

HENRICO RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

OCTOBER 2001

President: Swift Williams

Newsletter Editor: Elsie Pelfrey

MEETING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001

LOCATION: WILLOW OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

Time: 11:15 a.m. Social time 11:45 a.m. - Luncheon

**Guest Speaker: Scott Danner, Assistant Director Triad Program, Office of
the Attorney General**

**Topic: Identity Theft - What you need to know about it and how you can
protect yourself against it**

The cost of the luncheon is \$13.00. Reservations must be made in advance and should be received by Friday October 26, 2001. (reservation form on page 5)

If you need a ride or want more information, call Swift at 353-1373 or Elsie at 270-4988

Invite a former colleague or a new retiree and invite him/her to attend.

“Seek not the good in external things; seek it in yourselves.” Epictetus

Message from the President: *As the summer days turn to autumn, our thoughts drift back to our school days with Henrico County. Retirement is a good reward for the years we served, and yet we do miss the fellowship we enjoyed with colleagues. The Henrico Retired School Personnel organization provides an opportunity for us to meet with old friends. I hope you will be able to join us for all three luncheon meetings scheduled this year in **November, March and May**.*

*In August, I attended a memorial service at Skipwith Baptist Church for one of our members, **Dr. Richard Boyer**. It was an impressive service that recounted Dr. Boyer's involvement with his family, church and community. His reputation as a man of gentleness, patience and integrity was wide-spread. He was a model teacher and administrator whose good works helped to make the Henrico County school system what it is today. One of our organization's goals is to acknowledge the contributions of former school personnel in an appropriate way. I hope we can get this project launched this year.*

*HRSP sponsored a coffee in September at St. Martin's Episcopal Church to welcome new retirees. The response was good! A special thanks goes to **Dodie Corpening** who coordinated the event and to **A.P. Hall** who arranged for us to use the fellowship hall at St. Martin's.*

*I look forward to seeing you at our first luncheon meeting of the year which will be held on **Thursday, November 1, at Willow Oaks Country Club**. Please make your reservation early!!*

BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met on August 2, 2001 at Dominion Chevrolet on Broad Street. It was announced that the membership as of that date was **503**. In addition, **134** are members of **VRTA**, **70** have joined District C and **133** members have e-mail addresses. The budget for 2001-02 was presented and approved.

Linda MacCleave has the web site up and running. Go to **<http://www.cvco.org/education/hrsp>**. Plans were set for a coffee for new retirees to be held on September 6th. The luncheon meeting was scheduled for November 1. JoAnn McCabe discussed the need for tutors at the Hilliard House. Participation in **With Our Youth!** will continue along with support for the **Henrico Christmas Mother** program. Other activities were discussed including a scholarship fund.

A nominating committee to include A.P.Hall, Linda MacCleave, Gordon Sandridge and Audrey Batchelder was approved. A slate for president and vice-president will be presented at the January board meeting for approval.

COMING EVENTS:

October 17, AARP Virginia presents a *CONSUMER UNIVERSITY PROGRAM*

Midtown Inn and Conference Center: 3200 W. Broad Street 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The program will include the following topics: Identity Theft, Predatory Lending/Home Improvement, Medicare Fraud and Mail Fraud. Lunch will be served. **RSVP by Wed. October 10th.** Call toll-free **1-877-926-8300.**

“Be happy in the moment, that’s enough. Each moment is all we need, not more. Mother Theresa
NATIONAL RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (NRTA)

The **2001 NRTA Convocation** was held August 18 - 22, in **Portland, Oregon.** The theme for this meeting was **“Now’s Our Time,”** focusing on the challenge of change. Virginia was well-represented with **Rosa Overby, VRTA President,** and **Elsie Pelfrey, AARP Liaison** attending along with four members from the **Brunswick and Sussex Retired Teachers Associations.** These two units placed in the top ten winners in the **With Our Youth!** Project and were honored at the closing luncheon.

Representatives from every state and territory came together to share ideas and to plan for the future. Among the topics were building membership among the 50+ retirees, recognizing diversity, planning programs and projects, legislative trends and retirement issues. One of the guest speakers was **Michele Forman** from **Middlebury, Vermont,** the **2001 Teacher of the Year.** She shared her experiences teaching social studies in the high school, all the while saluting the teachers who came before her. Michelle tells her students: “I am a teacher. My best work is in your head.”

We were given a book to read prior to the conference (payback for all of the book reports we assigned our students.) It was **“The Eagle and the Monk,”** co-authored by **Wm. A. Jenkins,** who was a keynote speaker. Although the book is written mainly for business and industry leaders, the message in the form of a fable deals with the challenge of change. An easy read, the message is even more important as, in light of recent events, we face changes and challenges we never envisioned.

