



November 20, 2012

Training

Check calendar and register online.

Employment Opportunities

See openings or add an announcement.

VGFOA Certificate Program

Course content & requirements.

VGFOA Board

Meet your Board, see committee assignments, and make contact.

Do you have a story to share? Submit an article to the [Editor](#) for a future newsletter.

VGFOA's Strategic Plan

Directions for the future.

President's Message – "Helping Others"

It is a great honor to serve as your VGFOA President this next year! The past six years have been very rewarding while serving on the VGFOA Board. I look forward to working with our current VGFOA Board to make this a better organization during my term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Weiler, Vivian McGettigan and Tanya Burrell for their service and contributions to the VGFOA. You have worked very hard to make this a better organization.

I could not have gotten to this point in my involvement with the VGFOA without a lot of help along the way. I would like to thank the County of Henrico Finance Department and the VGFOA past presidents that nominated me as President-Elect. I also want to thank my wife, Sue, for taking care of things at home and both of my parents, Lou and Carol Ramsay, who sacrificed so much in their life, so that they could send all seven of their children to college. It is their support, encouragement, values and guidance which has contributed significantly to my success in life.

During my speech at our annual business meeting on October 18, 2012, at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia, I asked attendees to reflect on their own personal lives. What they had accomplished so far in their life and what they had left to do in their life. More importantly, I asked them what they wanted people to remember about them when they were no longer here.

Our theme for this next year is going to be focused on **"helping**

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[Greg Akers](#) – Chair

others.” This comes at a time when people need help more than ever and each of us can make a difference in our life by making a concerted effort in helping others during these difficult times. Sometimes we get so busy with our own jobs and daily lives that we sometimes forget that there is a difference between making a “living” and making a “life.” Making a living implies work and spending our time trying to make enough money to pay our bills. Making a life implies much more than making a living. It implies a deepened awareness of empathy, of one’s purpose, and perhaps, how one can help others.

We can get some valuable lessons in life about “helping others” from the Canadian Geese.

- Geese flying in the “V” formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.
 - Life Lesson – Our honking from behind should be that of encouragement and we should value the importance of sharing the lead and the load.
- As each goose flies, it creates an “uplift” for the bird following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.
 - Life Lesson – People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.
- When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.
 - Life Lesson – In many kinds of relationships, it’s important to be flexible and share leadership and responsibility.
- When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly moves back into formation for the “lifting power” of those immediately in front.
 - Life Lesson – There are times when one feels the drag of life situations and need the uplifting support of

family and friends.

- When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot, two geese drop out of formation and follow their fellow member down to help and provide protection. They commit to staying with this member of the flock until he or she is either able to fly or dies.
 - Life Lesson – Stand by one another through the good times and bad.

As I mentioned earlier, this next year is going to be focused on **“helping others.”** As President of the VGFOA, I have four challenges for you during this next year:

- I challenge each of you to implement one of the life lessons from the Canadian Geese.
- I challenge you to send someone, who has never been before, to attend a Spring or Fall Conference or one of our education classes.
- I challenge you to encourage someone to get involved in the VGFOA who is not currently involved.
- I also encourage each of you to continue to stay actively involved in supporting the VGFOA by volunteering and attending our various training opportunities.

It is the support of each of you which makes this a great organization! Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your VGFOA President this next year!

Charles

Employee Payroll Tax Alert: Possible Net Pay Reduction January 2013

The 2% temporary reduction to FICA withholding effective for 2011 and 2012 is currently scheduled to expire December 31st. Although we continue to monitor if Congress will take action to extend this tax relief, be prepared for a corresponding net pay reduction starting with the January 2013. Consider reminding your employees of the potential pay impact in advance.

Welcome New VGFOA Executive Board Members Sharon Day and Kathy Seay

At the October 2012 annual business meeting, Sharon Day, Division Chief for York County's Division of Budget and Financial Reporting, and Kathy Seay, Director of Finance and Management Services for Hanover County, were elected to the Executive Board of the VGFOA. Sharon will chair the Conferences Committee and Kathy will chair the Membership and Awards Committee.

