



# NewsNotes

A Quarterly Publication of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association  
2003 First Quarter, January-March No. 9

## Outgoing Presidential Reflections...Bonnie Hawley

I hope that this message finds you in good spirits, health and making resolutions for the upcoming year! Looking back on the past year, it seemed to fly! It was with disappointment that the annual retreat had to be canceled due to inclement weather. We missed the annual celebration of our accomplishments as a result, but I would like to share with you highlights from our year...

This past February we took advantage of opportunities to share the NRA and VRA legislative agenda with our Virginia representatives in Washington DC through the Legislative Affairs Seminar. In conjunction with this Seminar, we had a great fundraiser at a local restaurant coordinated by Terri Breast. The leadership at NRA was impressed with this fun idea and we plan to make it an annual tradition. In collaboration with VRCA and VCU we sponsored a wonderful reception for incoming DRS Commissioner Jim Rothrock and Dr. Roy Grizzard, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Howard and Susan Green led the way again and our annual golf tournament was a huge success. With thanks to Bill Burnside and Doug James, the new rehabilitation leadership division, VARL is well underway with new opportunities and ideas. Evan T. Jones was elected as National President of this division and another VRA member, Dr. Chris Reid is the National President of NRCA. VRA is proud of the national leadership positions that our members have attained. Our educational committee had several seminars and sponsored one of the most well attended sessions at Collaborations. Speaking of Collaborations, un-

*Outgoing Presidential Reflections (Continued on page 2)*

## New Presidential Pondering... Howard Green

Happy New Year to each of you!! We have a lot to be thankful for as we enter 2003. Let me say thanks to Bonnie Hawley, Mark Fletcher, the other officers, and Board members for making 2002 a wonderful year for VRA. As you can see from Bonnie's letter, VRA has been very active and continues to be a leader on rehabilitation issues. However, with the current status of the economic conditions in Virginia, there is a lot for us (VRA) to do in order to continue our message as an advocate for the needs of people with disabilities as well as the rehabilitation professional community. In order to do this we need to recruit new members for VRA. As your new VRA President, my objective for this year is "To Grow VRA". Currently we have approximately 170 VRA members (112 full/associate, 24 students, & 36 life members). It wasn't too long ago that our membership totaled over 400. If we are to continue being seen as a leader on rehabilitation issues, we need more members who share our concerns and enthusiasm to make change. I would like to offer a challenge to each of you reading this newsletter. Please take the time out of your very busy daily schedule and recruit at least one new member this year. This is very important to all of us in VRA. In addition I would like to know the name of the person you recruit so I can call them directly and talk about how they can be of assistance and thank them for joining. I am going to work with our Communication and Membership Committee to initiate a plan to recruit and provide incentives to our members who take an active role in this area.

Along with membership recruitment the other key objectives for 2003 will be in the areas of train-

*New Presidential Pondering (Continued on page 2)*

The next VRA Board Meeting is January 9, 2003

## Outgoing Presidential Reflections...

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der VRA's leadership with Mark Fletcher and Howard Green at the helm, we had another very successful annual conference. The By-laws and Constitution Committee have completed new drafts that ready for Board and Membership review and approval. Our treasurer, Eleanor Williams has completed the forms for our application for non-profit status with the IRS. These should be available for review at our next Board meeting. Also, I recently received correspondence from International VEWA and they are interested in a collaborative relationship with VRA. The proposed MOU that I received will also be available for our review and discussion at the next Board meeting. There has also been some dialogue with NRA about the Mid Atlantic Division. This division has been largely inactive over the past few years. As a state chapter, we will have the opportunity to either participate in the revitalization of this division or join the very active Southeast division. Under the current reorganization at NRA there has been much discussion about the purpose and structure of the divisions so this provides an excellent platform for this change. Both opportunities have pros and cons and we will need to be thoughtful about our decision.

It has been an exciting year with many challenges and much growth for VRA. I look forward to the exciting plans that our incoming President, Howard Green, will be bringing to us. I would like to extend a personal note of thanks to all of you who have helped in making this year a success. It has truly been a pleasure and honor to serve VRA. I wish each of you a Holiday Season filled with peace and wonderful New Year.



