

Virginia Delegation Advocates for County Needs at NACo Annual Conference



Virginia counties made a strong showing at NACo's 2024 Annual Conference in Hillsborough County, Florida, with Virginia county leaders successfully advocating for policy changes in NACo's legislative platform, serving in leadership roles within the Association, participating in policy committee meetings and other conference sessions, and helping to shape NACo's future by voting on a slate of new officers.

Loudoun County Supervisor Juli Briskman brought her lived experience and the experience of her constituents to bear in advocating for enhancements to NACo's legislative platform language regarding childcare. Supervisor Briskman's amendments stressed the need for a mixed-delivery early childhood system that supports high-quality care and education and underscored the importance of childcare in enabling parents to stay in the workforce. She collaborated with Commissioner Erica Crawley from Franklin County, Ohio, to advocate for the enhancements, patiently working through the NACo policy committee process in order to submit the changes to the full NACo membership for approval. Supervisor Briskman told VACo that in her district, more than two thirds of women over the age of 16 are part of the labor force. "They struggle with reliable, affordable quality childcare, just like I did as a single head of household," Supervisor Briskman said, noting that Loudoun County is in need of approximately 1,700 childcare slots. She successfully advocated for Loudoun to use a portion of its ARPA dollars on several approaches to ameliorating this issue, and is working with the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce on the connection between childcare and the workforce.



Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall was appointed Chair of NACo's Health Policy Steering Committee at the NACo Annual Conference

Virginia counties will have a human services champion at the helm of NACo's Health Policy Steering Committee with the appointment of Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall as the Chair of this body. Issues vital to the health of local communities, including mental and behavioral health services, long-term care, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and services for persons with developmental disabilities, fall within the jurisdiction of this Committee. Chair Randall brings extensive experience to her new role, having spent more than 20 years as a mental health therapist in addition to her strong advocacy for behavioral health throughout her time in public office. "It is an honor to have been chosen to lead the Health Committee for the National Association of Counties," Chair Randall told VACo. "Over the next year, we will take a holistic approach to discussing health and the way that county governments across this country can lead the charge on improving outcomes for our residents."

VACo's representative to the NACo Board is Lancaster County Supervisor and Immediate Past President Jason Bellows. "Serving on the NACo Board of Directors is a privilege that allows me to directly impact federal policy decisions that improve our communities and enhance the lives of our residents," Bellows said. "There are many emergent issues from AI to affordable housing that are creating both challenges and opportunities for counties across the nation. NACo allows us to speak with one united voice on federal policy thereby amplifying our needs at the federal level."

VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said, "VACo is fortunate to have Jason Bellows representing Virginia counties at the national level. He brings a wealth of knowledge about county issues to his NACo service, and he works hard to keep his VACo colleagues informed about national issues."

VACo congratulates county members on their successful work at the national level and looks forward to a continued partnership with NACo.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Floyd County Hosts Regions 10 and 12 for Discussions on Agriculture, Transportation, Housing, and More

Floyd County hosted counties in Regions 10 and 12 on July 10 for a robust discussion of regional issues and priorities. The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Floyd County Chairman Joe Turman and Regional Directors Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch, Jerry Boothe, and Laura Walters. Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Joe Guthrie, a former local elected official as well as a sixth-generation family farmer, provided an overview of key issues in Virginia agriculture and major initiatives underway at the Department.

Agriculture remains Virginia's largest private industry, with an economic impact of \$82 billion annually. Top products include broilers, cattle and calves, and turkeys; soybeans are the state's largest export. Commissioner Guthrie discussed the Governor's work to support Controlled Environment Agriculture as an emerging industry, in addition to efforts to support agricultural practices that help Virginia to meet its Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction goals. Additional major initiatives in which VDACS is involved include hemp and cannabis regulation and enforcement; the establishment of a new Virginia Beer Distribution Company to support craft brewers; development of a market for blue catfish in order to limit the population of this invasive species; and consolidation of the VDACS Farmland Preservation Office with forestland preservation work in the Department of Forestry to create an Office of Working Lands Preservation, which will improve the state's capacity to support this function. VDACS also continues to monitor and respond to emerging animal diseases and invasive species.

VACo was honored to welcome Delegate Wendell Walker and Delegate Wren Williams, who shared their priorities for the upcoming session. Delegate Walker noted that energy would continue to be a

[More on Next Page](#)



major area of focus, as well as broadband connectivity. He underscored the importance of providing adequate staff and funding to VDACS. Delegate Williams indicated that he would continue to focus on avoiding unfunded mandates, developing the infrastructure needed to support housing (water and sewer connections in particular), and improving rural health care. He discussed successful legislation he carried this session to allow localities to bill on behalf of a volunteer fire department to support a licensed EMS agency; the state's Division of Legislative Services has developed a model ordinance for localities that are interested in using this new authority. He encouraged attendees to contact him directly and to reach out ahead of the session in order to address needs with draft legislation or budget amendments.

VACo was also pleased to be joined by representatives from the offices of Senator Kaine and Representative Griffith, as well as Senator Hackworth and Senator Peake.

County representatives shared top areas of concern in a roundtable discussion. Common themes emerging from the discussion included the need for additional support for local EMS to address recruitment, retention, and new regulatory requirements; the need for additional transportation funding to support rural counties; and the importance of additional tools to generate school capital funding. Several county representatives discussed the critical need for housing options as a component of economic development, in addition to business site development. Several attendees expressed strong support for preserving local authority over decisions regarding siting of solar facilities. Several county representatives also highlighted pressures in Children's Services Act services as an area of concern. In addition to VACo's upcoming County Officials' Summit and Annual Conference, attendees were encouraged to attend the upcoming Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity, which will be held October 29 and 30 in Wytheville.

VACo is grateful to our members, business partners, legislators and staff, Commissioner Guthrie, Floyd County, and the owners and staff at Chateau Morrisette for a productive and informative discussion.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Visit New Kent County and the New Kent County Historic Courthouse

Location: 12007 Courthouse Circle / New Kent Highway

Built: 1909 – 1910

Style: Greek Revival

Architect: B F Smith Fireproof Construction Company

Contractor: B F Smith Fireproof Construction Company

Description: The building faces north and is a one story red colored brick and concrete structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of New Kent on the north side of the courthouse. The north front has a one story porch with four white colored columns. Behind the porch is a two story square brick tower with steep roof. The building extends east and has a hipped roof. The building houses the County Administration. Next to the building is the old red colored brick County Jail.

History: The county was created in 1654 and Brick House was selected as the county seat. The first courthouse was erected. In 1691, the county seat was moved to New Kent. The second courthouse built and was burned in 1787. The third courthouse was built and burned in 1864. The fifth courthouse was built in 1909 to 1910 and is still standing. The sixth courthouse was constructed in 1990 to 1992.

SOURCE: courthouses.co

VACo 2024 REGIONAL MEETINGS

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

REGIONS 1&4 - MAY 1 | PRINCE GEORGE

REGION 2 - MAY 22 | JAMES CITY

REGION 13 - JUNE 11 | SCOTT

REGIONS 10&12 - JULY 10 | FLOYD

REGION 3 - JULY 25 | HANOVER

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

REGIONS 5&9&11 - AUGUST 19

REGIONS 6&7 - SEPTEMBER 23

REGION 8 - SEPTEMBER 26

In Partnership With

Partnership in Action



Benefits Consulting

Learn how to leverage plan designs for a sustainable benefits program.



State-of-the-Art Technology

Reduce your administrative burden with online enrollment and onboarding tools.



HR Compliance

Meet your legal obligations related to human resources and employee benefits



Employee Advocacy

Provide effective communication and personal support for employees.

