

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

January 22, 2020



Read VACo's
Capitol Contact
every Tuesday
and Thursday...
Page 2



Visit
Roanoke
County and
the McAfee
Knob...
Page 5



Roanoke
County Names
Peter Lubeck
As County
Attorney...
Page 4



Discover
how VACo
Associate
Member TSI
can help your
County....
Page 7



Budget amendments introduced at VACo's request

VACo worked with legislators to introduce a package of budget amendments to address several priority items for local governments. The deadline for member amendments was Friday, January 10. Amendments were posted online on Thursday, January 16, and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee heard presentations from patrons that afternoon; the House Appropriations Committee is planning to take up amendments this week. The "money committees" are scheduled to report their respective budgets on Sunday, February 16.

VACo appreciates General Assembly members' efforts to ensure that local government priorities are part of the budget discussions in each chamber. Below is a summary of the amendments introduced at VACo's request, many of which are joint requests with the Virginia Municipal League.

Hundreds of other amendments were filed, including amendments on shared priorities that were requested by partner organizations, and VACo will be providing an update on these amendments in a future Capitol Contact.

Elimination of K-12 Support Position Cap

[Item 136 #1h \(Mugler\)](#)/[Item 136 #1s \(Deeds\)](#)/[Item 136 #2s \(Lucas\)](#) direct the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Finance, in consultation with the appropriate legislative committee chairs, to develop a plan to eliminate the cap on recognition of support positions in the Standards of Quality and instead revert to recognition of staffing levels in accordance with prevailing local practice. The plan must be submitted before the next legislative session and contain a schedule for full elimination of the cap by FY 2025. VACo has a long-standing position in favor of eliminating the support cap, which places an artificial limitation on the number of support positions the state recognizes; these positions, such as school social workers and IT professionals, play an important role in the operation of a school system.

Removal of Certain K-12 Positions from the Support Position Cap

[Item 145 #23h \(Davis\)](#)/[Item 145 #8s \(Barker\)](#)/[Item 145 #10s \(Ebbin\)](#) remove certain student support positions, such as school psychologists and school social workers, from the support cap and provide the state's share of funding staffing for these positions based on prevailing local practice, as was done before the imposition of the cap. [Item 145 #8h \(Heretick\)](#)/[Item 145 #28h \(Hayes\)](#)/[Item 145 #7s \(Spruill\)](#)/[Item 145 #9s \(Boysko\)](#) are similar.

Funding for sheriffs' departments with law enforcement responsibility

[Item 68 #3h \(LaRock\)](#)/[Item 68 #4h \(Delaney\)](#)/[Item 68 #3s \(Bell\)](#) and [Item 75 #1s \(Bell\)](#) provide funding for 237 sheriffs' deputies in FY 2021 and an additional 21 deputies in FY 2022 in order to meet the statutory staffing ratio of 1 deputy per 1,500 in population in localities in which the sheriff has primary responsibility for law enforcement. This staffing ratio has not been funded since FY 2008.

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

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



The 2020 General Assembly session will span from January 8 to March 7 as legislators will deliberate on many issues of critical importance to local government, including equal taxing authority, the state budget, broadband, education funding, economic development, public safety, taxes and other policy matters.

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

- **January 21, 2020:** [Budget amendments introduced at VACo's request](#)
- **January 16, 2020:** [Governor proposes significant increase in motor fuels tax as part of major overhaul of transportation system funding](#)
- **January 14, 2020:** [Workers' compensation first responder presumption legislation advances to Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee](#)
- **January 9, 2020:** [Virginia General Assembly Convenes](#)

Become a Certified Supervisor

The Virginia Association of Counties, in partnership with Virginia Tech, offers the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program: an opportunity for county supervisors to learn how to more effectively and efficiently lead in their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, 70 supervisors representing more than 40 counties have completed this training program, earning credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective, and confidence needed to address the challenges and opportunities of the local governance experience.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program features a five-course curriculum, designed to maximize engagement and enhance scholarship. Each course begins with a six-hour topically driven, classroom session, followed by an eight-week home study experience. Course participants are assigned relevant articles and books, completing assignments drawn from these readings on a weekly basis. The final component of each course is a concluding six-hour classroom session, which includes a review of the reading and assignment material.

Good Governance: The Role of Leadership

[Registration Form](#) | [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Opening Session | March 13
Albemarle County

Closing Session | May 15
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | March 1

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

Opening Session | May 29
Albemarle County

Closing Session | July 24
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | May 15

Funding Public Services: The Role of Budgeting

Opening Session | September 4
Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 6
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 20

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Names Peter Lubeck As County Attorney



On January 14, the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of Peter S. Lubeck as County Attorney.

“We are privileged to have Peter serve as our next County Attorney,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman David Radford. “He has a wealth of experience with issues facing local government today. In his time with the County, Peter has provided valuable counsel to the administration, Board of Supervisors, and the County’s various departments.”

After beginning his legal career in private practice in 2005, Lubeck served as an Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney (criminal prosecutor) for the City of Roanoke from 2007 to 2013. He has served as an Assistant County Attorney and Senior Assistant County Attorney for Roanoke County for the past seven years.

“I have had the pleasure of interacting with many fine citizens who love our community and who give of their time to improve what is already a uniquely beautiful place,” said Lubeck. “Our Board of Supervisors is an outstanding group of individuals who are hard-working, and act with purpose and integrity. I am honored to represent both the citizens of Roanoke County and the Board.”

