

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

July 3, 2018



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VACo's Blueprint for Broadband

This year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) found that almost 29 percent of rural Virginians lack access to highspeed internet. To compare, only 2.8 percent of Virginians who live in urban areas lack access. VACo believes that closing the digital divide ensures that all Virginia communities can compete in the 21st century economy. Connectivity is critical for emergency communications, education, economic development, health care, and more.

VACo developed the [Blueprint for Broadband](#) to address the digital divide. This four-step plan does common good for the Commonwealth, and is community-based and cost-effective.

- The first step of VACo's Blueprint for Broadband defines high-speed internet, served and unserved areas. The blueprint uses the FCC's standard definition set in 2015, and seeks more accurate geographic information by census area for mapping. The issue stems from the representation of service and empty census blocks, and from providers self-reporting data to the FCC Form 477.
- The next two steps evaluate successful public-private partnerships utilizing existing infrastructure. The blueprint analyzes partners, partnership agreements, grants and loans, residential internet speeds and pricing outcomes. All case studies included deploy broadband technology on existing infrastructure, ranging from wireless on top of public safety radio infrastructure to fiber on top of electric infrastructure.
- Increased state support is the last step to facilitate more successful partnerships. The blueprint highlights a two-fold method: fully fund the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) 2018 budget request for the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI), and establish a new state revolving loan fund. According to the \$14 million DHCD request, that funding does not meet total VATI demand of \$39 million. In the budget signed by Governor Ralph Northam, DHCD received \$4 million each year for the initiative. To fill that funding gap, VACo suggests establishing a state revolving loan fund, modeled after the Tobacco Commission's revolving loan fund. As a means for Wireless Services Authorities and cooperatives to access funding, VACo advocates for more flexible eligibility criteria and no local match requirements.

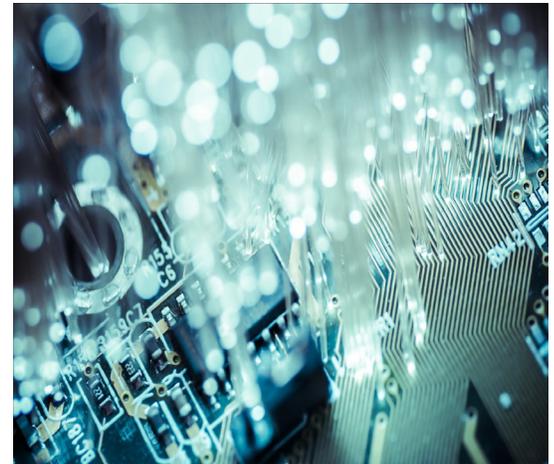
Across the state, different stakeholders are collaborating and calling for more state support to fund rural broadband initiatives.

Recently, the Richmond Times-Dispatch printed an opinion editorial by VACo President and King and Queen County Supervisor Sherrin Alsop about the importance of connectivity. Alsop also introduced the four steps of the Blueprint for Broadband in the [op-ed](#).

Connectivity is not an issue unique to the Commonwealth, it's nationwide. To encourage more rural broadband deployment, VACo submitted a resolution to the National Association of Counties (NACo) urging Congress to strengthen reliability of federal funds and encourage cooperatives to further their involvement in bringing broadband to rural America. NACo members will vote on the resolution later this month.

Upon approval of the VACo Board of Directors, the Blueprint for Broadband was submitted to the Governor's Office. VACo looks forward to facilitating more rural broadband projects across the state.

VACo Contact: [Khaki LaRiviere](#)



Blueprint for Broadband

Expanding Broadband into Rural Virginia

Virginia Association of Counties

5/21/18



2018 Presidential Initiative: Healthy Virginia Counties

By Sherrin Alsop
VACo President

Spotlight on Physical Activity

Last month we explored nutrition as a major determinant of health and some of the innovative ways that counties have tackled the interconnected issues of food instability and obesity. This month, we'll be taking a look at the related issue of physical activity. This time of year, when school is out and the days are long, can be a perfect time to be outside walking, running, or playing sports – but as with so many aspects of community health, access and ability to engage in leisure-time physical activity are often influenced by complex social and economic factors.

Benefits of Regular Exercise

The benefits of physical activity are well-established. The Surgeon General advises, “Regular physical activity helps prevent risk factors for disease (such as high blood pressure and weight gain) and protects against multiple chronic diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, some cancers, type 2 diabetes, and depression).” A [recent study](#) found that higher levels of fitness were associated with a 16 percent lower risk of depression in Medicare-eligible patients; exercise seemed to provide a protective factor even among study participants who were diagnosed with depression, significantly reducing the risk of death associated with cardiovascular disease. The Centers for Disease Control puts the matter starkly: “People who are physically active for about 7 hours a week have a 40 percent lower risk of dying early than those who are active for less than 30 minutes a week.” The benefits of physical fitness are so wide-ranging that some physicians have even begun to write prescriptions for exercise. Certainly we can all agree that the longer, healthier lives associated with being active are priceless. There are also clear economic benefits to improving fitness levels. Researchers have attempted to quantify the costs of poor health associated with obesity, with one widely-cited study in 2009 estimating annual medical costs associated with obesity at \$147 billion per year in the United States. The Surgeon General notes that chronic diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes, are the leading causes of death in the United States, with almost 50 percent of U.S. adults living with a chronic disease in 2012.

How active are Virginia residents?

The federal Department of Health and Human Services recommends that adults engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week, or 75 minutes per week of vigorous physical activity, in addition to muscle-strengthening activity

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Loudoun County Chair Selected to Participate in Women in Government Leadership Program

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall has been selected to participate in the Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2019, which is hosted by Governing magazine. Chair Randall is the only Board member from Virginia to join a cohort of 24 other women from around the country.

The 2019 program includes women from 20 states who were elected to a state or local public office and are not currently on a ballot during the program year. The leadership program aims to broaden participants' leadership, in part, through a network of women who mentor and inspire other women to run for office.

