



**February 03, 2017**

**Training**

Check calendar and register on-line.

**Employment Opportunities**

See openings or add an announcement.

**VGFOA Certificate Program**

Course content & requirements.

**Membership Directory**

Contact someone, or update your information online.

**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.

**Renew Membership**

**President's Message**

Happy New Year everyone!

As we go into 2017, I first want to again thank Renee and the outgoing Board members for all their contributions to our organization's mission. In this newsletter, we begin to introduce our new board members – Trish Davidson, from Rockingham County, Keli Reekes, from Brunswick County, and Andrea Trent, from the City of Roanoke. Since the Fall Conference, your VGFOA Board has continued to work on many projects that are related to the Strategic plan. Mentorship and Education are our primary focus. Please contact [Stephanie Jones](#), Mentorship and Awards Committee Chair, if you would like to participate in the Mentorship Program. More information will be included on the web site and in this newsletter about an upcoming Mentorship activity.

I look forward to getting feedback from our membership as we introduce the expanded education opportunities for 2017. We are contracting with another education partner to add to our already successful certificate program and offer more training around the state. The Education Committee Chairs, Curtis Doughtie and Jill Underwood, have shared more detail on this growing program in this newsletter.

The Spring Conference planning is coming along great and registration is open. I hope to see many of you in Virginia Beach. As I mentioned at our Fall Conference, I hope we can make this year about building relationships with each other, other local government organizations, and most importantly, our citizens in our communities. Please contact me ([ktseay@hanovercounty.gov](mailto:ktseay@hanovercounty.gov)) or any of our VGFOA Board members to let us know how VGFOA can support you.

Thanks, Kathy

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Announcements &  
News](#)

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the Web](#)

Visit now.

Join the conversation at:

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Discuss and exchange information with the membership

[Communications  
Committee](#)

[Andrea F. Trent, Chair](#)  
[Greg Akers](#)  
[Belinda Deal](#)  
[Deidre Jett](#)

[Education  
Committee](#)

[Jill W. Underwood, Co-Chair](#)  
[Curtis Douglas, Co-Chair](#)

## **Welcome New VGFOA Executive Board Members Trish Davidson, Keli Reeks and Andrea Trent to New VGFOA Officer Positions**

At the October 2016 annual business meeting, Trish Davidson, Director of Finance, Rockingham County, chairing the Spring Conference Committee, Keli Reeks, Director of Finance, Brunswick County, chairing the Fall Conference Committee, and Andrea Trent, Assistant Director of Finance, City of Roanoke, chairing the Communications, Legislative and Standards Setting Committee were, all elected to the Executive Board of the VGFOA.

In addition, at the annual business meeting, the VGFOA membership elected the following officer positions: Kathy Seay, President; Diane Bergeron, President-Elect; and, Janet Romanchyk, Treasurer; Renee Hoover transitioned to Past President.

### **Thank You, Jon Munch, for your Service**

Thank you to Jon Munch for his service to the VGFOA membership. While Jon has rotated off the Board as immediate Past-President, his leadership to the organization will not be forgotten. Under Jon's guidance, the organization's website was updated and the mentoring program was introduced. We look forward to Jon's participation in the mentorship program during the next year as he transitions off of the Executive Board.

### **Committee Structure Modified**

As the Executive Board closes out 2016 and begins 2017, efforts to support the updated strategic plan are underway. The updated committee structure, with their chairpersons and committee members, are working to support the three key initiatives:

1. Providing a robust educational program,
2. Providing a robust mentoring and networking opportunities, and
3. Broadening VGFOA's "Finance" umbrella.

Each committee chair is actively seeking volunteers to participate in their respective activities, accountabilities, and goals for the year.

#### [Associate Member Relations Committee](#)

**Committee Purpose:** To ensure associate members and prospective

vendors for membership are provided with pathways to illustrate their goods/services, provide educational and technical resources, and contribute appropriately for such access to the full membership. This committee coordinates and helps promote the exhibit booths and sponsorship opportunities available for the spring and fall conferences.

#### **Communications, Legislative & Standards Setting Committee**

**Committee Purpose:** To provide oversight for content of communications to the VGFOA Membership (including e-mail distributions, VGFOA Newsletters) and the technical manner in which such content and other information can be maintained on the Website.

To remain apprised of State and Federal legislation impacts, particularly items with significant fiscal impact and/or any other impacts that may be imposed upon governmental entities. This committee formulates education and communication strategies to keep the membership informed of these updates.

To remain apprised of activities of standard setting authorities (e.g., GASB) that may impact governmental entities. This committee conducts research to enable VGFOA to formulate a position on standards and supports formulation of education and communication strategies to best inform members in a timely manner. The committee reviews Exposure Drafts and formulates an official VGFOA response by the comment deadline.

