

# VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

## Letter from the President

By "Hank" Tomlinson, President

Folks, I just can't fathom where the time goes. It seems just yesterday that I was elected to lead the Association. I suppose some people would be overwhelmed if it were them, but I feel so confident when I am rubbing elbows with all the instructors and the other officers in the Association. I know for a fact that this group is ready for challenges in the coming future, and I also know you will rise to meet the challenges as I have seen you do in the past.

I have what I hope are some good ideas to present to you, and I hope you will consider them from all angles before you decide to support or oppose them. We owe it to our members and officers, both past and present, to continue as best we know how to make our Association a strong and vibrant voice in educating the hunters of tomorrow. This in itself is a tough challenge, but I know we are getting there. At this point I would like to mention that if you have an issue, please tell me about it first and hopefully together we can resolve it. My guidelines are as follows: the students come first, then the instructors, and then the people who help this whole operation work. I hope they will be your priorities also as we work together as a team to make this organization the very best it can be.

I thank you in advance for reading my thoughts, and I look forward to seeing all of you at Holiday Lake.

Hank Tomlinson

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## A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

I hope everyone had a great hunting season this past year. I sure did! Even a bad day hunting is better than a good day at the office, right??? I was recently asked by an older hunter who knows I'm involved as a Hunter Education Instructor, if I knew anything about HD or Blue Tongue disease being reported in the state of Virginia. Of course I had heard of the disease, but at the time I hadn't heard of any reports in Virginia. But the very next day I contacted the DGIF biologist and was told that HD had been reported in 28 counties so far. I don't know about you but that surprised me! I don't know about your part of the state but of those several counties reporting incidents of HD included my own area of Ft. Lee and Prince George County. This disease seems to be more prevalent in the eastern part of the state but can

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# A Message from the VP

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pop up just about anywhere. This is something you may want to mention in your Hunter Ed Classes. For more information on the disease you can download a copy of a document that you can reproduce and use as a handout in your classes. Just go to the DGIF web site at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov> and click on the "Hunting" tab, then click on "Wildlife Diseases." Then click on the Hemorrhagic Disease link. There you will find a very simplistic explanation of the disease with a couple of pictures and graphs. Be an informed hunter and instructor!

Hunt hard and hunt safe!

Regards, Mike  
VP, VHEA

## Secretary's Notes

By Aaron Grimsley, Secretary

**REMEMBER... All Annual and Associate memberships expired on January 1, 2015.**

To join or renew, go to [www.vahea.org](http://www.vahea.org), print the Membership and Renewal Form and mail it, along with your check, to the address printed at the bottom of the form.

Membership options and costs are:

Regular (1-year) -	\$ 25.00
Associate -	\$ 15.00
Life -	\$150.00

Membership cards were mailed out during February for all new members and annual renewals. Contact Aaron Grimsley at [huntedr@yahoo.com](mailto:huntedr@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Membership Applications will be available at Advanced Training if you would like to renew in person.

# In Tribute

**Olin Paul Siple**

**Region 4**

July 27, 1921 – March 13, 2015

Olin Paul Siple, 93, of Covington, died Friday, March 13, 2015, at LewisGale Hospital-Alleghany, Low Moor.

Paul was a Hunter Education instructor for over fifty years and served as the Alleghany County Coordinator. He volunteered 5,037 hours and certified 17, 183 students. He was the recipient of the Morgan Award in 1987.

He was the husband of Mary Fairburn "Suzie" Siple. Paul was born in Clifton Forge, the son of the late, Olin Pinckey Siple and Minnie Argenbright Siple. A member of the community since 1958, he served his country as a member of the U.S. Navy stationed in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. He taught, coached and served as principal of Valley High School and retired from Boys' Home. Paul was a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, where he served on the vestry and as usher. He was a member of Curtis A. Smith Post 1033 Veterans of Foreign Wars. Paul was a member of the Bridgewater College, Boys' Home and Bath County Halls of Fame. A funeral service was held on March 17, 2015 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

The family suggests that memorial donations be made to Boys' Home, Inc., 306 Boys' Home Road, Covington VA 24426 or Mountain Regional Hospice, P.O. Box 637, Clifton Forge, VA 24422.

To ensure continued delivery of **vHEADLINES** contact Editor Wendy Hyde at [vheadlines@gmail.com](mailto:vheadlines@gmail.com) with corrections to your e-mail address.

# Treasurer's Report

By Dianne Cook, Treasurer

## Board Meeting Treasurer Report

January 1, 2015

Account Balance as of December 31, 2014		\$16,671.97
* Earmarked Funds	\$	(2,154.68)
General Funds		\$14,517.29

### Deposits:

Memberships - February, 2015	\$400.00
Donation-general fund	\$2,000.00
Donation to general fund -Hyde	\$350.00

Sub-total	\$17,267.29
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### Bills Paid in 2014

Total bills paid	\$2,847.52
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### Bills Paid in 2015

Sub-total	\$0.00
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### Unpaid Bills

Petty Cash	\$117.91
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Balance ending December 12, 2014	\$17,385.20
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### Earmarked Funds Breakdown

· Rob's Hunt	\$0.00
· Bedford County Hunts	\$150.00
· John Dunn's Hunt	\$1,027.86
· Hunter's Skill Weekend	\$0.00
· Hunter Ed. Challenge	\$0.00
· Bedford County Milan Aschbrenner Memorial trailer funds	\$221.82
· Roanoke Hunter Ed. Judy Bergloff Memorial	\$135.00
· Carter Lewis Memorial Scholarship	\$620.00

Total earmarked funds	\$2,154.68
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## Board Bulletins

### VHEA Officers:

President Hank Tomlinson  
chickadee1@mgwnet.com

Vice President Mike Norkus  
bowhuntinmike@comcast.net

Treasurer Dianne Cook  
harborfest93@yahoo.com

Secretary\* Aaron Grimsley  
huntedr@yahoo.com

### Regional Directors:

Region 1 Kenneth Carter  
Kenneth.carter26@verizon.net

Region 2 Wade White  
teamfse1@aol.com

Region 3 Ernest Wohlford  
ewohlford@centurylink.net

Region 4 Karen Cash  
kcash1966@gmail.com

Region 5 Jesse Ebron  
jebtron@sms.com

The next meetings are scheduled for March 27, 2015 (during Advanced Training weekend) at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Appomattox, VA.

