



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

July 15, 2007

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NACo Comes to Richmond

Several years of planning, more than 350 volunteers and almost \$1 million raised--The National Association of Counties Annual Conference has come to Virginia.

Approximately 3,500 guests from 45 states are registered for the conference at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. It officially kicked off with an Opening Session on July 15. In the evening, attendees boarded one of about 80 buses that took them to the conference-wide event at Jamestown Settlement where they enjoyed a variety of Virginia food, music and history.

The conference has taken years to plan with the expertise of a working planning committee composed of representatives from the Richmond Metro area and James City County. The original proposal to host the conference was submitted in 1998.

"A lot of people have worked very hard to ensure that this NACo conference is a memorable event," VACo Executive Director James Campbell said. "It's time to showcase all that Virginia has to offer."

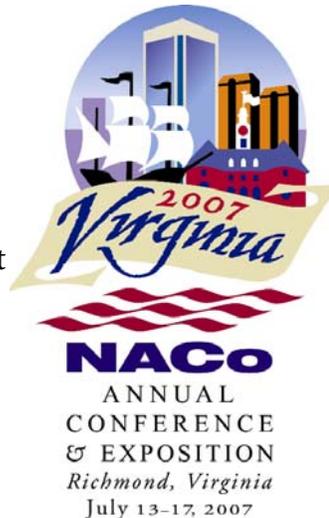
Marilyn Blake of Hanover County served as chair of the planning committee, taking on the tremendous responsibility of organizing a national event.

"We've worked on everything from promotion and fundraising to the intricate details of the transportation schedule," Blake said. "We are glad to finally have the participants here and hope they are enjoying our brand of hospitality."

Besides the conference-wide event, other unique features

of the conference include a NACo Board dinner at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a range of optional tours that include trips to Charlottesville, Kings Dominion and historic landmarks around the Richmond Region.

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is scheduled to make an appearance at the closing session on July 17. VACo President Teresa Altemus is running for NACo second vice president and the election will take place at 2:15 p.m. on July 17. Additional conference coverage will be available in the Aug. 1 issue of *County Connections*. ☘



Counties Urged to Submit 2007 Policy Proposals to VACo

VACo has once again initiated the annual policy process. The Board of Directors hosted the regional courthouse meetings in the spring and the Resolutions Committee met on May 24 in Albemarle County.

The process will culminate with the adoption of the 2007 Legislative Program during the annual conference in November. As part of the process, counties are encouraged to share specific legislative policy proposals, including legislative platforms, with VACo. Association staff will submit specific proposals to the appropriate steering committee, which will consider them as part of their deliberations before forwarding their final recommendations to the Resolutions Committee. The

Resolutions Committee will forward the final proposed Legislative Program to the membership for consideration.

Counties are urged to submit proposals to VACo as soon as possible. As in past years the Draft Legislative Program will be released in early October. Several key issues were identified during the regional courthouse meetings in the spring that will also be considered by the steering committees. Please send proposals to VACo staff member Mike Edwards at medwards@vaco.org or mail to: 1001 E. Broad Street, Suite LL 20, Richmond, VA 23219.

As a reminder, the annual Legislative Program is intended to represent the interests of Virginia's 95 counties. ☞

2007 Meeting Schedule

VACo/VML Summer Symposium

August 10, Richmond Marriott Educational session in the morning followed by afternoon steering committee meetings. Agenda and registration form at www.vaco.org.

VACo Board Meeting

Aug. 11, Lansdowne Resort in Loudoun County
9 a.m. - noon

VACo Resolutions Committee Meeting

Sept. 6, Richmond

VACo's 73rd Annual Conference

November 11-13,
The Homestead
Steering and Resolutions Committees to meet ☞

Localities Now Authorized to Install Photo-Red

As the result of legislation enacted during the 2007 legislative session, local governments are authorized to operate "photo-red" traffic signal enforcement systems with specific limitations.

Localities may install photo-monitoring systems at no more than one intersection for every 10,000 residents. Provisions within the bill limit the use and retention of images recorded. The new law took effect on July 1.

