

Heppner Elected State President

Cheryl Heppner of Winchester has been elected president of Handicaps Unlimited of Virginia, a 17,500-member organization in the commonwealth



CHERYL HEPPNER

which advocates for disabled persons.

Heppner was co-founder of the Shenandoah Valley chapter in 1980 and has served as president of the group for two years. There are nine other chapters state-wide and eight affiliate organizations. Affiliate organizations include the Disabled American Veterans of Virginia, Arthritis Foundation, Virginia Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, and Virginia Association of the Deaf.

The Old Dominion Council of the Blind was admitted as the newest affiliate member of HUVA at the recent convention.

Heppner will serve as president of the organization until October 1983. She is the first woman to be elected president of the group.

Handicaps Unlimited of Virginia was created in 1977. In 1980, the organization received a contract to create and operate the first independent living center for disabled persons in Virginia. It is known as the Endependence Center of Tidewater and is supervised by the Executive Director of HUVA, John Chappell Jr. The state office for HUVA

and the Endependence Center are both located in a building on Brambleton Avenue in Norfolk.

Heppner had previously served as first vice president and public relations chairperson of HUVA before being elected to her present position.

Lynda Johnson Robb, Virginia's First Lady, has accepted a position as honorary chairperson of the HUVA board of directors for the coming year. The announcement was made at the annual convention in Arlington.

During the past year, Heppner has been active as public relations chairperson for the Governor's Overall Advisory Council on Needs of Handicapped Persons. She has served as chairman and vice chairman of the Advisory Committee of Disabled Individuals for the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

She is co-chairperson of a committee with the National Women's Health Network and a member of Quota Club of Winchester as well as other local community organizations.