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With our attention to the details.

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Get to know us by contacting:

Gregory Jordan  
Global Corporate Trust  
804.402.5365  
gregory.jordan@usbank.com

Bobbi Michalowski  
Government Banking  
757.773.3866  
roberta.michalowski@usbank.com

usbank.com

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# Table of Contents

The Omni Richmond Hotel Floor Plan ................................................................. 2  
Fall Conference Schedule ................................................................................. 3  
VGFOA Executive Board 2020-2021 ................................................................. 6  
List of VGFOA Past Presidents ......................................................................... 7  
List of CPFO’s .................................................................................................... 9  
List of VGFOA and Radford University GNAC Certificate Recipients ............ 10  

## Conference Sessions

- Digital Etiquette - Tools and Tricks ............................................................... 15  
- Performance Measures .................................................................................. 16  
- Tourism 101 & Impacts to Locality ............................................................... 17  
- Fraud Prevention in a COVID World ............................................................. 18  
- Keynote Session: Leading with Shoes ......................................................... 19  
- Picking a New Governor, Setting a New Course? A Virginia Race with National Implications .......................................................... 20  
- They Are Not Your Friends…Working With Elected Officials .................... 21  
- New GFOA Budget Award Criteria ............................................................. 22  
- Digital Transformation .................................................................................. 23  
- Creating a Foundation for Investing Public Funds ....................................... 24  
- Virginia CPA Ethics: 2021 Required Course (Separate fee of $65) ............ 25  
- Employment, Unemployment and Recruitment Challenges ....................... 26  
- GFOA Legislative Update ............................................................................ 27  
- Considering Your Values in a Changing World .......................................... 28  

## Fall Conference Sponsors

- ......................................................................................................................... 29  

## Fall Conference Exhibitors

- ......................................................................................................................... 36
# VGFOA 2021 Fall Conference Schedule

## Wednesday, September 15th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Registration Open</strong></td>
<td>Top of Grand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm – 1:50pm</td>
<td><strong>Digital Etiquette - Tools and Tricks</strong></td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Andrew Spence, Stafford County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm – 2:50pm</td>
<td><strong>Performance Measures</strong></td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Megan Cox, Loudoun County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:50pm – 3:05pm</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>James River Ballroom Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:05pm – 3:55pm</td>
<td><strong>Tourism 101 &amp; Impacts to Locality</strong></td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Lisa Meriwether, City of Lynchburg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm – 4:50pm</td>
<td><strong>Fraud Prevention in a COVID World</strong></td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Chris Banta, Brown Edwards &amp; Company, LLP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Reception</strong></td>
<td>Foyer, Potomac Pre-Function, Top of Grand</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Thursday, September 16th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am – 4:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Registration Open</strong></td>
<td>Top of Grand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15am – 8:00am</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am – 9:45am</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of Flag</strong></td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- VCU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45am – 10:00am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Session: Leading with Shoes</strong></td>
<td>James River Ballroom Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Baraka Kasongo, Volatia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Welcome from City of Richmond</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mayor Levar Stoney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thursday, September 16th Continued...

10:00am – 10:50am  
**Picking a New Governor, Setting a New Course? A Virginia Race with National Implications**  
- Jeff Schapiro, Richmond Times-Dispatch  
James River Salon C/D

11:00am – 11:50am  
**They Are Not Your Friends...Working With Elected Officials**  
- Bonnie Svrcek, Retired City Manager  
James River Salon C/D

12:15pm – 1:45pm  
**Lunch, Awards & Business Meeting**  
James River Salon C/D

Concurrent Sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker/Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2:00pm – 3:15pm | James River C/D | **New GFOA Budget Award Criteria**  
- Chris Bullock, ClearGov |
| 2:00pm – 3:15pm | Potomac G       | **Digital Transformation**  
- Linda Ginty, Wells Fargo Bank, NA |
| 2:00pm – 3:15pm | Potomac E/F     | **Creating a Foundation for Investing Public Funds**  
- James Sanderson, Davenport & Company, LLC |

