



# Maryland



## Voice of the Chesapeake

Volume 17

Issue 2

March/April 2006

### President's Message

Welcome to Spring!



I hope you've all had a good but mild winter and are looking forward to warmer weather. The Executive Board is working diligently to plan an extremely exciting Spring Institute, which will be held at the Oakland Mills Village Center in Columbia on Thursday, June 8, 2006. Our speakers will include Dr. James Fielder, Secretary, DLLR; Tom Wendel, Assistant Secretary, Division of Unemployment Insurance; a representative from the Division of Workforce Development; Paul Mendes, President, National Association of Workforce Development Professional; Lisa Cuozzo, Customized Employment Coordinator of TRANSCEN (Montgomery Works), speaking on Emergency Services at One-Stop Centers; Ed Chow, National Vice President for the Vietnam Veterans of America; and Motivational Speaker, Tony Cohen. This is a truly action packed agenda with great speakers that will update you on current Workforce Development issues.

taking up large amounts of your time. See any member of our Executive Board to get more information on these positions. The available positions are:

#### OFFICERS:

President-Elect/Membership Chair  
 First Vice-President/Education Chair  
 Second Vice-President/Newsletter Chair  
 Treasurer

#### COMMITTEES:

Veterans  
 International  
 Legislative  
 Retiree

If you are interested in running for any of the Officer positions or volunteering for a Committee Chair please let me know by May 2, 2006.

My e-mail is [rpelletier@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:rpelletier@dllr.state.md.us) and my phone number is 301-929-4378.

Voting for the Officer positions will be conducted at the Spring Institute.

Our Maryland IAWP cookbook, "**Munchies, Morsels and Main Courses**," has received many accolades for the wonderful recipes submitted by our members and their friends. It will be on sale at our Spring Institute and the cost is \$15.00. Help support our Chapter by purchasing this fantastic recipe book!

Looking forward to seeing you on June 8<sup>th</sup>!  
*Bob Pelletier, President*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ❖ District Director's Report
- ❖ International Elections
- ❖ Workforce Makeup
- ❖ Vet Center Information

We are seeking Maryland IAWP members interested in becoming an officer or committee member with our Chapter, beginning on July 1, 2006. There are many opportunities for you to become involved in the activities of our Chapter without

# District Director Report

During the past several weeks, I have been on the road as the District IV Director. My travels began on March 29 as I headed to Louisville, Kentucky for the semi-annual IAWP Board of Directors meeting. While on the road, I visited a Workforce Center in Morgantown, West Virginia, was given a tour and had a chance to meet with some dedicated IAWP members.

On March 30, I met with Laura Coburn, IAWP International Development Chair, in Charleston, Virginia and we visited two offices: Hurricane and Huntington, West Virginia. Both West Virginia Centers have in-house unemployment claims processing. The center in Hurricane is small and the Huntington center is co-located in a fairly new building with many different agencies and a variety of one-stop services are provided.

The Board of Directors meeting in Louisville, Kentucky lasted for three (3) days. There was a lot to cover and we stayed focused and busy.

One of our agenda items was to hear the proposals from various states interested in hosting the 2008 International Education Conference. I am very happy to report that **Richmond, Virginia was selected**. It will be very exciting to have the conference in the District IV Region!

The next week took me to Staunton, Virginia for their 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference – *“Power Up People and Performance!”*

We received a great welcome from G. John Avoli, Mayor of Staunton, VA. Mayor Avoli is also the Executive Director of the Frontier Culture Museum where the conference was being held. In addition, to agency updates by Commissioner Dee Esser and others from her staff, agenda topics included: *“When You’re the Coach: Skills for Helping Others Learn What You Already Know”*, *“The Changing Workforce Profile”*, *“Excuse Me – Whatever Happened to Civility in the Workplace?”* and *“Integrating Workforce Systems”*.

The group toured the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. This Center works with customers with disabilities.

The Chapter business meeting included election of officers--**Debbie Warf is the new Chapter**

**President**, revisions to by-laws and updates by International Vice-President Linda Barnes and myself as District Director.

It was a great two days and well worth the trip!

Next stop will be the International Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in June.

*Submitted by: Sharon Mike, District IV Director*

## The Makeup of Our Workforce Today

What is the makeup of our workforce today? If you look around, chances are it's quite a mix. In May's article, I hope to share with you interviews with ethnic organizations and their workforce professional views on the job market, the community's needs, and how the multi-cultural community is impacting economic development today for tomorrow. Stay tuned...

April showers always seems to bring May flowers and in June - well, have you signed up for IAWP Spring Institute on June 8th? We have a dynamic list of speakers including Ed Chow, National Vice President for the Vietnam Veterans of American. He will be presenting: *“The Contributions of the Multicultural Veterans Community to the Defense of our Country.”*

Ironically, it has not been easy for Asian Americans to contribute to the protection and security of our nation. For example, during the Civil War, many Americans could not understand why Asian Americans would voluntarily enlist to preserve the nation's unity. From then and to now, the fact of the matter is Asian Americans believe in the land of opportunity and are ready to fight and protect those freedoms and opportunities.