There was also an opportunity to see the beautiful city of Portland. We took a cruise up the Columbia Gorge and were treated to a salmon planking dinner (I ate salmon every night I was there!) I visited the lovely Rose Gardens, the Japanese Gardens and an awesome mansion sitting high above the city with a view of Mt. Hood in the distance. It was a pleasant ending to a wonderful conference. **Elsie Pelfrey**

HENRICO CHRISTMAS MOTHER: The *2001 Henrico Christmas Mother* is **Ruth Radzisauskas,** from the **Varina** District. She will be our guest at the November luncheon and, as we have in the past, we ask that you bring your contribution to the meeting or mail it in the envelope enclosed for your convenience. Many of you have contributed to the fund-raisers for the national disaster but we hope you will open your hearts and pocketbooks to remember our local citizens who are experiencing hard times.

BLOOD DONATIONS: Your blood is needed now more than ever. While there was an outpouring of donations immediately after September 11th, be reminded that we will continue to need fresh supplies of blood. Call the **Virginia Blood Services at 359-5100.**

“A House Without Books is Like a Room Without Windows” **Horace Mann**

Books, books, books: **Ann MacMillan’s** third book in her series of Civil War mysteries, **“Civil Blood,”** has been released. The brave pair of women sleuths, white Confederate widow and nurse, Narcissa Powers and free black herbalist Judah Daniel again join forces; this time to battle a deadly enemy, Smallpox. The story

takes many turns as they seek to find out who is responsible for the germ tainted money that threatens the populace of Richmond. Ann takes you deep into old Richmond to a war within a war waged around Shockoe Hill and Butchertown. Begin the series with “**Dead March**” and then read “**Angel Trumpet,**” for a different twist on wartime Richmond. And, if you have been reading and cherishing the Mitford books by **Jan Karon**, you will certainly enjoy the **Miss Read** paperback books from Houghton Mifflin. Experience life at Fairacre and the country villages filled with fascinating characters, colorful intrigues and plenty of love and laughter.

A VISIT TO GREAT BRITAIN

Emily Martin, Anne Venturino and I visited England, Wales and Ireland in late April. My daughter, Brooke, had been studying in Bath since January, and since Emily and Anne are her godmothers, the three of us went for a short visit. We spent a week in London before we took the train to Bath where Brooke showed us around for several days before we rented a car and took off. We went to as many literary places as we could. In southern Wales we visited Tintern Abbey and several places associated with Dylan Thomas. We visited the Writer’s Museum and the James Joyce Centre in Dublin, Wordsworth’s home (Rydal Mount), Dove Cottage, and the Beatrix Potter Gallery in the Lake District. We also saw the Bronte Museum, Byron’s Newstead Abbey, and Milton’s Cottage at Chalfont St. Giles. We stayed in a hotel frequented by Sir Walter Scott and visited other castles and homes during our journey. My diary is 21 pages long, so you know we saw a lot in the three and a half weeks that we were there. We had a great time although it was cold, rainy and occasionally snowy!

From Vicki J. Ford

THE 2002 VRTA LEGISLATIVE PLAN (Editor’s Note: In view of recent events, this platform will be worked and reworked as warranted by the state and national economy and fiscal priorities.)

VRTA Priority Items

- * **supports** increases in VRS benefits
- * **supports** health insurance premium credits for retired educators equal to the amount received by retired state employees to be paid from VRS funds
- * **opposes** switching prescriptions to those of a different chemical composition for nonmedical reasons and seeks to make it illegal to require physicians to do so
- * **supports** legislation to allow wholesale cooperative drug purchasing to lower costs for the elderly
- * **opposes** diversion of public funds to non-public education
- * **supports** legislation to provide a tax **credit** for long term care insurance premiums paid

Secondary Items

- * **opposes** any proposal to change **VRS** from defined benefit to defined contribution plan
- * **supports** a moratorium on the use of SOL scores until the tests can be evaluated and revised by qualified experts. **supports** prohibiting SOLs ever being primary evaluation tool
- * **supports** legislation to provide current/future retirees an increase in final group term life insurance
- * **supports** adoption of “Old Virginia” as the new state song

The above plan was put together in April by the Legislative Committee and will be reviewed and finalized at the **VRTA** meeting in Blackstone, October 8th and 9th..

Know The Candidates’ Views: November 6th is election day and we urge you to vote. On September 24th, Mark Warner and Mark Earley appeared at the **Governors Forum** in Williamsburg. Each candidate answered the same set of questions but were not on stage together. The two gubernatorial candidates have different views on some of the issues presented and we encourage you to find out where each stands on those issues that matter to you. Do you know where the candidates for the General Assembly stand on the issues? Find out and then exercise a most precious privilege we have as **Americans** - the right to express our views at the polls!

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Martin Luther King, Jr.

