

VRCEA News Notes

August and September were busy months as the VRCEA Officers and Board Members prepared for our debut as the newest VRA Division at the annual, state-wide Collaborations Conference 2007, held at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Our theme was "Come Grow with Us", as we adopted a "Flower Power" motto that was carried throughout the conference. We shared a display table with VRA. We gave away flower seed packets with our national RCEA logo on them, a beautiful fall plant donated by Board Member, Ellen Braswell and several mini mums. Board Member, Lori Schultz made beautiful flower decorated pens that were given out to members. Each Officer and Board Member wore a "flower embellished" name tag made by President-Elect, Debbie Veale.

We held our first Annual Meeting. Our 2008 Election Slate was introduced to members. A President's Report, Treasurer's Report and Committee Reports were presented. Goals for 2008 were discussed by each Committee Chairperson.

An array of refreshments were prepared by Officers and Board Members and enjoyed by all attendees. Custom wines processed by Kathy Wright and spouse were also shared.

I had the honor to represent our new VRCEA division at the 2007VRA Annual Meeting and share with VRA members a summary of the events of our first year.

VRCEA also sponsored our first speaker at Collaborations 2007. Vernon M. Sylvest, M.D. addressed over 75 participants with a presentation of his book, "The Formula – Four Ways to Unfolding Your full Potential". Each member who attended was given a copy Dr. Sylvest's book.

Our election will be held and results will be announced on November 6th. We are pleased to present Ellen Braswell, recipient of the 2007 VRA A. Ray Dawson Humanitarian Award, as President-Elect for 2008, Deborah Holliday, DRS Navigator – 3 Year Board Member and Barbara Spence, Virginia Beach Department of Social Services -3 year Board Member.

It has been a pleasure to be a leader in the development of Virginia's RCEA this year!

Susan Cianfaglione, VRCEA President
October 21, 2007