New Board Member Spotlight: Kathy Seay

Part of welcoming new VGFOA Executive Board members is sharing their background information with the Membership. Information on other current Board Members was provided in the November 2010 and January 2012 VGFOA Newsletters editions which are available in the [VGFOA Archives](#). This edition we spotlight Kathy Seay. Look for an introduction to Sharon Day in our January 2013 edition.

Kathy Seay is the Director of Finance and Management Services for Hanover County. Kathy has served on the VGFOA Awards and Legislative Committees, and taught the Internal Controls VGFOA Certificate course. She has also developed and presented training for the GFOA and AICPA, and has contributed several articles to the Government Finance Review (GFR).

Kathy received a B.S. in Finance and Accounting from the University of Richmond in 1980 with a minor in Economics. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). Kathy has also served as a peer review team leader for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). She currently serves on the GFOA Standing Committee for Economic Development and Capital Planning and is a judge for the GFOA Awards for Excellence.

Kathy is a life-long resident of Hanover County where she lives with her husband, Rob. They have two sons, Cameron and Barrett, who reside in Fredericksburg and Arlington, VA.

Members Sought for Communications Committee

Do you have a knack for communications, an eye for a good web page, an interest in social media, or an idea for a more modern alternative to the VGFOA listserv (<http://www.vgfoa.org/listserv.html>)? Maybe your talent is with writing, editing, or taking photos? Have you ever wished VGFOA had a greater Facebook, blog, or twitter presence? Maybe you want to develop a VGFOA conference “app” for the tablet or smart phone? If you said yes to any of the above, VGFOA may have a place for you to serve.

The Communication Committee provides oversight for content delivered to the Membership via VGFOA Newsletter, website and/or e-mail distribution outlets, and is seeking committee members to help select, develop, and maintain our communication tools. To learn more, contact chairperson Greg Akers at grega@the-rma.org.



Mark Your Calendars!

Our VGFOA Spring Conference is scheduled for May 22-24th, 2013, at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront. This will be our last conference at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront prior to

moving the conference location to the Cavalier Hotel in 2014. We encourage each of you to attend and send as many folks to the conference as you can. 2012-2013 VGFOA President Charles Ramsay says “it will be a conference to remember – I can promise you that!”

Conference information and registration details for attendees and vendors will be available on the VGFOA website in early January 2013. Vendors interested in participating in the conference can contact Terrie Pyeatt at Terrie.Pyeatt@VBSchools.com.

CBH Plans 2013 Government Benchmarking Survey

During 2011 CB&H presented their successful inaugural Government Benchmarking Study, which was designed to capture and identify significant trends on timely issues relevant to local government entities. We learned:

- Employee benefits are not the same selling point they used to be
- There is a growing concern for the importance of transparency with regard to intergovernmental dependency
- Technology will be extremely important as a way to help control costs
- Governments are social media savvy
- Green initiatives are ‘in’
- ARRA had a favorable impact
- Despite budgetary concerns, stable tax rates are expected for the near term

If you weren't a part of this ground-breaking survey, why not?! However, don't despair, CB&H's 2nd annual survey is launching in January 2013. Mark your calendars and watch your e-mails so you don't miss out again. A presentation of the 2013 survey results is being planned for a 2013 VGFOA conference and we hope to increase participation by Virginia governments in the next survey. To participate, contact Jessica Laubacher Marsh, Marketing Manager, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP at JMarsh@cbh.com

Frank Turk's Retirement Reception Scheduled for December 18, 2012

Frank Turk has a long history of participation and leadership with the VGFOA, including serving as President (1981-1982). After 45 years of service, Frank Turk will be retiring as Director of Finance for the City of Salem. A reception will be held in his honor on Tuesday, December 18th from 4pm to 6pm in Council Chambers at Salem City Hall located at 114 North Broad Street, Salem, VA. Presentations will be at 4:30pm. Please stop by and wish Frank well on his retirement.

