



News this issue:

Upcoming VGEA Meetings

Budget, Bills Finalized

Roth IRAs 4.5%

Identity Theft Protection

Raises Finalized!

April 17, 2015



**VGEA
Regional
Meetings**
You are invited!

*RSVP today to
info@vgea.org*

April 23 - Southwest Virginia Regional Meeting - 6 p.m. at JJ's Restaurant and Sports Bar, 115 Charwood Dr., Abingdon, Va. (276) 525-4999.

April 27 - Northern Virginia Regional Meeting - 6 p.m. at the Olive Garden Restaurant, 14405 Gideon Dr., Woodbridge, Va. (Potomac Mills). (703) 491-3131.

Bills Finalized, Veto Session Completed for 2015 Assembly

By the end of today, the General Assembly's Veto Session will have come to a close and the legislator's will have come to an agreement over the Ethics Bill. With that last remaining issue settled, all the **2015 Budget Amendments and Bills will be finalized**. That means **sweeping positive changes for active state employee compensation packages** as well as **retiree benefits** will go into effect for only the second time in the past eight years. Without the consistent and committed lobbying work of the VGEA, these amendments would not have passed.

The final State Budget includes:

- A **2 percent across the board salary increase for active employees in August 2015**
- A **\$65 per year of continuous service compression raise** for active State employees with five to 30 years of service, **plus an \$80 per year increase for State Police Officers**.
- An additional **2 percent salary increase** for 19

May 21 - Far South-west Virginia Regional Meeting - 6 p.m. at the Magnolia Kitchen, 921 Park Ave. Northwest, Norton, Va., (276) 679-0300.

June 6 - SPRING SUMMIT Meeting - 8:30 a.m. Hilton Garden Inn, 4500 South Peak Blvd., Roanoke, Va.
Confirmed speakers: Secretary of Administration Nancy Rodrigues; DHRM Director Sara Wilson; and VRS Acting Director Patricia Bishop.

July 23 - Southside Regional Meeting - 6 p.m. at O'Kelly's, 1055 Piney Forest Rd., Danville, Va. (434) 836-7970.

August 20 - Shenandoah Regional Meeting - 6 p.m. at the Frontier Culture Museum, 1290 Richmond Rd., Staunton, Va. (540) 332-7850.

September 12 - VGEA ANNUAL MEETING:
 The DoubleTree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond (Midlothian), Va., 804-379-3800.

high turnover state job classifications. As identified in the Amendment they are: Law Enforcement Officer I; Direct Service Associate I; Direct Service Associate II; Direct Service Associate III; Housekeeping and/or Apparel Worker I; Probation Officer Assistant; Emergency Coordinator I; Emergency Coordinator II; Registered Nurse I; Registered Nurse II; Nurse Practitioner I/Physician's Assistant; Licensed Practical Nurse; Therapy Assistant/Therapist I; Therapist II; Compliance/Safety Officer II; District Court Deputy Clerk, Grade 6; District Court Deputy Clerk, Grade 7; and District Court Deputy Clerk, Grade 8

- A **\$1,000 increase for Department of Corrections officers**
- A **2.5 percent salary increase for university and college faculty**
- An **increase in the VRS employer contribution** to reach 90 percent of the actuarially established rates
- A **rollback of proposed increases in the State Health Insurance Fund deductibles and co-payments**, restoration of HIF interest earnings, and restoration of long-term care tax credits
- The Bill passed **establishing a Life Insurance payout minimum of \$8,000** for 30-year plus state retirees so that their beneficiaries will have at least enough for their funerals

Go back to the latest *ForeSight* under News and Events on vgea.org and read the VGEA Legislative Priorities. You'll see we did pretty well at reaching and surpassing our goals - but you'll also be reminded that it'll take more than one year to catch State employees up with the private sector. These increases are a nice start, but we'll need to work on this again next year!

Thank you for your support of the VGEA! Spread the word about how we advocate with legislators on behalf of state employees and retirees. We get results and we are stronger with you!

Supplemental Health Insurance and Investments from VGEA Partner

**October
15 - Tidewater
Regional Meeting** - 6
p.m. Olive Garden -
near Greenbrier Mall,
1631 Ring Rd.,
Chesapeake, Va.
(757)424-4758.



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**Membership
Questions?**

Contact us:

info@vgea.org

VGEA Office:

804-355-3120
or toll free in Virginia:
877-302-7146

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Roth IRAs Still Paying 4.5 Percent

The VGEA strives to bring its members the very best benefits and discounts to make membership pay off in direct ways as well as by advocacy. We like for you to be able to save money on your insurance and investments too.

If you are concerned about being sick and not being able to work, to help your loved ones pay outstanding expenses if you suffer an untimely death or need help to pay out-of-pocket expenses if you are diagnosed with major health issues, have an accident or illness - then you should consider purchasing Supplemental Health Insurance.

If you need advice about Retirement Investments or Supplemental Health Insurance, call VGEA partner **Charlie O'Connor 804-339-7039** or email him at **charlie.oconnor82@yahoo.com**.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

LegalShield's new Identity Theft Plan is designed to make comprehensive protection for the entire family more affordable. The plan includes one of the industry's most robust identity theft restoration services.

VGEA's partnership with the Peak Performance Group offers members a unique identity theft protection service through Kroll Advisory Solutions, a leading consulting company in identity theft restoration. Licensed Investigators will perform comprehensive restoration services using a limited power of attorney, along with access to private resources using specialized credentials held by Kroll, for as long as it take to restore your identity to pre-theft status.

Being Part of a Data Breach

It seems we are receiving more notices that our personal data has been exposed in a data breach. It is cause for concern, however it doesn't mean you are a victim of identity theft. It does mean that someone without authority accessed your information. It's not something you should take lightly.

Breach notifications often do bring with them an offer of an identity theft product for 12 or 24 months, so some may think that's all they need to be best protected. However, the best response is to have a product in place proactively, to be in the best position to detect and then, if necessary, respond to an event involving personal identifiers.

It's also imperative to note that any restoration service available through an offer from the breached entity may apply ONLY to a matter connected to the breach event itself and may be limited in scope.

To learn more about how you can protect yourself and your family against the growing threat of identity theft, contact:

Peak Performance Group
804-205-5180
877-588-9961
info@ppgsolutions.com

Be sure to tell them you are a VGEA Member!



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