



VRTA Newsletter

Publication of Virginia Retired Teachers Association

Member, NRTA—Division of The AARP

Spring 2013 Edition

Working Together For The Present and Future Retired Teachers



Serving as the President of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association has permitted me an opportunity to develop a broad view of the legislative needs of educators at the local, state, and national levels of our government. Our members need factual information to guide the association in a meaningful way to address and accomplish our goals and objectives.

The desire of the membership “To serve, not be served” is a responsible and honorable way to serve our present and future retired educators. Our legislative objectives are about the present issues at the local, state and national levels of government. Each issue should be addressed with facts, persistence, and patience. I know with the help of each member that our association can make a meaningful difference. We need to continue our goal of reaching every retired educator through the local, district, and state associations.

May the “Great Architect” look favorably on our motto “To Serve, Not Be Served” in all our present and future endeavors.

VRTA Structure

Our basic framework consists of local units, districts and the state organization. This has been an effective and successful structure for many years. It is imperative that any group or organization continuously examines itself, keeping and expanding what is good and changing or tweaking weaker parts of its infrastructure. This is true of the VRTA.

Many of our units are growing or holding their own on the local level. Many are thriving, meeting the needs of their members and community. These units participate on the district and state levels and often provide leadership there. In addition, these successful units need to share how they work and their vision for the future.

Other units are struggling. In some cases they have become too large. They can’t decide whether to split into smaller units and to leave their district and become autonomous district/units on their own. Some units are too small and are not attracting new members. With little growth they become smaller and less effective. Should these units just give up and disband or join other units. Many other problems and situations exist. VRTA bylaws outline the process for making changes.

Districts are having similar success or problems much like the units. If units pull out, will it damage the district? Where is leadership coming from? What is the role of the district?

As a state organization, VRTA has experienced good leadership. Communication has improved and membership is level or growing. Should we continue to meet twice a year or change to a slightly longer annual convention? What steps need to be made to improve our structure now and for the future?

I wish we knew the answers to these and many other questions? There will be a session on Monday, April 29 during the Spring Delegate Assembly. In the mean time, write down your ideas and send them to Helen Tippie at htippie@cox.net. Bring these ideas to Blackstone and share them during the afternoon session. It’s time to get to work and not just talk about what we might do.

Helen Tippie, VRTA Past President

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“For one thing, conservative legislators would like the “report card” idea applied to K-12 Schools—not just students, but schools. ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council) promotes the idea, as does our governor and many legislators. “



From the Legislature

There is an old saying that passing legislation is like making sausage. The end result is pretty good, but you don't want to watch it. Many thanks to all of you who kept up with the sausage making during the 2013 General Assembly session. Some of you even participated in the process. VRTA had speakers at each of the five budget hearings across the state on January 4. Eighteen VRTA members gathered in Richmond on January 31 when Retired Teachers Day in Virginia was recognized at the noon session of both the House and the Senate. Many sent emails and made phone calls to their delegates and senators, giving them information and asking them to support or oppose specific legislation.

Not everything turned out to our liking, but our work was not in vain. Some good legislation was passed. Some bad legislation was defeated, and amendments were made to other bills that mitigated their harmful effects. We were disappointed that once again two bills we initiated were not passed. However, Senator Charles Colgan has indicated that next year we will get the enhanced retirement bill passed so that those who retired between 1980 and 1990 will be included in this benefit. The bill to include all retired school personnel in the health credit benefit was tabled in committee this session, not just killed as it had been in the past. Delegate Delores McQuinn is dedicated to getting it passed next year. Before and during the session, VRTA members met with their legislators and are developing and deepening relationships with their legislators. Such dialogue is progress and is crucial to success next year.

Sausage making requires preparation; therefore, we encourage members to come to the Spring Delegate Assembly in Blackstone Monday and Tuesday, April 29-30. After lunch on Monday, the VRS staff will make a presentation to the entire assembly to keep us abreast of the status of the retirement system and its benefits. At the Legislative Workshop later in the afternoon, we will analyze specific issues dealt with this session and make plans for summer and fall lobbying in order to be successful in the 2014 60-day session.

Sausage making is not easy, but we are positive, patient, prepared, persistent, and persevering, and we will be proud of our end result.

