



Engaging Millennials Takes Priority in Anniversary Year

Dear Members,

Next year, the Virginia Government Employees Association will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Our priorities of compensation, healthcare, workplace protections and retirement benefits issues will remain in the anniversary year but with a renewed emphasis on recruitment of new members. We intend to work especially hard on finding ways to help our millennial employees learn how to engage the government and advocate for the policies and benefits they desire.

Having said that, we are pleased to announce organizational moves that will help strengthen our ability to provide a voice to Virginia state employees and retirees. KVCF Solutions, a Richmond-based government relations consulting firm, has been retained to lead our lobbying efforts. Rick L. Fowler, will work with the KVCF team of Lynwood Butner, Steve Baril and Dylan Bishop at the General Assembly next year. Meet our legislative team:



Rick Fowler has been a VGEA member for 32 years. He joined the organization during his first year of employment and serves on our board of directors. As a recent retiree from the Division of Child Support Enforcement - Danville District Office, he presides over the VGEA's Southside Chapter, our largest with 74 members. During his tenure, Rick has cultivated a strong relationship with his region's legislative representatives.



Lynwood Butner has nearly 50 years of experience in and around Virginia government. For 30 years he served with the Virginia Department of Transportation, including time as State Traffic Engineer responsible for all traffic operations in the Commonwealth. Since his retirement from State government, Lynwood has worked as vice president of a successful government relations and association management firm.

Steve Baril has been actively engaged in Virginia politics and the Richmond business community his entire career. He was appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to serve as co-chair of his Jobs Commission's New Business Recruitment and Retention committee. Gov. Jim Gilmore appointed him to serve on the Criminal Justice Services Board. Steve is listed consistently among Best Lawyers in America, as well as among Virginia's Super Lawyers and Legal Elite.



While attending law school at the University of Richmond, **Dylan Bishop** worked as a legislative policy analyst for the Department of Motor Vehicles. He was awarded the Commonwealth's Pinnacle Award for his work in crafting the regulatory framework for companies like Uber and Lyft. Dylan then represented employee and trade associations before the Virginia General Assembly before he was recruited to serve as a legislative aide for Sen. Bill Carrico.

We welcome our new lobbying team. I look forward to working with them and with all of you in the coming year. If you have questions or need information, please give me a call or send me a note. My contact information is below.

Yours truly,

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