

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

January 5, 2018



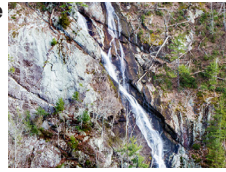
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Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219
www.vaco.org • 804.788.6652



2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES ON JANUARY 10

Look for Capitol Contact on Tuesdays and Thursdays

The 2018 General Assembly session will span from January 10 to March 10, and legislators will deliberate on many issues critical to local government, including taxes, the state budget, education funding, economic development, public safety, and other policy matters.

VACo will continually provide updates during the session through [Capitol Contact](#). To ensure that you are receiving Capitol Contact, please send [Gage Harter](#) your best email address.

[Capitol Contact](#) is published every Tuesday and Thursday starting next week. In addition, VACo will email and text county officials Capitol Contact Alerts on many issues before they are heard by select committees. **If you would like to receive text alerts on your phone – email Gage Harter with your cell number.**

Please check [VACo's website](#) and [General Assembly webpage](#) often to get the latest information and bill updates. Also, be on the lookout for legislative videos recapping issues affecting counties. VACo will continue to release its newsletter, [County Connections](#), around the first and 15th of each month.

And be sure to attend the [Rural Caucus Reception and Dinner](#) on February 7 and [VACo's County Government Day](#) on February 8 in Richmond. Come hear legislative updates and then go advocate on behalf of counties. Be a part of the legislative process this General Assembly Session.

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch, CAE](#)

Are you a County Board Chair or Vice Chair?



February 9-10, 2018

VACo Training Center
1207 East Main Street | Richmond, VA 23219

[Registration Form](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Register Online](#)

[Book Online Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

Join fellow Board Chairs and Vice Chairs

If you are a County Board Chair or Vice Chair, then VACo's Chairpersons' Institute is for you.

Held at the **VACo Training Center on February 9-10, 2018**, the Institute offers a professional learning experience that is carefully tailored to the needs of county board chairs and vice chairs.

These uncertain times require county leaders who are prepared for every eventuality. To succeed, board chairs and vice chairs must be active leaders who know how to encourage teamwork and manage conflict. They must be confident problem solvers as well as visionary leaders.

The Chairpersons' Institute was developed with the cooperation of an ad-hoc committee of board chairs. This Institute gives chairs a chance to learn practical strategies in critical areas, including the duties, powers and responsibilities of board chairs.

This program provides details on the structure and functions of county government, active leadership, communications, meeting management, decision making, working strategically to achieve important goals, and building partnerships with local staff, board colleagues, the media and other government entities.

The deadline to register for the Chairpersons' Institute is January 19, 2018. The VACo Training Center is located at 1207 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Enrollment is limited to the first 25 registrants.

[Registration Form](#) | [Agenda](#) | [Register Online](#) | [Book Online Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

2018 VML/VACo Finance Forum Held January 3



The 2018 Finance Forum, an event co-sponsored by VACo and VML, was held on January 3 and featured presentations from state and local experts on a variety of topics of importance to local budgets in advance of the January 10 start of the 2018 General Assembly session. Among the key topics of discussion at the Forum were the Governor's introduced budget and its implications for localities (including the status of the Virginia Retirement System's teacher and political subdivision plans); methods of identifying and alleviating local fiscal stress; and survey results of local fiscal conditions.

Sarah Herzog, Interim Deputy Director for the Senate Finance Committee, provided an overview of the key elements of the Governor's introduced budget, including the major proposed spending and savings items. She noted that there are a number of potential challenges to be resolved during the 2018 session, including how the savings assumed in the budget related to the proposed expansion of Medicaid would be addressed if the General Assembly did not approve the proposal. She also presented information on the Standards of Quality rebenchmarking funding that is included in the introduced budget, and discussed current efforts and possible future strategies to address the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers in Virginia.

Jim Regimbal, Principal, Fiscal Analytics, discussed items of interest to localities in the introduced budget and highlighted some of the major pressures on state finances, including Medicaid and debt service, and their implications for state assistance to local governments. He offered several suggestions for ways to alleviate some stresses on the state budget and strengthen the state-local funding partnership, including addressing infrastructure needs, modernizing the state's tax system, enhancing local taxing authority and providing additional economic development tools to localities.