We are honored to have Ed Chow present on this matter. He has been involved in the military service dating back to 1956. I encourage everyone to join us!

For those further interested in understanding the core values that drive the Asian American community and how it impacts the workforce and economic development:

[http://news.newamericanmedia.org/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=2f5b62622bcd57bc98ba0f2b6f327a7d](http://news.newamericanmedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=2f5b62622bcd57bc98ba0f2b6f327a7d)

*Submitted by Dawn Le, IAWP International Chair*

# Getting Military Records

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to access their DD-214 online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. Please see the details below.

The NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the record center's mailroom processing time.

Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

Veterans and next of kin may also access this application at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

*Submitted by: Jack Stano, Maryland IAWP Veterans Chair*

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VET CENTERS INFORMATION

We are the people in VA who welcome home war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment counseling in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their community.

### **Vet Centers Value:**

Veteran focused services

Quality

Community based care

Delivery of cost effective services

Health, wellness, and preventive services

Honoring and respecting the service of our nation's veterans and their families

### **Background of Readjustment Counseling**

**Services:** The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community-based and part of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. In April 1991, in response to the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended the eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities after the Vietnam era. These other periods are identified as Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Kosova/Bosnia. In October 1996, Congress extended the eligibility to include WW II and Korean Combat Veterans. The goal of the VA Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. On April 1, 2003, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs extended eligibility for Vet Center services to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and on June 25, 2003 Vet Center eligibility was extended to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and subsequent operations with the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The family members of all veterans listed above are eligible for Vet Center services as well. On August 5, 2003 VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi authorized Vet Centers to furnish bereavement counseling services to surviving parents, spouses, children and siblings of service members who die of any cause while on active duty, to include Federal activated Reserve and National Guard personnel. **We understand, and most of all, we care.**

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a normal set of reactions to a trauma such as war, which could be experienced by almost anyone.

Sometimes, it becomes a PTSD with the passage of time when feelings or issues related to the trauma are not dealt with, but are suppressed by the individual. This can result in problems readjusting to community life following the trauma. A delayed stress reaction may surface after many years and include some or all of the following problems:

*(Continue on page 4)*

**Department of Veterans Affairs—Vet Centers Information** *(continued from page 3)*

Anger, irritability, and rage; feeling nervous; depression; difficulty trusting others; feeling guilt over acts committed or witnessed, the failure to U.S. prevent certain events, or merely having survived while others did not; hyper-alertness and startled reactions; feeling grief or sadness; having thoughts and memories that will not go away; isolation and alienation from others; loss of interest in pleasurable activities; low tolerance to stress; problems with authority; problems feeling good about one’s self; nightmares; substance abuse; trouble sleeping; anxiety; and paranoia.

**WE CAN HELP  
READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES**

Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Marital and Family Counseling; Bereavement Counseling; Medical Referrals; Assistance in Applying for VA Benefits; Employment Counseling, Guidance, and Referral; Alcohol/Drug Assessments; Information and Referral to Community Resources; Sexual Trauma Counseling and Referral; Community Education.

*Submitted by Bob Pelletier, President*

**Upcoming International Elections**

*The voting period will begin Monday, May 29 and end June 12 on the website (www.iawponline.org). Also, votes may be cast in person on the first day of the Louisville, Kentucky Conference, June 19.*

*A message from three of the candidates:*

Dear IAWP member:

As a candidate for the Office of International Vice President, I am asking you for your vote. Two qualities I possess that really make the difference are enthusiasm and commitment. For over 15 years, I have been a member of IAWP. The last 8 years, I put my membership into high gear and decided to participate as fully as possible. After starting as Blue Ridge Subchapter Treasurer, I became Subchapter President, then Virginia Chapter Treasurer, Chapter President-elect, Chapter Membership Chair, Chapter President, and Chapter Chair of Nominations and Elections. In fact, I served second terms in each of those subchapter and chapter positions. The first International Conference I attended was 1996

in Nashville. Since that conference, I have missed only one – 1999 Rhode Island – due to family circumstances. On the international level, I served as Vice-Chair of Services to Specialized Customers, Vice-Chair of International Development Committee, and District IV Director. Last year as Co-Chair of the International Development Committee, I moderated the Albuquerque International Panel and participated in the Awards Brunch. This year, I am International Development Chair.

Employed with Virginia Employment Commission, I am currently a Senior Agency Management Analyst in the Quality Assurance Program. Previously, I held positions of Regional Rapid Response Coordinator and Local Office Interviewer/Workforce Services Representative.

There were responsibilities, accomplishments and challenges in every job I have accepted. We may crow about our accomplishments, but we grow from our challenges. Eight years ago, I could not conceive of serving as an International officer. Since then, I have gained both experience and knowledge of how our association accomplishes its goals and fulfills its mission. Today, I am well prepared to serve in the position of International Vice-President because of the past experiences I have to build on, both in IAWP and professionally.

I am asking you to support my candidacy, and vote for me as your next International Vice-President.

Sincerely,  
Laura Coburn  
Candidate for International Vice-President

---

□  
Fellow IAWP Members:

Since joining the South Carolina Employment Security Commission in 1990, I have been an *active member* of IAPES/IAWP. I feel that one should join the organization that can best represent them in their career field.