Serving Local Governments

PIERCE INSURANCE
Employee Benefits Specialists

Since 1955

SCAN ME

pierceins.com

Specializing in the public sector

Lonnie Pierce, CEO/President
Lonnie@pierceins.com
Direct Telephone # 252-725-3064

Donna Pierce, Client Relations
Donna@pierceins.com
Direct Telephone # 704-576-0934



LUNCH AND LEARN

WITH **DARREN COFFEY**, BERKLEY GROUP PRINCIPAL AND OWNER
DR. SCOTT BAKER, BERKLEY GROUP EXECUTIVE MANAGER

LEARN
ADVANTAGES TO
DEVELOPING A
JOINT COUNTY |
SCHOOL
STRATEGIC PLAN

VACo County Members, please come join us for lunch and learn about ways to foster relationships and collaborate with your School Board to develop a strategic plan.

August 28, 2024 | 11AM-1PM

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

Lunch compliments of The Berkley Group
provided by **Sally Bell's Kitchen**

Please RSVP to Karie Walker
at kwalker@vaco.org by August 16.





Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy [Anthony Cline](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



Thank you Sussex County Sheriff [Ernest Giles](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!

Premier Partner Spotlight

Blue Line Solutions Testimonials

Blue Line Solutions is making a positive impact on communities all over Virginia. In Smyth County - **Blue Line Solutions** recorded during a five-day period that there were 3,530 vehicles traveling through school speed zones at 10mph or higher above the speed limit. That's over 12,000 speeding vehicles a month during school days.

Blue Line Solutions uses information and communications rather than focus on enforcement to reduce speeds in school zones.

During **Blue Line Solutions** Public Information Phase of its program in Smyth County - the number dropped to 213 over a five-day period. That's without writing one ticket. The community heard the problem and reacted to it. During the warning phase - the number dropped to 175. Then during the enforcement phase - it dropped to 72. That's a 98 percent reduction of speeders compared to before the **Blue Line Solutions** program.

"That's absolutely fantastic that we can make a difference in a community," Blue Line Solutions CEO/Founder Mark Hutchinson said.

Stafford County Appoints Bill Ashton as New County Administrator



After an extensive national search, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce Bill Ashton's appointment as the new County Administrator. Ashton, who has been serving as Town Manager of Herndon, Virginia, since 2017, will assume his new role on September 16, 2024, succeeding interim County Administrator Craig Meadows.

"The selection of a County Administrator is vital for the Board to ensure the continued delivery of effective government services and the Board's priorities of keeping Stafford a safe community with a strong educational system while balancing our growing needs," stated Meg Bohmke, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "Bill's extensive educational background, professional experience, and remarkable accomplishments perfectly align with our community's vision. The Board is eager to collaborate with Bill on pivotal County and community initiatives to enhance our overall operations and service delivery."

In his role as County Administrator, Ashton will manage all County departments and oversee the County government's daily operations, implementing the policies and directives set by the Board.

"I am honored to serve as the next County Administrator for Stafford County," said Ashton. "My unwavering commitment to public service and a keen desire to make Stafford County an exceptional place to live and work drives my passion for this new role. I am excited to collaborate with the Board of Supervisors and the committed staff to fulfill the County's Vision and meet the needs of our community."

Ashton's previous experience includes his role as Director of Information Technology for the Town of Herndon, starting in 1997. Ashton holds a master's degree in Public Administration from George Mason University and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He is a member of the International City/County Management Association and Virginia Local Government Managers Association.

County of Dinwiddie

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WILLIAM D. CHAVIS, CHAIR
DANIEL D. LEE, VICE CHAIR
BRENDA EBRON-BONNER
CASEY M. DOOLEY
DR. MARK E. MOORE

**FOUNDED 1752****COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

W. KEVIN MASSENGILL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2024

Contact: Lachanda Lipscomb-Lee
Director of Human Resources
llee@dinwiddieva.us

County Hires New Director of Parks & Recreation

DINWIDDIE, VA – Dinwiddie County is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Quinell Henderson as its new Director of Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Henderson, a Dinwiddie native and 2011 graduate of Dinwiddie High School, earned a Bachelor's degree from Virginia State University Mass Communications/Recreation in 2015. He served the citizens of Dinwiddie County from 2016 – 2020 as an Athletics Recreation Manager and from 2020 – 2023 as Youth Workforce Development Manager. Mr. Henderson was most recently employed with the City of Petersburg as a Recreation Supervisor/Coordinator.

Tammie J. Collins, Deputy County Administrator stated, “Mr. Henderson is a results-driven worker with a proven track record of managing projects, overseeing programs, and fostering community engagement. We are excited to have him leading our Parks & Recreation team and continuing the forward momentum of the department.”

County Administrator, W. Kevin Massengill shared, “Having worked with Mr. Henderson throughout his career in Dinwiddie County, I have witnessed his professional growth and leadership ability. He embraces the mission of the Department of Parks & Recreation and is dedicated to serving the citizens of the County.”

Quinell Henderson will begin employment with Dinwiddie County as the Director of Parks & Recreation on August 1, 2024.

For additional information on the Department of Parks & Recreation, or to learn more about career opportunities with Dinwiddie County, please visit www.Dinwiddieva.us.

###

Allyson Williams appointed Wythe County PIO and Grant Coordinator

WYTHE COUNTY, Va.- Wythe County recently hired a new full-time Public Information Officer and Grant Coordinator.

Allyson Williams will manage the County's communications strategy, enhance community engagement, and ensure timely dissemination of public and emergency information through a variety of media channels and outlets.

A lifelong resident of Wythe County, Williams officially began her duties July 15. She is a 2011 graduate of George Wythe High School. Williams also attended Wytheville Community College and King University with studies in English and Communications.

Before joining the Wythe County team, Williams spent nearly nine years in broadcast media, contributing to local radio stations WLOY-AM, WXBX-FM, and WYVE-AM. During her tenure, she held multiple roles including traffic manager, social media director, and on-air host.

"We are pleased to be able to add a communicator who has demonstrated her versatility and commitment to community outreach through her radio work," said Deputy Wythe County Administrator Matt Hankins. "Local government is better when it is transparent and communicates clearly about our services, projects and developments."

"I am thrilled to get started serving the residents of Wythe County," said Williams. "My experience in local radio has fueled my passion for community service, and I am eager to continue this journey in a role that directly impacts my home community. I look forward to working closely with the community and enhancing our communications efforts."

"We are always striving to better serve and inform the community," said Brian W. Vaught, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. "Bringing Ms. Williams on board is a great step forward to keep the community connected."

In her new role, Williams will oversee media relations, Freedom of Information Act and records requests, manage the County's social media platforms, and coordinate public information efforts to ensure that residents are well-informed about County activities, initiatives, and services. Williams will also assist other County department leaders in identifying and applying for grant funding to better serve the citizens of Wythe County.

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Wythe County officials, please call Wythe County Public Information Officer Allyson Williams at 276-223-4522 or email Allyson at wythepio@wytheco.org.





COUNTY OFFICIALS' SUMMIT

Join us for some nerdy fun!

Thursday, August 15, 2024

- **730AM** - BREAKFAST
- **9AM** - SUMMIT PROGRAM STARTS
- **1230PM** - LUNCH
- **145PM** - BLOCK A STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- **330PM** - BLOCK B STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check out the [Agenda](#)

[Register Today!](#)

CONFIRMED SPEAKER LINEUP



WELCOME | 9AM

The Honorable

Ann Mallek

VACo President | Albemarle County Supervisor



WELCOME | 9AM

The Honorable

Levar Stoney

Mayor | City of Richmond



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS
9:10AM - 10AM**

The Honorable

Charniele L. Herring

Majority Leader | House District 4



**LEGISLATIVE HOT TOPICS
10:10AM - 11AM**

The Honorable

Lashrecse D. Aird

Senate District 13 | **TOPIC:** AI and Elections



**LEGISLATIVE HOT TOPICS
10:10AM - 11AM**

The Honorable

Carrie E. Coyner

House District 75 | **TOPIC:** Housing



**VIRGINIA POLITICAL TRAILBLAZERS
11AM - 12:30PM**

The Honorable

Winsome Earle-Sears

Virginia Lieutenant Governor



**VIRGINIA POLITICAL TRAILBLAZERS
11AM - 12:30PM**

The Honorable

Abigail Spanberger

Virginia 7th Congressional District



**VIRGINIA POLITICAL TRAILBLAZERS
11AM - 12:30PM**

The Honorable

Jason Miyares

Virginia Attorney General


VACo Submits Comments on OSHA's Proposed New Emergency Response Standard for Fire Brigades

As previously [reported](#), The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is proposing a [rule](#) to modernize protections for emergency response workers, who often face occupational hazards. In its current form, the proposed rule changes could impose substantial burdens and unfunded mandates upon local governments and fire organizations.