Upon first joining the County Attorney’s office, Lubeck primarily represented the County’s Department of Social Services before local district and circuit courts. Most recently, Lubeck’s practice has focused on representing the Community Development Department (which involves development, planning, and zoning matters) and Planning Commission.

He has also worked closely with the Police Department, Fire and Rescue, Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue, Parks and Recreation Department, and Libraries. He has served as counsel to the County’s Board of Zoning Appeals, and Local Board of Building Code and Fire Appeals.

Lubeck holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University, and a Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration from the College of William & Mary. He is an active member of the Virginia State Bar, the Salem/ Roanoke County Bar Association (having previously served as the Association’s President), and the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia Association.

Lubeck has been a resident of the Roanoke Valley since 2005. He and his spouse, Christina Isom Lubeck, have four children.

Lubeck follows Ruth Ellen Kuhnel who retired this month after serving as County Attorney for four years. Lubeck assumed his new position on January 14.

Bill freezing BPOL rates fails in House Finance Subcommittee

Members of House Finance Committee's Subcommittee #2 expressed sympathy with the intent of [HB 948 \(Webert\)](#), which would have prohibited localities imposing license taxes (BPOL) from increasing their rates beyond the rate imposed as of January 1, 2020, and barred any locality not currently imposing BPOL taxes from doing so in the future. However, subcommittee members expressed reservations about restricting BPOL as a local revenue source without providing localities with an alternative, and ultimately tabled the measure. VACo spoke in opposition to the bill.

The subcommittee also took up [HB 309 \(Bloxom\)](#), which would allow localities to impose transient occupancy taxes on accommodations within state parks to the same extent that those taxes could be levied on room rentals and travel campgrounds that are privately owned. The subcommittee recommended reporting this bill. It also recommended reporting [HB 62 \(Hope\)](#), which would remove the sunset clause from the statute permitting Arlington County to impose an additional 0.25 percent transient occupancy tax, which is dedicated to tourism promotion. Other grants of special authority to impose transient occupancy taxes are not restricted by sunset clauses. The subcommittee also looked favorably on [HB 1270 \(Batten\)](#), which would repeal the additional sales and use tax imposed in the Historic Triangle in 2026 unless the tax is approved via referendum in York County, James City County, and the City of Williamsburg.

Subcommittee members were supportive of [HB 342 \(Bell\)](#), which intends to provide an exemption from meals taxes for small sellers at roadside stands and farmers' markets, but suggested some revisions to the bill's language to narrow its application. The bill will be placed on a future subcommittee docket.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Public employee collective bargaining legislation and other measures seek to transform employee/employer relations

As the deadline to file all bills and joint resolutions passed on January 17, several bills await discussion in committee with the potential to significantly change the nature of public employer/employee relationships across the Commonwealth. Some of the most impactful of these bills concern collective bargaining and public employees' ability to strike.

Collective bargaining is the negotiation process between an employer and a union or association comprised of workers to govern the terms and conditions of the workers' employment. Public employees and their would-be-representatives are excluded from the National Labor Relations Act and are instead subject to state and local laws governing collective bargaining. The [Code of Virginia](#) currently prohibits collective bargaining for public employees in Virginia but does allow them to form associations to promote their interests. Virginia is one of several states that prohibits collective bargaining.

[HB 582 \(Guzman\)](#) and [SB 1022 \(Boysko\)](#) repeal the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees and create the Public Employee Relations Board. This three-member body appointed by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly would be responsible for determining eligible bargaining units and certifications for the elections of employee bargaining representatives. These representatives would then be tasked with negotiating the terms of employment for their members with their public employers. If impasses occur between employers and employee representatives, the disputes would then be subject to arbitration by representatives of the Board. The legislation still determines that striking government employees who willfully refuse to perform their duties will have been deemed to have terminated their employment. This legislation would apply to state and local governments and their employees, with certain exceptions. Interestingly, the legislation exempts employees of the General Assembly from the provisions of the bills.