"I am honored to have been recognized by Governing magazine, but would be remiss not to acknowledge all the women who have paved the way for me to serve in Loudoun," said Chair Randall. "Counties and communities are electing women across the nation to tackle today's most pressing issues and I am looking forward to joining these forward-thinking women from across the country to identify real-world solutions that can improve our government's performance for future generations."

Participants for the program are typically nominated by their peers, program alumnae and government officials. Chair Randall was nominated by Governing magazine and selected by the [Governing Institute](#) based on criteria, such as career and educational accomplishments, personal recommendations and a commitment to actively participate.

Program participants will hold monthly conference calls and attend three leadership development retreats with travel and accommodations provided by the Governing Institute. The program's agenda is designed to develop women leaders, promote problem solving through leadership, demonstrate how to make a difference in the communities they serve and teach crucial skills for governing.

The 25 members of the Class of 2019 will be profiled in the February 2019 issue of Governing magazine. More information on the Women in Government Leadership Program is online at www.governing.com/gov-institute/wig.



Weedman named director of Henrico County Public Library

Henrico County has appointed Barbara F. Weedman as director of Henrico County Public Library (HCPL), effective June 23.

Weedman joined HCPL in 2009 as public services coordinator and was named Assistant Director in 2016. She will succeed Gerald M. McKenna, who is retiring from the position after leading the county's library system since 1995.

As director, Weedman will oversee an agency with a staff of 206 employees and a budget of \$18.8 million in fiscal 2017-18. HCPL offers a range of informational services and programs through five area libraries, four branch libraries and a mobile library service. Henrico's libraries were visited by more than 2.1 million patrons and circulated more than 4.2 million materials during fiscal 2016-17.

Before coming to Henrico, Weedman worked as the head of branches for Nashville Public Library in Nashville, Tenn. She received a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and earned a Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland.



Louise Stokes: A Long Legacy of Helping Others



When Louise Stokes started working for York County in 1975 as a buyer, she was a one woman show. “It was a new position in the Accounting Office,” she said. “I worked closely with the County Administrator and Finance Director to purchase all goods and services for the County. The departments were very small in number and I compiled procedures for processing requisitions and purchases.”

Being a one woman show wasn’t the only challenge she encountered: Louise is the longest tenured African American female professional. She retired June 29 after 43 years of employment. “When I was hired at the County, I did not see anyone in the office that looked like me,” she recalled. “The atmosphere was quiet and dim for a period, but after a while things changed and people became a little warmer. There were only four other employees of color at the time and they were in our janitorial services area.”

Growing up in the Bethel District, Louise attended James Weldon Johnson School System through the eighth grade. “After desegregation laws were passed, I attended York High School and graduated in 1970,” she said. She worked a short stint at Newport News Shipyard before joining the County workforce. Since that time, the County offices have become more diverse. And, Louise says, “I hope my legacy has helped others in just a small way.”

Louise worked for eight County Administrators and many Board of Supervisors members and has witnessed many changes over the years, including the huge impact advancing technology has had to the operations of the County. “In the early years, I had to hand type stacks of purchase orders every morning that needed to be processed and mailed,” she said. “Then the County moved to a couple of different computer systems. And eight years after I was hired, the office expanded to add a Purchasing Agent and a secretary. We were on the move then! Later we assumed responsibility for purchasing school division items and we became a centralized function.”

As she looks back on four decades of service, she is extremely proud of the positive customer service she was able to provide to the County departments and agencies and also to the community overall. “I worked hard to earn the confidence that I could meet the deadlines that the departments had and assist in making the process come full circle,” she stated. “I look back and think of the items I’ve been responsible for acquiring: fire trucks, vehicles, playground equipment, furnishings for the Finance Building, York-Poquoson Courthouse, and both libraries – too many things to list!”

She will return in late summer/early fall 2019 when her last big item, the new Fire Station 1, is opened. After that project is completed, the expansion of the Yorktown Library will be on the County’s plate, with Louise’s work behind it all.

“I might not be there putting down the bricks and mortar,” she said laughingly, “but I’m there in the contracts and services that brought about these buildings, which will serve the community for many, many years.”

As she gets ready to leave, Louise can’t help but look back at the many activities in which she’s been involved while working for York County. “We had a softball team, bowling team, March of Dimes, talent shows – it was a blast! The best part of it all has been the coworkers, the extended families you spend time with more than your actual family,” she said. Next on her list? “I may write a book – ‘Shadows of Yorktown.’” Knowing Louise, she’ll shop for the best publisher with the best printing price you can find, saving you money when you purchase and read the book. It’s sure to be a bestseller!

Some of Louise’s certifications, awards, and achievements

Certification

- Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC), Expiration April 1, 2020

Awards

- 2011 National Association of Negro Professional & Business Women’s Club, Newport News “Most Spirited” award
- 2009 Hometown Achievement Award – African American Cultural Society, Yorktown
- 1999 Employee Advisory Committee, Values Team Vice Chair
- 1996 Professional Buyer of the Year (VAGP) of Virginia
- 1993 Public Services Award Employee of the Year, Exchange Club of York
- 1990 Certified Professional Public Buyer, April (VAGP)

Memberships

- 2008 National Association of Negro Professional & Business Women’s Club, Newport News Chapter (present)
- 2008 Southeastern Virginia Public Fleet Consortium (SVPFC)
- 1979 National Association of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) (present)
- 1979 Tidewater Chapter of Governmental Purchasing, Charter Member (TCGP)
- 1978 Virginia Association of Governmental Purchasing (VAGP) (present)



The Historic 1908 Courthouse serves as the Art & Cultural Center of Grayson County. The Foundation is a private non-profit corporation whose mission is to preserve the building and make it available to the people of Grayson county and the surrounding areas.

The building served as the county courthouse for Grayson County from 1908, when it was built, until 1979 when the county government moved into the new courthouse. Located at the junction of highways US21 and US58 in far southwest Virginia, the 1908 Courthouse is in the center of Independence, the county seat. It is the second courthouse to be built on this spot and the third courthouse overall in the history of the county.

Since the Grayson County government moved into their new quarters in the late 1970's, the 1908 Courthouse has been restored and now houses the Crossroads Museum, the Baldwin Auditorium, and the Treasury Gift Shop, as well as offices housing businesses and other non-profit organizations.

