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**To:** Johnna Cossaboon

# VGEA eNEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

February 19, 2014

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## House and Senate Budget Report for State Employees

*VGEA Legislative Team Strived to Achieve Priorities*

Your VGEA Legislative Team was present last Sunday when the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees reviewed and approved the reports from each of their Subcommittees. They then approved their budgets and reported them into their overall budgets, amending former-Governor McDonnell's proposed biennial budget.

We're still comparing the House and Senate versions side-by-side and will provide you with a detailed report on them pending meetings at week's end. **LOOK FOR ANOTHER eNews SOON!**



## Attendees Enjoy VGEA Legislative Day Say, 'Everyone Should Do This!'

The VGEA members, guests, Board members and staff all gathered at the VGEA Office on Presidents' Day morning (Monday, February, 17) for refreshments, as we discussed what Legislative Day was all about. (See photo above of many of the VGEA participants.)

Some of the participants were veterans - having attended past Legislative Days - and had already set their appointments with representatives and knew just where they were headed and what they were going to talk about with their senators and delegates. Others were neophytes, who needed a little guidance and were happy to be teamed up with someone with more experience.

First, we discussed who was from which district, so we could team up and visit the same legislators. Then we reviewed the topics we wanted to address, specifically; compensation, benefits and retirement.

The House and



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## Legislation Follow-up

The **Universal Leave Bill (HB 711)** that we wrote about in the last issue of the *VGEA eNews* newsletter, **was killed by the House Appropriations Committee.**

The VGEA testified against it and will continue to **oppose any Leave legislation that may have an adverse impact on current employees.**

**VGEA eNEWS**  
VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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the Senate had presented their budgets the day before, so we knew they had both included very modest state employee salary increases and bonuses for each year of the biennium.



Therefore, when we visited with our legislators, we wanted to thank them for the increases we got last year and for remembering us in this year's tight budgets, while encouraging them to increase those percentages. We also reminded them that state employees are still well below the private sector in the DHRM's public and private sector salary reviews. Pictured above, VGEA members, staff and guest thanked Senator Louise Lucas (D-18th District) center in blue.

## It's VGEA Scholarship Time! 2014 Applications Available Now

Once again the Virginia Governmental Employees Association will award **four \$2500 scholarships** for the fall 2014 semester! [Click here](#) for the new application. Complete and return it soon as the **deadline is February 28** and **only the first 100 applications are eligible**. The application is posted on our homepage at [www.vgea.org](http://www.vgea.org) as well and will continue to be posted there for easy access.

### **Members' Grandchildren are Now Eligible!**

The rules have been expanded this year to include VGEA members' grandchildren this year, due to popular request. That means that now in order to be a scholarship recipient, you must either be **a VGEA member, a member's spouse, child, or grandchild**. Full rules and application details are listed on the application, so please simply read that for more details. If you still have questions, send them to [info@vgea.org](mailto:info@vgea.org). Thanks and best of luck to all applicants!

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