

March 2022 VLGMA eNews

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Craig's Corner

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Are We Doing Enough?

It was wonderful to see many of you in Staunton at our winter conference week before last. I want to extend a very special thanks to Matt Lawless and Angela Lawrence for putting together a great conference agenda – our sessions were very well attended, and I heard many positive comments about the sessions and the venue. I hope you found several “nuggets” of inspiration you could take back with you to your communities, and I hope you also found time to “relax, refresh, and recharge” from the daily routine of the office. For those of you who were unable to attend, I hope you will make plans to join us for the VLGMA annual conference, to be held June 8-10 in Virginia Beach – details to follow soon!

2022 VLGMA Nominations: Looking for VLGMA Leaders who Give and Take

As the VLGMA Immediate Past-President I am honored to serve as the chair of the 2022 Nominating Committee. I encourage all of you to be engaged in this process, to advocate for yourself or prompt others you feel are worthy. We are seeking nominations for the Secretary Officer role as well as six Executive Board Members by May 1. Read on to learn more about responsibilities, time commitment, qualifications and how to apply. It is time to step up and give back to our local government professional association as well as receive even more great networking and professional development value.

A DAO in the Life

By Mike Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communication

As I'm sure nearly every local municipality across the state has been doing the past few months, the City Manager's Office staff with the City of Harrisonburg have spent a lot of time considering how best to engage with our public regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It was immediately clear to us that a traditional communications and engagement plan like we would utilize for many of the smaller projects we undertake would not be sufficient. Such a plan would run the risk of not creating the buy-in we desired to ensure as many of our residents as possible felt they had a say in determining how this once-in-a-lifetime infusion of funds would craft our community's future.

2022 VLGMA Winter Conference Recap

by Matt Lawless, Town of Scottsville Administrator

It's the Tuesday morning after a long holiday weekend and an inspiring conference! I hope everyone who attended feels the same focus, energy, and dedication that I do. A good VLGMA conference gives us ideas, inspiration, and connections to help us in our work.

United States Attorney's Office's Americans With Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Coordinator

The United States Attorney's Office office issued a Dear Colleagues Letter reminding state and local governmental entities that if they have 50 or more employees, they are required to have an

Americans With Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Coordinator. There is an informational meeting on March 15, 2022, at 2 pm. Please see the links below for the letter and other important information.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/united-states-attorney-s-office-reminds-state-and-local-government-agencies-designate>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edva/press-release/file/1469141/download>

Caterpillar Courage

My caterpillar friend is off on a retreat.
She is tired of walking on so many confused feet.
She told me it was time
to leave all her fears, beliefs, judgments, and expectations behind
and in the empty silence of her soul,
let go.

She is very brave indeed
to surrender her identity.
The awakening Light can only mean
the end of her caterpillar dream.



Position Changes And Other Events

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