



LEADERS EMERGE !

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 board members of VARL are eagerly anticipating another exciting and fruitful year. We function to serve the leaders of vocational rehabilitation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For me, it is a privilege to be a part of VARL. We look forward to your presence and ideas.

Since VARL had so many wonderful nominations for the Emerging Leader award we enthusiastically voted to keep this award as an annual event. Members of VARL are encouraged to make nominations for the 2009 Emerging Leader award. It is never too early to be thinking about the (an) up (and) coming leader working in the field of vocational rehabilitation. It is important that we recognize these individuals. The winner of the award receives a membership to VARL.

VARL is presently considering what trainings would be beneficial for leaders in our field. It is our thought that every one involved in vocational rehabilitation is a leader. We seek to provide leadership training that will benefit you in your daily efforts to serve individuals who have disabilities. We would really like to hear about your suggestions.

The board members are here to serve all the members of VARL and we would like to have you attend our quarterly meetings. We will continue to bring the meetings close to you. February 12th we will be in Charlottesville and April 8th the meeting will be held in Manassas. Our annual training meeting will be held June 8th in Richmond. We will meet at Collaborations in October. On December 10, 2009 we will have our annual organizational meeting in Richmond. So please mark your calendars. If you can not join us in person make plans to join us via VTC. The quarterly meetings which will be held from 10:00 AM to noon, with a half-hour training experience starting at approx. 11:30 AM

We are very proud to proclaim that we are the largest chapter of our national organization. At the recent National Association of Rehabilitation convention in St. Louis, VARL was given an award for the having the best professional programming. That is exciting!

Our newly elected officers include President Elect Naomi Aitken, Board members Ralph Figaro and Kem Kirby and our re-elected Treasurer Eleana Boyer. We look forward to having their expertise on the board.

A big thanks to our board members who are rotating off the Board – Ned Campbell and Naomi Aitken. I would like to give a special thank you to Shirley Lyons who has been wonderful in her dedication to our organization.

We will be continuing to hold Lunchtime Leadership chats. Please join us for this easy and convenient way to communicate with other leaders in your area. It is exciting to have the opportunity to discuss leadership ideas in such a convenient manner. It is always a beneficial lunch time discussion.

As we start another new year, we have a wonderful opportunity to consider the ways that we can be positive role models and leaders to the people around us. We know that these times bring wonderful challenges. People are anxious and fearful about what 2009 will bring. How can we encourage and support the people around us? Reaching out to others 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,

Jack Smith, VARL President, Jack.Smith@DRS.Virginia.Gov

*VARL 2009: President Elect – Naomi Aitken, Past-President – Shirley Lyons,
Treasurer - Eleana Boyer, Secretary – Amy Mosher,
Board Members, Teri Bertsch, Doug James, Jane Bennett, Kem Kirby, Ralph
Figaro and a vacant position*