



Virginia State Reading Association

We Teach Virginia to Read!

The mission of the Virginia State Reading Association is to lead in the promotion of literacy through collaboration, advocacy, and professional development and to further the mission and goals of the International Reading Association.

President's Message

Dear VSRA Members,

As members of the Virginia State Reading Association, we have innumerable opportunities to promote literacy and model the best teaching strategies. During the September Governing Council meeting information was shared about Virginia's Response to Intervention Initiative, and at the November meeting the Governor's Lexile Framework for Reading Initiative was presented. I hope this cutting edge information was shared with your local council membership.

As we strive to increase our membership, we must let everyone in Virginia know that we are always ready to help implement new strategies designed to help the students we teach. Please offer a friend the opportunity to expand their professional knowledge by suggesting they join VSRA.

Our 42nd Annual Conference will be held February 20-22, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, in Arlington. David Red and his conference committee have planned an exceptional professional development experience. Speakers from every level of education will present the latest in research and best practices. The list of speakers is available on our website, www.vusra.org. Even as school district budgets are cut the VSRA conference is an exceptional value for the money. I hope to see many of you in Crystal City.

Victoria Oakley

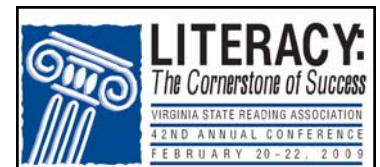
VSRA President

Volume 9, Issue 2

Winter 2009

Inside this issue:

<i>Local Council Highlights</i>	2-4
<i>The Big Read in Virginia</i>	4
<i>2009 Slate of Officers</i>	5
<i>2009 VSRA Ballot</i>	6
<i>VSRA Membership Form</i>	7
<i>2009 Conference Information</i>	7

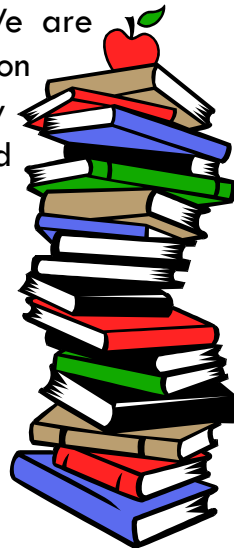


Register now for the 42nd Annual Conference, February 20-22, 2009 in Arlington. Go to www.vusra.org for conference and registration information. Online registration ends on February 1, 2009.

Shenandoah Valley Reading Council

The Shenandoah Valley Reading Council held their Fall Mini-Conference on October 14th at Stuart's Draft Elementary School. President-Elect Tonya Jones planned an excellent conference with something for everyone. A very thought-provoking presentation on comprehension was presented by Dr. Jennifer Jones of Radford University. Small group sessions on writing (by Dr. Mark Hogan), multicultural education (by Dr. Jean Hawk), and quizzing the experts (by former SVRC Teachers of the Year) followed. Several members of SVRC participated in the 2008 Book 'Em Event held in Waynesboro on October 18th. This Book Fair highlights the connection between illiteracy and high crime rates, and featured dozens of authors who sign their books and give talks on writing, the publishing industry, and other topics of interest throughout the day. Our members displayed information about our council, and gave away bookmarks to parents and children attending. We are looking forward to our Winter Conference on January 27, 2009 at Blue Ridge Community College featuring Mary Carolyn France, and the VSRA Reading Conference in February.

Kim Lancaster
SVRC President



VSRA Board of Directors 2008-2009

Victoria Oakley, President
1515 Palmyra Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227
(W) 804-780-7750
vickievsra@gmail.com

David Red, President-Elect
4829B 28th Street South
Arlington, VA 22206
(H) 703-845-0258
(W) 703-302-7061
davidred1@msn.com

Sherry Sanders, Vice President
111 Beecham Drive
Yorktown, VA 23692
(H) 757-898-3689
(W) 757-727-1574
(F) 757-727-1439
sanders.sherry@gmail.com

Judith Dierker, Past-President
5527 Grandin Road Ext.
Roanoke, VA 24018
(H) 540-774-5299
(W) 540-853-2986
(F) 540-853-2397
jadierker@yahoo.com

