Presidential Pondering by Marjorie Millner--Submitted by Marjorie Millner, VRA President

What a great pleasure it is to serve as the VRA President for 2017! I want to thank all of you for electing me and awarding me with this honor. Let me start by telling you a little about myself. I have been involved in this profession for over thirty years, and have worked in a variety of roles. I started as a Counselor for the Deaf. I quickly moved to being a Manager for a Clubhouse with the Hampton Newport News CSB, preparing clients with mental illness for community stability and job readiness. Included in the umbrella of services under the Clubhouse, I also managed an Employment Service Organization (ESO), which provided Supported Employment Services to Hampton/Newport News CSB clientele. The Next Step Substance Abuse Day Program, Partial Hospitalization Program, and CSB Deaf Program Services were subsequently added to my watch under my tenure with the Hampton/Newport News CSB. After leaving work for a short stint to raise my children, I returned to the workforce with DARS. Since being with DARS, I have carried a General Caseload, Transition Caseload, Seriously Mentally Ill Caseload, and a Substance Abuse Caseload. I currently work in the capacity of Unit Supervisor in the Hampton DARS office.

Thanks to the hard work and recruitment efforts of Past President, Dale Batten, I come into this position with a full slate of diversified and enthusiastic board members ready to contribute to VRA’s vision. I wish to continue the fine work that Dale started and enhance VRA’s mission as we move forward.

As President, I plan to rekindle and redefine the “VRA Gives Back – Special Projects” initiative. A new line item has been added to the 2017 budget, allowing for two monetary rewards to be presented to persons or programs endorsing VRA’s mission. What a great way to embrace VRA!

I will also focus on improved communication and our membership drive. The 2017 Communications Committee is already going full throttle. In the first quarter, VRA has strengthened communication through regular VRA email blasts and updated Facebook and website information. There has also been focus on new ideas for membership outreach. I am excited to see new strategies put into place for our membership drive as we move through 2017.

We started the year off with a bang through our VRA strategic planning retreat in early January. There was lively discussion resulting in targeted goals and objectives for each committee for 2017. I am so impressed with the drive, creative thinking, and professional commitment of each board member. I look forward to a great year!
Meet our new Members! – Submitted by Sue Collins, Membership Committee and Career and Transition Resource Teacher at Chantilly High School in Chantilly, VA and Kate Gariepy, Membership Committee and Vocational Counselor at The Choice Group

What I have enjoyed being an active member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association?
Sue Collins:
“I decided to run for the Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA) Board after many years of being a member because I felt the VRA needed to diversify its mission to include Rehabilitation Professionals who are working in different work settings. I presently work in a public-school system and I recognize that I bring to my present job the qualities, skills and ethics of a Rehabilitation Professional and I wanted to connect with rehabilitation professionals. I also recognized that the VRA needed to expand its scope to incorporate all rehabilitation professionals working in different locales. Initially, I volunteered for several years to assist the VRA by helping at the Collaborations Conference and I met and networked with fun, enthusiastic and cheerful professionals. The opportunity to represent VRA by assisting at the VRA table allowed me to meet other VRA’s members and I became excited.”

Kate Gariepy:
“Although I have been a member of the VRA for less than 6 months, I have been interested in the organization for almost 3 years when I began my career with The Choice Group. Being part of a group of diverse professionals across the state who dedicated their career in improving lives on individuals with disabilities interested me in multiple ways. I believe that things happen for the better when a group of people with varying expertise come together to brainstorm. I enjoy learning and collaborating with people to discover new ways of achieving the same goal.”

What do you like about your involvement?
Sue Collins:
“I truly enjoy working with members of VRA who enhance and promote services and programs that individuals with disabilities. I feel connected and supported by a group of people who value what I do and understand my professional and personal mission to provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. I am proud to be an involved member of a professional organization that recognizes those professionals who are exemplary leaders through legislation and social advocacy and promote excellence in research and practice. Bottom Line, I like the VRA members and the VRA Board. This group keeps me grounded, inspired and connected. The VRA is a group of individuals who create a synergy of wholeness and work to promote our professional so we can help others work.”

Kate Gariepy:
“I like collaborating with others to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Currently, my involvement in the VRA is collecting articles from various members and creating the quarterly newsletter. I enjoy reading about different projects and activities that the members are doing across the state.”
VRA needs YOU!

“I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.” ~ Brené Brown

The Virginia Rehabilitation Association is a partnership of individuals utilizing a broad base of mentors, leaders, a source of empowerment, trainings, collaborative events, networking…the list goes on and on. Our many reasons for joining together reach throughout the state as we engage with one another on a variety of current issues, growth in the industry, and alliance. We are eager to share this sense of community and energy with each of you and invite you to share this information with others who would greatly benefit from growth, leadership…connection! That is all of us really and we are looking forward to the rest of this year and utilizing our committees, our emerging projects, our outreach to community and business partners, and within each agency and company within this state to make progress in connecting and partnering towards a unified mission to derive ‘strength from these relationships.’

Some of the many benefits of joining NRA and VRA is because of the ability to further develop as a professional with training opportunities at little to no cost, to network and build connections across the state with various providers and specialists/mentors/leaders, to connect and become involved in projects that develop the mission of vocational rehabilitation, and to be a part of something greater, bigger than ourselves.

We have developed a renewed commitment to reach out to you members, both recent and long standing, to discuss why being a member is important to you and how it benefits you? Some of our responses have included, “I feel a sense of community and can discuss openly the challenges that we face and have input on ideas and trainings to identify these areas of opportunity to learn more about our consumers, parents, and the challenges that we face day-to-day.” We have also discussed with leaders in the area why they feel that out of their busy schedules they find it is important to become and remain an integral part of VRA and we were informed that, “we partner to get our message out to a broader community!”

Please share this article with your contacts, share the opportunity to connect, review our website, Facebook page, and quarterly newsletters. We are excited to meet you! We are looking forward to engaging you and hearing from you why being a member is so beneficial and rewarding.

