

May 2019 eNews

Cup of Joe to Go



When I was promoted in 2004 from Finance Director to Deputy County Administrator in Hanover, I began to slowly transition from my roles in the national Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and its state affiliate VGFOA to ICMA and VLGMA. Many of us started our public sector careers in a technical profession and most likely were affiliated with similar national and state associations. Organizations like GFOA and VGFOA is where I met many state and national colleagues; some for lifelong friendships. However, whether time or budgetary constraints, I needed to pivot to ICMA and VLGMA.

I had the honor of being VGFOA President in 2002 and GFOA Board member in 2005; Virginia's first representative since 1966. When I interviewed for GFOA President in 2008, there had never been someone from Virginia in its 100-year plus history. During my interview I raised the issue that it seemed odd that Virginia with the most AAA-bond rated localities and many other financial accolades would never have had a president. Perhaps such Virginia boastings didn't help me get the role. However, I still advocated for Virginia to take its rightful turn at the helm.

Chris Morrill, first started to break down this barrier as he was elected President while serving Savannah GA, then came to Roanoke as City Manager soon afterwards. However, May 21 will be a significant date for Virginia and its national recognition for a professional association. Terry Stone, Hanover County Public School's Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations will begin her tenure as GFOA President and the first from Virginia. I don't know how to validate, but I would venture to say that GFOA is the last of the major national governmental professional associations for which there hasn't been a home-grown Virginian to lead it.

Terry is home-grown, and I've had the pleasure of working with her since 1990 in both my Hanover and Henrico roles. I've had a front row seat in seeing one of the most talented and versatile people take on life's challenges to get her college degree and then her CPA while working full-time. There have been many that may have helped mentor her along the way, but she is such a quick study and leader, that mentors turn into mentees around her. She used her "free time" to become an elected School Board and then Board of Supervisor member in King William.

She has mentored many of today's all-stars of governmental finance and future leaders. I wish her nothing but the best in her president role. Please also do the same directly, or through your finance staffs that see her regularly. And also continue to be both a mentor and a mentee in our life-long learning quest.

Please join me in welcoming our newest VLGMA members: Brian Casey, Portsmouth Legislative Analyst; Michael Babb, Regent University Student and Melissa Rollins, Surry Assistant County Administrator.

Tedd's Take



Collegiality

When I came to Virginia MANY years ago, I was impressed by the number and stature of the state's local government administrators directly involved in what is now VLGMA. The CAO's from Fairfax County (Tony Griffin), Arlington County (Tony Gardner), Alexandria (Doug Harman) and Norfolk (Jim Oliver), to name a few, were just as involved in the executive board and conferences as the administrators from the medium and small communities. Additionally, there was no feeling of superiority or inferiority as we were all in the same business, had the same goals for our communities, and shared the same challenges with citizens, elected officials, and the other "stuff" that make up each and every workday. As a wet-behind-the-ears neophyte to Virginia serving as the assistant manager for a small city of 5,000 residents, I was in awe of the superstars in the room, but quickly realized that they were one of us, just wanting to mingle, swap stories, and enjoy that special safe place for frank conversations that our conferences created.

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Civic Engagement



Celebrating Local Government Education Throughout the Year

For several years the VLGMA has been honoring Local Government Education Week which is the first week of April by asking localities to adopt proclamations and develop engagement plans to get schools and students involved in their local governments. This initiative has been very successful with many of our communities having developed a process for annual proclamation approvals and a few communities having adopted on-going proclamations. Even more exciting is the breadth of great activities that have been undertaken not only during the first week of April, but year round. Over the past few years several communities have shared outstanding examples of local government education programs developed for their local schools which the Civic Engagement Committee has shared in various articles as well as provided resources on the Committee's webpage.

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A DAO in the Life - Diane Rebertus



It's a Balancing Act

Work, work, work. Life, life, life. Stress, stress, stress. My county's HR department offers some great health related seminars: *Diabetes prevention and care*, *Heart healthy breakfasts*, *Walking for wellness*. Most recently they offered a *Stress management* seminar.

I attend these sessions to support HR's efforts because it would be really stressful if no one attended! A lot of time and work goes into organizing and scheduling for nobody to show up. Despite my desire to be supportive, I keep thinking to myself...oh, I really need to be doing this and that or such and such. So much work to be done...

But I go and arrive at the seminar and select a seat. Oh fun...a goodie bag. What's inside? Four Dove chocolates, a banana plus a chance to win a massage. Things are looking up.

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Innovation Edge



PIEworks: Process, Improvement, Innovation, and Engagement

In 2016, the State of Ohio began a program called Lean Ohio. Under Governor Kasich's administration, there was a push to eliminate waste from government and rethink existing processes. As a part of this program, public employees from around the State could leverage the Local Government Innovation Fund to partake in a weeklong course known as LEAN Ohio Bootcamp. During this five-day course, students learned the basics of Lean such as SIPOC, Pareto Principle, 5S, Poke-Yoka, Process Mapping and more. The City of Dublin found value in this training and hosted an event at a local venue with 13 additional staff members to learn the fundamentals of Lean. Read more [here](#) about this internal innovation team consisting of cross-functional staff in the article by Kyle Kridler, Economic Development Administrator for the City of Dublin, OH

Mark your calendars: TLG 2020 will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, May 5-8.

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.

Certificate News



Certificate News

As we wrap up the end of the Spring Semester, please join me in congratulating our Spring 2019 graduates of the Certificate Program:

Vance Zavela, County of Fairfax

Jessi Preussner, Virginia Tech - Sponsored Programs

Daniel Wilson, Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority

James Farmer, Botetourt County

Joshua Loudin, County of York

The Certificate program will hold a Graduation Celebration on May 19th in Richmond to celebrate the Fall and Spring graduates! Congratulation to all!

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Mel's Poetry Corner

All is Well

Only you can make the decision to celebrate your life



and authorize the ascension to new, transcendent heights.
It is not a matter of the configuration of the stars, faith in a deity
or three cherries in a row happening.

It won't be any different if you get a brand new Mercedes
or the passionate lover of your dreams.

Ego always craves new goals, carrots, outrageous gifts,
the latest Apple device and bargaining chips.

Simply decide that all is well and euphorically sing.

You've been waiting forever for your own blessing.

[Contact Mel Gillies](#)



Position Changes And Other Events

April 2019

- James "Jimmy" Morani, city administrator for Columbia, Illinois, has been appointed Abingdon town manager.
- Dr. Tarron Richardson, city manager for DeSoto, Texas since 2011, has been appointed city manager for Charlottesville, effective May 13th.
- John Holpe, former Covington city manager and Tazewell town manager, among other local government leadership positions, passed away.
- Donald "Keith" Cook, former administrator for Stafford and Caroline Counties, and city manager for Bedford, passed away.
- Brenda Garton, retired county administrator and VLGMA/ICMA senior advisor, has been appointed interim city manager for Lexington effective May 1st.
- James Baker, Chesapeake city manager for the past 6 years, announced that he plans to retire in October.
- Billie Jo Lynch, Scott County administrator for 20 years, and the first female county administrator in Virginia, passed away.
- Jimmy Williams, assistant police chief for the town of Coeburn, has been appointed town manager there effective May 1st.
- Eric Pollitt, a management analyst for Fluvanna County since 2018, has been appointed Glasgow town manager.

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