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# eNews

## Legislative Report

An electronic newsletter for members and friends of  
**The Virginia Governmental Employees Association**

### In this issue:

[Apply for \\$10,000 in Scholarships](#)

[Pending bills](#)

[VGEA Legislative Agenda](#)

[VGEA working for raise](#)

[Heartfelt letters](#)

### VGEA provides \$10,000 annually in Scholarships!

The new 2017 VGEA Scholarship applications are now available on the website at [vgea.org](http://vgea.org)!

If you've been a VGEA member for one year, you are eligible, as well as your spouse, children and grandchildren.

**Hurry! Deadline is February 3, 2017.** Do not miss this opportunity to boost your education! There are four \$2,500 scholarships available and only the first 100 applications will be considered.

### VGEA Pending Bill List

Every year the VGEA has provided an exhaustive list of relevant bills in every legislative issue.

This time we will try something a bit different and print only the top six bills in each *eNews Legislative Report* and publish the entire list on the VGEA website. Please [click here](#) to peruse all the bills and see the top five bills/issues below:

### Legislative Day: VGEA continues to work for state employee raise



Legislative Day was last Monday. Pictured are VGEA Board Members Terry Braddock (left) and Rick Fowler (right) with Cecilia Caruso and Delegate Charles Poindexter (R-Glade Hill). Delegate Poindexter serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Compensation and Retirement Subcommittee.

Last month when Virginia **Governor Terry McAuliffe unveiled his proposed amendments** to the 2016-2018 biennium budget the VGEA Lobbying Team was disappointed. For state employees, the Governor proposed (at a joint meeting of the General Assembly's money committees) a **1.5 percent bonus to be awarded on December 1, 2017**. This would replace the 3 percent across-the-board base pay raise for state employees that was approved by the 2016 General Assembly but was contingent upon the state meeting specified revenue collection goals, which weren't met, so the raise was cancelled.

The Governor's proposed bonus would be funded from several identified *one-time revenue sources* and therefore would not be contingent on meeting regular revenue collection projections.

The VGEA says a bonus is not sufficient. "A bonus spends the same as a raise, but there are several reasons a salary increase is better," says Executive Director Ron Jordan, "The most important fact for many is that **the amount of your monthly retirement check is based upon your last three or five years' salary**, depending which retirement