $100 continuing education scholarships per year;
- When: Deadline for applying for this years’ continuing education scholarships is September 1st;
- Where: Members who receive the scholarship will determine the continuing education opportunity s/he will pursue. Funds can be used for CE activities such as conferences, online CE courses, seminars, etc.,
- How: In submitting a request, the member will articulate what the funds will be used for (content of the activity), format of the activity (online course, travel expense, registration, in person training). They will indicate how the CE will be of benefit to their professional development. After the activity they will provide a brief summary (no more than 2 paragraphs) detailing their experience, whether they would recommend the activity to another, and how they will use the knowledge they have gained professionally to benefit the VRA community.

Application for VRA Foundation Continuing Education Funds

Member Name:  
Employer:  
Professional Position:  
Description of the Continuing Education Activity: (Please include CE Provider or Event name, anticipated content, information you hope to receive and how this relates to your professional role. Limit this information to 1 paragraph.

Agreement to provide post-event evaluation to the VRA Foundation Board: If I am selected for a $100 VRA Foundation Continuing Education scholarship, after attending the continuing education activity, I agree to provide a brief summary (no more than 2 paragraphs) detailing my experience, whether I would recommend the activity to another professional, and how I will use the knowledge I have gained professionally to benefit the VRA community.

Signature of Member:
Date:__________________________

VRA Awards Committee Update -- Submitted by Margie Millner, Education/Training Chair

Call for VR Awards Nominations  
AS A REMINDER - 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 August 30, 2013. 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 **August 30, 2016** and can be submitted by email/fax/mail to:
Margie Millner  
c/o DARS  
303 Butler Farm Rd., Suite 105  
Hampton, VA 23666  
Phone: 747-865-3117  
Fax: 757-865-4856  
Email: margie.millner@dars.virginia.gov

The 2016 VRA Awards celebration will be held in conjunction with the Collaborations Conference again November 16, 2016 through November 18, 2016 of this year at the Hilton-Virginia Beach. A nomination can be found below in this newsletter.

**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 the award was established. Awarded to an individual who has exercised notable leadership either in 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 Mayor’s 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 with person 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.

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**VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM**

**Name of Award** ______________________________________________________

**Name of Nominee** ____________________________________________________

**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) __________________

Email Address_________________________________________________________

Signature_____________________________________ Date___________________

Nominations and supporting documents must be received by:
Margie Millner
c/o DARS
303 Butler Farm Rd., Suite 105
Hampton, VA 23666
Phone: 757-865-3117
Fax: 757-865-4856
Email: margie.millner@dars.virginia.gov

VRA Training Committee Update -- Submitted by Margie Millner, Education/Training Chair

VRA sponsored a training entitled “DSM-5: An Overview” on May 23, 2016 at the DARS Central Office. The presenter, J. Patrick Slifka, has worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Addictions Counselor in the state for over 25 years. Currently he is the Director of Training for the National Counseling Group, Inc. (NCG) and is a senior consultant for the agency.

The workshop identified the major changes in the DSM-5 and outlined potential issues with the transition to the DSM-5. Thirty two participants attended the event with representation from DARS, WWRC, ESOs, CSBs, and Drug Court. Due to popular demand, VRA will be hosting this same training in the Eastern District this Fall. Details to come!

VRA Seeking Board Nominations for Open Positions -- Submitted by Jean Stevenson, Past President

It’s that time of year again! As an association and as members we need to begin thinking about the VRA Board and the positions that will be available beginning January 1, 2017. As is the case each year, there are 3 available Board positions and the President Elect position. In addition, the positions of Treasurer and Secretary are also up for election this year.

I’m sending out this broad request for consideration and to solicit nominations. I’m asking you all as VRA Members to begin thinking about 1) (self-nomination) your individual interest in serving on the VRA Board (as a Board Member or as President Elect, Treasurer or Secretary), and 2) (nomination) other colleagues you have that you think would be great candidates for the VRA Board or President Elect positions that are available. If you are interested in more information about these various positions, the descriptions are available at the VRA Website.
Please send your self-nomination or nominations to me (jean.steveson@dars.virginia.gov) by August 1. If you’d like to discuss this further via conversation, please feel free to call me at 757-531-5298.