Join today!  https://www.vra.org/membership/index.html


Like us on Facebook and become part of our public group to receive articles, upcoming events, and trainings!
VRA Division and Committee News

VRA Membership Committee Update -- Submitted by Dawn Scott, Membership and Communications Chair

VRA Report: Membership and Communications
Chair: Dawn Scott

Committee Members:
Kate Gariepy – Co-Editor for NewsNotes
Lisa Biler – communications to new members and outreach
Mary Kaye – communications with VRA members; email blasts and wisdom;
Sue Collins – website; email blasts, info@vra with MK
Veronica Hunter – Facebook updates
Margie Milner – VRA Pres and goal setting for membership
Tiffany Jenkins – awards; with Sue C also

Activities to Date:
We have held two committee meetings this year thus far (via phone conf). During these meetings we have discussed membership issues with NRA, set membership goals for outreach, communicated with VRA members to determine plans of action, updated on progress, and utilized both VTC, email outreach, Facebook, the webpage, newsletter, and flyers (thanks Lisa!!) for more outreach and access to current VRA members and to obtain additional members.
--we are planning on having a possible start up of an ongoing discussion…on Facebook? In the Newsletter? To discuss topics that have been brought up by members to make membership even more fulfilling and to tap into the collaboration of leaders, specialists in the field, mentors, resources that VRA is made up of. Susan G had some good ideas that were brought up at Mondays Committee phone conf about why this is important and ways to go about this; also ways to get non-DARS members involved through ‘friends’ each Board Meeting once we have lists to determine these members and using these new members to be ‘friends’ the next year, etc.
--brown bag trainings? Using VARL and VRCEA and collaborating on needs across the divisions
--using the flyers and outreach through VTC to reach more members/possible members through other channels and outside of DARS for a diverse association
--utilizing the recent Social Media response though the NRA committee to look into sharing VRA’s social media channels/events/employer highlights/consumer highlights/program highlights/etc

VRA Education Committee - Submitted by Shawn Zimmerman, Committee Chair

Shawn Zimmerman, Education Committee Chair for 2017, is developing a survey to send out to see what you would like to learn more about! She is interested in any ideas for speakers and locations so keep an eye out for the survey.
VRA Special Projects Committee  - Submitted by Lisa Biler, Committee Chair

Special Projects Committee Report – April 2017

Committee Members: Lisa Biler (Chair), Dawn Scott, Vera Hansley, Margie Millner, Robin Metcalf

The committee met via conference call in February to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Twice yearly, the VRA Board will review nominations for a student of VR, a family in need, a consumer in need, or a project in the state of Virginia that highlights the values of VRA and is in need of support and/or funds for their endeavors.

It was decided that the deadline for 2017’s first round of nominations would be March 15. The second deadline will be in August. Nominations can be submitted to Lisa Biler via email at any time.

Two email blasts were sent out to VRA members prior to March 15, to solicit nominations. The committee received some interest from one VRA member, and an actual nomination from another (Board Member Vera Hansley). Vera’s nomination will now be presented to the Board for consideration.


The 2017 General Assembly

The General Assembly adjourned sine die on Saturday, February 25, 2017, having passed approximately 800 bills, many of which are awaiting the Governor’s actions due by March 27th. The Assembly will return on April 5th for the “reconvened” session to deal with gubernatorial actions that include recommendations to individual bills or vetoes. Neither chamber has a 2/3 majority; consequently, any veto will be sustained and not overridden.

VRA sought an amendment to the Governor’s introduced budget of $1,000,000 in the second year of the biennium for vocational rehab. These funds would not have eliminated the Order of Selection but would have reduced the wait list by approximately 50 percent. Our amendment patrons were Del. Ron Villanueva (R, VA Beach, and a member of the Disability Commission) and Senator Frank Wagner (R, VA Beach, and a member of the Autism Council). Unfortunately, our amendments didn’t make it through the arcane budgetary process.

Our next opportunity to secure increased VR funding will be in the 2018-2020 budget bill that the Governor will present to the General Assembly money committees in December 2017. We remain optimistic that we can have a positive impact on the process. Increasing VR support is always preferable if done in the introduced budget rather than through the legislative amendment process.

We monitored several bills affecting the disability community, chief of which were HB 2425 and SB 1530, patroned by Del. Richard Anderson and Sen. Jill Vogel, respectively. Both bills have been signed into law and will become effective July 1, 2017. They will codify the policy of the Commonwealth to promote and increase the employment of individuals with disabilities.

Reorganization of the VRA legislative/advocacy committee
Welcome to Sam Rothrock as our new committee chair! And many thanks for years of service to Bonnie Henn, who is NOT going away. She will continue to serve on the committee. We are in need of more members. Please feel free to contact Sam (sam.rothrock@gmail.com) or me (bowerslanier@gmail.com) for more info!

**Federal issues**

I’m not an expert of federal WIOA, and I’m certainly not an expert on the American Health Care Act (AHCA), but I’ve been reading about both, and I’m worried about the intended and unintended consequences of each.

By the time this newsletter is disseminated, both the president’s budget and the AHCA will be changed, but the framework for both bears bulleted lists and your attention to calls for advocacy to your Representatives and to our Senators.

Here’s what we have seen initially in the president’s budget plan, and these are recommendations only to Congress:

- A cut of at least $2 billion to WIOA job training programs;
- Proposed cut of 17.9 percent to the US Dept of Health and Human Services;
- Proposed cut of 13 percent to the US Dept of Education
- Proposed cut of 13.2 percent to the Dept of Housing and Urban Development; and
- Proposed cut of 21 percent to the Dept of Labor.

As reported in “Disability Scoop” March 17, David Card of the National Disability Rights Network, said:

> Given that people with disabilities rely on non-defense-discretionary programs much more than defense, homeland security and veterans funding, having such a huge cut in (non-defense discretionary programs) funding will have a devastating impact on the programs people with disabilities use and rely on to work, receive and education (and) live in the community.”

