

September 2023 VLGMA eNews

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Pat's PEACE

Well, this is an article that I did not think I would have to write. If you have not heard, I have accepted the position of City Manager for the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. As many of you know, it is often difficult to know when it is the right time to leave a position and to take on a new chapter in life. My family is from North Carolina and I worked for many years in the Triad area which were both factors impacting my decision.



Senior Moments



Got problems? The Seniors have solutions!
Send in your questions to the Seniors
at seniormomentsvlgma@gmail.com. All
questions and comments shall remain
anonymous.

Dear Seniors,
I am a manager in transition to a new gig,
and I already have my work cut out for
me. As excited as I am to go to a great new
place, there is an internal candidate who
did not get chosen, and has been pretty
vocal about their dissatisfaction in the
decision. It has become a public scene,
with the candidate criticizing the
governing body openly, and local groups
weighing in. What advice do you have for
me as I begin this new gig and start these
new relationships?



Austin City Limits: Update from The Virginia Institute of Government

The VIG team is looking forward to seeing you at the ICMA annual conference in Austin. Please stop by and chat with us at our booth in the exhibition hall between sessions. The Virginia (VLGMA) reception is scheduled for Monday (Oct. 2) from 6-9PM on the covered rooftop bar at the Iron Cactus (606 Trinity Street). During the reception, VLGMA

will be honoring Bob O'Neill and Kim Payne. They have both been selected as recipients of the ICMA Distinguished Service Award this year!



The Certificate Program



The Certificate program is excited to start our Fall semester the week of August 21st! Thank you to Sara McGuffin, Anthony Romanello, and our newest adjunct instructor Joe Casey for teaching this semester. We welcomed 24 students in our Fall classes from all over the State including Town of Wytheville, Henrico County, VACO, Carroll County, City of Salem, Orange County, Bedford County, Stafford County, and Amherst County. A significant number of the students are receiving financial assistance through the Bob Stripling/VLGMA Scholarship fund.

The Spring semester deadline to apply is January 1, 2024, and the Certificate will hold three information sessions for prospective students.



DAO Fall Meeting: Registration Open



Save the Date for the next VLGMA Deputies, Assistants, and Others (DAO) meeting on Friday, October 6th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The meeting will be held in-person and hosted by the Town of Rocky Mount. There will be a nominal fee of \$10 to participate. The registration deadline is: September 25th.



The Power of Gentleness

Gentleness gets submerged in society's competitive stance
but only recessed until given the chance
to defuse aggressiveness with love's light.
A candle glow can pierce the darkest night.

A gentle heart intuitively sees
when a simple hug can fulfill a deep need.
Shining with kindness and nobility,
no one is immune to its effervescent beauty.

Life's fabric softener with its compassionate touch,
relaxing the impetus to join the frantic rush.

This gentle silence that subliminally calms
is, for us all, a healing balm.



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