Contact Us

Telephone: 276.773.3711 | **Email:** 1908courthouse@gmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 336 | Independence, VA 24348 | [Click here for a map](#)

Hours

The Historic 1908 Courthouse is generally open Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm. This applies to the Treasury Gift Shop, the Cross Roads Museum and the Grayson County Tourism Information Center. The Foundation office is open Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to Noon or by appointment.

SOURCE: [Historic 1908 Courthouse Foundation](#)



Mark Your Calendars

VACo Regional Meetings



VACo is excited to start the 2018 Regional Meetings season. We visited Westmoreland County on May 22 and Dinwiddie County on May 30. We traveled to Albemarle County on June 14 for the Region 5 Meeting and then to Grayson County on June 21 for the Region 12 Meeting. Regional Meetings are held annually to give local elected officials, county administrators, and legislators an opportunity to discuss challenges and offer solutions.

[Region 10](#) | Tuesday, July 24 | 2-4PM | Pittsylvania County | [Agenda](#)

[Region 3](#) | Wednesday, August 8 | 2-4PM | Hanover County | [Agenda](#)

[Regions 7 & 8](#) | Thursday, August 30 | 7-9PM | Stafford County | [Agenda](#)



VACo greatly values these meetings and offers sponsorship opportunities. [Sponsor one meeting or the entire season.](#)

VACo Contact: [Angela Inglett](#)

**NEWS FROM OUR
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

PRESS RELEASE

Dewberry Awarded \$2 Million Annual Prince William County Public Works and Parks and Recreation Services Contracts

Firm will perform environmental assessment, dam safety, floodplain management, surveying, and master planning services

Fairfax, VA—June 18, 2018

Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm, has been awarded two on-call contracts by Prince William County, Virginia. One contract is with the Department of Public Works and the second contract is with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Both contracts could see a variety of task orders with an annual value of up to \$2 million per year per contract, for a period of five years.

Under the Public Works contract, the firm will perform environmental engineering, testing, and inspection services; conduct site assessments; and develop remediation plans. Dewberry will evaluate natural and cultural resources, including wetlands and waters of the U.S., prepare impact assessments for a variety of projects, and evaluate habitats and investigate the presence of endangered and threatened species. The firm will also perform floodplain management and dam safety services, including hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, processing of Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), preparation of floodplain studies, development of dam rehabilitation plans, preparation of emergency action plans (EAPs), and development of dam breach inundation maps.

Under the Parks and Recreation contract, Dewberry services will include feasibility studies, field survey of topography and property boundaries, hydraulic analysis, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood studies, traffic studies, wetland delineation, utility design, park master planning, forest management plans, as-built construction plans, NEPA document preparation and submission, photometric plans, and sports field and lighting design.

About Dewberry

Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing professional services to a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients. Recognized for combining unsurpassed commitment to client service with deep subject matter expertise, Dewberry is dedicated to solving clients' most complex challenges and transforming their communities. Established in 1956, Dewberry is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, with more than 50 locations and 2,000+ professionals nationwide. To learn more, visit www.dewberry.com.

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Related Resource:

 Dewberry Selected to Provide Analytical Services for Prince William County Service Authority
<http://www.dewberry.com/news/article/2017/12/05/dewberry-selected-to-provide-analytical-services-for-prince-william-county-service-authority>

Related Link:

Dewberry
www.dewberry.com

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VACo Proposes National Policy to Deploy Rural Broadband



VACo has drafted a resolution to be considered at the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in July. Sponsored by Dinwiddie County Supervisor Harrison Moody, the resolution focuses on jumpstarting rural broadband P3s across the country by making the Rural Utility Service funds more accessible. Specifically, the resolution urges Congress to dedicate funding for broadband, make funding more accessible to cooperatives, and streamline the application process.

[Click here to read the resolution.](#)

Across the nation, rural localities still lack access to affordable and quality high-speed Internet. Broadband deployment should mirror the electrification of rural America. Utilizing federal Rural Electrification Administration loans, cooperatives built distribution networks for electricity to be purchased from utilities to be resold to members.

Within a five-year period, 50 percent of rural America had access to electricity and 10 years later virtually all were on the grid. Efforts to expand broadband into rural areas have lagged due to the cost of the telecommunications provider and a lack of subscribership due to small and sprawled rural populations.

Currently, at least 25 million Americans still lack access to high-speed Internet. In the 21st century, connectivity is vital for economic development, education, emergency services, health care, and more. Recognizing this, localities and cooperatives are partnering in public-private partnerships to bring the Internet to rural America.

VACo Contact: [Khaki LaRiviere](#)

Review of Voter Assignments Underway



The Virginia Department of Elections has been working to identify voters who may have been assigned to incorrect voting districts. A review prompted by the discovery that some voters had been improperly assigned in districts in the Fredericksburg area that were involved in a close House of Delegates race in 2017.

The Department of Elections has conducted an initial review of Congressional district assignments, using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software and census block data, and provided local General Registrars with lists of voters identified as potentially assigned to incorrect districts. The Department is focusing on Congressional districts first, given the November 2018 midterm elections, but plans to undertake a similar review of House of Delegates and state Senate districts later this year. The Department has asked General Registrars to review the addresses identified as potentially mis-assigned and determine whether the district assignment needs to be corrected; although the state legislature draws state and Congressional legislative districts, the state Department of Elections has no authority over the assignment of voters to voting districts by local registrars.

Errors in district assignments can happen for a number of reasons. Some district assignments must be made manually in the state’s voter database, and assignments may be complicated by precincts that are split by state legislative or Congressional district lines. New construction may create further complications. An [analysis of the issue done by the Washington Post in January](#) cites an example of a district boundary running down the middle of a street, with homes on the left side and an empty field on the right. A registrar would likely assign the entire block to the district on the left side, since all the homes are in that district, but if homes were subsequently built on the right side of the street, they could easily, and erroneously, be included in the district with the homes on the left side of the street.