Bea Morris

Legislative Chairman 540-867-5109

Future Conference Dates

2013 Fall Conference – October 7-8
Entertainment — Mary Smith—Turf Fire

2014 Delegate Assembly — April 28-29

2014 Fall Conference — October 6-7

2013 Delegate Assembly Schedule

Sunday 7:00pm — Executive Committee Meeting

Monday 9:00am-11:30am — Registration

9:30am — Board of Directors meeting

12:50pm — Virginia Retirement System Assembly

2:00pm — Workshop Sessions

7:15pm — Entertainment

8:30pm — Popcorn and Bingo

Tuesday 8:45am — Last Pickup of Registration Packets

9:00am — Morning Session

11:10am — Keynote Speaker

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@cox.net



“Count-Me-In” Ability

By Bonnie Atwood
VRTA Lobbyist

I was lucky. Both of my parents loved to learn. My grandmother kept a dictionary beside her at all times, and every time we heard an unfamiliar word, she looked it up and used it in a sentence. We read the *The Washington Post*, *The Evening Star*, and the *Washington Daily News* every day, cover to cover. The television was never on at mealtime. I don't think anybody ever thought about it. My mother always went to parent-teacher conferences, which was hard for her, because she depended on the public bus. I don't remember much discussion afterwards—except when Mr. Griffith told her that I was starting to notice boys. Report cards came regularly. Both my parents read them. They were mostly good and sometimes average, but that was never presented to me as the important part of learning. After my mother's death, I found out that she had kept them all, with her special papers. Here's another beautiful thing about my mother: SHE took the initiative to write regularly to the teachers, to tell them what a good job they were doing. Whether that was *di rigueur* for that time, I don't know. My fourth grade teacher cried. But my point is that getting a good report card was never a serious goal for me—**learning** things was the goal.

When I got to college, particularly during my ethics class, I started to question the whole concept of “report cards?” What is the history of the report card? Why do we have them? Are they a positive thing? Then I took experimental psychology classes and started to appreciate the concept of measurable outcomes.

A surf through the Internet would suggest that “report cards” originated in the medical field. Measurable outcomes were essential to the development of effective medicines. The concept was applied to school systems as early as 1910, and I think it was an excellent tool at first. However, here we are 100 years later, and I think this good idea has gotten out of hand. For one thing, conservative legislators would like the “report card” idea applied to K-12 Schools—**not just students, but schools**. ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council) promotes the idea, as does our governor and many legislators. Sounds great, right? Letting the parent know which schools are performing well and which are not?

Okay, **let me illustrate exactly how these “report cards” would play out in my Richmond City neighborhood**. I live in the most “white” district of Richmond. We have three neighborhood schools here—an elementary, a middle, and a high school. They are all excellent schools. I ought to know. I sent my son through all years of all three, and he came out ready for the college of his choice, and a well-balanced good citizen besides. He was never shot, cut or punched.

But in spite of my strong testimonials, my neighbors—and this is strictly an emotional reaction—do not send their babies to these schools. (Well, they are starting to try out the elementary school, but that's all.) These school populations are primarily black students from other parts of the city. Some come from middle class families; some come from very poor families. I know them. They are good kids. I know their teachers. They are the best.

Here is my point: **These parents—my neighbors—are looking for any excuse possible to put little Johnny and Janie into private school, or to move out of the city and go to a suburban school**. These so-called “report cards” will give them plenty of ammo for those screwball arguments. Take it from me, they will start obsessing about these report cards just as much as they now stress about eating disorders.

If they want their kids to go to schools with children who are **just like them**, then that's what they'll get in the private schools. Some will go on to law partnership and country clubs, and on Thanksgiving Day, they'll talk about how much they care about the “less fortunate.” But you and I know this is bogus. If they want a real **education** for their children, they will look not only at test scores, but they will look at the **mix** of kids who are sitting beside their children, and playing ball with them, and marching in the band with them. Those are the lucky ones. Meanwhile, the sophisticated families head for the hills, the “report cards” go down, and you have yourself a self-fulfilling prophecy.

When I ran for city school board in the 1990's, all I heard about was “accountability.” This is an important idea, but it was used as the same excuse as the “report card” fiasco. In my campaign, I turned it into a new slogan: **“Count-Me-In”- Ability**. I would tell a parent just to ask the principal if he could sit in the school and shadow the classes for one day. By the end of the day, I think the parent will know where he will feel comfortable sending his child to school. P.S., don't forget those thank-you notes.