3:15pm – 3:30pm  
**Break**  
James River Ballroom Foyer

Concurrent Sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker/Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3:30pm – 4:45pm | Potomac E/F     | **Focus Group "New to Career"**  
- VGFOA Board |
| 3:30pm – 4:45pm | James River C/D | **Focus Group "Mid-Career"**  
- VGFOA Board |
| 3:30pm – 4:45pm | Potomac G       | **Focus Group "Nearing the Finish Line"**  
- VGFOA Board |

6:00pm – 7:00pm  
**Reception – Vendor Prizes**  
Foyer, Potomac Pre-Function, Top of Grand
### Friday, September 17th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am – 10:00am</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
<td>Top of Grand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15am – 8:00am</td>
<td>Past President’s Breakfast</td>
<td>Potomac G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15am – 8:00am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concurrent Sessions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am – 10:15am</td>
<td>Virginia CPA Ethics: 2021 Required Course (Separate $65 Fee)</td>
<td>Potomac E/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am – 9:20am</td>
<td>Employment, Unemployment and Recruitment Challenges</td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am – 10:20am</td>
<td>GFOA Legislative Update</td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20am – 10:35am</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>James River Ballroom Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:35am – 12:15pm</td>
<td>Considering Your Values in a Changing World</td>
<td>James River Salon C/D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Schedule:

- **8:00am – 10:00am**: Registration Open (Top of Grand)
- **7:15am – 8:00am**: Past President’s Breakfast (Potomac G)
- **7:15am – 8:00am**: Breakfast (James River Salon C/D)

**Concurrent Sessions**:

- **8:30am – 10:15am**: Virginia CPA Ethics: 2021 Required Course (Separate $65 Fee)
  - Krista Edoff, Cherry Bekaert, LLP
- **8:30am – 9:20am**: Employment, Unemployment and Recruitment Challenges
  - Tim Saunders, Virginia Career Works Central Region

- **9:30am – 10:20am**: GFOA Legislative Update
  - Emily Brock, GFOA

- **10:20am – 10:35am**: Break (James River Ballroom Foyer)

- **10:35am – 12:15pm**: Considering Your Values in a Changing World
  - Steve Owen, Retired City Manager
**VGFOA Executive Board 2020-2021**

**Officers**

**President** – Trish Davidson  
Director of Finance, Rockingham County  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2021*

**President Elect** – Andrea Trent  
Manager of Retirement Plans, City of Roanoke  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2021*

**Past President** – Jill Underwood  
Director of Finance, Bedford Regional Water Authority  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2021*

**Treasurer** – Janet Romanchyk  
Deputy CFO, Loudoun County  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2022*

**Board Members**

**Marion Serfass, Spring Conference Chair**  
Director of Finance/Treasurer, Town of Vienna  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2021*

**Keli Reekes, Education Chair**  
Director of Finance, Brunswick County  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2022*

**Betsy Drewry, Membership and Awards Chair**  
Deputy County Administrator, Prince George County  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2023*

**Andrea Light, Communications, Legislative & Standards Setting Chair**  
Budget Division Director, Stafford County  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2023*

**Howard Kartel, Spring Conference Chair**  
Director of Finance/Town Treasurer, Town of Culpeper  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2023*

**Aaron McCoy, Associate Member Relations Chair**  
Finance Officer, Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2021*

