

# **HENRICO RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

**FEBRUARY, 2003**

**President: Swift Williams**

**Newsletter: Elsie Pelfrey**

## **MEETING - THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003**

**Location: GLEN ALLEN CULTURAL ARTS CENTER**

**Time: 11:15 a.m. Social Time**

**11:45 a.m. Luncheon followed by the program**

**Speaker: LARKIN BROWN, Director, Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center**

**Topic: *The Center: Past, Present and Future***

***An overview of the past three years and an exciting vision for the future.***

The cost of the luncheon is **\$13.00**. Reservations must be made in advance and should be received by **Monday, March 10, 2003** (see reservation form on page 5)

### ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:***

Members of our organization respond to the needs of the community in many ways and give of their time and money to a number of community service programs. Recently, we received a letter from the Executive Director of Hilliard House, **Lynn McCashin**, expressing appreciation to **HRSP** for our support of the **Hilliard House**. Some of you have made monetary contributions, others have tutored children and some have volunteered in other ways. Our own **Joann McCabe** has been a tireless advocate for the Hilliard House Program.

Another community effort that we have strongly supported is the **Henrico Christmas Mother Program**. Members of **HRSP** have volunteered for this program in various capacities and have made significant monetary contributions. **Anne Southworth** and **Charlotte Melton**, members of our organization, have served as the Christmas Mother, devoting countless hours to fulfilling this important role.

**WITH OUR YOUTH!** is another program that has involved the volunteer efforts of many members and for which our organization received national recognition. **Elsie Pelfrey** worked diligently documenting our involvement, wrote the report and then traveled to Washington to receive the award on **HRSP's** behalf.

It was because of your contributions and participation in these community programs that we were recognized as **the outstanding state RTA unit** at the **VRTA Assembly** in Blackstone in October. Thank you for all you do!

During our October meeting, we recognized **Dr. T. Alfred Parker** who was in attendance despite the fact that he was suffering from severe health problems. About a month later, we learned of his death on December 5, 2002. Dr. Parker had been a faithful member of our organization since 1991. All of us knew Dr. Parker as a fine leader in education. Not all knew that he was a part of **"the greatest generation,"** who served as an officer in the Air Force during World War II. As a fighter pilot, he flew P-38's and P-51's on missions in the European theatre. In 1950 he was recalled to fly missions during the Korean War. He entered the field of education with a background rich in personal experience. (After his retirement, he was actively involved with the Aviation History Museum here in Richmond.) We are grateful that Dr. Parker was a part of our organization, and we share our loss with his wife and family.

I hope to see all of you at the **March 13** meeting at the Cultural Arts Center on Mountain Road.

**SWIFT**

***"Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body."* Seneca**

## Highlights from the January Board Meeting - January 16, 2003

- *Susan Stanley*, Community Partnership Specialist for Henrico County Schools, gave a presentation on the Henrico Education Foundation - its function and achievements.
- *Linda Andrews*, one of our retirees who works with Signa Tours, presented information on trips that could be arranged for our group. The board voted to support sponsoring a trip to **Peaks of Otter**. ( see **page 3 for information**).
- According to Membership Chairman, Audrey Batchelder, we have **607** members, but **50** need to pay current dues.
- The treasurer reported a balance of **\$3337** of which **\$651** is designated for scholarship, leaving a working balance of **\$2727**.
- JoAnn McCabe reported that the Scholarship Committee will meet in February.
- The Nominating Committee will be reporting on a slate of officers.
- A discussion concerning long term care insurance was followed by concern about the increase in health insurance premiums for retirees below Medicare age who are enrolled in the county plan. Henrico does not subsidize the premiums as do many surrounding localities. A motion was made and approved that "HRSP seek to improve health insurance benefits for Henrico County School retirees."

### 2003 HRSP Calendar

**March 13 - HRSP Luncheon Meeting, Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center**

**April 8 - HRSP trip to Peaks of Otter and D-Day Memorial**

**April 28/29 - VRTA Delegate Assembly, Blackstone VA**

**June 17 - HRSP Luncheon Meeting, Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center**

**MORE AWARDS FOR HRSP!** As announced in the fall newsletter, we were honored by **NRTA**, as one of five award recipients in the nation, for our community service and work with youth. At the **NRTA Conference in Washington, D. C.** Elsie Pelfrey accepted, on behalf of the **HRSP** membership, a plaque and a "little red wagon": a symbol of the **WITH OUR YOUTH!** program. Then, in October, at the **VRTA** conference in Blackstone, **HRSP** was honored as **the most outstanding unit in Virginia** in recognition of our volunteer work and community service. In addition, we received a certificate for our scrapbook, for our scholarship and one for being the unit with the most membership growth

***A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words"*** Anonymous

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING?** *The awards we garnered last year were based on the reporting you did on your service to youth and the community. It is time to start compiling the activities/hours for the period **July 2002 - June 2003**. Since the report is due to **VRTA** by May 30, we need you to let us know actual hours served plus the anticipated hours. For example, if you teach Sunday school each week, tutor or visit a nursing home on a regular basis, figure in the weeks in May and June. **The information needed is: type/description of activity, youth or adult, # of people involved and total # of hours spent.** Any service that you give that you are not paid for will count, except for baby-sitting your own grandchildren. **Please call Elsie Pelfrey at 270-4988 or e-mail to pelfrey2@prodigy.net.** We will also collect the information at the luncheon in March. We **know** you are doing lots of wonderful things, so **tell** us about it!*

