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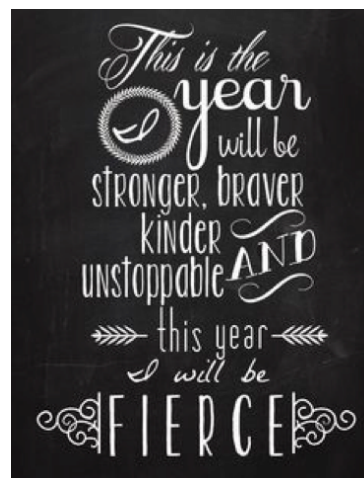
Beachside with Becky



Becky Dickson

Beachside with Becky

Sometimes the best
 thing you can do is
 not think, not wonder,
 not imagine,
 not obsess. Just
 breathe, and have
 faith that everything
 will work out for
 the best.



Hello my friends... Of course I just had to include quotes in my last article as President! I hope you don't mind. I included a few that most accurately reflect how I am feeling at this point. Mostly feeling madly hopeful and "walking by faith". Hope that somehow these quotes may be helpful to you in whatever you are going through or living. I do plan on keeping up with all of you so this is not

I wanted a perfect ending.

Now I've learned, the hard way,
that some poems don't rhyme, and some
stories don't have a clear beginning,
middle, and end.

Life is about not knowing,

having to change, taking the moment
and making the best of it, without
knowing what's going to happen next.

~ Gilda Radner ~

TheSilverPen.com

Gamancha.com

farewell or anything like that. I plan on staying involved and contributing wherever I can. Greg Kelly is taking the helm and I am sure his articles will be much more informative and disciplined than mine have been. Thanks for indulging me. Remember, we do good work for a good purpose- the rest is just stuff. Love to all.

Welcome to our new VLGMA Members - Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Norfolk Deputy City Manager; Debra R. Collins, Alexandria Deputy City Manager; Thomas C. Gates, Roanoke County Administrator; Carl Boggess, Bedford County Administrator;

Laura Triggs, Alexandria Deputy City Manager; Ted Maslin, Member in Transition and Julie Granfield, Loudoun Assistant County Administrator.

Signing off,

Becky

[Contact Becky Dickson](#)

Position Changes

January/February, 2016

• Ernie Hock, Culpeper County administrator since May, 2015, resigned.



• John Egertson, Culpeper County assistant administrator and planning director, has been appointed interim administrator there.

• Jodi Miller, Williamsburg deputy city manager, has been appointed deputy manager for Durham County, NC, effective February 1st.

• William (Bill) Whitley, former Gloucester County administrator and interim administrator for several localities since his retirement, has been appointed interim manager for the town of Onancock while the manager is on temporary leave.

• Carl Boggess, attorney and interim administrator for Bedford County, has been appointed administrator there.

• Jay Stegmaier, Chesterfield County administrator, announced his retirement, effective July 1st.

• Stephen King, deputy county administrator for Rockingham County, has been appointed administrator there, succeeding Joe Paxton, who is retiring June 30th.

• Dave Hansen, deputy city manager for Virginia Beach, has been appointed

manager there.

- Chris Martino, deputy county executive for Prince William County, has been appointed interim executive there.
- Sandy Wanner, retired James City County administrator, has been appointed interim administrator for Isle of Wight County.
- William Johnson, III, city manager for Petersburg since 2011, and the city council have begun separation negotiations.

Member Spotlight - Rob Stalzer



Rob Stalzer, Fairfax Deputy County Executive and Former VLGMA President has been selected as a Fellow of the AICP

The letter below is from the AICP:

Dear Robert,
On behalf of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the professional institute of the American Planning

Association, we are honored to announce your election to the College of Fellows of AICP. Please accept our congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of your accomplishments and contributions to the planning profession. You will become a Fellow upon your induction during the 2016 Induction Ceremony in Phoenix on April 3, 2016.

As a member of the 2016 FAICP class, you are invited to be our guest at the Fellows of AICP Induction Ceremony at the 2016 APA National Planning Conference in Phoenix. The ceremony will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center, on April 3, 2016 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. More details will follow along with a formal College of Fellows acceptance letter.

The Early Bird conference rate has been extended in the event you're interested in attending the full conference. Please note you must complete a paper registration form and the paper registration fee will be waived (attached).

Again, congratulations on your selection as a Fellow of AICP. We look forward to seeing you at the National Planning Conference.

