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Cup of Joe to Go



Joe Casey

Cup of Joe to Go

I hope all is well with everyone's summer. I recognize that summer is the time where getting all the right people around a table for a topic is additionally challenging due to much needed vacations for staff, elected officials, citizens and business leaders. For those who meet with school officials, meeting availability can be further constrained as many school administrations are closed on Fridays. There are some recurring monthly meetings I have with groups that everyone in the group may not be together until September.

It also may be the time for where your locality reduces their twice/month board-council meetings to once in July and August. For those that plan out future meetings twice/month, it may seem like you're already starting the agenda preparation and review process for the next meeting as soon as you finish the previous meeting. Enjoy the additional time between meetings this summer. Beginning in 2017, Chesterfield continued the once/month meetings throughout the year; except for the additional budget meetings in March and April. It has enabled us to focus all of our attention to the most relevant topics that provide time for elected official and citizen input prior to the meeting.

I liken the elected officials meeting to a one-day only production where every topic has relevance, all facts need to be known and communicated, all questions need to be answered, and all presentations need to be professional and understood by the varying audiences in the room. There may be many rounds of refining the narratives and perfecting the presentations to anticipate as much as possible. Of course, there will be externalities as new comments, and perhaps new topics to address, will arise from public comments or elected officials. Some of which, may need to have closure or further fact finding by the next meeting or even by the end of the meeting, if possible.

In any case, once the meeting is over and the lights are turned off, the "script" of the hundreds of pages from the multitude of agenda items from the 5+ hour meeting are assembled into "minutes." There is little time to reflect, but rather actions needed to make the next meeting the same degree of professionalism, if not better.

The summer may also be the time where the chief administrative officer (CAO) goes through a closed session as part of their annual review. This may include review of accomplishments, prior and new fiscal year priorities, or quite frankly any topic for which the role of the CAO may have been or should have been part of the equation. For many localities, that expectation may be for 100% of the topics. Therefore, these closed sessions may go down many different paths. Hopefully, for those that go through this exercise, it is a productive use of time for you and the elected officials.

In any case, I hope all of you get to enjoy the summer and appreciate the coverage that your staff does as many in your organization enjoy their vacations and much needed time with family and friends.

Please join me in welcoming our newest VLGMA members:

Jean Bass, Senior Policy Specialist, Virginia Resources Authority

Nelsie Birch, BIRCHbark Strategic Consulting

Ralph Clayton III, Colonel, Garrison Commander, Fort Eustis

Kayla Cox, Town Manager, Town of Floyd

John Egertson, County Administrator, County of Culpeper

Patrick Elwell, Special Assistant to the County Administrator, County of Roanoke

Stephanie Hamlett, Executive Director, Virginia Resources Authority

Matt Harris, Deputy County Administrator, County of Chesterfield

David Malewitz, Parking Manager, City of Lynchburg

David McGettigan, Long Range Planning Manager, County of Prince William

Sheila Minor, Director of Finance, City of Colonial Heights

Joseph Quesenberry, Town Manager, Town of Warsaw

Freda Starnes, County Administrator, County of Scott

Scarlet Stiteler, Accounting Specialist, City of Newport News

Jason Tyree, Town Manager, Town of Buchanan

Jennifer Walkawicz, Commander, 733 Mission Support Group (Fort Eustis Garrison)

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, County of Augusta

[Contact Joe Casey](#)

July 2018

- David Hodgkins, assistant manager for the city of Fairfax since 2005, has been appointed acting city manager there effective July 1st.
- John Barkley, Greene County administrator since 2013, resigned.
- Maurice Jones, city manager for Charlottesville since 2010, has been appointed town manager for Chapel Hill, NC effective August 20th.
- Martha Semmes, Middleburg town manager since 2010, announced her retirement effective in December.
- Brenda Garton, retired county administrator, has been appointed interim administrator for Greene County.
- Sam Finz, town manager for Lovettsville, stepped down from that post effective July 6th.
- Jackie Hubbard, interim town manager and long time Lebanon employee, has resigned to accept the CFO post for Cumberland Mountain Community Services.



Tedd's Take



Tedd Povar

How do day dat?

My maternal grandfather, Opa, spoke English with a strong Dutch/German accent. When he wanted to know how something had been done, he'd say, "How do day dat?" (How do they do that?)

The other morning, as I do every day (bear with me), I walked to the end of my driveway at 5:00 am, picked up the Richmond Times Dispatch, and turned to the sports section. The first headline to catch my eye read, "Long Balls, Long Game." Underneath were a color picture and a lengthy article about the 89th annual All-Star Baseball Game that had concluded at 11:58 pm the previous evening...just five hours earlier. Immediately, my grandfather's words echoed in my ear. "How do day dat?"

