

It is the Communication and Technology Committee's goal to provide timely, educational and relevant information to the VGFOA members. Participation of the VGFOA members in providing feedback, writing relevant articles and/or providing other information to further the goals of the Communication and Technology Committee is strongly encouraged. Please visit the VGFOA website at www.vgfoa.org; contact VGFOA Board members or contact Communication and Technology Committee members for additional information and/or feedback.

President's Message – Terry Adams

It is an honor to serve as your President this year. My service on the Board has been very rewarding and I have had the pleasure to see the organization grow and offer new educational opportunities, including the certification program. Over the next year, I would like to increase membership by enhancing conferences topics and ensuring accessible education opportunities across the State. In addition, the Board desires to provide more visibility and opportunity to our associate members to interact with our members and market their products and services. I welcome any suggestions from you on ways to accomplish this goal.

Before introducing our new Board members, I would like to thank several members for their years of service to our organization. We had several Board members to transition off the Board at the annual business meeting in October. The members included Joe Casey, Larry Clark and Ron DeWitt.

Joe left the Board after 6 years and 15 years with the organization. Joe brought a level of energy and expertise to the Board that kept our heads spinning and meetings productive. He will be missed and near impossible to replace. While we will all miss Joe on the Board, we take comfort in knowing that meetings will likely be a little shorter. The capacity created by completing his service to the VGFOA, was quickly filled with his appointment to the GFOA Executive Board in June 2005. Joe is the second GFOA Board member from Virginia and the first since 1966. who have taken time to prepare programs and serve as speakers at our conferences. These include staff members from VACO and VML who keep us up to date on the legislative and other matters of interest to our members.

Larry Clark also completed his service to our Board in October. Larry has been a member of VGFOA since 1995 and served on the Board from 1998 to October 2005. Larry has been a loyal and enthusiastic member of the VGFOA and Board. I recall first meeting Larry at the 1999 VGFOA Spring Conference and he was speaking of governmental accounting as if it was one of the most exciting topics of conversation. I had to clarify to ensure that we were both working in the same profession. Larry has been a joy to work with and we will miss his enthusiasm.

Finally, Ron DeWitt completed his term on the Board. He served on the Education Committee and assisted with the development of the certificate program. Thanks to Ron for all of his hard work and assistance to the organization.

Congratulations to our new Board members. We were joined by five new Executive Board members. William Skinker of King George County is State Representative/Historian. Vivian McGettigan of Fauquier County is Chair of Associate Membership Relations. Vivian will be working to strengthen relations with our associate members. Ann Shawver of Roanoke City will serve as Chair of the Education/Conferences committee. Ann will take a lead role in coordinating the annual spring and fall conferences. Pat Weiler of City of Manassas will serve as the chair of the Education/Certification Committee. Pat and her committee will schedule and organize the training and courses offered throughout the year. Finally, Greg Akers of Hanover County will serve as the Chair of the Communications and Technology Committee. Greg and his committee will provide outreach to our members through the use of the website, newsletter and emails. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact the appropriate Chair. Links to their email address can be found on our website at www.vgfoa.org.

Members continuing service include Marycarol White as Treasurer, Steve Solomon as Chair of the Legislative and Standards Committee and Jo Ellen Kerns and Chair of Awards and Membership Committee. Rebecca Owens was nominated President Elect in October and will work with Ann to coordinate next year's annual conference. Phil Grant will serve as Past President. I would like to thank Phil for his leadership over the previous year. Phil approaches everything with a calm and respectful manner. He brought great balance to the Board.

The fall conference was held at the Omni Richmond in October. We had approximately 160 in attendance, including 15 sponsors and 22 exhibitors. The evaluations were positive and we appreciate your feedback. Ann will be considering your comments when coordinating the spring and fall conference. Thanks for your support of the conferences and we look forward to seeing you June 4-6, 2006 in Virginia Beach for the annual spring conference.

A special thanks Leslie Beauregard of the Communications and Technology Committee for compiling the newsletter.

Terry Adams

New Look for Newsletter!