**Donna Witt, Fall Conference Chair**  
Chief Financial Officer, City of Lynchburg  
*Term Expires: Oct. 2022*

**Jenny Fletcher, Executive Secretary**  
Manager, Client Relations & Administration, VML/VACo Finance

**Our Mission:**  
VGFOA, your ongoing partner to advance professional growth.
## VGFOA Past Presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>City/County</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971-1972</td>
<td>Hubert H. Shiner, Jr.</td>
<td>City of Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-1975</td>
<td>Giles G. Dodd</td>
<td>City of Virginia Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-1976</td>
<td>A. N. (Hoot) Gibson</td>
<td>City of Roanoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-1977</td>
<td>Bill M. Perrero</td>
<td>City of Winchester</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>Aubrey D. Dodson</td>
<td>City of Danville</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978-1979</td>
<td>H. Jack Lissenden</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Roy W. Cherry</td>
<td>City of Portsmouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>Michael W. Hill</td>
<td>City of Lynchburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981-1982</td>
<td>Frank P. Turk</td>
<td>City of Salem</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>Ray B. Jones</td>
<td>Albemarle County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-1984</td>
<td>Jimmy D. Clowers</td>
<td>City of Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>John M. Chambliss</td>
<td>Roanoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-1986</td>
<td>Dennis Kerns</td>
<td>Henrico County</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>Leon Hirsh</td>
<td>York County</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Joseph N. Black</td>
<td>Hanover County</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988-1989</td>
<td>Joseph S. Paxton</td>
<td>Rockingham County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>M. E. (Mickey) Poole</td>
<td>Loudoun County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1991</td>
<td>John Mitchell</td>
<td>City of Colonial Heights</td>
</tr>
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<td>1991-1992</td>
<td>James Grisso</td>
<td>City of Roanoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-1993</td>
<td>Jeffrey Lunsford</td>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993-1994</td>
<td>James McReynolds</td>
<td>York County</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994-1995</td>
<td>Raoul James Kister</td>
<td>Albemarle County Service Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-1996</td>
<td>Cecil R. Harris, Jr.</td>
<td>Hanover County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-1997</td>
<td>Mary C. Kemp</td>
<td>Town of Herndon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>John Tuohy</td>
<td>Fauquier County</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998-1999</td>
<td>Clarence Daniel</td>
<td>Henrico County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>City/County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>Jesse Hall</td>
<td>City of Roanoke</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>Shelley Carmichael</td>
<td>Stafford County</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>Bill Johnson</td>
<td>City of Colonial Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>Joseph Casey</td>
<td>Hanover County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>Larry Clark</td>
<td>Richmond (Henrico County)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>Phillip Grant</td>
<td>Town of Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>Terry S. Stone</td>
<td>Hanover County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>Rebecca Owens</td>
<td>Roanoke County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>Steven A. Solomon</td>
<td>Fairfax County Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>Marycarol C. White</td>
<td>York County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>Ann Shawver</td>
<td>City of Roanoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>Vivian McGettigan</td>
<td>Prince William County Public Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>Patricia Weiler</td>
<td>City of Manassas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>Charles Ramsay</td>
<td>Henrico County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>Barbara Dameron</td>
<td>City of Roanoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>Jon Munch</td>
<td>Fauquier County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>Renee Hoover</td>
<td>Charlottesville City Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>Kathy Seay</td>
<td>Hanover County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Diane Bergeron</td>
<td>City of Manassas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Curtis Doughtie</td>
<td>Virginia Resources Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>Jill Underwood</td>
<td>Bedford Regional Water Authority</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GFOA Certification Program

The Certified Public Finance Officers Program (Certification Program) of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is a broad educational self-study program designed to verify knowledge in the disciplines of government finance. The Certification Program is governed by the Council on Certification. Technical and administrative support for the program is provided by Radford University’s Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center.

Certified Public Finance Officers

Lisa Anderson, City of Lynchburg
Lisa Breeden, Albemarle County
Jennifer Brody, City of Fredericksburg
Patsy Brown, Chesterfield County
Vivian Calkins-McGettigan, York County
Carrie Curry, Town of Leesburg
Patricia Davidson, Rockingham County
Theresa Eckhout, PlanRVA
Deirdre Finneran, Fairfax County
Andre Fletcher, Warren County
Lisa Haley, Town of Leesburg
Victoria Herrick, City of Williamsburg
Mark Highfield, Hanover County
Barbara Horlacher, Goochland County
Dennis Jarrett, York County School Division
Reid Lanham, City of Lynchburg
Sheila Minor, City of Colonial Heights
Laura Morrison, MWAA