Regarding the AHCA, we know that the original plan offered to the relevant House committees sought to create a series of policies that can be accomplished through the budget reconciliation process (which requires only a simple majority in the Senate instead of a majority of 60 votes). These policies include:

- Removal of the insurance mandate. The mandate would be replaced by a 30% penalty paid to the insurance companies should a policy holder let his/her plan lapse.
- Removal of subsidies for paying for insurance and replacement with tax credits, which can only be offered to people who actually pay taxes.
- Flexibility in types of coverage accomplished by removal of the requirement that all policies cover 10 essential health benefits.
- On the positive side, children can stay on their parents’ policies until the age of 26, and insurers will still cover pre-existing conditions so long as they maintain their insurance.
- Millions of tax breaks to those in upper-income brackets whose taxes were increased to help pay for the tax breaks of those receiving insurance subsidies.
Medicaid will change considerably under the first version of the AHCA, moving to either a per capita cap or block grant. Medicaid expansion will cease to exist in 2020. Republican leaders have touted how much money this will “save” the federal government approximately $800 million over the next decade. These two funding schemes may force the states to make decisions about which clients will receive Medicaid coverage and which benefits will be offered. Undoubtedly there will be pressure on states to cut funding for high-cost users which may include people with disabilities and certainly those with chronic conditions for whom treatment can consist of high-cost therapeutics.

The Congressional Budget Office has scored the AHCA to show that approximately 24 million Americans will lose their health care coverage. Furthermore, states that did not expand Medicaid, such as Virginia, will fare worse than the expansion states, because the funding moving forward will be based on the funding currently for each state. Virginia is notoriously a parsimonious state, ranked 47th in the U.S. in per capita Medicaid spending. Consequently, should this provision of the AHCA move forward, Virginia stands to lose disproportionately more funds than other states with more generous federal Medicaid support.

As individual citizens, you can contact your Representative and Senators Warner and Kaine to let them know your opinions about the impact of the president’s budget plan and the AHCA on the people you serve (or on your own selves). Use your home email address when you email them. Or call their DC offices. If you do not know who your Representative is, you can find out through the General Assembly website.

The 2017 General Assembly convened on Wednesday, April 5th for its reconvened session to deal with the Governor’s actions on bills and the budget. The bill list that I created for us (attached in this email) was relatively non-controversial, at least from the gubernatorial perspective. All of the bills on our list that were sent to him were signed. A few (HB 1966, HB 2109, SB 1449, and SB 1500) didn’t make it during the session. If we have time at the Board meeting, I’m happy to talk about any of the bills on the list. I have a few that I’m really concerned about.

The Governor has also submitted a number of amendments to the budget, and the one that is getting a lot of media attention is Amendment 16, which would restore the language stripped from the introduced budget bill that would expand Medicaid. The governor has reinstated that language. This has gone over like a lead balloon with the majority party in the House and Senate. So expect it to be stripped.

Tomorrow morning, our colleague, Ed Turner, will be presented with a commending resolution honoring his years of service at the General Assembly. Ed has finally decided to hang it up, although he’s taken on convening a small group to inform the Lt. Governor on his campaign about policies affecting the disability community.

We have a new Legislative Committee chairman, Sam Rothrock, who has taken over from Bonnie Henn after her many years of leadership. Bonnie will be remaining on the committee, and under Sam’s leadership, we hope that we’ll grow committee membership. Sam and I met on March 24th. Sam will be setting a goal this coming year revolved around having more VRA members be engaged politically and in the policy arena. We’re still working on the details, but we will probably be holding several “think tank” conference calls in the next several months. More details to follow.

Finally, I presented at the NRA governmental summit this past Sunday on “the art of advocacy.” It was actually a follow-up presentation that Bonnie and I did in November in a national webinar on the topic. We
had about 20 people at the session, and it was basically a discussion follow-up to the keynote presentation that morning on advocacy.

In the next quarter, Sam and I will be working on putting flesh to the bones of his goal for the year, so stay tuned.

Questions? Don’t hesitate to contact Sam or me. And many thanks for your VRA membership and support!


**VRA bill report 2017 General Assembly**

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**HB 1966** Education improvement scholarships tax credit; eligibility & benefits for certain students.

*Chief patron: Massie*

A BILL to amend and reenact 58.1-439.25 and 58.1-439.28 of the Code of Virginia, relating to education improvement scholarships tax credits; eligibility requirements and benefits for students with a disability.

*Summary as introduced:*

Education improvement scholarships tax credit; eligibility requirements and benefits for students with a disability. Expands the education improvement scholarships tax credit program by removing the requirement that a child with a disability be a student enrolled or recently enrolled in public school in order to be eligible. The bill reduces the penalty for failure to fully disburse all donations received from 200 percent to 100 percent of unused donations. The bill increases the scholarship amount available for an eligible child with a disability from 100 percent to 400 percent of the per-pupil amount distributed to the local school division as the state’s share of the standards of quality costs.

01/10/17 House: Referred to Committee on Finance
01/20/17 House: Assigned Finance sub: Subcommittee #2
01/24/17 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1966)
01/25/17 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket
01/30/17 House: Stricken from docket by Finance

**HB 2106** Workforce Development, Virginia Board of; revises composition of Board.

*Chief patron: Byron*

An Act to amend and reenact 2.2-2471, 2.2-2471.1, and 2.2-2472 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Board of Workforce Development.

*Summary as passed House:*

Virginia Board of Workforce Development. Revises the composition of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development (Board) to conform to requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). One member shall be a representative of a private career college. The measure also (i) specifies that funding for a full-time Executive Director position shall be provided by Title I of the WIOA and (ii) replaces a requirement that industry credentials that align with high-demand occupations shall include the Career
Readiness Certificate with the requirement that such industry credentials include a credential that determines career readiness. The measure shall not become effective if prior to July 1, 2017, the U.S. Department of Labor grants a waiver of the State Board membership composition requirements under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that permits the Board to continue with its current composition.