With Our Youth and Community Service and Most Active Members Reports

A workshop on reporting With Our Youth and Community Service will be conducted at the VRTA Spring Delegate Assembly, along with tips for presidents and vice presidents. Forms and guidelines will be distributed. Deadline for turning in these reports will be May 1, 2013. If, for some reason, you cannot meet this deadline, please contact Phyllis Eastridge at 276-694-6766 or pneastridge@embarqmail.com. Reports can also be given to Phyllis at the VRTA Spring Meeting. Mail reports to:

Phyllis Eastridge, VRTA Community Service
2789 Wayside Road
Stuart, VA 24171



Scrapbooks are no longer judged, but are encouraged to be on display at both the fall and spring meetings.

Most Active Members nominations are due August 1, 2013 to :

Leigh McKay Phone: 540-989-4417
3025 McVitty Forest Dr. 209 (cell) 540-529-5131
Roanoke, VA 24018
email — cwmck5@cox.net

Retired Teachers' Day in Virginia at the General Assembly



Front row, left to right: Charlie Todd, Nettie Addison, Bea Morris, Del. Ken Plum, Thomas Folly, Helen Tippie, Debbie Firebaugh. Second row, left to right: Linda D'Agostino, Shirley Uzel, Pat Rollison, Lee Reynolds, Becky Goshorn, Debbie Williams, Bonnie Clatterbaugh, Barbara Gatewood, Tom Gatewood, Susan Powell, Joann McCabe
In the very back with only the top of his head showing: Edwin Powell

Most Active Member Award 2011-2012

The VRTA Most Active Member awards for 2011-2012 went to Annie Dickens Henderson of Petersburg/Prince George RTA and Daphne Marie Townsend Miller of Franklin/Southampton RTA. These two ladies were judged on personal data, professional education, teaching and/or administrative experience, past professional memberships, present professional memberships, community services, and other data that enhanced the nominees stature.

Annie Henderson works with women's shelters in Petersburg, helps needy families, walks for hunger programs, and provides school supplies for schools in Petersburg and Chesterfield,. She serves as a lunch buddy, serves on the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and on the Senior Literacy Program helping students to read. One letter outlines Annie's dedication to five children who lived impoverished lives. She served these children by feeding them, getting them in school, and eventually assuming guardianship of one. Another comment was that Annie was put on earth to nurture, mentor, and serve.

Daphne Miller is actively involved in the life of children in the Portsmouth Public Schools. She participates in fund raisers, volunteers at women's jails and at women and children's shelters, adopts a family at Thanksgiving and Christmas. volunteers for AARP annual food drive, March of Dimes, Relay for Life, leukemia and lymphoma fund-raisers, Special Olympics, American Kidney Foundation, and Educational Advancement Foundation, She is active in her retired teachers unit, district, and state and serves as secretary for State VRTA. Daphne has made a difference in the lives of children in her community.



Annie Dickens Henderson and Daphne Townsend Miller receiving the Most Active Members Award.

VRTA Lapel Pins

VRTA lapel pins have been reordered. If you need some for your unit, please call Betty Knowles at 703-368-4743 to order or you can email an order to her at Bettybread703@comcast.net. The pins cost \$2.00 each. They will also be available at the VRTA Delegate Assembly in Blackstone.

From Your Treasurer

I appreciate the cooperation that I have received from all the local unit treasurers during these past eight months of my service as your state treasurer. Please continue to submit your state dues to me at Weldon Martin, VRTA Treasurer, 1049 Martins Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090. I can also be reached by phone at (540) 473-2636 and by email at wlmartin@ntelos.net.

Some other important reminders for treasurers are:

Continue to submit the names of deceased members to me so that they can be removed from the membership data base. Notify me of change of address information for state members so that they can be corrected in our membership data base.

I am still missing copies of current budgets for several local units and districts who are members of the VRTA IRS Group Exemption. It is very important that a copy of your current budget be submitted to me each year to be maintained as a required part of our documentation.

I will have a supply of dues settlement statements and membership enrollment forms at the spring delegate assembly in Blackstone. I can also mail these to local unit treasurers, upon request.

Local units and districts who are not part of our VRTA IRS Group Exemption and are interested in becoming a member should contact me for further information. The next opportunity to become a part of our umbrella will be March 2014.

I look forward to meeting with local unit and district treasurers who will be in attendance at the meeting in Blackstone.

????Did You Know???

A few Virginia counties/cities have NEVER had a retired teachers unit. Can you name them?