Some of you may still be getting accustomed to reading the newsletter from the website. If so, you may be surprised to learn we have not printed and physically mailed our newsletter since September 2004. Starting with this edition, we are inserting a summary version in an email message to members. The new format allows for easier inclusion of pictures and graphics, with summaries linked to complete articles. More routine information, already on our website, is now accessed by links on left side of summary edition. If you have not looked at our website recently, check out those links. In addition to the training calendar and certification program information, you can look up other members, update your member information, review or post job opportunities, or learn more about the organization.

The newsletter is produced through our [Communications and Technology Committee](#) (Committee) with the assistance of Radford University's [Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center](#) (GNAC). GNAC aligns the Committee with consultants, who were instrumental in developing and implementing the new format. While the new look provides a better vehicle to

reach our members, we need your help to submit future articles and provide feedback on what you want to see. If you have ideas for newsletter or website improvements, or to serve on the Committee, contact the [Committee Chair](#). To submit a future article for consideration, contact the [Editor](#).

VGFOA Conference Information

VGFOA 2005 Fall Conference a Hit!

Thanks to all participants and sponsors who contributed to the very successful 2005 Fall Conference held October 19-21 at the Omni in Richmond. The conference was attended by approximately 159 participants including a large group of sponsors and exhibitors. Special thanks to Terry Adams and Bruce Chase for all their hard work in coordinating this event!

Mark Your 2006 Calendars!

As the new year arrives, be sure to put the 2006 VGFOA conferences on your calendars! VGFOA will be hosting two conferences in 2006, the Spring and Fall Conferences.

VGFOA 2006 Spring Conference Sheraton Oceanfront Virginia Beach June 4-6

This is an exciting opportunity for our “spring” conference to be held just a bit closer to “summer”. Make plans to arrive early in the beach area and enjoy some good weather and excellent professional opportunities with the VGFOA!

VGFOA 2006 Fall Conference Hotel Roanoke Roanoke October 4-6

The conference again returns to the “Star City” and historic Hotel Roanoke. The Hotel Roanoke is connected via the pedestrian bridge and walkway to Roanoke’s award winning downtown. Make plans next October to spend some time in this charming city in the southwest region of the state!

Look for information about the 2006 conferences on vgfoa.org. Please e-mail Ann Shawver at ann.shawver@roanokeva.gov for suggestions or recommendations on conference sessions and speakers. The spring conference program is being developed now, and member input is greatly appreciated to make the 2006 conferences successful! Sponsor and exhibitor forms can be found under Resources/Forms and Graphics.

News Flashes!

VRS approves FY2007 contribution rates

On November 9, 2005, the VRS Board approved contribution rates effective July 1, 2006 ([VRS Board Approves Rates for Localities](#)). 76% of the 561 entities participating in VRS will see an increase in rates. Notices were mailed to entities with specific rates during November. As shown on your individual rate notices, the premium "holiday" for group life ends effective July 1, 2006.

State Sales Tax Reported to Local Governments

The Department of Taxation (TAX) is implementing the Integrated Revenue Management System (IRMS) to replace their State TAX Accounting and Reporting System (STARS). Conversion began in August and temporarily disrupts Taxation's normal workflow in distributing sales tax to localities. Taxation described impacts in an August 1, 2005 memorandum to City Managers, County Administrators, Finance Directors, Commissioners of the Revenue, Treasurers and Directors of Finance.

September 2005 through November 2005 sales tax distributions were based on an estimate. Estimates were based on an increase of five and one half percent (5.5%) versus the same month in prior year. As we go to press, the true-up versus actual collections is planned with the December 2005 distributions. Consider the impact of these estimates when evaluating sales tax distribution amounts for these periods.

IRS announces 2006 mileage rate

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued 2006 optional standard mileage rates for calculating deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes (<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article>). Beginning January 1, 2006, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be **44.5** cents per mile for business miles driven. The new rate compares to a rate of **40.5** cents per mile for the first eight months of 2005. In September, the IRS made a special one-time adjustment for the last four months of 2005, raising the rate to **48.5** cents per mile in response to a sharp increase in fuel prices.

