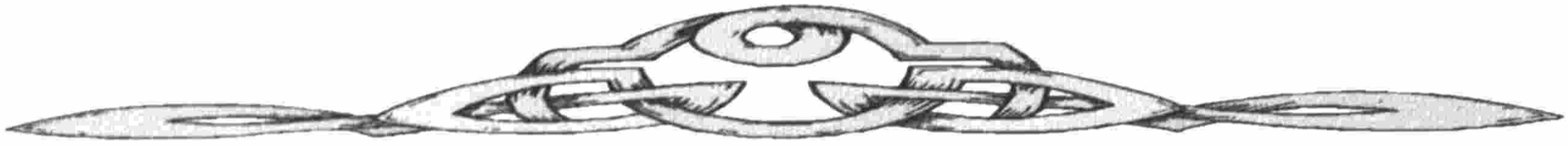


## CHAPTER 9: TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING



From the beginning VAGARA's mission of promoting excellence in records management throughout Virginia was stressed to the membership. In 1998, our hearty association was the beneficiary of the combined efforts of a few organizers who provided an automation workshop in Springfield, an annual conference in Williamsburg, and a preservation-conservation workshop in Wintergreen. Great opportunities in archival and records management training were open and available to for all!

The morning of 4 August 1988 found the Executive Committee behind closed doors at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. All members, with the exception of Ron Livingston, answered the roll that morning. After reading and approving the previous minutes, the officers proceeded with the specific agenda items.

Bill Wolchak reported that all systems were go for the "automation workshop" scheduled later in the month at the Springfield Hilton. No presentation update was forthcoming on "legal issues" training since Ron was absent.

Jane's plans for the annual meeting in Williamsburg were solid in program and local arrangements, but there were changes required in other areas. "...the tour of Colonial Williamsburg Archives had to be canceled due to too many participants" since the "large attendance" would make accommodations difficult. However, Jane advised that a "tour of the Budweiser Brewery" was a possibility with an "evening meal at the Whale & Co." As far as the Conference Chair was concerned, moreover, the vendor status was "not firm at this time".

The next item on that morning's agenda was the old name change subject. Bea reported that "she sent out flyers and letters to each member" and received "no response". It seemed that finally the effort to change our name had, indeed, "VAPRO-IZED"!

Three issues closed out the "old business" for the group. Bob expressed an interest to continue as editor and promised special coverage of the annual conference. The Treasurer cited a "checkbook balance of \$1,694.96 and a six-month certificate of deposit of \$2,000." Bea motioned for a renewal of the note. After a second with no discussion following, the motion carried. Dr. Manarin was pleased to announce that he had submitted a "request for matching grant" funds from NHPRC for a comprehensive preservation and conservation effort which would extend statewide.

Tackling some "new business" topics, the board focused on the news that there would be a "Disaster Planning Workshop" in November at Wintergreen sponsored by the State Library and Archives. George urged the officers to contemplate workshop sites, themes, and speakers for the upcoming year. Dick Harrington reported that a replacement had been designated to fill Bill Powell's vacant position in Richmond.

Since there was no additional business, we adjourned about 1:00 p.m. and looked forward to a return to Williamsburg for the annual conference!

Prior to that event, more than two dozen representatives from the localities assembled in Springfield for a busy workday on "automation in records management". Bill Wolchak and Janet Evans (Prince William) presented various computerized formats to basic records management functions, using R-Base, including: transfers, retrievals, and disposals. Hewlett-Packard arrived to demonstrate CD-ROM applications and explained the history behind the technology. Those who attended were enriched!

The seasonal changing of leaves from green to vibrant golds, reds, and browns reflects the significance of VAGARA's role since our inception. At that first collective session in Alexandria a little more than three years hence, the jurisdictions had joined together to form VAGARA, approve a constitution and by-laws, elect officers, develop and transmit a newsletter, initiate training workshops, coordinate annual informational events, and participate in Virginia's mandate to promote sound archival and records management practices throughout state and local agencies.

The changes wrought by the successive generations of elected officers, by 1988, was infectious throughout the Commonwealth. Indeed, the Executive Committee format reflected the mission of state-local cooperation through the Public Records Act, because the work initiatives of the organization were direct results of efforts by Louis Manarin, Dick Harrington, and Bill Powell on the state agency side coupled with the efforts of local professionals from Northern Virginia, Tidewater, and Piedmont areas. In VAGARA, change was the product of a dedicated unity of purpose emulating the "let's do it" attitude of our original founders.