

**Subject:** VGEA eNews - General Assembly Adjourns

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**From:** Virginia Governmental Employees Association (sent by Virginia Governmental Employees Association <sonyawilliams@vgea.ccsend.com>)

**To:** Johnna Cossaboon

# VGEA eNEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

March 12, 2014

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## General Assembly Adjourns Despite Lack of Budget

### Mark Your Calendar for These Regional Meetings:

*The VGEA is Coming to YOU!*

**Northern Regional Meeting**  
April 7, 6 p.m.  
Olive Garden, Woodbridge

**Southwest Virginia Regional Meeting**  
April 24, 6 p.m.

The 2014 Regular General Assembly session adjourned Saturday "sine die" (Latin for "without day" or "without assigning a day for a further meeting or hearing") after considering 2,888 pieces of legislation and passing 1,647 of them. Left undone was the budget, arguably the most important piece of legislation before the Assembly. New judgeships and many other positions were also left unfilled since their funding is tied to the budget. An inability to resolve the issue of Medicaid expansion was the principal reason for the budget deadlock.

Governor McAuliffe immediately announced his intention to call legislators back to Richmond on March 24 in a special session for the purpose of enacting a budget. The General Assembly must define the scope of items to be considered during the special

Peking Chinese Restaurant,  
Wytheville

**Far Southwest Virginia  
Regional Meeting**

May 20, 6 p.m.  
Magnolia Kitchen, Norton

**Spring Summit Meeting**

June 7, 6 p.m.  
Sheraton Roanoke Hotel and  
Conference Center

**Southside Regional Meeting**

July 24, 6 p.m.  
O'Kelly's Restaurant, Danville

**Shenandoah Regional Meeting**

August 21, 6 p.m.  
Frontier Culture Museum  
Staunton

**Tidewater Regional Meeting**

October 16, 6 p.m.  
Kelly's Tavern,  
Greenbrier Mall, Chesapeake

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session and judicial selection is also likely to be included. Since the budget bills being considered in the regular session were not approved, they are technically dead and the legislative budget process must begin anew in the special session.

Since Virginia uses an "Executive Budget" process in which the Governor develops the budget for introduction, Governor McAuliffe could introduce a budget that is entirely different from the one proposed by former Governor McDonnell last December.

The budgets approved by the respective houses during the regular session had used the McDonnell budget as their starting point. Should McAuliffe introduce the McDonnell budget, the two houses should be able to append the same changes used in the regular session and quickly move the bills to a conference committee. This would place them in the same posture as they were at the end of the regular session and allow the Special Session to recess for further legislative negotiations.

During the recess, the budget conferees would continue to work while the rest of the Delegates and Senators return home. The Governor has indicated that he intends to introduce a budget that is substantially similar to the McDonnell budget, but with some differences which would better reflect his priorities.

Under this scenario, it is likely the entire General Assembly will be in the Capitol for several days during the week of March 24. Governor McAuliffe has stated that he expects the special session to run three weeks, however the dividing issue is one based on policy and political outlook rather than pure dollars and cents. With each side essentially staking out an "all or nothing" approach at this point, compounded by the Governor using the "bully pulpit" to chastise House Republicans, little progress is foreseen and no



***Time ran out on the General Assembly session before a budget agreement could be reached. Gov. McAuliffe has called a special session on March 24.***

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bridge that could bring the two together is in sight.

Both sides will talk about the need to act swiftly to provide budget certainty to local governments and school boards in time for them to enact local spending plans or to avoid a "Washington-style" government shutdown. However, the template was established back in 2004 when the General Assembly was unable to agree on a budget until June 16 when legislative action continued on the Governor's amendments and item vetoes into July.

With the Governor saying he will not sign a budget that does not include Medicaid expansion - and the House majority saying they will not approve a budget that includes Medicaid expansion - the stage is now set for a particularly long and politically bitter spring season. Stay tuned.

## VGEA Arena Racing Coming Friday, March 21!

### **Bring Your Family to the Richmond Coliseum for Food, Fun & Fast Cars!**

VGEA members are invited to bring their family and friends to enjoy a great night of family fun and entertainment at Arena Racing RVA! You receive a discounted Club reserved ticket (regular price \$16) plus a catered buffet-style dinner for just \$10 per person! For details about how to get your tickets, the menu and the schedule for the night, [click here](#).



The deadline to reserve your tickets is March 14, at 7 p.m. Spread the word about this great deal and great time for the family! Bring your co-workers and tell them about VGEA. Call the office at 877-302-7146 with questions, or email [info@vgea.org](mailto:info@vgea.org). Hope to see you at the Coliseum!

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