Jonathan Munch, Fauquier County
Christopher Pietsch, Fairfax County
Jerry Schulz, Town of Herndon
Ann Shawver, Ann Harrity Shawver, CPA, PLLC
Marta Smith, University of Mary Washington
Katherine Spooner, City of Fredericksburg
Gary Swink, City of Lexington
Tammy Todd, City of Salem
Lori Van Curen, Roanoke Higher Education Authority
John Wallingford, Prince William County Public Schools
Edgar Wertheimer
Kendall Williams, Washington County
Regina Williams, Pulaski County
Donna Witt, City of Lynchburg
Susan Worrell, Albemarle County
VGFOA and Radford University GNAC Certificate Program

The purpose of the VGFOA and Radford University GNAC Certificate Program is to:

- Provide training in the areas of accounting, budgeting, cash management, debt, administration, internal controls, Virginia law and other topics pertinent to state and local governments.

- Provide instructional support for those wishing to pursue the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) certification.

VGFOA and Radford University GNAC Certificate Recipients

The following individuals have completed the requirements for the VGFOA and Radford University GNAC Certificate Program. Congratulations to our newest Certificate holders as of Fall 2021, designated in BOLD.

Mary Altemus, New Kent County
Jacqueline Althizer, Hanover County
Tina Ammons, King and Queen County
Ashley Anderson, Roanoke County
Lisa Anderson, City of Lynchburg
Dahlis Atkins, Isle of Wight County
Elizabeth Atkinson, Roanoke County
Margaret Bacon, Roanoke County
Katie Bailey, Stafford County
Pamela Barclay, City of Newport News
Judy Barnes, Stafford County
Monique Barnes, Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
Leslie Beasley, Hanover County

**Rhoda Beckelhimer, City of Chesapeake**
Mandy Belyea, Town of Woodstock
Natalie Berger, Prince William County
Diane Bergeron, City of Manassas
Christina Berta, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Andrew Binks, James City County
Mary Blowe, City of Winchester

Helen Bogart, Prince William County
Tanya Burrell, Fairfax County
Christina Brannan, Central Virginia Community College
Lisa Breeden, Albemarle County
Celeste Broadstreet, City of Winchester
Jennifer Brody, City of Fredericksburg
Jay Brown, Charles City County
Tasha Burkett, City of Roanoke
Esther Caesar, Prince William County Government
Misty Caish, Virginia Beach City Public Schools
Tammy Callahan, Town of Culpeper
Jhany Cardozo, Fairfax County
Elizabeth Carpenter, Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
Brian Carter, Franklin County
Tanya Catron, Roanoke County
Maria Cavin, Prince William County Schools
Nickie Champion, Gloucester County
Ju-Ling Cheng, Fairfax County
Lillian Cheng, Fairfax County
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VGFOA and Radford University GNAC Certificate Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carol Clancy, Fairfax County Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Cockrell, Loudoun County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Collins, City of Lynchburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne Colvin, City of Staunton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Correa, Albemarle County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Cosby, City of Roanoke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Covert, Town of Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Cox, Stafford County</td>
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<td>Susan Crawford, Bedford County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrie Curry, Town of Leesburg</td>
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<td>Sheila Cutrell, City of Emporia</td>
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<td>Kathaleen Cyckowski, Chesterfield County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Davidson, Rockingham County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillie DeLancy, Virginia Department of Emergency Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Deming, Portsmouth City Public Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Deniega, City of Manassas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Amy Dill, Town of Woodstock**

- Gerard Durkin, City of Richmond
- Starlette Early, City of Lynchburg
- Teresa Eckhout, VML/VACo Finance