**Best Regards,  
Bonnie Hawley**



## New Presidential Pondering

(continued from page 1 )

ing/education and legislative advocacy. These are areas which are beneficial to our members. However, we need your assistance. The Training/Education and Legislative committees would like to know what your needs are as VRA members. If we don't here from you I am sure you will be hearing from us in the near future. With the leadership of Mary Kaye Johnston we are going to revise our web site and make it more visible and useable for our members. Mary Kaye will be our Web Master and take the responsibility to put information on the site which is important to you and other potential VRA members. Please take the time to visit the site. ([www.vra.org](http://www.vra.org)). I would like to hear from you regarding your thoughts and ideas about growing VRA so please give me a call or write a note. My e-mail address is [jgreen18@aol.com](mailto:jgreen18@aol.com) and I can be reached by phone at 804-828-9548 (w) or 804-379-1286 (h). I am looking forward to working with you this year.

**Submitted by Howard Green, VRA President**



## 2002 RSA Commissioner's Award

The Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services' Assistive Rehabilitation Technology Training at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center recently received the 2002 RSA Commissioner's Award, "For Outstanding Achievement and Distinction in the Training of Qualified Rehabilitation Personnel for the Public Rehabilitation Program and its Network of Community Rehabilitation Providers." This was a very competitive award and special thanks goes out to all the hard work of the WWRC therapists, DRS Assistive Technology Staff & the Rehabilitation Field Engineers. Joanne Wilson, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration presented a plaque at a ceremony on October 8, 2002 in Washington, DC to Dr. Joseph Ashley who accepted the award on behalf of DRS Commissioner, Jim Rothrock.



## Project HEAR

### HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND RETENTION FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS

Do you have a deaf/hard of hearing student who...

- is having difficulties with developmental courses,
- could use some extra assistance with their academic coursework, and/or
- is in need of other accommodation needs beyond what is typically offered on campus?

Are you having difficulties securing qualified interpreters for your students?

Do you currently have a student on your caseload that would benefit from the resources of Project HEAR?

Services are available beginning in the Spring, 2003 semester.

For further information on Project HEAR, please contact the following:

**Co-Director: VCCS**  
**Joe Barden, Director of Student Services**  
**804-819-4971**  
**jbarden@vccs.edu**

**Co-Director: WWRC**  
**Lynn Chambers, Media & Technology Specialist 540-332-7434 or 706-861-9205**  
**chambele@wwrc.state.va.us**

Funded by the Department of Education's Funding for Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) Comprehensive fund.

## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Unit to Change Its Name at WWRC

Effective January 1, 2003, the Center's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Unit will change its name to reflect expanding roles within the Center's environment. Specifically, the unit will be renamed "Special Populations Services," providing case management and support services for those individuals identified as Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or use English as a Second Language. In addition, this unit will serve individuals referred by the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. The unit will continue to provide case management support to Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Program for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, and deaf.

## Success Story-Drafting/CAD-Brain Injury Services

A client served through the Center's Brain Injury Services (BIS) Program, R.T., just completed a lengthy program in Drafting/CAD and relocated to Lynchburg, Virginia, on Sept. 29, 2002. R.T. began his student internship program at Liberty University this week. The amount of support received from Center staff and the Field Counselor, Millie Hall, has been impressive. R.T. has been very responsible and committed while in the program. Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center Brain Injury Services Community Support Coordinator, Ellen Braswell, and R.T. began looking for housing in April, 2002. Through a couple of site visits to Lynchburg in the past month, about fifteen apartments were explored. The good news last week was that R.T. was eligible for the apartment that he wanted. He chose an apartment that he could afford once Agency funding is discontinued. It is close to the bus line, has laundry facilities and provides some financial support for utilities.

