

# VRTA Newsletter

Publication of the Retired Teachers Association

MEMBER N.R.T.A—DIVISION OF THE AARP

Website: [www.vrta.org](http://www.vrta.org)

Spring, 2010

## A Message from the President



Greetings and well wishes to all VRTA members. Time has its own element in nature and waits for no man. My two years as your president is coming to a close. As I reflect from the beginning of my term in office, I am thankful for the support you have shown me throughout this great organization. I have met and made many new friends. I have grown more professionally working with my staff, unit and district leaders. I am more possessed with tenets relating to the art of leadership. It has been a privilege to devote my time to develop and promote our organization. I have especially appreciated the warm welcomes I received as a guest at your local unit and district meetings.

As I review my objectives to accomplish our theme of "Building Unity Through Service", I am thankful for the support and cooperation of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. I am also pleased that good progress has been made in guiding our decision making while using our by-laws as the beacon for us to follow. We have employed the use of partnerships with other communities and state organizations to promote good legislative and other meaningful workshop sessions at our spring and fall meetings. I salute Bea Morris, VRTA Legislative Chairperson, and Charlie Todd, VRTA Lobbyist, for their energetic work to keep us in the forefront with legislation which impact our organization.

Our membership has kept stable and more members are attending our state meetings. I have been impressed with members attaining more awards for services they rendered to their communities. District D, under the leadership of Sylvia Chambers, was outstanding in this area. It was more than an honor for VRTA to receive the NRTA National Award for the tremendous work of Nora Wilkins from the Brunswick Unit of District D. Our local scholarships from units and districts to support education for our youth attending college to become teachers remains at a high level. Enhancing our means of communication has been a key factor in maintaining a good working relationship throughout our organization.

Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to Betty Craft, VRTA treasurer for the tremendous time she has spent to coordinate the VRTA Umbrella Filing for IRS Tax Exemptions. I have mentioned these things in my review not to be boastful but to reveal that we each have a personal stake in all we do and that we are moving our organization in the right direction because of our membership involvement and commitment.

At our spring Delegate Assembly meeting on April 26-27, 2010 we will pass the torch to capable leaders of VRTA for 2010-2012. I am confident that they are groomed to lead VRTA in the right direction. They have shown a willingness to work with and for our organization, and to keep its best interests ever in mind.

They will need our support to keep VRTA a first class organization. Moreover, a great legislative session by Bea Morris has been planned along with other meaningful and interesting workshop sessions to improve our way of living. Please note the listing of these workshops in this newsletter. A fact sheet of these workshops will be placed in your registration package.

There are many good informational articles in this newsletter. I would like to thank all contributors for making our newsletter a good source for communicating information about events happening in VRTA. Joseph Parker said that "Our yesterdays follow us; they constitute our life, and they give character and force and meaning to our present deeds." It has been an honor and a tremendous joy to serve as your president for the last two years. I firmly believe that our purpose is meaningful, our association is strong and our members are the best. I feel confident that I did my best for the general welfare of our organization. I have no regrets, and I look forward to serving in other ways.

*With warmest regards,*

*Kennon Bland, Jr.*

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*Nothing great is ever accomplished  
by one person.*

*Sheryl Leach*

## The Annual Spring Meeting

### ASSEMBLY DETAILS

We welcome VRTA members to attend our Delegate Assembly meeting. A great meeting has been planned for you to know more about the work of VRTA. The legislative session will present legislation passed recently by the General Assembly that will impact our economy and general welfare. Other interesting workshops will be presented to improve our way of living. Voting delegates will vote to approve the incoming officers for 2010-2012. Registration will begin at 8:45 on Monday, April 26 in the corridor area leading to the dining hall. Coffee, juice, and pastries will be available for your convenience.

During lunch **Bea Morris**, VRTA Legislative Chairperson, will introduce guests from the Virginia Retirement System to give general remarks.

### WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Workshop sessions are on Monday from 1:00-4:20 p.m. All sessions will have a question and answer period. The legislative session will be longer than the usual hour. Please check your schedule for the time and place for each workshop.