**Brian Edwards, Henrico County**

- Jami Engel, Chesterfield County
- Rene Ewing, Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
- Jon Farmer, Virginia Resources Authority
- Joseph Feaser, Virginia Housing Development Authority
- Deirdre Finneran, Fairfax County
- Paul Fitzgerald, Prince William County
- Andre Fletcher, Warren County
- Katrina Flowers, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Amy Ford, Accomack County
- Pamela Foster, Portsmouth Public Schools
- Kathryn Fox, City of Salem
- Tammy Franchok, Loudoun County
- Rene Gapasin, Prince William County
- Ruth Garcia, Loudoun County
- Christine Garczynski, City of Norfolk
- Keena Garns, City of Virginia Beach
- Leesa Gayheart, Grayson County
- Laurie Gearheart, Roanoke County
- Cynthia Glascock, Loudoun Water
- Anand Goutam, Fairfax County
- Patricia Green, Tazewell County
- Stephan Greenagel, Town of Herndon
- Lisa Greer, Roanoke County
- Sue Gregory, Roanoke Higher Education Center
- Tracy Gregory, City of Chesapeake
- Vicki Hall, Fairfax County
- Janet Haney, York County
- Tealen Hansen, City of Suffolk
- Dawn Hardman, Hanover County
- Deanna Harris, Mathews County

**Larisa Harris, Portsmouth Public Schools**

- Gail Hassmer, City of Charlottesville
- Karen Hatfield, Western Tidewater Regional Jail
- Randy Helwig, Stafford County
- Victoria Herrick, City of Williamsburg
- Rebecca Hicks, Prince George County Schools
- Mark Highfield, Hanover County
- Beth Hindle, City of Winchester
- David Hockaday, Fairfax County
- Andrea Hogge, Middle Peninsula Reg. Security Center
- Renee Hoover, Charlottesville City Schools
- Barbara Horlacher, Goochland County
- Anne Howerton, Dinwiddie County
- Wan Hu, City of Portsmouth
- Barbara Hudson, City of Lynchburg
- Sharon Hulehan, Virginia Beach City Public Schools
- Stephanie Jackson, Halifax County
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David Jeavons, Roanoke Regional Airport Commission
Margaret Jefferson, New Kent County
William Jennings, Fairfax County Public Schools
Hoisuk Jeong, Suffolk Dept. of Social Services
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Lori Jones, Town of Hamilton
Stephanie Jones, Virginia Resources Authority
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Kimberly Ludwig, Hanover County
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Stephanie Moss, York County
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Jon Munch, Fauquier County
Eileen Nguyen, Loudoun County
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Laura Rudy, Stafford County
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Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront – May 3 – 5, 2023

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Omni Richmond Hotel – September 28 – 30, 2022
Andrew Spence, Director of Community Engagement and Citizen Services  
Stafford County  
aspence@staffordcountyva.gov

Andrew Spence leads Stafford County Government, Virginia, on strategic communications assembling targeted impactful storylines to build public rapport utilizing multiple communication channels while crafting identities, in both print and the digital space, to enable the organization’s mission. He is a nationally award-winning public communication professional and has also been honored by the Catalogue for Philanthropy for regional environmental nonprofit work and co-received the Virginia Governor's Environmental Excellence Award.

Prior to Stafford, Andrew served in senior communication roles managing multi-channel communication initiatives within marketing agencies, nonprofits and local governments in Texas, Washington D.C. and Virginia, such as developing strategies for the "Virginia is Lovers" campaign and Prince William County Government. He holds a Bachelor of Businesses Administration from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Illinois. In his early days, he was a manager at the Cheesecake Factory and will not hesitate to discuss all things food and restaurants with you!
Megan Cox, Ph.D. is the Program Evaluation & Research Manager for the Department of Finance and Budget in Loudoun County. Dr. Cox comes to us with a strong background in evaluation, measurement and technical assistance. In her 18 years of research and evaluation, she has worked with over 25 states, counties and local programs to develop, enhance or evaluate their data-based decision-making systems by developing partnerships with departmental staff and key stakeholders to identify common metrics, sustainable data collection procedures and meaningful data interpretation.

Dr. Cox has worked to refine performance measures and support department staff in Loudoun County to support systemic improvements. Some examples of her work include development of a new internal control maturity assessment for the county’s volunteer fire and rescue system, coordinating program evaluation for HIPAA security role, and supporting the Loudoun nonprofit community in improving outcomes measurement.