VGFOA Committee Reports

The **Awards and Membership Committee** asks VGFOA members to spread the about the Edward T. Pettigrew scholarships available to college students. The application and information about the scholarship is on the VGFOA web page. These scholarships are for \$1,000 each and we have three available. Involving college students through our organization will be a way to channel future professionals into governmental careers and then into our organization. We members also need to support the organization by attending the annual conference. We have received four applications for the scholarship provided to attend GFOA's Advanced Government Finance Institute and will be making the announcement of the winner In January.

We are very excited about all the activity surrounding the **Legislative and Standards Committee**. We have added two crucial new members to our Legislative team: 1) Ms. Suzette Denslow of the Virginia Municipal League; and 2) Mr. Jim Campbell of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) who will help us track finance related issues in the upcoming General

Assembly session. The issue of capping property tax growth will be of foremost concern to our membership, as well as many other, and we look forward to utilizing our web page and e-mail updates to keep you informed.

In addition we have a great deal of activity associated with the **Standards Setting Committee**. We are preparing a response to the GASB Exposure Draft on Accounting for Sales and Pledges of Receivables and Future Revenues, which will be submitted by December 31 (The deadline is the 30th). In addition we are reviewing GASB's Third Quarter Agenda, which has an aggressive schedule of new draft requirements that we will represent you by providing our input. We realize that there will be four new GASB pronouncements that have to be implemented in FY 06 and will work with you to provide educational materials to help with implementation. Finally, we will work to provide updates on Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) guidance and implementation support. We are working on adding five new members to our group, but are still looking to work with more folks who think they would enjoy and benefit from being on the cutting edge of finance legislation and technical standards. If you think you might be interested, please feel free to contact me. We wish you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Steven A. Solomon, Chair
Legislative and Standards Committee
Email: Steven.Solomon@Fairfaxcounty.gov

Member News



Congratulations!

Ari Sky, Loudoun County's Budget Manager, was appointed to GFOA's Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy for a three year term.

Terry Adams, Hanover County's Finance Director, has been appointed to GFOA's Cash Committee.



Call for Volunteers – Committee on Vendor and Associates Relationship

We are in the organizational process for this new committee. This committee was formed to better serve our vendors and associate members as well as provide our membership with information related to the services provided by our vendors and associate members. With their sponsorship, exhibiting and programming at our conferences, they assist VGFOA in meeting its programming, training and budgetary goals. I welcome any suggestions on how we can create approaches to recognize their contributions to the Association.

Some of the ideas that have been put forward to improve our relationship with these organizations are: list members on our web site with their web link, have member listed by

services preformed, recognize sponsorships for the conferences on web site, promote the use of vendors and associates when procuring services, and sponsoring certificate and training programs.

In the next two months this committee will be surveying vendors to obtain information related to the services that they can provide our membership. This information will be used to develop a section of the VGFOA website with vendor information sorted by services performed with contact information and web links. Our hope is that this information will assist our membership when researching options available and potential vendors when goods or services are needed. In addition, the vendors will be asked to provide us with suggestions for improvements, which the committee will consider in the future.

As always, there is a need for committee members both from our Association and the vendor and associates organizations. This Committee will work toward initiating and implementing the ideas put forth. Please e-mail me if you are interested in joining our committee.

Thank you,

Vivian McGettigan, Chair
Committee on Vendor and Associates Relationship
E-mail: vivian.mcgettigan@fauquiercounty.gov

Call for VGFOA Newsletter Themes

Our new Newsletter Editor, Leslie Beauregard, would like to send out a call to all of our members to submit future newsletter themes. The idea of the thematic newsletter would be to devote one or two articles on that theme. Themes can be fiscal in nature of course, but can also focus on performance measurement, integrated systems projects and financial systems, information technology practices, fiscal best practices, etc.

Listed are themes for future newsletters:

Newsletter Date	Theme
March 2006	ISP Implementation - Issues and Lessons Learned

Members are encouraged to submit articles and future thematic ideas to Leslie Beauregard at beauregard@charlottesville.org.



Happy Holidays!

