



## **OUTSTANDING CHAPTER ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH**

The Virginia Association of Governmental Purchasing (VAGP), the largest chapter of NIGP, is committed to advocating for our members and the profession. VAGP, along with other national and international purchasing associations, recognize the month of March as "Purchasing Month". The goal of this important recognition is to raise public awareness and support of the Purchasing and Materials Management profession's role in public procurement to governmental officials, the general public, business and corporate leaders, academia and the media.

Purchasing Month is an opportunity for public agencies and their procurement professionals to help raise public awareness through accomplishments, planning activities, and holding special events. This year, like years past, VAGP received a Proclamation from Governor Northam, recognizing March as Purchasing Month. (See attached – attach link).

As a part of this submission, VAGP is proud to present two programs which we believe speak to our advocacy on behalf of our membership as well as outreach to our members.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

VAGP has consistently been in a leader in the Commonwealth in advocating on behalf of Procurement professionals with active participation in the legislative affairs relative to the Virginia Public Procurement Act. VAGP current retains a legislative consultant on behalf of the association to coordinate these efforts in conjunction with the active participants of the legislative committee.

Each year, the VAGP Legislative Committee tracks several bills through the General Assembly, advising the VAGP Board of Directors and informing members of those bills enacted into law.

To increase our awareness of proposed legislation, the Committee has developed a partnership with the Virginia Municipal League to participate in the process of addressing procurement-related legislative issues before they are brought before the Assembly. Likewise, we endeavor to increase the awareness of legislators in the House and Senate regarding the professionalism with which public procurement is accomplished in Virginia.

### **A RESOURCE FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS**

- Each legislative session, VAGP monitors all bills introduced, assesses the anticipated impact, and takes a position.
- The legislative positions are posted in the File Repository as a resource for all members.
- VAGP leaders are available to testify at hearings.
- VAGP is available for professional consultation, representing the collective membership. We represent all public purchasers and seek to establish the best procurement laws. We have a shared objective of open and fair competitive procurement policies.
- VAGP is also available to conduct research on the effect of contemplated changes to the procurement code.

## **LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES**

In anticipation of the legislative sessions each year, VAGP leadership compiles a list of legislative priorities. VAGP supports principles of:

- Obtaining high quality goods and services at a reasonable cost.
- Conducting all procurement transactions in a fair and impartial manner.
- Providing all qualified vendors with access to public business.
- Seeking competition to the maximum degree feasible.
- Establishing procurement procedures that involve openness and administrative efficiency.
- Allowing individual public bodies to enjoy broad flexibility in fashioning details of the competition.
- Establishing, in advance of the competition, clear rules that govern contract awards.
- Developing specifications that reflect the procurement needs of the purchasing body.
- Allowing the purchaser and the vendor to freely exchange information concerning what is to be procured and what is offered.

Through the efforts of the Legislative Committee and the legislative consultant, VAGP has been very successful in increasing awareness of legislators in the House and Senate regarding procurement issues and changes to laws and the effects it has on public procurement professionals. VAGP has been tasked by the Governors office, by the Department of General Services, to be part of a task group to address changes in procurement laws and processes and plays an active role across the Commonwealth in addressing proposed changes on behalf of its members. VAGP is recognized by legislators in the General Assembly as strong professionals and they are appreciative of the process in which public procurement is accomplished in Virginia.

Through VAGP's strong legislative approach and interaction with members of the General Assembly, the association has been very successful in defining new laws and assuring that their voice is heard. VAGP participates in direct meetings with legislators and the "Day on the Hill" each year in conjunction with the retain Legislative Consultant. Bill Hefty, with Hefty Wiley & Gore, is the retained legislative consultant and through his retainer with VAGP, he provided yearly updates to the Legislative committee as well as the membership. They also participate in the yearly legislative update webinar after bills are put to law effective July 1 of each year. The exceptional guidance offered by the consultant, who is was instrumental in developing and making changes to the VPPA, has been a great asset to the membership and the profession overall.

## **CHAPTER AMBASSADORS**

VAGP's Ambassadors program serves as an avenue to enhance communication, networking and information about VAGP to our members throughout the nine different zones across the state that might not otherwise have access. Ambassadors are assigned to a zone in their area, and duties may include assisting in locating hosts for events, sending email broadcasts, contacting members about VAGP special events in the area and coordinating with the VAGP Education and Pro-D Committees to provide seminars, workshops and other professional development opportunities.