The systems identify and penalize motorists (with maximum fines of \$50 per violation) who run red lights. Up until 2005 only a handful of mostly urban localities were allowed to operate photo-red technology. For these localities (Fairfax County, Fairfax City, Alexandria, Arlington County, Prince William County and Virginia Beach) the authority to use photo-red was briefly interrupted after the General Assembly failed to re-enact the previous law in 2005. However, the new law was adopted this year by healthy margins in both chambers (HB 1778 [Cosgrove] and SB 829 [Devolites-Davis]). Local governments are advised to closely work within the new enabling conditions. ☞



Take the Cool Counties Challenge

A message from Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and past-president of VACO:

Global warming does not pose a threat to just distant ice caps and polar bears. Evidence of its impacts can be felt in communities across the Commonwealth. Rising sea levels imperil the vibrancy of the Tidewater economy. Droughts imperil our agricultural heartland. Severe weather threatens us all. This past June was the one-year anniversary of unprecedented flooding in Cameron Run, which forms the border between Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria. For the long-term economic and environmental health of

Virginia, we in local government must take leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Virginia counties already are taking leadership roles in combating climate change, from Purchase of Development Rights programs to green building policies. For the past six months, I have been working with King County, Wash., Executive Ron Sims and the Sierra Club to develop the Cool Counties initiative, which we will unveil at the NACo conference in Richmond July 16. By signing the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, counties are pledging to work at the local, regional and federal levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent below current levels by

2050. Cool Counties also contains a best practices template, offering guidance on policies and programs that will help counties of all sizes and demographics achieve substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Please contact Zack Fields of my staff at (703) 324-2321 or zack.fields@fairfax-county.gov if you are interested in taking the Cool Counties challenge. Thank you for the work that you are already doing to combat global warming. ☘



Abusive Driver Fees Take Effect

Abusive driver fees are one component of the comprehensive transportation and land use legislative compromise enacted earlier this year. The goal of the fee is to promote traffic safety. Other states that have adopted similar programs have seen improvements in overall driver safety.

Convictions-Related Fees

Drivers convicted of serious traffic offenses will be charged conviction-related abusive driver fees. These fees do not apply to the typical traffic violation such as failure to yield or parking too near a fire hydrant, for example. Abusive driver fees will only apply when the person is convicted of reckless driving, driv-

ing on a suspended or revoked license, driving under the influence, or other serious traffic offenses that occur after July 1. The fees can be paid in installments over three years. The fees are based on the following schedule:

- Driving on a suspended or revoked license - \$250 each year for three years
- Reckless or aggressive driving - \$350 each year for three years
- Driving while intoxicated - \$750 each year for three years
- Other misdemeanor convictions for driving and/or motor vehicle-related offense - \$300 each year for three years
- Any felony conviction for driving or motor vehicle-related offense - \$1000 each year for three years.

Demerit Point Fees

Drivers who accumulate eight or more demerit points will be charged demerit-point-related abusive driver fees. These fees cannot be imposed for demerit points related to offenses committed prior to July 1, 2007. No single traffic violation results in eight demerit points and a person has the option of attending a driver improvement clinic to reduce the points on their record. Bad drivers who accumulate and keep eight or more demerit points will be charged \$100 and will be charged an additional \$75 for each demerit point over eight up to a maximum of \$700.

Source: Department of Motor Vehicles Web site ☘

Virginia's Quiet Revolution in Land Use Control

Several years ago the federal Council on Environmental Quality published a book titled *The Quiet Revolution in Land Use Control* that focused on growth issues of regional or statewide concern. Over the past two years, Virginia has experienced its own version of a "quiet revolution" - a significant increase in the mandated and optional land use authority for counties. Examples include the addition of urban development areas in comprehensive plans, the clustering of single-family dwellings, the transfer of development rights, and the expansion of road impact fees. The closest parallel to this period would be 1975, when the General Assembly enacted laws to require local planning commissions and the adoption of comprehensive plans, subdivision ordinances, and sedimentation and erosion controls.