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The **Scholarship Committee**, chaired by **JoAnn McCabe**, will be starting the search for the **2003** recipient. As you know, the scholarship is funded with **\$1** out of each membership payment. We are currently working on a tax-exempt status for **HRSP**, which would allow for any additional contributions by members to be tax-deductible. However, we hope you will consider a donation as a memorial to a deceased friend or family member even although it is not deductible. We have had several such remembrances and a card is sent to the family acknowledging the donation. What a wonderful way to honor our lifelong commitment to educating young people. **Send to Dale Waldrop at 1300 Hockett Road, Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103**

## **WE REMEMBER THE COLUMBIA SPACE MISSION:**

*As I am writing this newsletter, I am following the commentaries on the tragedy. As I listen to the background stories on each of these seven great explorers, I can't help but think about the many teachers who shared in the lives of these young people, and who, recognizing their extraordinary talents, challenged them to reach higher to fulfill the vision. While not all of our students turn out to be astronauts, we inspire many to fulfill their potential. This is what teachers do and most of us do it well. We feel the sorrow of the families of these brave visionaries and at night, as I look up in the dark sky, I think I see seven bright new stars streaking across the heavens. May we not forget them!*  
the editor

**E-Mail Update:** Please let Audrey Batchelder know if you have recently gone online and have an e-mail address. We have an e-mailing file and can get news out to you as needed. If you have a change in the address, let her know. **E-Mail to Audrey at : [batchva@attbi.com](mailto:batchva@attbi.com) Thanks**

**Books, books, books...** Have you read **David Baldacci's, *The Christmas Train***? It is about a young man who rides the train cross-country and about the characters who share the trip. A relaxing read with a little mystery involved. A longer novel set in a Maine mill town, ***Empire Falls*, by Robert Russo.** is worth reading for the characterizations and the picture of a town crumbling from the loss of the once flourishing mill. Hanover author, **Ann MacMillan's** fourth book in the Civil War mystery series - ***Chickahominy Fever*** - will be out in March. Also, a new book from **Big Stone Gap** author, **Adriana Trigiani** will be out in July - ***Lucia, Lucia***.

### **What is a Grandmother? (an essay by a third-grader)**

A grandmother is a lady who has no little children of her own. She likes other people's. A grandfather is a man grandmother. Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are old so they shouldn't play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market and have a lot of dimes ready. When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They never say "hurry up." Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out. Grandmothers don't have to be smart - only answer questions like "Why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?" When they read to us, they don't skip or mind if we ask for the same story over and over again. Everybody should try to have a grandmother-especially if you don't have television-because they are the only grown-ups who have time. **From Share a Smile (shared by Jewell English)**

**ACTIVE FOR LIFE - A pilot project in Richmond for those over 50 interested in improving their health by regular physical activity.** For a **free handbook** on how to create your own program and/or the free directory on resources in Richmond call **toll free 1-800-424-3410**. **For details visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)**.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Although the tumultuous 2003 session is only at halfway mark, almost everything affecting **VRS** retirees has been decided. With the expert help of our lobbyist, **Nancy Finch**, our two major goals have been achieved. **VRTA** wrote every legislator, the Governor and all top officials urging that VRS funds not be used to balance the budget deficit. Subsequently, **Governor Warner** issued a statement that he would veto any such attempt. Our second objective was to seek a study of VRS finances to determine which of our goals for improved benefits were feasible and when these might be implemented. **Delegate Lacey Putney**, our VRS guardian angel, has promised that the study would be conducted by one means or another. **NELSON TAYLOR**

## **LOBBY DAY SURPRISE!**

Our VRTA Lobby Day meeting at St. Paul's Church was quite a success. Not only was there a nice crowd of members but Governor Mark Warner made a surprise appearance. he lauded the lifetime contributions of Virginia educators and repeated his promise to protect our retirement system from the financial raids of the past.

We spent the rest of the day visiting legislators, attending some important committee meetings and a giant Capitol Square rally for public education.

**"Wherever you are, it is your friends that make your world." William James**

**AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM (formerly 55 ALIVE PROGRAM)**

Driver safety courses are being taught throughout the metro Richmond area. If you are interested in learning defensive driving techniques, how to **adjust your driving to age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time and maybe getting a discount on your auto insurance**, there is a class being organized near you. Many of our colleagues have participated in this program. If you want more information on the program or the schedule of classes, contact **Fred Denz at 346-4125** or toll-free **1-888-AARP NOW** (1-888-227-7669) \*\*\*\*If you are interested in becoming an **instructor**, call Fred Denz or the toll-free number

**VRTA INSURANCE UPDATE**

**Please Note** Following our **March 13 Luncheon** meeting, there will be a brief meeting with our representative, **Bruce Adie**, to answer any questions you may have about **Penn Treaty, rate changes or any other concerns** you may have. This session will follow the general meeting when everyone is dispersed. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but have questions, please call Bruce at **276-0481**.

**REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE**

*Two former administrators passed away recently. While not members of HRSP (they moved away upon retiring) many of you will remember them. **Dr. William Ware** served as Dir. of Middle Schools, and as principal of Byrd Middle School among other positions. **B. T. Doyle**, the first principal of J.R. Tucker High School, retired to Florida a number of years ago.*

**Please call Barbara Porter at 288-8088 if you know of someone who is ill or who has suffered a loss.**

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**FOR LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS; Please fill out the form below and return it with your check (made payable to HRSP) by Monday, March 10, 2003. Mail to Dale Waldrop, 1300 Hockett Road, Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103. (If you have 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