



VLGMA July eNews

Supporting local government managers
building great communities through
inclusion, innovation and leadership

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A Memo from Randy

Dear VLGMA Family,

It is with great excitement and mild anxiety that I accept the reigns of the VLGMA Presidency from Steve Owen. Following Steve will be no easy task. Like you each month, I have looked forward to reading Steve's column and have found it both amusing and insightful. I will do my best to carry on

this tradition. As Steve observed in his last article, our organization is in the midst of an exciting, post-recessionary rebirth. Membership and conference attendance are trending in a very positive direction, our financial position is strong and we have just had two of the best conferences I ever remember in my almost two decades as a member of VLGMA. In short, we have weathered the storm and our foundation is strong. The credit for that is shared by the membership, the Executive Board, Officers and staff. Let's all take a moment and celebrate our successes to date, we have much to be proud of.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our new member - **Marilyn Cole, retired assistant county administrator, County of Chesterfield.**

As I look to the coming year, it is my hope to build upon the successes of the last year and extend the most powerful benefits of VLGMA to three groups of people in addition to seeking ways to be even more useful and relevant to our active members. Before I speak to the groups specifically, I'd like to take a few moments to expound upon what I think those benefits are which can be summarized simply as our people. Collectively we form a vast peer network of people who understand what local government managers do and the unique pressures and challenges that we all face. Also, in an era of increasing service expectations and constant innovation, we collectively serve as the local



Randy Wheeler

government laboratory of new ideas and practical lessons learned in Virginia. As a VLGMA member I rely on these unique membership benefits both personally and professionally.

The three groups that I particularly want to focus on in the coming year are inactive long-term members, the not yet active new members and non-members. The presence of the long-term inactive members is sorely missed. They represent a key missing component in our shared experience base. They have important contributions to make to our profession and I would very much like to re-engage them. The not yet active members, particularly CAO's, may in many instances be starting their first tour as a Manager. All of us that have moved from a DAO to CAO can attest that the view from the first chair is quite different and an active and supportive peer network can play a key role in their success. There will be plenty of hard days and it can be very comforting to have a support network of folks that have been there before outside of the organization to lean on. For the non-members they are either not familiar with us and the benefits that VLGMA offers, have limited resources that prevent them from participating or simply do not see how VLGMA and its members can play a vital role in their professional development and success. I need your help to change that. Honestly, I am less concerned about membership and conference attendance for the last two groups than I am about extending our support network to all members of our profession, whether or not they are members of VLGMA.

Here's what I have in mind and here's how you can help.

- 1) During the course of the next 90 days, it is my goal that one or more officers or Board members, including myself, will attend a scheduled managers meeting in each of the 23 planning districts. This will be particularly challenging in the 5 districts that do not hold regular meetings. We will need the help of each of the support coordinators to schedule the meeting. To be successful we need both the attendance of the VLGMA members and your help in encouraging non-members to attend. I promise this will not be a sales pitch but rather take the form of an honest, candid discussion of what can we do to better serve all the members of our profession. The take-aways from these district meetings will be the principal focus of our Board meetings over the next year.**
- 2) Maintain your active participation in district managers meetings, attend at least one conference next year and encourage and support that same level of participation by your DAO's (even if you yourself are not active).**
- 3) Reach out to new members, new managers, DAO's and especially Manager's In Transition.**
- 4) Strongly consider attending the ICMA Annual Conference in Boston.**

By now I am sure you have realized that I am neither as funny nor as witty as Steve. If you have any great Steve stories, that are suitable for print, I encourage you to send them my way and I'll try to incorporate them from time to time for comic relief. I really do appreciate the opportunity to serve as President this year. I hold this organization as I do each of you in the highest esteem. We stand together on the front line of American Democracy and that is a calling worth getting up in the morning for! God Bless.

--Randy

[Contact Randy Wheeler](#)

Tedd's Take



VLGMA Gets New Website

In keeping with the theme of introducing the new VLGMA website, here is my piece of the puzzle at: www.icma.org/vlgma

An area of high interest to all managers and administrators, deputies, and other staff is keeping up with their peers and other "happenings" around the state. You will find a year's worth of that information under the "Newsroom" tab, and clicking on "Position Changes and Other Events". The list is in reverse chronological order, with the newest items first.

The info included on that page is the result of our formal network made up of our support coordinators and range riders, as well as the informal network of VLGMA members who want to make sure important items impacting peers and the profession are made known to the association's membership in a timely manner. (I have maintained a master list of these events that dates back to 1999. Makes for some interesting reading!)

I request your help identifying topics for new/additional web pages. For example, the last couple of years I maintained a page of budget articles from newspapers and other sources around the state for the upcoming fiscal year. Lots of good info about what localities were dealing with, but no way to know if the effort to put it all together was worthwhile. Thoughts and suggestions would be appreciated!

Finally, as we shift away from our old website and to our new ICMA look and host, I'd like to say thank you to the all the VLGMA folks, past and present, who worked on our initial site. It served us well for many years.

A DAO in the Life

One role the DAO may have is to ensure that citizen engagement, transparency, performance and accountability goals are achieved through local government's website.



