



**August 16, 2011**

**Training**

Check calendar and register on-line.

**Employment Opportunities**

See openings or add an announcement.

**VGFOA Certification Program**

Course content & requirements.

**Membership Directory**

Contact someone, or update your information online.

**VGFOA Board**

Meet your Board, see committee assignments, and make contact.

**Do you have a story to share?** Submit an article to the **Editor** for a future newsletter.

**VGFOA's Strategic Plan**

Directions for the future.

**President's Message**

Hello VGFOA Members,

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Spring Conference in Virginia Beach and the GFOA Annual Conference in San Antonio. The turnout for the Spring Conference was exceptional with more than 300 attendees. Based on the comments I received and the evaluations submitted, the program was very well received. Much of the conference's success is due the tremendous efforts of the Conference Committee, chaired by Renee Hoover, with the assistance of the administrative team, most notably Steve Mulroy, Executive Secretary, and Caitlin Farrell. I also want to thank Pat Weiler, VGFOA's President Elect, who has done an outstanding job this year coordinating with all the committee chairs and working closely with our new administrative team. I want to extend a thank you to our many sponsors for their outstanding support.

Many of the session presentations from the conference are available on the Association's website. If you are interested in viewing them click on the "Archives of Newsletters & Conferences" item under the Resources dropdown on the homepage.

Speaking of conferences, don't forget to register early for the upcoming Fall Conference. It will be held in a new location, Staunton, at the historic Stonewall Jackson Hotel, October 19-21. We are very excited that Stephen Gauthier, Director of GFOA's Technical Services Center will be speaking at our conference. Everyone loves to hear Stephen, who has a natural ability to combine his knowledge of accounting theory with humor, which is the most pleasant way to learn. For those of you who haven't heard, for the first time in GFOA's history the President Elect is from Virginia. We are very fortunate to have Christopher Morrill, Roanoke City Manager, as a presenter at the Fall Conference.

I hope you all are enjoying a beautiful summer and I look forward to seeing you in Staunton in October.

## Renew Membership

Dues overdue? Renew your membership today.

## VGFOA Announcements & News

See the latest updates and news.

## National GFOA on the Web

Visit now.

## Communication & Technology Committee

Tanya Burrell– Chair  
Nancy Tracy

Respectfully submitted,  
Vivian McGettigan, MBA, CPA, CIA, CPFO  
VGFOA President

## **Nominations Sought for Officers & Board Members**

It's that time of year again - time for the VGFOA Nominating Committee to develop a slate of Officers and Board Members to present the Executive Board for approval. The slate is then presented at the Fall Conference during the Business Meeting on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> for vote by the Membership.

Members are asked to use [this form](#) to submit names to the nominating committee for consideration. Positions to be filled include the President Elect (one-year term) and Board positions which expire this year. Board positions carry three-year terms. The form should be submitted by **August 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

Ann Shawver, Immediate Past President, is serving as the Chair of this year's Nominating Committee. Other Committee members include Shelley Carmichael, Joe Casey, Phil Grant and Steve Solomon, all of whom are Past Presidents of VGFOA. Anyone with questions may contact Ann at (540) 853-2970 or [ann.shawver@roanokeva.gov](mailto:ann.shawver@roanokeva.gov).

## **Save the Date for the Fall Conference October 19 – 21, 2011**

The VGFOA Fall Conference will be held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center in Staunton, VA, on October 19-21, 2011. Please make plans to join us in the Shenandoah Valley during peak foliage season to network with colleagues and hear from top-notch speakers; including:

- Stephen Gauthier, GFOA
- Chris Morrill, GFOA President-Elect
- Todd Webster, GASB
- James Cole – VSCPA Ethics Course

We are also hosting an exciting session on leadership based on

Shakespeare's work at the American Shakespeare Center (ASC), which is next door to the hotel. In addition, you can see a performance at the ASC on Wednesday evening, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available for purchase by conference attendees at a discounted rate. A discount code will be provided in your conference registration confirmation email. You can go online to [American Shakespeare Center](#) or call the box office to purchase tickets or request additional information. Please note that tickets must be purchased by October 5, 2011 to take advantage of the group discount rate.

Visit the [Fall Conference](#) web site for registration and additional information.



## Update on 1099 Reporting Requirement

President Obama has signed a bill that repeals the onerous 1099 reporting requirement that required all businesses (including local governments) to track payments for goods and services of \$600 or more to any single vendor and then issue 1099s to each vendor.

This requirement was vocally opposed by GFOA, VSCPA, and the small business community.

## Healthcare Reporting on W-2

Starting in tax year 2012, the Affordable Care Act requires employers to report the cost of coverage under any employer sponsored group health plan on the IRS Form W-2. In order to do this, employers need to track the employer health costs beginning the first paycheck in January 2012. Now is the time to begin evaluating your policies and procedures and your payroll system capabilities to ensure compliance with this new IRS guideline. For additional information on this requirement, go to <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=237894,00.html>

Early adoption in tax year 2011 is encouraged.

### **VGFOA Central Region Training Event Scheduled for September 2011**

The VGFOA Central Regional Organization is having a training event scheduled for Friday, September 23, 2011, from 8:30am – 3:30pm at the Henrico County Training Center. Topics include sessions on Alternative Debt Financing, Economic Update, VRS Update, Line of Duty, and Post Debt Compliance. The event cost is \$25 and includes continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. Registration will be available through the VGFOA Regional Organization Calendar website at [www.vgfoa.org](http://www.vgfoa.org) If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact Clarence Daniel at [dan@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:dan@co.henrico.va.us).

