



VARL

LEADERS EMERGE !

The VARL mission is to develop, improve, and strengthen leadership skills and practices in both public and private rehabilitation organizations.

Happy New Year from VARL!!! At our last meeting on November 2, Board members and Officers went through a strategic planning process with the skillful facilitation of Kirsten Rowe of the Dept. of Rehabilitative Services. For 2006 we likely have more ideas than time! Our January meeting will be used to look at the many goals we identified and prioritize what we can accomplish in the year to come and beyond. We clearly want to continue to bring training to our members and others to promote leadership at all levels of employment in the field of rehabilitation. Another very important VARL goal is to determine effective ways to reach out and involve more non counselor, non manager staff in leadership development. Our support and para-professional colleagues are critical to what we do and we need their ideas and creativity aka their leadership!

VARL hosted a regional meeting at WWRC on Friday, November 4, 2005 and 15 members and other interested parties were in attendance. The meeting began with a leadership chat on the topic “The Crisis of Loyalty” which was adapted from the book, The Servant Leader by James Autry. Discussion was lively and everyone participated. The last half of the meeting included a discussion about ideas for making VARL membership meaningful and satisfying in terms of personal leadership development needs. The group talked about the importance of preparing new people for leadership opportunities, the importance of mentoring and networking and how we can foster leadership at all levels. It was decided that VARL would sponsor a leadership chat at WWRC during the first quarter of 2006 and that we would also sponsor training in the Valley area during the spring of 2006. Thanks to all who came and participated in the discussion.

There was also a regional meeting in Richmond on November 29 but unfortunately there were many last minute work priorities which made too many of our scheduled participants unable to participate. But clearly, as in the Valley, our members want training and leadership development opportunities which we will pursue.

The Northern region VARL members have plans for a meeting following the Holidays so stay tuned for an announcement soon!

Our membership numbers at about 46 at present. We invite each and every member to join us at our Board meetings. The next one is planned for Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. We meet at the beautiful and easily accessible Dept. of Forestry office

headquarters in Charlottesville. At that meeting we will schedule the rest of our meetings for the year and let you know when they are in our next newsletter.

Come join us, check us out, get involved, and let the Leader in you EMERGE!

Submitted by Susan Green, (804) 674-2326, susan.green@drs.virginia.gov

VARL 2006: President –Susan Green, President Elect – Carol Thacker, Past President – Margaret Gillispie, Treasurer - Eleana Boyer, Secretary – Bonnie Hawley, Board Members – John Phelps, Karen Stevens, Jim Hall, Sharon Harrup, Naomi Aitken, Ned Campbell