



VLGMA March eNews

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

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Randy's Ramblings



Randy Wheeler

Randy's Ramblings

Reflections on a Journey 2/3's Done

Odd title I know. At our recent winter meeting I had an impromptu opportunity to share some reflections on my year so far as President, and more importantly on VLGMA's year to date which in both cases are 2/3's done. By any account the past eight months have been good ones for our organization. Membership is up significantly, the Winter Conference itself was one of the best I can recall in my 20 plus years as a VLGMA member, and the number of members actively engaged in the work of the organization appears to be at an all time high.

As you know, one of my most important goals for the year was to visit the managers in every planning district within the State. The officers and I have been able to attend meetings in almost every area of the State and together we have accepted every invitation that has been extended. We would be grateful to have the opportunity to attend meetings in the few remaining areas should an invitation be forthcoming (hint-hint).

During the course of our travels we have gotten a lot of valuable feedback which we have already put to good use. If you did have the opportunity to attend the Winter Conference you noticed the return of concurrent sessions, a balance of practical and more theoretical programs, and sessions for new professionals and senior managers. In short we listened to your feedback and tried hard to incorporate it. We also listened closely to the feedback we received regarding conference logistics, time management and organization. In all of these areas we made progress and we are soliciting even more feedback on how we can fine tune further our efforts to provide maximum value to you. These are but a few of the

many changes we have made in response to your feedback and suggestions. Thank you for your comments. Please know that we are listening and are 100% committed to doing the best job we possibly can on your behalf. I look forward to seeing you at Virginia Beach! I would also like to welcome our newest member Mark Lauzier, Page County Administrator.

Welcome to the family!

--Randy

[Contact Randy Wheeler](#)

Tedd's Take

Announcing this year's EBIS AWARDS!!



Tedd Povar

Given that this is Oscar season, it seems only right that we also announce the much more important (but less monetarily impactful) EBIS Awards!

For those new to Virginia, EBIS stands for Email Broadcast Information Service, a function of the VA Institute of Government. Simply put, it is a very simple but effective system for a local government to ask a question thru the Institute and get responses from fellow localities across the state. Given that this "network" is totally dependent on the cooperation of local government staff, we take a moment each year to recognize localities that have been solid contributors of responses over the past year and beyond. We make a special effort to spotlight localities that have not been commended in the past, but are certainly deserving.

There are two types of awards - Special Merit - for localities and individuals who have been truly extraordinary over many years, and the Top Ten, which focuses on consistent respondents, particularly those who may have not received an award in the past. Each receives an attractive plaque. So here goes!!!! (drum roll...)

SPECIAL MERIT AWARDS:

Individuals	Localities
R. David Laurell, administrator - Campbell County	City of Staunton
John McCarthy, administrator - Rappahannock County	Stafford County
Charles Hartgrove & Josh Farrar - manager and assistant manager - Town of Ashland	Town of Purcellville

TOP TEN AWARDS:
Town of Blacksburg
Town of South Boston
City of Fairfax
City of Fredericksburg

TOP TEN AWARDS:
Clarke County
Powhatan County
Rockbridge County
Shenandoah County

Congratulations, and a hearty thank you to all our respondent communities. EBIS is a team effort, and we've got a great one here in Virginia!

[Contact Tedd Povar](#)

Innovation Edge



At last week's VLGMA Winter Conference, I was inspired and uplifted to hear the accounts and stories from Virginia's local government leaders. Being in service to local government can at times seem like a thankless job, however, the rewards far outweigh the challenges for those that I heard speak last week. Moments of reflection and words of wisdom can go a long way in helping meet challenges. In that regard, please take a moment to read some of the essays found on the Alliance's [website](#). Click on Essays on the Value of Public Service (lower right) and be inspired!

As your regional director, I encourage you to reach out to me at saburnett@transformgov.org, or 800-777-2509 with any questions.