Other issues result from situations where a boundary line runs through a residence. In this case, state regulations provide that the voter’s residence is deemed to be his or her bedroom (“vote where you sleep”) – which can lead to situations in which, for example, a voter’s driveway and front door are in one locality, and she pays real and personal property taxes to that locality, but votes in another. Other cases that are difficult to resolve include situations in which the boundary line itself is not clear; for example, due to a body of water gradually shifting course over time. Jurisdictions may have informal agreements as to boundary delineations that may not mirror the census block boundaries that must be used to determine voting assignments.

Commissioner of Elections Chris Piper briefed the State Board of Elections on this issue on June 19, and his presentation is available at [this link](#).

VACo has heard concerns from members about the potential disruption that reassigning voters may create for county residents, particularly in the “edge cases” where houses straddle voting districts or the boundary line is unclear, and has met with Commissioner Piper, along with VML, to ask that the Department continue to work with localities on an orderly process to resolve the complicated cases.

VACo is working to schedule a webinar with Commissioner Piper so that he can provide an update on the Department’s review. In the meantime, local governments should be in contact with their local registrar to understand which addresses may have been mis-assigned, and should also discuss any “edge cases” or potential boundary line adjustments with their county attorney.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

U.S. Supreme Court Rules in Online Sales Tax Case

On June 21, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc., et al.* that states may require out-of-state retailers to collect sales taxes, even if the retailer has no physical presence in the state. The case centered around South Dakota's law requiring businesses selling more than \$100,000 in goods per year in the state, or conducting 200 or more transactions per year with South Dakota customers, to collect and remit sales taxes. The law had been passed in the wake of comments by Justice Anthony Kennedy in 2015 suggesting that the major precedent in this area of law, the 1992 case *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*, was ripe for re-examination. *Quill* dealt with mail-order catalog sales and held that physical presence in a state was necessary in order for a state to require a business to collect sales taxes (reaffirming a 1967 precedent). In a major victory for states and localities, the *Wayfair* ruling overturns the Court's previous holding in *Quill*.

Major Elements of the Opinion

In a 5-4 opinion, the Court outlined several major reasons for its ruling, noting that the physical presence rule is not necessary in order to satisfy requirements set out in earlier cases stipulating that there must be some connection between a state and the property or transaction being taxed. The opinion acknowledges that the physical presence requirement gave out-of-state sellers a competitive advantage over in-state brick-and-mortar sellers, thus creating market distortions by "treat[ing] economically identical actors differently for arbitrary reasons."

Despite the narrowness of the majority, the opinion voices a strong defense of states' ability to collect necessary revenues to provide critical public services, calling the *Quill* decision "an extraordinary imposition by the Judiciary on States' authority to collect taxes and perform critical public functions" and "a judicially created tax shelter for businesses that limit their physical presence in a State but sell their goods and services to the State's consumers, something that has become easier and more prevalent as technology has advanced." The opinion is particularly critical of online sellers' use of their ability to avoid collecting sales taxes as an enticement to consumers, remarking about one example, "What Wayfair ignores in its subtle offer to assist in tax evasion is that creating a dream home assumes solvent state and local governments" that are able to provide, for example, police and fire protection.

Unanswered Questions

Removing the *Quill* roadblock from states' paths is a major step forward in allowing states to set their own policies on collection of sales taxes on purchases from out-of-state sellers. However, as the Tax Foundation notes, "This ruling is not a blank check for states." The Court's opinion does not specify which elements of a state law would withstand legal challenge, although the ruling signals that elements of South Dakota's law, such as the exemption for small sellers and the non-retroactive application of the law, would likely protect similar state laws.

The dissenting Justices argue that Congress is the appropriate venue for resolution of the issue of state taxation of out-of-state entities, suggesting that a legislative solution could balance the states' need to collect revenue with the potential compliance costs imposed on businesses. It is difficult to predict whether Congress will act to provide more definitive guidance for states in the wake of this ruling. Congress has wrestled with the issue in the past, and the Senate passed legislation in 2013, but the bill failed to emerge from the House.

Potential Effects in Virginia

Virginia's retail sales and use tax, the second-largest source of state General Fund dollars after the individual income tax, is a major component of state and local revenues. Nationally, online sales continue to grow as a proportion of total sales, so the ability to collect taxes on these sales is an important step in preserving the viability of this revenue source in the future. In 2017, then-Secretary of Finance Ric Brown estimated that \$229 million per year in sales taxes on out-of-state sales was owed but not collected; in media reports last week, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne estimated that the enhanced ability to enforce sales tax collections could generate an additional \$280 - \$300 million per year.

The General Assembly will likely need to consider how it structures requirements for remote sellers to collect sales taxes - for example, whether Virginia should model its collection requirements on South Dakota's law. The General Assembly also may revisit earlier decisions regarding how additional revenue might be distributed. In 2013, major transportation legislation was enacted in Virginia that included provisions governing the distribution of additional revenue that was expected to be generated by the enhanced collection of taxes on sales by remote sellers, but the state legislation assumed that this enhanced authority would be the result of passage of legislation in Congress, not action by the judiciary.

Ensuring parity in the tax treatment of in-state and remote sales transactions has been a long-standing priority of VACo, and VACo appreciates members' advocacy on this issue. VACo will continue to keep members updated as the state considers actions in the wake of this important ruling.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

County Officials Attend White House County Supervisor Conference



County Officials from Bland and Wythe Counties

More than 200 VACo members attended the White House Virginia County Supervisors Conference on Tuesday, June 26. Many attendees began the day with a briefing at NACo's offices, where NACo Executive Director Matt Chase and legislative staffers provided an overview of key federal issues of importance to counties. Speakers at the conference included several Cabinet secretaries, as well as senior staff in federal agencies. Director of the White House Office of Governmental Affairs Doug Hoelscher and Associate Director Britt Carter offered their assistance in working with federal agencies to resolve local issues.

Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor Kellyanne Conway provided an update on the status of omnibus legislation before Congress that addresses various aspects of the opioid epidemic, including prevention, treatment and recovery, as well as law enforcement interdiction efforts. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson discussed efforts to reduce poverty, and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos spoke about the need to rethink certain aspects of the American educational system, to include making better use of apprenticeships.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Stephen Censky discussed the importance of extending broadband service to unserved and underserved areas, and Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary Paul Lawrence reported on the Administration's efforts to improve services for veterans. Department of Transportation Government Affairs Officer Chris Mitton provided an update on initiatives at the Department of Transportation, including revised infrastructure grant programs and the integration of automated vehicles into transportation networks. He indicated that the Administration would be receptive to solutions to congestion on Interstate 81 that are put forward by the state.

VACo appreciates the opportunity to discuss issues of concern to local governments with the Administration.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



County Officials from Pulaski County

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two or more days per week. A [recent report](#) published by the Centers for Disease Control examining how states compare in meeting these goals found that nationally, approximately 23 percent of adults met these guidelines for their leisure-time physical activity (the study did not include physical activity taking place as part of adults’ occupations or as part of commuting to work), with considerable variation by sex and employment status. Virginia slightly outperformed the national average, with 24.2 percent of adults meeting the targets for leisure-time physical activity. 29.3 percent of all men aged 18-64 met the targets, as compared with 19.5 percent of women in the same age group. The percentage of Virginia working men aged 18-64 meeting the targets was higher at 32.8 percent (20.5 percent of working women met the targets), as compared with 16.6 percent of nonworking men and 16.8 percent of nonworking women in the same age range.

The study’s authors point out that people in better-paid fields of work, such as professional and managerial jobs, are more likely to get enough exercise outside of work, and they suggest that the study methodology may under-represent physical activity by excluding occupational or commuting activity.

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, which has been charged with preventing and reducing childhood obesity in the state, reports that 15.1 percent of Virginia high school students were overweight in 2015, and 13 percent were obese. Only 25.1 percent of high school students were active for at least 60 minutes per day, while 23.4 percent watched three or more hours of television per day. Middle school students reported similar figures, with 18 percent overweight, 12 percent obese, 32.7 percent active for at least 60 minutes per day, and 26.9 percent watching three or more hours of television per day. Locality-specific data on physical activity levels for adults is available through the Virginia Department of Health’s [Data Portal](#) – on this page, select the “Health Behavior Table” tab, then choose the “Health Behavior” indicator on the left side of the page and select “No Physical Activity in the Past Month” from the drop-down menu of indicators.

Factors Influencing Lack of Physical Activity

If exercise is so beneficial, why aren’t more people doing it? The answers to that question are complex, and public health professionals continue to research the issue, but some contributing factors can be identified. The CDC points out that adults with more education are more likely to meet federal exercise guidelines, as are adults with family incomes above the federal poverty level. Long commutes to and from work can consume time in a day that might otherwise be spent in physical activity; the state’s [Virginia Performs](#) website reports, “Virginia’s average commute time to work in 2015 was 28.2 minutes, another modest increase over previous years and the seventh highest in the nation.” Traffic or road design and conditions can discourage walking, running, or biking.

In the next edition of *County Connections*, I’ll be highlighting some inventive ways that Virginia counties have approached this issue. If you weren’t able to listen to the [June 28 webinar](#) with Virginia Department of Health and Chickahominy Health District representatives, you can find the recording on the [Healthy Virginia Counties website](#). VDH’s Dr. Leslie Hoglund provided an overview of what it means to look at population health, as well as Virginia’s *Plan for Well-Being*, which sets out the state’s goals for improving public health. Chickahominy Health District Director Dr. Thomas Franck discussed the role of local health departments, and Population Health Manager Caitlin Hodge showed us how Hanover County undertook a community health assessment. The presentations were packed with information and we appreciate the presenters sharing their expertise!

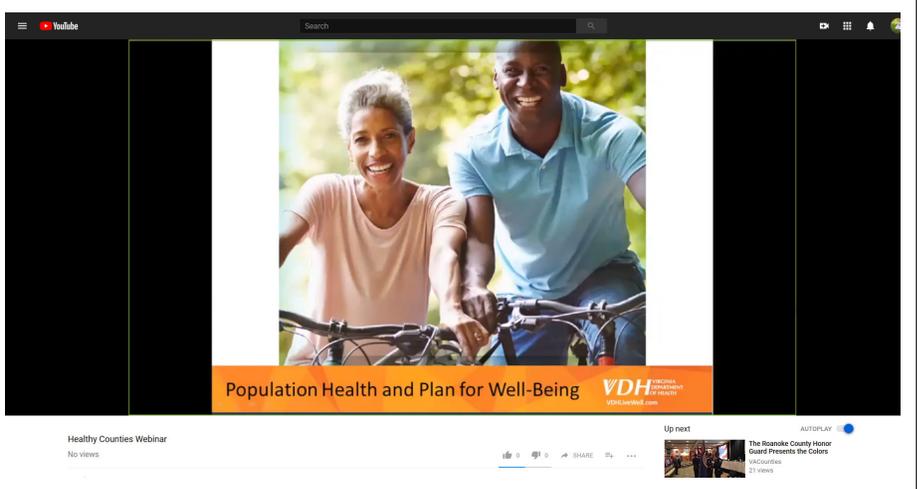
Did you miss the Healthy Virginia Counties Webinar on June 28? No worries. [Click here for the webinar.](#)

Speakers

Leslie R. Hoglund, PhD, MEd | Director of Family Health Services | Virginia Department of Health

Thomas Franck, MD, MPH | Director | Chickahominy Health District

Caitlin Hodge, MPH | Population Health Manager | Chickahominy Health District



Public Comment Period Now Open for CSA Policy Regarding Uniform Assessment Instrument

On June 21, the State Executive Council approved a notice of intent to develop a consolidated policy regarding the use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS). State statute requires use of a uniform assessment instrument in order for a child to be eligible for CSA services, and existing policy requires that CANS be the uniform assessment instrument. Details regarding the administration of CANS, such as how frequently the assessment must be performed and when a more extensive version of CANS must be used, are currently spelled out in guidance documents. The Office of Children’s Services has proposed to consolidate this guidance into a policy, and has convened a work group to assist in recommending ways to clarify expectations for the use of CANS.