Board Meeting starts at 5:00 pm  
Membership Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

## Regional Updates

No regional events were submitted for January, February or March 2015.

## Spring Events

### Region 1

We are currently in discussion with VDGIF and other partners to set up a series of day long workshops similar to the "hunter skills" concept. Dates and locations have not been establish yet, but discussions are leaning toward workshops on the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and in the Wakefield area. Members able to assists with the training and /or logistic, please contact Ken Carter (804) 382-2982 or by email at [kenneth.carter26@verizon.net](mailto:kenneth.carter26@verizon.net) to volunteer.

### Region 2

The Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend will be held May 1-3 at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA.

Details: Want to learn new hunting skills or hone the ones you have? Looking for expert instruction? Then this workshop is for you.

Registration deadline is April 17th and the cost is \$110 per person before April 10th and \$120 per person after April 10th. For ages 11 and up. Contact: Vernie Kennedy - [verniedk@msn.com](mailto:verniedk@msn.com)

*Instructors please contact Vernie as soon as possible to let him know if you are available to help.*

To download a printable flyer and registration form go to: <https://holidaylake4h.com/vahunterweekend>

### Region 5

Hello All,

Spring time Yeah!! Turkey season is around the corner. Hope you get a chance to get out and enjoy the outdoors!

Also! Around the corner is the Hunter Skills Weekend. If you can, please announce the event to your class. Hope to see you soon!

Jesse

# In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

## VHEA Life Member – “Hank” Tomlinson

Meet the new VHEA President, Henry G. “Hank” Tomlinson! Hank’s term began on January 1, 2015, he’s proud to carry the title, and he’s committed to serving to the best of his ability.

Hank is familiar to many of his fellow instructors because of his work with chronic wasting disease in Virginia’s whitetail deer population. Through self-study and hands-on work with biologists on other projects, he was able to develop the knowledge and experience to earn a part-time position as a Wildlife Disease Technician. He’s been employed by the Conservation Management Institute of Va. Tech since 2008, and prior to that was a volunteer.

The outdoors is a big part of Hank’s life, and he has been hunting and fishing since childhood. He and his older sister grew up in “the little town of North Tazewell, Virginia in Tazewell County down in Southwest Virginia. We were poor and hunted to put food on the table. I hunted rabbits, squirrel, quail and pheasants. My family raised registered Brittany spaniels and we used them to hunt. There weren’t deer or turkeys to be found.” Hank hunted with his grandfather, uncles and great-uncles, and states, “Practically all of the members of my family hunted and fished, and so hunting and fishing came as naturally to me as schooling and any other types of lessons in life.” Around the age of ten he traded an electric train set for a .22 rifle, which he still owns. His father let him use his single-barrel .410 which he also still owns. As a father, Hank enjoyed hunting with his oldest son.

Hank likes to hunt deer and turkey, and he likes to fish, but he *loves* to teach. He shares that, “there are two things I am especially proud of. Although I have only been an instructor since 2009 I made Master Instructor in 17 months. I have accumulated over 2,000 hours in the classroom, and missed only one weekend event at Holiday Lake since starting as an instructor. That missed weekend I was in the hospital.” Faith has been important throughout his life, and he feels privileged to lead worship at Holiday Lake whenever he’s there.

During his high school years his mother worked as Chief of the Draft Board in Tazewell Co. She told him if he didn’t join the armed forces he would end up being drafted. Hank graduated then started in a civil engineering co-op program between VDOT and Virginia Tech studying Highway Design and Construction.

Soon he heeded Mother’s advice and signed on with the Air Force.

He finished a class in highway engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University (when it was still known as Richmond Professional Institute) just before starting basic training.



After serving many years Hank retired as a Senior Master Sergeant, having worked as a Vehicle Maintenance Manager with a secondary duty in Transportation Logistics. He moved around to a lot of temporary duty stations with Virginia Beach serving as “home base”. Of the many overseas duty stations he saw his favorite was Aviano, Italy.

Now he and his wife Dee live in a log house they designed in the mountains of western Augusta County (Region 4) with their four Pomeranian dogs. They are part of a large blended family, having between them nine children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They enjoy being creative in their “down time”. Hank has woodworking and glass engraving skills, while Dee is a talented spinner, weaver and knitter.

Hank is involved in his community as a member of both Clover Hill 253 and Staunton 13 Masonic Lodges. As a member of the Stonewall Rifle and Pistol Club he helps set up and run the firing range for their annual youth event, and helps with JAKES range events through the NWTF. He is a member of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church of Churchville, VA., where he serves as a Lay Minister. In order to hold this certification he completed the Lutheran Church’s 4-year Ambassadors to the Community through Theological Service (ACTS) program to be a Synod Authorized Worship Leader.

When asked why he decided to become a member of VHEA, he shared, “I took Hunter Education in the early 1960’s through the NRA. I re-took the Virginia class in 2009 and met John Dunne, who encouraged me to become an instructor. I felt a kinship with them and wanted to be a part of the effort to teach individuals safe and ethical hunting in an organized manner.” Hank thanks the VHEA membership for the confidence they’ve placed in him and he looks forward to serving as President.