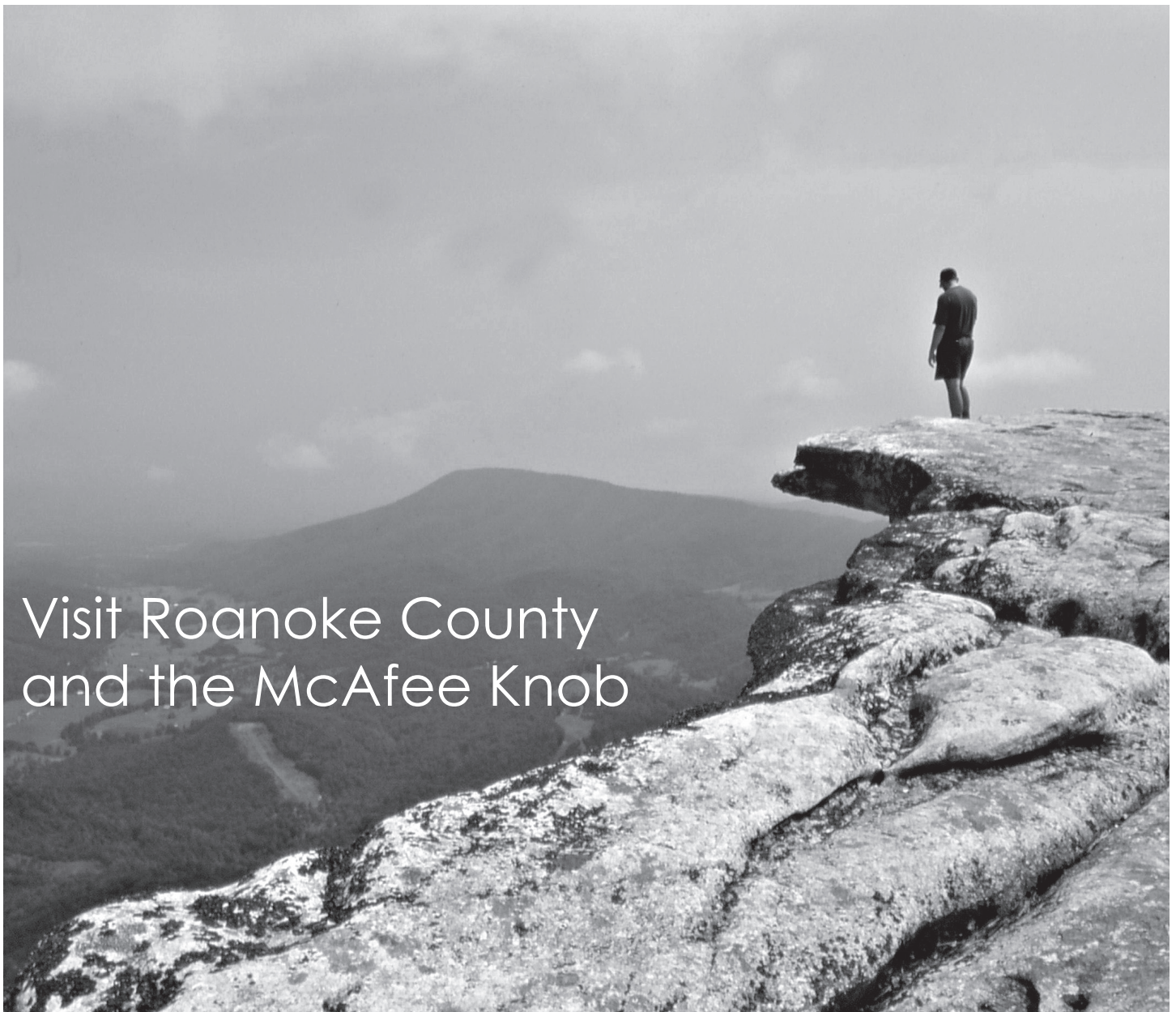
Two other bills, [HB 327 \(Levine\)](#) and [SB 939 \(Saslaw\)](#), have been filed that do not mandate collective bargaining, but provide state and local governments the options of engaging in collective bargaining if they so choose. SB 939 also potentially authorizes additional advocacy actions beyond what is currently provided for in the [Code](#), for employee organizations in localities that have adopted collective bargaining by ordinance.

Leaving nothing to doubt, [HB 67 \(Carter\)](#) specifically authorizes non-law-enforcement public employees to engage in strikes without having been deemed to have terminated their employment. This would represent a major departure from existing Virginia public employer/employee relations.

In addition to bills specifically impacting public employees and employers, several "Right-to-Work" related bills have been introduced this session. Right-to-Work provides workers with the choice of whether to join a union or employee representative association. Repealing this section of [Code](#), as [HB 153 \(Carter\)](#) does, could allow membership in a union or employee representative association to be a condition of employment. [SB 426 \(Saslaw\)](#) allows employers, after entering into a collective bargaining agreement with a labor union or labor organization, to require certain nonmember employees to pay "fair share fees" to the union or organization as a condition employment.

VACo opposes any effort to mandate collective bargaining for public employees.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



Visit Roanoke County and the McAfee Knob

As one of the most photographed spots on the [Appalachian Trail](#), McAfee Knob in the Roanoke Valley in [Virginia's Blue Ridge](#) is on the bucket list for [hikers](#) from around the world.

With its stunning, 270-degree panoramic views of the surrounding valley and mountains, along with its signature ledge that has become a popular place for photos, McAfee Knob should be included in any trip that includes hiking in Virginia's Blue Ridge. It's been recognized by *USA Today Travel* as one of the most spectacular hikes in the United States! The knob is located atop [Catawba Mountain](#) with an elevation of 3,197 feet and is one of the highlights of the Appalachian Trail.

Follow the approximately 4.4 mile, white-blazed trail that gradually makes the ascent to McAfee Knob - a peak of 3,197 feet. For the return, retrace your steps along the trail for a round-trip hike that's approximately 8.8 miles. For a more leisurely return, turn right on the old fire road that's approximately 1.4 miles from the knob. Take the fire road for just over 2.6 miles until you reach Route 311 and the parking lot, which will be on the other side of the road. It's a steady climb of 1,700 feet that is moderately difficult and you should give yourself at least 4 hours to make the trip. The knob is also a popular place for picnics, though exercising caution is necessary because of the steep drop-offs nearby. McAfee Knob is an extremely popular hike and becomes especially crowded on weekends, with very limited parking availability. If possible, consider hiking the trail during the week to avoid larger crowds.

SOURCE: [Visit Roanoke County](#)



Mark Your Calendars



VACo County Supervisors' Forum

March 20-21, 2020 | Omni Richmond Hotel



The Forum: Virginia Association of Counties offers the County Supervisors' Forum to supervisors and county board members to focus on critical issues facing counties today: financial responsibilities, schools, economic development, transportation, environmental protection, intergovernmental relations, legal issues and more. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors is covered.

