

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 – Phil Grant

It was good to see some of you at the recent Technology Conference in Roanoke. Rebecca Owens, Bruce Chase, and Education Committee put together a great conference. We appreciate their hard work as well as the vendors who supported the conference with sponsorships and exhibits. We hope to see many more of you at next year's Technology Conference.

Speaking of conferences, our Spring Conference is being coordinated by Education Committee Co-Chair Ron DeWitt and will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Virginia Beach from Sunday, May 1st through noon on Tuesday, May 3rd. The conference starts off with registration on Sunday afternoon, followed by an evening reception. Program topics being planned include legislative, GASB, and rating agency updates and concurrent sessions that cover banking services, treasury and cash management, capital project financing and debt issuance, pension issues, retirement planning and, of course, PPTRA. In addition, a class on GASB 45 and an ethics certification course will be offered. *Hotel reservations need to be made by April 11th and can be made by calling the Sheraton Hotel at 800-521-5635.* Conference registration fee will be \$200 for members who have already paid their 2005 dues and \$235 for those who haven't. Conference information and on-line registration will be available at www.vgfoa.org by March 31st.

A couple of other reminders....VGFOA still needs more members to participate in its various committees and subcommittees. If you're interested in getting more involved in our state association, visit www.vgfoa.org where you can find contact information for each committee chair or contact me at 703-255-6320 or at finance@ci.vienna.va.us for more information. Also, and in keeping with one of our association's strategic goals, volunteers are needed to start regional networking groups. Northern and Central Virginia have already developed groups and if you're interested in participating, contact me to get connected.

In closing, a note of appreciation to Jim Kister who recently retired from the Albermarle County Service Authority. Jim served on our board many years and

also as VGFOA president in the 1994-95 term. Jim is responsible for bringing our association into the internet age by spearheading the development of our web site, maintaining it, and then serving as the first chairman of our technology committee. Many thanks, Jim and best of luck in your new endeavors!

I hope this finds things going well for all of you in this busy season of budgets, tax billings, and pre-audit activities.

SEE YOU AT THE BEACH ON MAY 1st!!

Phil Grant

VGFOA Executive Board October 2004 - September 2005

Officers:

- President:** **Phil Grant**, Director of Finance, Town of Vienna.
Tele#: (703) 255-6320. Email: finance@ci.vienna.va.us
- President-Elect:** **Terry S. Adams**, Utility Controller, County of Hanover.
Tele#: (804) 365-6016. Email: tsadams@co.hanover.va.us
- Treasurer:** **Marycarol C. White**, Director of Financial & Mgmt Svcs., County of York.
Tele#: (757) 890-3700. Email: white@yorkcounty.gov
- Executive Secretary:** **Bruce W. Chase**
Tele#: (540) 831-5744. E-mail: bchase@radford.edu

Directors/ Chairpersons:

- Awards and Membership Committee:** **Jo Ellen Kerns**, Senior Budget Analyst, County of Loudoun.
Tele#: (703) 777-0178. Email: jkerns@loudoun.gov
- Education Committee:** **Rebecca Owens**, Director of Finance, County of Roanoke.
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Ronald DeWitt, Accounting Manager, City of Newport News.
Tele#: (757) 926-8439. Email: rdewitt@nngov.com
- Legislative & Standards Committee:** **Steven A. Solomon**, Director of Finance, Fairfax County Housing.
Tele#: (703) 246-5134. Email: Steven.Solomon@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Communication & Technology Committee:** **Bruce Grant**, Director of Finance & Administrative Services, Western Virginia Water Authority. Tele#: (540) 387-6104. Email: bruce.grant@westernvawater.org
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- Past President:** **Larry D. Clark**, Treasury Division Director, County of Henrico. Tele#: (804) 227-3159. Email: cla02@co.henrico.va.us
- State Representative:** **Joseph P. Casey**, Deputy County Administrator, County of Hanover.
Tele#: (804) 365-6005. Email: jcasey@co.hanover.va.us

VGFOA Breakfast in San Antonio

You are cordially invited to join your fellow VGFOA members for breakfast in San Antonio on Monday, June 27, 2005. The full buffet breakfast will be at the San Antonio Marriott RiverCenter, Salon A, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Please join us for great food and fellowship. See you there!

VGFOA Spring Conference

Mark Your Calendars for the -

VGFOA Spring Conference

May 1 – 3, 2005

Sheraton Oceanfront, Virginia Beach



Announcements

We Still Need Your CAFR!!

