

Retirees' Chapter News

Virginia Governmental Employees Association



A Message from the President...

The 2015 General Assembly will conclude with the veto session set for April 15. Our VGEA legislative staff has worked hard for retirees and active state workers. Assuming final approval, the results would be movement in the right direction. Yet, containing healthcare costs; making compensation more competitive; and adequately funding our retirement system will continue to be primary VGEA objectives. We will have to stay the course.

At our March 9 meeting, Vice President Dee Esser introduced our speaker, Ms. Kathryn Rawley Erhardt of FEEDMORE. Ms. Erhardt provided an overview and handouts about FeedMore, which encompasses the Central Virginia Foodbank, Meals on Wheels, and the Community Kitchen. These programs address a vital community need – decent nutrition. We agreed to bring food donations to our April meeting.

Dee updated us on Anthem's data breach. Faye Spruill presented the Treasurer's report. See Janet Martino's Minutes on page two for more details.

As you may know, April 1 begins the VGEA Membership year (although folks can join at any time). We have an ongoing need to increase VGEA's as well as our Chapter's membership and participation. We want to become "numbers too big to ignore."

Please pass the word that political success requires active engagement. Stuff does not just happen, it requires active advocacy. We will also need to make some decisions at our April meeting:

1. Elect officers for 2015-2017 (2-year terms). Our Nominations Committee (Ann Bordelon, Mary Donan, and Kermit Spruill) will present a candidate slate. The floor will then be open for nominations.
2. Decide if we wish to combine our September meeting with the VGEA's Annual Meeting scheduled for September 12.

Our next meeting will be at 11:30 a.m., Monday, April 13 in Imperial Plaza's Marketing / Sales / Activities Building, 1717 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond. We will have a legislative wrap-up by **VGEA Legislative Director Jim Roberts**. Please attend, bring friends and food donations.

Also note that the VGEA Spring Summit is set for Saturday, June 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Roanoke and the VGEA Annual Meeting will be back at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Midlothian on Saturday, September 12, at 8:30 a.m. There will be no golf tournament this year.

"The greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."

- Martha Washington

Walt
Walt Pulliam, Jr., President

Officers

Walt Pulliam, Jr.
President
9210 Waterloo Court
Richmond, VA 23229
804-741-5466
waltpulliam@verizon.net
VDOC

Dee Esser
Vice President
4600 Willow Leaf Place
Henrico, VA 23228
804-740-8898
d_esser@verizon.net
VEC

Faye Spruill
Treasurer
4818 Village Lake Drive
Richmond, VA 23234
804-272-7065
fzspruill@verizon.net
SCHEV

Janet Martino
Secretary
3010 Briar Lane
Richmond, VA 23228
804-264-1009
janetwva@msn.com
DOLI

Virginia Governmental Employees Association

Richmond Retirees' Chapter: March 2015 Minutes

The 2015 March Meeting of the Retiree Chapter was held on the 9th at Imperial Plaza. The meeting was conducted by Walt Pulliam, President. He asked that everyone check the listing that was being circulated to ensure that all information was correct. Walt welcomed everyone, and introduced Nancy Jakubec and Jennifer Wester, Retirees from the Department of Labor and Industry who were attending for the first time.

He informed us that Bob Schultze has left VRS. The VRS Board will decide who the next Director will be. Currently, Patricia Bishop is serving as the Acting Director. He stated that this was a good legislative session, and we will have a report from our VGEA Representatives at our April meeting.

Vice President Dee Esser distributed an advance copy of a letter regarding the Anthem security breach. We're encouraged to sign up for the protections being offered.

Several people saw one of the Acts of Faith productions of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," and enjoyed it. Dee Esser introduced our speaker, Kathy Earhardt from FeedMore.

Ms. Earhardt informed us that as this meeting is taking place, the Governor and First Lady are announcing that Virginia will receive an \$8 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). FeedMore will receive \$1.2 million over the next two years to observe how hunger affects children in the Richmond area. They will be tracking to see if providing children three meals a day (even on weekends) makes an improvement in behavior and in school.