Rosa Davis Overby
VRTA Historian



Thank You from

Bonnie Atwood

Thank you again for all of your warm wishes following my recent diagnosis of leukemia. I am happy to report that my treatments have been going quite well. I'm not out of the woods yet, but I am very optimistic. You have been of magnificent support.

News From Around the Commonwealth

Rockbridge Retired Teachers Association

The Rockbridge Retired Teachers Association met on December 3, 2012, with fifty-nine members present for a meeting and luncheon. The annual craft/food sale for the Scholarship Fund raised \$1,000. Two five hundred dollar scholarships are given each year to high school students entering the teaching profession. A highlight of the meeting was recognition of the oldest active member. Willie Ward, who is 97, had a distinguished teaching career at the Goshen School in Rockbridge County.



Willie Ward with Dr. James Bradford, VRTA President

Loudoun Retired Educators

On February 7, 2013, Loudoun Retired Educators Association held a silent auction, raising \$417.50 for the Scholarship Fund. LREA will give a scholarship to three graduating seniors who seek higher education in the field of education.



News From Around the Commonwealth

Augusta Retired Teacher/Educators

In December of 2012, the Augusta Retired Teachers/Educators Association celebrated its 40th birthday with a birthday cake and short talk on its history by Kenneth Landes.

On October 9, 1972, thirty one retired teachers from Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta County, and the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind decided they wanted to form an organization for retired teachers and Miss Carrie Cooke was elected president. A charter granted on June 17, 1981, enabled ARTA to receive its first citation for having met the requirements of the Standards of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association. A revised constitution, adopted in May 1995, changed the name of the organization to the Augusta Retired Educators Association.

Over the past forty years the organization has been a strong supporter of District G having several of its members serving in the office of presidency and serving with other official responsibilities. On the state level, Robert Hart served as VRTA President for the 1992 – 1994 term, Clara Hart served as VRTA Representative for Area 10 and VRTA Travel Coordinator for a number of years, and Millard Stephens served as State Chaplain. In 1999 Bea Morris was appointed to the VRTA Legislative Committee, a job she presently holds.

AREA actively supports local charities, spends many hundreds of hours each year in the community service volunteer program, and actively communicates with area legislators. A rotating scholarship is also given each year to a son or daughter of a certified teacher currently employed in one of the local schools.

District B

The November 2012 District B luncheon meeting was held at The Chesapeake in Newport News, VA. Michael Moore, Curator of Endview Plantation, gave a lively and informative talk about the Peninsula Campaign. After talking briefly with Sandra Moore, member of the Hampton Unit, he signed copies of Yorktown's Civil War Siege. A memorial service was conducted by President Elect Kathy Young, and the units were represented by Milton Cary, Christine Jordan, Miche'le Meadors, Beverly Woodard and Fran Hermance. Music was provided by Sheila Rogers, of the York Unit.



Michael Moore and Sandra Moore



District B Memorial Service



District G Attendees at Spring Delegate Assembly -- VRTA

Left to Right: Linda Puffenbarger, President, Augusta County Unit; Karen Whetzel, President, Shenandoah County Unit and Co-President District G; Jonathan Bell, Page County Unit; Virginia Nowlin, Co-President, Bath/Highland County; Marcia Elliott, Augusta County Unit; and Beatrice Morris, Augusta County Unit.

District N



District N members leaving The Hotel Strasburg before going to a play at Wayside in December

Warren County

"Warren County RTA is pleased to have their first Mother-Daughter members. Mother Cathie Trumbull, 98, was a teacher's aide in the Warren County Public School System; daughter Nancy Lee, retired as a principal in the Winchester City Public School System."



Warren County RTA members, Cathie Trumbull and her daughter Nancy Lee

Hampton Retired Teachers

In December 2012, the HRTA members enjoyed a holiday luncheon meeting at The Embassy Suites in Hampton, VA. Dressed in their seasonal outfits and headwear, they had several reasons to celebrate. Their 200th member joined HRTA on that day, the Kecoughtan High School Harbor Lights Show Choir, under the direction of Rick Allison and accompanied by Priscilla Lockett, provided a wonderful musical program and Santa distributed gifts.