Who should attend: Newly-elected and incumbent supervisors/county board members, chief county administrative officers and other government managers will come away with information they need to steer their locality forward.

Registration Details: The registration fee for County Officials is \$350 which covers conference materials, a 2019 Virginia County Supervisors Manual, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. Spouses/guests (non-County Officials) who wish to attend the Friday evening dinner may register for \$60. Those who have already purchased a 2019 Supervisors' Manual may register for \$275 but must bring their manual with them to the Forum.

The registration deadline is March 6. To register, mail this form along with a check or charge authorization to VACo, 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219, or fax to 804.788.0083.

Hotel Reservation Details: Lodging costs are not covered in either registration fee. The Forum is held at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Room rates start at \$147 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by March 3, 2020, with this code: **VACo Supervisors Forum** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by March 6, 2020. Substitutions are allowed in the event a supervisor is unable to attend. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.

Name _____

County _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Supervisors' Email _____

Guest Name for Dinner _____ Add \$60 _____

Late fee March 7 & after and at the door: \$375 (with Supervisors' Manual) or \$300 (without manual)

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED: \$ _____ Check Enclosed _____

Charge Options: _____ VISA _____ American Express _____ MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Name _____

Card Holder's Signature _____



VACo FAX NUMBER: 804.788.0083

Rev. 11/18/2019

NEWS

from our Associate Members



TSI is distinguished in the industry by our personal contact strategy. When you contact us, you talk to a real person on our support team and they “own” the issue until resolved. We are further noted for our quality products and industry leading, budget friendly pricing strategies. These qualities provide a value-added package to our clients.

Our core business strengths are:

Managed Technology Services | Cyber Security Planning and Protection | Voice Over Internet Protocol Solutions

Managed Technology Services

Our service model, performed by our engineering and support teams, is built upon structured planning, quality installation and industry-leading tools to monitor client infrastructure systems and functions. Our 24/7 network monitoring service allows us to detect and resolve matters before they escalate and result in downtime, data loss, or costly repair issues.

While we monitor day-to-day operations and resolve issues, we also perform periodic onsite analysis of your entire infrastructure for its performance against established goals and objectives. This review allows us to assess whether you are achieving the desired level of performance, and organizational productivity. We can also help with planning and budgeting to meet short-, near-, and long-term goals and objectives.

TSI’s network engineering capability creates efficient and secure architectures which form the backbone of an organization’s information management infrastructure. Our network engineers design system configurations, user-specific policies, security access controls, direct installation and testing, and monitor performance.

TSI’s Data Center provides cloud-based services for our clients. The Data Center centralizes our client’s IT operations and equipment, as well as storing and managing information along with providing security and data backup. The TSI Data Center services regional, national, and international organizations.

Cyber Security Planning and Protection

TSI employs industry-leading Security Information Event Management (SIEM) tools to monitor the security posture of the network infrastructure. These tools are employed throughout the network and data center to protect as well as screen for and detect security-relevant events.

- Regular vulnerability scanning to identify assets at risk
- Results analysis that combines the latest threat intelligence with a deep understanding of your critical assets to develop an accurate list your current vulnerabilities
- Risk-based remediation advice and recommendations to limit exposure

Voice Over Internet Protocol Solutions

TSI is partnered with 3CX to offer Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system solutions. We have installed 3CX-based phone systems for over dozens of clients from small businesses to large government organizations with several thousand phones.

NEWS

from our Associate Members

SERCAP in Action



SERCAP, INC.

SERCAP hosted an Open House for the Gough Family of Dillwyn, Virginia recently, to celebrate their new home. The Gough family had a failed septic system. After SERCAP conducted HQS inspections, it was determined that the Gough family's current home needed to be demolished, and a new home built. The Gough family met all DHCD requirements in order for SERCAP to proceed.

The home is located in Buckingham County, Virginia. SERCAP built a three-bedroom home, with ADA accessibility features. The clients are elderly and have one adult daughter who is disabled.

The Open House was well attended by family and friends, and the Gough Family was happy to welcome people into their new home.



BUDGET AMENDMENTS Continued from page 1**Jail per diem payments**

[Item 69 #1h \(Hope\)](#)/[Item 69 #1s \(Lucas\)](#) provide an 18 percent increase in jail per diem payments to reflect the equivalent increase in inflation (as measured by the Consumer Price Index) since the last time per diem payments were adjusted (in 2010). Additional resources will be necessary for local and regional jails to comply with behavioral health and medical care standards that are currently under review by the Board of Corrections.

Assistance to localities with election security requirements

[Item 83 #1h \(Sickles\)](#) [amendment proposed to the “caboose” FY 2020 budget]/[Item 83 #1s \(Deeds\)](#) [amendment proposed to the “caboose” FY 2020 budget]/[Item 86 #6s \(Deeds\)](#) [amendment proposed to the biennium budget] express the General Assembly’s intention that the most recent allocation of federal funding to Virginia under the Help America Vote Act, which was included in the federal budget agreement signed in December 2019, would be provided to localities to assist them in complying with election security standards adopted as a result of legislation enacted in 2019 or to assist with future security standards adopted by the State Board of Elections.

Eligibility for Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Funding

[Item 114 #5h \(Bloxom\)](#)/[Item 114 #1s \(Lewis\)](#) broaden eligibility for Virginia Telecommunication Initiative funding such that a local government or other public entity could qualify for funding. The amendments also provide for local government participation on the broadband telecommunications advisory group required to be convened by the Chairman of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board.

