

FALL, 2005

Staff Senate Newsletter

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Next meeting at Selu Conservancy, October 19th at 9:00 a.m.
- Message from Human Resources regarding pay raises
- Benefits Fair, October 20th
- Strengths in numbers—join VGEA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message From Staff Senate President	1
VGEA	1
Katrina Relief Campaign	2
Helping Hand	2
Staff Raises	3
CommonHealth	3
Officer's List	3
Meeting Dates	4

Message From Our Senate President Connie Phillips

It's hard to believe we are already in the month of October. The semester is half way through and we have celebrated homecoming. Family weekend is already here and soon the holidays will be upon us. How time seems to fly....

We were so excited that many of you came out to our last meeting to hear President Kyle as she addressed the staff. What a great time to be at RU, as things are continuing to change and move forward with a new vision for the university. It is extremely important that staff continues to have representation in the Internal Governance System and to do all we can to provide our administration with ideas, suggestions, concerns, and support as we move forward.

We invite you to attend our next meeting to be held on WEDNESDAY, October 19th at 9 a.m. at the Selu Conservancy. A shuttle will be provided for our transportation. It will

leave the main campus at 8:45 a.m. A short tour may be provided if time and weather permits before we return to the campus. We hope you can join us for this meeting.

I also wanted to let you know that the senate has been hard at work this academic year. As you know we sent out surveys to all staff earlier this year. We are reviewing your comments and concerns. And we will attempt to address your expressed questions and concerns at the monthly senate meetings. If you have ideas for guest speakers or topics that you would like for us to bring to the senate, please let us know.

Following Hurricane Katrina and the devastation that resulted, the RU Staff and Faculty responded to the needs of the people in Mississippi and Louisiana through the CVC. In this issue, you will find a report from Ellen Taylor, Coordinator of the Combined Virginia Campaign, which shows what we were able

to accomplish by working as a RU Family. Special thanks to all of you who contributed by your monetary gifts and/or time to the Hurricane Relief Fund project. I encourage you to continue to give to the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanities and other service organizations to help provide relief to not only that locale but the other areas within our country which have been hit by natural disasters.

With your help, the senators and I are striving to make this a great year. Together with your help we can do it. I encourage everyone to come and be a part of monthly meetings – which are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month unless otherwise announced.

Again, we look forward to an exciting year and hope to see each of you at our next meeting. Please feel free to contact me or any of our senators if you have questions, ideas, or concerns.

Virginia Governmental Employee's Association (VGEA) Holly Shannon, Board Member

I have had the privilege of attending two Board meetings: June 3rd and 4th at Shenandoah Crossings near Gordonsville, VA and on the July 21st and 22nd at the Omni in Richmond, VA. Both meetings have been well worthwhile. I've been appointed to two Committees: Annual Meeting and President appointed Work Group to develop a plan that will address our organization structure issues. VGEA's President, Peter Van Acker, is great to work with, as well as the rest of the Board. I know we will work together to accomplish wonderful

things in the next three years for you the State Employee!

I will have a VGEA Table at the Benefits Fair and hope you will stop by to pick up information on the VGEA 2006 Legislative Goals and VGEA Strategic Plan. I will also have information and freebies from Richmond Headquarters, as well as a sign-up sheet for a couple of very nice door prizes.

One of the first things on my agenda is to increase our membership at RU and the surrounding educational institutions. "NUMBERS!" This is where our

strength lies in our organization. I will be setting up a day and time to have a Membership Drive on campus and invite VA TECH to join us. One or two of our VGEA officers will come and join in the all day event. Those of you who are not members yet, please stop by the VGEA table at the Benefits Fair and also plan on joining us in our membership drive to learn more about VGEA and what they are doing for you! Concerns or comments please email me at hshannon@radford.edu.

Please let me know of any issues or concerns you may have.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Campaign

Submitted by: Ellen Taylor



In the days after Hurricane Katrina devastated the lives of many of our neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi, the Radford University Community rallied to respond. Nancy Newton convened a meeting of faculty, staff, and students that resulted in a collaborative university-wide Hurricane Katrina Relief Campaign. This special fund-raising campaign was supported by the SGA as well as the Faculty, AP Faculty, and Staff Senates. The Staff Senate took the lead for the CVC faculty / staff portion of the campaign by calling their

Building Captains to action, and the SGA coordinated Collection Tables that were staffed by students and representatives from the three faculty/staff senates. The university response to the collaborative campaign was overwhelming. The CVC special fund raised \$4,096 that it divided evenly between the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The SGA led campaign raised \$4,474 for the American Red Cross. In less than three weeks, the Radford University community raised a combined total of \$11,853!