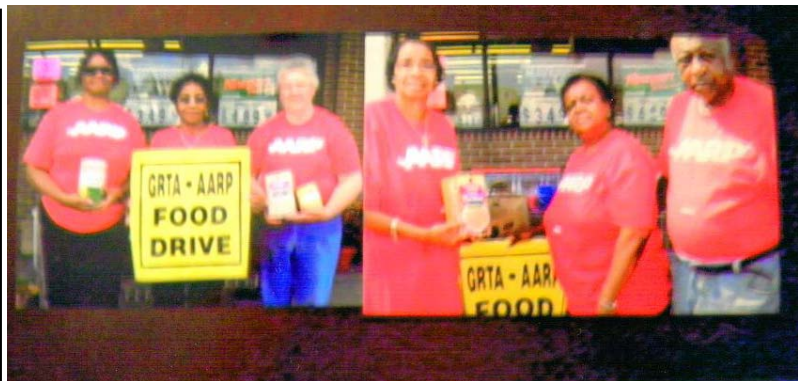
Greenville Retired Educators — AARP Food Drive

The Greenville Retired Teachers Association was quite active and productive in 2011-2012. For the third consecutive year the Greenville Retired Teachers Association participated in the AARP Community Food Drive. This is a favorite community service project of the unit. Members of the unit donated food or money to purchase food, as well as collecting food at the local Piggly Wiggly. Pat Holland served as team captain and coordinated collection efforts. On September 15, the unit donated 32 specially branded bags of groceries to the Samaritan Kitchen which operates a feeding program for food insecure people at lunch Monday through Friday. The Reverend Charles Moore, president of the Samaritan Helping Hands, expressed praise and gratitude to the unit for its effort. "These volunteers are to be commended for their dedication to serving others. They are making a difference in the lives of many."



Pictured below from left to right: Victoria Clark, Sarah Seaborne, Pat Holland, Calvin Hawkins, Carol Mercer, Rev. George Pugh at Piggly Wiggly

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 Deadline for Fall 2013 newsletter is August 12, 2013.



Prince William RTA Hosts Fall Reception

In September the Prince William Retired Teachers Association hosted its annual fall reception for newly retired educators from Manassas City, Manassas Park, and Prince William County. This year 20 new retirees joined over 60 current members for food and fellowship. A raffle was held to benefit the scholarship fund. School supplies were collected and then redistributed to four local schools. Our perennially successful Buck-a-Book program was again a hit.



Prince William Retired Teachers Association members and guests attend fall reception.

Scott County Has Been Very Active

Scott County gave its annual scholarships in the spring to a senior at each of the three high schools in the county. Each student received \$1,000 with the opportunity to receive another \$1,000 for 50 hours of community service.

In July the annual picnic was held at the Scott County Park for all new retirees.

Contributions were given to local charities and the Dolly Parton Imaginary Library.

The fall meeting was held at Natural Tunnel State Park. In addition to hiking, exploring, fellowship, and a catered lunch, the group was given a private tour of a reconstructed block house.

A Memorial Service was held in November, and a Christmas dinner was held in December to close out 2012.



(left to right) Susie Ervin, Hannah Guinn, Jane Bollin, Sue Arnold, Dicey Ford, Janet Hill, Elizabeth Mills, and Beth Culbertson

Shenandoah County

The Shenandoah County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) held a breakfast on the first day of school with approximately 90 members attending. Members collected 150 pounds of food and \$295 cash for Luke's Backpack, in addition to \$273 for the unit scholarship fund.



Officers of SCRTA are (left to right) Connie Fauber, vice president; Virginia Stultz, secretary; Gloria Ryman, treasurer; Karen Whetzel, president; Bill Moyers, past president.

District G

District G Retired Teachers Association held a lunch meeting on October 3, 2012, at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg with a pre-lunch program on the Virginia Retirement System presented by two VRS staff members. Around 50 retirees attended the meeting. District G is planning a spring meeting for Wednesday, May 8, at Traditions Restaurant with a program by Jim Dubrueler of Central Atlantic Insurance called "A Confident Financial Future." The program deals with keeping retirement savings safe from stock market risks and reviewing options for guaranteed safety. Registration will begin at 10:00 AM with the program at 10:30 followed by lunch. For more information, contact Karen Whetzel, co-president of District G, at 540-740-8589 or kswhetzel@gmail.com.

Loudoun Retired Educators enjoy a rail excursion on the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad.



Petersburg/Prince George

More than 50 Petersburg/Prince George retired teaches and guests met at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church with George Henderson, president, presiding. Canzata Turner, chaplain, presented the invocation and led the group in singing the Virginia Retired Teachers State Song accompanied by Gretchen T. Parker at the piano. Committee chairpersons gave reports.

