



# VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Fall 2012 Edition

## Meet Your Officers

### President — Dr. James C. Bradford, Jr.



Dr. Bradford holds an undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech, a Master's degree from the University of Virginia, and a Doctor of Education degree in Administration and Supervision from Nova University. His experience includes positions as a secondary school teacher, an elementary and secondary principal and superintendent. He has served as a resident and adjunct instructor in the Department of Secondary Educational Leadership at James Madison University.

Dr. Bradford has served as president and was the recipient of the "Four Seasons Award" presented annually by the National Association for Year-Round Education for his "profound influence on the future of education within the schools of our nation."

He was presented The American Association of School Administrators Outstanding Research Award in the Professorial Practitioner Research Category, The American Educational Research Award, and the Virginia Educational Research Award. He has served on the National Resolutions Committee of the American Association of School Administrators for creation of schools needed for the children in the 21st Century and liaison representative to the National School Boards Association Resolutions Committee. His national citations include USA Today, U.S. News and World Report, Nation's Business Magazine, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, and School Administrator. He is one of the authors in the book entitled Year—Round Education: A Collection of Articles. He has been recognized by the governor of Virginia, the Virginia Senate, the Buena Vista City Council, and the school board for his outstanding service to public education.

He is president of the Rockbridge Retired Teachers Association serving Rockbridge, Buena Vista, and Lexington from 2012 to 2014. He is now serving as president and past president-elect of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association.

### Phyllis Eastridge — President Elect

Phyllis Eastridge is currently serving as president-elect of the VRTA. She received her undergraduate degree from Radford University and her master's degree from Gardner-Webb University in English education. She taught English, sociology, and speech communication for 31 years in the Patrick County School System. After retirement Phyllis has taught at Patrick Henry Community College, where she still serves as an adjunct.

Phyllis has served as vice-president and co-president of the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association. She has also served as secretary of District E. She has been the community service co-chair and chair for the Virginia Retired Teachers Association. Phyllis says that the highlight of her retirement has been her work with youth. The Patrick County Retired Teachers Association has received the National Excellence Award for its Worked with Youth five times. The unit is extremely proud of this recognition because it is the effort of all members. That recognition represents what the retired teachers are about and that is serving the youth. Phyllis enjoys reading, traveling, playing music, and performing in an acting troupe.

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### **Dennis Henry — Vice President**

Dennis Henry is a native of Front Royal, Virginia. He has BS and MED degrees from James Madison University. He taught in Warren and Fairfax County Schools and was named Who's Who for American Teachers in 1993.

Henry has chaired the local United Way, the Warren County Fair, and the Virginia Championship Canoe Races. He has served as president of the Jaycees, PTA and the Front Royal Little Theatre. He was named Outstanding Young Man of Warren County in 1980.

Henry has served as president of the Warren County Retired Teachers and as president of District D of VRTA.

### **Daphne Miller — Secretary**

Daphne Miller is serving as the VRTA secretary. She has a BA degree from Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina. She received a MS degree from Old Dominion University and has completed other post graduate work. She has served as president of the Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association and as president of District D Retired Teachers' Association. She is also secretary of the Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter of Saint Augustine's College.

Daphne is very active in her church and has and continues to participate in numerous local community activities. She enjoys reading, traveling, dancing, making crafts, and photography. She is married to Retired CPO Rufus L. Miller and has one daughter, Crystal.



Jim Bradford presents Helen Tippie with a gift thanking her for her service as president of VRTA for the past two years.

### **Weldon Martin — Treasurer**

Weldon Martin was born in Roanoke, Virginia, and grew up on the family farm in Botetourt County, where he graduated from Lord Botetourt High School. Weldon received a BA in history in 1971 and a Master of Ed. in 1975, both degrees coming from the University of Virginia. He began his teaching career as an elementary school teacher in Botetourt and continued his work there for 32 years, 27 of which were as an elementary school principal.

Since his retirement, Weldon has been active in a variety of volunteer activities. He currently serves as treasurer of The Fincastle United Methodist Church, where he also sings in the church choir. His love of history led him to become involved with The Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. He currently serves as the unpaid executive director and treasurer of the historical society. He has served as vice-president of the Botetourt Retired Educators and has just completed a three year term as president of District P. He has been serving as the editor of the VRTA Newsletter, and has served for the past several years as the registrar for the state meetings of VRTA. He is a member of the Botetourt Kiwanis, where he serves as secretary and is an active member of the Catawba Masonic Lodge.

