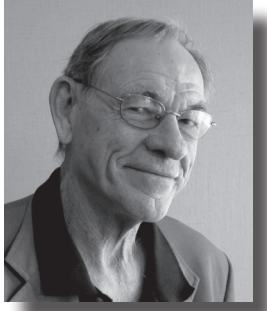




1011 East Main
Street, Suite 400
Richmond, VA 23219
info@vgea.org
804-355-3120
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Retirees' Chapter News

Virginia Governmental Employees Association



A Message from the President...

The 2015-16 biennial budget was finally approved near the end of June. Despite all the handwringing, the budget actually increased by about \$9.5 Billion. Yet our Legislators could not find enough of that increase to fund a one percent pay raise for state employees; even though state monies are used to support local employee and teacher pay raises. This failure also affects the flow of funds to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). At least, the funding plan for VRS survived. We should keep these realities in mind this November, when some of us will be voting. In April, VGEA's Executive Director Ron Jordan and Legislative Director Jim Roberts provided updates as noted in Janet Martino's attached Minutes (page 2).

VGEA staff will continue to be actively engaged in advocating for state employees and retirees. Increased pay, maintenance of the VRS funding plan, containing healthcare costs, and supporting equal opportunity were addressed and remain our priorities. Specific legislative goals include retirement improvements such as increasing the health care credit and raising the minimum retiree life insurance payout. Many budget amendments have a "contingency clause", i.e., the money must be identified for the proposed amendment to be approved. This, of course, rarely happens without revenue increases.

We, as VGEA Members, need to stay engaged as well. Even when the legislature is not in session, we can follow events in the *FORESIGHT* and the *eNews* bulletins. We can go to viriniageneralassembly.gov to locate proposed legislation, budget items, and contact information for the Senators and Delegates. We can go to the Governor's website at governor.virginia.gov/connect/contact-us and get in our licks. We can let them

know our views on issues and concerns. Offer suggested solutions to problems and encouragement when positive steps are taken. Be "the squeaky wheel." If you don't have an Internet connection, send a letter or make a phone call!

The Joan & Glen Pond Invitational VGEA Golf Tournament which benefits our Scholarship Fund, will be held at the Royal New Kent course in Providence Forge on Friday, September 12. You don't have to be a VGEA member to play golf. It would also be helpful to recruit sponsors for each hole. If you know of a potential sponsor, please advise VGEA at info@vgea.org or call 804-355-3120.

Please note that we agreed to hold our September Chapter meeting in conjunction with VGEA's statewide Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel – Koger Center in Midlothian. **Governor McAuliffe** is speaking and so is **Senator John Watkins** (R-Powhatan) an informative agenda is being finalized to include VRS, DHRM, and VGEA updates.

Our next Chapter meeting will be at Imperial Plaza on **Monday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m.** Vice President Dee Esser is continuing her fine work lining speakers. This time it is Bill Leighty, Managing Principal of DecideSmart and former Chief of Staff to Governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

Please alert your friends and colleagues and urge them to participate in all of the above activities and events. ***Let's each one reach one.***

Walt Pulliam Jr.
President

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Walt Pulliam, Jr.
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Virginia Governmental Employees Association

Richmond Retirees Chapter

April 2014 Meeting Minutes

The April 2014 Meeting of the Retiree Chapter was held on the 14th at Imperial Plaza. The meeting was conducted by Walt Pulliam Jr., President. He welcomed everyone, and introduced Sonya Williams, McKinley Jordan, Jim Roberts, and Ron Jordan, from the VGEA Executive Office.

Vice President Dee Esser asked for a round of applause for Walt Pulliam for doing such an outstanding job this year. She introduced our speaker, VGEA Legislative Director Jim Roberts who would give us this session's legislative update.

Jim Roberts stated that after the most recent election changed the balance in the Legislature and the election of Democratic Governor Terry McAuliffe and former Governor Bob McDonnell's budget requests, the situation in the Legislature became very contentious. At that time, there was still no agreement on the budget; and the House and Senate had agreed to disagree. Governor McDonnell's budget contained \$100 million for VRS to repay the state's short payments and to increase VRS' funded liability.

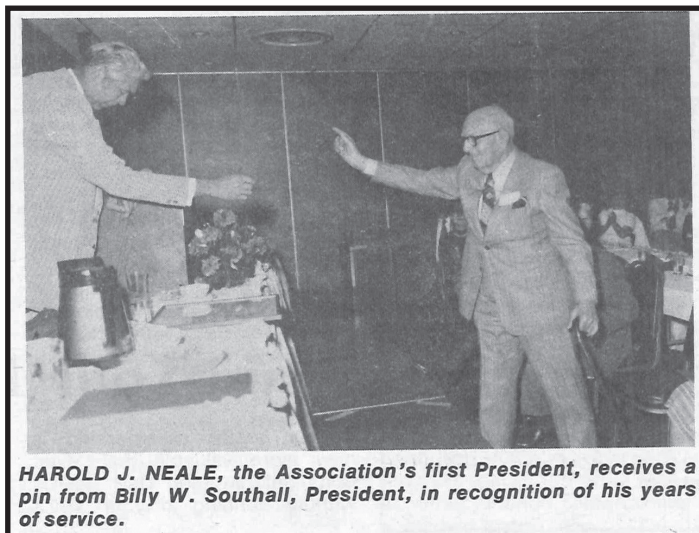
The shortage in the State Employee Health Insurance Fund (HIF) has been corrected through replenishment in McDonnell's budget. As a result, there will be an increase in premiums; but it will not be as steep as it has been in the past. His budget also included money to replace PMIS, the State's personnel system.