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

VLGMA Virginia Local Government News Group

February took us into budget season with lots of news coverage of local budget issues, particularly from schools. Development issues, legislative impacts and - no surprise - snow removal also featured prominently in news coverage. Our number of posters fell, though, so we need more players in the game. Join the group and post the links you see from your area as the news relates to local government.

Putting points on the board this month for the Virginia Local Government News group on Facebook:



A DAO in the Life

The concept of regionalism in local government service delivery takes vastly different forms across Virginia, and no two of my work experiences have been similar. In Southside, cooperative agreements between cities and counties were essential to cost-effectively provide services in the sparsely populated, highly fiscal-stressed region.

In the northern Piedmont and Valley, inter-governmental relationships were more guarded, and the regional arguments for cooperation were less compelling.

Hampton Roads cities have a mixture of wealth, resources and density, and also have an abundance of seemingly odd placements for contiguous boundaries driving the need for cooperative agreements. (E.g.: car dealerships in the "Churchland" area with show rooms and front lots in Chesapeake, service bays in Portsmouth, and a mere VDOT right-of-way separating them from Suffolk).

So what; viva la difference! What does this have to do with a day in the life of a DAO? It is this: deputies, others and assistants are essential to the locality's representation at all of these regional meetings. The governance structure for most regional boards allows alternates for the Manager/Administrator, and that's a good thing. Urban or rural, there is simply no

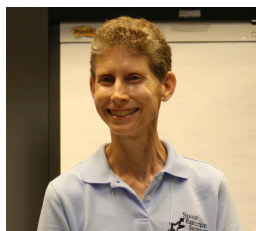


Brannon
Godfrey

Name	Articles Posted
Mary Jo Fields	42
Matt Hankins	36
Judson Rex	4
Reid Wodicka	2

The Communications & Networking Committee encourages you to join in and post news relevant to local government from your area. We can all learn from what our colleagues are experiencing in other areas, and ask for your help in posting content to enrich our knowledge base. Look for the Virginia Local Government News group on Facebook. This group is only open to VLGMA members, and is closed to protect the content. For instructions on how to join, contact [Molly Harlow](#).

Mel's Poetry Corner



Mel Gillies

Caterpillar Courage

My caterpillar friend is off on a retreat.
She is tired of walking on so many confused feet.

She told me it was time to leave all her fears, beliefs, judgments, and expectations behind
and in the empty silence of her soul, let go.

She is very brave indeed to surrender her identity.
The awakening Light can only mean the end of her caterpillar dream.

[Contact Mel Gillies](#)

Calendar

Upcoming Events

VLGMA Summer Conference - June 18-20, 2014 at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel - look for registration materials in April

way the CAO can "cover" all the meetings - as if mere attendance was only necessary.

DAOs provide meeting prep, ensure the City Council rep is briefed on the agenda, and debriefs the management team and Council as to the actions of the body after the meeting. In some cases, the DAO actually votes for the locality. DAOs must, as City Manager John Rowe frequently coaches our management team, "be nimble."

[Contact Brannon Godfrey](#)

Certificate News

While it may not feel like spring, the Certificate students are certainly getting ready for spring



break. The traditional half-way point of the semester is usually preceded by midterm assignments and lots of reading just to ensure that students are grateful for the week off. Our students have been working hard, and this break will be a small reward to help push them to the end.

Spring break also signals the time when preparations for the next semester go into full swing. Continuing its recent growth, the Certificate program is proud to welcome another new faculty member. Brenda Garton, Gloucester County Administrator, has happily signed on to teach the human resource and financial management course this summer. Brenda is very excited to be teaching in the program, and speaking of her fellow faculty members, she said that she "feels honored to be in such wonderful company." Brenda is now the 13th faculty member in the Certificate program, and she will surely make the number lucky for our students.

The beginning of spring is a great time to think about future growth and opportunities. The Certificate program will continue to flower only with

[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](#).

talented students. To help with that effort, Bob Stripling will be recruiting in Danville on March 7, Fairfax County on March 18 and Alexandria on March 19. If you are interested in the program or having him visit, he can be reached at chars08@vt.edu or 540-448-1102.

Find the Certificate online:



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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