Weldon is married to Susan, who is a retired teacher from Botetourt County Schools and currently serving as VRTA Newsletter editor. During his spare time, Weldon enjoys reading, attending UVA football and basketball games and traveling.

### **Helen Tippie — Immediate Past-President**

Helen Tippie grew up on a farm in Botetourt County, Virginia. She graduated from Lord Botetourt High School and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Radford University. She taught for the army in Germany, and then taught science, math, and gifted education for 30 years in Botetourt County. Since retirement she has served as president of the Botetourt Retired Educators and for the past two years as president of VRTA.

Tippie is a member of Troutville Town Council and a member of the Troutville Strategic Planning Committee. She is president of the Troutville Lion's Club. She enjoys serving on the media team at her church, reading, and making unique quilted gifts for herself, friends and family. She is an avid sports fan, enjoying basketball, football, and baseball. As busy as she is, she makes time for her two children and her six grandchildren.

## Working Together For The Present and Future Retired Teachers

It is a great honor to have been elected president of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association. The duties and responsibilities that exalt the office of president will be a most challenging experience. With your support and assistance, we can accomplish the goals and objectives of the association. Our efforts will be for the benefit of the present and future retired educators.

Achieving the goals of the association will be challenging. With persistence, patience and each member's assistance, we will prevail. What we will need is 100% participation from the membership to achieve the goals of our retired members at the local, state, and national levels.

We greatly appreciate our volunteers who freely give of their time and talents. We will continue to respect the accomplishments of our past leaders and members. Remember our motto "To Serve, Not Be Served."

Jim Bradford, President, VRTA

### President's Goals and Objectives — VRTA 2012 – 2014



1. **Membership Enhancement** – 60,000 plus Virginia retired teachers – 7000 plus VRTA members — Continue to enlist new members.
2. **Legislative** – Keep members informed about legislative concerns/interests.
3. **Maintain Professional Relations and Contacts** – Work with other groups to promote VRTA interests.
4. **Volunteerism** – Encourage members to work with our youth and in our communities – Teachers/educators are a very talented group.

#### Future Conference Dates

**Spring 2013 Delegate Assembly** — April 28-30

Entertainment— Ricky Cox—Appalachian Folklore

**Fall Conference** – October 6-8, 2013

Entertainment — Turf Fire — Mary Smith

**Spring Conference** – April 28 -29, 2014

Visit the VRTA web-site at [www.vrta.org](http://www.vrta.org)

#### Virginia Retired Teachers Association

*"Organized November 28, 1936"*

2012-2014 Officers

President—James Bradford	(540)261-3242 drjcb@embarqmail.com
President-Elect—Phyllis Eastridge	(276)694-6766 pneastridge@embarqmail.com
Vice President—Dennis Henry	(540)635-4472 dohenry@embarqmail.com
Secretary—Daphne Miller	(757)638-1994 ma_d_miller@hotmail.com
Treasurer—Weldon Martin	(540)473-2636 wlmartin@ntelos.net
Immediate Past President Helen Tippie	(540)330-3863 htippie@comcast.net

## RESILIENCY = SURVIVAL

By Bea Morris



Resilient – Have you ever thought about what a wonderful attribute resiliency is? According to the dictionary, “resilient” means having the ability to recover from or adjust easily to change or misfortune; elastic, flexible, supple.

Life consists of change and misfortune, and in order to meet change and its challenges and to recover from misfortunes, we must cultivate and nurture our resiliency. The 2012 General Assembly session brought a number of changes to retirement and education that certainly were misfortunes.

However, teachers, especially retired teachers, are resilient. Over the years, we have experienced many changes and dealt with various misfortunes in both our personal and professional lives. And we did not succumb to them. We know how to regroup and work together to overcome and even to use change and misfortune to become stronger people and better professionals.

We are still salt and light, and we still bring hope, but now is the time to put anger, pessimism, and a defeatist attitude

behind us and demonstrate resiliency. This is exactly what we intend to do at our Legislative Workshop on Monday, October 8, in Blackstone. Retirement and education suffered some blows last year, but in the 2013 General Assembly session, our resiliency will make clear to the legislators our knowledge, our professionalism, and our tenacity.

Join us for an explanation of revisions to our legislative priorities, information that will be useful in our lobbying activities this fall, and speakers who will inspire and support us. The VRS staff will again make a presentation to the entire assembly concerning VRS including its changes and its future.