#### **Fall Conference Committee**

**Committee Purpose:** To provide oversight for the fall conferences, including securing the event location and formulating the agenda. This committee provides recommendations to the Executive Board for the fall conferences regarding location, facility arrangements, conference fees, keynote and session speakers, CPE credits offered, accommodations for speakers, and reimburseable expenses.

#### **Spring Conference Committee**

**Committee Purpose:** To provide oversight for the spring conferences, including securing the event location and formulating the agenda. This committee provides recommendations to the Executive Board for the spring conferences regarding location, facility arrangements, conference fees, keynote and session speakers, CPE credits offered, accommodations for speakers, and reimburseable expenses.

#### **Education Committee**

**Committee Purpose:** To formulate a structured educational training schedule that includes the Virginia Government Finance Officers Certificate Program (Certificate Program), the Certified Public Finance

Officers Program (CPFO Program), and the Professional Development Program.

### [Mentorship and Awards Committee](#)

**Committee Purpose:** To provide support to VGFOA members interested in developing their leadership abilities and enhancing their technical skills in government finance, and to provide oversight over an awards program recognizing both individual members, their organizations, and providing scholarships for future members.

## **Getting to know you**

The Executive Board and Committee Chairs would like to invite you to meet and speak with us. Conference calls will be scheduled throughout the year to introduce you to the committees, chairpersons, and committee members providing membership an opportunity to ask questions. In our efforts to broaden our umbrella, we are looking forward to speaking with members who may be interested in joining committees. Our first conference call will feature information on the following committees:

1. Education,
2. Communications, Legislative and Standards Setting, and
3. Mentorship and Awards

Please plan to join our Chairpersons on Wednesday, February 22 from 1:30 – 3:00 to learn about the committees and our exciting plans for 2017. The number is 605-475-6711, participant code is 4891718.

## **2017 Membership Renewal**

Just a friendly reminder that VGFOA Membership renewal is underway. Members can renew online or by downloading a membership application at [VGFOA Membership Information](#).

## **2017 VGFOA Spring Conference**

Registration for the VGFOA Spring Conference is now open. Join finance professionals from across the Commonwealth in Virginia Beach, May 10-12.

Don't miss the opportunity to earn up to 16 continuing education credits towards your professional certification, socialize with local government

finance directors, and learn best practices from top speakers! This year will feature a County Administrator's panel where several recently retired County Administrators will present lessons learned. Along those lines, a panel of seasoned Finance Directors will host a roundtable where Finance Directors will speak on the good, bad and ugly in local government finances. Both panels will offer an opportunity for interaction with the attendees including a question and answer session. Other presentations will include information from the three credit rating agencies, GASB updates, LODA update, health care reform and more!

Ethics will also be offered on Friday, May 12, for a separate fee of \$65. Visit the VGFOA 2017 Spring Conference website for details.



### **Edward T. Pettigrew College Student Scholarship**

To honor the contributions made by Edward T. Pettigrew, the VGFOA's first president, the VGFOA is offering two governmental accounting/public administration awards to be given to students attending a Virginia university or college. Each selected student will receive a \$1,000 award.

Students must be rising college juniors/seniors with a declared major of accounting or public administration with the goal of going into the public sector OR graduate students in an MPA program. Full or part-time students are eligible for these awards.

The following items must be submitted to be considered for this award:

- a completed Edward T. Pettigrew College Student Scholarship [Application](#)
- a completed [Faculty Recommendation](#)
- unofficial transcripts

Applications are being accepted through **March 31, 2017**. Awards will be presented at the Spring VGFOA conference in May 2017 at the Hilton Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach.

## **Strategic Initiative Mentorship Program**

One of the exciting initiatives of the 2017 VGFOA strategic plan is to enhance mentorship activities. One of the ways we are going to achieve this goal is to institute matched pairs of mentors/mentees among interested VGFOA members. Some interest was solicited at the fall conference through sign-up cards. However, the mentorship partnerships have not been assigned yet, so please contact Stephanie Jones, Chair of the Mentorship and Awards Committee, ([sjones@virginiaresources.org](mailto:sjones@virginiaresources.org)) if you are interested in being a part of the mentorship program!



Another mentorship activity that the VGFOA will be hosting this year is a one-day Mentorship Workshop event. The event will feature a facilitator who will provide guidance on effective mentoring. Participants will leave the Workshop with an understanding of the core

concepts and skills behind mentoring. The Workshop participants will also be eligible for CPE credits for their attendance. More details about date, time and location will be provided in an upcoming email blast. Stay tuned!

## **VGFOA Training Update**

A significant component of the Executive Board's strategic plan is to provide a robust education program for VGFOA's members. To accomplish this goal, VGFOA issued an RFP last year for professional development services and is hoping to execute a contract in January

2017 with Virginia Tech's School of Public and International Affairs to facilitate low-cost workshops across the state and develop a series of free webinars for all VGFOA members. The workshops will be offered at Virginia Tech locations across the state. This new program will provide fresh and practical topics while reaching a larger portion of VGFOA's membership. The new program is expected to hold its first session in Spring 2017. VGFOA welcomes any feedback on this new program. Please contact Jill Underwood or Curtis Doughtie with your comments.

