

# Connections



*Continuing the Commitment*

## VEA-R Elections



This January retired VEA members cast their votes for seats on the VEA-R Council and for delegates to the state and national delegate assemblies.

And the winners are....

Council Secretary/ Treasurer  
*Barbara Wilson*

VEA-R Council Seats by  
Congressional Districts (odd numbers) and  
the vacant 2<sup>nd</sup> district:

*Maureen Abrahamson, 1st District*  
*Rita Cooper, 2nd District*  
*Sheila Rogers, 3<sup>rd</sup> District*  
*Tommie McCune, 5th District*  
*Ralph Booher, 9th District*  
*Marlene Parker, 11th District*

No petitions were received for 7th, district seat. The VEA R Council appointed Linda Marks to fill the vacancy.

Elected to attend the NEA convention in Atlanta were:

*Debbie Jessee*  
*Ralph Booher*  
*Dennis Pfennig*  
*Pat Kennedy and Dennis Fifer*  
*attend as VEA R president and board member.*

## March NEA Retired Meeting

Pat Kennedy, VEA-R President, Debbie Jessee, VEA-R Vice President and Martha Wood, Co-Chair of Membership, attended NEA's Retired Organizing and Membership Conference.

Over 200 NEA-Retired members from across the country participated in workshops, general sessions and lots of hallway conversations and dinner events. There were workshops on a variety of topics involving recruiting strategies, organizing around issues affecting retirees, pensions, social justice and learning about social justice topics. Some members shared their methods of organizing, projects for organizers and use of member benefits to help retirees.

Pat met most of the first day with presidents from other states in discussing a variety of issues affecting education and retirees. They shared ideas and strategies for growing their state organizations. Dennis Van Roekel, NEA President spoke about the importance of membership growth. Joyce Powell, NEA Executive Committee spoke about curriculum issues as recruiting topics. Thanks to the generosity of many of the participants more than \$10,000 was raised for political action causes. In addition, just over \$1200 was contributed to the NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship fund.

## VEA-R is having a birthday!

VEA-Retired turns 20 this year and we are having a celebration October 22-23 at The Homestead Resort in beautiful Bath County Virginia.



The Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia is known for many things, but perhaps above all for Southern hospitality and elegant charm. It is one of the nation's premier resorts. See enclosed registration form for details.

## Weird Social Security Facts

*Len Penzo, used with permission*  
<http://lenpenzo.com/blog/id1510-18-fast-facts-you-didnt-know-about-social-security-numbers.html> excerpted



This weekend I was looking through the safe that holds all of my most important documents, like family birth certificates, insurance policies and the secret recipe for mom's sauce, when I ran across my Social Security card.

Now I'll wager that, if you poll a room full of people at a triple-keg Super Bowl party, over half of them wouldn't be able to tell you the license plate number of their car — and that's before the kick-off. However, if you asked those same folk to recite their Social Security number, they would all be able to do it forward and backward — even after the kegs are empty.

If you're like me, maybe you've wondered if there was any rhyme or reason to how Social Security card numbers are determined.

Anyway, here's what I found out:

1. The first three digits of a Social Security number are known as the area number. Area numbers assigned before 1972 reflect [the state where you applied](#) for your number; otherwise, they are based upon the Social Security card application mailing address zip-code.
2. The two-digit group number was actually created as way to organize Social Security Administration filing cabinets into sub-groups to make them more manageable.

3. *The last four digits on a Social Security card are serial numbers that are issued consecutively within a group from 0001 to 9999.*

4. *Based upon the original assignment criterion, one would naturally expect a Maine resident to have the lowest Social Security number ever issued. However, New Hampshire was ultimately given the 001 area number designator so that [social security number 001-01-0001](#) could be assigned to Social Security Board Chairman John G. Winant, who was a three-time governor of the state.*

5. *Winant eventually declined the honor of having the lowest social security card number. As a result, it eventually found its way to Grace D. Owen of Concord, New Hampshire.*

6. *Officially, the first social security number issued was 055-09-0001 and it was assigned to John David Sweeney.*

7. *[Sweeney died of a heart attack in 1974 at the age of 61; ironically, he never received a single penny of Social Security benefits.](#)*

## The Next Step.....

Membership is an important component of a successful organization. We have all engaged in recruiting retired non-members and encouraging active members to pre-join. We all need to continue this, but what is the next step?

The next step is to create and enlarge local retired chapters. If there is a local chapter in your area, join it. If there is not, help create one. The VEA-Retired has grant money to help create local chapters and to improve existing ones. There are several local VEA-R Chapters across the state, but we need more, many more. Local chapters are becoming more active in their local school divisions and local associations. We need

this activity and visibility in all areas across Virginia. It is up to all of us to take the next step and be an active member in a local VEA-Retired Chapter.

You can find out more about the VEA-Retired Grants on-line at [www.veanea.org](http://www.veanea.org) or through Carol Donohue, retired liaison, VEA headquarters (1-800-552-9554).