In response to the proposed rule change, VACo has submitted public comments to OSHA voicing these concerns, which can be viewed below or at [this link](#). If your county or fire organizations wish to submit your own public comments, you may do so [here](#).

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

Virginia Association of Counties
Connecting County Governments since 1934



Virginia Association of Counties

July 19, 2024

The Honorable Douglas L. Parker
Assistant Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

RE: New Emergency Response Standard Proposal Comments – OSHA-2007-0073-0118

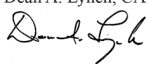
Dear Assistant Secretary Parker,

On behalf of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Fire Brigades standard, 29 CFR 1910.156. Expanding these standards and potentially applying them to volunteer firefighters could create additional challenges for local governments and fire organizations already struggling to recruit and retain firefighters. While we understand the need to update the standards, we are concerned that the proposed changes, in their current form, could have a substantial impact and impose significant unfunded mandates on local fire organizations and governments.

These concerns include but are not limited to: potential increases in training and certification requirements for firefighters and officers, additional administrative tasks and documentation requirements, the need to budget for the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of firefighting apparatus, including personal protective equipment (PPE) and communication systems, infrastructure upgrades or modifications to fire department facilities, and additional liability and compliance issues.

Local governments across Virginia are struggling to maintain necessary fire services in a time of increased call volume, level state funding, and declining volunteerism. More than 70 percent of fire departments in Virginia are volunteer organizations. If the proposed rule goes through in its current form, it will pose yet one more challenge to local governments in the form of an unfunded mandate. We respectfully request that you reconsider the effect of the proposed regulations on fire departments and local governments.

Sincerely,
Dean A. Lynch, CAE



Executive Director
Virginia Association of Counties

CC: Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors

President
Ann H. Mallek
Albermarle County

President-Elect
Ruth Larson
James City County

First Vice President
William M. McCarty
Isle of Wight County

Second Vice President
Victor S. Angry
Prince William County

Secretary-Treasurer
Donald L. Hart, Jr.
Accomack County

Immediate Past President
Jason D. Bellows
Lancaster County

Executive Director
Dean A. Lynch, CAE

General Counsel
Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE

1207 E. Main St., Suite 300
Richmond, Va. 23219-3627

Phone: 804.788.6652
Fax: 804.788.0083

Email: mail@vaco.org
Website: www.vaco.org



Scott County Hosts Dynamic Region 13 Meeting

Counties in VACo Region 13 congregated in Scott County on June 11 at the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Interpretive Center to discuss important issues facing localities in the region and assist VACo staff in crafting the Association's legislative program for the upcoming 2025 legislative session. This was the third of eight regional meetings scheduled for 2024.

The meeting began with staff from the Daniel Boone Center welcoming us all to the Center and giving us an overview of the historically important role Daniel Boone and the wilderness trail played in America's westward expansion.

We were delighted to be joined by Delegate Terry Kilgore as a guest speaker for the event. Delegate Kilgore began by going over some key budget highlights that are of note to counties and specifically for those in region 13. This includes the 3% raise for state police and local constitutional officers, K-12 funding, funding for a planned inland port in southwest Virginia, as well as funding for mental health services and housing. While there are many successes on which to build, Delegate Kilgore mentioned items that he and his staff are focused on heading into the 2025 session. The Delegate is keenly aware of the local share that goes into the K-12 raises and funding and discussed ways to improve state funding mechanisms to better help southwest Virginia counties. The Delegate encourages data center development in the region coupled with the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) for economic development benefits. Lastly, Delegate Kilgore mentioned the great work being done by the Tobacco Commission and partners regionally to further enhance economic development and encourage paths forward to develop middle income housing in the region so the workforce can keep pace with jobs growing in the region.

[More on Next Page](#)



Next on the agenda was an opportunity for a representative from each county to outline top issues or legislative priorities. Several issues emerged as common areas of concern, including housing, dilapidated buildings, public safety, unfunded mandates and education funding.

Discussed often was the topic of housing, including housing affordability and the infrastructure needed to coincide with this type of development. Counties regularly discussed the need for more housing in the region as well as creative ways to use economic development funds to help with the infrastructure needed for housing development. Counties expressed the need for assistance in removing or redeveloping dilapidated buildings, which can be expensive but also vital to economic development. Counties in the region expressed concern with many issues in public safety including law enforcement officers being taken off the road and out of the county to transport individuals who are subject to Temporary Detention Orders, dwindling numbers of volunteers to support fire and rescue services, and costly equipment. Counties in the region are looking for solutions to the public safety problems they face. Counties in the region discussed the difficulties faced with unfunded mandates such as the resources needed to administer elections, as well as challenges posed by limited state support for Constitutional offices. Lastly, education funding and school capital needs were discussed as they have been at many recent VACo meetings.

VACo is grateful to the regional members; Cody Mumpower, Deputy District Director in Congressman Griffith's office; Tyler Lester, Legislative Director for Senator Pillion; and business partners who participated in the meeting. VACo would like to give a special thanks to Delegate Kilgore for speaking to the group. Lastly, VACo would like to thank Scott County and the staff at the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail and Interpretive Center for hosting and sharing their wonderful facility with us.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Behavioral Health Commission Meets at Central State Hospital to Discuss System Needs and Improvements



The Behavioral Health Commission met on July 9 at Central State Hospital and received briefings from Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner Nelson Smith, Central State Hospital CEO Brandi Justice, and Chinh Vu, Director of the Office of Construction Management for Special Projects at the Department of General Services. Dr. Justice [discussed the hospital's history and its current role](#), and Mr. Vu led a [presentation from DGS staff and the project architects on plans for a new Central State Hospital facility](#), which is designed to provide a more therapeutic environment and enhance safety for patients and staff. Under DGS's current timeline, patients and staff are scheduled to move into the new facility in early 2027.

Commissioner Smith [updated](#) members on key components of the Administration's Right Help, Right Now initiative. Improvements to the crisis system are in process, but challenges remain in the state hospitals. Commissioner Smith explained that the state has exceeded a national standard that would call for 64 mobile crisis teams; Virginia now has 98 teams, and is working towards a goal of 140 teams statewide. The state is also working toward meeting a national standard for crisis stabilization units and crisis receiving centers. Although state hospitals have experienced a drop in overall civil Temporary Detention Order admissions in the last two fiscal years, forensic admissions have increased significantly in the last ten years, a situation that continues to stress state hospital capacity, particularly in certain hospitals. Individuals admitted for restoration of competency to stand trial often have lengthy stays in state hospitals (the average length of stay for these patients is 106 days). DBHDS is taking several approaches to address this "forensification" of the state hospital system, including establishing a pilot unit to provide restoration services at a jail and examining current hospital processes, to include timeliness of forensic evaluations and forensic discharge protocols.

