

Update

January 16, 2004

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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**Legislative Day
Feb. 12**

General Assembly 2004

Chichester offers plan; car tax would be replaced

Senate Finance Committee Chairman John H. Chichester wants to generate about \$1.1 billion annually in new revenue to pay for core government services and to protect the state's triple-A bond rating. In doing so, Chichester would increase some taxes and lower others.

Included in the senator's plan is a proposal to eliminate the car tax entirely on the first \$20,000 of a personal vehicle's worth. Chichester would reimburse localities their 100 percent share by converting a portion of the sales and use tax to a dedicated local revenue source. The sales tax would jump from 4.5 cents on the dollar to 5.5 cents. Beginning in tax year 2005, 1.5 cents of the tax rate would be dedicated to this program – generating about \$1.4 billion.

According to Chichester, the additional state funding generated by his overall plan

would “reduce pressure on local real estate taxes.” Specifically, the state money would be used for:

- replenishing the Rainy Day Fund with \$500 million in the next biennium;
- appropriating approximately \$650 million in the next biennium to pay for increased Standards of Quality costs (this amount appears to supplement the cost to re-benchmark the SOQs);
- dedicating \$400 million over the biennium to avoid dramatic budget cuts to core services (it appears that a portion of this funding will be dedicated to Medicaid);
- increasing funding for higher education by approximately \$100 million annually;
- eliminating the state's critical waiting list for mental retardation services with an additional \$22 million annually;

Continued on page 2

VML Legislative Committee urges modernization of tax system during 2004 General Assembly

The Virginia Municipal League's 24-member Legislative Committee called on the General Assembly and governor Jan. 9 to adopt a modern tax system that taps Virginia's 21st century economy in order to provide significant additional revenues for basic services.

The committee members voted unanimously to adopt a set of principles that it believes should guide state leaders during the upcoming debates over the next biennial budget and tax reform. The 2004 session of the General Assembly convened Wednesday, Jan. 14. The VML Legislative Committee, which met in Richmond, urged the commonwealth to:

• Meet its commitment to fund mandatory basic services, such as K-12 education, by appropriating additional state revenue; enacting practical and fair reforms of state taxes that in totality provide significant additional revenues; stabilizing its financial structure; retaining its triple-A bond rating; and protecting local taxing authority for cities, counties and towns.

The committee cited the failure of the state to pay its fair share of core services as rationale for adopting its position. In particular, the committee said that the state:

- Transfers money from existing programs to pay for mandated services, espe-

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FROM THE CAPITOL**General Assembly 2004****Chichester plan continued ...**

- requiring annual deposits of \$15 million to both the Water Quality Improvement Fund and the Virginia Land Conservation Fund; and
- investing more than \$725 million annually in transportation.

General tax increases would total \$1.2 billion annually. They would include:

- increasing the state sales and use tax by 1 percent to 5.5 percent – \$833 million;
- establishing new upper income tax brackets for those earning more than \$100,000 and \$150,000 – \$285 million;
- reducing the age deductions for seniors – \$96 million; and
- eliminating specific corporate tax loopholes – \$35 million.

Additional revenue is generated annually by:

- converting the current 0.5 percent of the sales and use tax dedicated to transportation to the state's General Fund – \$356 million;
- supporting proposed transportation investments with increases in various

transportation user fees, including raising the gas tax by 3 cents to 20.5 cents per gallon, applying the sales and use tax of 5.5 percent to the untaxed price of gas, increasing the motor vehicles sales and use tax and increasing the DMV registration fee – \$725 million in net new funding for transportation;

- increasing the state recordation-recording fee by 30 cents. In the next biennium this revenue is dedicated to the Rainy Day Fund, but beginning in FY 2007 the revenue is dedicated to transportation – \$30 million; and

- increasing the state's cigarette tax by 32 cents per pack to 35 cents – \$224 million.

The Chichester plan would permit localities to tax cigarettes at a capped rate of 55 cents per pack.

