

HRSEA News

The newsletter of the Hanover Retired School Employees Association

The INSIDE Scoop

- President's Letter
- Legislative Update
- Treasurer's Rpt. & Membership Info
- **HRSEA Bylaws and Standing Rules Ratification**
- **Spring Meeting & Lunch Reservation form**
- **2011 Calendar Notes**

RETIRING SUPERINTENDENT TO VISIT HRSEA IN APRIL

When Dr. Stewart D. Roberson, HCPS Superintendent, addressed the Hanover Retired School Employees Association in October, those present never suspected that he was contemplating becoming eligible for membership in the HRSEA. Just several short months following that visit, Roberson announced that he would retire from his position with the Hanover system effective this June. Even with a hectic spring schedule of "farewell" visits to all of the schools in the system, Dr. Roberson is making time to join us and to share his thoughts about the school system as part of our general meeting on April 13th. Be sure you attend to hear this update and to thank him for the many years of service he has given the children and educators of Hanover County.



Dr. Stewart D. Roberson
HCPS Superintendent

Spring Meeting Planned

The 2011 Spring HRSEA Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 13th at Oak Knoll Middle School** on Route 301 south of Hanover Courthouse. The social hour will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the school's media center. The general meeting will follow from 10:00 a.m. till noon in the OKMS Lecture Room. Members, guests and those interested in joining the Hanover Retired School Employees Association are invited to attend this meeting. **PLEASE NOTE that the date was previously announced and is a week earlier than the normal spring meeting** to accommodate the Hanover County Public Schools spring break (April 18-22). See below for a tentative agenda (business meeting and choral program may be reversed pending scheduling at the school that day) for this meeting. The meeting and luncheon reservation form appear on page 4 of the newsletter. Please register for the meeting and/or reserve your lunch by using that form, rather than calling your area representative as done in the past. We used this method in the fall with great success and will continue with it. See you at the meeting in April!

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- 9:00 a.m. Registration/Social Hour** (OKMS Media Center)
- 10:00 a.m. Program: OKMS 6th Grade Choral Presentation** (OKMS Media Center)
under the direction of Pam Cross, OKMS Choral Instructor
- Guest: Dr. Stewart Roberson, HCPS Superintendent**
- HRSEA Business Meeting**
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon** (OKMS Media Center)
(Reservation required—\$12—due by Wednesday, April 6th — See form, page 4.)



Cathy P. Daugherty

2010-2012 HRSEA OFFICERS

Cathy P. Daugherty
President & VRTA/
District C Rep.
804.798.5070
emerita07@comcast.net

Dr. Lloyd C. Jones
Vice President &
Program Chairman
804.346.9368
lcj1945@verizon.net

Dr. Larkin Phillips
Secretary
804.749.3166
lark3425@yahoo.com

Mary D. Waddy
Treasurer
804.779.2366
msmwaddy@aol.com

Brenda D. Petty
Immediate
Past President
804.526.8844
zuluchichi@yahoo.com

VRTA Web Site:
www.vrta.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Much has been happening within the local, district, and state levels of our group since we last met in October. First and most importantly, have been the educational issues faced by the Virginia General Assembly. Those of you who signed up to receive emails on the GA from VRTA Legislative Chair Bea Morris were not disappointed in her daily efforts to keep us all apprised of what was being discussed, when it was to be voted upon, and how to make our voices heard through our elected representatives. If you did not have access to these daily emails, I hope you read about developments in the local and state newspapers. To review the educational and VRS battles of this year's GA, please see the article below this letter.

Secondly, IRS issues have taken a front row seat in much of the "behind the scenes" work of your Executive Board during the last several months. New requirements dictate that ALL non-profit organizations comply with formally applying for tax-exempt status [501 (c) (4)]. For HRSEA that has meant filling out paperwork from VRTA Treasurer Betty Craft, updating and/or writing a *Proposed HRSEA Bylaws/Standing Rules* document, developing an HRSEA budget and obtaining an EIN number from the IRS. As your president, I'm happy to say that all of these requirements have been met. During the April meeting those present will vote on the *Proposed HRSEA Bylaws and Standing Rules* to legitimize our organization. Please look over this document mailed to you along with this newsletter.

Thirdly, there has been success in filling vacancies in several committee chairmanships for the organization. Many thanks go to Linda D'Agostino for co-chairing the Hospitality/Social Committee and to Carol Cash for chairing the Nominations Committee. We still need a few volunteers to head up the Membership, Mailing, and Legislative Committees. As you look over the *HRSEA Bylaws and Standing Rules*, read the duties each of these positions involves and step up to the plate. You truly cannot have "ownership" in a group until you work for the group. Begin working for HRSEA today!

Cathy

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 2011 Session Report

From VRTA Legislative Chair Bea Morris, correspondence on February 25, 2011:

"For the first time in a long time, there is a little good news, at least for retired folks. VRS has said that there will be a COLA increase of 1.28% beginning July 1, 2011. For those newly retired, the first COLA goes into effect on July 1 of the second calendar year after you retire and is effective each July 1 thereafter. The COLA appears in your August 1 benefit payment. Example: If you retire on September 1, 2011, your first COLA will be effective July 1, 2013. The COLA is supposed to allow the retirement benefit to keep pace with inflation and is based on the Consumer Price Index-Urban. Social Security COLA is based on a slightly different formula of the Consumer Price Index, and it has not been announced if there will be a Social Security COLA in the coming calendar year. VRS benefits are based on the fiscal year and Social Security benefits are based on the calendar year. This is not a lot of money, but it is something. Teachers have always been grateful for little things."