Teachers are by nature patient, persistent, prepared, and persevering. We are not giving up! We are resilient!

Bea Morris, Legislative Chair, can be contacted by telephone at 540-867-5109 or by email at [beam1340@verizon.net](mailto:beam1340@verizon.net).



## Fall Membership Drive

By Dennis Henry

Fall is the time of new retirees. This is the time the VRTA needs to focus on membership. No organization is vital without a membership that is increasing and well informed.

Membership can be summarized in three areas. This includes attracting new members, retaining current members, and activating members. To do this we need your local unit participation and input. Successful units have a member in charge of these statistics and communications. The membership chairperson works with keeping track of the newly retired, those retired during the past several years, and retention.

Many local unit members ask, “What does the VRTA do for me?” While we lobby in Richmond for our benefits with the VRS and also help provide insurance options for our members, the VRTA needs to do more. The VRTA needs to be there guiding local units and districts in fundraising, membership, and in ways to be a recognized part of the local units’ community.

The VRTA needs to have a goal that every local unit provide a scholarship of at least \$500 and be an active part in helping to achieve that goal. Many units are now having one large fundraiser a year. This frees the membership to do other community projects. These projects lead to increased recognition in the community.

Our local units need positive public relations. Many units have invited the local newspaper editor to do a program. Use the media to make sure that your local unit’s community involvement is known. Make sure that your unit is listed at your Chamber of Commerce or Visitors’ Center on their list of local organizations. Also, make sure that your unit is known in your school division. Several units are donating gift certificates for teachers at the division back to school meetings. Units are also supporting the Teachers of Tomorrow. Local units need to have posters in every teacher lounge. The poster should include meeting information and your local community outreach. Remember, members become active when we achieve something.

Finally, there is the question of Blackstone. What is meaningful to you? Do we need two meetings a year? How can we encourage members to attend? Do we need seminars on fundraising and how to organize membership recruitment? Do we need a seminar on how to make the media work for you? What would you like to see at Blackstone? How can we make the Blackstone experience more efficient and meaningful?

We need you and your input. Contact me at [dohenry@embarqmail.com](mailto:dohenry@embarqmail.com), 540-635-4472, or Dennis Henry (V. P. of VRTA) at 223 West 8<sup>th</sup> St., Front Royal, Va. 22630. I look for to hearing from you.



## Discretion is the Better Part of Valor

Bonnie Atwood, VRTA Lobbyist

We've all heard the expression, "shooting yourself in the foot." When you are communicating with people about issues that you feel passionate about, it is all too easy to do.

I've got the television on as I write this. The wonderful investigative news show, 20/20, is showing clips of people losing their temper—at work, in court, on airplanes, at their children's ballgames. I witnessed a particularly bad case of road rage just today. It's getting pretty bad out there. Losing your temper is probably the worst way that you can shoot yourself in the foot. But there are many other ways. Sometimes you can shoot

yourself and not even know it.

Take the elevator situation. I've heard some pretty dicey things said on elevators. If the speaker does not recognize the others riding up with him, he sometimes makes the awful mistake of discounting them altogether. Apparently, he assumes nobody's listening. Big mistake. He might make an ill-advised criticism of a legislator, or reveal a private strategy, or spread gossip. You can spend days, weeks, months and years trying to build a positive image of yourself or your group, or trying to explain your viewpoint, and it can blow up in an instant—through elevator chat.

There were a lot of protests this past session at the Virginia Capitol. Many of those who came out were very effective. It is my observation, however, that some did serious harm to their group's message, and the media was right there to memorialize it for history.

Unfortunately, the list of ways you can shoot yourself—or your valued colleagues—in the foot is very long. I'm sure you can add to my list. And, believe me, I'm talking to myself, too, when I say: it doesn't hurt to review some things NOT to do:

Whine	Lie
Talk too long	Be loud
Show anger	Gloat
Forget that there are other points of view	Threaten
Mention making a campaign contribution	
Say unkind things about a legislator (or anyone, for that matter)	

In short—refrain from doing all those things that you told your students not to do.



## VRTA Update From the Treasurer

By Weldon Martin, Treasurer

It is my honor to assume the position of treasurer of VRTA and I will attempt to follow in the tradition of our former treasurer, Betty Craft, who has handled this important position for many years in a professional and courteous manner. We all owe Betty a heartfelt thank you for the countless hours that she has put in as treasurer and for the wonderful job she has done of managing our finances and leaving us in a favorable financial position as she turns over her duties to others. I personally appreciate the help she has been providing me during the transition and I continue to depend upon her for advice and assistance.