In 2005, Central Virginia Food Bank and Meals on Wheels came together to form FeedMore. Previously, each was trying to raise funds for a new kitchen. It was suggested that they combine into a very nice community kitchen. Together they can do a lot more with community resources. FeedMore currently covers 31 counties and five cities.

There are more than 53,000 children in need of food. FeedMore is covering about 50 percent. Their goal is to cover 75 percent. This is one of their most rewarding programs. FeedMore packs backpacks for children on Fridays so they will have food for the weekend. It has to be in cans that have a pull top so they can open them without any assistance. It also should be food that they can eat at room temperature.

Kathy told us about an example of this program. Sam was a 7-year-old who was disruptive, received bad grades and never smiled. The Principal called him into the office and gave him quite a surprise: a backpack filled with food for the weekend. He was told that he would receive one every Friday for the rest of the year. His reaction was to jump up and down. Within a short period of time, Sam no longer got into fights, he was helping the teacher and his grades improved. Usually the children in need are identified by the school systems.

The Meals on Wheels Program provides more than 1,000 meals to homebound seniors and disabled adults every day. Volunteers deliver the meals and check on the clients in case they have fallen or are seriously ill. The volunteer will get them some help. More than 50 percent of the clients live alone. If you volunteer, you will see the joy that you bring to them. Meals on Wheels relies on volunteers – 250 a day for cooking, packaging and delivering. To receive Meals on Wheels, the client must complete an application, and the cost is based on their income. Most receive their meals free.

In addition to the Richmond Pantry, which supplies food to church and community pantries, FeedMore also has a Mobile Pantry that goes to areas that do not have access to a nearby grocery store or readily available healthy food. The Pantry has vegetables, pasta, milk, meats, and fruits.

FeedMore collaborates with many other organizations. For example, Bon Secours and the City of Richmond offer classes to teach people how to cook. The Food Pantry has more than 350 partner agencies: a day care, churches, community centers, senior centers and others. Most grocery stores donate food that is nearing the past due date.

Kathy also answered questions from members. It was decided that the membership would bring food to the next meeting; then Janet and Dee will deliver it to FeedMore.

The Nominating Committee will give their report at the next meeting after which we will elect Officers. We will also need to decide if we want to sponsor a hole at the VGEA Golf Tournament. (We have since been informed that there will not be a golf tournament this year so this is a moot point.)

Dee explained that Anthem could not speak at our
(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 3)

meeting because Corporate Headquarters is handling the data breach situation.

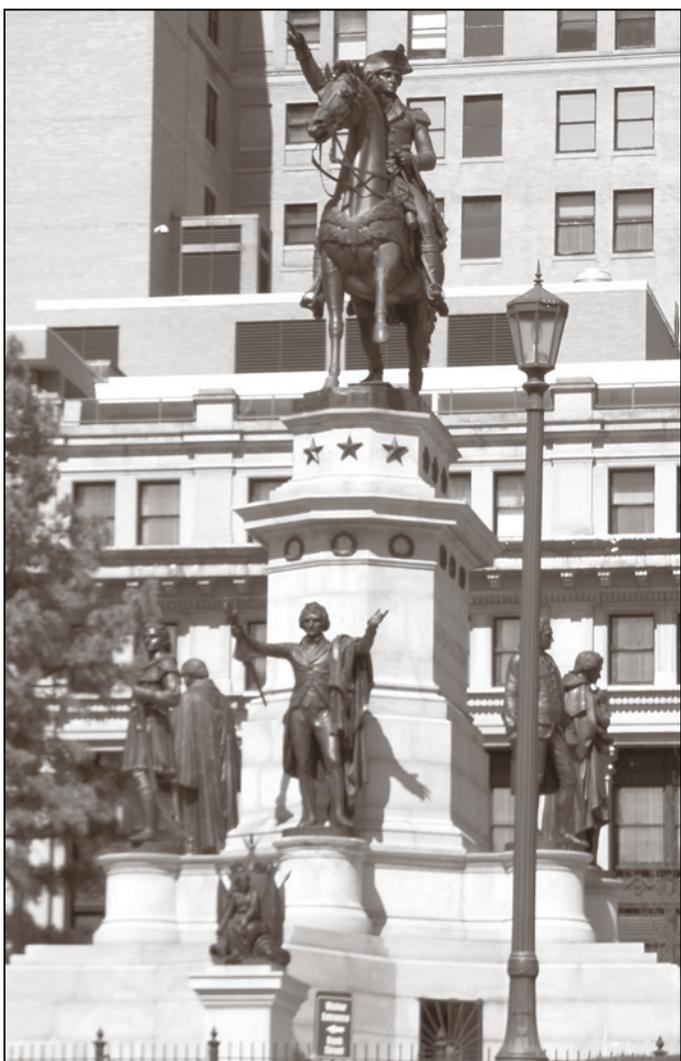
Becky Ryburn explained what happened to her when she tried calling the toll free number for Anthem to enroll in the identity protection being offered. She did not receive any assistance and felt that she was involved in a scam.