While not all counties have access to each of these new tools, the application of this additional authority in a comprehensive manner may well help to direct future growth into areas best suited to accommodate it while at the same time protecting prime farm and woodlands, historic resources and environmentally sensitive areas.

How can this be accomplished? Although mandated for 57 counties, all counties now have the explicit authority to include in their comprehensive plans one or more Urban Development Areas (UDAs).

Under the new Virginia statute, Urban Development Areas must be appropriate for compact, high density development due to proximity to transportation facilities, the availability of central water and sewer systems, or location adjacent to towns, cities or other developed territory. UDAs must allow minimum residential densities of four dwelling units per gross acre and commercial densities of 0.4 floor area ratio per gross acre. That residential density requirement is troubling to some counties whose current settlement patterns are nowhere near the statutory mandate.

Urban Development Areas are also required to be of sufficient size to meet a county's projected residential and commercial growth for at least 10 years and no more than 20 years. In establishing such areas, counties may allow for the redevelopment of property in the UDAs as well as the phasing of growth in those areas over the specified time frame.

Finally, the new law calls for the use of incentives to encourage development in the UDAs and specifically suggest that state and local expenditures for transportation, housing and economic development should be focused in those areas. In an era of competing budget priorities, however, counties may seek to employ non-monetary inducements for UDAs. As one example, local governments currently have the authority to rezone property in UDAs to permit higher density development by-right, and thus,

expedite approval of development proposals.

Recent action by the General Assembly has also given counties the additional means to stimulate the growth of Urban Development Areas. Although these means are not universally embraced by local leaders they include:

- **Cluster Development:** UDAs would be an ideal location to cluster residential growth because of the presence of central water and sewerage. Under current law, 61 counties are required to permit cluster residential development by-right in a portion of their agricultural and residential zoning districts. Local cluster ordinances are permitted to include standards to ensure quality development and the preservation of open space, and such provisions would be appropriate for the higher densities contemplated for the UDAs.
- **Transfer of Development Rights:** A county could designate portions of a UDA to receive development rights shifted from sending properties located elsewhere in the jurisdiction. This would serve to protect sensitive lands while concentrating increased densities in suitable areas.
- **Road Impact Fees:** 49 additional counties now have the authority to impose road impact fees, and for the first time, to use

Continued on page 5

Essex County UK Council Members Visit Virginia



Above: VACo President Teresa Altemus and Lord Hanningfield of the Essex County (UK) Council at a reception in Old City Hall on July 12. Lord Hanningfield, along with several other UK officials, were in Virginia for several days visiting Essex County, Va..

Right: Essex County (UK) Council Chairman Gerard McEwen made a presentation to Gov. Timothy Kaine at a reception sponsored by The Bank of Essex at Old City Hall in Richmond on July 12.



Left: More than 150 guests attended the reception honoring the 400-year relationship between Essex County UK and Virginia.

Photos by Wendy Jenkins

Land Use

Continued from page 4

the collected fees to improve existing roads to serve new development. Counties may exempt UDAs from road impact fees in order to spur growth in those portions of their territory.

The overall goal of employing one or more of these incentives collectively is to accommodate future growth in locations where it would be most appropriate to occur, and thus, reduce sprawl. Residential development on large lots in rural settings would be permitted to continue with the understanding that the home buyers outside of UDAs would bear the cost of needed public services through cash proffers or road impact fees. Counties may not limit by-

right development based solely on the fact that the property is located outside the UDA.

This scenario of using incentives to direct growth into the UDA does not take into account the myriad of contending political forces that affect county land use decisions. Allowance for higher densities in UDAs offers little opportunity for counties to accept cash proffers to pay for needed infrastructure and raises the specter of "Not In My Back Yard." Further, by encouraging growth in one portion of a county and discouraging it in another, the price of land in the UDA will increase, and along with it, the price of housing. Moreover, as was the case in 1975, counties are concerned by the apparent "One Size Fits All" approach of the General Assembly toward

planning in Virginia that leaves little room for local and regional variations.