Workshop sessions are as follows:

- Legislative: VRS staff and Sarah Geddes with the Alliance for Virginia's Students.
- VRTA Insurance
- Tips on Multiple Medication Use
- Health and Nutrition
- Going Green
- Staying Safe on the Internet
- Medicare Saving Programs and Aging Services
- Ammended VRTA Bylaws Under 501(C)4
- VRTA Umbrella Group Exemption Letter to IRS
- VRTA Community Service

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tourism is big business in Virginia. In 2008, tourism generated over \$19.2 billion dollars in visitor spending and supported over 210,000 tourism industry jobs. While tourism generates significant impact on the Commonwealth of Virginia, the tourism industry is composed of hundreds of small businesses.

**Steve Galyean**, VTC Director of Development, will provide an overview of the Virginia tourism industry, how the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) promotes Virginia as a travel destination, and where some of the hottest – and greatest value – Virginia travel ideas can be found. Prior to assuming the VTC position in November 2005, Steve served eleven years as the Director of Tourism for the Abingdon Convention & Visitors Bureau in Abingdon, VA. Preceding his move to Abingdon, he was Executive Director of the Galax-Carroll-Grayson Chamber of Commerce in Galax, VA.

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### ENTERTAINMENT

Lynne and Marcia

The duo of Lynne Bolton and Marcia Neighbors began in Fincastle, Virginia, when as children they grew up together. Both attended school in Fincastle, until Lynne moved away after 4<sup>th</sup> grade when her father's job took them to Norfolk and then to Fairfax. Marcia remained in Fincastle. The two kept in touch through the years as Lynne still had family in Fincastle, however, as fate would have it, in 1970, their lives came together again when they both were freshmen at Mary Washington College.

After graduation, Lynne entered the business world, from Charlotte, NC, to Atlanta, GA, and then finally to Langhorne, PA. Marcia began her teaching career in Prince William County and then eventually back to Botetourt County. Again, their paths would come together when Lynne moved back to Fincastle to be closer to her parents as health issues directed. Lynne entered the Career Switchers program and now teaches history at Lord Botetourt High School. Marcia just retired after 34 years of teaching choral music and drama from elementary through high school.

They hope you enjoy their music presentation. It has been arranged especially for VRTA.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly has just passed its biennial budget, and as this article is being written, we are awaiting the governor's amendments and signature. We hope that members will come to the spring meeting in Blackstone to learn about the effects of the new legislation.

The good news is that current retirees are not affected by retirement legislation passed this session. In the Legislative Workshop on Monday, April 26, at 1:00 p.m., the VRS staff will explain the changes that will affect those hired after July 1, 2010. Sarah Geddes with the Alliance for Virginia's Students will present an analysis of education funding and effects on programs vital to students in our communities.

Many thanks to all of you who made contacts with your legislators before and during this session. Although the cuts to education and the changes in the retirement system are severe, they would have been much worse had it not been for your lobbying efforts.

Our gratitude is extended to Dr. Charles Todd for his work the past four years as VRTA's lobbyist. Charlie "retired" from this position at the end of the GA session. We thank him for the many hours he devoted to discussing our positions with legislators, speaking before legislative committees, working with other lobbyists, publishing articles on our issues, visiting units and districts, and keeping us informed. He

has represented retired teachers well, and he will be greatly missed.

Bea Morris

Legislative Chair

540-867-5109

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Working to benefit teachers - both retired and current!

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## 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Charlie Todd, Lobbyist

The General Assembly completed its biennial budget on Sunday, March 14 and adjourned. It was a tough session. The budget had to be reduced \$4.2 billion. To do this without raising taxes, the Assembly had to cut spending, and education is a major part of State expenditures.

I am pleased that currently retired teachers will not be affected by the cuts. It will, however, lead to a two-tiered system which will provide reduced retirement benefits to future hires (those hired after July 1, 2010 with no prior VRS service).

It has been announced that there will be no Cost of Living Adjustment for those already retired under the Virginia Retirement System. This is based upon the Consumer Price Index which did not justify an increase this year.

Under the approved budget, which has not been signed by the Governor at this writing, the State will not contribute an expected \$620,000,000 to the Trust fund. The plan is for the

State to repay the money over a 10-year period at an interest rate of 7.5%, thus passing the responsibility to future administrations and elected representatives.

I am personally disappointed in the cuts to pre-K education programs since they have proved effective in raising test scores and also may be the best answer to the State's high dropout rate. I am also sorry that new State money is not available for Health Insurance benefits for retired support personnel.