Anne Perdue, Recording Secretary
P.O. Box 34
Mint Spring, Virginia 24463
(H) 540-337-4855
(W) 540-337-2535
perdued@ntelos.net

Diane Tsioutsias, Treasurer
5319 Canterfield Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
(H) 757-474-1156
(W) 757-393-8855
dtsing2@gmail.com

Nancy King, State Coordinator
10224 Faire Commons Court
Burke, Virginia 22015-2857
(H) 703-978-8017
(F) 703-978-6663
nw_king@yahoo.com

Al Buchanan, Corresponding Secretary
14113 Foursquare Road
Smithfield, Virginia 23430
(H) 757-357-2902
(W) 757-896-5720
(F) 757-825-4487
abuchanan@sbo.hampton.k12.va.us

Linda Greaver, Director of Membership Development
210 Silver Leaf Drive
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073
(H) 540-382-5480
(W) 540-382-5178
(F) 540-381-6112
lgreaver@gmail.com

Roanoke Valley Reading Council

On Monday, October 27, the Roanoke Valley Reading Council held its fall conference. There were six terrific hour-long breakout sessions. Jennifer Woods and Amy Schirmer presented sessions titled Vocabulary and Literacy Based Centers. Sally Moore, the RVRC Teacher of the Year, presented a session on *Engaging Young Readers*. Tamara Teff and Jane Field presented two sessions titled *Exceptional Books for Exceptional Children*. Dr. Jennifer Jones' presentation was titled *Terrific Techniques for Teaching Summarization in the Upper Grades*. Author Laura M. Elliott was a fantastic after dinner speaker. She had two books on the Virginia Readers' Choice lists for 2007, *Hunter's Best Friend at School* and *Annie Between the States*. Laura talked about her research for all her books, especially *Under a War-Torn Sky* and the sequel she is working on now.

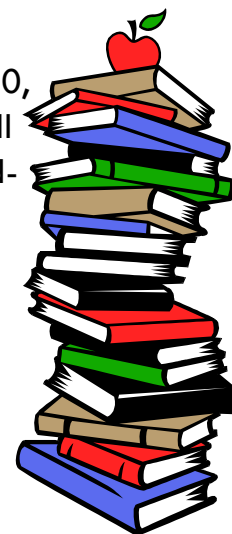


RVRC sponsored a reception for local author Nancy Ruth Patterson on December 11. Her book, *A Simple Gift*, has been adapted to the stage and was performed during the month of December on the stage at the Mill Mountain Theater. Members were excited by the opportunity to interact with Nancy Ruth whose book *The Winners Walk* is on this year's Readers' Choice list. After the reception all enjoyed the play.

Suffolk Reading Council

The Suffolk Reading Council (SRC) collected "Books Across Suffolk" throughout the month of December in recognition of the national month designation. Donations of gently used or new books and magazines were accepted and distributed to children and adults throughout the city. Each school received free Chick-fil-A ice cream coupons for the class donating the highest number of books/magazines.

The council's Reading Teacher of the Year Banquet will be held on March 30, 2009. Author Kim Norman will deliver the keynote address. The banquet will honor middle school English teacher Laurie Christensen who was named Reading Teacher of the Year in November.



Newport News Reading Council and Hampton Reading Council Fall Conference

Hampton Reading Council joined the Newport News Reading Council again this year to offer another successful Fall Reading Conference. Over 150 educators took part in this joint venture, which was held on October 28, at Tabb Elementary School in York County. The participants were offered a variety of sessions that benefited preschool-age to secondary level students. Some of the sessions are as follows: use of technology in the classroom with Smartboard and Wikis, writing workshops, PAR utilization in classrooms, literacy centers, strategies to enhance comprehension, and test taking tips. A local author of young children's Historical fiction, Dr. Phyllis Haislip, shared her historical novels and engaged her audience in a discussion about the importance of accuracy in historical fiction. In addition, Dr. Denise Johnson from The College of William and Mary discussed Deepening Literature Response Through Engagement in Online Activities. Excited teachers left the conference energized and full of new ideas and knowledge to take back to their schools.