Warm regards,
Sarah S. More, FAICP
Chair, 2016 FAICP Selection Committee

Fellows of AICP are honored in recognition of the achievements of the planner as an individual, elevating the Fellow before the public and the profession as a model planner who has made significant contributions to planning and society. Fellowship is granted to planners who have been members of AICP and have achieved

excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. Those chosen become members of the College of Fellows.

The College of Fellows is concerned with mentoring and future advancement of the profession of planning. As outstanding professionals in the field of planning, Fellows of AICP will address student organizations, state APA conferences, and professional development programs.

[Contact Rob Stalzer](#)

2016 Senior Executive Institute Program



Now is the time for the leadership experience of your life!

There are still spots available in the **July 17-29, 2016** SEI Class. More information including the SEI application and a sample schedule are available online

at <http://www.coopercenter.org/leadership>

[Contact Molly Harlow](#) with any questions

Celebrating 2016 Local Government Education Week- April 3-9, 2016

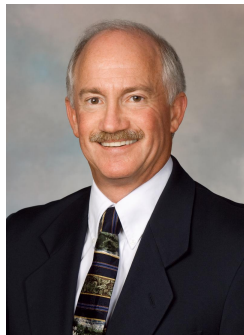


Win some great elementary school age books on local government services and further education on the importance of public service at the same time. Reminder: please adopt a Local Government Education Week proclamation honoring the designated first week of April formation of Council-Manager form of government. For proclamation template and great year round civic engagement activities check out

http://icma.org/en/va/resources/civic_education.

Please send adopted proclamation to Cindy Mester, Civic Engagement Committee Chair at cmester@fallschurchva.gov to have your locality entered into the books drawing.

Tedd's Take



Tedd Povar

The 2015 EBIS Awards!

It is again time to recognize a few localities and individuals that, among many others, have contributed to the on-going success of the Institute's 18 year old Email Broadcast Information System (EBIS). While it is impossible to recognize all the officials and localities that make an effort virtually every day to assist their fellow localities by providing responses to our members' inquiries, we try to say thank you via these awards to as many as possible, as frequently as possible.

Here are the "Special Merit" awardees that were recognized at the winter VLGMA conference in Charlottesville, and the secret-until-now Top Ten recipients!!!

SPECIAL MERIT - localities

City of Roanoke
Warren County

SPECIAL MERIT - individuals

Keith Barker - Galax city manager
Pat Weiler - Powhatan County administrator

TOP TEN:

Prince George County
Wise County
Spotsylvania County
Dinwiddie County
Greene County
City of Lexington
City of Winchester
Town of Kilmarnock
Town of Wytheville
Town of Christiansburg

Congratulations to each, and we look forward to continuing this successful, cooperative program in the years ahead!

[Contact Tedd Povar](#)

Certificate News



Spring is slowly inching its way toward Virginia with little tastes of beautiful weather and sunshine. One of the best experiences of spring is witnessing all of the new growth occurring around us. Of course, the Certificate

program and our students provide a perfect vision of growth as well.

Coming this fall, the Certificate will be expanding both its number of sites and class sections available to students. For people in the Shenandoah Valley, Blue Ridge Community College in Staunton will be available for students who

have difficulty making it to Charlottesville or Roanoke. Furthermore, in an effort to bring in more students, the Certificate will be offering two new sections of classes in the fall semester, expanding our already robust selection.

With more opportunities available, the Certificate is also looking to recruit more students. There will be recruitment sessions on March 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission and on March 30th at 2:00 p.m. at the York County Government Center. Moreover, for those students interested in the MPA from Virginia Tech, there will be an information session at the Virginia Tech - Richmond Center on March 14th at 6:30 p.m. With so many chances to learn about the programs, we are bound to have a full class in the fall.

In addition, the deadline for registering for the Alliance for Innovation workshops on April 6 and 8 is coming up soon. These will be great days of learning for all involved. If you are interested in any of the Certificate's courses or programing, Director Stephanie Davis is always willing to answer questions. Feel free to contact her at sddavis@vt.edu or 804-980-5549.



Speed Coaching at the 2016 Winter Conference

A DAO in the Life - Laura Fitzpatrick

Sixteen months ago this week I joined the City of Hampton team as an assistant city manager. When we join a new organization, we see our environment and ourselves from a new perspective. There is heightened sense of awareness as we navigate our new role and work to have an impact and get results.

Part of my recent reflections on the work we do in the City Manager's Office (CMO) center around communication. During my graduate studies, Dr. John Nalbandian emphasized the role of the CAO as a translator between departments and others. This has stuck with me and is at the heart of communication in local government management. I sometimes pause when I talk about communication because it sounds trite. It is so obvious and clichéd that communication is critical to everything in the world of work! Alas, I must talk about it. I voraciously pursue it!