**Above Two Articles Submitted by Wendell Coleman—WWRC**



## A Success Story

"John" first began receiving services for depression at age sixteen. In the ensuing years, his mental illness intensified, leading to several suicide attempts and ultimately to a diagnosis of schizophrenia, disorganized type. Despite all this turmoil, John managed to receive both undergraduate and graduate degrees in his field. Unfortunately, he had little opportunity to utilize them due to frequent hospitalizations caused by a history of non-compliance with his medications. When John first came to People's Place, our psychosocial rehab program, he was grandiose, paranoid and suffering from persecutory delusions. He had no insight into his mental illness; he had long, unkempt hair and despite the hot summer weather, wore a thick winter sweater all day. Initially, John received services geared toward providing him with a practical understanding of the therapeutic benefits of his medication and the importance of compliance. After this objective had been met, John requested services that would improve his level of functioning. Eventually, he became involved with the vocational team at People's Place. John spent time delivering pizzas. He developed confidence and responsibility in a fairly non-threatening job. He eventually moved on to a temporary professional job. For awhile, it was a tough go - John couldn't always read social cues and was put off by the demands and expectations of the job. We encouraged him to stick with it. Tough times were revisited when the position ended. Motivating John again was difficult! It was hard to him to apply for a new permanent job. John now holds a full time, permanent professional position with an excellent company. He is making a good income, living independently, and socializing successfully. He now uses the DRS Long Term Employment Support Services minimally, but those hours are extremely beneficial to him. These follow-along hours provide the support to help John maintain and add to his current level of success. Best of all, John enthusiastically provides support to other members of the program that are starting the process. He is a wonderful role model. Thanks to DRS for its most valuable LTES Program!!

**Submitted by Patricia R. Healy** Program Coordinator, People's Place, Colonial CSB, Williamsburg, VA.

## A Good Investment

Before you file taxes, please review your donation list for 2002 and add one more gift, the Virginia Rehabilitation Association Foundation. Your donation is tax deductible and the value of your donation will remain the same.

Reason? All donations are added to the endowment and only the income is used for educational scholarship. True, the income is down presently, but the Foundation endowment is secure.

Another reason? This income is available to VRA members and their families. To date the Foundation has made thirty-one educational awards totaling \$8,425. The endowment has remained in tact and donations increase it each year. Watch for application information in the Spring edition of NEWSNOTES. You have this very special opportunity to make an investment in the future of VRA's members as well as lower your tax burden. Let's give generously.

Donations may be mailed to: Margaret Gillispie, Treasurer, Dept of Rehabilitative Services, 3433 Brambleton Ave, Roanoke, VA 24018

**Approved by President Benji Burnett and Submitted by Bernice Chatten**

Check out this site today on your computer!!

# www.vra.org



## It's Not About "MANAGING"

Following the lead of the NRA, VRA no longer has a division for administrators and managers or, as it was formerly called, the VRAA. We are excited to announce not only a change in name, but a new mission, new membership, and great things to come! ***The Virginia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership's (VARL) mission is to develop, improve, and strengthen leadership skills and practices in both public and private rehabilitation organizations.*** We're about LEADERSHIP - A characteristic everyone at every level of a rehabilitation organization can practice and which enhances the strength of our organizations and 'spills over' to our consumers as we interact with them. In conjunction with this change, another exciting transition is occurring. The VARS division is

"Managing" (continued on page 6)

## Project HEAR

The Virginia Community College System, in partnership with WWRC, was recently awarded a three-year FIPSE (Funds for Improvement in Post-secondary Education) grant from the US Department of Education to implement Project HEAR. Project HEAR (Higher Education Access and Retention) is a collaborative initiative that will facilitate improved access, retention, and successful college completion for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, utilizing distance technologies to deliver both synchronous (direct, live, interactive, and "real-time" access) and asynchronous (web-based) community college coursework as well as to deliver remote interpreting services, as needed, across campuses. Effective January 1, 2003, WWRC will also have the capacity to provide remote tutoring, study skills groups, and other identified disability-related sessions, based on semester enrollment and the rehab/learning needs of those enrolled.

Currently, WWRC has four enrolled students residing on campus, receiving FT coursework across 6 different community college campuses. These students enrolled during a pilot period, pending full grant funding, and will continue their studies under Project HEAR. It is anticipated that most enrolled students in Project HEAR, effective 1/1/03 will remain in their home communities to receive services, but WWRC is available as a residential option if multiple services with targeted on-site case management support is needed.