I have served in numerous capacities in South Carolina, including two terms as Chapter President. Additionally, I served as District V Director. This past year has been a real learning experience for me as International Vice-President. As most of you know, I have declared myself as a candidate for  
*(continued on page 5)*

International President-Elect and look forward to representing the members of this great organization. I bring a strong background in Operations Management through the private sector and a desire to see that our organization continues to be a leader in our field. I appreciate Ms. Hill giving me the opportunity to Chair the Strategic Planning Workgroup this year. As a result of ten hard working individuals on the group, we were able to provide to the Executive Board a workable new Mission Statement that was approved in Kentucky in March.

I look forward to seeing most of you in Louisville in June. Our elections are coming up at the end of May and I hope that each of you will consider voting for Chuck Zirkle and encourage your coworkers and peers to do the same. *Learn from the past, live in the present, look to the future!*

Thank you for your support and I look forward to serving you in the future!

Regards,  
Chuck Zirkle, International Vice-President  
Candidate for International President-Elect

---

Members of 2006/2007 Board:

I am again seeking the office of IAWP Secretary/Treasurer. As your Secretary/Treasurer I have worked tirelessly to make sure your finances are in order and that your reserve is kept as reserve and continue to earn interest. When I ran for office I made you one promise, to always look out for the financial interest of the members of this association. I also told you that if at any time you felt I was not doing what you thought should be done; to let me know and I would explain my actions, what and why something was done. I have had calls from some members and can only suppose my answer to them was satisfactory. At this point I don't have an opponent, however, not wanting to take anything for granted, I am asking for your vote for the Office of IAWP Secretary/Treasurer.

Voting will start on May 29 and I hope that each of you will take time out to vote for the candidates of your choice.

Catherine Leaphart  
Candidate for International Secretary/Treasurer

## ***Maryland IAWP Mourns the Loss of Two Members***

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of two long-time members of Maryland IAWP.

Rafi Sharif, retired DVOP and former Maryland IAWP International Subcommittee Chair, passed away on March 2, 2006. An article about Rafi appeared in the November/December 2005 edition of *Voice of the Chesapeake*.

Darrell Young, LVER in the Susquehanna region and recipient of the 2001 Maryland IAWP Individual Services to Veterans Award, passed away suddenly on March 12, 2006.

Both of these men will be missed for the many contributions they made to Veterans services in Maryland and to Maryland IAWP, and more importantly for the positive impact they had on their co-workers, customers, friends and family.

**MEMBERSHIP IS  
ALWAYS OPEN  
REMINDE A CO-WORKER  
OR FRIEND!**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership      \$50  
 Retiree Membership      \$21  
 Special Membership      \$30  
 (Grade 12 and below within DLLR)

Member last year?      Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Make your check or money order payable to  
 MARYLAND IAWP and mail to:

Suzette Snyder  
 DLLR  
 14 N. Potomac St., Suite 100  
 Hagerstown, MD 21740



The Maryland Department Labor,  
 Licensing and Regulation's  
 Women's Veterans' Forum  
 is holding a  
 Maryland Women Veterans' Expo  
 and  
 Health Fair  
 on  
 June 17, 2006  
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 at the  
 VA Medical Center  
 10 N. Green Street  
 Baltimore, MD

For additional information and interest, contact::  
 Manuela Perez at 410-836-4630  
 or  
 Zella Brown at 410-269-4428

**Maryland IAWP Executive Board**

Robert Pelletier - President  
[rpelletier@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:rpelletier@dllr.state.md.us)

Suzette Snyder - President Elect - Membership Chair  
[ssnyder@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:ssnyder@dllr.state.md.us)

Nancy Fink - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Education Chair  
[nfink@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:nfink@dllr.state.md.us)

Sharon Mike - District IV Director  
[smike@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:smike@dllr.state.md.us)

Susan Gallagher - Awards Chair  
[sgallagher@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:sgallagher@dllr.state.md.us)

Faye Gossert - Treasurer  
[fgossert@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:fgossert@dllr.state.md.us)

Jack Stano, Maryland, IAWP Veterans Chair  
[jstano@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:jstano@dllr.state.md.us)

Dawn Le, IAWP International Chair  
[dawn.le@in2-solutions.com](mailto:dawn.le@in2-solutions.com)

Denise Carey - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Communications Chair  
[dcarey@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:dcarey@dllr.state.md.us)

*Voice of the Chesapeake* is the newsletter of the Maryland Chapter of International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP). 2005-06 Chapter President is Robert Pelletier. Denise Carey edits *Voice of the Chesapeake*. Articles should be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to Denise Carey, *Voice of the Chesapeake* Editor, DLLR, Anne Arundel One-Stop Career Center, 7500 Ritchie Highway, Suite 305, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 or [dcarey@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:dcarey@dllr.state.md.us) or faxed to 410-412-7135

Maryland IAWP website - [www.iawpmaryland.org](http://www.iawpmaryland.org)

MD IAWP  
DLLR  
14 N. Potomac Street, Suite 100  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Affix mailing label here