



# VAHPC 2010 Annual Report

The Virginia Association for Hospices & Palliative Care

PO Box 70025

Richmond, VA 23255

Phone 804.740.1344

Fax 775.599.2677

[www.virginiahospices.org](http://www.virginiahospices.org)



## VAHPC Mission Statement

*The Virginia Association for Hospices and Palliative Care advocates for quality care for all persons with life-limiting illnesses. The Association promotes hospice and palliative care education and ethical practices, and serves as a united voice and resource for its members.*

## 2010 Board of Directors

### Officers

#### President

Sue Ranson  
Good Samaritan Hospice

#### Vice-President

Jim Giordano  
Hospice of Virginia

#### Secretary

Brenda Lindsay  
Mountain Regional Hospice

#### Treasurer

Brenda Mitchell  
Crater Community Hospice

### Representatives

Kathy Clements; Hospice of the Rapidan  
Linda Brown; Bedford Hospice  
Gena Martin; Hospice of Southwest Virginia  
Debbie Stitzer-Brame; EDMARC Hospice for Children  
Judy Mauck; Rockbridge Area Hospice  
Ann Tatterson, Riverside Hospice

## VAHPC President's Message

In thinking about what I wanted to say in this letter, I had the opportunity to consider what the Virginia Association for Hospices and Palliative Care (VAHPC) has accomplished during the past 30 years as well as to consider where we are headed. Throughout this annual report, we have tried to provide you with a snapshot of our recent history – milestones of our growth and the impact we have had on the hospice community and ultimately the patients we have come to know and love.



If I were to sum up the past year for hospice and palliative care, the word ‘*change*’ comes to mind first. We all know the very word ‘*change*’ can create everything from dreams to downfalls, anxiety or excitement, and everything in between. At VAHPC, we have decided to embrace change and focus on both process and outcomes along the way. The board of directors is determined to continue building VAHPC into an organization that can effectively respond to the needs of our membership and is ready and able to advocate on their behalf at the state level. In order to accomplish this mission, we have begun to implement the recommendations of organizational review/strategic planning sessions and are confidently readying the association for a dynamic and successful future.

As I write this I realize that I am also part of the change at VAHPC. I am a new president, and I am very thankful to be moving the association forward with the current board of directors. At times, while I am awestruck by what has been accomplished, I also value all who have had a hand in our successes. There are staff members with a sense of devotion that is undeniable; Volunteers who graciously give their time and talent and on whom we depend so much; Board members who serve selflessly and provide us with a guiding rudder; And most of all, our members who support our mission.

In going forward, under the direction of the VAHPC’s Board of Directors, I am certain that the culture that has made our association so successful will continue. On behalf of the staff and board, I thank you for being a member. For those of you who are not yet a member, please communicate to your leadership team the importance and benefits of being a VAHPC member. We continue our commitment to being *the* voice of hospice and palliative care in Virginia by advocating for improved end-of-life care and expanded access to all in need of hospice services. This is the same message with which we started from our humble beginnings in 1980. One strong voice...one clear message! To be the voice, we need to use our ears first, and listen to our members. Change is a journey – come along.

Warmest Regards,



Debbie Stitzer-Brame  
President, 2011 Board of Directors



## 2010 Governance Committee Report

The 2010 Governance Committee consisted of the following people: Kathy Clements, Chairperson and Judy Mauck, Rockbridge Area Hospice.

The Governance Committee, meeting by conference call, continued to focus on strengthening the Board. The composition of the Board continues to reflect the provider membership of the association, with Board members who come from different regions of the state, from hospice and palliative care facilities with programs varying in size and tax status, and from independent and home health or hospital affiliations

Board members are committed to representing all members' concerns. Each Board member is assigned to make regular contact with provider members to determine needs and concerns, each voting member of the association should be receiving regular contact from a Board member. VAHPC is the only united voice representing hospice agencies in Virginia; the Board wants members to actively contribute to that voice.

The Governance Committee did not recommend any changes to the bylaws in 2010 and developed only one policy regarding Board conflict of interest. The Board approved the policy at its August 2010 meeting.