In closing my 5 years as your lobbyist, I wish to express my thanks to all members of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association for your support in your local communities and for allowing me to represent your organization at the General Assembly. I have met many fine people through VRTA and many of our State leaders. Over these years we have had some success in raising the Health Insurance payments to equal those of State retirees, re-

moving the 30-year cap on experience, and protecting our VRS Trust Fund from control of its investments for political purposes.

I wish to thank Bea Morris, your Legislative Chair, for her personal contributions to our lobbying effort through her daily observations, her network of contacts in the counties and cities, and her trips to Richmond to promote our objectives. Robley Jones has been a friend and mentor as well as David Bailey who is a "Lobbyist's Lobbyist."

I send best wishes to each of you for good health and much happiness in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Charlie

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It's up to each of us to take the time and invest the energy to tap our wells of personal skills and talents.

Scott C. Miller

## Update from the VRTA Treasurer

Many of you have been inquiring or wondering about the VRTA Group Exemption Letter submitted for Umbrella Tax Exempt Status for subsidiaries of VRTA under Section 501 (C) 4 of the Internal Revenue Code. IRS has experience extensive delays in processing determination letter requests. VRTA's request was assigned to an Exempt Organizations Specialist for review. On February 1, I received a request for additional information with a submission deadline of February 15. This information was submitted. I then received a second request by phone for different information on February 22, with a submission deadline of March 8. When the written request was received it

required more detail and additional information, but the submission deadline was met.

I want to thank every unit and district that chose to participate for your cooperation and willingness to provide information on the spur of the moment. If the last information is accepted the VRTA has a good chance of being awarded the Group Exemption Letter. I hope that we can have more definitive information by the time of our meeting at Blackstone.

If you are an officer or committee chair, please consider any special financial needs for 2010-2011. The Finance Committee will be meeting

on April 16, to work on the new budget. Contact a member if you have suggestions. The Committee members are Betty Craft, Kennon Bland, Helen Tippie, Mary Lou Trimble, James Sink, and Roseanne Ellis-Burgess.

I will have Membership Enrollment Forms and Dues Settlement Statement Forms to distribute as needed at Blackstone. If you have not paid the \$18.00 assessment for expenditures to IRS, please do so. With the additional requests for information the cost of the Group Exemption Letter has increased.

Betty Craft  
Treasurer

## The Secretary

The year is 2010 and the 75th anniversary of VRTA. In honor of this anniversary we hope that every retired educator will wear the VRTA lapel pin. They are still available and if your unit has not purchased them yet, please contact me. The pins are \$2.00 each and I will mail them to you when I receive your check. You can reach me by:

Phone: 703-368-4743

E-mail: Bettybread703@comcast.net

Mail: 9011 Longstreet Drive  
Manassas, VA 20110

Send in your order, Thanks

## The Executive Committee

Our sincere thanks to Kennon Bland for the fine job he has done during his two years as President of VRTA. It has been a pleasure to work with him. His leadership, dedication, generosity and professionalism has kept VRTA an organization to be proud of.

Thank you Kennon, for letting us serve as part of your team.

## The Insurance Committee

The Insurance Committee wishes to thank John Jones, our Agent of Record, and the staff at Central Atlantic Insurance for all the assistance they have given this committee. They go above and beyond the call of duty to be helpful and to look out for the welfare of the VRTA members.

We do appreciate all you do!

## Community Services

The theme of VRTA is to "Serve, not to be served". In addition to receiving recognition for unit annual report information, the association has community service awards for units:

### Most active Unit

With Our Youth report gives number of youth each member served with hours and is sent through our VRTA Community Service Chair to the National Retired Teachers Association for awards for the state, the units, and the individuals (Most Active Member). The five resources youth need: a safe place to learn and grow, a relationship with a

caring adult, an opportunity to give back to the community, a healthy start, and marketable skills. 200+ word summary.

All other Volunteerism activities report with number of hours served in a 200+ word summary describing our many activities.

These two reports make units eligible for the VRTA's Most Active Unit Award.

### Most Active Member

The guidelines ask for detailed information about the member's life time

personal services/activities related to education. (In outline form)

### Scrapbook

This book shows a whole year of unit activities. The unit's Constitution, budget, calendar, history, members list, meetings (local, district, state), unit and members' individual activities, and obituary (with news articles and pictures) are included.