I hope that you will all bear with me as I learn "the ropes". I will do my best to maintain the books and manage the membership records in a competent and professional manner. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, need Dues Settlement Forms or Membership Enrollment Forms or need other assistance. My contact information is Weldon Martin, 1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090, phone (540) 473-2636, and email [wlmartin@ntelos.net](mailto:wlmartin@ntelos.net). I check email several times daily and that is a good way to communicate with me if you have questions.

Please continue to notify me of deceased members so that the membership rolls can be adjusted and kept current. I will work with our Vice-President, Dennis Henry, to continue the process of reviewing the membership rolls to identify names that should be removed. This is especially important to us as we try to cut costs for printing and mailing the spring and fall newsletters to members. We are receiving a tremendous number of returned newsletters, and we have to pay for the return postage as well.

If you are one of the districts and units that are approved as part of the VRTA Group Tax Exemption for IRS (Group Number 5658), it is important that documentation be kept on file with the treasurer and includes the following: IRS Policy Statement (if you have already submitted this you do not need to submit another one at this time) and Constitution/By Laws for your unit or district with the date approved (if you have submitted this to the treasurer already, you do not need to do so again, unless you have revised or amended your Constitution/By Laws). You must also submit a copy of your 2012-2013 budget to the treasurer to be included with the documentation. **All of these documents must be signed and dated by at least two officers of your district or unit.** Your cooperation in submitting the appropriate documents will be greatly appreciated since this information must be kept on file in order for your district or unit to continue to be a part of the Group Tax Exemption for VRTA. You may file your e-postcard on line with your EIN from July 1-November 15, 2012. If your district or unit is not currently included in the VRTA Group Tax Exemption Plan under section 501 © 4 of the Code, you may submit the necessary documentation to the VRTA treasurer prior to March 1, 2013, along with a check to VRTA for \$18.00 to defray the cost associated with adding the district or unit to the group.



## News From Around the Commonwealth

### District B Has Spring Luncheon

The May 2012 District B luncheon meeting was held at The Chesapeake in Newport News, VA. Bobbye Alexander introduced the Williamsburg-James City County District B Scholarship recipient, Abby Hunt, from Jamestown High School. The Hampton District B Scholarship recipient, Kathleen Hurlock, from Kecoughtan High School, was not able to attend the luncheon, but Evelyn Dawkins presented highlights from Miss Hurlock's application. An interesting and informative program, "Improved Health Through Good Nutrition," was presented by Cortney Cunningham, President of Healthy Choices, Inc.



Pictured are Speaker Cortney Cunningham and District B President Kathy Young.



### Craig County's Spring Activities

The Craig County Retired Teachers were busy this past spring. In March the members enjoyed a pot luck lunch. Members were asked to relate teaching experiences and the reasons why they had entered the teaching profession. Some of the stories were quite humorous. During the June meeting, there was a discussion about geriatrics, specifically relating to the thyroid gland. Members enjoyed a luncheon meal, and membership dues were collected. The Craig County Retired Teachers look forward to a productive 2012-2013 year.



Bea Morris and Bonnie Atwood attended the VRTA Delegate Assembly last spring.

### Franklin/Southampton

Miss Florence Grace Cummins was the recipient of the Franklin/Southampton Retired Teachers' Association annual scholarship in the amount of \$600. President, Daphne M. Miller presents the certificate to Grace at their last meeting which was held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center.

Grace is a 2012 graduate of Franklin High School. She will be attending Randolph Macon in the fall and majoring in Education.

Members on hand to give her best wishes were Mrs. Sylvia Claud, Mrs. Mildred Claude, Mrs. Rose Galloway, Mrs. Marvia Goode, Mrs. Annie Johnson, Mrs. Effie King, Mrs. Carol Logan, Ms. Cheryl Roberts, and Mrs. Catherine Wilson. Mrs. Margaret Cummins, Grace's mother, was in attendance as well.



President Daphne Miller presents annual scholarship to Grace Cummins.

## Roanoke City Has a Busy 2011-2012

What a productive 2011-12 year the Roanoke City Retired Educators' Association experienced! At our fall meeting on September 8, 2011, David Carson, Chairman of the Roanoke City School Board, spoke about what's good and new with Roanoke City Public Schools. Also, several contact agents from the VRTA shared information concerning Medicare Supplement Plan and other insurances.