Faye Spruill gave the Treasurers Report. She reported that our current balance is \$1,914.18.

Walt reminded us that in April it will be time to pay our VGEA dues. Retiree dues are \$48 a year.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Imperial Plaza.

Submitted by:
Janet Martino
Secretary



General George Washington, astride his horse, leads the charge in front of the General Assembly Building on Capitol Square during all seasons, but looks especially lively in the spring.

Upcoming VGEA EVENTS

- **April 13 – Next meeting of VGEA Richmond Retirees:** 11:30 a.m., in Imperial Plaza's Marketing / Sales / Activities Building, 1717 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond. Legislative wrap-up by **VGEA Legislative Director Jim Roberts**. Plan to attend, bring friends and food donations for FeedMore if able.
- **April 23 – Southwest Virginia Regional Meeting** – 6 p.m. at JJ's Restaurant and Sports Bar, 115 Charwood Drive, Abingdon, Virginia 24211. (276) 525-4999.
- **April 27 – Northern Virginia Regional Meeting** – 6 p.m. at the Olive Garden Restaurant, 14405 Gideon Drive, Woodbridge, Virginia 22192 (Potomac Mills). (703) 491-3131.
- **May 21 – Far Southwest Virginia Regional Meeting** – 6 p.m. at the Magnolia Kitchen, 921 Park Avenue Northwest, Norton, Virginia 242273. (276) 679-0300.
- **June 6 – SPRING SUMMIT Meeting** – 8:30 a.m. Hilton Garden Inn, 4500 South Peak Boulevard, Roanoke, Virginia. Confirmed speakers are **Secretary of Administration Nancy Rodrigues, Director of the DHRM Sara Wilson and VRS Interim Director Patricia Bishop**.
- **July 23 – Southside Regional Meeting** – 6 p.m. at O'Kelly's, 1055 Piney Forest Road, Danville, Virginia 24540. (434) 836-7970.
- **August 20 – Shenandoah Regional Meeting** – 6 p.m. at the Frontier Culture Museum, 1290 Richmond Road, Staunton, Virginia 24401. (540) 332-7850.
- **September 12 – VGEA ANNUAL MEETING:** The DoubleTree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23235, (804)379-3800.
- **October 15 – Tidewater Regional Meeting** – 6 p.m. Olive Garden - near Greenbrier Mall, 1631 Ring Road, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320. (757)424-4758.

Call 877-302-7146 or email info@vgea.org to RSVP for VGEA meetings.

Virginia Governmental Employees Association
1011 East Main Street, Suite 400
Richmond, VA 23219

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit#388
Richmond,VA



**The Virginia Governmental
Employees Association (VGEA) is
The VOICE of Virginia's State
Employees and Retirees**