Patricia Phillips, Director of Finance for the City of Virginia Beach, discussed the process for identifying financially-stressed localities that was recently developed by the Auditor of Public Accounts at the direction of the General Assembly, and offered advice on how local financial health can be gauged in both short-term and long-term contexts. VRS Director Patricia Bishop provided an update on the 2017 valuations of the state's retirement plans, which resulted in lower employer contribution rates for the teacher plan and for a majority of local political subdivision plans for the 2018-2020 biennium. VRS Chief Financial Officer Barry Faison discussed the implementation of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's Statements 74 and 75, dealing with financial reporting of post-employment benefits other than pensions.

Jeff Schapiro of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* offered his analysis of the 2017 election and the implications of a closely-divided legislature for the policy debates expected to take place during the 2018 session. VML-VACo Finance Managing Director Robert Lauterberg concluded the meeting by presenting the results of a recent survey of county administrators and city and town managers on their localities' current fiscal condition as well as their expectations for the future.

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FINANCE FORUM | [THANK YOU VML/VACo FINANCE FOR SPONSORING THE EVENT](#)

[STATE BUDGET AND REVENUE OUTLOOK](#) | Sarah Herzog | Legislative Fiscal Analyst | Senate Finance Committee

[2018-2020 STATE GENERAL FUND BUDGET: WHERE DOES LOCAL GOVERNMENT GO FROM HERE?](#) | Jim Regimbal | Principal | Fiscal Analytics

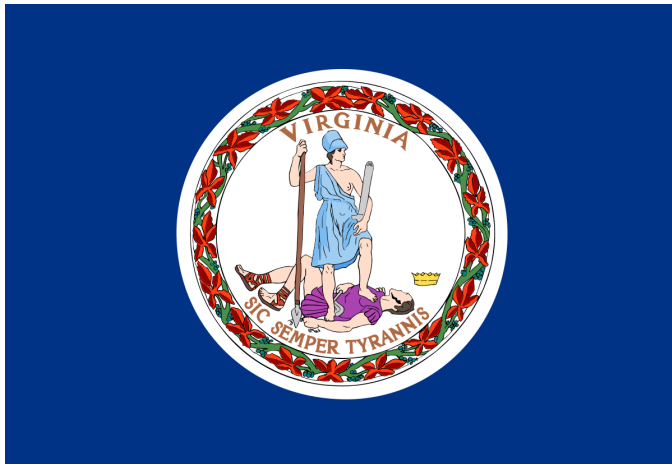
[LOCAL RETIREMENT AND TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEMS: WHAT'S BEHIND THE NEW RATES AND WHAT IS THE FUTURE LIKELY TO BRING?](#) | Patricia Bishop | Director | Virginia Retirement System

[FISCAL STEWARDSHIP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL](#) | Patti Phillips | Director of Finance | City of Virginia Beach

[VIRGINIA LOCAL FISCAL CONDITIONS: SURVEY RESULTS](#) | Robert W. Lauterberg | Managing Director | VML/VACo Finance

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Governor-Elect Ralph Northam Cabinet Appointments



Chief of Staff | [Clark Mercer](#)

Deputy Chief of Staff | [Suzette Denslow](#)

Counsel to the Governor | [Rita Davis](#)

Secretary of Administration | [Keyanna Conner](#)

Secretary of Commerce and Trade | [OPEN](#)

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry | [Bettina Ring](#)

Secretary of the Commonwealth | [Kelly Thomasson](#)

Secretary of Education | [Atif Qarni](#)

Secretary of Finance | [Aubrey Layne](#)

Secretary of Health and Human Resources | [Dr. Daniel Carey](#)

Secretary of Natural Resources | [Matt Strickler](#)

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security | [Brian Moran](#)

Secretary of Technology | [OPEN](#)

Secretary of Transportation | [Shannon Valentine](#)

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs | [Carlos Hopkins](#)

Key Dates for 2018 General Assembly Session

The Joint Rules Committee met on December 18 to adopt the procedural resolution that will set out the [schedule](#) for the 2018 General Assembly session. Although the procedural resolution will be considered by the full House and Senate in January, typically it is agreed upon without amendments. Key dates in the procedural resolution are as follows:

January 10: General Assembly convenes at noon. Prefiled legislation must be submitted by 10 a.m.; this is also the last day to file bills dealing with the Virginia Retirement System or legislation creating or continuing a study.