Service charges in lieu of taxes for state correctional facilities

[Item 402 #6h \(Tyler\)](#)/[Item 402 #26s \(Ruff\)](#) provide funding for service charges levied in lieu of property taxes on state correctional facilities and eliminate budget language that overrides the existing statutory mandate for the Department of Corrections to pay these service charges.

Aid to Localities with Police Departments

[Item 408 #1h \(Avoli\)](#)/[Item 408 #1s \(Marsden\)](#) provide additional funding for localities with police departments (“HB 599”) in accordance with the statutory requirement for this funding to grow in tandem with expected growth in state General Fund revenues. The introduced budget level-funds HB 599 appropriations despite expected growth in each year of the biennium (4.5 percent in FY 2021 and 3.7 percent in FY 2022).

Local vehicle license fees

[Item 438 #2h \(McQuinn\)](#)/[Item 438 #2s \(Marsden\)](#) provide that localities may continue to levy vehicle license fees up to the maximum state rate allowed as of January 1, 2020, regardless of any legislation enacted by the 2020 General Assembly that may adjust the state fee. The Governor has proposed cutting the state rate in half; as local fees have been limited to the state maximum rate by statute, there has been concern that reducing the state fee would jeopardize existing local fees. The Administration has assured VACo that its intent is to preserve local authority to impose license fees at the current maximum state rate, and the omnibus transportation funding bill as introduced contains such language; the budget amendment is intended as an additional layer of protection for local fees.

“Orphan” drainage outfalls

[Item 430 #2h \(Tyler and Brewer\)](#)/[Item 430 #1s \(Lucas\)](#) direct the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with affected counties, to evaluate the prevalence across the state of drainage outfalls that originate from roads maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation but do not have an entity assigned to maintain them, and recommend cost-effective approaches to fund maintenance of these “orphan” outfalls.

Preservation of Communication Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund

[Item 3-1.01 #1h \(Plum\)](#)/[Item 3-1.01 #3s \(Ebbin\)](#) protect the Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund from further erosion by eliminating a proposed transfer of \$2 million per year from the Trust Fund to the state General Fund. When localities agreed to the restructuring of local telecommunications taxes in 2006 and these taxes were consolidated into a single tax collected by the state, it was understood that these revenues were to be held in trust for localities, not used for general state purposes. In 2018, there were savings in the telecommunications relay contract, which is funded “off the top” of the Trust Fund in accordance with statute; rather than distribute the savings to localities, the General Assembly swept \$2 million per year into the General Fund. This amendment reverses that transfer in the 2020-2022 biennium.

J. Michael Hobert Receives the 2019 Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award



J. Michael Hobert accepts the 2019 Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award from Natural Resource Planner Alison Teetor during a luncheon at the Millwood Country Club on January 16.

BERRYVILLE, VA — J. Michael Hobert received the 2019 Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award during a January 16 luncheon at the Millwood Country Club. Hobert served on the Clarke County Board of Supervisors for 16 years, during which time he helped create and then served as a founding member of the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority.

The Board of Supervisors officially adopted the Authority and its easement purchase program in June 2002, and the Authority recorded its first easement in 2003.

Easements are voluntary agreements negotiated between landowners and public agencies in which the landowners agree to place specific restrictions on the use and development of their property in exchange for payment and various income and estate tax benefits.

The general purpose of Clarke County's Conservation Easement Authority and Conservation Easement Purchase (CEP) program is to protect and preserve land with significant agricultural, natural, scenic, and historic resources as well as protect open space, plant life, wildlife, and water resources.

The Conservation Easement Authority established the Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award in 2014 to honor individuals, groups, and organizations for their significant contributions to preserve and protect open spaces in Clarke County. The annual award also draws attention to the need for land conservation and the role easements play in preserving the natural and historic resources in the county.

Mackay-Smith was the first recipient of the award as she was instrumental in helping the Board establish the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority, and she helped negotiate the Authority's first easement purchase — historic Greenway Court — the colonial-era home of Lord Thomas Fairfax.

Other Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award recipients are Holy Cross Abbey (2015), G. Robert Lee, Margaret Maizel, Robert Mitchell, and A.R. "Pete" Dunning (2016), Melvin Kohn (2017), and Joe and Denise Sipe (2018).

This year's Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award recipient represented the Berryville District on the Board of Supervisors from January 1999 — when he was appointed to serve out an unexpired term — through 2015. Hobert served as the Board's vice chair from 2003 through 2009 and as its chair from 2010 through 2015.

Hobert is a retired lawyer who for 36 years specialized in elder law, estate planning and administration at his Berryville-based firm, Hobert and Kerr P.C. During his years as a Supervisor, Hobert served on numerous county boards and commissions, and he represented Clarke on the Virginia Association of Counties board for seven years.

After stepping down from the Board, Hobert offered his legal expertise to Clarke residents who wished to place their land in conservation easement.

When discussing his decision not to seek reelection in 2015, *The Winchester Star* quoted Hobert as citing the creation of the county's Easement Authority as among his most significant accomplishments. Hobert said he was "happy and proud" to have been a part of that.

Since its creation in 2002, the Conservation Easement Authority and other easement-holding organizations such as the Virginia Outdoors Foundation have helped Clarke landowners place a total of 26,744 acres in easement, retiring 275 dwelling unit rights (DURs). In 2019 alone, the Authority added 209 acres to the count and retired seven DURs. Now, almost a quarter of Clarke County's 113,920 acres is protected by conservation easements.