General tax relief would total \$1.2 billion annually, including:

- reducing the sales tax on food from 4 cents to 2 cents – (\$225 million);
- eliminating the car tax for vehicles valued up to \$20,000, effective tax year 2005 – (\$565 million is the incremental

cost to go from the current 70 percent reimbursement to 100 percent reimbursement; the total annual cost in FY 2005 equals \$1.4 billion);

- increasing personal exemptions – (\$56 million);
- reducing the tax burden on low income earners – (\$115 million);
- eliminating the estate tax – (\$113 million); and
- eliminating the accelerated sales tax on Virginia's businesses – (\$181 million in FY05 only).

In unveiling his plan, Chichester stated:

"If promises that have already been made are left unfunded, we are obligating future revenue before it is received, thereby crowding out funding choices that may need to be made down the road."

VML's summary of Gov. Mark R. Warner's tax plan is printed in the Dec. 5, 2003 edition of *Update*: <http://www.vml.org/UP/UPDec0503.html#coverst1>. ❖

AT THE LEAGUE**VML Legislative Committee continued ...**

cially K-12 education, and calls these transfers an increase in revenues; cuts funds for core programs, including public safety, Community Services Boards, jails and other Compensation Board funding; fails to provide sufficient transportation funding; and restricts local taxing authority, which makes local governments overly reliant on the real estate tax to fund K-12 education and other basic services.

In addition, the committee noted that buttressing the state's general fund would protect mandated services, such as education, from ruinous cuts. Further, the committee pointed out that the state bond rating affects local and state economic activity, including the ability to attract and retain businesses. It directly affects the ability of local governments to borrow at affordable rates to pay for basic infrastructure.

"Virginia's communities need long-term financial security to prosper," said Bristol Mayor Jerry A. Wolfe, who is chairman of the VML Legislative Committee. "Insufficient state funding for mandated services forces local leaders to raise local taxes. Without meaningful change at the state level, local governments will continue paying both their share and some of the state's share for basic, mandatory government services."

In adopting its position, the legislative committee observed that:

"Virginia's local governments are the engines of economic opportunity. How cities, counties and towns provide for the next generation will determine Virginia's ability to compete in a global economy defined by knowledge, information and human capital.

"A modern tax system must provide:

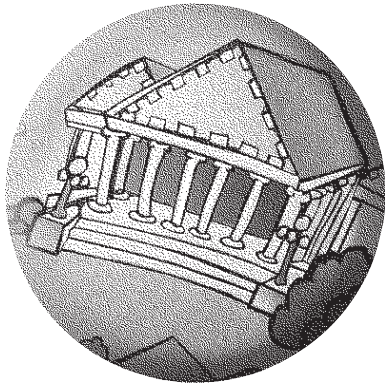
long-term stability, equity, ease of administration, strategic economic investments in the future, and sufficient local revenue raising authority for local governments to be accountable and for local governments to provide basic services and incentives to create and enhance the wealth of the community."

The 24-member Legislative Committee also developed VML's 2004 Legislative Program, with the help of more than 175 local officials who participated in the policy process. The program was ratified by the VML membership at the league's annual business meeting in Roanoke on Oct. 21. The league's top legislative priority encourages the state to increase funding for K-12 education by restructuring the state's tax system. To read a copy of the entire VML Legislative Program, visit the "What's New" page of VML's Web site at: www.vml.org. ❖

FROM THE CAPITOL

General Assembly 2004

General Assembly convenes



The 2004 General Assembly session convened on Wednesday at noon. While legislators will grapple with thousands of bills during the scheduled 60-day session, tax reform and the state budget will be center stage.

Gov. Mark R. Warner delivered his State of the Commonwealth speech Wednesday night. Legislators were able to pre-file an unlimited number of bills and resolutions, provided that drafting requests for pre-filed legislation were submitted to the Division of Legislative Services by Dec. 8. The legislation must have been introduced by 10 a.m. Wednesday to qualify for "pre-filed" status. Delegates will not be able to file more than five bills and resolutions after those deadlines; senators will be limited to eight.