In the August issue of eNews, Botetourt Deputy County Administrator David Moorman wrote thoughtfully about how "Everything communicates." He quoted a colleague who would say this to her team to reinforce the importance of attention to detail. Mr. Moorman wrote about the value of stopping to ask, "What does this communicate?" He proposed asking the question relative to the people, processes and decisions we can control or influence (including ourselves!). Mr. Moorman



Laura Fitzpatrick

suggests using this question as one of the litmus tests we apply to our decisions, to our work.

Along with the messages we send to our organizations and communities via our leadership decisions, the nuts and bolts of how we communicate about the work of city government is essential to work in the chief administrator's office. We are nowhere if our teams do not master the basics of communication about municipal services and policies! In response to this, I have created a staff tool that serves as a punch list for good communication. I shared this tool with employees in a training session last spring entitled "Communicating the Work of City Government." In the training I talked about communication from the perspective of the CMO.

In the session we implore employees to, "Help us tell your story!" We share that information is continually being requested of their department directors and managers. When department staff communicate effectively, they are helping their bosses support the CMO. We suggest that as employees communicate their work they consider: What might the Governing Body ask?; What might the media ask?; What might the average citizen ask? We convey the importance of attention to detail and clarity in communications.

I reflect with colleagues in other cities that getting information from departments sometimes feels like we are "prying" information out of them. When trying to tell the story of an issue, the process of "twenty questions" can ensue as we seek to serve as the "translator" between the department and the city manager, governing body, or citizen. The tools referenced in this article are part of my crusade to get the entire organization to effectively help us tell the story! If you would like a copy of the staff tool, please contact me.

[Contact Laura Fitzpatrick](#)

Civic Engagement Best Practices - Sorensen Institute



Trust, Civility and Respect - VLGMA's Shared Ground with Sorensen Institute

Our adopted ICMA Code of Ethics is interwoven with the non-partisan mission of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. Founded in 1993 to bring together diverse individuals with a passion for politics and public service, Sorensen now conducts five annual programs and numerous special events. "Sorensen teaches efficiency, civic engagement and dedication," recalls a recent graduate. Our ICMA Ethics Code Tenet 2 calls for "a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant" and Tenet 3 highlights a "dedication to the highest ideals of honor and integrity".

Through the civic, community and candidate leadership development programs conducted by Sorensen, a cadre of informed Virginians is emerging that are dedicated to our ICMA mission of "excellence in governance". The core values Trust, Civility and Respect are the hallmarks of each program and event sponsored by the Sorensen Institute. Thereby underscoring a natural bridge between VLGMA and the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership.

The five programs are: Political Leaders, Candidate Training, Emerging

Leaders, College Leaders and High School Leaders. The application acceptance for the Emerging Leaders Program for young professionals between 22 -32 begins April 1, 2016. The application process, deadlines, cost and eligibility requirements for the four other programs are later in the year and can be viewed on the Sorensen Institute web site (www.sorenseninstitute.org)

Bob Gibson, Sorensen's Executive Director, was a key presenter during our Winter Conference last month. Following his VLGMA presentation he said, "having local government officials as presenters and regional advisory board members have been a key component of the success" of the Sorensen programs.

The Institute's declaration and mission of "strengthening the quality of governance at all levels" (Tenet 4) is another key bridge between VLGMA & Sorensen. This is achieved by a variety of leadership programs designed around ethics, public policy and practical politics.

The 2016 Spring Gala, Honoring Virginia Women in Leadership, Tuesday, April 19 is the next statewide public Sorensen Institute event. For details on this event or other programs of the institute visit: www.sorenseninstitute.org or contact, bob.gibson@virginia.edu / 434-982-4998.

[Contact Lee Capps](#)

Mel's Poetry Corner



Mel Gillies

Hoos to Becky!

This poem is trying to relate somehow
wild turkey hunting and an owl
and even harder is it to achieve
correlating them with Becky.

It is not what one would expect to see -
Becky out wild turkey hunting.

But with Becky, one is never surprised.

Her adventurous spirit can never be camouflaged.

Becky might find her calling and reveal
elusive gobblers lurking near.

Behind her mask awaits
a shocking end to their present state.

With all her experience in the outback of Goochland County,
Becky knows how to bring home the turkey bounty.

All the owls watching her avid pursuit
cheer her on with an OWL-rousing Hoot.

According to Harry Potter, owls perform an essential job in wizardry.

They are the official postal service for all message delivery.