In sum, counties in Virginia now have a new set of tools intended to help address the impacts of growth in a comprehensive manner. While some may find this additional authority insufficient, others will suggest that the General Assembly has overreached. Regardless, it may be another three decades before such an opportunity presents itself again.

As a reminder, VACo is ready, willing and able to assist counties to work through the new challenges and opportunities.

VACo Staff Contact:
Ted McCormack ☚



Mark Your Calendar...

Using the Transportation Act of 2007 to Make Growth Work

July 24, Henrico County,
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

VACo, along with VML, the Virginia Coalition of High Growth Communities and the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, are co-sponsoring a one-day training session on the land use provisions contained in the 2007 Transportation Act (HB 3203). Seating is limited so register soon by downloading the form at www.vaco.org.

Virginia Enterprise Zone Designation Workshops

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be hosting two How-to-Apply Workshops in preparation for the next round of available Virginia Enterprise Zone designations. Four designations will be available. The application process is competitive and open to any city and/or county in Virginia. The workshops will be held in Roanoke on July 24 and Richmond on July 25. For important information and to register visit www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ezones.

VACo Summer Symposium

Aug. 10, Richmond Marriott
Educational sessions will take place in the morning followed by steering committee meetings in the afternoon. Registration information is available at www.vaco.org.

VACo Board Meeting

Aug. 11, Lansdowne Resort in Loudoun County
9 a.m. - noon

Virginia's 2007 Rural Summit

Sept. 9-11
Widening the Road: Revitalizing Rural Virginia
Omni Charlottesville Hotel
www.cfrv.org
www.councilforruralvirginia.org

First Annual Urban Marketplace

Sept. 14, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center
Washington, DC
The Urban Land Institute's one-day conference and expo will highlight local investment opportunities and community development strategies in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. More than 600 participants and exhibitors are projected to attend, making this the first and largest event of its kind in the Washington region. Registration fees are \$50 for public sector and nonprofit attendees (<http://www.uli.org/misc/washington0914regform.pdf>).

Systems of Care & Evidence-based Practices Conference

Sept. 16-18, Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center
Please visit the conference website at <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/scep/index.html> for more information including registration details.

Lodging Details:

*Hotel Roanoke - \$99 for a single

occupancy room or \$119 for double occupancy, (540) 985-5900

*The Wyndam - rooms start at \$76, (540) 563-9300

*Please reference "Systems of Care" when calling to make your reservation.

2007 Virginia Forum for Excellence

Sept. 19-20, Arlington
Hundreds of local government, education, healthcare and business representatives will gather at this event to hear best practices and continue the learning path toward improved performance excellence and results. For details on the agenda, registration, pre-conference workshops and exhibit opportunities visit www.spqa-va.org.

Local Government Attorneys Fall Conference

Sept. 27-29, Williamsburg
Woodlands Hotel/Suites and Conference Center.
Contact: Leisa Steele at (804) 371-0202 or lrs5c@virginia.edu.
For lodging reservations call 1-800-261-9530

VML Annual Conference

Oct. 14-16, James City County
www.vml.org ☞

Congratulations!

Rogers Foam Corporation, a fabricator of engineered foam products, will invest \$1.4 million to open a manufacturing facility in **Scott County**, creating 50 new jobs. Headquartered in Somerville, Mass., Rogers Foam has been fabricating engineered foam products for custom applications for more than 60 years.

James City County

Administrator Sandy Wanner was recently elected president of the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) during its summer conference held in Virginia Beach. Wanner, who had most recently served as president-elect, has served in every top position of the organization.

Bostwick Laboratories™, a medical laboratory providing services to physicians, patients and managed care organizations, will invest \$4.6 million to expand its **Henrico County** headquarters facility. The expansion will create 600 new jobs over the next three years.