VACo is represented on this work group, along with VML and several local CSA offices, and it is expected that the work group’s recommendations will shape the policy proposal that is presented to the State Executive Council.

Public comment on the notice of intent to develop policy will be accepted until 5 p.m. on August 10, 2018, and may be submitted through the Policy Public Comment Forum on the [Office of Children’s Services’ website](#) or via U.S. Mail to the Office of Children’s Services at 1604 Santa Rosa Rd. Suite 137, Richmond VA 23229, or via e-mail to csa.itsupport@csa.virginia.gov.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

VACo’s Legislative Summary



The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2018 General Assembly and information on legislation of interest to counties. This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly’s Legislative Information System. Also included in the document are studies and statistics of importance to counties. This version includes a budget analysis.



The reservation form for rooms at The Omni Homestead during the 2018 VACo Annual Conference was emailed to county administrators, VACo Board of Directors and confirmed exhibitors on June 18.

If you have questions about the room reservation process or did not get the form, call Carol Cameron at 804.343.2507. For anyone new to the reservation process, click here to review the [VACo Lodging Policy](#).

VACo Contact: [Carol Cameron](#)

Regionalism, Rural Broadband, and Restoring State Funding Support are Top Issues at Region 12 Meeting



State and local leaders met on June 21 in Grayson County to discuss issues ranging from K-12 funding and lack of connectivity to disincentives in state economic development dollars.

Delegate Will Morefield led a robust discussion on the changes made to the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund [HB 222 \(Morefield\)](#)/[SB 883 \(Stanley\)](#). Working with Delegate Lashrecse Aird, the bills opened up funding eligibility to certain localities experiencing an aging population and decreasing average wage: the counties of Accomack, Alleghany, Amelia, Appomattox, Bland, Brunswick, Buchanan, Buckingham, Caroline, Carroll, Charlotte, Craig, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Giles, Gloucester, Grayson, Halifax, Henry, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Lee, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Richmond, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Westmoreland, Wise, and Wythe; and, the cities of Bristol, Danville, Galax, Martinsville, Norton, and Petersburg. The bills also incentivize foreign markets to invest in these localities through a corporate tax exemption modeled after the contract between PepsiCo and Wythe County for a Gatorade facility. VACo thanks Delegate Morefield for sharing legislative updates from the 2018 session and for his advocacy on behalf of localities.

Carrying on the theme of economic development, local elected officials from the counties of Bland, Carroll, Grayson, and Wythe emphasized the need for regional partnerships. Officials discussed how to incentivize smaller startup and rural broadband projects in Southwest, and challenges with local match rates and partnership requirements for accessing GO VA funding. More accessible and flexible funding is critical to regional development in Southwest.

Another central economic development issue in the region is the impending closure of the Southwestern Virginia Training Center in Carroll County scheduled for June 30. The Center employed about 300 people and housed nearly 100 residents. One approach discussed was to use the facility to provide services to certain children utilizing Children's Services Act funds, aiming to cut costs that account for 4 percent of the local budget for transporting less than a handful of students over county lines. Other K-12 funding issues focused on school safety, specifically to address the need for new money to update school design, and increase the presence of School Resource Officers (SROs) and guidance counselors.

VACo staff provided updates on local match rates for GO VA funds, progress made on rural broadband, and updates on K-12 funding.

Thank you, Grayson Board Chair Brenda Sutherland, VACo President-Elect Tim Reeves, and everyone else who made it out to the Historic 1908 Courthouse in Grayson County.

VACo Contact: [Khaki LaRiviere](#)

Stafford County's Widewater State Park Set to Open in Fall 2018



A beautiful new 1,100-acre state park is set to open on the Widewater peninsula in late September. The park, which is bordered by both the Potomac River and Aquia Creek, is being built in three phases with a \$43 million budget. It will feature recreational opportunities on water and land as well as provide educational opportunities. It will also preserve and protect the land on the peninsula, upon which Captain John Smith walked, and interpret its natural, historical and cultural resources.

"For a county that is bordered by so many bodies of water, Stafford has very little public access to the water. This park is going to bring more recreational opportunities to our residents as well as visitors," said Stafford Board of Supervisors member Jack Cavalier, Griffis-Widewater District. "I am grateful to the Commonwealth of Virginia for recognizing both the need for a park as well as the need to preserve something that is irreplaceable. I am extremely grateful for the residents and Friends of Widewater State Park, which I am a member of, who advocated for this park."

Phase 1A will be complete when the park opens in the fall. According to Paul Anderson, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation employee and steward for Widewater State Park, that phase includes:

- Two completed shelters (two more will be built later) one on the Potomac side and one on the Aquia side (Shelters may be rented by the day for \$130 by calling 1-800-933-PARK);
- A full-service visitor's center with a display area;
- Two restrooms, one on the Potomac side and one on the Aquia side;
- There will be two canoe/kayak launches, one on each body of water;
- Two completed playgrounds on each side;
- A paddle-in campsite that allows canoes/kayaks to follow the Captain John Smith Trail;
- Moreover, individual picnic pads that don't need to be reserved.

The park has a non-swimming beach. Plans call for the construction of a floating dock for the Aquia canoe/kayak launch for handicap accessibility. Other phases also include a trail system to include a full-service campsite.

Supervisor Mark Dudenhefer, Garrisonville District, was a driving force for the park during his time in the Virginia General Assembly. He helped develop the master plan for the park and helped secure the funding for Phase 1A during the end of the economic downturn; actions which helped him win Virginia Association for Parks 2016 Legislator of the Year.

"I believed in this project, and I am glad Virginia and Stafford County worked together to make this happen," said Supervisor Dudenhefer. "This park will help bring in the type of infrastructure and transportation improvements Widewater needs without destroying its character. As well, it will help reduce volume from other area parks, which are in high demand."

Residents of Widewater have had a very positive reaction to the park, helping to create and facilitate Friends of the Widewater State Park (FOWSP), a 501(c)3 dedicated to assisting and supporting the park's mission, operations and programs. They fall under the Virginia Association for Parks. Each of Virginia's state parks has an associated "friends" group.