For more information about conservation easements, contact Natural Resource Planner Alison Teetor at 540.955.5134 or ateetor@clarkecounty.gov. Go to clarkelandconservation.org.

VACo Releases 2020 Legislative Program



After months of steering committee meetings, lively debate and participation through the Association's legislative process, VACo adopted its [2020 Legislative Program](#). The Legislative Program is organized according to VACo's Steering Committees.

[VACo's 2020 Legislative Program](#) addresses priorities in the realms of Economic Development and Planning, Education, Environment and Agriculture, Finance, General Government, Health and Human Services, and Transportation.

VACo Contact: [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

Nominations are Open!

The Virginia Municipal Clerks Association Clerk of the Year Committee is accepting nominations for the annual Clerk of the Year award to be presented at the VMCA Annual meeting in April .



Qualifications:

- **Member of the VMCA for 2+ Years**
- **Brings innovative ideas to the Association**
- **Demonstrates commitment to professional development**
- **Demonstrates commitment to community involvement**
- **Extraordinary individual job performance**
- **Positive on-the-job attitude**

**Nomination forms due by
February 28, 2020**

**Click [here](https://forms.gle/fXiqJ1sXDBiqbvas5) for the nomination form or enter
<https://forms.gle/fXiqJ1sXDBiqbvas5> into your browser.**

Virginia Association of Counties

PREMIER PARTNER

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

VACo Members - Learn about VACo's Partners and how they can help Counties save money and become more efficient. Contact Executive Director Dean Lynch at dlynch@vaco.org for more information.

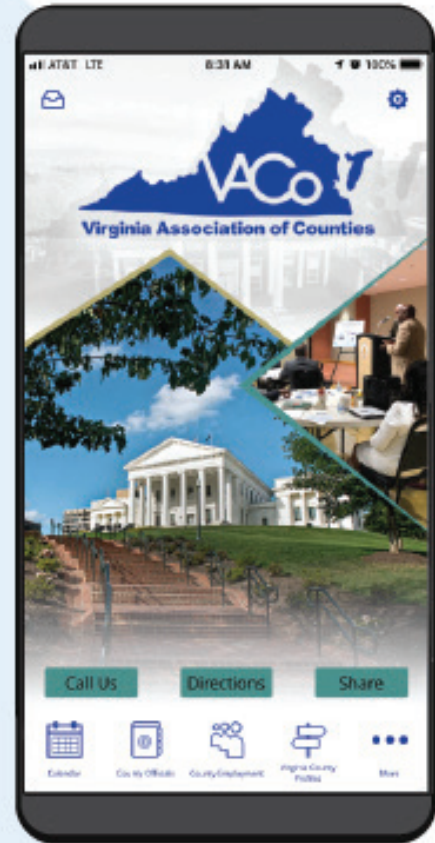
VACo Premier Partner Spotlight Podcast

Aetna

Welcome to VACo's Premier Partner Spotlight. In this episode we speak with Aetna - a leading health care company that is helping public sector employees and retirees on their path to better health. Joining host Dean Lynch are Liz Sampo, Sales Vice President for Group Medicare, and Marcus Duckworth, Vice President of Client Management, Public and Labor Segment.

DOWNLOAD

our new app



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) mobile application is a valuable tool for County officials and staff to better serve their communities. With the VACo mobile app, users can easily stay informed about issues important to Counties with many features, including:

- * VACo Events Registration and Info
- * VACo Member Directory
- * Legislative News and Alerts | Capitol Contact
- * VACo Chat
- * County Pulse Podcast
- * Employment Opportunities

Downloading the app is easy...

- Scan the QR Code or search "Virginia Assn of Counties" from the iTunes or Google Play Store
- Opt-in for VACo Push Notifications to receive important VACo alerts
- For access to the most features, request an account with your email and a password
- Once your account is approved, members will have access to all the features.



Celebrate 50 Years of County Innovation

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) [2020 Achievement Awards](#)! Join us in celebrating 50 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

The 18 "best of category" winners will be recognized on stage at the 2020 NACo Annual Conference in Orange County/Orlando, Fla., and all winners will be recognized in the program book and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and county residents.

We encourage all counties, parishes and boroughs to apply.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 9, 2020 (save \$25 off the application fee)

FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 30, 2020

Please view the [online brochure](#) or email awards@naco.org with any questions about this year's application process.



APPLY NOW



2020 VACo VML VAPDC Local Government Legislative Day FEBRUARY 6

Omni Richmond Hotel | 100 S 12th Street | Richmond, VA 23219

VACo-VML-VAPDC invites local government officials to **VACo-VML-VAPDC Local Government Legislative Day** on **Thursday, February 6, 2020** at the **Omni Richmond Hotel**. Keynoting the event will be Governor Northam (invited). Advocates representing the state associations will report on legislation affecting local governments; then local government officials are encouraged to go to the Capitol to participate in committee meetings and lobby state legislators. In the evening, officials are strongly encouraged to invite their state legislators to the VACo-VML-VAPDC reception.

Officials who need to stay overnight at the **Omni Richmond Hotel** can get a special room rate of \$162. For reservations, call 804.344.7000 **by January 17, 2020** with the following code: **Local Government Legislative Day** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

REFUND POLICY: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by **January 24, 2020**. Substitutions are accepted at any time. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.