**Zone 1: Gina Mobley [glmobley@fcps.edu](mailto:glmobley@fcps.edu)**

Loudoun, Fairfax, Fairfax City, City of Herndon, Town of Leesburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Fauquier, Prince William, Falls Church, Alexandria, Arlington



**Zone 2: Nicole Robertson [nicole.robertson@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:nicole.robertson@harrisonburgva.gov)**

Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Shenandoah, Page, Rockingham, Harrisonburg, Augusta, Highland, Bath Staunton, Waynesboro



**Zone 3: Vacant**

Rappahannock, Culpeper, Madison, Greene, Orange, Charlottesville, Albemarle, Louisa, Fluvanna



**Zone 4: Charity L. Hooper, VCM/O, VCCO, CPPB, CSM  
[chooper@staffordcountyva.gov](mailto:chooper@staffordcountyva.gov)**

Stafford, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline, Westmoreland, Essex, Richmond County, Northumberland, Lancaster, King and Queen



**Zone 5: Tonya Joyner [TAJoyner@vbgov.com](mailto:TAJoyner@vbgov.com)**

Accomack, Northampton, Mathews, Middlesex, Gloucester, James City County, York County, Williamsburg, Surry, Poquoson, Hampton, Portsmouth Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Isle of Wright, Franklin, Southampton, Greensville, Emporia, Sussex, Newport News



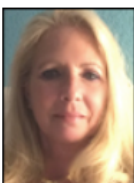
**Zone 6: Kelly McClurg [mcclurgk@chesterfield.gov](mailto:mcclurgk@chesterfield.gov)**

King William, New Kent, Charles City, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Petersburg, Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Amelia, Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Chesterfield, Henrico, Richmond, Powhatan, Goochland, Hanover



**Zone 7: Melissa Tillman [melissa.tillman@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:melissa.tillman@lynchburgva.gov)**

Nelson, Buckingham, Cumberland, Prince Edward, Charlotte, Halifax, Danville, Pittsylvania, Campbell, Appomattox, Lynchburg, Amherst



**Zone 8: Dawn Rago, VCA [drago@roanokecountyva.gov](mailto:drago@roanokecountyva.gov)**

Rockbridge, Buena Vista, Lexington, Bedford, Franklin, Henry, Martinsville, Patrick, Galax, Carroll, Floyd, Pulaski, Radford, Giles, Montgomery, Roanoke, Salem, Roanoke City, Craig, Botetourt, Alleghany, Covington



**Zone 9: Kimberly Robinette [krobinette@bvua.com](mailto:krobinette@bvua.com)**

Bland, Wythe, Grayson, Smyth, Washington, Bristol, Scott, Lee, Wise, Norton, Dickenson, Buchanan, Russell, Tazewell

The zone ambassadors are in a unique position to provide regional-specific outreach to their respected zones while also serving as a representative on behalf of the regions to the VAGP Board. Ambassadors are positioned to support the various VAGP committees in their mission to grow membership as well as further educational offerings to members and non-members alike. Chapter Ambassadors foster collaborative relationship and communicate information and solicit feedback from the zones. The overarching VAGP mission is, “To elevate Public Procurement by supporting professionals and the entities they serve.” The association exists to serve its members and their entities, so it is important to ensure we are meeting their needs, whether it be through training opportunities, networking, supplier events, and everything in between. The VAGP Zone Ambassadors can:

- **Leverage their connections and relationships** with public procurement professionals in their respective regions to communicate news, share training opportunities, host events and reach out to potential new members as a local, familiar face.
- **Help locate potential event hosts and/or spaces.** Being more familiar with their zone and the local facilities can help in establishing a location and potential host agency for VAGP training and conference events.
- **Facilitate training opportunities locally to save agencies time and money.** Access to educational opportunities can be a major hurdle for smaller agencies or agencies located in a sparsely populated area. Ambassadors help seek out hosts for VAGP and NIGP classes, often hosting classes themselves at their agency.
- **Serve as a link between VAGP members and the VAGP Board or Committees.** Having an advocate for a local region can make members feel comfortable in communicating their issues or needs; likewise, Ambassadors serve the VAGP Board by being a representative to their region, making it easier to relay information to the membership, garner participation, aid in outreach and address concerns that arise.
- **Facilitate networking events in their region.** Group discussions, relationship-building, idea-sharing are all key parts of growing as an individual and growing in your career. Members may be more likely to participate in events that are available locally and take less time away from the workday to attend.

The Chapter Ambassador Program has been a great asset to the membership and provides additional personal correspondence by region to our members. It is the intent of each zone to be able to work to collaborate in their zones, ensuring members can benefit from the expertise and knowledge of their peers. While this program is in addition to the Board defined committees and considered a special workgroup, VAGP recently provided a board manual update inclusive of the intent and mission of this group, clearly defining the responsibilities and benefits of this group. Each year, the Ambassadors program seeks out volunteers to represent the chapter within the zones across the Commonwealth. There are currently seven zones in Virginia and the Chapter Ambassador Manual provide additional information on the program can be found [here](#).