Given the limited start-up time for enrollment for the Spring 2003 semester, Project HEAR is NOW seeking currently enrolled community college students who are deaf or hard of hearing for the Spring 2003, who may be struggling with their coursework, having difficulty in scheduling courses due to limited interpreter services, require more intense disability support than may be readily available or accessible through their home community college, etc. Please see the attached flyer on page 3 of this issue. Please note that this will continue to be an available service option

Project HEAR (continued on page 6)

## Disabled Dealer Magazine

### VIRGINIA & W. VIRGINIA'S

#### # 1 ADAPTIVE RESOURCE GUIDE

#### New & Used

- Accessible Vans
- Scooters
- Wheelchairs
- Lifts
- Recreational Equip.

*Do you have a client that would benefit from a free copy of Disabled Dealer Magazine?*

**We would be happy to send them a copy of our current issue. You can reach us at:  
1-800-420-6470 or  
e-mail to [ddmofva@ntelos.net](mailto:ddmofva@ntelos.net)**



## Project HEAR (continued from page 5)

for college-sponsored deaf and hard of hearing VR clients through 12/31/05, the funding period for Project HEAR. As you are planning college services for future semesters, please let us know if you think you might have potentially eligible/interested clients. We look forward to working with you in filling a needed service gap for the deaf and hard of hearing population. Thank you.

### Submitted by Lynn Chambers

Divisional Media and Technology Specialist  
Co-Director of Project HEAR  
Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center  
P.O. Box 1500, Fishersville, VA 22939

Check us out on the web...

<http://www.wwrc.net/menuroot/VR-Vocational-training.htm>

## WWRC Graduation Ceremony

The Woodrow Wilson Center for Employment held its Winter Graduation on December 13, 2002, at the Harold E. Watson Student Activities Building Auditorium. **Thirty-eight (38) graduates received their certificates of attainment from ten vocational training programs.** It was reported that approximately 30% of the graduates have already accepted employment. The Waynesboro Special Music & Signature Singers provided holiday music for this event, representing two hundred and seventy 4th-6th graders from the Waynesboro Public Schools. This is the 22nd year that this group has performed for the Winter Graduation Exercise.

At the event 15 award recipients were presented U.S. Savings Bonds by Mr. Kirk Quillen of the Waynesboro Noon Rotary Club and Ms. Julia Reed, Executive Director of the WWRC Foundation.

**Submitted by Wendell Coleman**

**Deadline Date for April 2003 Issue of NewsNotes Is March 20th. Thanks.**

## It's not about "Managing" Anymore

(continued from page 5)

disbanding and its membership is joining up with VARL! Clearly these dedicated VARS members have been leaders in their division and in their jobs and will add strength and diversity as VARL expands its mission and its membership. We want all VRA members to consider VARL and join us! Get the word out to others as well who may not have yet joined VRA but may be interested in a forum to strengthen their leadership abilities. We want our membership to be wide-ranging including all levels of professional, para-professional, and support personnel. We are currently electing officers for 2003 and our division's leadership continues to be strong.

**To kick off our renewal, VARL is planning a training workshop for late April/early May that will be open to all.** The training will provide information regarding leadership principles and demonstrate how these principles are cross-cutting to a variety of roles and functions within the rehabilitation community. Following the spring workshop, we plan to sponsor another workshop at the Collaborations conference in August. Another idea we plan to implement is holding periodic brown bag lunch chats at locations across the state where leadership topics and issues will be discussed. Look for an announcement with the details in the newsletter. We hope you will consider joining us! We want your ideas as well as to how to best develop leadership skills. Our next Board meeting will be held on February 20, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Forestry central office in Charlottesville.

**Please contact any of the following VARL Board members if you would like more information about VARL or directions to the meeting:**

**Janet Davies, Margaret Gillispie, Susan Green, Diane Hinch, Marshall Smith, or Linda Wheatley.**

**Submitted by Susan Green and Janet Davies**



## **GET A JUMP ON YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!**

**\* Help prepare your student's to pass the GED\***  
**Attend a *GED Connection* workshop in January 2003!!**

### **Workshops available in the following locations:**

Charlottesville January 10 9:00 to 5:00

Altavista January 10 9:00 to 5:00

Fredericksburg January 10 9:00 to 5:00

Winchester January 11 9:00 to 5:00

Highland Springs January 14 & 16 4:00 to 8:00

**Questions? Contact Laura Boone, Phone: 800.237.0178**

**or Email: [s2laboon@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:s2laboon@mail1.vcu.edu)**

**Laura A. Boone, Staff Development Coordinator, Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1015 W. Main St., Richmond, VA 23284-2020**

**With *GED Connection*, your GED program will**

- Incorporate a multimedia approach using video programs, workbooks, and online activities
- Make GED preparation learner friendly for every learning style
- Address all five subject areas and integrate skills across disciplines
- Help students see ways they can use the skills they are learning in the family, community, and workplace.