January 12: Budget amendments by General Assembly members must be submitted by 5 p.m.

January 19: All bills must be filed by 3 p.m.

February 13: Crossover (deadline for legislation to pass its chamber of origin)

February 18: The Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees must report their respective budgets.

February 22: Deadline for each chamber to complete work on its budget

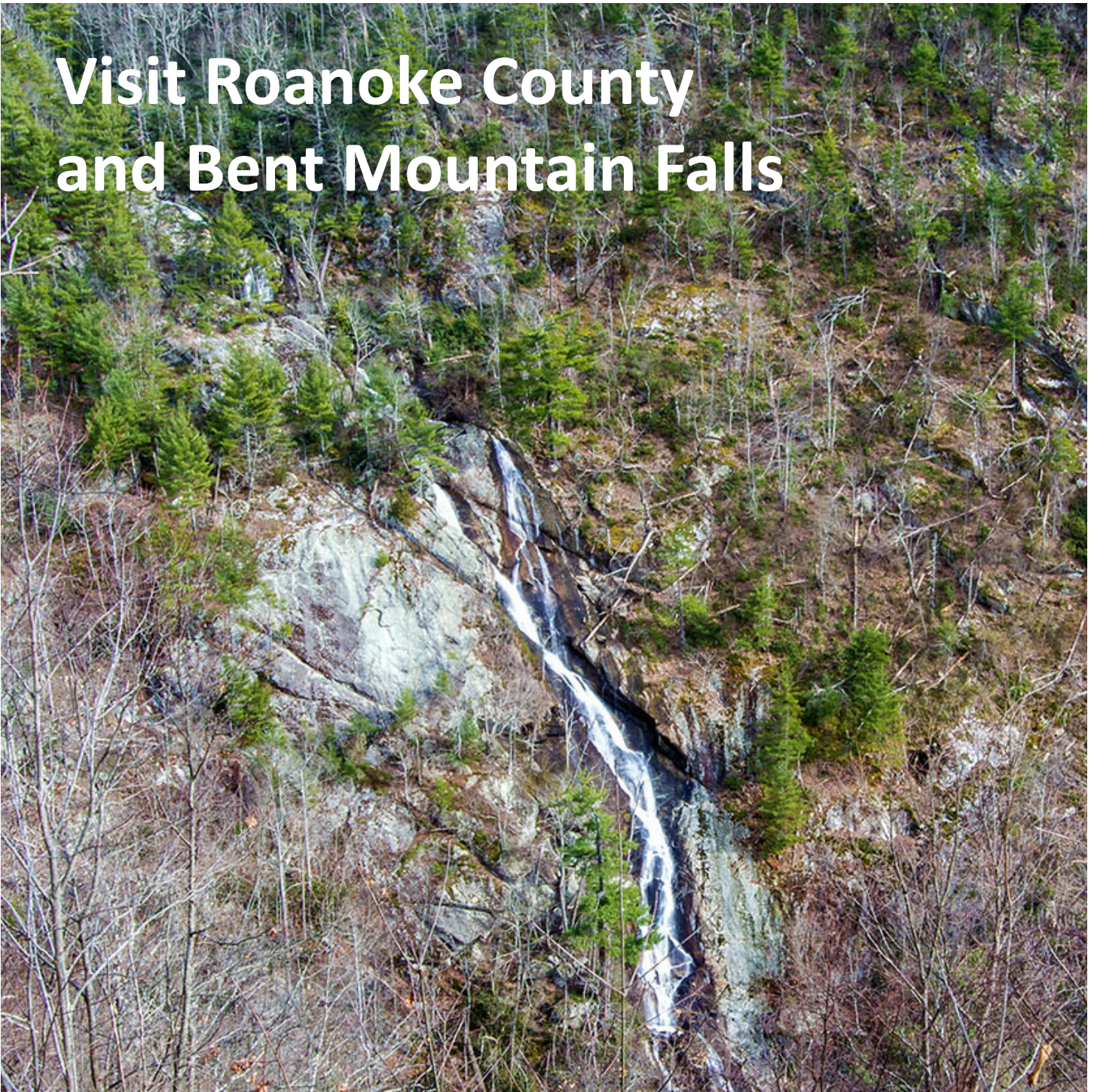
March 5: Deadline for committee action on legislation

March 10: Scheduled adjournment *sine die*

April 18: Reconvened session to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Visit Roanoke County and Bent Mountain Falls



The Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve, located south of Roanoke in the highlands of the Blue Ridge Plateau, features a spectacular gorge and arguably the tallest waterfall in Virginia. Before joining Goose Creek at the downstream end to form the South Fork Roanoke River, Bottom Creek flows through a narrow ~3-mile gorge that varies between 200 feet in depth at the upstream end to 900 feet in depth at the downstream end.

