



VLGMA November 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

VLGMA: Life is Good!

For those of you that were able to attend the ICMA Annual Conference in Boston, I'm sure that you would agree that this year's conference was one of the very best. I enjoyed my time in Boston and learned a great deal that I hope to put to use on VLGMA's behalf as a participant on next year's ICMA conference planning committee and more importantly incorporate into my leadership tool box here at home. When I think back on all of the various take-aways from the conference, the one that makes me smile, the one that makes me think and the one that inspires me the most was the Celebration of Service Keynote Speaker John Jacobs. For those of you that might

not be familiar with John, he is the co-founder of the Life is Good Company.

John's message which can be boiled down to the power of optimism in all facets of life including leadership, business, and community building, all of which have a direct application for us as public sector leaders. We have the power to inspire, the ability to lead and an opportunity every day to make a positive difference in the lives of the people we work for, work with and serve. I was also reminded of the importance of living and actively displaying your core values termed "superpowers" in your organization, the transformational effect of a simple, powerful organizational mission and the unifying power of hope. John's talk reminded me of what attracted me to this business in the first place. While I had certainly not forgotten it, it is sometimes very easy to allow the troubles and stresses of the day to overshadow or at least compete with these higher principles and aspirations.

To channel John one more time, the Glass is Indeed Half Full. As we approach the holiday season and particularly Thanksgiving I would challenge each of you and myself to renew our sense of optimism and to wear it like a beacon for all to see. As community leaders we have a very important role to play and we are indeed fortunate that we are afforded the chance to do it and for that I am very thankful.

I would also like to welcome our newest members Ashton Harrison, Bath County Administrator and Nita Mensia-Joseph, Portsmouth Deputy City Manager.

Welcome to the family!

--Randy

[Contact Randy Wheeler](#)

Tedd's Take



Regional v. State Orientation

It seems to me that the state's localities are becoming more regionally oriented, and that participation and interest in statewide matters is of less concern.

If the above has merit, the old story

A DAO in the Life

As a new member of VLGMA, I was surprised to be asked to submit an article for its newsletter. I was somewhat perplexed regarding a



Steven Lynch

that Virginia is, or wants to be, five different states may be more fact than fiction. The northern Virginia localities are intensely focused on the Washington metro area, the Tidewater cities and counties concentrate primarily on their particular issues, and the same can be said of the Valley, Southwest, and Southern Virginia. While it may vary by degrees and by issue, one gets the sense that the region is primary, and the state has become, more or less, secondary.

The implications are serious when it comes to major state policy decisions in such areas as transportation and education. Instead of the local v. state traditional battles for funding and control, there may be a growing focus on regions as they compete on matters of who gets what.

It is important for our statewide organizations to keep localities focused on the bigger picture, not just the regional or local. VML, VACo, and VLGMA are all critical to maintaining the "us" among local governments, and minimizing the "us v. them" that could develop as we continue to work in an environment dominated by limited resources and growing demand.

I'd be interested to hear from you as to whether this is a shared concern, and if so, the need/ways to address it.

[Contact Tedd Povar](#)

[Innovation Edge](#)

The Alliance for Innovation is very

topic.

It occurred to me to draw upon a recent change in my work environment and take this opportunity to possibly enlighten someone or at a minimum cause you to hopefully pause for thought.

I was recently appointed the Assistant Director of the City's Department of Social Services. My prior experience with the agency included only general discussions and yes, sometime idle gossip. During my short tenure, I've come to realize that the work of this department is grossly misunderstood and misrepresented. As I have experienced, and possibly like many of you, when Social Service and/or Human Service Departments are referenced, the words "welfare" and/or "food stamps" is associated, generally with a negative connotation.

My impressions and now factual understanding allows me to recognize and appreciate the work performed by these workers is essential to shaping, focusing and prolonging the lives of many of our citizens. Often the circumstances or situations the clients of the department are experiencing are not of their choosing or making. I provide this experience as an example. During the absence of the Director, I was called upon to confer with a doctor to concur and approve a medical procedure for an innocent infant, who without this



excited to offer a new workshop on "Design Thinking: Taking Community Engagement to the

Next Level in Partnership with Zelos". You will learn and practice the five concepts of design thinking: empathy, define, ideate, prototype and test. It promises to be engaging and fun!

The 3-hour workshop, which is affordably priced at \$99 for Alliance members and \$149 for non-members, will be held on November 15 and hosted by Chesterfield County. Register soon; seats are limited. Click [here](#) for more information.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please reach out to me at saburnett@transformgov.org, or 800-777-2509.

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

VLGMA Members in the News

Influential city manager Hendrix to receive McIntire citizenship award

The Kansas native whose name is inseparable from the local landmarks and organizations he



Cole Hendrix

medical attention would likely not survive to see the next day. How many of us upon leaving work for the day can state, "But for my decision, a life would have been lost". Please don't look upon my perception of this event as arrogance or boastfulness, rather appreciate the blessing of the moment to be placed in this position to facilitate the work of one who is greater than us all.