EDUCATIONAL ISSUES OF NOTE

- GA voted to require 150 minutes of PE per week on average for students in grades K-8 with NO FUNDING to support this mandate. This will go into effect in 2014. (*Del. Cox-NO; Sen. McDougle - YES, as reported in the Richmond Times-Dispatch*)
- The 65% Solution bill failed, as did the tuition tax credit bill. Both will be back next year.
- The bill establishing an optional defined contribution retirement plan failed, but will return for consideration again next year.

An update to all educational bills passed will be forthcoming on the VRTA web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Treasurer Mary Waddy reports that the HRSEA accounts total \$3,488.21 as of March 3, 2011. This figure reflects both the general account and the scholarship account. All members who had paid 2010-2011 dues by March 10, 2011 should have received a copy of the *2010-2011 HRSEA Directory* in the mail. If you did not receive a copy, please see Cathy Daugherty during the meeting on April 13th or contact her at 804-798-5070 or emerita07@comcast.net.

HRSEA Membership stands at 114 members;

VRTA/District C (regional affiliation) membership/80 members;

VRTA membership/44 members

VRTA DISTRICT C UPDATE

The District C level of the VRTA, of which Hanover is one of eight members, has undertaken to award two \$1,000 scholarships this spring to two seniors attending schools within the district. Monies to fund these scholarships come from District C dues that have accrued interest over time. Mary Waddy, the HRSEA representative on the District C Scholarship Committee, has forwarded directions and applications to each of the four high schools in the Hanover School System. Students completing the applications will be judged on several criteria:



1. Enrollment in an education degree program
2. Financial need (subject to verification)
3. Extracurricular Activities/Club Memberships
4. Academic Honors and Awards
5. Community Service
6. Other supporting activities or experiences

Scholarship winners will be responsible for being enrolled in a college/university for a minimum of 12 semester hours beginning with the fall of 2011. They will also be expected to return the Scholarship Recipient Report Form to the District C treasurer one month before tuition is due at the beginning of each semester so that the money (\$500 per semester) may be sent directly to the appropriate educational institution. If terms of the scholarship are not met, the winner will repay the scholarship money for the semester(s) to District C.

Completed applications will be accepted until April 15, 2011. If you know any 2011 high school graduates who qualify for these scholarships, please urge them to obtain a copy of the application from the head of the guidance department at their school. It would be great to have at least one Hanover County senior awarded a VRTA District C Teacher Education Scholarship this year!

LOOK NO FURTHER ...

If you are looking for the perfect gift for a retiring Hanover educator this year, LOOK NO FURTHER than purchasing a copy of *A History of Education in Hanover County, Virginia 1778-2008* authored by HPCS retirees, Rebecca Bray and Dr. Lloyd Jones. Proceeds from the sale of each book (\$34.95) are used to support professional development scholarships and creative classroom grants to Hanover teachers. To order your copy call Anita Floyd at 365-4560.



2010-2012 Remembrance & Contact Committee

Jayne Massie, CHAIR
804.994.2211
Hanover

Gabie Crutchfield
804.569.8049
Mechanicsville

Willette Johnson
804.321.9534
Richmond

Mary McDaniel
804.798.8243
Ashland & Glen Allen

Isabelle Stills
804.883.6805
Montpelier

Joyce Via
804.746.3855
Mechanicsville

Anne Wiltshire
804.749.3455
Rockville



HRSEA PROGRAM IDEAS WANTED!

*PLEASE contact Lloyd
Jones, Vice President
and Program Chair,
with program ideas!*

DATES FOR MEETINGS: Remainder of 2011

DATE

MARCH 21, 2011/Monday

APRIL 13, 2011/Wednesday

MAY 9-10, 2011/Monday-Tuesday

MAY 19, 2011/Thursday

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011/Thursday

OCTOBER 20, 2011/Thursday

MEETING/LOCATION

DISTRICT C Executive Board Mtg

HRSEA Spring Meeting, OKMS

VRTA Delegate Assembly, Blackstone
Cathy Daugherty to attend for HRSEA

DISTRICT C General Meeting, Fulghum
Center/Chesterfield County

HRSEA Executive Board Meeting,
Ashland Library

HRSEA Fall Meeting, TBA

Spring 2011 Meeting and Luncheon Reservation Form

MEETING REGISTRATION

Complete the following information to register for the April 13th meeting of the HRSEA. You will be asked to sign in upon entering OKMS on the day of the meeting. A special table will be set up in the lobby for us.

Name badges must be worn at all times when in the school.

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

Name for luncheon name tag, if different from above: _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____

LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Complete the meeting registration form to reserve a lunch. Return with a check payable to HRSEA.

SELECT ONE of the BOXED LUNCH CHOICES from HOMEMADES by SUZANNE

#1 _____ CHICKEN SALAD
Homemade Roll
Deviled Egg
Fruit Salad
Red Velvet Cake
Chocolate Mint
Sweet or Unsweetened Tea
Bottled Water

#2 _____ LUNCHEON SALAD
Garden Salad with
Turkey, Ham & Cheese
Deviled Egg
Chocolate Pecan Pie
Chocolate Mint
Sweet or Unsweetened Tea
Bottled Water

_____ Total # of Chicken Salad boxes

_____ Total # of Luncheon Salads

_____ (number of boxed lunches reserved) X \$12.00 ea = _____ TOTAL

SEND MEETING AND LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM BY APRIL 6th to:

Mary D. Waddy, HRSEA Treasurer/2155 Piping Tree Ferry Road/Mechanicsville, VA 23111.
If you have questions call at 779-2366 or email at msmwaddy@aol.com.