Officers for 2012-2014 are George Henderson, president; Jacquelyn Hopkins, vice-president; Gretchen Parker, secretary; Marolyn Quarles, assistant secretary; Arnetta Jones, treasurer; Mavis Farrar, parliamentarian; and Canzata Turner, chaplain.

The Petersburg/Prince George Unit collects non-perishable food items to donate to a non-profit charity. These items were to be collected at the November meeting.

Eight persons from the local unit attended the District D meeting at Emporia. Several members attended the VRTA state meeting in October. The Hopewell Retired Teachers' Association hosted the District D meeting in December at the Regimental Club at Fort Lee, Virginia.



Cynthia Mitchell, past president of the Petersburg/Prince George Retired Teachers, receives a gavel from George Henderson, the current president.

PCRTA Receives National Excellence Award

Congratulations again to the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association (PCRTA) for being selected for a national With Our Youth Excellence Award for 2011-2012. PCRTA has been awarded a NRTA With Our Youth Honorary Certificate on behalf of NRTA, the fifth that Patrick County Retired Teachers have received since 2003. From July 2011 to June 2012, thirty-seven members volunteered a total of 942 hours in service to the youth of Patrick County.

Projects included volunteering at Meadows of Dan Elementary School following the fire in August by helping to coordinate efforts in sorting donated supplies and organizing the library, and purchasing sets of supplemental reading and teaching materials. Other projects were participating in the Backpack Program, sponsoring children for Christmas Cheer, donating books, tutoring and holding after school programs, organizing church youth activities, sponsoring clubs and Scouts, and serving as lunch buddies. PCRTA awards a scholarship to a senior planning on pursuing a career in the field of education, helps in sponsoring a youth to 4-H camp, and supports Smart Choices Among Teens, the alcohol-free-drug-free after prom party.

Patrick County Retired Teachers have endeavored to provide youth with the five basic ingredients addressed in the 1997 President's Summit for America's future. Those ingredients are to provide youth with ongoing relationships with caring individuals, provide a safe place to learn and grow, provide opportunities for marketable skills, and opportunities for youth to give back to the community. The volunteerism of these retired teachers has not only made a difference in the lives of the youth but has also had a positive impact in the home, school, and community.

Portsmouth Retired Teachers

The Portsmouth Retired Teachers Association has been presented a School Partnership Recognition Award for continuing commitment to the young people of Portsmouth Public Schools. Grateful appreciation was expressed for our investment in the future of boys and girls. Many donated school supplies were donated to Park View Elementary School. Principal, Gwendolyn Watkins accepted these items from president, Iva Foust. Because of our donations, Mrs. Watkins submitted our organization for recognition by the Portsmouth City School Board. The Portsmouth Retired Teachers Association also demonstrated outstanding participation in this year's AARP Community Food Drive, collecting 361 pounds of non-perishable foods during the early September campaign effort.



Principal Watkins accepting school supplies from Iva Foust.



Portsmouth Retired Teachers Food Drive

VRTA Delegate Assembly

Join your fellow retired educators in Blackstone for VRTA's Delegate Assembly. On Monday representatives from the Virginia Retirement System will give an update on the retirement system. Many varied break-out sessions will be held. Topics include senior health issues, VRTA Insurance, Community Service and With our Youth, Medicare and Social Security, Tips for Treasures, Home Modification for the Aging, and Holy Land Adventures. These are just some of the topics that will be explored. On Monday evening the group will be entertained by Ricky Cox. Afterwards have fun playing bingo with the group.

Business of VRTA will be conducted on Tuesday morning. This meeting will be followed by a keynote address from Sarah Mysiewicz, a senior legislative representative with AARP.

Plan to attend the VRTA Delegate Assembly in Blackstone on April 29-30.

Ricky Cox Returns to Entertain

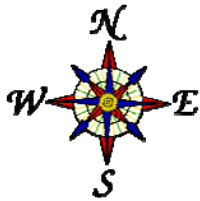
The VRTA is fortunate to have Ricky Cox return to entertain the delegates on Monday, April 29th. He teaches Appalachian folklore, American literature and a course in Appalachian studies at Radford University. He has coordinated the Farm at Selu, a living history site representing 1930s farm life in Southwestern Virginia. He was a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia: An Introduction to the Region* (University of Tennessee Press, 1996), with Grace Toney Edwards and JoAnn Asbury. Cox co-authored *The Water-Powered Grist Mills of Floyd County Virginia: Illustrated Histories 1770-2010* with the late Frank Webb.