The Education Committee is also seeking additional committee members to help carry out this exciting venture - please contact Jill or Curtis if you are interested.

### **2017 VGFOA Certificate Courses**

The 2017 Certificate courses are open for registration. Registration fees for 2017 are \$225 for Members; \$275 for non-Members. Online registration is available by [clicking here](#).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Location</b>
February 9-10	<a href="#">GAAFR CPFO Review</a>	Hanover
March 2-3	<a href="#">Pensions, Risk Management &amp; Procurement</a>	Newport News
March 16-17	<a href="#">Grants Management</a>	Fairfax
March 23-24	<a href="#">Virginia Government and Law</a>	Henrico
April 4 - 5	<a href="#">Pensions, Risk Management and Procurement</a>	Fairfax
April 20 - 21	<a href="#">Virginia Government and Law</a>	Newport News
June 8 - 9	<a href="#">Issuing Public Debt</a>	Fairfax
June 15 - 16	<a href="#">How to Prepare a CAFR</a>	Henrico
July 6 - 7	<a href="#">Operating and Capital Budgeting</a>	Roanoke
July 17 - 18	<a href="#">Advanced Governmental Accounting</a>	Newport News
Aug 3 - 4	<a href="#">Cash Management and Banking</a>	Hanover
Sept 14 - 15	<a href="#">CPFO Treasury and Investment Management Review</a>	Roanoke
Sept 21 - 22	<a href="#">Intermediate Governmental Accounting</a>	Fairfax
Oct 19 - 20	<a href="#">Short-Term Investments</a>	Newport News
Nov 30 - Dec 1	<a href="#">Advanced Governmental Accounting</a>	Roanoke

## **On-Line Courses! Registration is Now Available for 2017**

Don't forget - our online courses are offered year round! Registration fee is \$150 for online courses. Online registration is available by [clicking here](#).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Location</b>
2017	<a href="#">Cash Management &amp; Banking 2017</a>	On-line
2017	<a href="#">Debt Management for Public Finance Officers 2017</a>	On-line
2017	<a href="#">Intermediate Governmental Accounting 2017</a>	On-line
2017	<a href="#">Internal Controls, Auditing &amp; Fraud 2017</a>	On-line
2017	<a href="#">Introduction to Governmental Accounting 2017</a>	On-line

### *Cancellation/Refund Policy*

*In order to qualify for a refund, notice of registration cancellation must be received at least 7 business days prior to the event. Substitution of attendee may be made at any time.*

## **GFOA Update**

On January 10, 2017, GFOA and 28 other issuer groups, including our state and local sister organizations, sent a message to the entire Congress in support of the preservation of the tax exemption of municipal bond interest. The message reiterated that the municipal bond is the only infrastructure financing tool that is accessible to jurisdictions of all sizes to effectively access the capital markets. We emphasize that the municipal bond is the best way to effectively implement the infrastructure needs of each community because decision making is made at the local level.

On November 10, 2016, GFOA, along with the Leadership of the Committee on Governmental Debt Management, filed comments on the MSRB's fiscal year 2017 Strategic Plan. The message reiterated approval for the MSRB's work on EMMA, especially the development of platforms and features that enhance an issuer's ability to use EMMA with greater ease and consistency, as evidenced in the groups' recent work on improving the bank loan function. However, GFOA would appreciate the MSRB continuing to reach out to the association about further educational efforts and enhancements to EMMA.

Specifically, GFOA suggest support for the following:

- Improve the EMMA user interface;
- Make data correction/modification of EMMA input easier for issuers; and
- Allow for a seamless flow of data between EMMA and other systems and sources.

GFOA asks the MSRB to be aware of and commit attention to the needs of smaller governments, including cost impacts and educational efforts needed to ensure their robust use of EMMA. Finally, GFOA's comments included compliments for the MSRB's significant outreach and education efforts to the issuer community and recognition of the wide range of online training resources that are publicly available to users of EMMA.

### **In Memory of.....**

Steven A. Solomon, VGFOA Past President (2007-2008), was a dedicated public servant who was committed to serving the community. His professional career focused on government financial reporting, internal controls, auditing, budgeting, finance, pensions, investments, and risk management. He was a valued and generous colleague and friend to many in the field of government finance. Solomon, 57, died November 11, 2016, after a brief illness.

VGFOA donated \$500 to the GFOA Scholarship Committee Fund in memory of Steve. GFOA's Scholarship Committee Fund supports the Daniel B. Goldberg, Frank L. Greathouse Government Accounting, and Minorities in Government Scholarships, which serve government finance professionals throughout the United States and Canada.

*Virginia Government Finance Officers' Association's mission is "...to foster financial excellence in government by creating opportunities for professional development."*