Commissioner Smith also reported on several other agency initiatives, including the establishment of a performance dashboard for Community Services Boards, and the creation of the Adult Psychiatric Access Line (APAL). This program is modeled on the Virginia Mental Health Access Program, which helps children's primary care providers to support patients' behavioral health care needs by offering education to providers, telephone consultations with specialists, and care navigation assistance. The APAL program will provide similar assistance to primary care providers and emergency clinicians in serving adults.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for September 10.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Virginia Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Members to Host Roundtable Discussions for County Leaders



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

The Virginia delegation of the [Local Government Advisory Committee](#) (LGAC) has planned two roundtable discussions for local government leaders to weigh in on key elements of the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) work that has the potential to impact local governments. One of the more important topics expected to be covered at these meetings is the potential impacts and outcomes the Chesapeake Bay Program Beyond 2025 draft report may have on local governments. This report prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* leading up to and beyond 2025. Here is the [full draft report](#) and a [FAQ](#).

Discussion topics will also include land-use planning, state/federal stormwater regulations, funding for local governments and more. Feedback from the discussion will be incorporated into formal recommendations from LGAC to federal and state decision-makers.

The discussions will be facilitated by LGAC members and representatives from CBP will be in attendance. Attendees are invited to bring their local water quality success stories, water-related issues, and critical needs they wish to address to continue the momentum of the incredible work of their local government. By joining, attendees can help ensure their community is accurately reflected and included in the Chesapeake Bay Program's conversations on the future of watershed cleanup efforts. Below are specific details for each roundtable. To RSVP, please click the title of the meeting you wish to attend.

[Hampton Roads Clean Water Roundtable](#)

When: Tuesday July 30, 2024 from 8-9:30 am

Where: HRPDC Regional Building ([723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320](#))

[Shenandoah Valley Clean Water Roundtable](#)

When: Thursday, August 1, 2024 from 8:00-9:30 am

Where: Harrisonburg City Hall ([409 S Main St, Harrisonburg, VA 2280](#))

This event is open to elected and appointed officials, and senior staff. Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided at both events. Please share with other officials who you think should be part of the conversation. See you there!

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



LOCAL PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

2024

September 17 – 19, 2024 Roanoke, Virginia

The 12th annual Local Programs Workshop will be held at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center on September 17 – 19, 2024. This workshop provides an overview of local programs and training for program management and project development for locally administered projects. This annual event brings together roughly 600 local administered project stakeholders comprised of local governments, state and federal government, and private sector consultants. In addition to two plenary sessions, the workshop will feature 20 breakout sessions in five concurrent tracks, over the two-day workshop.

This workshop is intended for local public agency staff that have oversight of locally administered projects or work with projects receiving special funding from various programs, as well as consultants and VDOT staff that are involved in locally administered projects.

[Click here to register](#)

There is an agenda at a glance posted to the [Workshop website](#) under the “Workshop Information” section. The detailed agenda will be posted later this month. Please check the [Workshop website](#) for updates leading up to the event.

The registration deadline is **August 23, 2024**, or until slots are filled whichever comes first.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

SCC Taking Public Comment Regarding Towing Fee Regulation



On June 21, 2024, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) entered an [Order Establishing Proceeding \(Order\)](#) and opening a docket (Case No. PUR-2024-00104) concerning [Chapter 245 \(SB 450 Marsden\)](#) of the 2024 Va. Acts of Assembly.

Chapter 245 directs the SCC to examine the regulation of certain towing fees charged for the removal of motor vehicles, trailers, and parts thereof left on private property in violation of [§ 46.2-1231](#) of the Code of Virginia and for the removal of trespassing vehicles under [§ 46.2-1215](#) of the Code of Virginia. Chapter 245 further directs the SCC to identify policy options for the SCC to assume all or part of such regulation. As stated in Chapter 245, such policy options are to include various levels of SCC involvement in such regulation. Further, and as provided in Chapter 245, each policy option is required to:

- (i) identify the necessary statutory and regulatory changes to enact such policy option and,
- (ii) include the resources needed by the Commission to fulfill its duties under such policy option. Such resources may include additional staffing, funding, or training as well as the information needed from operators, localities, or other sources.

On or before August 15, 2024, any interested person or entity may submit comments concerning the matters and issues described in Chapter 245 for the SCC's consideration.

Comments can be submitted by following the instructions found on the [SCC website](#) or for a direct link, click [here](#).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



NACo President **James Gore**, Sonoma County, Calif. supervisor, pauses for a photo Monday after being sworn in, with First Vice President Judge **J.D. Clark** of Wise County, Texas; Second Vice President **George Dunlap** of Mecklenburg County, N.C. and Immediate Past President Commissioner **Mary Jo McGuire** of Ramsey County, Minn. in Hillsborough County, Fla. **Photo by Denny Henry**

Sonoma County's James Gore takes the lead at NACo

Surrounded by his family, Sonoma County, Calif. Supervisor James Gore was sworn in July 15 as NACo's new president at the association's Annual Business Meeting at the Tampa Convention Center in Hillsborough County, Fla.

The California native leads the NACo executive committee, which includes First Vice President Judge J.D. Clark of Wise County, Texas; Second Vice President Commissioner George Dunlap of Mecklenburg County, N.C. and Immediate Past President Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire of Ramsey County, Minn.

Dunlap was elected in a three-way race, getting 67% of the vote or 1,658 votes with Charlotte County, Fla. Commissioner Bill Truex garnering 20% or 488 votes and Cascade County, Mont. Commissioner Joe Briggs taking 13% or 326 votes.

[More on Next Page](#)

Rounding out the executive committee are regional representatives Tammy Tinchler of Greenbrier County, W.Va., who takes over as the new Northeast Region representative and Supervisor Kurt Gibbs of Marathon County, Wis., as the new Central Region representative. They round out the regional representation which includes Briggs as the West Region representative and Commissioner Ron Berry of Roane County, Tenn., as the Southern Region representative.

Family: A running theme in Gore narrative

Gore was sworn in by his daughter Opal as his wife Elizabeth, son Jacob and other family members looked on.

“How about those kids?” he said as he took the microphone before about 3,000 county officials from across the country. “As we walked in here this morning, I looked at my kids, Opal and Jacob, and said, ‘You know how there’s all kinds of problems in the world, right? Well, you see all those people? They are the ones fixing things. These are the ones fighting for us...all of us.’”

“They are the ones delivering results,” Gore said. “And kids, the only real results in this world come from imperfect, relentless progress. There is no progress that is perfect.”

‘We the counties...’

Several times during his speech, Gore made a point to include everyone in the audience. In fact, “we” was not only a running theme in his speech but it’s the theme of his upcoming year as NACo president: “We the counties, we the leaders and we the future.” The theme leads up to next year’s Annual Conference in Philadelphia, as preparations get underway for a celebration of the country’s 250th birthday.

At times during his address, Gore sounded like a Sunday preacher delivering a sermon to his flock. “Like you, I step boldly into the chaos of local public service, each and every day, for one reason,” he said.

“Because I refuse to subject my kids to a pessimistic future. I refuse to subject my kids, your kids, and all of the kids out there to a fatalistic tomorrow.

“How about you? Are you with me? Raise your hands if you’re with me. And now, give a high five to the person sitting next to you and thank them for working with you, imperfectly, relentlessly, in those trenches of democracy.

“In church, we call this passing of the peace. Today, we’ll call it the passing of the purpose.”

‘Embrace the mess’

Gore gave a nod to some of the divisions roiling the country. “Because even though it’s one of the hardest things to do, living with gratitude, and embracing grace, is the only way to rise above, and not succumb, to the angst, the dismay, and the anxiety that threatens our democracy,” he noted.

“Those words. Angst. Dismay. Anxiety. They speak to a general, almost universal sense of unease that surrounds us these days,” he said. “You all know what I’m talking about. This malaise. Yucky. Fearful. Angry. ‘Not happy with the now.’ And not confident in the future. We serve our communities as public leaders through disruptive times: Climate extremes, natural disasters, societal clashes.

NACo President James Gore gives inaugural remarks at the 2024 NACo Annual Conference.