There was quite a difference between the two chambers on proposed pay increases.

For Retirees there were two bills. One was to increase the Health Care Credit from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per year of

service; and the other was to set the minimum limit for Life Insurance to \$8,000. Both bills passed the House and Senate; but on the last day, both were sent to committee for more study.

Ron Jordan, VGEA Executive Director, explained what could happen if they do not agree on a Budget. He also explained the history of how and why VGEA was formed. People have a tendency to become apathetic and we need to remind them that benefits that we currently have could be taken away. He also stated that VRS is very strong; and that the Health Care System is going to be paying for more preventative procedures, and perhaps, a walk-in clinic for public employees.



HAROLD J. NEALE, the Association's first President, receives a pin from Billy W. Southall, President, in recognition of his years of service.

Do you remember VGEA Presidents Harold Neale or Billy Southall?

If so, you are a rich source of VGEA history!

speakers for next year, and asked that everyone complete it before leaving.

A vote was taken on the Christmas Luncheon. The Luncheon will be held at the Olive Garden on Broad near Glenside on December 8th.

The next meeting will be the statewide VGEA meeting on September 13th at the DoubleTree by Hilton-Koger Center in Richmond-Midlothian. See Registration Form on opposite page.

Submitted by:
Janet Martino, Secretary

Janet Martino, Secretary, asked everyone to check off their name on the member listing that is being circulated and to make any corrections.

Faye Spruill, Treasurer, reported that the current Chapter balance is \$2,092.78.

Dee Esser, Vice President, passed out a Survey Form for potential

VGEA 55th ANNUAL MEETING

September 13, 2014

DoubleTree by Hilton Richmond-Midlothian Hotel & Conference Center

(Formerly Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center)

REGISTER TODAY!!! FREE TO VGEA MEMBERS!!!

Name: Last First MI

Title Agency

Mailing Address City State Zip

() ()

Phone Fax Email Address

If applicable, please tell us which VGEA Chapter you are a member of _____

Saturday Annual Meeting (Lunch Included) _____

***Lunch is limited to 2 guests** _____

TOTAL: _____

Please indicate any special dietary needs or concerns you (or your guest) may have

Please indicate the names of any guest in your party

REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE September 9, 2014

Please mail your completed registration form to:

VGEA, 1011 East Main Street, Suite 400, Richmond, VA 23219

or fax 804-228-4501

Questions? Contact the VGEA office at (877) 302-7146 or info@vgea.org

Thank you!

From Washington, D.C. Traveling I-95 South: Take Exit 79 (Powhite Parkway-195 Toll Road). Keep to the left and follow Powhite (toll road) to Midlothian Turnpike (Route 60-West). Follow Midlothian Turnpike 2 miles to Koger Center Boulevard. Holiday Inn Koger Center will be on your right.

From North Carolina Traveling I-95 North: Take Exit 67, Chippenham Parkway. Follow Chippenham Parkway 10 miles to Midlothian Turnpike (Route 60) West. Travel 5 miles to Koger Center Boulevard. Holiday Inn Koger Center will be on your right.

From Charlottesville Traveling I-64 East: Take exit for 288 South to Route 60/Midlothian Turnpike (East). Follow Midlothian Turnpike approximately 5 miles to Koger Center Boulevard. Holiday Inn Koger Center will be on your left.

From Virginia Beach: Stay on I-64 West. Follow signs to I-95 (do not take I-295N). Stay on I-95 North to Powhite Parkway Toll Road 195 (Exit 79). Follow Powhite Parkway to Midlothian Turnpike West (Route 60) for 2 miles to Koger Center Boulevard. Holiday Inn Koger Center will be on your right.

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

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VGEA Annual Meeting

September 13, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Featuring

**Governor Terry McAuliffe and
Senator John Watkins (R-Powhatan) as
well as VRS, DHRM and
Administration Leaders.**

*At the DoubleTree by Hilton, Koger Cen-
ter, Richmond-Midlothian*

**Complete and return the enclosed Registration Form.
Contact the VGEA Office with questions at info@vgea.org or 877-302-7146 (toll-free).**

Followed by the regular

**Monthly VGEA Richmond
Retirees' Chapter Meetings
At Imperial Plaza**

Beginning again on

October 13 at 11 a.m.

Looking forward to seeing you!