Key dates during the legislative session are listed below (subject to General Assembly approval):

Jan. 14: Last day for members to introduce pre-filed legislation and last day for members to introduce first-day introduction bills (property tax exemptions, study bills or resolutions, charter bills, Virginia Retirement System bills, bills with state or local correctional impact)

Jan. 16: Last day for members to request drafts and corrections of bills or resolutions.

Jan. 23: Last day to file bills and resolutions

Jan. 29: VRS fiscal impact statements due.

Feb. 12: VML/VACo Legislative Day

Feb. 17: Cross-over; each house finishes work on its own legislation, except for budget bill.

Feb. 22: Committees responsible for budget bill(s) to complete work by midnight

Feb. 26: Each house complete work on its budget bill.

March 3: Each house to act on budget bill of the other house; budget conferees appointed by midnight.

March 8: Last day for committee action.

March 11: Budget bill conference report due; last day to put bills in conference.

March 13: Adjourn sine die

April 21: Reconvened (veto) session

Dec. 9: Last day for committees to act on carry over legislation ♦

Increased state role in improving failing schools proposed

The Virginia Board of Education wants to expand its authority to compel uncooperative school divisions to implement plans to improve instruction and raise student achievement.

The board voted Jan. 7 to pursue legislation during the 2004 General Assembly session that would increase its authority to have a court order an uncooperative school division to take remedial steps the board feels are necessary.

"At the heart of this proposal are children who are trapped in a handful of school divisions that, either because of intransigence or ineffective leadership, are denying their students a quality education," board President Thomas M. Jackson Jr. said in a press release. "The future of children should not be held captive by school divisions that have demonstrated their inability to accept and implement reform."

The legislation would require school boards to maintain schools that are fully accredited and strengthen the authority of the board and the Department of Education to conduct academic reviews of divisions with schools that are on academic warning or have been denied accreditation because of low student achievement. The division-level academic reviews would be similar to the reviews the department currently performs on schools that are on the academic warning list.

The proposal would require school divisions to develop corrective action plans to raise achievement and submit the plans for board approval. If a division failed or refused to implement a plan in a timely or satisfactory manner, the board would have the authority to petition the circuit court with jurisdiction to compel compliance and implementation.

The state constitution vests the state board with the general supervision of the public school system. It vests the local school boards with the supervision of schools within that division. There is not a constitutional or statutory provision for state takeover of local schools or divisions.

The state board is supposed to notify the attorney general when it determines that a school division has failed or refused to comply with the Standards of Quality. The attorney general then files a petition with a circuit court for a writ of mandamus directing and requiring compliance with the standards.

The board has never exercised its authority to initiate the process for the filing of a writ of mandamus. ♦

FROM THE CAPITOL

Stormwater consolidation legislation under review



Local government representatives met with staff from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to refine proposed stormwater legislation. The proposals, part of Gov. Mark R. Warner's legislative package, are designed to streamline Virginia's stormwater management programs and reduce duplication. The proposed legislation also expands requirements for managing both the quality and quantity of stormwater in some areas.

The draft legislation consolidates state stormwater programs related to construction and post-construction activities within the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and transfers oversight of municipal stormwater programs from the Department of Environmental Quality to DCR. The legislation also will require Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act localities to extend stormwater quality and quantity management to their entire jurisdictions, not just the bay drainage area.

Local government representatives supported the overall concept. They

requested that implementation be phased-in, to allow local governments to better coordinate the new program with their existing budget cycles. The draft legislation called for a July 1, 2005 implementation date. They also expressed concern over how the statewide uniform permit fee would be established, and the role of the Environmental Protection Agency in local stormwater programs.