On April 29rd Ricky Cox will present a program of traditional Appalachian music for the VRTA. He will combine lecture and performance, accompanied by guitar and old-time banjo. Ballads and lyrical folk songs will be included in his performance. This will be a highlight of the VRTA Delegate Assembly.

Kenote Speaker for Delegate Assembly

During the VRTA's Delegate Assembly Sarah Mysiewicz will be the keynote speaker on Tuesday morning. She is a senior legislative representative with the State Financial Security and Consumer Affairs Team at AARP. The focus of her work is pensions, budgets, and taxes. Before joining AARP, Sarah worked at Stateside Associates, where she analyzed tax policy throughout the country. She has also worked with the Illinois State Senate as a Pensions and Investment Committee and Appropriations staffer.

**Attention Districts and Local Units!!!
Don't forget to bring your banners and
scrapbooks for display
at the Delegate Assembly in Blackstone!**

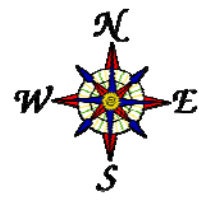


Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

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 Delegate Assembly

April 29-30, 2013

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, April 12, 2013

\$25.00

Amount paid **(Late registration ----35.00)**

		<u>One Night</u>	<u>Two Nights</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lodging: Main Building	(one person/room-\$47.25/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Two persons/room-\$44.75 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Three persons/room-\$42.00 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
Goodson Lodge	(one person/room-\$57.75/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Two persons/room-\$55.25 per person/night)	_____	_____	_____
	(Three persons/room-\$52.50 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.

Meals:

Monday

Breakfast – 8:00 AM	\$ 7.50	_____
Lunch – 12:00 Noon	\$ 11.50	_____
Supper – 5:00 PM	\$ 10.00	_____

Tuesday

Breakfast – 8:00 AM	\$7.50	_____
Lunch – 12 Noon	\$ 11.50	_____

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 April 12, 2013.** Send to: Leigh McKay, 3025 McVitty Forest Dr., #209, Roanoke, VA 24018, Phone: 540-989-4417 (home), 540-529-5131 (cell), email- cwmck5@cox.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)**

ARE YOU A VOTING DELEGATE? YES or NO

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (List on back if necessary.) _____

Virginia Retired
Teachers Association
Susan Martin
Newsletter Editor
1049 Martins Lane
Fincastle, VA 24090

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Hands that Serve by Phyllis Eastridge

We are Retired Teachers

Our hands have

Opened doors

Led

Held a hand

Hugged a crying child

Wiped away tears

Mended broken spirits,

skinned knees and nose bleeds

Replaced broken pencils

Found lost articles

Tied shoelaces

Opened milk cartons for tiny hands

Pushed a wheelchair student

Held gently that special flower

picked this morning and proudly presented to us

Applauded students' successes

Displayed special projects

Planted seeds in plastic cups

Opened books and written words

Given lunch money to a hungry child

Handed a tissue for a runny nose

Searched for talents buried in self-defeat

Waved good-bye at the end of a day

Folded in prayer.

We are Retired Teachers

Today our hands are not idle

Today our hands:

Aid classroom teachers

Drive neighbors to doctor appointments

Touch a shoulder

Take a frail hand

Play instruments for sing-a-longs

Choose toys and clothing for youth

Color Easter eggs

Display materials for future teachers

Place hands of senior citizens on computer keys

Organize scrapbooks of memories

Sort and display gently worn clothing to sell

Make favors for hospital and nursing home residents

Prepare school, health, and first aid kits

Prepare church activities

Sew costumes and wheel chair bags

Tack quilts

Sell tickets for Hospice Tours

Hold the hand of a cancer patient and friend

Collect money for cancer research

Make quilts for fundraisers

Knock on a door to visit a lonely, elderly, or sick neighbor

Write notes of recommendation; thank you, congratulatory, and sympathy

Dial numbers of prospective new members

Hand out a scholarship to a senior who will become a future teacher

Whose hands will someday do

What our hands have done ____

Are doing.

Our hands join together

To make a difference

To provide support and friendship

We are Retired Teachers

Our hands SERVE.

Submitted by Rosa Davis Overby

VRTA Historian