02/21/17 Senate: Signed by President
02/21/17 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on 2/21/17
02/21/17 Governor: Governor's Action Deadline Midnight, March 27, 2017
03/03/17 Governor: Approved by Governor—Chapter 265 (effective—see bill)

**HB 2109 Persons with disabilities; expands definition of "service dog."**

*Chief patron: Kory*

A BILL to amend and reenact § 51.5-40.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to rights of persons with disabilities; definition of "service dog."

*Summary as introduced:*

**Rights of persons with disabilities; definition of "service dog."** Expands the definition of "service dog" to include dogs trained to assist persons with a disability by providing (i) therapeutic contact to help with depression, anxiety, or certain phobias, or to improve physical or cognitive functioning, or (ii) emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship.

01/10/17 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/17 17102344D
01/10/17 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
01/13/17 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB2109)
01/17/17 House: Assigned HWI sub: Subcommittee #3
02/07/17 House: Left in Health, Welfare and Institutions

**HB 2396 Virginia Public Procurement Act; participation of employment services organizations.**

*Chief patron: Hope*

An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-4310 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; participation of employment services organizations.

*Summary as passed House:*

**Virginia Public Procurement Act; SWaM program; participation of employment service organizations.** Provides that contracts and subcontracts awarded to employment services organizations shall be credited toward the small business, women-owned, and minority-owned business contracting and subcontracting goals of state agencies as well as state contractors. This bill is identical to SB 1538.

02/21/17 Senate: Signed by President
02/21/17 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on 2/21/17
02/21/17 Governor: Governor’s Action Deadline Midnight, March 27, 2017
HB 2425 Administration, Secretary of; policy of the Commonwealth regarding state employment.

Chief patron: Anderson

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-203.2:3, relating to the Secretary of Administration; policy of the Commonwealth regarding state employment of individuals with disabilities; report.

Summary as introduced:

Policy of the Commonwealth regarding the employment of individuals with disabilities; responsibilities of state agencies; report. Provides that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to promote and increase the employment of individuals with disabilities. To further this policy, the bill establishes a goal to increase by five percent the level of individuals with disabilities employed by state government by fiscal year 2023. The bill designates the Secretary of Administration to coordinate efforts to achieve the goal and requires the Secretary to establish a reporting system for tracking and reporting the progress of state agencies toward meeting the employment goals and to report annually on the number of individuals with disabilities employed by the state. The bill requires each state agency to submit a plan to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities to the Secretary no later than December 31, 2017, and each July 1 thereafter. This bill is identical to SB 1530.

HJ 545 Constitutional amendment; powers of General Assembly, etc.

Chief patron: Head

Proposing an amendment to Section 14 of Article IV of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to powers of the General Assembly; suspension or nullification of administrative rule or regulation.

Summary as passed:

Constitutional amendment (first resolution); powers of General Assembly; suspension or nullification of administrative rule or regulation. Provides that the General Assembly may suspend or nullify any or all portions of any administrative rule or regulation by a joint resolution agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each house. The amendment also grants to the General Assembly the authority to authorize a legislative committee or legislative committees acting jointly or a legislative commission to suspend any or all portions of any administrative rule or regulation while the General Assembly is not in a regular session. Such suspension would continue until the end of the next regular session.
SB 922 DPOR and DHP; licensure, certification, registration, and permitting.

Chief patron: Petersen


Summary as introduced:
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation and Department of Health Professions; licensure, certification, registration, and permitting. Provides that certain powers of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Department of Health Professions, and health regulatory boards and certain requirements of persons regulated by such entities apply, inclusively, to permits as well as licenses, certifications, and registrations and to holders of permits as well as holders of such licenses, certifications, and registrations.

02/21/17 Senate: Signed by President
02/21/17 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on 2/21/17
02/21/17 Governor: Governor’s Action Deadline Midnight, March 27, 2017
03/13/17 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 423 (effective 7/1/17)
03/13/17 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0423)

SB 981 Charity health care services; liability protection for administrators.

Chief patron: Stanley

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-106 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charity health care services; liability protection for administrators.

Summary as passed Senate:
Charity health care services; liability protection for administrators. Provides that persons who administer, organize, arrange, or promote the rendering of services to patients of certain clinics shall not be liable to patients of such clinics for any civil damages for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of such services unless the act or omission was the result of such persons’ or the clinic’s gross negligence or willful misconduct. This bill is identical to HB 1748.

02/15/17 Senate: Signed by President
02/15/17 Senate: Enrolled Bill Communicated to Governor on 2/15/17
02/15/17 Governor: Governor’s Action Deadline Midnight, February 22, 2017
SB 1449 Red Tape Reduction Commission; established, report.

Chief patron: Chase

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4011 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 10, consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2537 through 2.2-2545, relating to the establishment of the Red Tape Reduction Commission; review of regulatory requirements; report.

Summary as passed Senate:

Red Tape Reduction Commission; review of regulatory requirements; report. Creates the Red Tape Reduction Commission (the Commission) to develop and maintain a state regulatory baseline of all current state regulatory requirements, with the initial baseline to be completed by January 1, 2019. The bill defines a regulatory requirement as any action required to be taken or information required to be provided in accordance with a statute or regulation in order to access government services or operate and conduct business and excludes requirements that are necessary to conform to changes in Virginia statutory law or the appropriation act where no agency discretion is involved or to meet requirements of federal law or regulations. The bill also provides that after the regulatory baseline has been established, any subsequent regulatory requirement proposed by an agency that is not included in the initial state regulatory baseline is considered a new regulatory requirement and requires the approval of the Commission before it may be enacted. In addition, the bill provides for the Commission to review current state regulatory requirements and provide recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on measures to reduce the baseline regulatory requirements. The Commission must submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1, 2017, on (i) the organizational structure of the Commission, (ii) duties of staff, and (iii) guidelines for determining what constitutes a regulatory requirement. The provisions of the bill are contingent on funding in a general appropriation act.