I bet Becky's received an owl delivered secret message too
in invisible ink from a who knows HOO.

And then with her daughter, Sarah, at UVa.
What more can you say?
Reminiscent of an owl, Becky can too
sing like a bona fide WA-HOO.

Becky's fascination with owls goes to such an extent
she might even go to Scandinavia to listen to their foreign accent.
Perhaps in that wild frontier, she'll also see
a Swedish turkey.

Turkey, owl and sprinkle in lots of humor too.
Becky, we toast the courageous, outrageous, hilarious, You-Hooooo!

The One and Only (thank goodness) Bob Stripling

To lead with levity and exuberance;
to seek collegiality rather than divisiveness and
engagement rather than apathy.
To be passionate, not complacent, and
persuasive, not passive;
to tease devilishly, laugh ferociously, respond irreverently, dance spontaneously;
to embrace the future with vision, the next generation with guidance and
mentorship,
to work devotedly, recruit relentlessly, represent Virginia Tech
viscerally.
In a word, to let the mundane, the ordinary, the commonplace be transformed
into a divine comedy.

This is your Grand Slam, High Tech, Cavalier symphony, Bob.

[Contact Mel Gillies](#)

Innovation Edge

Revisiting the Crowded Skies: The Drones are Coming!

Dr. David Swindell, Director of Arizona State University's Center of Urban Innovation, spoke on the future of drones in a recent Alliance for Innovation webinar. How will local governments face the challenges brought on by this new technology? Working against them is not the answer, but rather looking at actions that can be taken to work with them. Read the full article [here](#), as well as the link to purchase the webinar.



About the Alliance for Innovation: The Alliance for Innovation is inspiring innovation to advance communities. As the premier resource for emerging practices in local government, we are building cultures of innovation and

connecting thought leaders in the profession with the help of our partners International City/County Management Association and Arizona State University. We are accessible and valuable to all levels of an organization. You can learn more about the Alliance at www.transformgov.org or contact me at saburnett@transformgov.org

Spring DAO Meeting - Registration Open



From the Planning Team Vivian McGettigan, York County Deputy County Administrator and Mark Bellamy, York County Public Works Director:

The County of York will host the Spring DAO meeting at the Yorktown Freight Shed - Riverwalk Landing, 331 Water Street, Yorktown, Virginia on April 8 from 10:00am through 3:00pm. Planning for the meeting is shaping up. The meeting topics include: County Administrator, Neil Morgan sharing his insights on emerging local government issues; we will then explore the seven primary motivations that affect every interpersonal, leadership and management interaction in the Unwrapping the Seven Gifts session; during the lunch break those who are interested in exploring York's beautiful Riverwalk can join a walking tour and discussion of this revitalization project and its positive impacts on York's economic development and quality of life; in the afternoon we will learn more about ICMA's and the Alliance for Innovation's Next Big Things and we will share how York used the materials for an interactive board retreat exercise; we will wrap up the day with a roundtable discussion. For more information about what Yorktown has to offer, please go to www.yorkcounty.gov/tourism. For further information and registration, please go to www.vlgma.org

Calendar

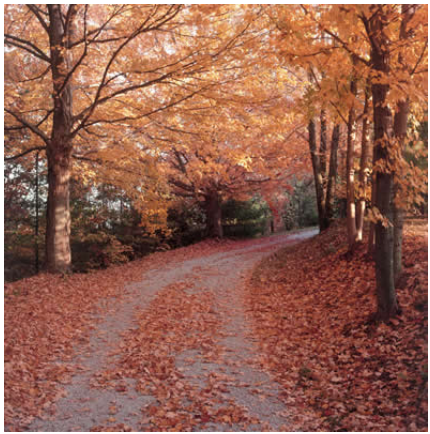
Upcoming Events

Spring DAO Meeting - April 8, 2016 in York County - more info [here](#)

Summer Conference - June 8-10, 2016 at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront Sheraton Hotel. Mark your calendars now and look for more info in April.

[More Dates](#)

Future Newsletter Articles



A goal of this e-newsletter is to keep you informed on activities relative to our profession. As with any membership-based organization, contributions by members are welcome and encouraged. Topics can range from a recent achievement in your locality to an upcoming event with networking potential to human interest stories about current or retired members. To contribute simply send your brief e-newsletter content (~5 sentences or less) via email to [Molly Harlow](mailto:Molly.Harlow).

Future Newsletter Articles

[VLGMA Website](#)

[ICMA Website](#)

[Alliance for Innovation](#)

[Virginia Municipal League](#)

[VA Association of Counties](#)

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