Other News & Notes

DARS Updates across the State! -- Submitted by A.J. Hostetler, Communications Director with DARS

DARS COMMISSIONER HONORED BY NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
(RICHMOND, Va.) — Commissioner Jim Rothrock of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services was honored by the National Rehabilitation Association at its 2016 Government Affairs Summit in Alexandria.

The LEAD-ON award given to Rothrock recognizes individuals and members of the business community who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the economic and personal independence and quality employment of all individuals with disabilities.

Also honored by the association with a LEAD-ON award was CAI, a global IT services firm headquartered in Allentown, Pa. In 2013, its Delaware regional headquarters began partnering with a Danish company that develops IT employment opportunities for individuals on the autism spectrum. In 2015, CAI began working with DARS and recruited for its workforce seven DARS consumers with autism spectrum disorder to develop software in support of Capital One. CAI plans to extend the partnership with DARS and its consumers to other corporations for which it provides IT support.

For more than 40 years, Rothrock, a native of Martinsville, has been involved in human services advocacy and programming, serving in positions including counselor, trainer, lobbyist, adjunct professor, and executive director. He served as Commissioner of the former Department of Rehabilitative Services in the Warner, Kaine and McDonnell administrations and as interim commissioner for the former Virginia Department for the Aging.

A year after merging agencies created the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Gov. Terry McAuliffe reappointed Rothrock to continue to lead the agency’s efforts to provide and advocate for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families.

Rothrock completed his college education at St. Andrews Presbyterian College (now St. Andrews University), Laurinburg, N.C., and obtained his master’s degree in 1978 from Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.
The disAbility Resource Center
409 Progress Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
Website: www.cildrc.org, Email: drc@cildrc.org
Direct contact: 540-373-2559 or klett@cildrc.org

dRC Happenings

To help families understand the redesign of the Medicaid Waivers, information will be the presented by the ARC of Virginia at the dRC, 409 Progress St., Fredericksburg, on Wednesday, June 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. and again from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The presentation will focus on the changes to the Day Support, ID and DD Waivers and how the redesign will affect those on the waiting list, those starting services or current Waiver recipients. RSVP to http://waiverredesign.eventbrite.com.

On July 11 the dRC is hosting a Summer Open House celebrating the anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The community is invited to meet the dRC staff and Board, tour the dRC office and gardens, play "disAbility Jeopardy," learn about REV Up VA, and enjoy BBQ and other summer refreshments. Attendees are asked to RSVP to https://drcopenhouse.eventbrite.com.

The dRC is gearing up for other activities it has planned through the year including our fall gala on October 8 with a Masquerade theme, our Walk ’n Roll around Fredericksburg’s Heritage Trail on April 2, 2017, and our 2nd annual Independent Living Expo schedule for May 13, 2017. Mark your calendars! Vendors are currently being solicited for the Independent Living Expo. Email or call drc@cildrc.org or call 540-373-2559 for information.

Outreach services to the greater Culpeper area is a focus of the dRC and several trainings there are scheduled:

Six-week Beginning Sign Language class
July 12 through August 16, 6pm to 8pm
740 Old Brandy Rd., Culpeper
$70 (includes book) Payment must be made prior to attending classes either by check or using the DONATE button on the dRC website noting that the payment is for the sign language class.
Register by calling Arva Priola at 540-373-5890 or emailing apriola@cildrc.org

Medicaid Waiver Workshops (4 sessions offered)
July 14 and 21, 1pm to 3pm each day or 6pm to 8pm each day
At Culpeper County Library, Southgate Shopping Center
Registration is not required but is appreciated so that the presenter has adequate materials available.
Questions or accommodation requests, contact Petrina Thomas at pthomas@cildrc.org or 540-645-2443
LEAP Training (Leadership For Empowerment & Abuse Prevention)

Training consists of 4 sessions, 90 minutes each on July 26, July 27, Aug. 2 & Aug. 4th.
Culpeper, VA, Participants will be notified of exact location prior to training.
Learn about: Healthy, unhealthy, and confusing relationships, asking permission before touching, different ways to say “No,” Identifying feelings and physical signs associated with being uncomfortable, and how to get help.