The magic required to write and edit an article, print the pages, assemble the sections, load the finished edition on trucks, get those papers to the carriers, and drop the paper onto my driveway in 5 hours or less boggle my mind. I needed to find out how it's done.

It wasn't that long ago when producing a newspaper involved a reporter typing on a manual typewriter and then a typesetter manipulating small metal blocks of words or combination of letters, setting up each page for the printing press. The process was labor and time intensive. Article deadlines had to be late in the afternoons to make the next day's morning edition.

Today, it's all about computers and offset printing. Articles and other content are now prepared digitally. That's not so surprising. The real trick is the printing process.

Almost all daily newspapers now use a process called web offset printing, which uses giant reels, or "webs," of newsprint and four colors of ink: cyan, magenta, yellow and "key" (black), usually abbreviated as CMYK. The artwork is imaged by laser onto aluminum printing plates, one plate for each color. The colors are printed onto the running web of paper, in sequence-from Cyan to Black-resulting in a complete full-color image. The separate webs of paper then come together and are slit, cut again, folded, stacked, and packaged. The whole process is fast. It typically takes less than 30 seconds from when the ink is applied to newsprint to when the finished newspaper is packed for distribution.

So now you know, "How do day dat." I really hope newspapers don't fade away. We need some magic in our lives.

[Contact Tedd Povar](#)

ICMA Update

ICMA Williamsburg Leadership Institute



One must look at the road behind to truly understand the road ahead.

On October 28 a select group of members will travel back to Colonial Williamsburg to survey the road upon which our values were paved.

ICMA Williamsburg Leadership Institute is an experiential learning experience with a twist. The Institute transports our members back to 1770's Colonial Williamsburg where the people are grappling with values of private wealth vs commonwealth, freedom vs equality, status quo vs change; as they decide whether or not to secede from Britain or remain loyal to the Crown. The community is divided-Loyalist on one side of the debate and Secessionist on the other.

Here is where ICMA enters. Our members become part of the conversation through encountering and speaking with towns people: Receiving private audiences with fellow citizens such as James Madison and George Washington; and learning from diverse perspectives including that of "the common folk" and those who are enslaved. All are filled with hope about what the future could mean, yet fearful about the cost of change. Through their experiences at the ICMA Williamsburg Leadership Institute, ICMA members become aware that their communities grapple with these same issues today. ICMA members are reminded that it takes strong effective leadership, solid partnerships, powerful grassroots support and a shared investment in the future to bring about valuable and effective change.

To learn more visit our website at: <https://icma.org/williamsburg-leadership-institute>

ICMA Conference - Call for Volunteers



ICMA 2018 Conference in Baltimore

Maryland City/County Management Association Seeking Volunteers

The Maryland City/County Management Association (MCCMA) is hosting the 2018 ICMA Annual Conference, which will be held in Baltimore from September 23-26, 2018. Hosting the conference is a massive undertaking, requiring numerous volunteers. As a small state association, MCCMA is asking for assistance from VLGMA members and our nearby professional colleagues.

Some volunteers can receive special benefits, making this local ICMA Conference even more affordable. Please consider helping out MCCMA by volunteering your time in Baltimore. Various days and shifts will be available leading up to the official start of the conference on Sunday, September 23 and during the conference itself.

Volunteers for the conference have the opportunity to contribute to local government professional development activities and access many aspects of the conference. Numerous volunteer opportunities are available to assist in the success of the conference, including staffing the host committee area at the Baltimore Convention Center, wayfinding and information assistance, conference welcoming activities, and assistance at special events.

VLGMA Associate Members who are not ICMA members can receive a variety of special benefits at the conference in return for volunteering: complimentary entrance to non-ticketed conference activities (including keynote presentations), exhibit hall and educational sessions (on the day that you volunteer), an event shirt, and an opportunity to network with top-level city, county, and regional government managers.

VLGMA Full Members, ICMA members, and those who regularly attend the ICMA conference must register and pay for the conference just as if it were not taking place nearby.

If you or a member of your staff is interesting in participating in the ICMA Baltimore 2018 Conference, please send an email to Matt Corley (mcorley@cityofbowie.org) and Daniel Mears (dmears@cityofbowie.org) with your contact information.

A "Forner" DAO in the Life - Steve Burke



Steve Burke

A DAO in the Life

By Steve Burke, Luray Town Manager

It's been a few months since I returned to being in a Manager position in a Town. Reflecting on the change from heading a Public Works Department, I believe that I do thrive on change.

