



Virginia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership

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

The 2008 Collaborations Conference has come and gone and we were pleased once again to sponsor Amy Armstrong in her two part presentation. All the feedback was extremely positive and we heartedly thank Amy for her PEARLS of wisdom!

VARL also presented it's first Annual Emerging Leader award to Maggie Butler, a member from the Tri-City area. We are proud to say that with Maggie's award comes a membership to VARL – we look forward to having her lend us her talents.

VARL will also be sponsoring a Situational Leadership training on October 29th and all indications are that this will be a Standing Room Only event. Thanks to STEPS, Inc for co-sponsoring and helping us sincere nationally known presenter Sabrina Harmon.

We are 56 members strong and continue to be the largest chapter of the National organization. We invite each and every one of you to our quarterly meetings which will be from 10:00 AM to noon, with a half-hour training experience starting at approx. 11:30 AM.

Our final meeting of the year will be Thursday December 4 (host site - Richmond).

Our election of officers occurred in September and we are proud to welcome President Elect Naomi Aitken, Board members Ralph Figaro and Kem Kirby and our re-elected Treasurer Eleana Boyer. CONGRATULATIONS to all!!!!

Special thanks to our board members who are rotating off the Board – Ned Campbell and Naomi Aitken.

Leadership training continues to be a strong need and we will look for more ways to provide the training to you as we enter 2009. We encourage you to hold Leadership chats at your staff meetings...even if you are not the "organized" leader. Anyone can discuss leadership. The Elections and the candidates leadership styles are always a good way to discuss the kind of leader we all want to be. Another way to introduce the topic is around changes in our environment – budget cuts, systems and process changes, etc. How do we empower each

other and our leaders to make the kind of participatory decisions that good leaders make to ensure that the followers feel they have been heard? That topic alone is good for a lunch time discussion.

I challenge each of us to use 15 minutes of your next staff meeting and talk about leadership – that is one way to help us all EMERGE!!!!

Look for more information on the web site and via email. We hope many of you will join us to see what is happening in the world of Leadership development.

Yours in leadership,

Shirley Lyons, VARL President, lyo@co.henrico.va.us

VARL 2008: President – Shirley Lyons, President Elect – Jack Smith, Past-President – Jim Hall, Treasurer - Eleana Boyer, Secretary – Amy Mosher, Board Members Naomi Aitkin, Teri Bertsch, Ned Campbell, Doug James, vacant and Jane Bennett