Poplar Hill Golf Club Inn and Conference Center, a \$77 million, multi-use recreational facility, is a new project that will boost the economy of **Prince Edward County** and the surrounding region. Located south of Farmville on U.S. Route 15, it is expected to create 180 jobs, ranging from grounds crews to event planners.

Fairfax County's Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant recently received the Platinum

Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. This distinction was given to only 76 of the approximately 16,500 municipal wastewater treatment plants across the nation.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly was presented with the 2007 Tom Bradley Leadership Award on June 25 by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) at its annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. In addition, Connolly has also been elected chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC).

DJG, Inc., is pleased to announce that Daniel Roberts, PE, recently passed the professional engineering exam to earn his licensure as an electrical engineer.

The Roanoke Office of **Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc.** (HSMM) proudly announces the recent promotions of Sarah Glenn, PE, LEED®AP to project manager and Kevin Bertholf, AIA, to assistant department head of the Architectural Department.

Loudoun County's telework program has received a 2007 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties. This is the second national award for the program. ☼

VDOT Schedules Public Hearings

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has proposed repealing the current Land Use Permit Manual filed in the Virginia Administrative Code under the identifier 24 VAC 30-150, and replacing it with a new regulation under the identifier 24 VAC 30-151, but with the same title. These actions are proposed due to the need for a comprehensive revision of the current regulation to address current policies, procedures and practices used by VDOT in the administration of land use permits. A copy of the proposed regulation was published in volume 23 issue 21 of the Virginia Register on July 9. The register is also accessible from the following site: <http://legis.state.va.us/code-comm/register/regindex.htm>.

Public comments will be taken at the following meetings:

- Aug. 2, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., VDOT Main Auditorium, Salem, VA
- Aug. 6, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., VDOT Conference Room, Chantilly, VA
- Aug. 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., VDOT Conference Room, Richmond, VA

Written comments will be accepted through Sept. 9 to Mutaz Alkahadra (Fax to 804-662-9426, or email Mutaz.Alkahadra@vdot.virginia.gov). ☼

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads have been edited due to space considerations. To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org.

Agricultural Development Director/Pittsylvania County

Applications are available in the Office of the County Administrator or on the County's Web site at www.pittgov.org. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Sept. 14. Salary range for this position is \$48,803-\$55,000.

Assistant County Administrator/ Orange County

Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228-2360; Fax (804) 726-9752 or email Richmond@springsted.com by July 27. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

Building Inspector/Louisa County

Job will remain open until filled. Job descriptions and applications are available at www.louisacounty.com or (540) 967-0401. A Louisa County application must be submitted to be considered for this position.

Computer Analyst/ Greene County

Submit cover letter/resume or a completed County application to Tracy Morris, Finance Director, P.O. Box 358, Stanardsville, VA 22973, by July 20. Visit www.gcva.us for an application.

County Attorney/Scott County

Supervises one (1) paralegal. Salary is DOQ/DOE, plus benefits. Submit a cover letter, detailed resume, salary history, and list of references in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential" to: Chairman, Board of Supervisors, County of Scott, 112 Water Street, Suite 1, Gate City, VA 24251. Position is open until filled. Submissions are due by Aug. 1 with the objective of having a new attorney on-board by Oct. 15.

Deputy County Attorney or Assistant County Attorney/ Culpeper County

Deputy Position # A21-10104-003, Salary Range: \$ 66,632 - \$106,582
Assistant Position # A21-10104-004, Salary Range: \$ 53,682 - \$83,207
Culpeper County has two open positions, but will only hire for one. May apply for both positions. For more information call (540) 727-3407. Send completed county applications along with resume and three professional references by the close of business on Tuesday, July 31. EMail: jobs@culpepercounty.gov, Web site: www.culpepercounty.gov

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator/ Accomack County

Salary Grade 22: \$38,138 - \$55,299. Application packets are available at www.acdps.net or at our office in Tasley and must be submitted by Monday, July 23 at 4 p.m.