On this hike you'll pass by "The Kettles" when you enter the gorge, a series of enormous rapids in succession that beg to be explored further. The highlight of the hike is the overlook for Bent Mountain Falls, listed as the 2nd highest waterfall in Virginia at 200 feet. Camp Creek cascades and freefalls directly into Bottom Creek from the mountains above, creating a spectacular vista. It is arguably the tallest single waterfall in Virginia including the series of cascades above the lower drop, ranging between 340-370 feet high. Either way, the Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve is a relatively unheralded gem that is worth a visit.

SOURCE: Zach Robbins | HikingUpward | [WEBSITE](#)



Mark Your Calendars



March 23-24, 2018

[Registration Form](#) | [Preliminary Agenda](#) | [Register Online](#) | [Book Online Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

The County Supervisors' Forum helps supervisors concentrate on critical issues facing counties today: intergovernmental relations, financial responsibilities, schools, economic development, transportation, environmental protection, communications, legal issues and more. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors are covered.

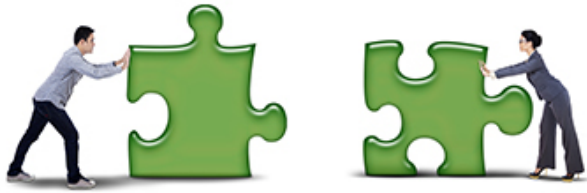
Newly elected and incumbent supervisors, chief county administrative officers and other government managers should attend. These leaders will come away with information they need to steer their locality forward.

The conference registration fee is \$295, which covers a County Supervisors' Manual, Friday lunch and dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch. Spouses and guests who attend may register for \$150, which covers those meals.

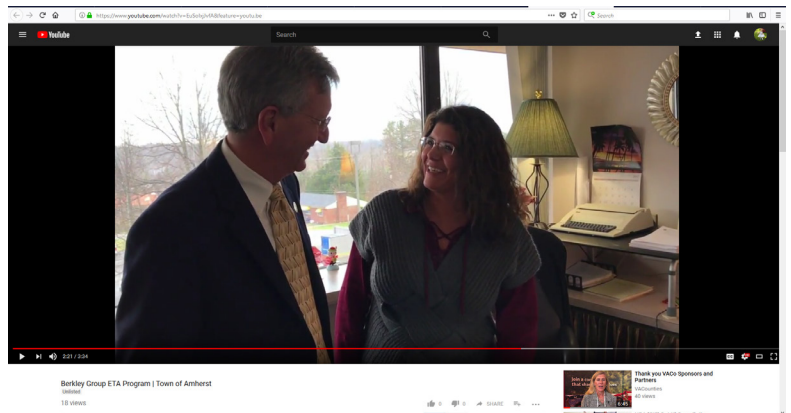
[Click here for the Registration Form.](#)

	2018 VACo County Supervisors' Forum Preliminary AGENDA
	MARCH 23-24, 2018 Omni Richmond Hotel Reservations Registration Form Online Registration
<hr/>	
Friday, March 23	
Noon	Registration
1230pm	Lunch
Welcome and Introduction: The Honorable Sherrin Alsop VACo President, King and Queen County Supervisor	

A VACo Partner



The Berkley Group's ETA Program saves the day in the Town of Amherst



Watch the video story of Pete Huber's time as Town of Amherst Interim Manager.

Pictured in front of the Amherst Town Hall - **Darren Coffey** (left), Berkley Group CEO; **Peter Huber** (center), Interim Town of Amherst Manager; **Drew Williams**, Berkley Group COO.

[Click here for the shorter version](#)

[Click here for the longer version](#)

Pete Huber is a busy man.

It took several calls to catch up with Huber to talk about his experience as Town of Amherst Interim Manager. The initial call caught Huber helping a pair of Council Members with the new Outlook email system. On the return call, Huber explained he was meeting with staff to discuss plans for a trail between the Town and the adjacent Sweet Briar College.

