



August 2021

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



TRISH DAVIDSON

Greetings VGFOA! Vacation time is upon us, and I hope you all have had the opportunity to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather, finding some way to relax amongst all of the crazy times we are faced with in our day to day work lives. My family was able to relax in Emerald Isle last week, the weather was beautiful and of course all the local seafood was amazing!!

As we look to the LIVE fall conference in Richmond, I am filled with excitement to see all my favorite VGFOA colleagues and friends. This is an exciting time for the VGFOA as we are working toward getting back to fun and relaxing times learning with some of our dearest friends. The fall conference committee is working hard to provide a wonderful experience for you all.

The Executive Board will meet in August to put their finishing touches on the strategic plan. We hope to be able to share it with you soon and we encourage you all to review the plan and find some way to get involved with one of our many committees. There is much work to be done to continue to grow our profession in numbers and in strength!

To end this message, a quote about endurance seems pretty fitting since we are all running this marathon together. "Endurance is patience concentrated," by Thomas Carlyle. Patience is definitely something I have learned over this last year.

My best to you all, and please be sure to reach out to me anytime!



VGFOA
Announcements & News

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Join the conversation at:

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VGFOA Listserv

Discuss and exchange information with the membership

VGFOA Committees

Join now

VGFOA VIRTUAL SPRING 2021 CONFERENCE

While we all would have rather been at the beach, we appreciate everyone who attended the virtual spring conference. Over 200 attendees earned up to 12 hours of CPE (14 including Ethics) and participated in online selfie and raffle contests. While there were a few technical difficulties (legalized marijuana, anyone?) there was lots of good information imparted. Those of us who took Ethics learned the VBOA does not have a sense of humor. They didn't appreciate a poll question answer choice that the definition of a CPA is a Certified...(you can guess the rest).

In the survey comments, while many looked forward to being in person again, some really appreciated being able to attend sessions and obtain CPE without having to travel.

Many thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors. Without them, we would never have been able to present the conference on this professional platform.

Here are our contest winners, and thank you to everyone who sent a selfie and did their research to answer bingo questions.

<p>BINGO Contest Proud Prize Winners</p> <p>Christina Campbell Vanessa Closs Tamara Walters Miryam Woodson</p> <p>Thank You Participating Sponsors & Exhibitors</p>		<p>SELFIE Contest Proud Prize Winners</p> <p>Pet Selfie Winners: -Mardi Gras dog -Dapper kitten -Jammin' Jayda</p> <p>Locality Selfie Winners: -Brigitte Perussot -Reid Lanham -Ann Marie Ricardi</p> <p>Thank You Participating Sponsors & Exhibitors</p>	
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Professional Development Opportunity

The Virginia Government Finance Officers' Association (VGFOA) has partnered with the Virginia Institute of Government (VIG), a unit of the **Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia**, to design and deliver a new and exciting series of professional and personal development programs focused on addressing a variety of topics critical to today's government finance professionals.

Next up: Understanding Communication Styles/DISC with trainer Terrie Glass. Save the date - this class will take place the week of September 27th.

Let's be honest. There are people at work who you find to be just plain difficult. How can you handle them more effectively? How can you reduce your mutual frustration when dealing with each other? The key could be an understanding of "style." This workshop uses the model from DISC - a well-researched communication assessment tool. You will learn how to better understand those who communicate, interact, and respond to situations differently than you. Sometimes it's easier than we think to resolve the difficulties between us and the people we find difficult.

Objectives:

1. Understand your own communication style
2. Accurately "read" the styles of others
3. Identify the style strengths and weaknesses of your current team
4. Employ simple techniques to communicate more effectively with staff, colleagues, and customers

Register for VGFOA Fall 2021 Conference

September 15 – 17 2021



The upcoming VGFOA Fall 2021 Conference will be **IN PERSON!** We are so excited to be seeing everyone again and hope you have marked your calendars to be there next month!

Come interact with your peers from other localities, while we engage in sessions on topics relative to local government finance. Come explore



Richmond, at the [Omni Richmond Hotel](#), overlooking the scenic James River and surrounded by the architecture and charm that makes downtown Richmond the place to be! The conference is fast approaching, and [registration is open](#). Hop on quickly in order to book a room under our conference rate.