Hurricane Katrina hit over a month ago, and since that time the Gulf Coast experienced devastation again in the form of Hurricane Rita. The working group that initially met at Nancy's request is committed to continuing to support relief initiatives. If you are involved in a relief project or initiative, please bring these initiatives to your senator, so that together we can continue to lend a helping hand to our neighbors in need.

Thanks to everyone who was able to contribute to the "Fill-A-Bookbag" campaign. It was a great success.

Reaching Out a Helping Hand.....

Submitted by: Carolyn Sutphin, Co-Chair—Community

The Staff Senate would like to thank everyone that participated in the "Fill-A-Book-Bag" drive this summer. We were able to complete a total of 105 book bags along with a cash donation of \$90.

It's time to begin thinking about our annual "Fill-A-Stocking" drive. Our drive will be geared toward RU families in need. Our committee has developed strict guidelines

that we must adhere to when deciding which families we can help.

If you know of someone in our RU family that is experiencing a hardship, please submit the information by e-mail or campus mail to Carolyn Sutphin (Box 6901) csutphin@radford.edu or Cheryl Myers (Box 6943) cmyers@radford.edu no later than December 3rd.

For more information regarding the guidelines, please watch your mail, e-mail, and our website for the updates. We must have the information in writing in order to be reviewed by

the committee. If you submit the name of a family, please be willing to make the delivery to the family. The committee will meet and select those families/individuals with the greatest need. We will do our best to serve as many families as possible.

Donations will be collected until December 3, 2005. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Cheryl (Ext. 5213) or Carolyn (Ext. 6528).



Staff Raises

The General Assembly has approved base salary adjustments of \$50 per year for each completed year of continuous service. Employees with five or more years of continuous service as of November 25, 2005 (those with state begin dates of November 25, 2000 or before) and who are rated "Contributor" or "Extraordinary Contributor" will be eligible.

There is no limit to the number of years that will be credited to an employee. Partial years of

service will be rounded down with credit being given for only complete years of service. Periods of wage employment, service purchased for VRS credit, and prior service do not count in determining the amount of the increase.

In addition, the Governor and the General Assembly approved a uniform 3.0 percent increase for all classified and other salaried employees who are rated "Contributor" during the performance cycle ending

October 24, 2005. The 3% increase will be applied after the adjustment for years of service.

Both increases will be effective November 25, 2005. Probationary employees with a hire date of July 25, 2005 or later will not be eligible for the increase. For specific questions related to this information, please contact Human Resources at 831-5008.

CommonHealth News

Submitted by: Carolyn Sutphin

CommonHealth kicked off the year with a challenge, encouraging RU employees to walk at least 15 minutes, three times a week. Participants of the four-week challenge will receive a water bottle.

A new program was introduced this year on "Maximizing Your Metabolism." The program was held on October 11th with two time slots: 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 noon. Those attending found out how to "rev up your engines" to burn more calories. A body gem screening will be available at the Benefits Fair to

measure your metabolism.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Benefits Fair on October 20th, 11:00-2:30 in Heth Ballroom. CommonHealth and RU Clinics will be providing blood pressure checks, glucose and bone density checks.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the Benefits Fair for flu shots, which are scheduled to be given on October 31st.

November will provide an opportunity to participate in another challenge, "The Turkey Trot" encouraging participants

to walk. Participants will be entered for a drawing to receive a turkey.

Finally, in December a program on "Quick and Easy Holiday Cooking" will be presented by our own, Anne Alexander, from the Foods and Nutrition Department.

We look forward to providing more informative programs beginning Spring semester. As always the CommonHealth Advisory Board is happy to receive suggestions and comments.

Benefits Fair—

Thursday,

October 20th,

11:00-2:30,

Heth Ball-

room—Health

checks and

plenty of

freebies!

2005-2006 Staff Senate Officers

President: Connie Phillips

Vice-President: Benny Skeens

Secretary: Kathy Nester

Parliamentarian: Jo Thomas

Meeting Dates and Locations:

Staff Senate meetings are scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. All wage and classified staff are encouraged to attend the senate meetings.

Date	Location
October 19, 2005	Selu Conservancy
November 17, 2005	Lounge B-Heth Hall
December 15, 2005	No Meeting
January 19, 2006	Lounge B-Heth Hall
February 16, 2006	Lounge B-Heth Hall
March 16, 2006	To Be Announced
April 20, 2006	Lounge B—Heth Hall
May 18, 2006	Lounge B—Heth Hall
June 15, 2006	To Be Announced



Be sure to check out our web site at: http://www.radford.edu/~st_sen

Election Day 2005—Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Polls are open 6:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

For more information regarding Election Day:

<http://www.sbe.state.va.us/>



Every Vote Counts!

Comments or suggestions regarding Staff Senate newsletter or web site, please contact Carolyn Sutphin at csutphin@radford.edu