At our December meeting held at The Holiday Inn, Valley View, the 3, 4, and 5 year old preschoolers from Greenvale Nursery School in Roanoke, performed a holiday special. Gwyn Ciemniecki, VRS Employer Representative, presented an overview of retirees' and members' benefits.

We were fortunate to have Scott Rumsburg, Marketing and Information Manager for Roanoke County Parks and Recreation, at our March meeting. He presented "Day Trips for Seniors in the Roanoke Valley" as well as Wellness and Fitness Programs and Lifestyle and Learning Opportunities.

Our final meeting for the year brought us Alison Shapiro, author, consultant, and illustrator who shared experiences of her life after suffering two strokes. She has written Healing Into Possibility-the transformational lessons of a stroke and is the illustrator of Just for Today. We were very pleased to award two scholarships to two very deserving "future teachers", Valerie Boone, a senior at Patrick Henry High School, and Derek Litvak, a senior at William Fleming High School.

## LNRTA Recruits New Members



Picture front row left to right: Evelyn Staples, Celia Munir, Avis Jenkins and Betsy Sheffield. Second row: Barbara Reese, Merny Erby, Diane Clark, Edwin Gill and Sandy Gee.

Lunenburg-Nottoway RTA invited newly retired teachers from Nottoway and Lunenburg as guests at their July 2012 meeting. Nine retirees attended and each of them was given information on the advantages of becoming a member and the cost of membership. All guests received a unit bookmark and five were winners of very nice door prizes. Four new members joined during the meeting and several others pledged to do so.



## Botetourt Retired Educators Enjoy Spring Activities

The Botetourt Retired Educators held its final meeting of the 2011-2012 year at the Blue Ridge Vineyard in Eagle Rock, Virginia. The winery is owned by a retired Botetourt County educator and her husband. A catered picnic lunch was enjoyed by all in attendance, and officers for the next two years were installed at the meeting. In June a group of BRE members went to Paint Bank, Virginia, to have lunch at the Swinging Bridge Restaurant. This restaurant is known for its buffalo burgers and the swinging bridge that crosses the length of the restaurant.



BRE members at Swinging Bridge Restaurant

## Hampton RTA Spring Activities



The March luncheon meeting of the Hampton Retired Teachers Association was held at the Embassy Suites Ballroom in Hampton, VA. The entertaining and informative speaker was Corporal Herb Gallishaw of the Hampton Police Division, Community Relations. He gave numerous practical techniques to provide personal safety: do not hide a door key in the yard or near the door, carry only one credit card, in a public place do not put your pocketbook in the trunk of your car, and use banking direct deposit.

Pictured are HRTA President Elect Miche'le Meadors and Corporal Gallishaw.



Vivikka DeLoach installed the 2012-2014 officers. Pictured, front row, are Treasurer Patricia Denton, President Miche'le Meadors and Corresponding Secretary Emily Tangney; back row, Vice President Dorothy Harrell, President Elect Jacqueline Smith-Watson, Assistant Treasurer Sandra Clements and Recording Secretary Peggy Brooks.



The June 13, 2012 luncheon-meeting of the Hampton Retired Teachers Association was held at the Embassy Suites Ballroom in Hampton, VA. Superintendent Linda Shifflette gave remarks, and the recipients of \$3,750 in scholarships were introduced.

Pictured are Dela Dogbe, Michelle Curry, Kathleen Hurlock, Renee Squires and Karmen Gray.



## District P Concludes Another Successful Year with Spring Luncheon Meeting

Carlos Brazilian Restaurant, in Roanoke, was the setting for the spring luncheon meeting of District P, on May 22, 2012. Approximately 40 members of the district were in attendance and enjoyed a delightful lunch and interesting program.

One of the highlights of the business meeting was the unveiling of the new district banner, which depicts the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and will be displayed at district and state meetings. (Thank you to Leigh McKay, Roanoke County, for heading up this project.) The district treasurer, Karen Brown (Alleghany Highlands) assisted the president, Weldon Martin (Botetourt) in presenting checks for \$75 to each local unit in the district. These grants from District P will go towards each local units' scholarship fund. Harriet Snead (Alleghany-Highlands, Roanoke City, Roanoke County) led those present in a memorial service for those who have passed on during the past year, with each name being read by their local unit president.