Joe Casey

Local government websites have seen many transformations over the past twenty years. Some examples that have evolved is interactive nature of engagement where citizens can conduct locality business, register for recreation programs, review public records, make on-line payments and many other quests to satisfy the citizen's information needs. As an organization, VLGMA has tried to utilize these to develop its website over the years for the benefit of its members. In July 2013, our newly available website has gone through one of the biggest transformations for the benefit of its members. As I was fortunate to serve on a VLGMA committee that helped establish this website, I would like to thank all those that have helped and thank others who have been patient. As a DAO trying to help my locality meet citizen goals, I also have that same spirit for the VLGMA website and meeting member goals.

[Contact Joe Casey](#)

Certificate News

As the heat of summer begins to bear down on Virginia, the intrepid Local

Government Management Certificate students are coming to the halfway point of their courses. The students in the different classes are covering topics that range from human resource policy to the Constitution of Virginia while



GovOffice/Avenet Web Solutions, the firm that designed and hosted the site, has been a reliable partner, and we appreciate their help creating our presence on the World Wide Web and keeping us there. We've come a long way, baby!

Contact Tedd Povar

Innovation Edge



New Alliance East Regional Director

Sallie Ann Burnett has

accepted the position as the East Regional Director with the Alliance for Innovation. Toni Shope, former East Regional Director has transitioned into a new role with the Alliance as the Strategic Initiatives Director. Sallie Ann will have direct responsibility for a wide variety of member services with our approximately 100 local government members in the East. She will assist member organizations with Knowledge Network research as well as make regular site visits to existing and potential new members, host regional workshops, learning events and develop partnerships with local government affiliates at the state and local level. Sallie Ann brings 15 years of successful experience with ICMA, working with city and county managers in the southeast portion of the US, coordinating special events at the ICMA conference and managing logistics for ICMA regional summits. The Alliance Board of Directors and staff are pleased that Sallie Ann is joining us to serve in this important position as the East Regional Director. She will begin her employment with the Alliance on August 5, 2013.

Visit the [Alliance for Innovation](#) for more information.

2013 SEI Alumni Program

looking out their windows at the beautiful summer scenery. Their hard work, however, will surely pay off.

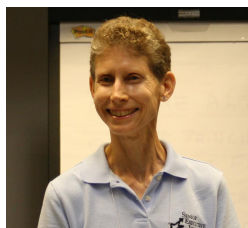
Moreover, the students this summer will have an extra bonus. Dr. John Nalbandian will be returning to Virginia. Nalbandian is a world-class public administration scholar from the University of Kansas who specializes in local government, and he is now a Courtesy Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech in the Certificate program. At the end of the month, Nalbandian will guest lecture two of the Certificate courses in addition to meeting with and consulting students, professors, and alumni. His visits are always exciting and help to make the Certificate program an even better incubator for the next generation of local government leaders in Virginia.

In addition to preparing for Dr. Nalbandian's visit, Bob Stripling is still actively recruiting students for the Certificate program. Even though he will be cruising through Eastern Europe in the next couple weeks, Bob is always willing to receive inquiries about the program. He can be contacted at chars08@vt.edu or 540-448-1102.

Find the Certificate online:



Mel's Poetry Corner



Mel Gillies

Remind Me
When I feel bummed out,
discouraged, lonely, to my divine Pilot,
I plea, remind me of eternity.
Remind me I am always free.
Remind me to live fearlessly.

Remind me to lighten up.
No one wants to be around a grump.
Remind me I need not be



**Senior
Executive
Institute**

Register for the 2013 SEI Alumni Program.

August 5-8, 2013 is the date of the expanded SEI Alumni Program. In addition to being more like the much loved SEI program, the SEI Alumni program qualifies for ICMA credentialing credits. **The schedule and registration forms are online.**

[Click here for more info.](#)

Calendar

Upcoming Events

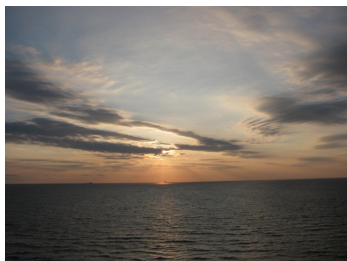


[DAO Meeting](#) - October 25, 2013

[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](#).



stuck in habitual thinking.

Remind me my eyes deceive.

I see only what I first believe.

Remind me the past and future are only
imaginary.

Now is the only reality.

Remind me my best decisions arise
when I am silent and listen inside.

Remind me to be present and mindful
instead of responding to emails
in my head.

Remind me every challenge is an
opportunity

to explore new depths of being.

Remind me all things are possible
for I have a divine purpose to fulfill.

Remind me that it is my willingness to
be vulnerable

that lets me be most powerful.

Remind me that my leadership equation
must always include
humor, humility, passion, and gratitude.

Remind me this body is not who I am.

I just pretend.

Remind me Heaven is inside of me.

I can go there whenever I please.

Remind me of a sweet embrace.

Remind me of a stranger's smiling face.

Remind me that it is my trust
that unites us.

Remind me that a Lighthouse always
shines

for truth and courage and love glow
inside.

Remind me that my purpose is to be
the Light that uplifts all those around
me.

My little gift to you all today -
remember you are magnificent in
every way.

Namaste.

Quick Links

[VLGMA Website](#)

[ICMA Website](#)

[Alliance for Innovation](#)

[Virginia Municipal League](#)

[VA Association of Counties](#)

[Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service](#)

[Website Contact](#)



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