02/09/17 House: Read first time
02/09/17 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws
02/14/17 House: Reported from General Laws (15-Y 7-N)
02/14/17 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/21/17 House: Left in Appropriations

SB 1500 School Health Advisory Board; established, report.

Chief patron: Favola

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-275.2, relating to the School Health Advisory Board.

17104125D
**Summary as introduced:**

**School Health Advisory Board.** Establishes the School Health Advisory Board in the executive branch to advise the General Assembly on pending legislation concerning health policy that affects elementary and secondary schools.

01/18/17 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 17104125D
01/18/17 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
01/27/17 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB1500)
02/02/17 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Education and Health with letter (13-Y 0-N)

**SB 1530 Administration, Secretary of; policy of the Commonwealth regarding state employment.**

*Chief patron: Vogel*

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-203.23, relating to the Secretary of Administration; policy of the Commonwealth regarding state employment of individuals with disabilities; report.

*Summary as passed Senate:*

**Policy of the Commonwealth regarding the employment of individuals with disabilities; responsibilities of state agencies; report.** Provides that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to promote and increase the employment of individuals with disabilities. To further this policy, the bill establishes a goal to increase by five percent the level of individuals with disabilities employed by state government by fiscal year 2023. The bill designates the Secretary of Administration to coordinate efforts to achieve the goal and requires the Secretary to establish a reporting system for tracking and reporting the progress of state agencies toward meeting the employment and contracting goals and to report annually on the number of individuals with disabilities employed by the state. The bill requires each state agency to submit a plan to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities to the Secretary no later than December 31, 2017, and each July 1 thereafter. This bill is identical to HB 2425.

02/22/17 House: Signed by Speaker
02/23/17 Senate: Enrolled Bill Communicated to Governor on 2/23/17
02/23/17 Governor: Governor's Action Deadline Midnight, March 27, 2017
03/13/17 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 371 (effective 7/1/17)
03/13/17 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0371)

**SB 1538 Virginia Public Procurement Act; participation of employment services organizations.**

*Chief patron: Hanger*

An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-4310 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; participation of employment services organizations.

*Summary as passed:*
Virginia Public Procurement Act; SWaM program; participation of employment services organizations. Provides that contracts and subcontracts awarded to employment services organizations shall be credited toward the small business, women-owned, and minority-owned business contracting and subcontracting goals of state agencies as well as state contractors. The bill is identical to HB 2396.

02/22/17 House: Signed by Speaker
02/23/17 Senate: Enrolled Bill Communicated to Governor on 2/23/17
02/23/17 Governor: Governor’s Action Deadline Midnight, March 27, 2017
03/13/17 Governor: Approved by Governor—Chapter 407 (effective 7/1/17)
03/13/17 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0407)

**SJ 295** Constitutional amendment (first resolution); legislative review of administrative rules.

*Chief patron:* Vogel

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia by adding in Article IV a section numbered 19, relating to legislative review of administrative rules.

*Summary as passed Senate:*

**Constitutional amendment (first resolution); legislative review of administrative rules.** Grants to the General Assembly the authority to review any administrative rule to ensure it is consistent with the legislative intent of the statute that the rule was written to interpret, prescribe, implement, or enforce. The amendment provides that after such review, the General Assembly may approve or reject, in whole or in part, any rule as provided by law and that the approval or rejection of a rule by the General Assembly shall not be subject to veto by the Governor.

03/07/17 Senate: Enrolled
03/07/17 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SJ295ER)
03/07/17 House: Signed by Speaker
03/10/17 Senate: Signed by President
03/27/17 House: Assigned Chapter 772 (effective 7/1/17)

**SJ 311** Constitutional amendment; legislative review of administrative rules (first reference).

*Chief patron:* Carrico

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia by adding in Article IV a section numbered 19, relating to legislative review of administrative rules.

*Summary as introduced:*

**Constitutional amendment (first resolution); legislative review of administrative rules.** Grants to the General Assembly the authority to review any administrative rule to ensure it is consistent with the legislative intent of the statute that the rule was written to interpret, prescribe, implement, or enforce. The amendment provides that after such review, the General Assembly may approve or reject, in whole or in part, any rule as provided by law and that the approval or rejection of a rule by the General Assembly shall not be subject to veto by the Governor.
VARL Update – Submitted by Roxanne Slaughter, VARL President

VARL is planning another year of leadership trainings. Please mark your calendar for May 11th, as VARL and APSE will be sponsoring trainings on WIOA and on working with the LGTBQ population. The presenters for WIOA will be a panel discussion comprised of Jean Stevenson, Patricia Leahy, Beacky Bowers-Lanier, Donna Bonessi, and more! Also the LGTBQ presenter will be Charles Dyson at Side by Side and take place in Richmond.

At our most recent VARL meeting, April 11th, Andrew Stowe presented on Self-care as a Leader. The meeting was held at the DARS office in Culpeper. Our plan is to have a presentation at each of our quarterly meetings. We have contacted Amy Armstrong to develop training for later in the year and as soon as plans have been finalized an announcement will be released. We hope that you will plan to join us.

We would love to have you become a VARL member. It’s a great way to get more involved in activities and build leadership skills for professional development.

VRA Foundation Scholarship – Submitted by Dale Batten

Are you a member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association?
Are you or a family member attending college?
Are you aware of the VRA Foundation Scholarship?

Each year the Virginia Rehabilitation Association Education Foundation requests applications from interested and eligible members or family members in consideration for the VRA Education Foundation Scholarship. The application may be found on the VRA Website on the Foundation link. Applications are due by June 30th ... so don’t delay!