Radford University's Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center is updating the Financial Performance web page for 2004 data. This web page contains key information from the Government-Wide statements and can be used to compare financial information among local governments in Virginia. The web site is at www.gnac.radford.edu.

Information on the site comes from your CAFR. Please send a copy of your 2004 CAFR to:

Bruce Chase
Radford University
Box 6953
Radford, VA 24142

Award Winners



CONGRATULATIONS!

Recent First Time Recipients of GFOA's Certificate Of Achievement For Excellence In Financial Reporting Award

- ❖ Accomack County – Reed M. Ennis, Director of Finance



VGFOA Fall Conference

OMNI  HOTELS

VGFOA 2005 Fall Conference

October 19th – 21st, 2005

Make plans now to attend the VGFOA 2005 Fall Conference to be held at the Omni Richmond Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The Omni Richmond is located in the heart of the City's historic and business district. It is within walking distance of a wide variety of dining, shopping and entertainment venues.

For more information, to offer conference ideas, or to assist with conference coordination please contact Terry Adams at tsadams@co.hanover.va.us. See you there!



AWARDS & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Jo Ellen Kerns:

We are currently accepting applications for the Certificate Scholarships. These annual scholarships are provided to 4 VGFOA members to offset the tuition cost of classes in the VGFOA Certificate program. The scholarships can be used for any Certificate class from June 1 through May 31st. Applications for the VGFOA certificate scholarships will be due by April 15th and the winners will be announced at the May conference. Please visit the VGFOA website for information about the Certificate program and to download the scholarship application form.

The organization has presented scholarships for the GFOA Advanced Institute held annually in August at Madison, Wisconsin, for three years. The Awards and Membership Committee will be making an announcement at the fall conference on the application process and at that time information will be presented on the website.

LEGISLATIVE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE – Steven Solomon:

The new Legislative and Standards Committee has a few items to report. We will be updating the Legislative Subcommittee's page of the VGFOA web sight <http://www.vgfoa.org/oversightComm.html> with a summary of the finance related legislation that was passed in the recent General Assembly session. If there is some additional information you believe would be helpful to add please contact one of the Legislative Subcommittee co-chairs Ann Shawver, City of Roanoke or Franklin Fout, County of Fairfax and we will try to accommodate your need.

In addition the Standards Subcommittee has prepared a response to GASB on the recently issued GASB Exposure Draft (ED), *Accounting for Termination Benefits*. This ED discusses termination benefits in light of GASB Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employees for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions*. This response can be found on the Standards' subcommittee page of the VGFOA web sight <http://www.vgfoa.org/standardsComm.html>. In addition the new GASB Technical Plan calendar has been issued and can be found at <http://www.gasb.org>. Over the next year GASB will be requesting responses on how to communicate financial information, derivative and hedges note disclosures, disclosures of the jurisdiction's economic condition, research on the value of current fund balance reporting, providing more complete and comparable information on intangible assets, disclosure of pollution remediations, and reporting for sales of pledges and receivables. It will be a busy year. If you are interested in joining the Standards Subcommittee to learn about these topics and help provide a response to these important issues please contact the subcommittee chair Vivian McGettigan, Prince William County.

Finally, the GASB has issued their Strategic Plan for 2005-2009, which can be found at <http://www.gasb.org/strategicplan.pdf>. This document clarifies the scope of GASB's Vision and

Mission, which will better help us understand their view of their scope of responsibilities, as well as the direction they are heading in. Enjoy the spring and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to participate in any of these areas.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Rebecca Owens & Ron DeWitt:

Certificate Program

The Virginia Government Finance Officer's Certificate program offered through the VGFOA and GNAC Radford University has been a huge success. This program offers training in the areas of accounting, cash management, debt, budgeting, administration, internal controls and law as well as provides instructional support for those wishing to pursue the national examination-Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO).

In an effort to provide our membership with as many opportunities for educational offerings as possible, we have added several electives as part of the Certificate Program that you can take through the Treasurer's Association and have them count towards the Certificate Program requirements. The approved courses are the Roles & Responsibilities, Bankruptcy, and Delinquent Collections. Please see www.vatreas.com for calendar information.