"Virginia State Parks are beautiful and are national and local treasures. Our goal is to advocate for the park, organize special events, raise money, schedule workdays and partner with local businesses to support the park," said Michele Mahoney, President of FOWSP. "We invite anyone who is interested in joining us."

FOWSP is looking for volunteers with skills in carpentry, gardening, and organizing volunteers, building trails, website design and more. There are opportunities for students fulfilling graduation service requirements as well. FOWSP may be contacted through their Facebook page at "Friends of Widewater State Park" or via email at widewater.friends@gmail.com. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at Widewater Fire and Rescue, 749 Widewater Road, Stafford, VA.

Join VACo's Communications Committee

Dear County Leader –

The VACo Executive Committee has approved establishing an ad-hoc Communications Committee. As you know, communications and technology continue to evolve at a rapid pace. It's important that VACo and its members maintain speed with the changes.

Some goals for the Communication Committee...

- To network and share best practices and lessons learned
- To discuss current technologies, trends and news in the field
- To develop and conduct communications workshops and/or webinars to benefit VACo members
- To create a network of experts in Local Government Communications
- To monitor and discuss policy that may affect Local Government Communications
- To develop an awards program that recognizes communications leaders in County Government

Who can participate?

- County Public Information Officers | Communications Directors
- Those who do the job of Public Information Officers and Communications Directors

What is the commitment?

- Two meetings per year

Please forward this notice to your communications professional and ask him/her to fill out the [committee interest form](#). Each appointment is a one-year term and committee members must apply every year. The deadline to submit a committee interest form is July 15.

VACo Communications Committee



VACo seeks county professionals to serve on an ad-hoc Communications Committee.
The Committee strives to accomplish the following -

- To network and share best practices and lessons learned
- To discuss current technologies, trends and news in the field
- To develop and conduct communications workshops and/or webinars to benefit VACo members
- To create a network of experts in Local Government Communications
- To monitor and discuss policy that may affect Local Government Communications
- To develop an awards program that recognizes communications leaders in County Government

The operational and ad-hoc committees are responsible for helping direct the staff in the activities, programs and functions of VACo.

Please submit this form by July 15, 2018.

Email this form to Gage Harter at gcharter@vaco.org. Committee members will be notified by August 1. If you do not receive a response by August 1 - please email Gage Harter.

name _____

title _____ county _____

phone _____ email _____

why the interest? _____



Please join us for our...

Strategic Sourcing Summit

When



Wednesday, July 25, 2018

11:00AM - 2:00PM

Lunch Provided

Where



Nauticus - Halfmoon Building
Virginia Room & Bermuda Room
1 Waterside Dr
Norfolk, VA 23510

You're invited to attend a complimentary educational event hosted by the NACo, USCM and VACo where you will find out how to maximize your budget dollars and learn more about strategic sourcing. Network, enjoy lunch, ask questions and share feedback!

You will also hear from guest speakers **Michael Ammons**, Purchasing Officer with the City of Portsmouth and **Sherrin Alsop**, VACo President and King & Queen County Commissioner.

There is no charge to participate. Registration is required by July 20th, [register](#) today! For more information contact your Program Manager.



Meet your Program Manager

Matt East

Mobile: 703.402.9929

Email:

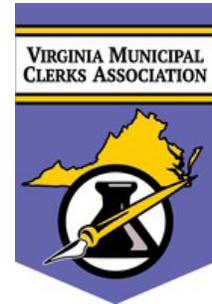
meast@uscommunities.org

SAVE MY SEAT

THE VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION INSTALLS NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2018-2019

The Virginia Municipal Clerks Association (VMCA) elected and installed new officers for the 2018-2019 Year at its annual business meeting held in Norfolk, VA, May 19, 2018:

President: **R. Allan Bull, MMC** - City Clerk, City of Norfolk
 1st Vice President: **Travis O. Morris, CMC** - Sr. Deputy Clerk, Albemarle County
 2nd Vice President: **Kyna Thomas, CMC** - Deputy Clerk, City of Lynchburg
 Treasurer: **Elizabeth "Libby" Hume, MMC** - Town Clerk, Town of Cape Charles
 Secretary: **Jennifer Berry, CMC** - Town Clerk, Town of Front Royal
 Historian: **Ann Phillips** - Deputy Clerk, County of Frederick
 Parliamentarian: **Sandy Madison, MMC** - City Clerk, City of Chesapeake
 Immediate Past President: **Kari J. Van Diest, MMC** - Deputy Clerk, City of Winchester



**MMC (Master Municipal Clerk) and CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk) are professional designations earned through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.*

President, R. Allan Bull, MMC, most recently served as Coordinator for the 72nd International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference in Norfolk, VA, with approximately 1,000 attendees. He has held the positions of First Vice President and Second Vice President in the VMCA, along with various committee positions. Mr. Bull has served the City of Norfolk for over 20 years, having been hired in 1997. Mr. Bull came to the City Clerk's Office in June 2000 and rose to the position of Chief Deputy Clerk in July 2011. As of July 2, 2018, Mr. R. Allan Bull is the new City Clerk for the City of Norfolk.

First Vice President, Travis O. Morris, CMC, has 13 years of municipal government experience, serving as Sr. Deputy Clerk to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors since 2012 and previously as Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court since 2005. Mr. Morris has served as VMCA Second Vice President, Secretary, Co-chair of the Website Development Committee, a member of the Education Committee, Clerk of the Year Committee and IIMC's Conference Committee. He is also a member of the Virginia Association of Government Archives & Records Administrators (VAGARA), and is pursuing the MMC designation through IIMC.

Second Vice President, Kyna Thomas, CMC, has over ten years of municipal government experience, serving as an administrative leader and facility manager for the Lynchburg Department of Human Services for five years and as Deputy Clerk of Council since December 2012. Ms. Thomas is the recipient of the 2018 VMCA Clerk of the Year Award, and has served the association as Region V Director and coordinator of the 40th Annual Conference and Meeting in Lynchburg, VA. She is a member of IIMC, VAGARA and VMCA-Region V, and serves as the City of Lynchburg Freedom of Information Officer. Ms. Thomas earned her B.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Lynchburg College and is pursuing the MMC designation through IIMC.

