



BPRO VSSLE Board Report Richmond, VA- 1/25/12

Our last meeting was held 10/3/11, in Roanoke, VA, during our Fall Conference. Our next board meeting will be held on 02/01/12 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Executive Board had a retreat in 12/11 in Richmond, VA. At the meeting, we discussed Benefit Program Specialist Appreciation month (proclamation attached), our 20th anniversary celebration, Policy & Procedure updates and clarifications, and the state election progress.

The Proclamation has been sent to the State for posting on the Spark page as well as to the directors and the membership. Attached are some ideas that may be helpful in planning the celebration for your staff. Hopefully, it will be a joyous time of celebration honoring our commitment and dedication to the citizens of the Commonwealth. BPRO will be sending lapel pins to all members in recognition of the Proclamation. They will be given to PD presidents at the 02/12 Board meeting for distribution.

Also, our State election process is currently underway. The slate of nominations has gone out to the membership, with all ballots due back to the Election Committee no later than 01/31/12. Currently, all positions are up for re-election. This committee will report the results, back to the Board, at our meeting in 02/12.

In addition, our 20th anniversary celebration will be held during our 2012 Spring Conference in Virginia Beach. We are currently conducting fundraising activities to make this an outstanding celebration for our anniversary. (See any BPRO member, if you wish to purchase a BPRO Euro sticker.) There is a subcommittee, of the Hospitality Committee, working on the planning of these festivities. Ideas, so far, have been a Casino event (with no money being used), ice cream social at Business meeting, formal dinner and dance, etc. We are working on the history and highlights of the organization for presentations at the celebration. Also, for the conference, the three affiliates will once again be soliciting funds, from DSS, for scholarships to be used for registration fees for their membership.

Our current membership roll is 734 with 25 lifetime members. As always, we strive to achieve 1000 members, meeting the mark throughout the years; so, again, please encourage your staff to consider participating in the organization. Applications for membership can be found at www.bpro.us. We offer professional growth, advocacy, refresher policy training, along with networking opportunities with other state and local professionals in Benefit Programs. BPRO would like to thank each director and agency for their support and understanding. We want to especially thank Cathy Pemberton for her continued efforts in communicating the League's support of BPRO to those local agency directors where participation is either low or non-existent. She has sent each director a letter of support illustrating the importance of the organization and the continued participation of their staff.

Respectfully Submitted: Faye Owhin, BPRO President