REGISTRATION FEES – Deadline is January 24th			
<u>Circle One</u>	<u>Until Jan. 24</u>	<u>LATE (Jan. 25 and after & at the door)</u>	
A. DAY BRIEFINGS ONLY	\$ 50 PER PERSON	\$ 60	
B. RECEPTION ONLY	\$ 70 PER PERSON	\$ 80	
C. DAY BRIEFINGS <i>and</i> RECEPTION	\$115 PER PERSON	\$ 135	

AGENDA	
9 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM 12 NOON Afternoon 5:30 PM	Respective Board of Directors Meetings Registration Lunch Program Visit Capitol and lobby legislators Reception

REGISTRATION

The following people will attend on **February 6, 2020**. Accompanying this form is a check for the total amount due or a charge authorization.

Name _____ Title _____ Total: \$ _____

Name _____ Title _____ Total: \$ _____

Mailing Address _____

Organization (County/City/Town/Company) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Special Accommodations _____ Vegetarian lunch? _____

Charge Options: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AMX <input type="checkbox"/> Discover		EXP. DATE ____ / ____
TOTAL TO BE CHARGED: _____ CARD NUMBER: _____		
NAME ON CARD: _____		
SIGNATURE: _____		
EMAIL FOR CREDIT CARD RECEIPT: _____		





VACo and the Center for Rural Virginia 2020 Rural Caucus Reception

Wednesday, February 5 | Omni Richmond Hotel | 5:30 to 8:00 pm

REGISTRATION FORM

***** REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 27 *****

\$75 per person thru January 27

\$90 per person January 28 & after | \$90 At the Door

*Room block at the Omni Richmond closes January 17

The 2020 Rural Caucus Reception is an evening of collaboration and discussion on the issues that impact rural Virginia. Attendees acquire a healthy understanding of matters affecting rural Virginia and their possible solutions as well as make personal connections across the region. Registration fee includes two drink tickets; heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

County or Organization _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

My guest's name is _____ (Add \$75)

Leave blank if no guest.

Total enclosed _____ (\$75 per person)

Make checks payable to: **Virginia Association of Counties or VACo.**

LATE FEE: \$90 per person after January 27th and at the door.

CHARGE OPTIONS: _____ VISA _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ Discover

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED: \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____
MONTH YEAR

Print cardholder's name as it appears on the card _____

Authorized Signature _____

Optional for credit card receipt: List a 2nd email address if a second person needs a copy of the receipt.

Register today by faxing this completed form with credit card information to 804.788.0083 or mail with a check to: Virginia Association of Counties, 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219.

***Hotel Information**

Officials can stay overnight at the Omni Richmond Hotel with special rates from \$162. For reservations, call 1.800.THE.OMNI by **January 17, 2020** with the following code: [VACo/VML Local Government Day](#) or make reservations online at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

Refund Policy

Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by 10 am on January 27, 2020. Substitutions are accepted at no additional cost. For questions, please call VACo at 804.788.6652.

Room Block Deadline is January 17, 2020

Event Registration Deadline is January 27, 2020

VACo FAX NUMBER IS 804.788.0083

Sponsorship Opportunities



March 20-21, 2020
Omni Richmond Hotel

Virginia Association of Counties



Your sponsorship at the VACo 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. Be a part of this worthwhile event while promoting your company mission.

Please check the event(s) you would like to sponsor. Partial sponsorships are available and will be listed as "Co-Sponsored by . . ."

NAMETAG LANYARDS

\$500

Sponsor the nametag lanyards and receive recognition by the moderator during the Forum, company logo on lanyards, and recognition on signage, website and agenda. **NOTE:** *Due to production and shipping time constraints, this sponsorship must be submitted no later than Feb. 28th.*

FORUM TOTE BAGS

\$250

Sponsor the tote bags and receive recognition by the moderator during the Forum, company logo on tote bags, and recognition on signage, website and agenda. **NOTE:** *Due to production and shipping time constraints, this sponsorship must be submitted no later than Feb. 28th.*

WIFI

\$500

Sponsor the WiFi and have a customized WiFi password to reflect company name. Receive two (2) free event registrations, event attendee list, recognition by the moderator during the Forum, company logo and contact information on signage, website and agenda.

LUNCH BREAK

\$400

Sponsor the lunch break and receive (2) free event registrations, opportunity to introduce lunch to attendees, event attendee list, recognition by the moderator during the Forum, company logo and contact information on signage, website and agenda.

REFRESHMENT BREAKS

\$300

Sponsor refreshment breaks throughout the two-day Forum and receive (2) free event registrations, recognition by the moderator, company logo and contact information on signage, website and agenda.

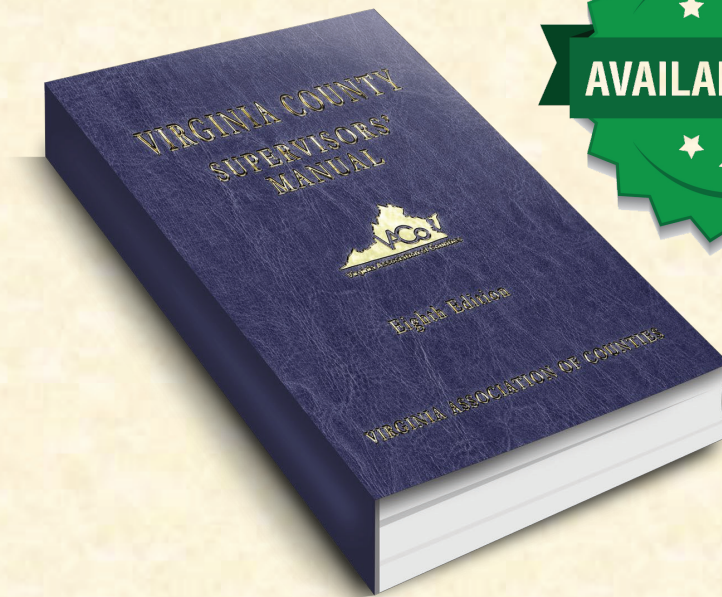
SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

\$850

Sponsor dinner on Saturday evening and receive (2) free event registrations, opportunity to introduce dinner to attendees, event attendee list, recognition by the moderator during the Forum, recognition on signage, website and agenda.