Below is the tentative calendar for 2005 which is based on the results of the member survey conducted in June 2004:

Date	EVENT	LOCATION
April 7-8	Issuing Debt and Debt Management (Rescheduled from February 24-25)	Roanoke
April 21-22	Cash and Investment Management	Chesapeake
April 28-29	Human Resource Management	Roanoke
May 12-13	Operating and Capital Budgeting	Fairfax
May 19-20	Cash and Investment Management	Richmond
June 9-10	Intermediate Governmental Accounting (Rescheduled from March 3-4)	Ashland, VA
June 14-15	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Fairfax
June 16-17	Internal Controls, Auditing, and Fraud	Roanoke
August 4-5	Operating and Capital Budgeting	Richmond
September 22-23	Virginia Government and Law	Chesapeake
November 3-4	Leadership Effective Communication	Fairfax
November 17-18	Issuing Debt and Debt Management	Chesapeake
December 1-2	Pension and Benefits, Risk Management, and Procurement	Richmond
December 8-9	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Roanoke

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	EVENT	LOCATION
May 1 – 3, 2005	VGFOA Spring Conference	Virginia Beach
June 26-29, 2005	 GFOA 99th Annual Conference	San Antonio, Texas
October 19-21, 2005	VGFOA Fall Conference	Richmond

If you have specific training needs, please contact Rebecca Owens (rowens@co.roanoke.va.us) or Ron Dewitt (rdewitt@nngov.com).

GFOA Certification Program Partners with Radford University⁽¹⁾

GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officers Program has established a strategic alliance with the Radford University Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center, directed by RU accounting professor Bruce Chase. RU will provide technical and administrative support for the program, with responsibilities including development of questions for the CPFO exams by faculty in the University's College of Business and Economics, and assistance in promoting the certification program.

Dr. Chase has been a Radford University faculty member for 13 years. His professional background is in the governmental sector. The Government and Nonprofit Assistance Center has a long-standing partnership with the Virginia GFOA in public finance officer training, especially GASB 34 training.

"We are excited about the opportunity to support the GFOA's certification program," said Chase. "We believe that we can assist the association in keeping the exam up to date with new developments in the field. Our short-term goals are to improve consistency among the exams and to expand the sites that offer the exam in the fall. We look forward to working with the Council on Certification on other ways to improve the exam and further promote the CPFO program."

Exams will be offered next on Friday, June 24, 2005, in conjunction with the GFOA annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. June 17 is the deadline for applications. To learn more, visit www.gfoa.org or e-mail Certification@gfoa.org.

⁽¹⁾ Source: GFOA Newsletter, Volume 80, No. 2. (January 28, 2005).

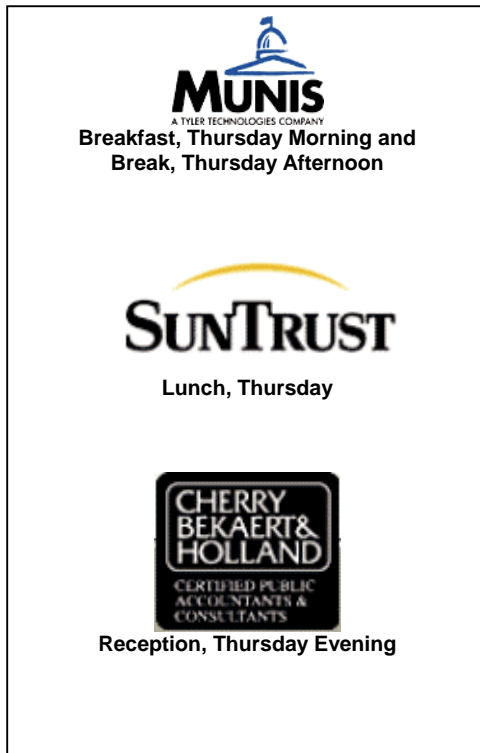
VGFOA History

The VGFOA hopes to complete in 2005 an historical perspective of the VGFOA throughout its history. The goal is to accumulate information and stories about how the organization and its members have evolved over the years. Hopefully, it will be a product by which past members will reflect, existing members will appreciate and future members will use to as a base in compiling future editions of the VGFOA story. Joe Casey is assembling a team to work on this project and if you are interested in either serving on this team and/or simply forwarding a story that you would like to share, then please contact him at 804-365-6005 or jcasey@co.hanover.va.us

Recognition of VGFOA Supporters

*A special **thank you** to the firms that so generously supported our Tenth Annual Government Innovations, Technology, and Management Issues Conference with sponsorships, exhibits and program presentations. Express your appreciation of their support of VGFOA by contacting them when you need the goods and services they provide.*

Sponsors of the VGFOA 2005 Government Innovations, Technology, and Management Issues Conference



Exhibitors at the VGFOA 2005 Government Innovations, Technology, and Management Issues Conference

