



Visit Site

May 2021 VLGMA eNews

Mester's Message



As I write this article we are experiencing adequate COVID-19 testing and vaccines as well as experiencing the lessening of pandemic restrictions by the CDC and Virginia. Now to continue working together for community herd immunity. Certainly not at the end of the tunnel but daylight is more visible. Local Government, each of us, have been vital in reaching this stage of the pandemic and continuing import public services throughout. This is an amazing, as the say once in a generation, accomplishment. It is the embodiment of the John F. Kennedy quote: “Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.” And try our VLGMA members did!

We can now continue to move from rescue to recovery. We are all awaiting the allocations and guidance for the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) local funding necessary to facilitate pandemic health and economic recovery for our citizens and businesses. Deploying these funds will require a balance of speed and deliberative community engagement to tailor the spending plans for each of our localities needs, vision, values and equity as well as complying with U.S. Treasury Guidance, Presidential Executive Orders, federal single audit, VA Procurement Act, locality policy, etc.

This can be a challenging balance but in recently reading the special edition of the LIFE magazine on [Anne Frank: Her Life and Her Legacy](#) a quote gave me focus on what is important:

“The lessons of Anne Frank’s life are more important than ever. We would all so well to remember the wisdom of a young girl who taught us that we are diminished when any person suffers unfairly because of who he or she is—that our differences make life more interesting, but our common humanity matters much more.”

[former President Bill Clinton, LIFE, April 2021]

Our common humanity will get us through this pandemic.

During May let’s continue our local, regional and statewide collaboration within the VLGMA framework of **V=** leading with our **Vision, Values** and **L=** for delivering strong community-based and collaborative **Leadership**. Our commitment to the best interests and dignity of people is reinforced in three Code of Ethics tenets to ponder this month:

Tenet 2. Affirm the dignity and worth of local government services and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.*

Tenet 4. Serve the best interests of the people.*

Tenet 5. Submit policy proposals to elected officials; provide them with facts, and technical and professional advice about policy options; and collaborate with them in setting goals for the community and organization.

*review associated Guidelines at: <https://icma.org/icma-code-ethics>

As in past articles let's continue to connect these tenets to the Declaration of Ideals (adopted in the early 1980s, <https://icma.org/declaration-ideals>). Of the eleven ideals two are aligned with the above tenets:

Ideal 4. Seek balance in the policy formation process through the integration of the social, cultural, and physical characteristics of the community.

Ideal 7. Promote a balance between the needs to use and to preserve human, economic, and natural resources.

To translate these tenets and ideals into the intersection of our professional and personal roles can you answer "yes" to these questions even when hard to balance the day to day work requirements and pandemic mitigation responsibilities? Consider:

1. Have you and the governing body established the next phases of COVID-19 recovery?
2. Have you and your governing body established service and financial guiding principles for deploying the ARPA funding?
3. Have you established a cross-functional team to develop the spending plan? What is the community engagement component?

We are not alone in this stage of health and economic recovery. So in turning questions into Action, below are some great national, state and regional partners as well as COVID-19 resources to utilize:

- U.S. Treasury COVID-19 new webpage with option to receive update emails: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus>
- ICMA: <https://icma.org/coronavirus-crisis-response>
- VLGMA: <https://www.vlgma.org/>
- DAO April presentations on Economic Development Post Pandemic: <https://www.vlgma.org/dao>
- **"Reconnect, Refresh and Recharge"** Summer June 16-18th Conference: <https://www.vlgmavirtualconferences.com/>
- Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA): <https://www.gfoa.org/coronavirus>
- VGFOA: <https://www.vgfoa.org/>
- National Association of Counties (NACo): <https://www.naco.org/covid-19-recovery-clearinghouse>
- VACo: <https://www.vaco.org/>
- National League of Cities (NLC): <https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/>
- VML: <https://www.vml.org/coronavirus-resources/>
- Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions: <https://www.vapdc.org/>
- Local Government Finance Network (hosted by VT, bi-weekly meetings): <https://spia.vt.edu/leadership-development/localgovcovid19.html>

So as we work together to through the pandemic tunnel it matters how we do our ethical work so keep in mind:

"Your smile is your logo,
Your personality is your business card,
And the way you make others feels is your trademark"
[attribution: Unknown]

Please join me in welcoming our new VLGMA members Charles Yudd, Deputy County Administrator, County of Loudoun; Barbara Horlacher, Deputy County Administrator for Administration, County of Goochland; Jo Ann Hunter, Deputy County Administrator for Comm & Econ Development & Public Utilities, County of Goochland; Tonya O'Connell, Assistant City Manager, City of Poquoson; Shawn Simmons, Division Chief, County of King George and Crystal Cureton, Benefits Program Specialist II, Grayson County DSS.

Looking forward to "seeing" you all at the summer conference as we Reconnect, Refresh, Recharge! Stay safe, healthy and remain strong, Cindy

Contact Cindy Mester

Community Conversations - Broadband Access in Rural Virginia

When I served as a General Assembly legislative aide in the mid-90s, localities in Southwest Virginia banded together for an annual legislative reception. Nice dinner, open bar to attract more legislators and staff, and speeches from legislators and local mayors and board chairs over dessert.

Community Conversations - Liberty Amendments Part 2

A few months ago, the Virginia General Assembly took an extraordinary step to officially recognize a request from the Town of Vienna to establish Liberty Amendments Month beginning on June 19.

A DAO in the Life - Carol Steele, Gloucester Deputy County Administrator

When considering career choices, one may look to jobs that offer security and consistency versus professions with a changing environment where each day can be different, and you have to be quick on your feet to respond to the unknown.

Civic Engagement - We are Family

May 2021 is upon us with operations continuing under COVID protocols and VOSH guidelines during a period of transition. I'm sincerely hopeful that everyone in your personal and professional circles are healthy and safe as we work toward reopening Virginia.

Institute of Government Update

Managers and administrators, or their designees, will be receiving FY22 VIG membership renewal information from us later this month. There are no changes to the dues structure for this upcoming fiscal year.

Certificate News

Great things coming next month! Support the Certificate Program [here](#).

ICMA Update

ICMA and the International Economic Development Council are offering a FEMA-certified "Planning for Economic Recovery" course for leaders of cities, counties, and economic development organizations in the Southeast on May 20, 2021.

VRSA - 2021 Virginia General Assembly - Freedom of Information Act Recap

Numerous amendments have been made over the 50 years plus since the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was introduced. During the 2021 Virginia General Assembly, more than 1,476 pieces of legislation were considered.

Fountain of Youth

Oh, how we grip so desperately
to memories of yore
and a form whose edges are gently
or vigorously worn.
But even as the surface appears
scarred and used,
our spirit glistens with the perpetual
glow of youth.

Change brings decay if resisted
and despised
while acceptance opens fresh eyes.
Flow with what is and simply see
the timeless essence of
our fundamental being.



Position Changes And Other Events

Overview · Membership · Resources · News · Events · Sponsors · ICMA

Contact Us



UVA Cooper Center | P.O. Box 400206, Charlottesville, VA 22904

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by mjh3a@virginia.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!