The Big Read in Virginia

All Virginians are invited to participate in the "Big Read in Virginia" by reading together Zora Neale Hurston's modern classic *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The statewide reading is a program of the Virginia Foundation Center for the Book.

Virginia First Lady Anne Holton, wife of Governor Tim Kaine, will continue her role as Honorary Chair of the "Big Read in Virginia. She was also the Honorary Chair of the recently concluded Big Read in Virginia featuring *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The Center is distributing free-of-charge reading materials, such as Teacher's Guides, Reader's Guides, Audio Guides, posters, and other resources. Go to virginiafoundation.org/bookcenter for more information.

In addition, the Center is promoting the "Big Read for Little Readers," featuring the children's picture book, *Roy Makes a Car*, written by Virginia author Mary E. Lyons and based on a folktale uncovered Hurston in her anthropological work in the 1930's. Lyons is also the author of *Sorrow's Kitchen*, a young adult biography of Hurston.

The Virginia Center for the Book is also home to the Virginia Festival of the Book, an annual event held each March in Charlottesville; the Virginia Arts of the Book Center; the Virginia Literary Calendar; and "VABooks!" a monthly book recommendation column.

The National Endowment for the Humanities presented grants to 208 organizations nationwide totaling \$2,810,500 to host Big Read celebrations this fall and spring. The "Big Read in Virginia" is one of only a few that is a statewide program.

The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for The Big Read is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. It is designed to revitalize the role of literary reading in American popular culture. Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America, a 2004 NEA report, identified a critical decline in reading for pleasure among American adults. The Big Read aims to address this issue directly by providing citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities.

VIRGINIA STATE READING ASSOCIATION SLATE OF OFFICERS 2009 BALLOT

VICE PRESIDENT ELECT

Jennifer Jones

New River Reading Council

Post Graduate: University of Virginia

Graduate: University of Virginia

Undergraduate: Bluefield College

Virginia State Reading Association:

Editor, Reading in Virginia, 2005-present

Southwest Rep. /Legislative Committee, 2005-present

Conference Committee, Proposal/Program Chair, 2007

Professional Organizations:

National Reading Conference

Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society

Virginia College Reading Educators

Goals for Virginia State Reading Association:

1. to expand and enhance the VSRA vision
2. to explore efforts to empower local councils, provide support and encouragements, and facilitate ways to advance teachers across the Commonwealth
3. to involve more educators in our organization (including pre-service teachers, Early Childhood, English Language Learner, and Special Educators)

Reading Philosophy:

We must:

1. commit to being life long learners,
2. be knowledgeable of best-practices,
3. effectively deliver best-practices,
4. acknowledge that literacy is an ever-changing discipline,
5. learn and advance in technology,
6. advocate for our children, our schools, and our profession, and
7. never lose sight of our priority—the children. We touch their future.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Anne Perdue

Shenandoah Valley Reading Council

Graduate: James Madison University

Undergraduate: Madison College

Virginia State Reading Association:

Recording Secretary, 2005-present

Governing Council, 2003-present

Virginia Young Writers Chair, 2004-2005

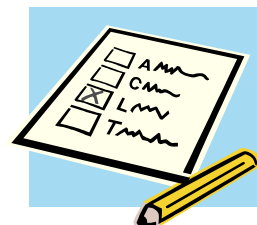
Professional Organizations:

Delta Kappa Gamma Society

PTA

Goals for Virginia State Reading Association:

1. to contribute to VSRA from the prospective of the classroom teachers and as a member of the Board
2. to contribute to her position by calling upon insight based upon past years of experience as the VSRA Recording Secretary
3. to promote literacy in Virginia by using her experience, organizational skills and leadership skills



Virginia State Reading Association Ballot 2009

Please return to:

Diana Rayburn, VSRA Nominating Committee Chair
1920 Callaway Road
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Vice President Elect

_____ Jennifer Jones

_____ Write-in:

Name: _____

Council: _____

Recording Secretary

_____ Anne Perdue

_____ Write-in:

Name: _____

Council: _____

Please mail ONE ballot in letter envelope. Several letter envelopes (individually sealed) may be placed in one larger envelope.

Ballot must be received by February 1, 2009.