## President's Corner

**Pat Kennedy**

I would like to start with a great big "THANK YOU" to all of you whether you planned or attended regional retired meeting, ran for office or for delegate to VEA or NEA, voted in the retired election, attended the VEA-RA as a delegate, volunteered to work at the VEA-RA, or will be attending (or volunteering at) the NEA-RA. Many of our retired members living in or around the Washington, D.C. area have been asked to train and become a member of NEA's rapid response team. It is a pilot program giving members a chance to speak out for our students and public education. If asked to participate, I sincerely hope you will say yes. Look for more information on this later this year.

Next year we will elect the VEA-R president, 2<sup>nd</sup> VEA board seat, vice president, even numbered congressional district council members and VEA-RA/NEA-RA delegates. We invite you to become involved. Run for office but above all vote! We work hard to keep you informed about the election and to make sure that all have the opportunity to vote either

by paper ballot or electronically. As more and more of our world goes electronic it is important that we keep the option of paper ballots available for our members. Remember all you need to do to get a paper ballot is contact VEA.

Finally... I hope to see many of you at The Homestead (located in Bath County) in October for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

## Democratic Primary – VEA Recommendations

The VEA Fund PAC Directors and Executive Committee members voted to recommend Senator Ralph Northam for Lt. Governor and Senator Mark Herring for Attorney General in the June 11 Democratic Party State Primary Election

No Republican candidates for Lt. Governor or Attorney General chose to participate in the VEA Fund recommendation process.

"As a pediatrician and husband of an elementary teacher, Senator **Ralph Northam** is a champion for children who understands that excellence in the classroom, universal access to early childhood education, and competitive wages to recruit the best teachers will give every child the opportunity to become a future leader in the Commonwealth," said VEA President Meg Gruber.

President Gruber went on to say, "**Senator Herring** has consistently fought to provide Virginia's children with the best possible education. Virginia's teachers, parents and students can count on Senator Herring to fight for them ..."

Please let your friends and family know of these recommendations and encourage them to vote on June. The votes of VEA members and their friends and family could play a significant role in the election outcome.



## VISTA

### Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement

Are you an excellent retired teacher who is no longer working full-time, or do you know someone who fits that description? The Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) is a statewide partnership among 60+ Virginia school districts, six Virginia universities, and the Virginia Department of Education.

VISTA coaches form a trusting, reflective, professional partnership with one or more elementary, middle, and/or high school science teachers in order to increase their ability to conduct inquiry and problem-based learning in relevant, real science contexts. Coaches assist with lesson planning, classroom management, instructional strategies, analysis of student work, curriculum development, and assessment through regular classroom visits, co-planning, and co-teaching. Coaches also assist VISTA with data collection through coaching reports, videotaping, and survey completion.

VISTA is seeking qualified, experienced retired teachers for paid, part-time positions providing specialized coach/mentor support for teachers from grades 4-12. VISTA coaches get paid to help teachers improve their science teaching and support the VISTA research effort. For details and an inside look at how the coaching program is working, check out the website: <http://vista.gmu.edu/coach>



Reservation Request

Virginia Education Association - Retired

October 22-23

The following daily rates are per room, per day based on the European Plan (No Meals).

Please circle preferred rate:

Table with columns for ROOMS (Classic, Resort, Preferred Resort, Premier, Preferred Premier) and SUITES (Junior, One Bedroom, Two Bedroom, Presidents Suite) with rates for Single and Double occupancy.

Children sharing room with parents: 0 to 18 years - Complimentary Additional Adult - \$25.00

The following daily rates are per room, per day based on the Modified American Plan (Dinner & Breakfast).

Please circle preferred rate:

Table with columns for ROOMS (Classic, Resort, Preferred Resort, Premier, Preferred Premier) and SUITES (Junior, One Bedroom, Two Bedroom, Presidents Suite) with rates for Single and Double occupancy.

Children sharing room with parents: 0 to 5 years - Complimentary 6-12 Years- \$30.00 per child 13-18 years- \$55.00 per child Additional Adult - \$115.00 per person

15% daily resort charge is additional. Package prices are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 9%) in effect at the time of check-in.

Form fields for Arrival date, Name, Room mate, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Daytime Telephone, FAX, Email Address, Children's names and ages.

An advance deposit equal to one night's room rate plus resort charge and tax is required to guarantee your reservation. Early mailing of reservations is highly recommended.

Credit Card No. Expiration date. Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diner's Club

Advance reservations and appointments are required for all evening dining and recreation to ensure preferred times. Please call 800-838-1766. Check in time is after 4:00 p.m. Check out time is before 12:00 noon.

Reservations request made by: Date:

Dress: During the day, casual attire is preferred. Jeans and bathing suits are discouraged in The Great Hall. In the evening, collared shirt, jacket and dress shoes are required in the Dining Room.

Mail to: Group Reservations, P.O. Box 2000, Hot Springs, Virginia 24445 FAX request may be sent to 540-839-7670

Reservations by fax or mail only, no phone calls please. You may also make reservations online (group code, VEAR) Reservations will be confirmed by e-mail. Visit our website at www.thehomestead.com