1<sup>st</sup> place winners: \$50

2<sup>nd</sup> place winners: \$30

3<sup>rd</sup> place winners: \$20

## News from Around the Commonwealth

### District D

#### GRTA Scrapbook Committee Honored at District D Meeting

The Greenville Retired Teachers' Association (GRTA) took top honors in the scrapbook competition at the Virginia Retired Teachers' Association Fall Delegate Assembly in Blackstone on October 5-6. At the District D Meeting on December 14, Mrs. Sylvia Chambers, president of District D recognized the unit for its outstanding contribution.

GRTA sponsored its second annual Fall Concert, October 24 at Royal Baptist Church in Emporia, Va. The event, an eclectic variety of gospel music, filled the

audience with joy and inspiration. GRTA recognized Rev. McKinley Tucker as its "Most Active Member" for his dedication and outstanding contribution to the unit.



Rev. McKinley R. Tucker



The Bowman Sisters



GRTA President, Rev. G. W. Pugh; GRTA Scrapbook Committee: Cleo Goodwyn, Sara Seaborn, Keith Taylor, (Mrs. Sylvia Chambers, District D president) Ella Pugh, and Pat Holland

The Petersburg/Prince George Unit of VRTA's District D hosted the December 14, 2009, meeting at Zion Baptist Church in Petersburg. Highlighting the meeting was the presentation of awards for 2008-2009 at the VRTA Fall Meeting in Blackstone, which included all 12 units receiving 68 awards. District D more than doubled its winnings from the 2007-2008 calendar year. District D captured awards because of strong leadership in the district and local units. All 12 units were represented in attendance at the 2009 Annual VRTA Fall Meeting with 60 members, the largest district attendance.

District D excelled having the only five candidates for VRTA Most Active Member. All twelve units displayed their banner at the Annual Fall Meeting, a "first," and the only district with 100% banners displayed. District D received state recognition for all 12 units in attendance for both meetings. All 12 units' annual reports were submitted on time with two units receiving Early Bird recognition, a district "first." All 12 units gave scholarships for 2009, and recognized for being the only district giving 100% unit scholarships. District D also gives three \$500 scholarships annually; however, in June, 2009, four \$500 district scholarships will be given. District D was recognized for having the most units (8 units of the 16 VRTA units) with equalized membership in local/district/state. Five of the 11 scrapbooks entered for state competition were from District D with Greenville placing first, which was the first time this unit has ever entered this event. Nora Wilkins from the Brunswick Unit received the NRTA WOY Individual Dedication Youth Award. District D had 8 units out

of 17 local units in the state to be recognized with Community Service. District D was recognized with four awards from VRTA, which is a "first" for District D.

At the December 14 district meeting, President Chambers presented WOY medals to members who had volunteered service in their local community. She also presented for the first time District D's Most Outstanding Unit Award, which was a three-way tie for first place: Lunenburg/Nottoway, Mecklenburg, and Petersburg/Prince George. Second place was awarded to Franklin/Southampton. These units were the most active, received the most awards/appreciations with consistent attendance and entering state competitive events for 2008-2009. A Recognition Award was presented to District D Treasurer Annie W. Harrison from Brunswick Unit for Outstanding Service as district treasurer for 15 years and will continue to serve for another two year term, 2010-2012.

Petersburg/Prince George received the Attendance Award with 31 of the 88 district members present at the December 14 meeting; all 12 units were in attendance, and P/PG had 10 new members present. Treasurer Annie Harrison reported that District D has 404 district members, a district "first." Ten of the 12 units had an increase in membership with P/PG having the most increase.

A poem written by William M. Cosby, Jr., a member of the Petersburg/Prince George Unit and VRTA Scrapbook Judge, was distributed to all members in attendance at the December 14, 2009 District D meeting.

#### "A Tribute to Our Guests"

by William M. Cosby, Jr.

Welcome to Petersburg and Prince George too,  
 Greetings from all of us to all of you.  
 We hope your visit will be happy and gay,  
 Educational and fun before you go on your way.  
 The program was planned with just you in mind,  
 Because educators you see, are one of a kind.  
 For years you struggled the whole day through,  
 Pushing young folk into what they should do.  
 The task was not easy as we all know,  
 And trouble sometimes met us right at the door.  
 But we prodded along as the day moved ahead,  
 And things did get better as tis often said.  
 The years came and went and we worked without pause,  
 Remaining true to our profession and steadfast to our cause.  
 The children did learn through effort and fears,  
 Through heartache and pain, and sometimes through tears.  
 We did our best for the youth we taught,  
 Pushed and shoved and sometimes fought.  
 But the end results were worth it, you see,  
 For they found out just what they really could be.  
 So enjoy these days of meetings and fun,  
 Sleeping late till the noon day sun.  
 But always remember, when you're shopping and such,  
 You're wonderful, you're great, and you still have the touch!