Stormwater is precipitation that is discharged across land surfaces and includes rain, snow melt and drainage. Urban stormwater runoff, regulated under the federal Clean Water Act, contains pollutants from paved streets, parking lots, rooftops and construction sites that can adversely affect water quality in streams, rivers and estuaries. Stormwater runoff from agricultural areas, also a significant source of water pollution, is exempt from these requirements.

To receive a copy of the draft legislation, contact David Dowling, DCR's policy and planning manager by e-mail at ddowling@dcr.state.va.us. ♦

Nutrient standards, policies proposed

A Notice of Intended Regulatory Action published in the Virginia Register announced the State Water Control Board's intent to consider water quality standards that would protect state waters from the effects of nutrients and sedimentation.

The rulemaking will also include "new and revised use designations for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries." The SWCB held public hearings on the issue on Jan. 7. An advisory committee is being established to work with state staff to develop the regulation. A proposal will be developed and available for public comment early this summer. For more information on bay water quality standards go to: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/wqs/rule.html#NUT1> (hit the link for Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Criteria).

The SWCB is also proposing to establish numerical limits for the discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus within the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. Late last year, Gov. Mark R. Warner directed the Department of Environmental Quality

to propose a nutrient reduction regulation for adoption by the SWCB, authorizing the inclusion of numerical nitrogen and phosphorus limits in wastewater discharge permits, based on "appropriate technology." Numerical limits for nitrogen and phosphorus that are more restrictive than the technology based numerical limits may be required.

A public hearing on this proposal is scheduled for Feb. 26 at the SWCB's Piedmont Regional Office. The notice of intent will be published in the Virginia Register on Jan. 26 and the public comment period closes March 12. An advisory committee will also be used to develop proposed regulations.

For more information on Technology-Based Effluent Limits, go to: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/bay/multi.html>. The Secretary of Natural Resources Statement on the governor's directive to DEQ is available at: <http://www.snr.state.va.us/Initiatives/TributaryStrategies/N>. ♦

ETCETERA

Students available to assist with water projects

The Virginia Water Resources Research Center's Service Training for Environmental Progress (Va. STEP) program is seeking applications from community organizations that would like assistance working on local water-related issues this summer.

Juniors, seniors, recent graduates, and graduate students from Virginia schools live and work for nine weeks in Virginia communities and assist on local water-related projects. If you can make

use of such assistance and want to find out more about the STEP program, visit the VWRRC Web site at www.vwrcc.vt.edu.

To request an application, contact Alan Raflo, STEP assistant director, Virginia Water Resources Research Center, 23 Agnew Hall (0444), Blacksburg, VA 24061. Phone: 540/231-5463 or send e-mail to: araflo@vt.edu. Applications are due March 19. ❖

REGULATIONS

Final Regulations

Existing Stationary Sources. The State Air Pollution Control Board has proposed amendments that (i) replace general cross references to "design applicability criteria" and "emission rate applicability criteria" with specific criteria throughout the regulation; (ii) revise the specific design capacity criteria for consistency with 40 CFR Part 60; (iii) conform the regulations to comply with the following regulatory revisions promulgated by EPA: June 16, 1998, February 24, 1999, April 10, 2000, and October 17, 2000; and (iv) make minor revisions for clarity. The following changes were made since publication of the proposed regulation: 1) the requirement to obtain a federal operating permit has been revised to reference 9 VAC 5-80-80 C of the primary operating permit regulation rather than a generic date tied to plan approval or a specific date that is no longer relevant; 2) the definitions of "industrial solid waste" and "municipal solid waste landfill" have been revised to better delineate the relationship among the federal law and regulations, and state regulations. Also, the definition of "municipal solid waste

landfill" has been revised to reference RCRA regulations in addition to the Virginia regulations. Contact Karen Sabastanski, Department of Environmental Quality, at 804/698-4426 or e-mail her at kgsagastea@deq.state.va.us for additional information.