“Neck deep in the midst of a disruptive digital revolution, sometimes called the Third Industrial Revolution, where technology and Artificial Intelligence fly ahead of us so fast, we can’t seem to keep up.

“We have an economy that is upside down, with more than 70% of Americans living paycheck to paycheck,” he said.

“Sounds nasty, doesn’t it? So why would I stand here before you all and give voice to this malaise...this mess? Because the only way through the storm is through the damn storm. The only way through the mess is to embrace the mess.”

Leading with courage

“And to do that, we have to lead with courage,” he said. “The courage to say what needs to be said and do what needs to be done. The courage to be disliked for doing that.

“But also, what about a different kind of courage? How about, the courage to laugh in the face of the storm? To smile and find camaraderie and shared purpose and dare I say it, joy? Joy within the mess?”

“Isn’t that what we’re doing here? Isn’t that why we’re all here, with NACo, at this conference? Sure, we’re here to share best practices,” he said. “To learn from each other, and leverage solutions. Sure, we’re here to advocate for federal policies that help us improve our communities, absolutely.

“But also, aren’t we here to embrace that ‘Get Stuff Done’ attitude, together, as members of the middle?” he asked. “No, I am not talking about the political middle, I am talking about the radical, practical, passionate middle. Where real life happens.”

‘We’re the ones we’ve been waiting for’

“And you know what? We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We. Just like the founding of our country, it started with, ‘We the People. We the Counties. We the Leaders. We the Future.’”

“And as we embark on our work this year, as we march toward our 250-year anniversary, we will deploy our resources to investigate, study and highlight the best of the best, bubbling up from our counties. From the ground up.

“We are going to drive our organization, our message toward this marker. Because even though it’s a huge moment for our country, it’s also just another day in business, for us at the local level. We have delivered, we do deliver, and we will continue to deliver, relentlessly for our communities.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · July 17, 2024

CONTACTS:

Office of the Governor

Contact: Christian Martinez

Email: Christian.Martinez@governor.virginia.gov



Governor Glenn Youngkin Announces \$20 Million for Historic Preservation Capital Improvements Ahead of Nation's Semiquincentennial

RICHMOND, VA – Governor Glenn Youngkin today announced that the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund has been launched ahead of the 250th anniversary of the 1776 U.S. Declaration of Independence. The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) will administer the \$20,000,000 state funds for historic preservation projects across Virginia.

Funding for this new program was prioritized in Governor Youngkin's recent biennial budget and the [2024-2026 Virginia Biennial Budget bill](#). The purpose of the special fund is to support capital improvement projects at historic sites and museums that anticipate a significant increase in visitation during the upcoming semiquincentennial in 2026.

"The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund is critical to ensuring that Virginia is prepared to host millions of Americans for the semiquincentennial celebration of our glorious history. As home to Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Patrick Henry and the Battle of Hampton to the Siege of Yorktown, Virginia was at the forefront of our history. Bolstering our historic sites and museums will not only encourage and aid tourism, it is our responsibility as stewards of American history," **said Governor Glenn Youngkin.**

"As a result of Governor Youngkin's outstanding leadership, we have this vital capital improvement funding. The enhancements made with this funding will not only prepare us for the semiquincentennial, they will have lasting impacts for generations to come. Americans nationwide, not only Virginians, will benefit tremendously from this Fund," **said Virginia Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles.**

"The Department of Historic Resources is incredibly grateful to Governor Youngkin and the General Assembly for providing this essential funding. We are so excited to work with Virginians to support our historic sites and resources in anticipation of our nation's 250th birthday," **said Director of the Department of Historic Resources Julie Langan.**

DHR has designed a grant program, consisting of a two-step application process, by which these funds will be distributed for capital improvements at significant historic sites and history museums in the Commonwealth. Preapplications are being accepted until August 30. Those projects that advance will have until October 14 to submit a full application.

Eligible applicants for the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund include nonprofit organizations that are registered as tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code; Virginia localities as defined under [Code § 1-221](#), **and** state-or federally-recognized Indian tribes in Virginia. All applicants must be the owner of the project property or be able to submit a signed letter of support from the property owner and a copy of the recorded deed.

The Department invites all historic sites or museums that meet the requirements specified above to apply. History museums in non-historic buildings are also eligible for funding, but priority will be given to projects featuring properties listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and/or the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), properties designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL), or properties determined eligible for any such listing by DHR.

For more detailed information and updates or to fill out a preapplication form, visit the program webpage [here](#).



VIRGINIA TELECOMMUNICATION INITIATIVE

dhcd.virginia.gov/vati



Virginia Make Ready Initiative Guidelines and Criteria

The [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\)](#) will host a public comment period on the proposed [Virginia Make Ready Initiative](#) guidelines and criteria document, which has been released and posted on the [VATI webpage](#). **The public comment period closes on July 26, 2024.**

Representatives from units of local government, internet service providers (ISPs) and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposed guidelines and criteria and provide public comment.

Following the adoption of final guidelines and criteria for the program, the Office of Broadband will host a **How-to-Apply Webinar for this program on Monday, August 12, from 1-3 PM**. The How to Apply Webinar will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams, with a call-in option also available.

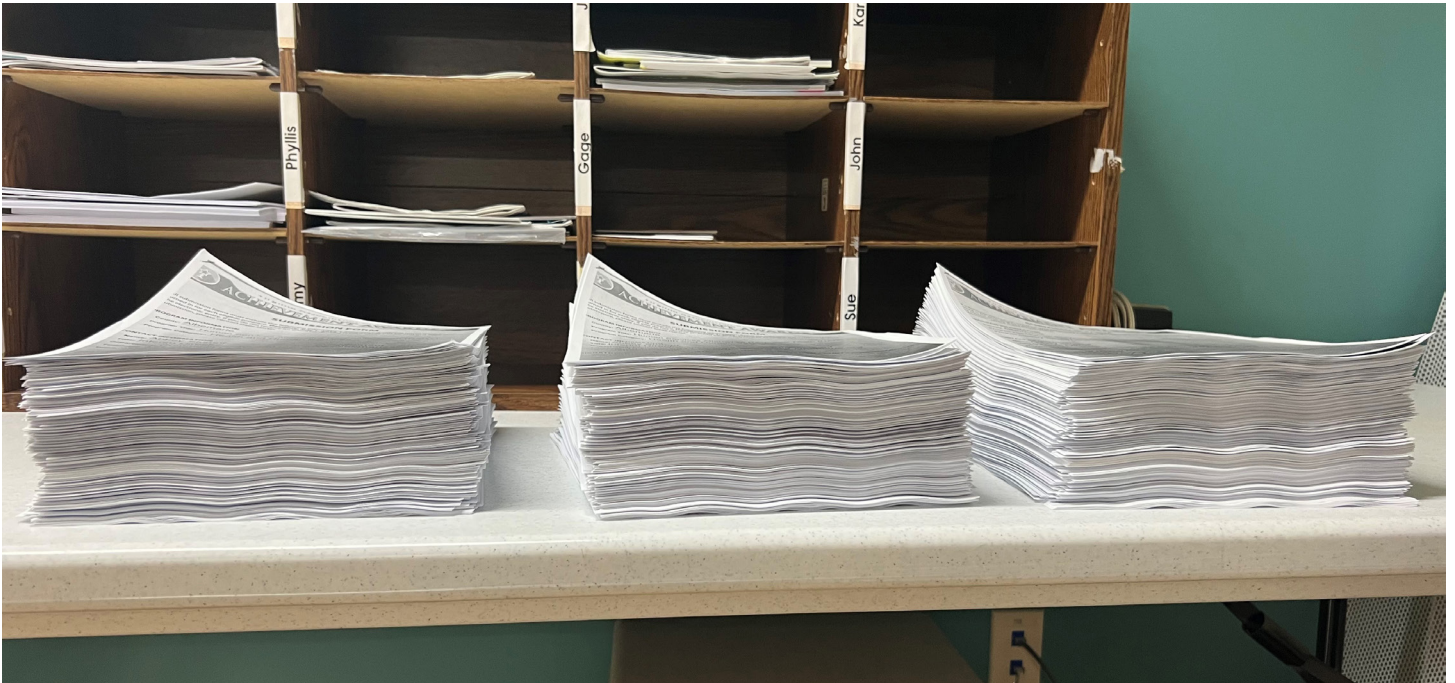
Registration is required to participate in this How to Apply Webinar.