Treasurer, Elizabeth "Libby" Hume, MMC, is Town Clerk for the Town of Cape Charles, where she has served for ten years. The Town of Cape Charles is a member of VML and Ms. Hume attends the conferences. She is a member of VAGARA, International City/County Management Association (ICMA), International Public Management Association (IPMA-HR), Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), the IIMC Diversity-Inclusivity Task Force, and a Fellow in the IIMC Athenian Leadership Society.

Secretary, Jennifer E. Berry, CMC, has nearly 20 years of municipal government experience, serving as Clerk of Council to the Front Royal Town Council since 2005 and previously as the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Public Works & Utilities for the Town since 1998. Ms. Berry has served on VMCA's Education Committee, and currently serves on the VMCA By-laws Committee. She is pursuing the MMC designation through IIMC.

Historian, Ann Phillips, is pursuing her CMC through the IIMC. Ms. Phillips has served as Deputy Clerk for Frederick County for six months, and previously served as Town Clerk for the Town of Berryville for three years. Prior to serving as Town Clerk, Ms. Phillips served on the Berryville Area Development Authority and was a project manager for *Air Photographics, Inc.* She earned a B.A. in geography from Mary Washington College in 1984, and served as VMCA Historian for the 2017-2018 year.

Parliamentarian, Sandy Madison, MMC, has served for three years as City Clerk and 12 years as Deputy City Clerk. Ms. Madison is a past President, Vice President, Secretary and Region X Director for the VMCA. She is also a member of IIMC and VAGARA.

Immediate Past President, Kari J. Van Diest, MMC, has 11 years of municipal government experience, serving as the Deputy Clerk of Council with the City of Winchester since 2007. Ms. Van Diest has served as VMCA President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and two years as Historian. She has been a member of the Clerk of the Year committee and was honored to receive awards as the 2016 VMCA Clerk of the Year and the 2011 VMCA Region III Clerk of the Year. Ms. Van Diest is a member of the IIMC and VMCA-Region III.

The Virginia Municipal Clerks Association, affiliated with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, promotes professional development for municipal clerks through continuing education and networking opportunities, and is open to every city, town and county in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VMCA challenges its members to use their abilities, talents, and strengths in the proficient and effective delivery of local government services. Local officials are encouraged to support membership to the VMCA. To learn more about the organization visit: <http://www.vmca.com>.



Happy
Fourth
of July

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).



TAX COMPLIANCE AUDITOR | Chesterfield County | Posted July 2

JUNE 2018



CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE | James City County | Posted June 29



ASSISTANT ATTORNEY | Essex County | Posted June 29



ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY | Augusta County | Posted June 29



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT | Hampton Roads Regional Jail | Posted June 29



DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | Albemarle County | Posted June 28



PLANNER | Fluvanna County | Posted June 25



CAPTAIN (DEPT. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES) | Westmoreland County | Posted June 25



INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC | James City County | Posted June 25



POLICE CHIEF | City of Hopewell | Posted June 25



QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR | Hanover County | Posted June 22



CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE | James City County | Posted June 22



MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST | James City County | Posted June 22



FOOD SERVICES SUPERVISOR | Frederick County | Posted June 22



PC TECHNICIAN | Frederick County | Posted June 22



COUNTY SCHOOL ATTORNEY | Albemarle County | Posted June 22



ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER | Floyd County | Posted June 21



DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY | Essex County | Posted June 18



**VISITORS & COMMERCE
CENTER INFORMATION SPECIALIST** |
New Kent County | Posted June 18



ACCOUNTANT | Clarke
County | Posted June 18



SENIOR PLANNER |
Chesterfield County | Posted June 18



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC SAFETY** | Amherst County |
Posted June 18



**WASTEWATER
FACILITIES APPRENTICE/SPECIALIST
I/II** | James City County | Posted June
15



**RECREATION LEADER
(CHILD CARE)** | James City County |
Posted June 15



PAYROLL ACCOUNTANT |
Orange County | Posted June 15



**EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
DIRECTOR/PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
MANAGER** | Orange County | Posted
June 15



**CHIEF OF FIRE &
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
(EMS)** | Orange County | Posted June
15



**ADMINISTRATIVE
PROGRAM ASSISTANT I** | New Kent
County | Posted June 15



**DIRECTOR OF BUDGET
& PLANNING** | Albemarle County |
Posted June 13



**SENIOR POLICY
ANALYST** | Virginia Resources
Authority | Posted June 13



BUILDING INSPECTOR |
Mecklenburg County | Posted June 13



**FINANCE STAFF
SPECIALIST** | Westmoreland County |
Posted June 12



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT |
Albemarle County | Posted June 12



NETWORK MANAGER |
Stafford County | Posted June 12



**BUDGET & MANAGEMENT
ANALYST** | Albemarle County | Posted
June 11



**HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTOR** | Frederick County |
Posted June 8



PLANS EXAMINER |
James City County | Posted June 8



**PROGRAM SERVICES
ASSISTANT** | James City County |
Posted June 8



**SATELLITE SERVICES
ASSISTANT** | James City County |
Posted June 8



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR** | City of
Bristol | Posted June 7



**ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT** | Hampton Roads
Regional Jail | Posted June 7



FINANCE MANAGER |
Franklin County | Posted June 6



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER |
NRV Emergency Communications
Regional Authority | Posted June 5



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Sherrin C. Alsop | King and Queen County
President-Elect: Tim A. Reeves | Wythe County
1st Vice President: Stephen W. Bowen | Nottoway County
2nd Vice President: Jeff C. McKay | Fairfax County
Secretary Treasurer: Donald L. Hart | Jr., Accomack County
Immediate Past President: Mary W. Biggs | Montgomery County

STAFF

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General Counsel: Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
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Director of Communications: A. Gage Harter
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Director of Local Government Policy: Joe Lerch, AICP
Director of Member Services: Carol I. Cameron
Director of Program Development: Angela Inglett
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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