Methods and Standards for Establishing Payment Rates; Inpatient Hospital Care.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) has proposed regulations to authorize DMAS to increase reimbursement for government-owned public nursing homes, hospitals, and clinics consistent with the maximum reimbursement allowed under federal laws and regulations. DMAS made substantial changes to the previous proposed regulations in order to be authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to receive federal financial participation for these supplemental payments. The final regulations clarify which institutions are eligible to receive supplemental payments, add a methodology for determining the total amount of payments available, and revise the methodology for determining the amount of payment each provider is eligible to receive. The final regulation also deletes

proposed regulations that provided for supplemental payments to state owned/operated nursing facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded. For additional information, contact William Lessard, Department of Medical Assistance Services, at 804/225-4593 or e-mail him at wlessard@dmas.state.va.us.

Personal Policies for Local Departments of Social Services. The Department of Social Services has proposed regulations to establish personnel policies in local departments of social services and provide an additional legal basis for policies and practices in local departments of social services. Many of the policies are required as a condition for continued receipt of federal grants. The regulation addresses classification and compensation, recruitment and selection, employee status and benefits, employee performance evaluation, equal employment opportunity, standards of conduct, grievance procedures, and other employee relations practices. Contact Phyllis Sisk, Department of Social Services, at 804/726-7902 or e-mail her at lak900@dss.state.va.us for more information. ❖

POSITIONS

Longer version of job ads posted at www.vml.org

Because of the number of requests it receives to publish job advertisements, VML reduces the length of the position descriptions in Update. A full version of all of the job listings published here for the past two months appears on VML's Web site at www.vml.org. Visit the VML site and click on "Marketplace" to read the complete descriptions.

Senior Transportation Planner, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission

SALARY: \$44,400-\$64,300 (+) benefits. *Readvertisement.* Primary responsibility: Manage the "3C" Transportation Planning Process for newly created Winchester-Frederick County ("Win-Fred") Metropolitan Planning Organization. Reqs. 4-yr. degree and 5 yrs. of professional exper.; a

master's in planning or a related field and 4 yrs. of exper.; or any comb. of exper. and educ. MPO transportation planning exper. and GIS exper. desirable. Contact: Stephen W. Kerr, Executive Director, NSVRC, 103 E. 6th St., Front Royal, VA 22030. E-mail: nsvrc@shentel.net. Open until filled. EOE.

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POSITIONS

City Plumbing/Cross Connection Inspector, Danville

SALARY: \$27,137-\$31,000 DOQ. Inspect new and existing plumbing, mechanical and related piping systems for compliance with the USBC, Va. waterworks regulations and local ordinances. Educ. and exper. equiv. to graduation from technical school and at least 3 yrs. exper. in the plumbing construction trade; possession of a Va. Master Plumber Certificate and certification as a cross connection control inspector and as a plumbing inspector within 1 yr. of employment. Apply at the City of Danville, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543 or the Virginia Employment Commission. To download an application, visit www.ci.danville.va.us. Open until filled. EOE.

Transit Director, Winchester

SALARY: DOE. (Pop. 22,000) Plan and manage the transportation programs and services of the Winchester City Transit System. Review, research and apply for grant funding; perform marketing and PR tasks; prepare bdtg. and statistical analyses; and make presentations. Any comb. of educ. and exper. equiv. to bachelor's degree in business administration, transportation planning or related field with exper. in transit operations. Apply: Administration Department, Rouss City Hall, Winchester, VA 22601. 540/667-1815 ext. 449. TDD 540/722-0782. EOE.

Tax Field Auditor, Winchester

SALARY: DOE. (Pop. 22,000) Must possess considerable knowledge of business accounting, and the state and local codes related to taxes, licensing and auditing. Duties include auditing and reviewing of business establishments to determine compliance with tax and business laws; issuing notice of delinquent licenses fees and taxes; working with the City Attorney in taking legal action against violators; auditing business' personal property returns. College degree in business administration preferred with some auditing experience required. Must possess a valid driver's license. Apply: Administration Department, Rouss City Hall, 15 N. Cameron St., Winchester, VA 22601. 540/667-1815 ext. 449. TDD 540/722-0782. EOE.