CRUISING THE ATLANTIC

In June, my husband Chris and I took a repositioning cruise across the Atlantic from San Juan to Amsterdam, aboard the Celebrity Cruise Line on The Galaxy. After a day and evening in San Juan, we set off for five days at sea. First port of call was the Azores. We toured the Island enjoying the lovely landscape, abundant flowers and the scenic volcanic lakes. Our next port was Vigo, Spain where we were intrigued by the corn cribs built on stilts beside the homes, that looked more like shrines with crosses on the front and back. (the cribs protect the corn from mice and rats.) Bayona, a lovely little seaport near Vigo is also a gem and is the port Columbus returned to after his voyage to America. Our next port was Le Harve, France. We went by train to Paris and enjoyed shopping and visiting Chris's aunt who lives in a suburb outside Paris. Copenhagen was lovely and Tivoli Gardens is a must to see. Our final port to visit was Amsterdam, but that was a whistle stop as we had an early flight home. Next time we will plan to spend the night in our last port of call. This 14 day cruise, with flights to San Juan, Puerto Rico and return from Amsterdam was less than \$1,500 each! We felt that was a great value.

from Marcie Mansfield Chereau

(**Note:** A repositioning cruise is a one way cruise to take the ship from one port to another. It is a very affordable way to take a trip.)

SENIORS AND SCAMS:

Someone is out there looking for your money! No matter what your age, you can be the victim of unscrupulous people. But, for seniors it is even more dangerous. It is estimated that some **14,000** fraudulent telemarketing firms now operate in the United States, bilking consumers of some **\$40 billion a year**. Studies indicate that **56 to 80 per cent** of these calls are directed at older people... One AARP survey found that a disproportionate number of people age **50 and older** fall victim to these frauds and that adults age **75 and older** are especially likely to be victimized. (**Family Circle 10/9/01**)

If you have parents who may be vulnerable, you need to: **watch for signs of decline** - such as changes in behavior or slips in judgment; **monitor parental needs** - look around the house to see what needs to be done and get reliable contractors, offer to help with contracts or paperwork that needs to be done; **recognize red flags** - a new best friend asking for a loan, unusual withdrawals shown on bank statements, charges to strange companies; **recruit outside help** - ask friends and relatives to keep an eye on them if you don't live close by, talk to the bank manager, look for agencies that can help; **help them to help themselves** - give them literature, tell them about scams going on; **block solicitations** - get phone numbers removed from telemarketing lists (**DMA Telephone preference Service, P O Box 9014, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014.**) Get forms for removing addresses from mailing lists (**DMA Mail Preference Service, P O Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.**)

All of the advice given in the article cited, is helpful for **every one of us!**

TIME TO RENEW? Look at your label. If it has **01** on it, it is time. This will be the last newsletter you will receive!! A membership blank is enclosed for your convenience. **While you are updating your HRSP membership, think about joining VRTA, our state association.** Information appears on the membership form

HRSP needs you! *Committee members, board members, special projects facilitators, officers, keep the organization moving ahead. If you are asked, say yes! If you have a special talent we can use, tell us! If you have an idea, share it! Even if you have a complaint, air it! Be an active member of the group!*

What a Difference a Day makes!

Last Monday there were people fighting about praying in schools. Last Tuesday you would have been hard pressed to find a school where someone was not praying.
Last Monday there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex, color and creed. Last Tuesday they were all holding hands, crying together.
Last Monday we thought we were secure. Last Tuesday we learned differently.
Last Monday we were talking about heroes as being athletes. Last Tuesday we looked at fireman and EMS and learned what "hero" meant.
Last Monday people were fighting the Ten Commandments on government property. Last Tuesday the people all said "God help us all" while thinking "Thou shall not kill."
Last Monday people argued with their kids about picking up their rooms, Last Tuesday people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids.
Last Monday people picked up burgers at McDonalds for dinner. Last Tuesday they all ate at home around the table.
Last Monday people were upset the traffic moved too slow. Last Tuesday they stood in line for hours to give blood.
Last Monday politicians argued about budget surpluses. Last Tuesday, grief stricken, they sang "God Bless America."
Last Monday we worried about getting to work late. Last Tuesday we worried about getting home.
Last Monday we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived. Last Tuesday we gave to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.
Last Monday some children had whole families. Last Tuesday they were orphans.
Last Monday the President was going to Florida to read to children. Last Tuesday he returned to Washington to protect our children.
Last Monday we e-mailed jokes. Last Tuesday we did not.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!

Directions to Willow Oaks Country Club:

From the west end - Parham Rd South across the Willey Bridge, to second Forest Hill Av exit, follow Forest Hill to club on the left. From I-95, take 195 South-Powhite Pkwy exit, follow 195 across James River to first exit - Forest Hill Av. Toll 50 cents - bear right to club entrance about 100 yards on the right.

FOR LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS: Please fill out the form below and return it with your check by **Friday, October 26, 2001**. Make the check payable to **Henrico Retired School Personnel** and mail to **Dale Waldrop, 1300 Hockett Road, Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103**. (If you have any questions, call Dale at 784-3221, or Swift at 353-1373)

Luncheon Reservation

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE LUNCHEON _____

I AM BRINGING A GUEST(S) _____

ATTACHED IS A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF _____ (\$13.00 EACH)

NAME _____ TEL # _____

Mail to Dale Waldrop - address above