Not necessarily big changes, but the simple daily changes that Town Management offers. Some days, I'm dealing with citizen issues; other days, it's planning for the Town's future. Being in a

position with some many areas of responsibilities allows me to shout "Squirrel" fairly frequently and change my focus.

I truly enjoyed the opportunities in my Public Works role to plan and achieve major improvements to the infrastructure that let's people carry out their lives each day. There was variety in my work, but it was fairly focused in the infrastructure arena.

Now, I'm unleashed to dabble here and there. Dance down to halls to poke my nose in on all that happens. I'm amazed at how I can get lost in talking about how much we can save by choosing a different toilet paper for our buildings, how many ducks have been dumped at our Lake, and where we should set up the May Pole for our Festival of Spring.

Our Police Department also helped divert my attention for a while in developing their outstanding video concept for the Lip Sync Challenge.

Perhaps its part of the aging process, but I'm happiest jumping from one ship to the next to make it through my days.

I do owe a huge debt of gratitude to the talented people that I work with who afford me the luxury of my daily mental hoppings. I have always been blessed to work with the greatest folks.

If you ever need to get away, head down to Luray. Be happy to talk for fifteen maybe twenty minutes, and then run to the next idea.

[Contact Steve Burke](#)

Fall DAO Meeting - Save the Date

Date: Friday, September 21, 2018

Host: Orange County, VA

Url: <http://orangecountyva.gov/index.aspx>

Location: Lewis Hall Classroom at James Madison's Montpelier

Url: <https://www.montpelier.org/>



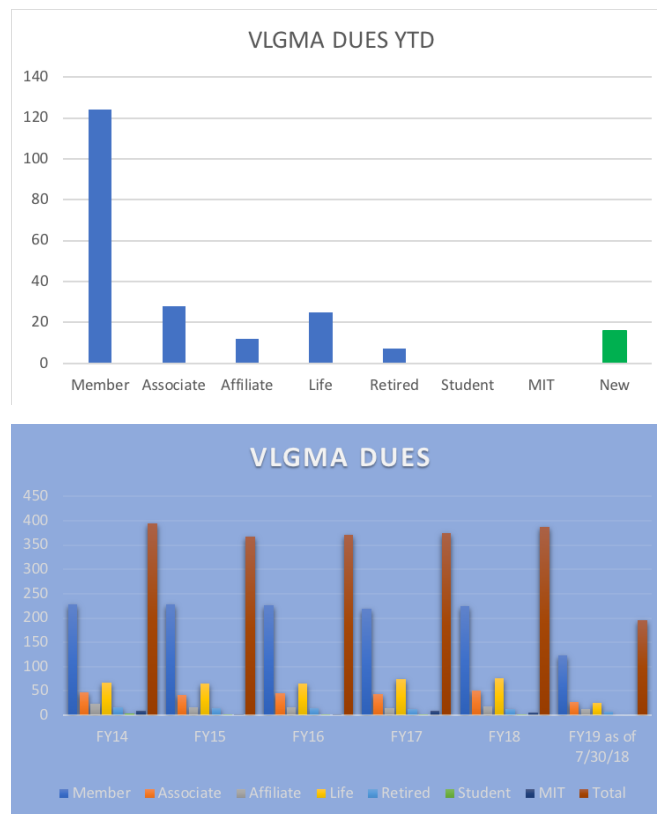
For our DAO fall meeting, we are planning an informative day with a focus on a few of Orange County's current projects. These include a long-term growth management plan, our broadband initiative (leveraging e-rate funding and our procurement of a public safety radio system with the provision of broadband to the unserved and underserved residents of the County), and some recent tourism initiatives. Our day will also include a complimentary tour of James Madison's home, Montpelier. We look forward to hosting you in Orange County! Stay tuned for more information!

[Contact Glenda Bradley](#)

VLGMA Membership Online Renewal Update

VLGMA Membership Online Renewal process a success!

The VLGMA FY2019 membership renewal drive began July 1 and is being conducted completely online for the first time. In the first month using the new process, more than half of our members have renewed online and 75 percent opted to renew paying by credit card.



The link to complete the membership renewal form and pay online (or complete the renewal form and mail in a check) is <https://www.vml.org/vlgma-dues-payment/>.