This year's fall conference will feature a keynote address by Baraka Kasongo, CEO of Volatia, a company whose mission is "a world with no language barriers, a world with cultural harmony." Baraka's session on "Leading with Shoes" is just one example of his "passion for bridging language and cultural barriers fueled by his experience of being a refugee in five different countries for a period of seven years."

Other sessions on Performance Measures, updated criteria for the GFOA Budget Award, Virginia Tourism and Finance, and more will keep you informed on timely topics related to local government finance. Don't miss out on this opportunity to earn CPE credits, connect with your peers in local government finance, and enjoy a [visit to Virginia's Capital City!](#)

SimpleLists – VGFOA's Simple Solution for Networking

VGFOA moved the networking and communications platform to SimpleLists this spring for members only. This is a great platform to ask questions and provide professional guidance. If you would like to subscribe, follow this link: <https://www.vgfoa.org/page/vgfoa-listserv/>.

Hot topics on SimpleLists recently:

- New Overtime rules
- Amazon Business Accounts
- Retirement Celebrations

Join your peers in a discussion today!

General Assembly Special Session

Governor Northam issued a proclamation calling the members of the General Assembly into special session on Monday, August 2, 2021. They will fill judicial vacancies and allocate more the \$4.3B in federal relief funding. As the special session began, both House and Senate versions of the budget amendments are identical. The major elements of the budget amendment include:



- \$716M Broadband and grants will be disbursed through VATI
- \$935.6 to replenish Unemployment insurance and upgrades to call center, adjudication and systems
- \$250M for Rebuild Virginia for business assistance with additional rounds of grants for hospitality and tourism industry
- \$411.5 Water, Wastewater and CSOs
- \$250M for School ventilation improvements based on ADM distribution requiring 1:1 match
- Other small business/tourism \$76.5M
- \$25.6M Food access
- \$111M for Higher Ed Financial Aid
- \$238M for Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- \$25M for State parks maintenance backlog
- \$114.5M for public safety and community violence
- \$280.8M public health initiatives
- \$120M for utility assistance

For more information, visit: <https://lis.virginia.gov/>

American Recovery Plan Act

Localities across the Commonwealth are strategizing how to use their ARPA funds to the best advantage of their citizens. The U.S. Department of the Treasury issued the “Interim Final Rule” – which is quite a contradictory title. Are you having trouble interpreting the information? Provide questions on [VGFOA SimpleLists](#) for others to help you navigate.

GFOA provides guidance including a revenue replacement calculation for members only. See other guidance here: <https://www.gfoa.org/american-rescue-plan-act-of-2021>

Reducing Stress in the Workplace

Have you posted year end entries? Have you planned for the use of ARPA funds? Are your auditors on the way? Did you trip over your cat on the way out the door and spilled coffee all over your clothes? Can you take much more?

As financial professionals in local government, we can deal with a lot of stress in the work place. If you're like me, your plan for the day begins to go awry when you walk in the door. It's important for all of us to provide coping



mechanisms to help us through every day. Here are some healthy ways to mitigate stress:

- Exercise regularly
- Get plenty of sleep
- Meditate
- Try to eat healthy
- Talk to those you trust about how you are feeling

If you have other tips and tricks, or successful wellness programs, provide those in the [VGFOA SimpleLists](#).

GASB 87 Leases

GASB 87 for leases is changing the way we are recording and reporting leases. A lease is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset as specified in the contract for a period of time in exchange or exchange like transaction. GASB states that this will increase the usefulness of governments' financial reporting by requiring reporting of certain leases liabilities that are currently not reported.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 recommended that the FASB and the IASB address inconsistencies in lease accounting between operating and capital leases. The SEC estimated that there were \$1.25 trillion off-balance sheet leases ⁽¹⁾.

As governments across the United States grapple with GASB 87 Leases, we have an advantage in VGFOA of a group of professionals to rely upon. Take to [VGFOA SimpleLists](#) and post your questions or how you are dealing with Leases today!

(1) Source: <https://www.cpajournal.com/2020/04/29/the-implications-of-gasb-statement-87-on-lease-accounting/>