I have witnessed or been exposed to a plethora of events such as this that I would communicate if the opportunity permitted; however, I will exercise brevity. Upon your next occasion of discussion, I request you pause and think before speaking about the work performed in that building identified by the words "Social Services". I challenge you to enter the building or engage a worker one of these professionals so you may experience the true life changing events facilitated by these departments. In closing I leave you with this verse from the greatest book ever composed, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

[Contact Steven Lynch](#)

Certificate News

November is an interesting time in the Certificate program. The students have just finished a number of midterm



helped create is being honored for his impact across Central Virginia.

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 14 will award former Charlottesville City Manager Cole Hendrix with the organization's 2013 Paul Goodloe McIntire citizenship award.

Hendrix will receive the award at the chamber's 100th annual dinner at the Boar's Head Inn Pavilion.

Hendrix, 79, spent 25 years at the city's helm during the creation of the Downtown Mall, the construction and funding of the Omni Charlottesville Hotel and the creation of the Rivanna Water and Sewer and Rivanna Solid Waste authorities.

Hendrix, along with city councilors, endured criticism over those projects, but all have stood time's test, chamber officials said.

He also was a pivotal figure in creating the revenue-sharing agreement between the city and Albemarle County and a cooperative agreement between the city, county and University of Virginia. "I'm honored," Hendrix said. "I don't know as though I'm responsible for all of that. I do know that we had exceptional city councils and that a lot of things were accomplished. We also caught a lot of flak."

Hendrix served as interim town manager in Gordonsville and Orange, interim manager of both Rivanna

assignments, and the end of the semester is coming into view.

Unfortunately, before they can relax for the holiday season, there is still much work to be done. For most, November can emphasize the feeling of the semester being one long slog through never-ending work.

Luckily, our students have been given many opportunities to stretch their academic legs in the form of guest speakers. While the professors in the program are phenomenal, the guest speakers allow the students to get an even broader perspective on the world. The students in the Economic Development and Planning course, for example, have had speakers from all over the Commonwealth from all sizes of communities. The guest speakers have included Certificate alumnus Matt Hanratty from Blacksburg, Rick Goff, Director of Economic Development in Falls Church, Catherine Riley, Vice President of Marketing for the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, and Christopher Morello, Administrator of Project Development in Newport News. From the largest locality to the smallest, all of these speakers have helped to give the Certificate students an excellent, real-world perspective on economic development in Virginia.

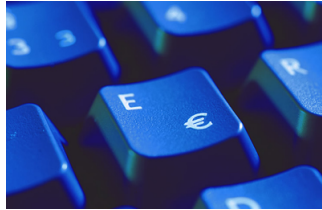
Our current students, however, should not be having all of the fun.

authorities, associate vice president for community relations at the UVA Health Sciences Center , chairman of the Charlottesville Regional Airport Board of Directors and more.

[Contact Cole Hendrix](#)

VLGMA Facebook Update

Must have been the great fall weather that slowed down the VLGMA Local Government News



Group postings this month. Eight posters contributed 131 news articles of interest to local government professionals, dealing with changes in boards and personnel, lawsuit settlements in Southwest Virginia, the impact of the state fair and more.

The month's posters:

Bill Rolfe	46
Matt Hankins	43
Mary Jo Fields	32
Tom Harris	5
Judson Rex	2
Mark Flynn	1
Charles Hargrove	1
Reid Wodicka	1

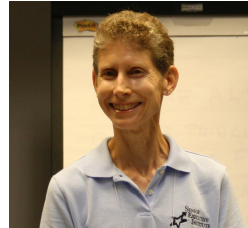
As always, we invite you to help out by joining the group and posting news of interest in your communities so we can all learn from the good and bad going on around the Commonwealth. To join, look for the group name on Facebook or email Molly Harlow for assistance.

There is still some time to apply for the spring semester. Bob Stripling, when he is not guest lecturing, is always willing to talk about the program and to find new students. He can be reached at chars08@vt.edu or 540-448-1102.

Find the Certificate online:



Mel's Poetry Corner



Mel Gillies

The Fruit of Gratitude
A pumpkin can grow to an enormous size like our heart, when gratitude presides and displaying such admirable versatility can become a lantern of glowing artistry.

Gratitude is truly miraculous yeast transforming life into a perpetual Thanksgiving feast.

[Contact Mel Gillies](#)

[Calendar](#)

Upcoming Events

VLGMA Winter Conference - February 19-21, 2014 at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville

[More Dates](#)

[2014 ICMA Regional Summit](#)

[2014 ICMA Regional Summit Dates and](#)

Thanks,
Matt Hankins
[Contact Matt Hankins](#)

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](#).



Locations:
Mark your calendars now for the 2014 ICMA Regional Summit in your region. The dates and locations have been set. Information on hotels and registration for these professional development, networking, and ICMA informational events will become available in the fall.

- **Southeast: March 6-7 (YPLI* March 5-6) - Williamsburg, Virginia**
- **Midwest: March 20-21 (YPLI* March 19-20) - Iowa City, Iowa**
- **Northeast: April 3-4 (YPLI* April 2-3) - Princeton, New Jersey**
- **Mountain Plains: May 1-2 (YPLI* April 30-May 1) - Grapevine, Texas**
- **West Coast: May 8-9 (YPLI* May 7-8) - San Jose, California**

*Young Professionals Leadership Institute.

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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