For additional information contact:
Dee Dee Batten
Dale.Batten@dars.virginia.gov
804-662-9792
VRCEA is off and running for 2017! For this year VRCEA has two main goals: to continue to offer quality training around the state, and to increase and diversify membership. Our first training for 2017, Career Pathways, Assistive Technology, and Manufacturing Options for Students in Transition, had to be re-scheduled. We hope to attract additional Community Based Training and Transition staff this summer. Stay tuned for up-dated information! VRCEA’s Education Team is busy making plans for our annual Rehab Counselor Day training in May. This year’s speaker will be Teresa Mullins. Ms. Mullins is currently a Certified Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC), serving people with disabilities in Far Southwest Virginia. She recently published her first book: Job Coaching in Rural Areas. Teresa plans to share why working in a “small town” takes a different approach. She will discuss how rehabilitation professionals can reach individuals in a way they will understand and appreciate. Ms. Mullins will also share tips on how to research and collect necessary data, as well as how Rehabilitation Counselors may need to adapt to a rural culture and perform successfully. We are coordinating with DARS’ Video Tele-Conference (VTC) staff to “simulcast” this training, so professionals throughout the Commonwealth can join. In addition to her CWIC credential Teresa has extensive experience in rehabilitation field. She has been an Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a Medicaid Services Specialist, Supported Employment Services provider, and the TTY/Equipment Coordinator for the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH).

New Member Spot Light: Tyler Schreffler- VR Counselor Fairfax DARS Office

Tyler was a big winner at the 2016 Collaborations Conference! In addition to winning a door prize and 50/50 Raffle, Tyler also received a one-year “free” VRCEA membership. Not one to let an opportunity pass by he volunteered to be a guest of VRCEA’s Board Meeting Phone Conference in January. In his current role as a Transition Counselor, Tyler enjoys helping high school students with disabilities overcome barriers and prepare for their futures. Although new to the field, Tyler is experienced working with children and adults with disabilities through a variety of educational and employment opportunities. Tyler holds a Master’s Degree Rehabilitation Counseling from George Washington University’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development. He wants to be more involved with professional organizations to “have more of a say” on the future direction of Rehabilitation Counseling. Eventually Tyler wants to be more involved in research and policy development. We look forward to Tyler’s fresh perspective and hopes he brings new ideas to the field!

Next VRCEA Phone Conference Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 11 8:30 AM

Goals for 2017: 1. Continue to offer quality training around the state.  
2. Increase and diversify membership.

March 2017 Training Session: Career Pathways, Assistive Technology, and Manufacturing Options for Students in Transition, re-scheduled; due to low registration. Rehab professionals expressed interest, yet were unable to attend because of schedules. Board members feel offering this training over the summer will attract Community Based Training and Transition staff. Efforts are being made to set this up.

May 2017- Annual Rehabilitation Counselors’ Day
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 9AM-12 PM.
**Speaker:** Teresa Mullins. Ms. Mullins is currently a Certified Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC), serving people with disabilities in Far Southwest Virginia. She has also been an Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a Medicaid Services Specialist, Supported Employment Services provider, and the TTY/Equipment Coordinator for the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH).

**Topic:** Job Coaching in Rural Areas: How Rehabilitation Professionals can Reach Individuals with Disabilities and Provide Successful Employment Outcomes.

We are coordinating with DARS’ Video Tele-Conference (VTC) staff to “simulcast” this training, so professionals throughout the Commonwealth can join. The training “base” will be the Wytheville Meeting Center. “Satellite” training sites have been confirmed for the Danville and Lynchburg DARS offices. We are also coordinating with the Charlottesville and Manassas DARS offices. CRC and Continuing Ed Credits will be offered. “Save the Date” and Registration flyers have been submitted.

**VRCEA Video Tele-Conference Training - Submitted by Kelly Desclos-Estes, VRCEA President**

VRCEA presents its first Video Tele-Conference

SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES for PEOPLE with DISABILITIES in RURAL AREAS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017 9am – 12pm
Registration: 8:30am

Host Site: Wytheville Meeting Center Conference Room B
Satellite Sites: DARS-Danville and Lynchburg Offices
Tentative Locations at DARS-Charlottesville, Manassas Offices

Presented by Teresa Mullins
Author, Job Coaching in Rural Areas: Tips and Suggestions

Continuing Education and CRC Credits Provided

Training is FREE to current VRCEA members  Non-Members $ 25.00

To Register contact Kathleen Shifflett: Kathleen.shifflett@dars.virginia.gov

Make Checks Payable to VRCEA. Send to DARS c/o Kathleen Shifflett
722 East Market St. Suite 202 Leesburg, VA 20176

LIMITED SPACE Please Specify Location when Registering
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 1.
Bonnie Henn and Eleanor Williams visited Senator Mark Warner’s office meeting with Legislative Aide, Arlyne Foy. Kathy Hayfield and Dee Dee Batten also joined the meeting in relationship to advocacy efforts at the CSAVR conference being held in Washington DC on the same day. The NRA Issue Statements were reviewed with Ms. Foy and Ms. Hayfield also provided information regarding recent changes at RSA in relationship to the AbilityOne contract sites and VR services.

Eleanor and Bonnie also met with Lauren Covington, aide to Congressman Gerald Connolly, 11th District of Virginia, and reviewed the Issue statements and thanked Congressman Connolly for his advocacy for people with disabilities and lending his voice in opposition to the changes to the ACA.

Eleanor Williams and Bonnie Henn later presented Congressman Bobby Scott, 3rd District of Virginia, with the “Lead On” award on behalf of the National Rehabilitation Association. The “Lead On” award is presented annually to those who have provided continued advocacy for advancing the employment and independence of people with disabilities.

Really enjoy playing basketball? Want to be a part of a basketball team but unable to play due to a disability? Consider participating in wheelchair basketball! Contrary to what most people think, you do not have to be a full-time wheelchair-user to be a wheelchair basketball team member!