Dr. Cox has a deep commitment to data-informed policymaking and developing partnerships with program leaders and staff to ensure meaningful, sustainable program improvement.
A skilled connecter, Lisa Meriwether enjoys bringing people and projects together. Having spent more than 30 years in hospitality and tourism, she knows how to align resources to make events – from the smallest conferences to the largest conventions – memorable for all involved. Lisa’s collaborative spirit enables her to bring hotel properties and attractions to the table with meeting planners to craft experiences that showcase the best that the Lynchburg region has to offer.

Lisa’s professional background includes key sales positions with major hotel chains and luxury properties such as the AAA Five Diamond and Forbes Five Star Jefferson Hotel in Richmond. She also previously held the position of vice president of tourism for the Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Recognized as a respected leader in her field, Lisa’s dedication to the travel industry includes serving as president of the Virginia Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus; a member of the board of directors for Meeting Professionals International, Virginia Chapter; and on select committees for the Virginia Tourism Corporation and Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association. Lisa has also been honored for her contributions by the YWCA of Central Virginia as their Professional Woman of the Year in Business. She was also honored with the Cecil H. Bailey, CMP Mentoring Award by Meeting Professionals International – Virginia Chapter for exhibiting the highest commitment to influencing the life of another member, demonstrating commitment as a confidant and trusted advisor to individuals in the meeting industry while supporting their professional development.
Chris Banta is the firm’s lead partner with oversight of the firm’s multi-state state and local government practice. He is based in the Richmond area office. He provides audit services to a wide range of entities including privately owned businesses, municipalities, governmental entities, non-profits, HUD entities, national fraternities, and electric cooperatives. He specializes and coordinates the compliance auditing aspect of the annual audits of municipal and governmental clients including APA compliance and transmittal form preparation, Single Audit compliance, RUS compliance, FAA compliance, and NTD reporting compliance. Chris is also a member of the firm’s peer review services team, providing quality reviews to regional public accounting firms around the country. In addition, he is a Certified Fraud Examiner, providing internal control reviews, fraud examinations, forensic accounting services, and litigation support services.

Chris graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting in May 2000.
Keynote Session: Leading with Shoes

Baraka Kasongo, Founder and CEO
VOLATIA
baraka@volatia.com

Baraka is a transformational leader who has achieved a tremendous record of success in various aspects of his life. He demonstrates an exceptional ability to lead, innovate, and pioneer new paths through his collaborative nature. His passion for bridging language and cultural barriers is fueled by his experience of being a refugee in five different countries for a period of seven years. Baraka founded VOLATIA to be the means through which he can mitigate linguistic and cultural disparities that exist in every community throughout the United States and around the world. He serves on numerous boards that focus on creating and fostering diversity and inclusion at every point of contact.

Baraka holds a bachelor of science degree in Management & Leadership from Bluefield College, an associate of applied science in Emergency Management from Frederick Community College, and is certified as a Green Belt Lean Six Sigma practitioner through Virginia Tech.
Picking a New Governor, Setting a New Course? A Virginia Race with National Implications

Jeff Schapiro, Politics Columnist
Richmond Times-Dispatch
JSchapiro@timesdispatch.com

Jeff Schapiro is politics columnist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, covering campaigns and government for the newspaper for nearly 35 years. He has more than 40 years on the State Capitol beat, having covered it as well for United Press International, a wire service, and Virginia Business magazine. Schapiro has contributed to other publications, including The Economist, the British newsmagazine, writing on Southern culture and politics.

A native of New York City, he was graduated from Georgetown University with a bachelor's degree in history.
They Are Not Your Friends…Working With Elected Officials

Bonnie Svrcek, Retired City Manager
bsvrcek@gmail.com

Bonnie Svrcek served as the Deputy City Manager for 17 years and City Manager for the City of Lynchburg for 4 years. Prior to working for the City of Lynchburg, she worked for the Town of Blacksburg, Fairfax County and the City of Los Angeles’ Washington, D.C. office. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science in Housing and Applied Design, received her Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California’s Washington Public Affairs Center, attended the Senior Executive Institute in Charlottesville, VA and completed the State and Local Government Excellence Executive Education Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She served on the Executive Board of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for six years including being elected President in 2012.

