

In This Issue

Beachside with Becky

Position Changes

Tedd's Take

Certificate News

A DAO in the Life

The October DAO and Southwest Regional Summit

Civic Engagement Best Practices - Emporia's Brian Thrower

Mel's Poetry Corner

ICMA News

Innovation Edge

Calendar

Beachside with Becky



Becky Dickson

Confidence is preparation. Everything else is beyond your control.Richard Kline

Ok, admittedly from time to time over the course of my life, I have been called a "control freak". Actually more times than not! I am assuming some of you might fit that bill too.

Gosh, there have actually been times in my life, long stretches of time, years in fact, when I thought I was in control....OF EVERYTHING.

But with experience, age, and life, I realize what an illusion the word "control" is. And how dangerous it can become if we get too "high" on thinking we have it.

Now preparation is another thing all together-I like preparation because I can "control" it. And I am one prepared person. Admittedly, in our roles, you can't prepare for everything but when I can, I do! Notes, dry runs, facts/figures, chronologies, histories....I love it all. And preparation works. Nothing can take its place. While there are times you think you prepared too much, and no one asked you one question so you could show how prepared you were, it's never wasted time. I always learn something new about a county issue when I really prepare. My institutional knowledge grows.

When I am prepared, I am confident. I assert that managers/administrators must be confident. Everyone- your staff, citizens, your Boards/councils need you to be confident. Now that doesn't mean that I can confidently predict what the outcome on an issue might be (gave up predicting that a long time ago), but that's not my role anyway. Preparation is our role and confidence comes from it. If we are prepared, we can be confident in our delivery of information to our Boards/Councils. We know that they are getting the best information they can get. Now the decision they make.....well, that's out of our control...

Welcome to our new member Danny Wilson, Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority Executive Director.

Signing off, control-less,

Becky

[Contact Becky Dickson](#)

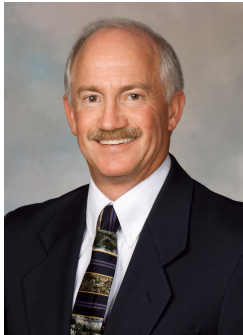
Position Changes

October, 2015

- Richard "Pete" Peters, Jr. , parks, recreation and tourism director for Botetourt County, has been appointed assistant manager/ economic development director for the town of Vinton.



Tedd's Take



Tedd Povar

What's Wrong with this Picture??

Recent articles have addressed the battle over Artic region resources, primarily between Russia and the United States. The primary focus is the need for icebreaking capacity, and that Russia has 10 heavy icebreakers while the US only has three - one operational, one in dry-dock, and one that sits idle and is being cannibalized to keep the other two operational. Of the two that can be operational, only one is considered capable of breaking "heavy" ice.

The same articles state that in order to build one (1) additional heavy icebreaker, the Coast Guard will need an additional \$1 billion added to their \$10 billion budget, and it will take 10 years to build. Both numbers knocked me for a loop!

10 years Really??????

\$1 Billion Really????

One major cost escalator is that any ship built for the US military, by law, must be built in the United States. Well, we know that this country has lost virtually all of its shipbuilding capacity, so competition, and the cost savings that can result, is virtually non-existent. In addition, the constant meddling and change-orders by the military after a contract is signed drives costs through the roof and delays

delivery by years.

How "top secret" can an icebreaker be? Why not allow the shipyards of our strongest allies like Germany, Finland, Japan, France, and Italy to compete for the project? They all have sophisticated shipbuilding capacity. If you want to equip one or two with super secret gear, ok, build those ships here.

The Artic is important for many reasons - militarily, natural resources, and commerce, to name a few. We need not cede control to the Russians just because we aren't capable of expeditiously building icebreakers.

[Contact Tedd Povar](#)

Certificate News

The Certificate students and instructors are working hard during the crunch time of courses. Students have been working through a variety of case studies, readings, and other challenging items to learn more and grow in their careers in local government. The Certificate program continues to seek out new opportunities for faculty and students including the Alliance for Innovation University Affiliate status. Faculty and students will be attending orientation training during the month of November to explore the resources available through the Alliance.