Registration is required. Contact Petrina Thomas at pthomas@cildrc.org or 540-645-2443.
Accommodations should be requested 10 days before event.
LEAP is administered by the Partnership for People with Disabilities and the School of Social Work at VCU funded by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.

In addition to the Culpeper trainings and workshops, the dRC is sponsoring a workshop titled, "Learn How to be A Personal Attendant". A Consumer-Directed Personal Assistant helps an individual with a disability with supports needed to live in the community. To learn more and find out if this is the job or career for you, attend the workshop on July 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the dRC, 409 Progress St., Fredericksburg. To register, link to www.drcattendantworkshop.eventbrite.com. For more information, contact Kim Lett @klett@cildrc.org or 540-373-2559.

The dRC is also providing a training on SSI & SSDI on August 11 at the dRC from 10 a.m. to noon. Learn about Social Security eligibility and requirements, the best way to apply for benefits, payee and claimant responsibilities, how to keep your benefits while working, and about SSI/SSDI work incentives. To RSVP go to www.drcsocialsecurityworkshop.eventbrite.com or for more information, contact Grace Marshall, gmarshall@cildrc.org or 540-373-2559.

VRCEA News and Updates! -- Submitted by Marie Worley, VRCEA President

VRCEA continues to be busy and we have much to report on for our division. We are a small division but our Board is mighty!

Our most recent event was Rehabilitation Counselor Day 2016 in Richmond. The event was well attended and the audience response was very positive and appreciative of a day to celebrate our profession! Trainers included Susan Gaillard and Beth Groff who presented on Ethics in Rehabilitation Counseling and Rose O'Toole and Shirley Lyons presented on Self Care– how we as rehabilitation professionals can take better care of ourselves. Paula McMahon (VCU) is the VRCEA contact for arranging CRC credits for all of our trainings and she provided CRC’s to those in attendance on RC Day. A special “thank you” to Paula McMahon, Karen Aker (DARS), Mary Kaye Johnston (VRA), Ami William (DARS) and Dawn Mosely (DARS) who helped me with the planning and implementation of RC DAY.

VRCEA is committed to providing training benefits to our members Statewide. Therefore, we have made considerable effort to provide trainings Statewide this year. VRCEA has already provided a training on Mental Health in Lynchburg, in March, which was coordinated by Ron Simmons (DARS). Upcoming trainings will be in NOVA and South Central VA with another training in Richmond in the Fall.
Jane Bennett –Bailey (DARS) is coordinating a training on Multicultural Issues in Rehabilitation Counseling in the NOVA DARS Fairfax office on August 25th. Please stay tuned for further details to be sent out soon. Kelly Desclós-Estes (VaACCESS) is coordinating a training in South Central VA that is on the new Career Pathways program at Southside Virginia Community College that is a collaborative effort between DARS and WIOA. This training will be presented in September and further details will follow soon.

I will be coordinating a training in Richmond at the DARS Maywill office on October 6th. Our presenter is Susan Green (DARS) and she will address the topic of Emotional Intelligence. Susan presented on this topic a few years ago and there has been a request that we bring the training to Richmond. VRCE is very excited to be able to present the above trainings to our members for Free and to non-members at a minimal cost.

Lastly, but of significant note, please consider a Nomination for our VRCEA 2016 Spirit Award. The Nominee would be a person who you think “Works to Advance the profession of Rehabilitation Counseling and Rehabilitation Education.” VRCEA will be sending out nomination forms before the end of June. If you have questions about joining VRCEA, our trainings, the Spirit Award or any suggestions you may have for VRCEA, please feel free to contact Marie at marie.worley@dars.virginia.gov. I would love to hear from you! VRCEA is also included on the VRA website at www.vra.org under Divisions.

Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center News and Updates! -- Submitted by Jackie M. Davis, WWRC Representative

Governor’s Mansion Accessible Ramp Ribbon Cutting

A small delegation of WWRC consumers and staff attended the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the Governor’s Mansion on March 21 that officially opened the new accessible ramp into the mansion. It was a wonderful event and it was great to hear about the focus on “Workforce in Virginia,” but especially the emphasis on “accessibility” for individuals with disabilities. Jim Rothrock, DARS Commissioner, offered some inspiring remarks as part of the event.

WWRC Consumers Jay Norris and Kyle Preston with Governor McAuliffe

Commissioner Rothrock
Governor McAuliffe Visits WWRC for CVS Ribbon Cutting

On April 11, Governor McAuliffe visited Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC), along with executives from CVS Health, for the ribbon cutting of WWRC’s CVS mock training facility, and to award plaques to the first cohort of graduates. Two of the first four graduates were hired immediately, and the remaining two are now in the application process, with several WWRC consumers moving through various stages of Materials Handling and internships. For those who are interested in the program, they can be referred to Materials Handling for an exposure to the CVS curriculum and Mock Store experience. Those with interest, and who demonstrate potential for an internship, are scheduled for one of the four local CVS stores. Internships generally last around six weeks and provide the consumer with real world experience.

Listen to a new podcast which combines highlights from the Governor’s visit to WWRC on April 11th with an interview highlighting one of the graduates celebrated during his visit [http://vrworkforcestudio.com/girl-with-the-semicolon-tattoo/](http://vrworkforcestudio.com/girl-with-the-semicolon-tattoo/) The episode is very focused on workforce development, business partnerships as well as EO23 and 46. The VR Workforce Studio Podcast is produced by WWRC and distributed by the WWRC Foundation.
Dream It. Do It Manufacturing Academy

The first ever and DARS funded Dream It. Do It. Manufacturing Academy was held from May 30 until June 3, 2016, in the new Manufacturing Technology Training Building and Lab on the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) campus. This is the only Dream It. Do It. Academy in the state of Virginia aimed at providing Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition (PERT) clients having qualifying disabilities with the experience of a week-long academy emphasizing the principles found in the world of modern manufacturing.

The goal of the academy is to expose these potentially younger clients to the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), with the hope of having them consider WWRC for their future skills and employment training needs, and potentially consider returning to become enrolled in the new Manufacturing Technology Training curriculum, which will begin in the fall on the WWRC campus.

Additionally, we would offer a short video produced by one of our talented DARS staff, Amber Gulla, which provides information on a recent Dream It Do It Manufacturing Academy to introduce youthful populations with disabilities to the opportunities in modern manufacturing. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa8FTSy9DaQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa8FTSy9DaQ) This Academy is aligned with Virginia Manufacturing Association strategic initiatives, the Manufacturing Skills Institute and EO 23 and 46.
New Counselor Skills Training at WWRC

The Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) hosted its portion of the DARS New Counselor Skills Training (NCST) Program on campus May 10 and 11. In attendance were fourteen recently hired Counselors and Employment Support Specialists representing the Alexandria, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Hampton, Portsmouth, South Hampton Roads, and Winchester DRS Offices, as well as WWRC. This was the second of three NCST/WWRC sessions scheduled during 2016. Participating counselors were engaged, enthusiastic, and eager to learn more about the Center’s services and programs.

Themes emphasized throughout all sessions included the importance of DRS/WWRC communications, engagement, and the smooth continuum of services focused on successful employment outcomes for Vocational Rehabilitation clients. On May 10, sessions were held covering the following topics: Role and Scope of WWRC in DARS/DRS; Admissions processes, planning for successful day-one experiences, and qualifiers to maintain residential status; Rehabilitation team processes and ‘wrap-around’ behavioral supports; Life Skills Transition Program (LSTP) highlights; and Understanding Campus Life. On the second day, NCST participants had an opportunity to see ‘rehab in action’ as they moved through program areas during the walking tour. They also learned more about WWRC’s Workforce-driven Training programs, Medical Rehabilitation services, and expanded use of the medical outreach model.