That's the way it's been since September 13 as Huber navigates each day. He was hired as part of the [Berkley Group's Executive Transition Assistance \(ETA\) Program](#), which provides an array of services tailored to smoothly guide a locality through its interim leadership period. [Huber](#) is one of nine (and growing) Executive Managers in The Berkley Group's Transition Program.

"I spoke with (Berkley Group CEO) Darren Coffey during a VLGMA meeting in late June," said Huber, who retired after 16 years as Pulaski County Administrator in January 2017. "The ETA Program is an opportunity for me to continue to serve. Service is still in my blood, and I still have interest in helping a community. Also, I feel I have learned things over the years that might be of help to others."

[Click here to read the rest of the story](#)

WJZL007



How-to-Apply Workshops

Virginia Enterprise Zone How-to-Qualify Workshops

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will hold four in-depth how-to-qualify workshops on how to apply for Virginia Enterprise Zone state incentives. These workshops will provide detailed instructions on the qualification process for Grant Year 2017 Real Property Investment Grants and Job Creation Grants. Attendance is open to the public and free of charge.

The application instruction manuals for the Job Creation and the Real Property Investment grants and the Agreed-Upon-Procedures for the CPA Attestation are now located on the [Enterprise Zone Application Submission System](#) and at www.dhcd.virginia.gov.

Registration is free, but registration is required to ensure we have adequate materials for all attendees. For questions regarding registration or the Enterprise Zone program, contact Rebecca Rowe or Tory McGowan at EZone@dhcd.virginia.gov or 804.371.7030.



Quick Links

[Workshop Registration](#) | [Virginia Enterprise Zone State Incentives](#) | [Virginia Enterprise Zone Website](#) | [Virginia Enterprise Zone Application Portal](#)

How-to-Qualify Workshop Schedule

NORFOLK

January 9, 2018 | 1-4pm

Slover Library | Community Room | 235 East Plume Street | Norfolk, VA 23510

RICHMOND

January 10, 2018 | 1-4pm

Main Street Center | 12th Floor North | 600 East Main Street | Richmond, VA 23219

ABINGDON

January 17, 2018 | 1-4pm

Heartwood | 1 Heartwood Circle | Abingdon, VA 24210

MARTINSVILLE

January 18, 2018 | 1-4pm

New College Institute | Baldwin Building | 191 Fayette Street | Martinsville, VA 24112

Become a Certified Supervisor



SIGN UP TODAY! | [The Supervisors' Certification Brochure](#)

The Virginia Association of Counties, in partnership with Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, offers Virginia's county supervisors an opportunity to enhance their capacity to effectively and efficiently lead their respective counties in the 21st century by participating in the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program.

Since its inception in 2005, 45 supervisors representing 30 counties spanning from Bath County and Highland County in the west to Stafford County and Richmond County in the east have completed the training program and have earned their credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective and confidence needed to address the issues and opportunities that constitute the governance challenge in the 21st century.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program, originally designed by a cross-section of county supervisors and appointed officials in 2005 and subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed in 2009, features a five course curriculum. The format used with each course is designed to maximize learning as well as student engagement. Each course begins with a six-hour classroom session that is topically driven and reflective of the subject matter being covered. Following the classroom session is an eight-week home study session. Each course participant is assigned relevant articles and books and completes assignments drawn from the readings on a weekly basis. One or more essays are also assigned during this portion of the course. The third and final course component of each course is a concluding six-hour classroom session.

A variety of topics are discussed during the closing session including a review of the books read and the assignments completed by each class member. Each course is designed to provide the participant with a solid understanding of the subject or topic being examined. Faculty from Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, VACo staff and local government practitioners from across the state serve as the program's core faculty. Each course is designed to address fundamental learning objectives which, in turn, challenge traditional thinking while highlighting best practices models that can enhance governance at the local level.

Inventing Your County's Future:
The Role of Community Planning

Opening Session | March 16
Albemarle County

Closing Session | May 18
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | February 23

[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

Governance in the 21st Century:
The Role of Leadership

Opening Session | June 1
Albemarle County

Closing Session | August 3
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | May 16

Managing While Leading:
**Understanding Your Powers, Duties,
and Responsibilities**

Opening Session | September 7
Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 2
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 20

Learn more about the Registered Apprenticeship Program



The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry is celebrating 2018 as its 80th year in administration of the Registered Apprenticeship Program.

