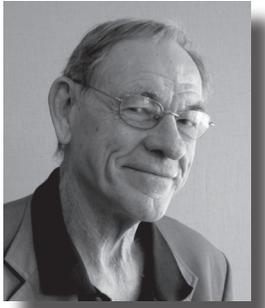




1011 East Main Street, Suite 400
 Richmond, VA 23219
 info@vgea.org
 804-355-3120
 1-877-302-7146

Retirees' Chapter News

Virginia Governmental Employees Association



A Message from the President...

Change is in the air. The General Assembly will wrap up in March and the veto session will follow in April. We can follow these developments through VGEA's *eNews* newsletter and by checking virinieneralassembly.gov. We need to continue to express our views because "it ain't over 'til it's over." We also can offer our thanks to those legislators who supported state employee and retiree issues. Winfree Mountcastle updated us on several legislative bills during our February meeting.

Many VGEA Directors and Members visited with the General Assembly on Presidents' Day 2014. Our purposes were to state our positions on issues and demonstrate that VGEA is group of significant voters.

For VGEA to maintain a forceful voice, we need as many members as we can retain and recruit. We aspire to be "numbers too large to ignore". Our membership year will commence on April 1. Now is the time to get your membership renewal moving! The cost is \$48 annually while additional retirees in the same household can join or renew for just \$24. VGEA is hustling to get revised membership forms in place to handle additional household retirees and pro rata rates for folks joining after July 1. If you don't receive a renewal notice, call VGEA at 804.355.3120 or go to vgea.org for the necessary form. Let's "just do it!"

Our February 2014 meeting featured

Randall Davis and Katelyn Melo's talk on the work of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and Elder Abuse and Neglect Squad. We thank them for coming and hope this important work will continue. We can do our part to check for wrongful or excessive medical charges and to report improper charges or any elder abuse we might observe. See Janet's minutes for more details. Please let Janet and VGEA know if you or other retirees you know leave the area or change home or email addresses.

Treasurer Faye Spruill presented an updated and current report on our financial situation. She also provided information on changes at Crab Louie's. Dee Esser, Janet Martino and Bernice Strommer agreed to serve on a committee to plan our December 8 holiday luncheon. Anne Bordelon circulated great photos taken at our 2013 event.

Our Monday, March 10, meeting will convene at 11:30 a.m., at Imperial Plaza's activity/sales office building, 1717 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond 23228 (804.262.6537). Vice President Dee Esser has scheduled a representative of the Virginia Credit Union to speak about online issues. Please plan to attend and bring a guest!

Each One Reach One,

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

February 2014 Meeting Minutes

The 2014 February Meeting of the Retiree Chapter was held on the February 10 at Imperial Plaza. The meeting was conducted by President Walt Pulliam, Jr. He asked that everyone check the listing that was being circulated to ensure that all information was correct. Walt welcomed Susan Burger, retiree of VCU Medical Center, who was attending for the first time.

Vice President Dee Esser, introduced our speaker, Randall Davis, from the Attorney General's Office in the Medicaid Fraud Unit. Mr. Davis was involved in radio and TV before coming to the A.G.'s Office.

Mr. Davis explained that Medicaid is for the poor and disabled. The Medicare Program is 100% federally funded and Medicaid is 50% federally funded. This Program is operated by DMAS in Virginia. The General Assembly is currently looking to expand Medicaid. It is the fastest growing State Program. Twenty-two percent of the State Budget goes to this Program. There have been estimates of fraud between 3% and up to 40%. Most estimate that 10% is going to scammers and fraudsters. It is the reverse of the Robin

Hood Theory, "The rich taking from the poor."

The first year the A.G.'s Office initiated the Fraud Unit they only collected \$5,000. Now the Unit has collected over a billion dollars. They are credited with one of the largest settlements of Medicaid Fraud. It was settled out of court for 1.5 billion dollars. Some of the money from the two largest settlements was deposited and the interest now pays for this Unit. Also, as a result, some of the money was given to police departments and to the "whistle blowers."



In the award-winning 2012 movie Lincoln, Virginia's Capitol Building was used as the White House in the filming, much of which took place in Richmond and Petersburg.

He gave several examples of companies and health care providers who have defrauded the Medicaid Program. Most health care providers are honest. Citizens need to be involved in reporting fraud. We should always review our statements, guard our Medicare numbers, and ask for all form copies.

Many of the fraud cases also involved Elder Abuse. As a result, the A.G.'s Office has an Elder Abuse and Neglect Squad.

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Mr. Davis introduced Katelyn Melo who told us there were 687 complaints in Richmond. She gave us several examples of cases they investigated. They must receive a complaint in order to initiate an investigation. She gave us a handout of signs of Elder Abuse and Neglect.

The signs are: burns, welts, scratches, bruises, cuts; fractures, dislocations, or sprains. Also if the elder has been restrained, tied to a bed or chair; shows a mistrust of others; has unsanitary or unsafe housing; inappropriate or inadequate clothing; is malnourished; has a lack of needed supervision; an untreated medical condition; has a lack of needed dentures, glasses, hearing aids or medication.

She asked that we share this information with others and report any suspicions to the: Office of the Attorney General, Attention: Elder Abuse & Neglect Squad, 900 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or MFCU-mail@oag.state.va.usag.virginia.gov

Treasurer Faye Spruill reported that our current balance is \$2,091.85. She also reported on her findings regarding Crab Louie's. The new owners have made some changes to the conditions for group reservations. Walt appointed a committee to develop some options for our Christmas Luncheon. The committee is Janet Martino, Dee Esser and Bernice Strommer. Walt asked if they would provide some alternatives at the next meeting.

Winfree Mountcastle gave us an update on current legislation. The life insurance bill is still possible and the bill to raise the Health Care Credit to \$5 has been tabled.

The March Meeting will be held on March 10, at 11:30 at Imperial Plaza and our speaker will be Tom Katovsich, Membership Development Representative from the Virginia Credit Union.

Submitted by:
Janet Martino,
Secretary

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar...

VGEA Richmond Retiree

Chapter Meetings:

March 10 & April 14

(Summer recess following)

Next chapter meeting at the

VGEA Annual Meeting

September 13

At the DoubleTree by Hilton

Followed by the regular

Monthly VGEA Richmond Retirees' Chapter Meetings at Imperial Plaza

Beginning again on

October 13

You are also invited to the

VGEA Spring Summit,

At the Sheraton Hotel, Roanoke

Saturday, June 7,

From approximately 8:30 to 1 p.m.

The Spring Summit features similar speakers to the Annual Meeting and provides an additional opportunity for members to get an update on VGEA issues. If you cannot attend the September 13 Annual Meeting or Roanoke is closer to you, this is your chance! **Contact the VGEA Office to RSVP at 877-302-7146 (toll-free).**

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

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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

For State Retirees:

**Virginia Governmental
Employees Association**

(877) 302-7146 toll-free

(804) 355-3120 office

(804) 228-4501 fax

**Virginia Retirement
System**

(888) 827-3847 toll-free

**Social Security
Administration**

(800) 772-1213 toll-free

Medicare

(800) 633-4227 /

1-800-MEDICARE toll-free

**Department for
The Aging**

(800) 552-3402 toll-free

**Virginia Retiree Health
Benefits Program**

(800) 572-4098 toll-free