## News from Around the Commonwealth

### Sussex RTA

District D met March 8, 2010, at the Wakefield Virginia Diner with 81 members present and hosted by the Sussex Unit. President Sylvia Chambers presided. Rosa Davis Overby installed the 2010-2012 District D officers: President Daphne Miller, Franklin/Southampton Unit; President-elect Maudie Scott, Amelia Unit; Secretary Jean Marrow, Amelia Unit; Treasurer Annie Harrison, Brunswick Unit. Annie Harrison has served for 15 years as District D treasurer.

District D will award four \$500 scholarships to Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Franklin/Southampton, and Greenville to present to local district winners in their area.

All 12 units will also give unit scholarships to winners in their

locality.

Petersburg/Prince George won the Attendance Award in December and again at this March 8 meeting. P/PG has the largest membership in District D with 90 members.

Sylvia Chambers gave her farewell speech at the conclusion of the meeting, having served for the past four years as district president. Much has been accomplished by all 12 units, and a 2-page handout of District D Accomplishments was distributed to all members present. District D has accomplished over 25 "firsts." The past four years of adhering to deadlines and making great progress has been a good investment of time by all district members and officers.

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### Mecklenburg RTA

The Mecklenburg RTA Unit hosted the September 14, 2009, District D luncheon meeting at Amity Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in South Hill. President Sylvia C. Chambers presided, and Mecklenburg President Priscilla J. Walker welcomed 69 district members plus guests. Priscilla stated that the theme for the day was "Let's Fall Into Action."

Rosa Davis Overby, District D Membership Chair and VRTA Historian, conducted the Memorial Service for three district members Elise R. Alexander of the Buckingham/Cumberland/Prince Edward Unit, Charles M. Poole of the Petersburg/

Prince George Unit, and Irma O.B. Hudgins of the Franklin/Southampton Unit.

VRTA President Kennon Bland was the guest speaker. Kennon complimented District D stating that he was proud of the leadership, outstanding communication, and 2009 April VRTA Delegate Assembly attendance. Of the 186 in attendance at the VRTA Delegate Assembly, 54 members in attendance were from District D. The District D president and the twelve unit presidents were asked to stand by VRTA President Bland; the membership present acknowledged their outstanding leaders.

The district membership was informed of the upcoming VRTA Annual Fall Meeting and events. President Bland stated that Sharon Smith from the NRTA would conduct a Membership Workshop. New VRTA pins are available for \$2 commemorating the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> VRTA Anniversary in Fall 2010. Seven District D units were preparing their scrapbook for the VRTA scrapbook event

Since the District President Sylvia Chambers is not submitting travel expenses, a motion was passed to

give a fourth \$500 district scholarship. Therefore, the following units will be awarding \$500 district scholarships in addition to their unit scholarships: Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Franklin/Southampton, and Greenville.

Of the 69 district members in attendance, the Mecklenburg Unit had 19 members present. President J. Priscilla Walker of Mecklenburg was presented the Attendance Award for her unit by District D Treasurer Annie W. Harrison.



(L-R) Kennon Bland, VRTA President, Sylvia Chambers, District D President, Priscilla J. Walker, MRTA President.

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*We can't float through life. We can't be incidental or accidental. We must fix our glaze on a guiding star as soon as one comes upon the horizon, and once we have attached ourselves to that star we must keep our eyes on it and our hands on the plow.*

Ozzie Davis

## News from Around the Commonwealth

### Craig RTA

March 2, 2010

The meeting of the Retired Teachers Association was held at the Church of Christ in New Castle. A luncheon was served followed by the business meeting.

The following officers were presented for 2010-2012 year:

President: *Panco Cantley*

Vice President: *Joan Dunkley*

Treasurer: *Jackie Cantley*

Secretary: *Opal Caldwell*

State Reporter: *Jane Barnes* Local Reporter: *Curtis Abbott*

The slate of officers will be voted on at the June meeting. The association will again present a scholarship in the field of education to a Craig County High School Senior. Panco Cantley, Opal Caldwell and Frances Drewry will serve on the decision committee. The association voted to send a resolution to the Craig County Board of Supervisors supporting the Craig County Public Library. Memberships will be due at the June 1 meeting.