On April 1, 1938, the Voluntary Apprenticeship Act was approved by the Virginia General Assembly. The first Commissioner of Labor, Thomas B. Morton was elected as Secretary of the Council. The Council is the Virginia Apprenticeship Council and serves to provide guidance to the Department of Labor and Industry as it continues in its administration of the program.

When apprentices first became registered, essentially the information about the name of the occupation, the name of the sponsoring employer, the apprentice's relevant information were all captured on 3 x 5 cards. We possess approximately 82,000 of those cards that captured the activity up until 1990 when a database was introduced. How very modern!!

Since the utilization of the database, DOLI has served 149,808 apprentices. Prior to the card and pencil system, approximately 82,000 apprentices were recorded.

Today, as always you can use Registered Apprenticeship for building trade occupations. However, there are also opportunities to work in Information Technology, advanced manufacturing, early childhood education, culinary, highway inspection and many more.

For more information: www.doli.virginia.gov. Click on Search Apprenticeship to get started.

employment opportunities



The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).



GLoucester County
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES |
Gloucester County | Posted December 28



DEPUTY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR | Gloucester County | Posted December 21



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR |
Loudoun County | Posted December 27



GLoucester County
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES |
Gloucester County | Posted December 21



CODE INSPECTOR I -
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE | City of Alexandria | Posted January 4



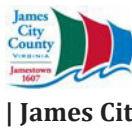
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY SERVICES | Loudoun County | Posted December 27



RECREATION MANAGER |
Botetourt County | Posted December 21



HUMAN RESOURCES
MANAGER | Fluvanna County | Posted January 3



TRANSIT BUS OPERATOR
 | James City County | Posted December 27



PARKS AND SPORTS
FIELD MANAGER | Botetourt County |
 Posted December 21

DECEMBER 2017



REVENUE MANAGER |
Albemarle County | Posted December 29



DENTIST | James City County |
 Posted December 27



PLANNING AND GIS
INTERN-TEMPORARY | Botetourt County |
 Posted December 21



HR SPECIALIST |
Northampton County | Posted December 29



HEALTH COACH | James City County |
 Posted December 27



PART-TIME
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Town of Bowling Green |
 Posted December 20



COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION CHIEF
| Prince William County | Posted December 20



PROJECTS COORDINATOR/SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR | Prince William County | Posted December 20



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER TRAINING – PUBLIC SAFETY
| Campbell County | Posted December 20



ALS/FFI – PUBLIC SAFETY
| Campbell County | Posted December 20



OFFICE MANAGER I – REGISTRAR | Campbell County | Posted December 20



ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR | James City County | Posted December 15



BASKETBALL & BASEBALL INSTRUCTORS | James City County | Posted December 15



ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF (OPERATIONS) | James City County | Posted December 15



EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR/DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR | Rappahannock County | Posted December 13



IT ASSISTANT
Cumberland County | Posted December 13



SENIOR CONVENIENCE CENTER ATTENDANT | James City County | Posted December 13



FINANCE DIRECTOR | Albemarle County | Posted December 12



CHIEF OF PLANNING
Fauquier County | Posted December 12



MS4 COORDINATOR (ECOLOGIST IV) | Fairfax County | Posted December 11



CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING | Fairfax County | Posted December 11



CHIEF OF ZONING/ DEPUTY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | Albemarle County | Posted December 11



PURCHASING SPECIALIST
| James City County | Posted December 8



LIBRARIAN I (ADULT SERVICES) | James City County | Posted December 8



HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST I | James City County | Posted December 8



FIREFIGHTER/MEDIC (PART TIME) | Patrick County | Posted December 7



FIREFIGHTER /EMT (PART TIME) | Patrick County | Posted December 7



FIREFIGHTER/MEDIC (FULL TIME) | Patrick County | Posted December 7



FIREFIGHTER/EMT (FULL TIME) | Patrick County | Posted December 7



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President-Elect: OPEN

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2nd Vice President: Jeff C. McKay, Fairfax County

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Director of Technical Services: John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA

Administrative Secretary: Valerie M. Russell

VACORP: Chris Carey, 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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