In her new chapter of life, Bonnie is an active member of the Board of Directors for Centra Health and the Friends of the Lynchburg Public Library, and Vice Chair of the Central Virginia Community College Advisory Board. Coaching aspiring young women in local government and designing a curriculum in concert with the Virginia Women Leading Government chapter leadership for the first ever Virginia Women’s Municipal Leadership Institute brings her immense joy.
New GFOA Budget Award Criteria

Chris Bullock, Co-Founder & CEO
ClearGov
cbullock@cleargov.com

Chris Bullock, co-founder and CEO of ClearGov Inc., has over 20 years of product management, marketing and business development experience in data analytics and transparency-centric software services. Prior to ClearGov Chris co-founded Sky Analytics (acquired by Huron Consulting Group), a legal analytics and benchmarking platform that revolutionized the legal industry. Before Sky Analytics, Chris spent 7 years as the Global Director of Product Development for Investor Relations & Analytics Software at NASDAQ and Shareholder.com. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Colorado, Boulder.
Linda has worked in banking since 2015 after joining Wells Fargo. Linda offers her treasury management expertise to her clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic. She shares best practices and product and service information to guide clients in developing their treasury management program. She is an active member of the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association and the Maryland Government Finance Officers Association.

Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Linda served as a financial advisor to state and local governments for 15 years. Linda received her bachelors of science in business administration from Truman State University.
Creating a Foundation for Investing Public Funds

James Sanderson, Senior Vice President
Davenport & Company, LLC
jsanderson@investdavenport.com

Jimmy Sanderson has worked in public finance for over 20 years and is a member of Davenport & Company’s Board of Directors. His practice focuses on governmental and not-for-profit entities. He practiced as a bond lawyer for Hunton & Williams in Richmond, Virginia from 1998 to 2004 where he provided advice on state legal issues and federal tax and securities laws throughout the eastern United States. His practice focused on complex revenue structures including public-private infrastructure development and capital finance. Jimmy has substantial experience in structuring and issuing debt of all types for a broad range of public and private infrastructure projects, including airports, roads and highways, convention and conference centers, educational facilities, government administrative facilities and water and wastewater facilities. He also provides his clients with advice on the investment of general governmental funds and bond proceeds.
Krista Edoff has more than fourteen years of experience providing audit and accounting services to public sector clients including financial and performance audits, agreed upon procedures, Single Audits and compliance audits. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, the National and Virginia chapter of the Government Finance Officers Association, and the Affordance Housing Association of Certified Public Accountants. She is also a member of the AICPA’s Peer Review program, where her focus is governmental audits. Edoff received her Bachelors of Science in Accounting and Masters of Accounting from Florida State University.
Employment, Unemployment and Recruitment Challenges

Tim Saunders, Business Engagement and Outreach Coordinator
Central Virginia Workforce Development Board
tim.saunders@vcwcentral.com

Tim Saunders is the Business Engagement and Outreach Coordinator for the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board. He works to share information about workforce development programs and services for employers, local governments, media, and the public. Tim previously spent 20 years in the television news industry and has experience as a reporter, anchor, and newsroom manager. From 2006 - 2020 he covered local government affairs for WDBJ-7, where his individual work as a reporter and producer was recognized with three Emmys from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. His professional experiences inform his work at Central Virginia Community College and the University of Lynchburg, where he teaches courses on communications and marketing. Tim is a native of Bedford County and resides in Lynchburg.
As Director of GFOA’s Federal Liaison Center, Emily leads coalition and advocacy efforts of the Public Finance Network in Washington DC. Her advocacy includes anticipating and responding to federal legislative and regulatory activities that impact the finance functions of state and local governments and public sector entities including tax reform, municipal securities disclosure and public pension and benefit issues. Emily also serves as staff on GFOA’s Debt Committee, working with committee members to develop best practices that promote sound financial practices for local, state and provincial governments. Prior to joining GFOA, Emily was a commercial bank relationship manager at a large national bank, serving as the sole bank liaison for government and university clients.
Considering Your Values in a Changing World