Please register using the button below.

The webinar access link will be sent out to registrants via email prior to the event. If you have any questions, contact Deserae Saunders-Austin at (804) 840-4101 or email vati@dhcd.virginia.gov.

**REGISTER FOR
THE WEBINAR**

**READ THE GUIDELINES
AND CRITERIA**



VACo Receives 145 Submissions for the Achievement Awards Program

Three stacks of 145 Achievement Awards submissions waiting for the judges to grade. (We also created an electronic database of all the entries.)

The judges for this year are **Charles Hartgrove**, ICMA-CM, Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **W. Canova Peterson**, former Hanover County Supervisor.

Winners will be announced around the first week of August. Thank you and good luck to all who entered.

VACo 90th Annual Conference

November 10 – 12, 2024

The Omni Homestead | Bath County



This year's Annual Conference theme - **“Energizing County Governments”** - was selected because of VACo's collective energy and momentum that has jolted counties to many successes. We are proud of our accomplishments and service to our communities.

Join county and state leaders from all over the Commonwealth on November 10-12 at the Omni Homestead for [VACo's 90th Annual Conference](#).

Stay tuned for registration and hotel information, which will be shared soon.

VOF opens \$1.7M grant round for open-space projects



VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) is making \$1.7 million available from its Preservation Trust Fund program for grants that protect open space.

Preservation Trust Fund grants for the fall 2024 grant round will prioritize projects that result in significant public access, but funds may also be used for projects that protect exceptional conservation values such as water quality, historic and cultural resources, wildlife habitat, and high-quality farmland and forestland. A real estate interest must either be acquired by a local government or conveyed to VOF to be eligible for funding, and protection must meet the requirements of Virginia's Open-Space Land Act. Applications must be submitted online by 5 p.m. on August 8, 2024. Eligibility requirements, sample applications, a timeline, and other materials may be found online at <https://vof.org/ptf>.

VOF will host a one-hour Preservation Trust Fund Grant Workshop Webinar on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 from 1-2 p.m. using Microsoft Teams. The webinar will address key program requirements and criteria, provide guidance on material to submit with the application and share tips on navigating the grant portal. Registration is required. [Visit the program web page to register.](#)

VOF encourages potential applicants to contact staff prior to applying to discuss eligibility and seek guidance on producing a successful application. Contact grants@vof.org or call (434) 282-7054 with questions or for information on how to apply. To discuss ideas at greater length, use <https://doodle.com/bp/emilynelson/time-to-talk> to schedule a 30-minute meeting with grant program staff.

[Click here for more information.](#)

PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**
Director of Planning & Community Development
The Berkley Group

Part 1
*Helping Counties Navigate the Land Use
Challenges and Opportunities*

WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP



PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**
Director of Planning & Community Development
The Berkley Group

Part 2
*The Legislative and Regulatory Framework
for Approving Applications in Virginia*

WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP



PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**
Director of Planning & Community Development
The Berkley Group

Part 3
The Future Energy Landscape of Virginia

WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP



Talking Energy with the Berkley Group's Director of Planning & Community Development **Michael Zehner.**

Join us for this 3-part series. Click on each panel to view videos.



Mark Hutchinson | CEO/Founder
Blue Line Solutions



What makes **Blue Line Solutions** stand out?
VIDEO

See how **Blue Line Solutions** helped Smyth County become a safer community
VIDEO



Aetna® Statewide Wellness Campaign Brings Comprehensive Master Planning and Wellness Programming to Your County

VACo Premier Partner Aetna believes healthier happens together. That's why Aetna has teamed up with [National Fitness Campaign](#) to address health disparities by increasing access to health and wellness solutions for Virginia Counties.

In Part 1 of this video series, you'll hear from **Dean Lynch**, VACo Executive Director, **Trent Matthias**, National Fitness Campaign Director, **Bill Deal**, Head of Sales, Public Sector and Labor, Keystone and Capital Markets of Aetna on the exciting new statewide sponsorship and what it can deliver for your county.

In Part 2, learn more about the feasibility study process available for your county and hear from leaders in Virginia like [Pulaski County](#) and the [Town of Dumfries](#) who have successfully launched and integrated the comprehensive wellness campaign in their communities.

Additional Resources

- [Virginia Campaign](#) – Funding Outdoor Fitness Courts across the state
- [Campaign Video](#) – How the fitness court campaign got started, how it works, and how it involves and impacts communities.
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in Pulaski County](#)
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in the Town of Dumfries](#)
- Please click [here](#) to learn more about getting started!

Aetna Contact

Marcus Duckworth, VP, Client Management | DuckworthM@aetna.com



Part 1

[Discover how Aetna's exciting new statewide wellness program can help your county](#)



Part 2

[Hear from Pulaski County and the Town of Dumfries, which have successfully launched and integrated Aetna's comprehensive wellness campaign](#)



Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing

Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing is a great tool to make your locality's and school division's budget go further!

Contact us for details.

VML/VACo Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing offers:

- Competitive rates and low closing costs.
- Predictable and level payments.
- Lease terms up to the expected life of the equipment.
- Streamlined process – we handle the details for you.

Budget less in the current year by spreading payments out over the useful life of the equipment – perfect for school buses, fire engines, and police cars.

CONTACT US TODAY

Questions?

Contact Steve Mulroy
804-648-0635

smulroy@valocalfinance.org





STRATEGIC SUPPORT. PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE. DELIVERED WITH CARE.

KEY SERVICES

- BOARD & COUNCIL RETREATS
- EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT
- FINANCE SUPPORT
- GRANT APPLICATION & ADMINISTRATION
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- INTERIM ASSISTANCE
- LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING
- ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- PUBLIC OUTREACH & FACILITATION
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- PUBLIC WORKS
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
- VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON CONTRACT STAFF

Berkley Group is the go-to consultant for local governments and other public agencies. 100% of our services are dedicated to serving public agencies. We understand local government because we have worked in local government and continue to serve them proudly.

Contact us today at 540-208-5188 or info@bgllc.net for any of your community's needs.

VACo Seeks to Create Mentorship Program for Supervisors



Dear Members/County Administrators...

VACo is blessed to have many smart and experienced Supervisors. This year we welcomed a slew of newly elected Supervisors, some of whom have expressed interest in being mentored. VACo thrives when Supervisors connect and share experiences and challenges. Therefore, we would like to establish an informal, voluntary mentoring program to offer opportunities for personalized connections among Supervisors.

If you are interested in being a mentor or being connected with a mentor, please contact Karie Walker, kwalker@vaco.org or 804-343-2504.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Karie Walker
Director of Programs and Development
Virginia Association of Counties



You are VAcorp

You are not merely a customer of VAcorp; you **are** VAcorp! We are both owned and governed by you – our members! VAcorp is created under 15.2-2700 of the local government code where all assets and surplus belong to the members. In addition, VAcorp is controlled by a Supervisory Board that is elected from and by our members. The Board determines and approves all major risk pool decisions, and as a voting member, you have a voice in the decisions that matter most.

Know Who You Are

Because you are VAcorp itself, we think it is critical that you understand exactly what VAcorp is and why it exists. Many simply think of us as their “insurance carrier” – writing customized coverages and handling claims when they occur – but we are so much more!

Our History

The Birth of Risk Pools

VAcorp is not an insurance company, but rather a Risk Pool.