Over forty interested students attended information sessions in Danville, Lynchburg, and Stafford in October. We are excited about our new enrollments for the Spring semester.

Information sessions will be conducted during the month of November. On November 9th, 2015, Certificate staff will be with MPA faculty at the Richmond Center to discuss the certificate program and the masters of public administration degree offered by Virginia Tech. The session will begin at 5:30 at the Richmond Center on Parham Road.

Certificate staff will visit Fairfax County on November 5th, 2015 from 1-2 in room 232 for an information session. Finally, we will visit the City of Staunton on November 18th from 1-2 in the Council Chambers for an information session.

Did you know the Certificate is on Facebook? Like THE Certificate for program information and news from around the State! As always, if you or anyone else is interested in the Certificate program, contact Stephanie Davis at sddavis@vt.edu or 804-980-5549.



A DAO in the Life

A DAO in the Broadband life

Where is my residential service? Why can't my home business connect to the internet? Why am I paying Company X \$200/month for spotty internet service?

Sometimes it is once a month, sometimes four times a day, we as DAO's receive phone calls from those citizens without internet service. Internet access in any form is just as important as access to water and sewer. Just ask the rural



Jeff Stoke

home business on well and septic who needs to be connected to make money. Everyone, even our boards, agree it is an issue, but where to start. Broadband expansion in your community is going to be a long process. So let's begin.

The standard action plan includes a committee, a study, a capital project request, a wireless broadband architect to actually design a system / business model, and then finally construction. Without getting into the details of years of collaboration and discussion, I wish to impress upon you one thought.....internet service does cross municipal boundaries. The more we as DAO's reach out to our co-workers in other jurisdictions, the better we serve our citizens. I have

recently been reminded that just placing a few phone calls around the region gave me good answers to difficult decisions.

Our main focus is access for children in their home for school related items.

Think about it: You can load money on their lunch account, access their grades/test scores, access/research/email their homework, print out the lunch calendar for the month, and exchange PTA ideas all from the comfort of your home - unless, of course, you don't have internet access when it rains (Company Y).

The citizens will continue to ask their questions to us. We should be asking our own questions: Can ISP's provide service on municipal towers across multiple municipal boundaries? Do we cover more rural, underserved areas by partnering with our neighbors? How does my project go from a "county" project to part of a larger regional wireless broadband network? Let's cover the state with internet access.

In order to get your citizens connected, stay connected with other DAO's - they are a great resource.

[Contact Jeff Stoke](#)

The October DAO and Southwest Regional Summit



Successful DAO Meeting in Abingdon, VA 10-15-15 Picture by Sherri Neil, Portsmouth Intergovernmental Affairs Director

The October DAO and Southwest Regional Summit Traveling to Abingdon... A Success!

October found 35 participants at the historic Martha Washington Inn in Abingdon, enjoying a beautiful venue, town and weather. Morning sessions covered excellent topics on community engagement.....a college program that is

researching and developing lessons plans to serve as a template for high schools as well as two active locality's high school service programs. The afternoon ended with a critical but sobering discussion on the importance of community resiliency

to survive and recover from severe weather events. The Town of Abingdon and VLGMA appreciates the event support from several businesses, see website posted agenda for details [here](#).

Many thanks to the Town of Abingdon for hosting us at a well organized event that included the above learning opportunities, great networking, two receptions at the Inn and Heartwood, good music, exploring the creeper trail, and two Barter theatre productions.

Thanks to Vivian Calkins-McGettigan and her team as our next stop is York County in April 2016! Stay tuned for details.

Civic Engagement Best Practices - Pearisburg's Ken Vittum



Ken Vittum

CLOVERBUDS TAKE OVER TOWN HALL

For the past three years Town Hall has been taken over by the 4-H Cloverbuds for part of a day. Since these are 5-8 year olds, the initial panic about how to hold their attention for three hours and explain the inner workings of local



Pearisburg Cloverbuds

government to citizens this young was pretty strong the first year. Sure, we could look at a police car and crawl over a backhoe, but could we explain what a Mayor and council did? After the third year the project has become something the town looks forward to each year.