Steve Owen, Retired City Manager
steveowen1957@gmail.com

Steve Owen was a Virginia local government manager for over 38 years, including Wakefield Clerk – Treasurer, Berryville Town Manager, Leesburg Assistant Town Manager, Frederick County Assistant County Administrator, Powhatan County Administrator, Herndon Town Manager and Staunton City Manager. He also worked as the Northern Virginia Real Estate Manager for Luck Stone Corp and as a legislative aide for a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Steve received his B.A. in government from the College of William and Mary and a master's degree in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia. He holds a certificate in economic development from the University of North Carolina and is a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia. Steve served as president of the Virginia Local Government Management Association, treasurer of Virginia First Cities, and is an ICMA Life Member. He has been a guest speaker at UVA’s Center for Politics, UVA’s Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership, Mary Baldwin University, and James Madison University.

Since retiring in 2019, Steve has edited the Virginia Municipal League’s 2021 edition Handbook for Mayors & Council Members, and is currently an adjunct instructor in Virginia Tech’s Center for Public Administration and Policy graduate certificate program.
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We are a Provider of Financial Management Software (FMS). FMS offers modules for Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Business License, Fixed Assets, General Ledger, Payment Central, Payroll, Property Taxes, Utility Billing and Vehicle Decals. FMS is fully integrated, allowing each module to stand alone or work in conjunction with the other modules. All modules have powerful reporting options with customer designed template capabilities. Our newest module is Alarm Billing!

With more than 14,000 clients, Tyler Technologies is a leading provider of software and services for the public sector. Designed with an insider’s understanding of the public sector market, Tyler Solutions improve the flow of information throughout an organization, empowering local/county governments, schools and other entities to better serve citizens.

At UKG, Our Purpose Is People. Built from a merger that created one of the largest cloud companies in the world, UKG believes organizations succeed when they focus on their people. As a leading global provider of HCM, payroll, and workforce management solutions, UKG’s award-winning Pro, Dimensions, and Ready solutions help tens of thousands of organizations across geographies and in every industry drive better business outcomes, improve HR effectiveness, streamline the payroll process, and help make work a better, more connected experience for everyone. With more than 12,000 employees around the globe, UKG’s inclusive workplace culture has led to numerous awards, including consecutive years ranked as one of Fortune’s 100 Best Companies to Work For. To learn more, visit ukg.com.
VACORP

VACORP is a member-owned risk pool that provides affordable, stable, and reliable, comprehensive self-insurance and risk management services to Virginia’s local governments, school divisions, regional jails, other public entities and authorities. VACORP tailors coverages and services to meet its members’ needs. The STRENGTH you need, the PARTNERSHIP you expect.

The Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) was established in 1984 to provide an additional source of funding for local infrastructure projects. Projects eligible for VRA financing include water, wastewater, public safety, transportation, broadband, parks & recreation, local government buildings, energy, among others. An eleven member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor, oversees VRA operations and provides strategic guidance to the Executive Director. Since its inception, VRA has funded more than 2,000 critical projects across the Commonwealth for investments exceeding $10 billion.

Virginia Risk Sharing Association (VRSA), formerly VML Insurance Programs, is the first and most financially sound group self-insurance pool in the Commonwealth. We are committed to reducing our members’ total cost of risk through expansive coverages, services and resources. Our member-owned and governed pool protects our members’ assets and promotes risk management affecting strategic objectives.
VML/VACo Finance has completed over $1 billion in financing for Virginia local governments.

Whether you’re considering a bank loan, equipment leasing, municipal bonds, state bond pools, or commercial paper, our Municipal Advisors will help you select and execute the best option for your locality.

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