Maggie Clower, WWRC Director of Vocational Training, is Retiring

We extend our best wishes to Maggie Clower, Director of the Vocational Training Division, who is retiring on June 30. Maggie has been an outstanding addition to WWRC for more than 17 years and an inspiration to us all. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike.
The Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion & Equality Award recognizes individuals, businesses and organization that demonstrate successful inclusion and equality for Fairfax area people with disabilities. In 2015 The Fairfax Area Disability Service Board present the following awards:

**Lifetime Achievement Award: Doug James** is a leader and trendsetter in ensuring that people with disabilities have the opportunity to work in the most integrated setting. As the retired Northern Virginia Regional Director for the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, he has been a strong supported and partner of the FA-DSB since its inception, and was instrumental in the creation and sustainability of the John Hudson Internship Program.

**Small Business Organization Award: Securis** has provided training and work experience to over 100 Fairfax County Public School students with disabilities for more than 11 years, resulting in integrated employment for many participants. Securis is dedicated to hiring employees with disabilities and empowering them with the skills necessary to excel in the workforce.

**Individual Award: Sheila Barnes** facilitated INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital’s participation in the Fairfax County Public Schools Secondary Transition to Employment Program. This provides independent living skills, vocational training, and work site experience for students with disabilities to develop the talents they need to successfully transition from school to work.

**Nonprofit Organization Award: Cameron’s Coffee and Chocolates** provides jobs for several individuals with disabilities including ownership, managerial and job coaching positions. Cameron’s has a welcoming and friendly staff and they make excellent products, such as coffee and chocolate, plus other delicious products.

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**Important Save the Dates and Trainings!**

**VRA 17th Annual Golf Tournament**

**Monday, September 12th, 2016**

**10:00 A.M.**

 Shotgun Start ~ All profits are used to support the advocacy of people with disabilities

**Check-in:** 9:15 ~ 10:00 A.M.  
**SHOTGUN START:** 10:00 A.M.
**Format:**  18 Hole Captain Choice ~ 4-person team  
**Entry Fee:**  $75.00 per person ~ includes green fees, cart, food, prizes, 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:**  
Stonehenge Golf & Country Club  
1000 Farnham Drive  
Richmond, VA 23236  
(804) 378-7841  

This tournament is limited to 36 teams.  
**Call Kim Shepard at:**  (757) 570-6737 to reserve your spot. 
**Email communication to:**  kimberly.shepard@dars.virginia.gov

**Entry Deadline:**  
**September 9, 2016**

Mail entry form and fees, (checks payable to Virginia Rehabilitation Association) to:  
Kim Shepard  
170 Beach Road  
Poquoson, VA 23662

**Information is also available on the VRA website at:**  [www.vra.org](http://www.vra.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>Telephone #:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Player 2</td>
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<td>Player 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Player 4</td>
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</table>
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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 22nd</td>
<td>10-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 12th</td>
<td>VRA Golf Tournament, Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 13-15th</td>
<td>NRA Conference, Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 16th</td>
<td>NewsNotes Deadline, Third Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21st</td>
<td>10-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16-18th</td>
<td>Collaborations Conference; VA Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2nd</td>
<td>10-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 16th</td>
<td>NewsNotes Deadline, Fourth Quarter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deadline for next issue’s NewsNotes articles is Sept. 16th, 2016

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!
VRA President: Dale Batten
President-Elect: Margie Millner
Past President: Jean Stevenson
Treasurer: Eleanor Williams
Secretary: Adair Jensen-Smith
Board Members: Nora Tucker, Susan Gaillard, Lisa Biler, Tuajuana Smoot Hairston, Gerry O’Neill, Susan Collins, Chuck McElroy, Beth Groff, Shawn Zimmerman

VRCEA President: Marie Worley
VARL President: Robin Metcalf
NewsNotes Editor: Dawn Scott

Next Deadline for NewsNotes: Sept 16th, 2016

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