**The *GED Connection* system:**

- ✓ *Teacher's Guides* are provided **FREE** at the workshop and contain lesson plans for all 39 units loaded with practical information to help your students get the most out of every lesson.
- ✓ *Videos* are engaging and introduce content in home, work and in community contexts.
- ✓ *Workbooks* build content-area skills, integrate assessment and provide practice tests. Each workbook chapter corresponds to a video program and supplemental online activities. A reference handbook provides an independent learning resource.
- ✓ *Online Activities* enable students to go on learning outside the classroom and develop their technology skills. Activities include practice tests and learning modules for each of the five subject areas.

*GED Connection(continued page 8)*



# NewsNotes

## GED Connection (continued from page 7)

- ✓ *Fast Track* package creates an accelerated program for students who primarily need to review the subject matter and focus on improving their test-taking skills.

### As a result of this workshop you will be able to:

- \* Use *GED Connection* to prepare your students for success with the GED
- \* Describe the components of the multi-media system and how they fit together to create an integrated program
- \* Customize the delivery system and content to meet your individual program and learner needs
- \* Design an innovative delivery system that can serve adult learners you may not otherwise be reaching using more traditional approaches.

**TO REGISTER... FAX OR EMAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 9, TO KAREN PEFFER AT THE RESOURCE CENTER**



**Your Board Members, Sharon Barton and Phil Black, are holding the VRA website banner high to remind you that you have the *option* of getting your quarterly issue of the NewsNotes *only on the internet.***

**Editor,** Steve Sommer and VRA thanks Norm Kropp for all his help in editing the last 8 issues of NewsNotes. Norm is resigning as co-editor of NewsNotes but has agreed to assist as needed. He has been a very positive influence. Your calendars, workshops, legislative insights, and professional insights are needed for the April 2003 issue by 3/20/03. Those items sent by way of the US Postage Service, should be sent to Steven Sommer, DRS Henrico Office, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 370-A, Richmond, VA. 23230. If at all possible, I would prefer that that the articles be sent by email to Steven Sommer at SommerSA@drs.state.va.us. I would also like to encourage you to sell some ads to the NewsNotes, by referring your favorite rehabilitation business to us. It is great to have VRCA helping us to get the word out. Please check out [www.vra.org](http://www.vra.org) !

### Run An Ad in the VRA NEWSNOTES

**1/4 PAGE**  
**\$ 15 / issue : \$ 50 / year**  
**1/2 PAGE**  
**\$ 24 / issue : \$ 90 / year**  
**Full Page**  
**\$ 50 / issue : \$ 175 / year**



Norm Kropp (right) Retires from the NewsNotes

# GED Connection

I will attend (choose one):

\_\_\_ CareerQuest 10, Virginia Employment Commission, Charlottesville, VA  January 10, 2003

\_\_\_ Melcher Center, Fredericksburg, VA  January 10, 2003

\_\_\_ Central Virginia Community College, Altavista, VA  January 10, 2003

\_\_\_ Northern Shenandoah Valley Adult Education, Winchester, VA  January 11, 2003

\_\_\_ Henrico County Adult Education - East, Highland Springs, VA  January 14 & 16, 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work Address  
\_\_\_\_\_

County/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have attended Workplace Essential Skills One-Day Training

\_\_\_\_\_ I require special accommodations (including dietary). Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Hotel accommodations and travel are not included. Directions will be mailed upon confirmation of registration.* Return this workshop registration form to: Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center, Attn: Karen Peffer, 1015 West Main Street, Box 842020, Richmond, VA., 23284-2020,
- Phone 1-800-237-0178, Fax: 804-828-7539, or Email: kpeffer@mail2.vcu.edu

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<http://www.vra.org>

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