Plans are underway for the formation for a Roanoke area wheelchair basketball team. If you would like additional information about the team call or text one of these individuals: Allen Champagne at 540-765-8500 or Jacob Tyree at 540-580-0092. If you would like additional information about wheelchair basketball, check out the National Wheelchair Basketball Association website at nwba.org.
The Blue Ridge Independent Living Center is assisting the team to get started. BRILC is a private, nonprofit organization that assists individuals with disabilities to be independent. The Center also assists the community to be accessible to all. If you would like more information about the Center, call Karen Michalski-Karney at 540-342-1231 (v/tty).

The disAbility Resource Center Update -- Submitted by Kimberly Lett, Program Coordinator/Deputy Director

The disAbility Resource Center
409 Progress Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
Phone: 540-373-2559 Fax: 540-373-8126, TTY/CAPTEL: 540-373-2559
Website: www.cildrc.org Email: drc@cildrc.org

MEDIA RELEASE
DATE: March 31, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Kimberly Lett, Program Coordinator

540-373-2559, klett@cildrc.org

Independent Living Expo
May 13 at the Fredericksburg Expo Center

FREDERICKSBURG, VA — An Independent Living Expo, featuring services and providers that support independent living options for people with disabilities and seniors, will take place May 13, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Fredericksburg Expo Center, 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway, Fredericksburg. The Expo will feature providers of assistive technology, home and vehicle modifications, attendant care, therapy services, computer software, durable medical equipment, and more. The IL Expo will also include mini workshops on topics such as special needs financial planning, employment options for people using Social Security, long-term care supports, service dog demonstrations, health and nutrition, and deaf and hard-of-hearing technology.

“This will be a free day of seeing, touching, trying and learning about all kinds of support services and emerging technology,” says Debe Fults, dRC Executive Director. The disAbility Resource Center (dRC) is hosting the event with sponsorship from Mobility SuperCenter in Richmond, Rappahannock Goodwill Industries and the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

"The Independent Living philosophy emphasizes the idea that people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, particularly in reference to services that powerfully affect their day-to-day lives. This Expo will help people know what technology and services are available to help them live, work, and take part in their communities.

“All people use some sort of technology, but for people with disabilities technology provides equal access and helps them to perform functions that otherwise can be difficult or impossible,” Fults added. "Our hope is to bring information, devices and supports together under one roof for people with disabilities, their families,
Caregivers, service providers and others to see, feel, try and learn how independent living can be made possible.”

More information on the IL Expo, including vendor applications, and the disAbility Resource Center can be found at www.cildrc.org.

About the DRC
The dRC’s mission is to assist people with all types of disabilities, of all ages, to achieve the highest benefit and potential for independent living. It provides information, resources, advocacy, independent living skills training, peer counseling, nursing home and school transition and a variety of other services to people with disabilities, their families and caretakers, and the community. More information can be found at www.cildrc.org.

solicited for the Independent Living Expo. Email or call drc@cildrc.org or call 540-373-2559 for information.

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

Austin McQuade is thrilled to be working just a few short weeks following his graduation from Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center’s Manufacturing Technology Training (MTT) Program. He applied to three different companies, and had two solid job offers within a week once they reviewed his application and saw that he had the coveted Manufacturing Technician One (MT1) credential from the Manufacturing Skills Institute. He accepted the job at CDA-USA and travels as a field technician servicing and repairing “labeling and filling” machines. His position is full time with benefits. Austin received his Career Readiness Certificate, OSHA 10 Safety credential, Forklift Training, the Manufacturing Specialist and MT1, in his MTT program.

We just learned that the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) will be including a success story about WWRC in their “Invest in America” campaign. Austin McQuade’s story of finding his dream job through his training at WWRC will be highlighted by CSAVR. Below is a quote from John Connelly at CSAVR.

“Copies of Investing will be shared with folks attending the Day on the Hill on Tuesday, April 4, so they can share it with the Congressional offices that they visit so those offices will get a sense of what the public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program is doing nationally. Also, Investing is used throughout the year in meetings that CSAVR staff and others have with Congressional and Administration Offices, again in order to provide information about the impact of the public VR program nationally.”
Meet WWRC’s New Career and Workforce Development Division Director

We are pleased to introduce James Hall as WWRC’s new Career and Workforce Development Division Director. James comes to WWRC after holding Assistant Principal positions at two different schools in Augusta County, at both the high school and middle school level. Prior to his administrative positions, he worked for several years in the Fairfax County, Albemarle County, and Augusta County School Systems as a Special Education teacher. James lives with his wife and four children in Staunton, Virginia, and has a daughter with autism. He relays that WWRC offers him the opportunity to serve individuals with disabilities while fully utilizing his educational leadership experience and credentials. James holds a Master’s Degree in Educational Administration, along with endorsements from the Virginia Department of Education in the following areas: Administration and Supervision, Learning Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, and Emotional Disabilities. His selection follows an exhaustive search and rigorous selection process. Please join us in welcoming James to our team and worthy cause of helping individuals with disabilities to become employed.

New Counselor Skills Training at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center

On February 7, Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center welcomed twelve new DRS counselors and employment support staff to our campus as part of the Agency’s New Counselor Skills Training Program. These Agency staff represented ten different DRS Offices across the state (Abingdon, Alexandria, Henrico, Leesburg, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Portsmouth, Roanoke, South Boston, and Winchester). Everyone was very enthusiastic and interested in learning more about the Center – the student led tours, as always, were the highlight.
Check out WWRC’s latest podcast featuring Bruce Dellinger. Hear his courageous story of vocational rehabilitation, and how he has become a successful artist through vocational rehabilitation. Bruce not only received services at WWRC, but had support from Larry Roberts, Self-Employment Enterprise Specialist.