A few renewal FAQ's:

I am unsure of my membership category

Please contact Janet Areson at jareson@vml.org if you are unsure of your membership category

I am paying by check - do I still fill out the online form

Yes, all members are asked to complete the online form so that we can ensure the accuracy of our records

I entered my information and I was unable to print the admin notice or did not receive an email with the form

If this happened to you, we can easily regenerate the form and send it to you. For those paying by check, then just send the form along with your check payment. Contact Sandy Harrington, sharrington@vml.org

I am not sure if my credit card payment went through

This affected a few folks the first morning and has been corrected, however, if you are still unsure please let me know and we will double check, contact Sandy

Harrington, sharrington@vml.org

National Association of County Administrators (NACA) dues option

If you did not select the National Association of County Administrators (NACA) dues option, but decided you want to join now, the VLGMA membership form is set up so that an individual can do the NACA dues as a separate transaction. Just select the NACA dues-only option in the drop-down options.

I entered the incorrect amount, or put in incorrect information, what should I do?

Certain fields we can edit, others will require a cancellation of the entry and a refund to a credit card. Contact Sandy Harrington sharrington@vml.org and we can work through any changes that need to be made.

I am a life member- do I participate in the renewal process and use the online link?

We would like everyone to use the online link because we want to ensure we have current contact information for the members. When completing the form, in the "pay my dues section", please select CHECK option (it will show 0 due), *you may get an error message*. We will send you confirmation of the entry to review for accuracy and for your records.

I do not trust using online links

If this is an issue for you, please contact Sandy Harrington at sharrington@vml.org and we can assist with getting the membership renewal processed

Please remember to share VLGMA membership information with your colleagues who have may not have heard about the new process or may be potential new members

If you have any questions related to the online membership renewal process, please contact Sandy Harrington at sharrington@vml.org. Other questions related to VLGMA should be directed to Janet Areson at jareson@vml.org

Certificate News

August has arrived and another time of transition is upon us. The summer classes for the Certificate are winding down, the fall classes are preparing to start, and the planning for spring is underway. It seems like the fun never ends.

However, some fun does end. After more than six years of writing the Certificate newsletter article, it is time for me to retire my pen and pass along the task to someone else. Having the opportunity to inform the VLGMA community about the happenings of the Certificate program has been a labor of love (even the time it took multiple trips to an Outer Banks coffee shop to submit because the Wi-Fi was bad at the condo). Every month, I have tried to add some new perspective or introduction to the program, and most months, I have been on time (although Molly can attest that I have been tardy recently). In doing so, I hope that you have enjoyed the glimpses into the Certificate's world.

**THE Graduate Certificate
in Local Government
Management**



*"Preparing the Next Generation of
Local Government Leaders"*

As you know, the past six years have seen phenomenal changes in the program. I had no clue how successful and far reaching the program would be when Bob Stripling asked me to be his graduate assistant in 2012. Since that time, we have expanded our offerings, brought in new professors, transitioned leadership, and sent our graduates out into the world of local government to much success. Moreover, I have had the opportunity to be a student in the program, assist professors, recruit new students, coach current students, and as a culmination, help interview and hire an alumnus. These years have truly been amazing, and I think Stephanie Davis for continuing to have me on board for so long.

But, all good things must come to an end. My time being closely affiliated with the Certificate program has been so fulfilling that I am a little hesitant to let go. However, the ultimate lesson of the program taught to everyone involved is that there always comes a time to pass the torch to the next generation. It is someone else's turn to give his or her voice to VLGMA. My work, in that regard, is done...for now.

Thanks for all you do,
-Cody Sexton

Civic Engagement - Lynchburg Reducing Poverty Through Community Linkages

Lynchburg Reducing Poverty Through Community Linkages

By John Hughes
Lynchburg Assistant City
Manager



Civic Engagement continues to be a priority for VLGMA localities and requires people power. Engaging communities in social uplift to promote a better quality of life for all provides a sense of responsibility between citizens.

In the City of Lynchburg, a concerted effort to reduce poverty and raise the median household income has brought together many civic-minded individuals of diverse backgrounds. The movement, "From Poverty to Progress," is supported by City Council and was championed in 2017 by former Mayor Joan Foster and current Mayor, then Vice Mayor, Treney Tweedy. This initiative was born out of a realization that our civic engagement practices should involve all citizens despite varied socioeconomic status, census tracts and zip codes.



Background:

Lynchburg was designated a Bridges Out Of Poverty ©Community in late 2013 and the Bridges of Central Virginia (BOCV) group was formed. As the initiative moved on, the BOCV worked to develop plans that tackled Lynchburg's over 24% poverty rate. Lynchburg's City Council soon saw a need for more direct support from government to spur community involvement. In 2015, City Council commissioned a study to analyze this pressing issue; and in 2016 Council approved funding for and staff to better manage the City's priority of poverty reduction.