Helen Tippie, retiring VRTA president, conducted the installation ceremony for the incoming officers for 2012-2014. They are Rose Ann Burgess (Roanoke City), President; Dana Hayes (Franklin County), Vice-President; Leigh McKay (Roanoke County), Secretary; and Karen Brown (Alleghany Highlands), Treasurer.

The keynote address was presented by Dr. Loraine Lange, Superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools. Dr. Lange, who is a recent finalist for national superintendent of the year, spoke to the group about the challenges and opportunities of leading a large suburban school division. She thanked those in attendance for all that they have contributed and continue to do for the children they served.



**VRTA Newsletter** is published twice annually, in the spring and fall. Submit articles to Editor Susan Martin at

1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090

or email at [wlmartin@ntelos.net](mailto:wlmartin@ntelos.net)

Deadline for Spring 2013 newsletter is March 11, 2013.





## VRTA Fall Conference

Make plans to attend the VRTA Fall Conference on October 8-9, 2012, in Blackstone, Virginia. On Monday morning the VRTA Board of Directors will meet. If you are a state officer, a state committee chairperson, or a district president, you should attend that session. Monday afternoon representatives from the Virginia Retirement System will have a session informing the VRTA members about issues concerning retirement. For the remainder of Monday afternoon, there will be numerous breakout sessions including Tips for Treasurers, VRTA History, With our Youth and Most Active Member, Being a Leader Your Members Want to Follow, Planning for Long Term Care, and a Legislative Session. These are just some of the interesting sessions you may want to attend.

After dinner, the group will be entertained by Madeline McNeil. Many of you may remember her wonderful dulcimer program from 2011. We are fortunate to have her return to be with us on Monday evening. After the program, members will have the opportunity to fellowship with each other. Bring some games to play that evening while enjoying refreshments, or just catch up with other retired teachers throughout the state. On Tuesday morning the keynote speaker will be Dara Dann who is the senior legislative representative for the NRTA.

Hope you will make plans to attend the fall conference in October.

### Madeline MacNeil Returns



Madeline MacNeil will entertain members of VRTA attending the fall conference on Monday evening. For members who attended the Delegate Assembly in May of 2011, it will be a encore performance. She taught in Warren County for six years before beginning her career as a folk singer. She has performed at art centers and universities throughout the United States.

MacNeil has also performed in Ireland, Scotland, and England. For several years she was a touring artist under the sponsorship of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

In 2005 Madeline was recognized as a content consultant for an exhibit of dulcimers at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, Virginia. She performed background vocals for a national public television two-part documentary film, *To Our Credit*. MacNeil is a best-selling author of mountain and hammered dulcimer books for Mel Bay Publications and has recorded numerous CDs through the years.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for the Spring 2013 VRTA Newsletter will be March 11, 2013.

### Dara Dann to Speak

VRTA members attending the fall conference will have the opportunity to hear Dara Dann from the National Retired Teacher's Association. Dann is the senior legislative representative for the NRTA: AARP's Educator Community.

NRTA: AARP's Educator Community is a division of AARP and is the nation's largest organization serving the interests and needs of 50+ educators. Dara provides legislative and advocacy resources for the state retired educator associations nationwide.

Dann's career spans over 15 years working to strengthen nonprofit organizations that help protect and build assets for Americans. In addition to her current legislative responsibilities, she has progressive and varied experience in grassroots organizing, coalition building, media relations and public policy development and analysis. She has a bachelor degree in journalism and political science from Marquette University.

### Celebrate VRTA History

It has been my pleasure for several years to collect state agendas, minutes, financial reports, directories, awards, and pictures for our six volume history. The VRTA history is on display at every state meeting.

There will be a session on our illustrious history on Monday afternoon at our annual fall meeting in October. It will include updated information you need to know about VRTA.

Discussing our history is as exhilarating as celebrating our anniversaries. We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary several years ago, and we will continue to commemorate these milestones.

Rosa Davis Overby

## With Our Youth and Most Active Member

Phyllis Eastridge will be leading a workshop on Community Service, With our Youth, and Most Active Member reporting at the VRTA Fall Conference. She encourages all units to send a representative to this workshop if you need help in making your reports complete and eye-catching. The reports are improving. Thanks to the units that sent reports to Phyllis for judging. She says that she is always amazed at the number of volunteer hours accumulated and the number of youth that have benefited. Keep up the good work!

Scrapbooks are no longer judged, but units still like to display their work and have an annual record of it. Please show off your scrapbooks at the fall meeting.