IRS Local Government Specialist to Speak at November Southwest and Hampton Roads Regional Training Events

Have you ever wished for an opportunity to ask an IRS auditor questions about taxable fringe benefits in a neutral, non-intimidating, and somewhat anonymous environment? Here's your chance! The VGFOA Southwest and Hampton Roads Regional Organizations will both be hosting James Driver, a Federal, State, and Local Government Specialist for the IRS, at training opportunities toward the end of November. Read on for details.

VGFOA Southwest Regional Training Event Scheduled for November 27, 2012

The VGFOA Southwest Regional Organization is sponsoring a training event scheduled for Tuesday November 27, 2012, from 9am to 3:30pm at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. Topics include Employment Tax Overview: Taxable Fringe Benefits and Worker Classification, Internal Audit and Fraud, and a panel discussion on IRS audits. The event is \$20 and includes lunch (adjacent parking is an additional \$5) with six hours of available CPE. Online registration for this regional event is available [here](#). If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact Jill Underwood at j.underwood@bcpsa.com.

VGFOA Hampton Roads Regional Training Event Scheduled for November 28, 2012

The VGFOA Hampton Roads Regional Organization is sponsoring a training event on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, from 9am to noon in the York County Board of Supervisors' meeting room, York Hall, Yorktown. Topics include Employment Tax Overview: Taxable Fringe Benefits and Worker Classification, and discussion will cover aspects of tax law including uniforms, clothing allowance, meal reimbursements, take-home vehicles, and others. The session is informal and there will be plenty of time for questions. Topics may be of interest to staff in all facets of local government including public safety, so please spread the word. Registration for the event is free, and three hours of CPE are available. Online registration for this event is available [here](#). Questions regarding the training may be directed to Debbie Morris at morrisd@yorkcounty.gov.

VGFOA Central Regional Training Event Scheduled for December 7, 2012

The VGFOA Central Regional Organization is having a training event scheduled for Friday, December 7, 2012, from 9am – 3pm at the Henrico County Training Center. Topics include an overview of the new GFOA Blue Book, Bond and Debt topics, Arbitrage and an Accounting Update. Registration for the event is free and includes lunch. Registration is available [here](#) and space is limited to 80 participants. If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact Clarence Daniel at dan@co.henrico.va.us.

Remaining 2012 VGFOA Certificate Courses

Certificate Course registration fees for VGFOA and Treasurer's Association of Virginia (TAV) Members are still \$225 per participant (\$275 for non-Members). Online course registration fees are \$125. Online registration and the event calendar are available by [clicking here](#).

Date	Event	Locations
November 28-29	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Charlottesville
December 6-7	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Chesapeake

Online courses are available for:

Introduction to Governmental Accounting
Internal Controls, Auditing, and Fraud
Intermediate Accounting

**2013 Course Tentative Schedule:
Registration is Now Open**

2013 Date	Event	Locations
January 10-11	Cash Management & Banking	Newport News
February 7-8	Grants Management	Fairfax
February 14-15	Virginia Government & Law	Roanoke
March 7-8	Virginia Government & Law	Fairfax
April 4-5	Grants Management	Henrico
April 18-19	Operating & Capital Budgeting	Fairfax
April 18-19	Internal Controls, Auditing & Fraud	Newport News
May 16-17	Cash Management & Banking	Roanoke
May 16-17	How to Prepare a CAFR	Hanover
May 30-31	Leadership	Chesapeake
June 13-14	Pension, Risk Management & Procurement	Hanover
June 20-21	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Fairfax
June 27-28	Short Term Investments	Roanoke
July 18-19	Operating & Capital Budgeting	Henrico
August 1-2	Issuing Debt & Debt Management	Fairfax
December 5-6	Intermediate Governmental Accounting	Chesapeake
December 12-13	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Roanoke

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