Beginning with a call to action from former Mayor, Joan Foster at the State of the City address in March of 2017, citizens were asked to be an integral part of the poverty reduction strategy in Lynchburg. A kick-off event for the newly minted "From Poverty to Progress" initiative was held in May of 2017 to engage the public, enhance support for ongoing programs, and flesh out definitive community concerns. Citizens of all ages, creeds, ethnicities, and incomes (many of whom may have not been at the same table otherwise) were now a part of a long-term collective effort to reduce poverty in the City of Lynchburg. This event began the process of developing action items focused on eliminating barriers for our low-income citizens. It was also a catalyst for the civic engagement of faith-based organizations, non-profits, individuals, businesses, schools, and others to rally around the cause of community uplift.



Current Events:

In 2018, Lynchburg continues to strive toward the mark of poverty reduction and increased median household income through civic engagement. The most recent Community Gathering held in June of 2018 marked a year of progress toward accomplishment of goals set by the workgroups. These projects include, but are not limited to: Early education tutoring assistance, building a grocery store in an identified food desert, creating an alliance to increase affordable childcare options, improving kindergarten readiness, developing easier access to health resources, implementing a community-subsidized transportation application, and revamping local public transportation. It is obvious that each of these items require an immense level of engagement, collaboration and cooperation!

Citizens have voiced a desire to be more civically engaged and involved with local issues. Through the Community Wealth Building Grant, Lynchburg's TechHire initiative and Getting Ahead program are forging the path toward self-sufficiency for many citizens. The Empower Lynchburg website was launched which offers a direct link between those who want to help and specific community needs. Also, our From Poverty to Progress groups and Bridges of Central VA groups are creating a symbiotic relationship based on active collaboration.

In summary, the success of this intensive movement could not be achieved without the engagement of Lynchburg's citizens. While official leadership comes from the City Manager's Office, the community linkages are pertinent and powerful. Community members have presented information to City Council, have addressed specific neighborhood concerns to administrative staff and have been thoroughly

immersed in the workings of City government as a result of the From Poverty to Progress movement.

City management, local business owners, neighborhood groups, and many others have embraced the ideology of unselfish benevolence while directing the initiative toward a Thriving Lynchburg through civic engagement.

[Contact John Hughes](#)



John Hughes



Innovation Edge



Beyond Repair



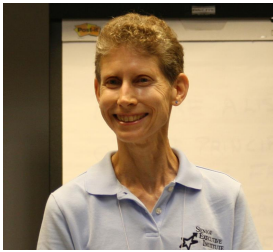
Joe Gacioch, Assistant City Manager in Ferndale, Michigan and a member of the Alliance's nextERA group, provided an excellent article for our Newsletter on how his city is dealing with the disruptions of infrastructure reinvestments. Street closures, limited parking, detours are all things that cities face when making repairs, especially those on a big scale. But, what about partnering with Lyft and utilizing social media to ease the "pain" of repair work? I encourage you to read more [here](#) about how Ferndale is making a difference.

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. 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.

Mel's Poetry Corner

The Highest Speed Inner Net

What a miraculous capability
to browse the globe vicariously.



Mel Gillies

Dialogues in cyber space
without moving from our resting place.

Our thoughts traverse the earth
as we digitally converse.
Almost all that this world can convey
is but a double click away.

Beauty, peace, truth, harmony,
are they downloadable to me?
The gifts that are eternally kept
cannot be purchased on the Internet.

When we clear our mind's computer screen
and open our hearts to receive,
we gain access to the spiritual web
and with bytes of Truth, perpetually fed.

A simple message of entreaty sent
brings incredible in-powermeant.
The opening of a holy gateway
to the wonders of a divine communiqué.

Surf the realms of inner Light
and stay forever at Heaven's Site.

[Contact Mel Gillies](#)

Calendar

Upcoming Events

Fall DAO Meeting - September 21, 2018 at Montpelier in the County of Orange.

2019 VLGMA Winter Conference - Feb. 20-22 in Staunton at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel

[More Dates](#)

Update Email Address



Making a change? To continue to receive the monthly eNews and other VLGMA notices, please email [Molly Harlow](#) to update your contact information.

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](#).



Future Newsletter Articles

[VLGMA Website](#)

[ICMA Website](#)

[Alliance for Innovation](#)

[Virginia Municipal League](#)

[VA Association of Counties](#)

[Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service](#)

[ELGL](#)

[Website Contact](#)



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