### 2012 Fall Conference Schedule

Sunday 6:00pm — Executive Committee Meeting (Order box supper, if wanted)  
Monday 8:45am-11:45am — Registration      9:30am — Board of Directors meeting  
 12:50pm — Legislative Assembly      2:00pm — Workshop Sessions  
 7:00pm — Awards and Entertainment  
 8:30pm — Popcorn, Board Games, and Bingo  
Tuesday 8:45am — Last Pickup of Registration Packets  
 9:00am — Morning Session  
 11:10am — Keynote Speaker

**Attention Districts and Local Units!!!**

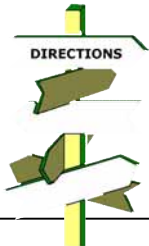
**Don't forget to bring your banners and scrapbooks for display in the Registration Lobby at the**

**Fall Conference in Blackstone!**



### Game Night

After the entertainment concludes on Monday evening at the VRTA Fall Conference, there will be a time for games and fellowship. Games are needed for this evening. If you have card or board games that you would like to bring for the evening, it would be greatly appreciated.

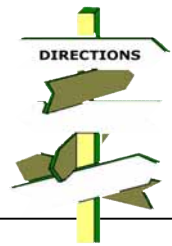


### Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

707 Fourth Street Blackstone, VA 23824

Phone — 434-292-5308

### Directions to Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center



#### **From the North:**

I-95 South to I-85 South at Petersburg  
 Take I-85 South to Route 460 West to Blackstone  
 Take first Blackstone exit (Business 460) Main Street  
 Follow Main Street into town, go through 5 traffic lights  
 Take right on Fourth Street to BCRC

#### **From the East:**

Route 460 West to Blackstone  
 Take first Blackstone exit (Business 460) Main Street  
 Follow Main Street into town, go through 5 traffic lights  
 Take right on Fourth Street to BCRC

#### **From the South:**

I-85 to South Hill Exit 15  
 Route 138 North to Kenbridge  
 Right turn at traffic light  
 Route 40 into Blackstone on Main Street  
 Follow Main Street into town to Fourth Street  
 Left on Fourth Street to BCRC

#### **From the West:**

Route 460 East to Nottoway Exit (Business 460)  
 Route 460 Business into Blackstone on Church Street  
 Right at College Avenue to BCRC

**VRTA Fall Conference**

October 8-9, 2012

Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

**NOTE: Registration fees and lodging rates are per person, not per room or per couple.**

**Each person attending the conference should fill out a registration form.**

**Registration** postmarked by Friday, September 21, 2012 \$25.00 Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

**(Late registration ----35.00)**

		<u>One Night</u>	<u>Two Nights</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Lodging:</b> Main Building	(one person/room-\$45.00/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Two persons/room-\$42.50 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Three persons/room-\$40.00 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
Goodson Lodge	(one person/room-\$55.00/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Two persons/room-\$52.50 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Three persons/room-\$50.00 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____

Roommates \_\_\_\_\_

**Total for Registration and Lodging \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Room assignments will be made based on the registration postmark. Later registrants may have to share a bathroom with an adjoining room.**

<b>Meals:</b>	<u>Sunday</u> – Boxed Supper – 6:00 PM	\$9.00	_____
	<u>Monday</u>		
	Breakfast – 8:00 AM	\$ 7.00	_____
	Lunch – 12:00 Noon	10.00	_____
	Supper – 5:00 PM	9.00	_____
	<u>Tuesday</u>		
	Breakfast – 8:00 AM	7.00	_____
	Lunch – 12 Noon	10.00	_____

**Sub Total for Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total of enclosed check to VRTA** (For total add Registration fee, Lodging and Meals) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed registration form and check, payable to VRTA, **no later than Sept. 21, 2012**. Send to: Helen Tippie, 14 Berkley Ct., Troutville, VA 24175.

Phone - 540-330-3863, Email - htippie@comcast.net

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT – NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF LOCAL UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM PREFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_ (Will be honored, if possible, as forms are received.)

SUNDAY ARRIVAL TIME (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_. **(May register any time after 4:30 PM)**

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (List on back if necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_

VRTA  
Susan Martin  
Newsletter Editor  
1049 Martins Lane  
Fincastle, VA 24090

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## 2012 Delegate Assembly Blackstone, Virginia



Unit and District Banners



Registration



Rosa Davis Overby—VRTA Historian



Lunch on Monday