Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date

BE PROFESSIONAL
BE PROFICIENT
BE PRODUCTIVE

Virginia Benefit Programs Organization

Special points of interest:

- Upcoming PD training
- Calendar of Events
- PD Officer listing
- Committee Chairs
- Jo Linton
- Membership dues

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Upcoming PD Officer Training

We will be offering PD Officer Training on August 8th starting at noon. Lunch will be provided. Our training will be the day before our August Business Meeting. We will be meeting in beautiful central Virginia at the Wintergreen Resort.

This is our first visit to Wintergreen and our members will be staying in a beautiful condo with scenic views and hopefully great weather to enjoy this resort.

We have team building events planned in addition to PD Officer training.

We are looking to have a guest speaker either at the training or our Business Meeting.

We have also been asked to give a mini training in Excel.

BPRO will be paying for the overnight accommodations for those members that must be at the training on August 8th and attending the Business meeting.

Our conference planner, Tina Caldwell Eheart has sent out room information. If you are planning on attending, please have that paperwork sent to Tina as soon as possible.

This is a new venue and we have a few challenges in making the reservations.

Any questions, please email Tina: eheart@charlottesville.org

Fall Conference location search underway

Our conference planner, Tina Caldwell Eheart is currently looking for a fall conference location. If you know of a conference center that will hold a group of 500 with break out rooms, please contact Tina. We are limited to locations due to our size, but if you have any ideas. Let us know.

Don't forget Fall Conference

Is the time for the Betty

Richardson Scholarship,

Don't wait, submit your

Application today

Calendar of Events

- June 21 Buckingham DSS—BPRO PD 14 Meeting, 10-00-1:00
- July 12 Gloucester DSS—BPRO PD 21/22 Meeting 10:30
- August 8-9 BPRO PD Officer Training, Business Meeting—Location Wintergreen
- August 17 IV-E Foster Care Committee Meeting—Stephanie Wood
- August 22 BPRO Snap Committee Meeting—Latonya Steward

Remember to let us know of PD events and Committee meetings so we can share with the members

Communication is the key to success !

Congratulations to our new PD Board members

BPRO 2017-2019 PD Presidents and their board.

Welcome Aboard

PD 1& 2	Sally Sexton	PD 14	Christie Bruce
PD 5&12	Peggy Linkenauger	PD 15	Alonda Gregroy
PD 6&7	"Buffy" Showers	PD 16&17	VACANT
PD 8	Serenity Kenney	PD 20	Willie Wilkerson
PD 9&10	Adrienne Jackson	PD 21&22	April Major
PD 11	Preston Sellers		
PD 13&19	Tina Dixon		

Welcome Aboard

Are you Connected?

As a BPRO member, you have many benefit opportunities.

Are you taking advantage of these benefits?

Not sure what all the benefits are? Contact your PD President and make sure you attend your local PD Meetings, to get all of the information available.

PD meetings offer networking, Q&A, guest speakers and other opportunities for you. Don't miss out.

BPRO Committees

Have you attended a BPRO committee ?

If not you are missing out on a lot of available information.

Not sure of what committees are out there?

We have them listed for you and the current committee chairs.

Sometimes taking the time to attend a committee meeting will provide you the information to excel at your caseload management and processing.

Why attend ?

Meet your Committee Chairs

Meet your State Program Managers

Meet fellow members

Members who attend BPRO committees usually get more from their membership.

Committee Chairpersons

- ◊ *Stephanie Wood, Foster Care & Adoption Assistance (IV-E)*
- ◊ *Elaine Tweatt, Ambassador*
- ◊ *Jo Linton, Archives*
- ◊ *Mignon Jones, Bylaws/Policies and Procedures*
- ◊ *Phoebe Wright, Energy Assistance*
- ◊ *April Major, Awards & Fundraising*
- ◊ *Jim Altice, Hospitality*
- ◊ *Minnie Pender, Legislative*
- ◊ *Avala Rose, Medicaid & Auxiliary Grant*
- ◊ *Donna Montgomery, Professional Development*
- ◊ *La'Tonya Steward, SNAP*
- ◊ *Tonia Alexander, TANF/VIEW*
- ◊ *Amy Quinn Hughley, VaCMS/Technology*

We are dedicated to promoting understanding, fellowship, and cooperation among Benefit Programs Professionals in Virginia; to improving the quality of eligibility practices and the advancement of eligibility work as a profession; to developing effective methods of interpreting our work to the public; to helping provide skilled, family-based assistance to those who need the services we have to offer.

Our Executive Board election is coming up soon, have you ever thought about participating at the executive board level? Do you have questions? Feel free to contact your current executive board members.

Check out our webpage:

HTTP://bprova.weebly.com and like us on FACEBOOK

Jo Linton—Bedford DSS

Meet Jo Linton, our Archives Committee chair and Assistant chair to Hospitality.

She makes sure our members are recognized.

Know a fellow member celebrating an event? Know a fellow member with an illness, death in the family?

Jo is there to send out that special card to our members. Just let her know and she will get something out immediately. We want our members to know we are with them in good times and tough times.

It is that time again, our BPRO membership is upon us. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30 just like the fiscal year with our agencies. Don't forget to send in your membership and check payable to:

BPRO

Virginia Benefit Programs Organization

P O Box 542

Farmville, VA 23901

Don't be left out, join us and become a member of our great organization. 25 Years and going strong

Membership applications are on our website. Or check with your PD President.

Our 2017-2018 PD Board Members

A Warm Welcome

PD 1 & 2

Sally Sexton

Rebecca Vance

Dottie Blanken

PD 5 & 12

Peggy Linkenauger

Katherine Birchfield

Jessica Morrison

Samantha Coffey

PD 6 & 7

Buffy Showers

Kim Dean

Rebecca Carter-Nutter

Lisha Miller

PD 8

Serenity Kenney

Raquel Ross

Rebecca Velasquez

Helen Richardson

PD 9 & 10

Adrienne Jackson

Ruth Lacy

Alicia Bravo

Mignon Jones

PD 11

Preston Sellars

Charlene Faulkner

Shelby Austin

Amber Holdren

PD 13 & 19

Tina Dixon

Lowanna Hite

Samantha Davis

Mary Shirer

PD 14

Christie Bruce

Cindy McDaniel

Brenda Holman

Rosemary Shook

PD 15

Alonda Gregory

Kyle Jones

Jannita Hill-tuttle

Tracey Harris-Walton

PD 16&17

PD 20

Willie Wilkerson

Deborah Ward

Lynnette Johnson

Sharon Harrold

PD 21 & 22

April Major,

Karla Prewitt

Alva Barrett

Final thoughts on our first BPRO newsletter:

Hello fellow members, I hope you found the information helpful, your BPRO executive board is working hard to ensure you receive information quickly. If you have ideas or suggestions to the newsletter let us know. We are looking to send the next one out either Quarterly or Every Other Month.

⇒ Know a member who has done a great community service? Let us know so we can share with our membership.

⇒ Know a member who is hitting a milestone at work (30 years as a Benefit Specialist for example)

⇒ Know a member getting ready to retire?

Let us know so we can share in our newsletter

* We hope to have more information to our members regarding LEAN and a possible event open only to our BPRO members coming out soon (make sure you get your memberships in) :)
* We have a couple of vacancies at the Committee Chair, PD Board and Executive Board level.
* If you have thought about participating more, but were unsure how to proceed, let us know.
* We can guide you through the process and you will find it extremely rewarding .