



December 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



ANDREA TRENT

As we transition from Fall to Winter, I am thankful for a number of successful events this year. Our Fall Conference, held in Richmond in September, was a success. The attendance was a bit smaller than our previous fall conferences, but our list of speakers was extraordinary. Membership is strong. Weldon Cooper joined VGFOA as an educational partner and presented sessions for our members. We also introduced two new members to our Board (introductions to follow).

As we close out the year, we are once again faced with uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus, and now, the implications of its' variants. Audit season is just about behind us and the finalization of our annual reports are near, if not complete. The adaptations made to accommodate our new norms are now being revisited, reviewed, and modified to ensure we are maintaining the most efficient, compliant and controlled environment as possible. Wow, what accomplishments in a less than desirable atmosphere!

2022 is a new year and I am looking forward to both the status quo and changes that will embrace us as we welcome the new year.

In closing, I would like to thank you, our membership, for your continued support and wish you and your family a happy, healthy holiday season.



'VGFOA, your ongoing partner to advance professional growth.'

VGFOA
Announcements & News

See the latest updates and news.

National GFOA on the Web

Visit now

Join the conversation at:

VGFOA Listserv

Discuss and exchange information with the membership

VGFOA Committees

Join now

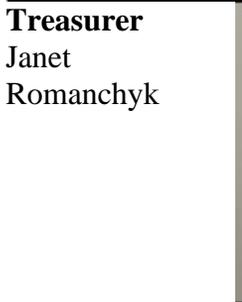
2022 VGFOA EXECUTIVE BOARD



President Elect
Aaron McCoy



Past President
Trish Davidson



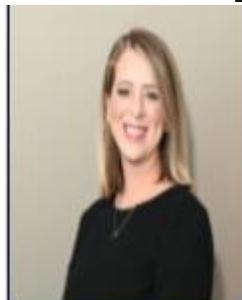
Treasurer
Janet Romanchyk



Membership and Awards
Andrea Light



Communications, Legislative and Standards
Jennie Tripoli*



Associate Member Relations
Keli Reekes



Spring Conference
AnnMarie Ricardi*



Spring Conference
Howard Kartel





'VGFOA, your ongoing partner to advance professional growth.'



**Fall
Conference**
Donna Witt

Reach out to one of these Board members to see where you can bring your expertise! All are welcome. Click [here](#) to get in touch.



Education
Marion Serfass

D



**Executive
Secretary**
Jenny Fletcher

New Board Members

A hearty welcome to our two new board members: AnnMarie Ricardi and Jennie Tripoli!

AnnMarie Ricardi is the Assistant County Administrator of Middlesex County. She brings forward a wealth of knowledge and experience from the Florida GFOA. AnnMarie is co-chairing the Spring conference this year.

Jennie Tripoli is the Chief Financial Officer for the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC), right in the capital of the Commonwealth. Jennie has many years of finance and accounting experience, including over a decade of public service in Virginia state and local government. She looks forward to working with the Board and membership to bring positive changes to the VGFOA.



*Save the Date!
VGFOA Spring
Conference
May 11-13, 2022
Virginia Beach*

The Spring Conference committee, led by co-chairs Howard Kartel and AnnMarie Ricardi, is starting to plan for your VGFOA annual spring conference, at the brand-new Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront. We look forward to getting together back at the beach again, and this conference should be a real energizer for our members! The theme for the conference, “An Ocean of Knowledge” is designed to incorporate our location with our broad plan of learning together!

The committee seeks presenters and topics, and your input as a member of VGFOA is invaluable. If you would like to participate as a committee member and be a part of organizing this epic event, or to be considered as a presenter or have a topic you think should be added – contact Ann Marie A.ricardi@co.middlesex.va.us or Howard HKartel@culpeperva.gov.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

VGFOA Vision:
VGFOA, your ongoing partner to advance professional growth

VGFOA Education Committee

The Education committee has a lot of programs planned for December and the next calendar year.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming classes.

- December 1, 2021, Engaging and Motivating Employees (Zoom)



- December 2-3, 2021 [Internal Controls, Auditing & Fraud \(Roanoke\)](#)
- January 10-11, 2022 [Virginia Government and Law \(Roanoke\)](#)
- February 25, 2022 [Personal and Professional Well-being \(Zoom\)](#)
- March 8-9, 2022 [Cash Management and Banking \(Rockingham\)](#)
- March 24-25, 2022 [How to Prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(Charlottesville\)](#)

A full calendar for 2022 will be available soon. For more information on signing up for courses, please visit VGFOA.org.

Would you like to teach a course? Contact committee chair Marion Serfass at mserfass@viennava.gov for more information.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The President signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) into law on November 15, 2021. This law provides \$1.2 trillion for infrastructure and spending. Of this, \$550 billion will go to new investments. GFOA provides a break down of what is in the IIJA <https://www.gfoa.org/president-signs-infrastructure-investment--jobs-act>.

Has your locality started to talk about IIJA? Do you have other resources? If so, go to the VGOA SimpleLists to provide information to your fellow VGFOA members.

VGFOA Adopts Strategic Plan

The VGFOA Board went through a strategic planning process this spring and finalized and adopted the plan this summer. This updated plan includes a new vision: VGFOA, your ongoing partner to advance professional growth. We thank our valued members for partnering with us to meet this vision. VGFOA shows the commitment to your quality, affordable professional growth through various educational opportunities. We continue to partner with Radford University and the Weldon Cooper Center of the University of Virginia. Plans are also underway for the Spring 2022 Conference.



Fall Conference Survey Results

We had 27 participants respond to the Fall Conference Survey. This important feedback helps the VGFOA Board to meet their Strategic Plan, Goal 3 – Strengthen engagement and communications.

Here are some responses from the survey:

Question	Extremely	Very	Moderately	Slightly	Not At All
How organized with the conference?	48%	44%	8%	0%	0%
How useful to your job was the information presented at the conference?	20%	48%	28%	4%	0%
Did the conference meet your expectations?	20%	64%	16%	0%	0%
Overall, how satisfied were you with the conference	32%	56%	12%	0%	0%

There were many more questions about the quality of food and beverages and the speakers. Continuous improvement and meeting our vision “*VGFOA, your ongoing partner to advance professional growth*” can be realized when we get this kind of feedback from our members.

Want to help out? Join the Spring or Fall Conference Committee.



Just Breathe....

In the crazy days of post-pandemic, we are learning the whole Greek alphabet because of new Coronavirus variants. Let's not forget the impact of CARES, ARPA, IJJA, BBB. Inflation? Meat prices have gone up over 10%! Tofurky for the holidays? Mask stress. Do you wear a mask? Should I wear a mask? Why am I the only one wearing a mask? I forgot my hand sanitizer! Why do we have so much fund balance?

Times are pretty stressful right now. We have all of these extra things we can't control on top of our jobs we think we can control. While all this can seem daunting, you can always control your breath. According to the Mayo Clinic, "During stressful moments, conscious breathing allows you to shift and release negative energy instead of storing it in your body"⁽¹⁾.

So "Number Folks", here's a counted breathing exercise that can help release negative energy. Try the 4-7-8 breathing technique. Breathe in for a count of 4; hold breath for a count of 7; and exhale for a count of 8. Repeat for one minute. Easy peasy and free!

How do you relax? Do you want more help from peers? Take to the VGFOA SimpleLists and send your fellow members an email.

(1)<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/in-depth/decrease-stress-by-using-your-breath/art-20267197>