### King William - West Point Retired Teachers Association

King & Queen - King William - West Point Retired Teachers Association participated in the AARP Food Drive sponsored by the VRTA. We collected over 43 bags of non-perishable food items and turned them into the Ruritan of West Point. Our group worked diligently and were awarded the \$100.00 Prize for our efforts.

We also gave a Scholarship award of \$200.00 to Rappahannock Community College. This Scholarship is given from members and not fund raisers.

Emmaline M. Page,  
President

### Suffolk Retired Teachers Unit

1. The SRTA presented a \$200.00 check to the Western Tidewater Free Health Clinic, and many much-needed children's books and puzzles was delivered on March 10<sup>th</sup>, along with a supply of paper products—hand towels, napkins, toilet tissue, and Styrofoam cups, just to name a few
2. A donation of non-perishable food items was presented to the Salvation Army to help restock their food pantry.



From Left: Joyce J. Diggs, Adele Brown, Carolyn Coffman, Deidre Sawyer, Asst. Social Worker from Salvation Army, and Sue Nichols. Also pictured is Dwayne Clatterback (Grandson of Major Clatterback, head of the Suffolk Chapter of the Salvation Army)

4. Members all wearing Dr. Seuss hats, read to children in the Head Start Program, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, to celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday. It was an enjoyable day for all!



SRTA Readers at Suffolk Head Start

5. Mavis Polson Lewis, co-author of *Are Your Affairs in Order? Guidelines to Assist You*, made a wonderful and very helpful presentation to the Unit on March 10<sup>th</sup>.



Mavis Polson, author, autographs book at SRTA

6. Certificates and Awards were received for the following:



Left to right: Sue Nichols, "With our Youth Award"; Vivian Pruden, "Gold Award" for having entered the Scrapbook for State Competition and winning **first** place for three consecutive years (Unit received a \$100.00 check for this honor); and Joyce Diggs, "With our Youth Award."

Appreciation Award—Most Active Unit, Outstanding Program and Community Service, One Hundred Percent Equalized Membership, Promptness—Reported by May 31, 2009 Banner Display Fall 2008 and Spring 2009, and scholarship Donation of \$1,000.00.

7. Sadly we mourn the loss of three members: Ann Bunch, Wilburn Wilson, Jr., and Johnnie Edwards.

3. The unit participated in the AARP Ruritan Community Food Drive and was one of the three Units to

## News from Around the Commonwealth

### **NRTA Southeast Regional Meeting**

Jim Bradford and Helen Tippie represented the VRTA at the NRTA Southeast Regional Meeting on March 8 -11, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Megan Stevens Hookey and Sharon Smith led the conference. Participants were RTA leaders from Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Special guests and presenters were Hop Backus, Mimi Castaldi, Bonnie Cramer, Kelly Kennedy and Elaine Mejia.

Activities and presentations were created with state leaders in mind and were filled with ideas and resources for participants to take back and share with REA leadership teams and association members. The goal was to provide experiences that would make a positive difference for participants and their REAs. Sections of the meeting were designed to provide opportunities for REA and AARP state leaders to become better acquainted both personally and professionally. The participants were able to work together to create understanding and to share organizational issues and concerns. Everyone learned about the new AARP website, CreateTheGood.org. Through **Create The Good** you can connect to a network of people, tools and ideas to help make a difference in your community. Participants came away with a clearer understanding of how to give a successful interview with the media, how to interpret the nation's current budget problems, how to reach membership goals, how to motivate members, how to use the resources that AARP and NRTA offer and much more. Participants were encouraged and educated about ways to enhance and enrich the quality of life for retired educators in each state. It was a great meeting.

Helen Tippie,

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### **VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY CENTER FACT SHEET**

Paved Parking, Large Reception and Registration Room  
Administrative Offices with support services  
Elevator near Registration Room  
Service Elevator at rear of building with outside entrance  
Dining Room with Family Style Service — Seats 450  
Heated Indoor Pool - inside and outside entrances  
Prayer Chapel with Stained Glass Panels and Altar (0-39)  
Roy C. Everett Memorial Library (133)  
Blackstone College for Girls Alumnae Archives Parlor  
Gymnasium with indoor running track — ping pong room

### **BEDROOMS**

Main Building

- o 55 rooms with private bath (4 handicap rooms)
- o 46 rooms with semi-private bath
- o 2 dormitories with 10 bunk beds each

Goodson Lodge

- o 24 rooms with private bath (2 handicap rooms)
- 6 rollaway beds, 4 mattresses, and 1 crib available

TWO KITCHENETTES - one adjacent to 1st floor lobby  
- one adjacent to Memorial Lounge  
All rooms have wall-to-wall carpeting and fluorescent lighting.