Unstable economic conditions in the mid-1980s led to a commercial insurance crisis with ballooning premiums and widespread policy cancellations. As a result, Risk Pools began to form as an alternative to volatile traditional carriers, allowing Pool members to exert more control over their coverages and costs. Today, almost all public sector entities throughout the country get their coverage from Risk Pools rather than from commercial insurance companies.

VAcorp’s Origin

VAcorp was founded by a handful of Virginia counties in 1993. The ultimate goals of the program were to provide **cost stability**, the most **comprehensive coverages** possible, and **custom services** tailored specifically to the unique needs of our members. While we are pleased by how well our prices compare against the competition, our goal was never to guarantee the lowest cost. Instead, we promised to avoid the wild price swings that we’ve seen in other providers and provide stable pricing year after year, and that is exactly what we have delivered. VAcorp rates are actually **lower today in 2024 than they were in 1993!**

VAcorp’s Growth

Today, VAcorp is the **largest self-insurance risk pool** for public sector entities in the Commonwealth with a membership retention rate of better than 98%. Over the years, we have expanded beyond counties to include municipalities, school divisions, authorities, volunteer fire & rescue companies, state agencies, and non-profits funded by taxpayer dollars. **Over 560 members** have joined VAcorp, including 8 of the 10 largest counties, 8 of the 10 largest cities, and 8 of the 10 largest school divisions. We believe that the extraordinary success of the program can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to our founding principles.

VAcorp Exists to Serve You

VAcorp was created solely to serve Virginia's public sector entities, and from day one until now, we have never lost sight of that purpose. Because we answer only to our members, every decision is designed to benefit the group over the long haul.

VAcorp advocates for local government through a myriad of partnerships with affiliated associations including: VACo, VSBA, VLGMA, VASS, VFGOA, VASBO, LGA, Regional Jail Association, PDC, etc. While there is a cost associated with these partnerships, they add value to the group by aiding in our ability to lobby the General Assembly on behalf of our members.

You may not always see the immediate payoff, but every VAcorp decision is made in alignment with our vision to serve our members and promote the health and longevity of your program.

Take a look at a few of VAcorp's milestones over the years:

- **1993** - VAcorp is established with 12 founding members and less than \$700,000 in annual contribution.
- **1998** - VAcorp terminates service contract with claims administration vendor and hires staff to promote more control and efficiency.
- **1999** - VAcorp offers coverage to K-12 Public Schools across the Commonwealth.
- **2001** - VAcorp begins offering Public Officials Liability coverage in response to VARisk offering limited coverage.
- **2004** - VAcorp begins providing Environmental Liability coverage to all members at no additional cost. Even in 2024, VAcorp is the only provider offering this coverage with a low \$25,000 deductible. Other providers offer this coverage with a \$250,000 deductible.
- **2008** - VAcorp responded to the great recession by freezing rates and providing financial relief with over \$8,000,000 in dividends to members.
- **2011** - VAcorp introduces Line of Duty Act (LODA) coverage, creates the only LODA trust in the state, and absorbs existing LODA losses in response to the state pushing this cost to the local level. VAcorp paid all of its members' 2010 past liability for over \$1,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp merges with the VSBA Self-Insurance Group and assumes their liabilities to prevent School Boards from being assessed. This action saves Local Governments in excess of \$5,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp becomes the first to offer Cyber Risk coverage in Virginia offering the broadest coverage available to local governments anywhere in the US.
- **2016** - VAcorp offers Student Accident and Catastrophic Accident coverage in order to fill VHSL coverage gaps.
- **2020** - VAcorp provides over \$5,000,000 in rate credits during the COVID pandemic to assist members.
- **2023** - VAcorp includes security risk management coverage (active shooter) for all members (coverage has been included for Schools since 2013).





Aetna® Statewide Wellness Campaign Brings Comprehensive Master Planning and Wellness Programming to Your County

Accessible world-class outdoor wellness infrastructure for communities and schools across Virginia is now being made possible thanks to the new sponsorship [announced last month](#) between [National Fitness Campaign](#) and [Aetna®](#). Here's what this means for your County:

- Ability to work with experts on comprehensive wellness master-planning services in alignment with County goals;
- Support with community consensus, to engage people to spend more time outdoors to improve physical and mental well-being;
- Invitation to qualify for grants from a pool of \$350,000 in funding that is now available for municipalities and schools across Virginia to build a wellness culture as part of the Aetna® campaign.



Most recently, the Town of Dumfries and Mayor Derrick Wood [celebrated the first Fitness Court® Studio in the state this past fall](#) after responding to community voices who were asking for enhanced outdoor recreation options in their community. Residents can now walk, jog or cycle to their free Fitness Court® Studio at Ginn Memorial Park. Dumfries joins Loudoun County, Pulaski County and a number of other municipalities as the campaign continues to grow across Virginia.

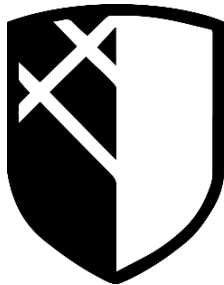
Grant funding and comprehensive planning services will be allocated to support municipalities, schools, and organizations across the state in joining the growing NFC wellness campaign, an award-winning initiative now celebrating its 500th Healthy Community in America.

VACo is pleased to share this opportunity with our members who may be interested in qualifying for funding and sponsorship. If you would like to learn more about the Aetna® wellness campaign in Virginia and how to qualify, please fill out the short contact form at nationalfitnesscampaign.com/virginia.

Briefings with NFC require attendance from the Park Director, Public Health Director and/or County Manager/Administrator to qualify for funding and participation in Virginia.

Let's build a healthier Virginia, together.

[Learn More About the Campaign in Virginia](#)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

WE MAKE LEADERS BETTER

NACo Cyberattack Simulation

Simulation Topic: Supplier Management Access

We'd like to share that our **June '24** simulation has been fully sponsored! That means you and an unlimited number of your colleagues/peers can join the virtual training at **NO COST**. Details to review and share with your network are below -- both public and private sector cybersecurity managers and risk leaders are welcome to attend.

Simulation Topic: Supplier Management Access

Virtual: June 17 - 21

[Register Here](#) - No Cost

Effective supplier management is integral to the operational efficiency of any organization, yet it poses inherent cybersecurity risks, especially concerning supplier access to sensitive systems and data. This cyber attack simulation focuses on evaluating the vulnerabilities and potential threats associated with supplier access including third-party vendor breaches, unauthorized use of supplier credentials, and supplier-initiated cyber threats. The simulation aims to foster a deeper comprehension of the complexities surrounding supplier access risks and to facilitate the development and testing of robust strategies for mitigating these risks effectively.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Designed with a daily commitment of 45 to 90 minutes for the duration of one week, activities can be accessed anywhere online and can be completed at the convenience of the participant's schedule. The intentionally designed data injections followed by participant responses (nine in total) foster high levels of engagement that assess current preparedness and tools to close security gaps.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The cyberattack simulation is designed for any cybersecurity manager as well as teams responsible for risk defense, protection, and recovery (including managers in HR, policy, finance, public safety, and emergency services).

REGISTER TODAY: [sign up here!](#)

If you have any questions, please email the Academy at moderator@pdaleadership.com.

The Professional Development Academy | www.pdaleadership.com
Cyberattack Simulation Training: *for a growing threat landscape.*



OneDigital is thrilled to be one of VACo’s newest Premier Partners.

What truly distinguishes OneDigital as a leading **insurance, financial services, and HR consulting advisory firm** is our holistic approach to creating environments that enable people to do their best work and live their best lives. OneDigital understands that counties face rising insurance costs while still struggling to attract/retain talent. This is why we use proprietary software to provide accurate and predictable insurance consulting projections for those core benefits that impact your bottom line and incorporate solutions to improve retention. While voluntary benefits may be the focus of other providers, OneDigital has the expertise in alternative funding strategies, best-in-class analytics, and an in-house actuarial team.