Imagine a dozen little ones sitting in a row waiting to hear a talk on running a town government. They are doers, not listeners. Their attention wanders after three minutes. First, we elect one as the Mayor by popular vote. The eyes grow big when the six year old girl gets to climb the riser and sit in the big chair with the Mayor's nameplate. We talk a bit about what a Mayor does and how to run a meeting. Next, we elect six council members who get to sit in the big chairs. Soon the manager's chair and the Town Attorney's seat are filled and discussed.

"Citizens" then address the council about expending very limited funds (enough to buy chocolate or to buy vanilla ice cream). Each advocate tries to sway the council. Then comes the crucial vote with the Attorney making sure discussion is public. Once council makes a decision, we all enjoy the ice cream before touring the police car and backhoe. Making government understandable starts with knowing your audience.

[Contact Ken Vittum](#)

Mel's Poetry Corner

Divine Inspiration

Our Creator loves to collaborate
and with us to co-create.



Mel Gillies

Thought-seeds grow
when cultivated by our interactive duo.

Creativity takes the courage to throw
all assumptions away
and to listen for the messages Truth conveys.
Nothing is as it appears to be.
Spirit is limitless possibility.

Inspiration dances through all of consciousness
and blossoms when expressed through us.
The fruit of this labor is a fulfilling one
for it is blessed with the yeast of love.

Humanity awakens in the awareness
that divine inspiration can heal every grievance.
Let now be a moment to invite
the creative energy of Light.

[Contact Mel Gillies](#)

ICMA News



Texas City Managers Association's On-line Ethics Training Course (not generally state specific so good for most folks)

<http://tcma.org/tcma-online-ethics-course/>

ICMA Launches Nationwide Coaching Program

It was great seeing many leaders of State Associations at the special announcement of the ICMA Coaching Program during the Seattle Conference. With the strong support of 15 ICMA State Association Coaching Partners, the current coaching program is already reaching thousands of local government professionals.

As a result of new sponsorship from ICMA-RC, the Coaching Program is going nationwide January 1, 2016, with reduced fees for state association partners. ICMA encourages every State Association to become a Coaching Partner. Watch ICMA President Pat Martel describe the value on the ICMA Coaching Program YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/FZBXHDhhjzY>

You can find more details about the many benefits at www.ICMA.org/coaching

Innovation Edge

Alliance Ambassadors are a life line to their organization and to the Alliance. It is

their engagement and commitment to building a culture of innovation that keeps the collaboration in their organization and across the membership strong. As part of the Alliance's mission to inspire innovation to advance communities, we seek to connect thought-leaders. Check out the first in this series, Ambassador Connect, which features Pam Weir from Sierra Vista, Arizona. Ambassadors serve as the innovative champions in local government, helping forge a deeper connection between their community and local government. With Ambassadors, organizations are one step ahead to building and embedding cultures of innovation in their organization. Read more [here](#). If you'd like to nominate an Ambassador for this series, please ask them to be in touch with me.



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 with the help of our partners International City/County Management Association and Arizona State University. 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

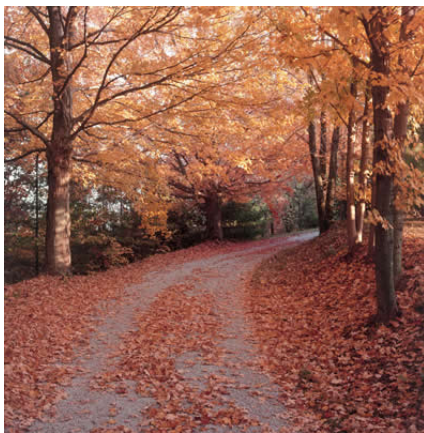
Calendar

Upcoming Events

Winter Conference - February 17-19, 2016 at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville - registration materials coming soon!

[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](#).

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](#)



[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to mjh3a@virginia.edu by mjh3a@virginia.edu | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Try it FREE today.

VLGMA | P.O. Box 400206 | Charlottesville | VA | 22904