Director of Economic Development/ Accomack County

The salary is negotiable depending on experience and qualifications. The salary range is anticipated to begin at \$56,854. For an application packet, contact the County Administration Office at (757) 787-5700. To be considered for the position, a completed county application and a resume must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 3.

Director of Finance/ City of Monroe, North Carolina

Submit resume and current salary by August 31, 2007 to: John T. Maxwell, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 4698 Honeygrove Road, Suite 4, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, Fax (757) 422-6617 or email: jmaxwell@springsted.com.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector/ Isle of Wight County

Engineering Division, Salary \$32,912 - \$41,141. For an application, visit www.iwus.net or call (757) 365-6304 . Position open until filled.

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Employment

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Executive Director/Accomack-Northampton Regional Planning District Commission

Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228-2360; Fax (804) 726-9752 or e-mail Richmond@springsted.com by Aug. 6. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

Executive Director/Chestnut Creek School of the Arts

A degree in the arts, education administration and/or business management or equivalent experience is sought. Salary is dependent upon qualifications, and include city benefit package. Send cover letter with resume, salary history and references to: Attention Keith Holland, City Manager, City of Galax, Search Committee, 111 E. Grayson Street, Galax, VA 24333. Deadline Aug. 10.

Executive Director/ Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission (Merrimac Center)

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. For a full position description and qualifications, see <http://www.merrimac-center.net/Documents/DirectorJobDescription.doc>. Open until filled.

Lynch's Landing Executive Director/ City of Lynchburg

Salary range \$55,000 to \$60,000, dependent on qualifications. A full recruitment profile is available at www.lynchburgva.gov. Send a confidential resume with salary history and professional references via mail, email or fax by July 30 to: Margaret M. Schmitt, SPHR, Director of Human Resources, 900 Church Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504 or email Margaret.schmitt@lynchburgva.gov. For questions, call (434) 455-4208.

Legal Assistant/Accomack County

Salary range is \$27,337 to \$39,638. For an application packet, contact the County Administrator's Office at (757) 787-5700. To be considered for the position, a completed county application should be received at the above address by 4:30 p.m. on July 25.

Parks and Recreation Director/Montgomery County

Salary DOQ. Deadline: August 3. For more information about this position, an application or to request accommodation for disabilities, contact Human Resources at (540) 394-2007 (TDD 540-382-5700) County Job Line (540-394-2010) e-mail www.montva.com

Planner/Isle of Wight County

Department of Planning and Zoning. Salary: \$36,000 - \$45,000 DOQ. Applications can be downloaded from the website at www.iwus.net or call (757)

365-6304 for more information. Position open until filled.

Planner/Town of Warrenton

Salary: DOQ + benefits. Town of Warrenton Employment Application required. Please send applications to the Director of Human Resources, Town of Warrenton, P. O. Drawer 341, Warrenton, VA 20188 (18 Court Street, Warrenton, VA 20186). Applications may also be printed from www.warrentonva.gov. Position open until filled.

Regional Economic and Entrepreneurial Development Director/Carroll County

Reports to the Regional Industrials Facilities Authority Board. For a full description, please visit www.carrollcounty-va.org

Senior Administrative Associate/Stafford County Government

Boards & Commissions #1431 Salary: \$28,912-\$47,694/DOQ. Closing Date: July 18, 2007.

Senior Planner/Urban Design/Isle of Wight County

Department of Planning and Zoning, Salary \$41,286 - \$51,607. Applications can be downloaded at www.iwus.net or call (757) 365-6304 for more information. Position open until filled. ☞

1001 E. Broad St., Suite LL 20
Richmond, VA 23219



Executive Committee

President: Teresa L. Altemus, Gloucester County

President-Elect: William B. Kyger, Jr., Rockingham County

1st Vice President: Paul F. Ferguson, Arlington County

2nd Vice President: Donald L. Hart Jr., Accomack County

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Administrative Assistant: Kay H. Sheets

Administrative Assistant: Pamela A. Haskins

VACo Risk Management Programs: Wayne A. Faddis, ARM,
Administrator, (888) 822-6772

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: Wendy Jenkins
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