We are always searching for interested people to serve in VSRA leadership positions. If you or someone who you believe would be an outstanding Virginia State Reading Association leader (either officer or committee member), please list the name(s) below.

Name: _____

Office or Committee Position: _____

Local Council Member: _____

Contact Information: Phone _____

Address _____

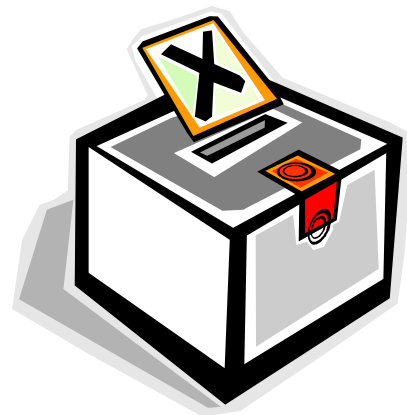
Name: _____

Office or Committee Position: _____

Local Council Member: _____

Contact Information: Phone _____

Address _____



Cash ___ Check ___

Check #:

THE VIRGINIA STATE READING ASSOCIATION

Invites you to join VSRA and the local council in your area by **CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CHAIR FOR SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT MEMBERSHIP FEES** or mail this form and a check for \$40 payable to VSRA to: Linda Greaver, VSRA Membership Director, 210 Silver Leaf Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Virginia State Reading Association Membership Form 2008-2009

The VSRA Membership year runs from September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009. Please print LEGIBLY and provide all information requested to insure that you receive all local council and VSRA mailings.

Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Home Phone _____

School Division/University _____ School _____ Position _____

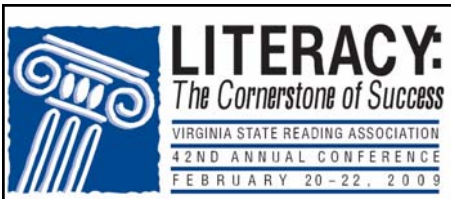
*E-mail _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

*needed to receive newsletters, announcements, and reminders

Name of Council you are joining _____ New Member Renewing Member

Type of Membership: Professional Student

I wish to join the Secondary Reading (Adolescent Literacy) Council for an additional \$5.00.



I hope to see you at the **VSRA 2009 Conference in Arlington at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency, February 20-22.** We have a stellar lineup of speakers, including **Tim Shanahan**, who will give the first general session address. **Judy Montgomery** will offer her insights in the second general session. **Doug Buehl** will be our speaker for the secondary breakfast and **Greg Tang** will speak at the elementary breakfast. **Candice Ransom** will share her most recent work in the Book and Author Luncheon on Saturday. **Marc Brown** of the *Arthur* series is our banquet speaker on Saturday night. **Dorothy Hinshaw Patent** shares her methods and her work in the Brunch on Sunday. Many more presenters will be there, along with your colleagues—the best that Virginia has to offer. Practitioners from around the state will be presenting their state-of-the-art approaches to teaching the diverse students in your classes.

The Crystal City Hyatt was recently refurbished and awaits your arrival. There is now ample parking in garages in the area, so you'll have no trouble attending every event. The Crystal City area has become a destination for area residents with new restaurants and night life. The hotel can also help you arrange tours of Washington. The Washington at Night tour is especially popular.

Check the website at www.vsra.org for more information about the conference. We'll see you in Arlington in February and with your help we'll make Literacy the Cornerstone of Success!

David Red, President-Elect



Virginia State Reading Association

We Teach Virginia to Read!

Donna Savage, Editor
9441 Ottoway Court
Toano, VA 23168
dss2@aol.com



Virginia State Reading Association
(An affiliate of the International Reading Association)

The mission of the Virginia State Reading Association is to lead in the promotion of literacy through collaboration, advocacy and professional development and to further the mission and goals of the International Reading Association.

GOALS:

1. Support and disseminate knowledge of best practices in literacy instruction
2. Support and disseminate literacy research
3. Foster interaction on literacy issues through collaboration, networking and partnerships
4. Advocate for policies and legislation that advance literacy
5. Provide quality professional development opportunities in the area of literacy education
6. Foster lifelong literacy habits