Two classrooms have tile floors and sinks especially for arts and crafts

## **DIRECTIONS TO VUMAC**

### **FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA:**

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 St.  
Follow Main Street into town, go through 5 stoplights  
Take right on Fourth Street to VUMAC

### **FROM THE EAST**

Route 460 West to Blackstone  
Take first Blackstone exit (Business 460) Main St.  
Follow Main Street into town, go through 5 stoplights  
Take right on Fourth Street to VUMAC

### **FROM THE SOUTH**

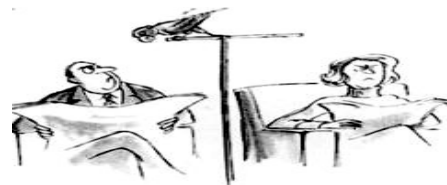
I-85 to South Hill Exit 15  
Route 138 North to Kenbridge  
Right turn at stoplight  
Route 40 into Blackstone on Main Street  
Follow Main Street into town to Fourth Street  
Left onto Fourth Street to VUMAC

### **FROM THE WEST**

Route 460 East to Nottoway Exit (Business 460)  
Route 460 Business into Blackstone on Church St.  
Right at College Avenue  
Right onto Fourth Street to VUMAC

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### **The Marital State**



*"She says to tell you she'll resume conversation with you when you come to your senses and admit she was right"*

**VRTA Spring Conference**

April 26-27, 2010

Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

707 Fourth Street, Blackstone, VA 23824

Phone – 434-292-5308

Monday 8:45 am – 11:45 am – Registration                      7:00 pm - Evening Events  
 9:30 am - Board of Directors  
 1:00 pm - Workshop Sessions

Tuesday 8:45 am - Last Pickup of Registration Packets  
 9:15 am - General Session and Keynote Message

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

<b>Registration</b> postmarked by April 15, 2010	\$10.00
(Registration postmarked after April 15, 2010)	15.00)
<b>Lodging:</b> One night – per person	46.00
Two nights- per person	92.00
<b>Total for Registration and Lodging</b> \$ _____	

**Meals:** Please indicate your choices with an X.

<u>Monday</u>	
_____ Breakfast – 8:00 am	\$7.00
_____ Lunch – 12:00 Noon	8.00
_____ Supper – 5:00pm	9.00
<u>Tuesday</u>	
_____ Breakfast – 8:00 am	7.00
_____ Lunch – 12 Noon	8.00
<b>Total for Meals</b> \$ _____	
<b>Total of enclosed check to VRTA</b> \$ _____	

\*(For total add Registration fee, plus Lodging and Meals)

Mail completed registration form and check, payable to VRTA, **no later than April 15, 2010**. Send to Helen Tippie, 14 Berkley Ct, Troutville, VA 24175. For questions call 540-330-3863 or e-mail [htippie@comcast.net](mailto:htippie@comcast.net)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

ROOMMATE REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM PREFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_ (Will be assigned as forms are received.)

SUNDAY ARRIVAL TIME (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_. (Do not plan to arrive before 3 pm)

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

**(PLEASE – Fill out one of these forms for each person attending.)**

75 Years of Loyal Support  
75

Lest We Forget!!!

On November 28, 1935, Dr. Cornelia Storrs Adair founded the Virginia Retired Teachers Association in Richmond in Room 210 of the John Marshall High School with 15 retirees present. Since then, many changes have taken place, but the motto has not changed: "To serve, not to be served".

In October of 2005, we had a delicious cake, the founding scene, the number 70 displayed, a book mark, and a 100-line poem to commemorate the occasion and we did celebrate our 70th anniversary at that meeting!!!

In October, 2010 we will celebrate our 75th anniversary at our Annual Fall Meeting in Blackstone.

If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to be considered for this important occasion, please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you. Let's have a ball!!!!

Rosa Davis Overby  
VRTA Historian  
804-834-2996

**Come to Blackstone this Spring!!!**



**April 26-27, 2010**