OneDigital has a track record of providing cost-saving solutions to counties. This has been achieved through creative funding strategies, rate holds, and exclusive partnerships with various carriers. One of these exclusive partnerships is through VACORP and Anthem Life. OneDigital is responsible for the inception of the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) which is through the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). Our team of fierce advocates negotiated a 5-year locked rate, including short-term and long-term disability benefits. Your division may already work with us in this capacity, as we currently serve over 270 public sector entities in the VLDP program.



OUR SOLUTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

MANAGE

- Talent Planning
- Recruiting
- Development & Training

SUPPORT

- Benefits & Compensation
- Total Wellbeing
- Productivity
- Retirement Readiness

ENGAGE

- Culture
- Education & Fiduciary
- Literacy
- Communications

PROTECT

- Compliance
- Workplace Safety
- Operational Continuity
- Cyber Security



Sarah Anne Struckmann
Business Development Executive
 sarah.struckmann@onedigital.com
 434-987-2240



At OneDigital, we harness the power of one to solve complex challenges for businesses and people. Scan the code to the left to watch the video and learn more.

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION



ORDER YOURS TODAY
\$75 EACH

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)



**Virginia County Supervisors' Manual
8th Edition**



The Eighth Edition of VACo's *Virginia County Supervisors' Manual* is 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.



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 \$100 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).

[REGIONAL FIREFIGHTER TESTING](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted July 19

[EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 19

[SENIOR SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 19

[SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 19

[PAINTER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 19

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER/ ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 19

[SENIOR ENGINEER/ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING \(FULL TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 19

[911 COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER](#) | Mathews County | Posted July 18

[PRINCIPAL PLANNER](#) | York County | Posted July 18

[ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SECTION CHIEF](#) | Fairfax County | Posted July 17

[ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR](#) | Gloucester County | Posted July 17

[CLASS III WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR](#) | Gloucester County | Posted July 17

[ENGINEER SERVICES DIRECTOR](#) | Gloucester County | Posted July 17

[INSPECTOR II \(PLUMBING/ MECHANICAL\)](#) | Gloucester County | Posted July 17

[CIVIL ENGINEER I](#) | Gloucester County | Posted July 17

[COMBINATION INSPECTOR](#) | Gloucester County | Posted July 17

[INSPECTOR I](#) | Gloucester County | posted July 17

[UTILITY INSTRUMENTATION & MECHANIC FOREMAN](#) | Gloucester County | Posted July 17

[AQUATICS/RECREATION SUPERVISOR II](#) | Montgomery County | Posted July 17

[VATI PROJECT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT](#) | Thomas Jefferson PDC | Posted July 17

[ENGINEER](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted July 16

[COUNTY ENGINEER](#) | Montgomery County | Posted July 16

[CUSTODIAN \(PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[SERVICE COORDINATOR \(FULL-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[SERVICE COORDINATOR \(PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE CUSTODIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[MIS SERVICES SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[LIBRARY CUSTODIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(GALLOWAY GROUP HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[LIBRARY ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 15

[ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES](#) | Fauquier County | Posted July 15

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 15

[FINANCE DIRECTOR](#) | Amelia County | Posted July 15

[DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Hanover County | Posted July 12

[CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICES SENIOR CLINICIAN-BFOQ/ BILINGUAL](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 12

[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR](#) | Southside Network Authority - Hampton Roads Planning District Commission | Posted July 12

[DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES](#) | Hanover County | Posted July 12

[SUPERINTENDENT OF UTILITIES](#) | City of Staunton | Posted July 12

[DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR OPERATIONS](#) | City of Alexandria | Posted July 11

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | King George County | Posted July 11

[ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER](#) | City of Colonial Heights | Posted July 11

[PLANNER/GIS TECHNICIAN](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 11

[DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 11

[PURCHASING OFFICER](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted July 11

[DSS CASE AIDE - FAMILY SERVICES](#) | Montgomery County | Posted July 11

[GRAPHIC DESIGNER](#) | City of Chesapeake | Posted July 11

[RESIDENTIAL BUILDING/EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL INSPECTOR](#) | Carroll County | Posted July 11

[PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR](#) | City of Chesapeake | Posted July 11

[SENIOR AUTOMATION ANALYST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 11

[ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST](#) | Fauquier County | Posted July 11

[CITY ATTORNEY](#) | City of Martinsville | Posted July 10

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 10

[OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PLANNING, PERMITTING AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT](#) | Northampton County | Posted July 10

[COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Pittsylvania County | Posted July 9

[RESIDENTIAL BUILDING/EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL INSPECTOR](#) | Carroll County | Posted July 9

[MICROSOFT TECHNICAL ARCHITECT](#) | Albemarle County | Posted July 8

[MMSS EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST-JOB COACH](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 8

[LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE \(GALLOWAY\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 8

[TRAINING ANALYST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 8

[INTAKE COORDINATOR \(PT\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 8

[ACT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 8

[PART C SERVICE COORDINATOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 8

[PART C LEAD SERVICE COORDINATOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 8

[DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES](#) | Nelson County | Posted July 5

[DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT](#) | Amelia County | Posted July 5

[LIBRARY BRANCH MANAGER I](#) | Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library | Posted July 3

[PLANNING & ZONING ASSISTANT](#) | New Kent County | Posted July 3

[PLANNER I](#) | King William County | Posted July 3

[FIREFIGHTER/EMT-B](#) | King William County | Posted July 3

[DEPUTY SHERIFF](#) | King William County | Posted July 3

[ANIMAL CARE SUPERVISOR](#) | King William County | Posted July 3

[ACCOUNTANT](#) | King William County | Posted July 3

[ZONING ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Town of Tappahannock | [To Apply](#) | Posted July 2

[DIRECTOR, WASTERWATER PLANT](#) | Town of Tappahannock | [To Apply](#) | Posted July 2

[LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST](#) | City of Harrisonburg | Posted July 2

[DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES](#) | Fauquier County | Posted July 2

[DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION](#) | Warren County | Posted July 1

[HVAC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 1

[MMSS EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 1

[OUTREACH LIBRARIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted July 1

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 1
[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \(DIRECTOR\)](#) | Central Rappahannock Regional Library | Posted June 28

[ADMINISTRATIV ASSISTANT TO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION](#) | Botetourt County | Posted June 28

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[BENEFITS PROGRAM SPECIALIST III](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[FIRE & EMS CHIEF](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[PLANNER I](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[SENIOR BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[UTILITY WORKER](#) | Prince George County | Posted June 27

[APPLICATION SERVICES MANAGER](#) | Roanoke County | Posted June 26

[POLICE CHIEF](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted June 26

[BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR](#) | Rockbridge County | Posted June 26

[IT APPLICATION SPECIALIST](#) | Rockbridge County | Posted June 26

[WATERWORKS OPERATOR \(I, II, III, IV, V\)](#) | James City County | Posted June 25

VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



EDUCATION

Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

VACo LEADERSHIP



President
Ann H. Mallek
Albemarle County



President-Elect
Ruth Larson
James City County



First Vice President
William M. McCarty
Isle of Wight County



Second Vice President
Victor S. Angry
Prince William County



Secretary-Treasurer
Donald L. Hart, Jr.
Accomack County



Immediate Past President
Jason D. Bellows
Lancaster County

VACo STAFF

- Executive Director** | Dean A. Lynch, CAE
- Deputy Director** | Katie Boyle
- Director of Intergovernmental Affairs** | Jeremy R. Bennett
- General Counsel** | Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
- Director of Communications** | Anh G. Harter
- Government Relations Associate** | James Hutzler
- Director of Technical Services** | John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
- Director of Finance** | Sue Klaczynski
- Director of Local Government Policy** | Joe Lerch, AICP
- Administrative Coordinator** | Valerie M. Russell
- Director of Programs and Development** | Karie Walker

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 | www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