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019

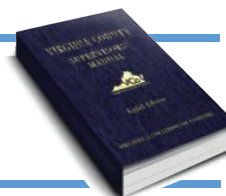


ORDER YOURS TODAY
\$75 EACH

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)



Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition - NEW FOR 2019



The Eighth Edition (2019) of VACo's **Virginia County Supervisors' Manual**, is now in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

COUNTY (OR ORGANIZATION): _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Manuals are \$75 per copy. Number of Copies _____.

☐ Check enclosed for \$_____ Make payable to **VACo Services, Inc.**

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:

Charge Options: _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ VISA

Card No: _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Email for credit card receipt: _____

Mail completed form to:

Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083

Questions? Call 804.788.6652.



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).



**WEB INTERACTION
DESIGNER** | James City County |
Posted January 17



**RECREATION LEADER
(BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL)** | James
City County | Posted January 17



**PARKS & RECREATION
JOB OPPORTUNITIES** | James City
County | Posted January 17



**ACCOUNTING
TECHNICIAN I** | James City County |
Posted January 17



**ASSISTANT RECREATION
SUPERVISOR (BEFORE & AFTER
SCHOOL)** | James City County |
Posted January 17



**SPORTS CLASS
INSTRUCTOR I/II/III** | James City
County | Posted January 17



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF FIELD OPERATIONS** | Western VA
Water Authority | Posted January 16



PAYROLL MANAGER |
Hanover County | Posted January 16



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
| VA Peninsulas Public Service
Authority | Posted January 16



**DEPARTMENTAL SYSTEM
ANALYST** | City of Harrisonburg |
Posted January 16



**DIRECTOR OF SOLID
WASTE** | Brunswick County | Posted
January 16



**COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER** | NRV Emergency
Communications Regional Authority
| Posted January 15



**MAINTENANCE WORKER
-PSA** | Montgomery County | Posted
January 15



FIREFIGHTER/EMT |
Frederick County | Posted January 14



**ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR/SUBDIVISION
AGENT** | Northampton County |
Posted January 14



**DEPUTY CITY
ATTORNEY** | City of Chesapeake |
Posted January 14



**TOURISM ASSISTANT
P/T** | Montgomery County | Posted
January 14



**RUNNING CLUB
INSTRUCTOR** | Frederick County |
Posted January 13



**COMMUNICATIONS
SHIFT SUPERVISOR (911 DISPATCH)**
| Frederick County | Posted January
13



ASSESSOR II | Frederick County | Posted January 13



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Hanover County | Posted January 10



SENIOR PLANNER | West Piedmont Planning District Commission | Posted January 9



EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT MANAGER | Hanover County | Posted January 9



APPARATUS TECHNICIAN | Prince George County | Posted January 8



KENNEL ATTENDANT | Prince George County | Posted January 8



DEPUTY SHERIFF | Prince George County | Posted January 8



DEVELOPMENT PLANNER | Montgomery County | Posted January 7



DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY | City of Salem | Posted January 7



FACILITIES MAINTENANCE WORKER | Montgomery County | Posted January 7



DEPUTY COURT CLERK | Montgomery County | Posted January 3



ENGINEERING PROJECT MANAGER | Western Virginia Water Authority | Posted January 2



SYSTEM ENGINEER | King William County | Posted January 2



REGIONAL PLANNER | Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission | Posted January 2



MANAGER OF PUBLIC FACILITIES | City of Fredericksburg | Posted January 2



ZONING INSPECTOR | Fauquier County | Posted December 31



PLAN REVIEW TECHNICIAN (CD) | Hanover County | Posted December 31



ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER | Hanover County | Posted December 31



FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST II | New Kent County | Posted December 27



PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR | County of Amherst | Posted December 27



FINANCE DIRECTOR | Amelia County | Posted December 26



CITY MANAGER | City of Virginia Beach | Posted December 26



CSA COORDINATOR | Southampton County | Posted December 26



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PT | King & Queen County | Posted December 26

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

1207 East Main St., Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Stephen W. Bowen | Nottoway County

President-Elect: Jeff C. McKay | Fairfax County

1st Vice President: Meg Bohmke | Stafford County

2nd Vice President: Jason D. Bellows | Lancaster County

Secretary Treasurer: Donald L. Hart Jr. | Accomack County

Immediate Past President: Sherrin C. Alsop | King and Queen County

STAFF

Executive Director: Dean A. Lynch, CAE

General Counsel: Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE

Director of Administration and Finance: Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA

Director of Communications: A. Gage Harter

Director of Government Affairs: Katie Boyle

Director of Government Relations: Chris J. McDonald, Esq.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Jeremy R. Bennett

Director of Local Government Policy: Joe Lerch, AICP

Director of Member Services: Carol I. Cameron

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.

1207 East Main Street
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627
Phone: 804.788.6652
Fax: 804.788.0083
www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: A. Gage Harter
804.343.2502