VRA’s Pictorial History
In 1986, a classroom in the Mary E. Switzer Building at the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center, founded as Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, was dedicated to the memory of R. N. Anderson, the first Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services serving from 1928 through his retirement in 1962. Through the R. N. Anderson Award, given annually, VRA recognizes a current VRC member who has demonstrated excellence in services to persons with disabilities. The Large Classroom in the WWRC Mary E. Switzer Building has been the steward for VRA’s pictorial history of award recipients for over thirty years. With current renovations to the R.N. Anderson Building on the WWRC campus, plans are underway to transfer this stewardship from the Mary E. Switzer Building to a premier location within the newly renovated R.N. Anderson Building where the award and its recipients will be spotlighted within the context of WWRC’s workforce-driven mission and vision. Look for updates in future VRA NewsNotes.

DARS and the Brain Injury Association – Submitted by Donna Cantrell, Program Specialist (Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit)

DARS’ Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit is Implementing New Grant/Research Projects in 2017!

In late 2015, DARS’ Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit implemented a project designed to increase the identification of individuals with an undiagnosed brain injury who may be receiving community-based services / supports. “Community-Based Brain Injury Screening Initiative” is a three-year subcontract with the
University of Virginia Health System, funded through the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund. The project includes development and oversight of a pilot project to implement brain injury screening initiatives at eight (8) community sites (urban and rural) across Virginia: two Community Service Boards, two Area Agencies on Aging, two Free and Charitable Clinics, and two Centers for Independent Living. Specific activities to be carried out include: formal literature review to identify existing screening tools and initiatives used by non-brain injury services providers; implementation of screening protocols in the eight community pilot sites; and the development of education and training for non-brain injury professionals. UVA contractors, Donna Broshek, Ph.D. and Jeffrey Barth, Ph.D., will produce a formal training protocol that includes a webinar and written guidelines, and a final report describing the screening instrument, the screening protocol, and staff training initiatives including a “train the trainer” approach to address staff turnover at the community sites. The report will present the researchers’ conclusions regarding the number, nature, and outcome of individuals screening positive for brain injury at each of the community test sites. Finally, the final report will provide recommendations for more widespread, and more effective, screening initiatives among non-brain injury community services programs. In the end, DARS expects the project to result in greater screening activities during the intake process at more community services sites, with an anticipated increase in referrals for treatment for individuals who experience brain injury.

Additional projects being funded in 2017 through the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund include:

1. VCU: Principle Investigator, Alex Valadka - Comparative evaluation of mannitol and hypertonic saline in the treatment of experimental traumatic brain injury

2. VCU: Principle Investigator, Kristy Dixon - PAIN-T alleviation Immediately after neurotrauma mediated via TNFRI


4. Community Brain Injury Services: Principle Investigator, Jason Young - Evaluating Brain Injury Clubhouses and their effects on neurobehavioral functioning and participation

If you are a CIL, AAA, Free and Charitable Clinic or CSB and you’d like to work with us on the screening project, please contact Donna Cantrell at donna.cantrell@dars.virginia.gov or call 804-662-7069. If you have questions or comments on any of the other recently-funded projects, please contact Wanda Allen at wanda.allen@dars.virginia.gov or call 804-662-7154.

Virginia Division on Career Development & Transition Spring Happenings – Submitted by VADCDT Board of Directors

The VADCDT 2017 Conference will be in Charlottesville VA on June 8 & 9, 2017. This is a reschedule of the March 2017 Conference. Visit 2017 Conference Registration to register today.
Community Events

Co-Sponsored by DARS

WIOA Workshop
10:00-12:00
Presented by: Donna Bonessi, Jean Stevenson, Patricia Leahy, and Becky Bowers-Lanier, as a collaborative panel discussion

LGBTQ Workshop
1:00-3:00
Presented by Charles Dyson-Associate Director of Side by Side

May, 11, 2017

DARS-8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Henrico VA 23229
CRC’s will be provided
VTC sites-Lynchburg, Culpeper, Hampton, Fairfax

Please register by May 4, 2017 to:
Sherrina Sewell-804-588-3320 Sherrina.Sewell@dars.virginia.gov
Or Roxanne Slaughter -434-947-6721 Roxanne.Slaughter@dars.virginia.gov
COST-$ 25 non members/$15 members

Editor’s Note –Submitted by Dawn Scott and Kate Gariepy, NewsNotes Editors

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 and 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 yearA 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.
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At the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, most of our employees can say this at the end of each day. We hire individuals with a variety of occupational skills: vocational rehabilitation counselors, vocational evaluators, disability determination analysts, program specialists and more. Join us in our mission to secure independence, inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities into our communities. Our employees truly make a difference in the lives of Virginians. Visit www.vadsa.org/jobs/default.asp to learn more about careers at DARS.
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

May 11th  VARL Dual Training on WIOA and working with the LGTBQ, Richmond and VTC sites
May 13th  10-4pm; Independent Living Expo at Fredericksburg Expo Center
June 16th  NewsNotes Deadline, Second Quarter
July 11th  VARL Quarterly Meeting, DARS Maywill office
July 14th  10-12pm; VRA Board Meeting, Richmond
July 18th  8:30am-9:30am; VRCEA Board Meeting
Sept. 13th  TBD; VRCEA Board Meeting
Sept 10th, 11th & 12th  Collaborations and VRA Annual Board Meeting; Norfolk
Sept 15th  NewsNotes Deadline, Third Quarter
Nov 16th  VARL Quarterly Meeting, DARS Charlottesville
Dec 12th  8:30am-9:30am; VRCEA Board Meeting
Dec 22nd  NewsNotes Deadline, Fourth Quarter

Deadline for next issue’s NewsNotes articles is June 16th, 2017

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!
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Like us on Facebook and become part of our public group to receive articles and info on upcoming events and trainings!
https://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Rehabilitation-Association-221447861231371/?ref=page_internal
Next Deadline for NewsNotes: June 16th, 2017

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