The Governance Committee developed a slate of nominees for Board service, Karen Agar from Hospice & Palliative Care of the Eastern Shore and Marjorie Shipley from Evercare Hospice, were presented and approved by membership in November 2010; both began Board service in January 20

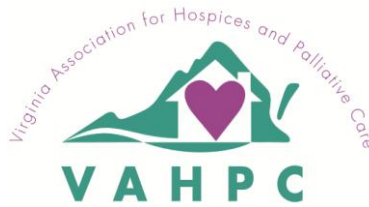


**Kathy Clements**

2010 Chair of Governance Committee

## 2010 Public Policy Committee Report

In 2010, our committee met four times via conference call. The charge to the committee is to spearhead the VAHPC public policy strategic plan developed in 2009. This plan consists of three goals: (1) increase advocacy awareness among our members; (2) implement a system for legislative oversight during the General Assembly session and as well as a system for ongoing regulatory oversight; and (3) increase member involvement in boards, commissions, and other policy-making bodies.



The Committee achieved the following outcomes related to our first policy priority:

- Held a legislative panel at the annual VAHPC meeting in Richmond. Panelists included Delegates John O'Bannon, Jennifer McClellan, and Chris Peace and VDH Executive Policy Advisor Joe Hilbert
- Awarded Del. Harvey Morgan with the VAHPC Legislator of the Year award
- given at the September 2010 Leadership Development Conference in Charlottesville.
- Planned the first annual VAHPC legislative day for the 2011 General Assembly session.

Activities related to the second policy priority included:

- A revision of the VAHPC public policy agenda for 2010 that emphasized access to hospice and palliative care for all individuals and families in need of services; quality and safety of hospice and palliative care; and hospice and palliative care operations and services.
- Held four conference calls with committee members during the 2010 General Assembly session.
- In the 2010 General Assembly session, worked to achieve passage of SB 265 (Senator Whipple). This bill amends hospice licensure standards to grant deemed status to hospices that are accredited by an organization recognized by CMS for Medicare certification.
- In the 2010 General Assembly session, participated in negotiations that eventually saw the defeat of HB 842, which would have increased annual licensure and renewal fees for hospices by incorporating those fees into statute.
- Worked with the Department of Medical Assistance Services on the implementation of CMS changes for pediatric hospice for Medicaid recipients.
- Gathered information needed to calculate whether VAHPC should seek reimbursement methodology changes for Medicaid nursing home rates and residents on hospice.

Work on our third priority goal continues.

Thanks to the members of the Public Policy Committee in 2010 for all their work. Brenda Lindsay served as chair, and members included Catherine Krause, Sue Ranson, Chris Santarsiero, Debbie Stitzer-Brame, Pat Crissman, Ann Tatterson, and Sharon Britt.



[Sue Ranson](#)

2010 Chair of the Public Policy Committee

# Education Committee Report

The Mission of the VAHPC Education Committee states that this committee “supports the mission of VAHPC by promoting and providing interdisciplinary education to the palliative and end-of-life care communities across the Commonwealth in a fiscally responsible manner.”

The committee met every two months during the year with four meetings by conference call. The following educational events were concluded successfully.

- Social Worker Education Day was conducted in Richmond & Roanoke in February
- Pre-Conference Seminar for Physicians was conducted in Richmond in May
- The Annual Conference: Care in Balance, was conducted in Richmond in May
- CAHABA Interdisciplinary Education Day was conducted in Richmond in June
- Leadership Forum was conducted in Charlottesville in September
- Bereavement Counselor Education Day in Richmond in November

The committee assured compliance with the requirements of the American Social Work Board and the Virginia Nurses Association in order to continue awarding continuing education credits for nurses and social workers.

The committee comprised Gena Martin , chair, and included Danene Abdallah, Kim Flemming, Karen Gill, Lisa Robinson, Susan Morris, Dorothy Jenson, Jessica Plank, Carolyn Richar, Suzanne Walker in its membership.



[Gena Martin](#)

2010 Chair of the Education Committee



## Financial Report

### INCOME

Membership Dues	89,953.60
Contributions/Grants	22,700.30
Education Events/Merchandise Sales	45,994.61
Other Income	1,621.47
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>160,269.98</b>

### EXPENSES

Staffing	72,715.87
Professional Services	23,999.00
Supplies/Banking Fees/Depreciation	9,142.10
Utilities/Rent/Insurance/License Fees	15,893.67
Educational Events Expenses	43,071.99
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>164,822.43</b>

NET GAIN/LOSS	-4,552.45
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Brenda Mitchell  
2010 Treasurer

