

31st Annual NOVA Conference Is A Sizzling Hit

The 31st Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference was held in Atlanta, GA. The theme of the conference was *Georgia: On Our Minds: Victims in Our Hearts*. A total of 160 workshops were offered representing 16 major tracks.

Arkansas Victim Assistance Coordinators in attendance were Charlene James, North Little Rock Police Department, Kathleen Kazanovicz, Union County Prosecutor's Office and Ashley Martin, Michelle Glander,



NOVA Board Members: Sandra K. Morrison, MS., Vice Chair Dan Levey, AZ, Secretary Ginger Bankston Bailey and Past President Beth Rossman

Susie Barnes, Susan Grice, Monica Massey and Lisa Sergeant, Pulaski County Prosecutor's Office.

Highlights of the Conference were David Pelzer, New York Times and International best selling author of *A Child Called It*; Erin Gray, Actress, Model and Spokesperson for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence presentation on "No Longer Silent"; "TV News and Its Coverage of Victims: When the Tragedy Hits Home" by Atlanta news professionals; motivation speaker, Alice Kemp-Dewitt, Weber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, "Its All In The Way You Look At It" and the theatrical presentation: *A Body in Motion*.

For the first time all state crisis response team coordinators met to share strategies for sustaining state teams along with providing resources to "care for the care givers". Each state brought denim shirts, polos, t-shirts

and other items. Arkansas's new blue polo was a hit with the coordinators.



Charlene and Robin James after the Silent Auction

State team coordinators are excited

about the 2006 Biannual National CRT Conference that will be held in North Little Rock at the Wyndham Hotel. There is a growing need for crisis responders to have a venue to share and refresh. Please save the dates November 10 - 13, 2006 and make plans to attend. AR-CRT hopes that Arkansas will have more participants than any other state team.

Next year, the Annual NOVA Conference will be held August 20 - 25 in Orlando, Florida. Make your plans to attend.

Memory Quilt for Dr. Marlene Young



Dr. Marlene Young was presented with a memory quilt during the Opening Ceremonies of the NOVA Conference. Dr. Young's

30 year career in victims services is respective around the world.

AR-CRT was honored to present a patch to quilter, Cindy Herdt [Cheryl Tyiska's sister].



The AR-CRT patch is the second patch on the top row. We are proud to be part of this remembrance and appreciate Dr. Young's development of NOVA's Crisis Response Teams. She always puts victims first.