### **VGFOA Southwest Region Training Event Scheduled for September 2011**

The VGFOA Southwest Virginia Regional Organization has a training event scheduled for Friday, September 23, 2011 from 8:30am – 4:30pm at the Roanoke Higher Education Center (downtown Roanoke). The topic is “APA Comparative Cost Report Transmittal Training” and will be taught by Kimberly Via, Senior Specialist for Reporting and Standards with the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts. The charge for the event is \$20 and includes lunch and up to 8.4 CPEs. Registration will be available through the VGFOA Regional Organization Calendar website at [www.vgfoa.org](http://www.vgfoa.org) and is limited to 40 participants. Please contact Debbie White at [dwhite@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:dwhite@co.augusta.va.us) or John Bingham at [john.bingham@RoanokeVA.gov](mailto:john.bingham@RoanokeVA.gov) if you have any questions regarding the training.

### **VGFOA Certificate Program Course Scholarships**

For several years, VGFOA has been offering its members competitively-based scholarships to attend one of the upcoming VGFOA Certificate Program courses. This year’s Certificate course scholarship program offered five individual course scholarships, each valued at \$225. The Awards and Membership Committee received fourteen applications from members across Virginia, representing a wide range of local

governments, schools and even a few authorities. In evaluating this year's applications, the Committee's selection criteria included the following:

- The organizational level of the applicant and years of experience in government accounting
- The applicant's long-range goals
- Limiting the number of awards in any one region of the state so VGFOA could "spread the wealth"
- When given the choice among equally qualified applicants, giving a slight advantage to those who work for smaller local governments
- Whether or not the applicant had previously received a VGFOA Certificate Program course scholarship award

The five Certificate course scholarship winners were announced at VGFOA's 2011 Spring Conference, as part of the Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> awards luncheon. Three of the recipients were able to attend the conference and accepted their certificates in person. The 2011 VGFOA Certificate Program course scholarship winners are:

- **Christina Berta**, who just secured a new position with Isle of Wight Public Schools as their Financial Systems Administrator. Christina has completed seven courses toward her VGFOA Certificate.
- **Linda Conover**, who is a budget analyst with the City of Martinsville. Linda has served in her present position for four years and has been with Martinsville government for over eighteen years. Linda is new to the VGFOA Certificate program and this scholarship should give her a good start in beginning the certification process.
- **Janet Haney**, who is the Accounts Payable Supervisor for York County. Janet has been with York County for three years and has completed five courses toward her VGFOA Certificate.
- **Howard Kartel**, who is the Accounting Manager for the Prince William Service Authority, a position he has held for over four years. Howard is also new to the VGFOA Certificate program and this scholarship should assist him in jump-starting the certification process.

- **Stacy Hill Wilkes**, who is the Treasurer and Director of Finance for the Town of Appomattox, a position she has held for one year. Stacy has completed four courses toward her VGFOA Certificate.

Congratulations to our five Certificate course scholarship winners and thank you to all who applied.

## **Website for Identifying Federal Funding to Entities**

Do you know a website for identifying federal funding to entities (like local governments)?

That website is "[www.ffata.org](http://www.ffata.org)<<http://www.ffata.org>>". The "Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)" was signed on September 26, 2006. This act increases public awareness and knowledge of federal funding to entities by facilitating universal access to records. Access is provided through a single well-organized and well-maintained website - what qualifies as sufficient is detailed within the act. You can learn more details about this act by visiting the website.

Below is how an entity and federal award are defined for the purposes of this act.

Entity: An entity is NOT: a federal employee or an individual recipient of federal assistance. It is defined as:

- Corporation
- Association
- Partnership
- Limited Liability Company
- Limited Liability Partnership
- Sole Proprietorship
- Other legal business entities

Federal Award: It is defined as financial assistance and expenditures which include grants, sub-grants, loans, awards, cooperative agreements, contracts, subcontracts, purchase orders, task orders, and delivery orders. The legislation does not require inclusion of individual transactions below \$25,000 nor does it include credit transactions before October 1, 2008.

The website was fully launched and functioning by January 1, 2008. It provides the federal funding information about entity funding from 2007-onward with new awards added to the online database within 30 days of their receipt. The website is clearly and specifically searchable and it allows users to easily find the federal funding information about any entity. A search can be done by:

- Name and Location of Entity
- Award (\$ amount, transaction type, funding agency, etc.)

The website is free of charge (accessible to everyone) and the information is downloadable in PDF or Excel. It also allows users to provide feedback (increasing public involvement/public voice).

This Act brings transparency to government spending.

## Upcoming VGFOA Certification Courses

Online registration is available for the following courses by [clicking here](#).

Date	Event	Locations
Sept. 8-9	Grants Reporting and Auditing	Fairfax
Sept. 15-16	Virginia Government and Law	Roanoke
Sept. 22-23	Cash Management and Banking	Fairfax
Oct. 6-7	Pensions, Risk Mgt, & Procurement	Charlottesville
Dec. 1-2	Virginia Government and Law	Chesapeake
Dec. 8-9	Advanced Governmental Accounting	Fairfax

*The Virginia Government Finance Officers' Association shall be the premier organization in developing leaders with financial and management expertise through education, fellowship and professional development to foster excellence in government.*