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Retirees' Chapter News

Virginia Governmental Employees Association



A Message from the Past President...

We were pleased to have representatives from the VGEA Office at the April Retiree Chapter meeting, the last before our summer break.

VGEA Lobbyist Jim Roberts was our speaker. Also attending were Ron Jordan, VGEA Executive Director, and Johnna Cossaboon, Retirees' Newsletter Editor. Jim discussed the 2013 General Assembly. The budget included \$70 million in the Health Care Fund this year. Health care insurance remains one of the most important issues for retirees. Read more about Jim's comments in the Meeting Minutes on page two of this newsletter.

At the April Meeting we also elected the following officers:

- President:** Walt Pulliam, Jr.
- Vice President:** Dee Esser
- Secretary:** Janet Martino
- Treasurer:** Faye Spruill

We appreciate these officers assuming the responsibilities of leadership. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful year. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the officers who have served with me the last two years. Winfree Mountcastle, vice president, Janet Martino, secretary, and Faye Spruill, treasurer. They have been supportive and dependable. Thank you for your support and help.

As usual, September is an important month for VGEA since it is the month of the Annual Meeting. The Retirees' Chapter meeting will be the VGEA Annual Meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton (formerly named the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center), 1021 Koger Center Blvd. , Richmond, VA on September 14, at 8:30 a.m. It is the same place as last year with a new name. All retirees are encouraged to attend.

The speaker for the Retirees' October meeting will be a representative from the Office of the Attorney General to discuss Medicaid Fraud. Reservations have been made at Crab Louie's Seafood Tavern for the December 9 meeting. December is a fun social get together and members and guests can make luncheon reservations at the October meeting when we return to Imperial Plaza. We usually have a "full house," so be sure to make your reservations then.

It has been a pleasure working with the Retirees' Chapter as your president and I look forward to future meetings with our new leaders.

Kermit

Kermit Spruill, past president
VGEA Retirees' Richmond Chapter
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Officers

Walt Pulliam, Jr. *President*

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Faye Spruill *Treasurer*

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VGEA Richmond Retirees' Chapter – April 2013

Meeting Minutes

The April 8 meeting of the VGEA Richmond Retirees' Chapter was held at the Imperial Plaza in Richmond. President Kermit Spruill called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. He welcomed guests, members and a prospective member, Pat Mays, a Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services retiree.

Janet Martino, Secretary, asked attendees to place a check mark by their name on the list being circulated and make any needed corrections to their information.

Faye Spruill, Treasurer, reported a combined balance of \$2,068.94 in the checking and savings accounts as of March, 31, 2013.

Kermit introduced our speaker, Jim Roberts, VGEA Lobbyist. He spoke about the good and bad events of the 2013 General Assembly. Below is a brief summary of some of the accomplishments:

Jim felt Health Insurance was the most important issue for the retiree group; and that considering the current economic conditions, we did fairly well. He explained how the Commonwealth's self insured health program works, and the need for replenishing the reserve fund. The 2013 Governor's budget plan put about \$70 million into the fund this year. Health Care premiums are expected to increase but not as much as originally anticipated. For active state employees, the first base pay increase for employees in six years is scheduled for August 2013. Part-time employees (wage/hourly) will not be allowed to work more than 29 hours a week. Managers will have to determine how to enforce this new regulation. Ground was gained for Virginia retirees when our COLA formula was not changed. He suggested that we notify our Congressmen not to cut back or change the formula for Social Security COLA. Currently the employee Life Insurance Cap is not being changed, but this is a priority for next year.

The floor was opened for questions by Jim. After much discussion regarding the use of both retiree and non-retiree funds for the health insurance fund instead of splitting the money into two separate funds, Ron Jordan said that at our fall meeting we will have Sarah Wilson, Director of Human Resources Management, speak to us regarding this.

A question concerning how "Obamacare" will affect our health care premiums was asked. Since our Commonwealth health insurance plan is self insured and not an exchange it probably will not be much more for us. The cost of the new requirements was built into our program.

Election of House of Delegates members was also discussed. There will be a number of well qualified Republican and Democratic candidates running. Del. Lacey Putney, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, will not be running for re-election. VGEA has had a long relationship with him and we are sorry to see him go.

Del. Kirk Cox is currently Vice Chair of Appropriations and House Majority Leader. The Code of Virginia will have to be changed for Del. Cox to serve as both Chair of Appropriations and House Majority Leader. Members were encouraged to vote in upcoming elections. We need to elect people that support VGEA platforms and will work to make Virginia a better managed State.

VRS market returns were discussed. There were no returns last year due to the market. Recently, however, returns are looking better.

Kermit thanked Jim for being with our group and presenting such an informative program.

The 2013-2014 Officers were presented by Kermit:

President	Walt Pulliam, Jr.
Vice President	Dee Esser
Secretary	Janet Martino
Treasurer	Faye Spruill

There being no nominations from the floor, P.C. Shields moved to close the nominations. Wendell Seldon seconded the motion. The above slate of officers were voted on and elected.

Kermit thanked the members for allowing him to be President and "passed" the responsibility on to Walt. Programs for the 2013-2014 year were discussed. Members were asked to complete a form and return it to Dee indicating suggestions for programs. Our September 2013 meeting will be combined with the VGEA Annual Meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton (formerly named the Holiday Inn, Koger Conference Center), 1021 Koger Center Blvd. in Richmond on September 14, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. We'll talk about the December luncheon in October.

It was suggested and unanimously agreed upon that Janet purchase a card for Del. Putney in appreciation of his work and help in the House of Delegates, and that we give him a lifetime membership to VGEA. A picture of members in attendance was taken by a VGEA staff member to be included in the card.

The meeting was adjourned .

Submitted by:
Becky Ryburn, Acting Secretary for
Janet Martino, Secretary

VGEA 54th ANNUAL MEETING

September 14, 2013

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 _____

(Herbed Baked Chicken, Baked Delta Catfish Creole', freshly prepared vegetable, rolls, Chocolate Torte, and Red Velvet Cake)

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, 2013

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. DoubleTree by Hilton 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. DoubleTree by Hilton will be on your right.

From Charlottesville Traveling 1-64 East: Take exit for 288 South to Route 60/Midlothian Turnpike (East). Follow Midlothian Turnpike approximately 5 miles to Koger Center Boulevard. DoubleTree by Hilton 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. DoubleTree by Hilton will be on your right.

Virginia Governmental Employees Association
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Don't Miss the VGEA Annual Meeting Sept. 14

The next meeting of the VGEA Richmond Retirees' Group will be combined with the VGEA Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 14, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding after lunch. This larger meeting is in lieu of our smaller chapter meeting and everyone in our Retirees' Chapter is strongly encouraged to attend!

Please plan to come to the DoubleTree by Hilton (*formerly named the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center*), 1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond, VA 23235. Fill out the Registration form included in this newsletter to RSVP Today! Call the VGEA office (877) 302-7146 with questions or email info@vgea.org