Communications Specialist II, James City County

SALARY: \$33,329. Performs professional work in the areas of public information, writing, editing, media relations, photography and publications. Works as emergency public information officer during countywide crisis. Writes and provides editorial support for newsletters, brochures and other publications. Assists citizen Cable Communication Committee, covers county events and meetings for release to media sources; manages county communications Web content; develops and promotes marketing program to encourage local cable access viewership and supports video production as requested. A completed county application form is required and may be obtained by calling 757/253-6736; downloading the form from the Internet at www.JccEgov.com; or by writing Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 8784, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8784. Job # 540-99. Deadline: Jan. 23. EOE.

Convention Center Marketing Coordinator, Virginia Beach

SALARY: \$39,631-\$43,000. Reqs. any comb. of education (above H.S. level) and/or exper. equiv. to 6 yrs. in fields related to marketing or business admin. utilizing the knowledge, skills and abilities associated with such positions as hotel sales representative or hotel convention services representative. Reqs. proficiency with Microsoft software (Word, Excel, Publisher) and exceptional presentation skills (PowerPoint). For more info. and to download an application go to www.vb.gov/careers. Send applications to Department of Human Resources, 2424 Courthouse Drive, Building 18, Room 106, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. No faxed or e-mailed applications accepted. #G3317. Deadline: Jan. 15. EOE.

Utility Engineering Manager, Suffolk

SALARY: \$53,615-\$65,679 (midpoint). Supervises the activities of the Engineering Division of the Public Utilities Department; manages the design and construction of capital improvement projects; develops and administers operating division bdtg. Reports to director of public utilities. Reqs: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, construction trades or a related field (+) 6-9 yrs. exper. in the design, construction or inspection of buildings, project management, and supervision; or any equiv. comb. of training and exper. Possession of a P.E. license issued by Va. req. Submit city

application to: Human Resources, 441 Market St., Suffolk, VA 23434. For application or info. visit www.suffolk.va.us or call 757/923-2070. Open until filled. EOE.

Chief of Police, Asheville, N.C.

SALARY: DOE (+) benefits. Manages all aspects of 231-employee workforce. Master's degree in law enforcement admin., criminal justice, public admin., or related field preferred. Police chief exper. in city of at least 50K pop. highly preferred (+) 10-15 yrs. of exper. in law enforcement admin. and command positions. Reqs. certification as a police officer through the Criminal Justice Education and Standards Commission of N.C. (req. is at least 100 hrs. unless already N.C. certified). Apply to: City of Asheville, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 7148, Asheville, NC 28802-7148 or fax to 828/259-5479. To obtain application packet, contact Belinda Odom at 828/259-5682 or Robin Nix at 828/259-5694; or e-mail rnix@ashevillenc.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

Other positions

NOTICE: *The following positions also are listed on VML's Web site at www.vml.org.*

Director of Human Resources, Chesapeake

SALARY: DOQ/DOE. Deadline: Feb. 27.

City Attorney (part-time), Staunton

SALARY: \$50,000-\$60,000 negotiable DOQ. Deadline: Feb. 6.

Transit Manager, Charlottesville

SALARY: Low \$80,000s to start. Deadline: Jan. 30.

Zoning Administrator, Dumfries

SALARY: \$34,542-\$48,648. Open until filled.

Chief Accountant (Department of Social Services), Albemarle County

SALARY: \$46,353-\$74,164 full range. Deadline: Jan. 16.

County Administrator, Appomattox

SALARY: \$55,475 min. (+) benefits. Deadline: Jan. 16.

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OTHER POSITIONS**Mechanical Engineer,
Alexandria**

SALARY: \$44,000-\$71,000 (+) benefits.

Risk Manager, Fauquier County

SALARY: \$42,612 min. to start.
Deadline: Jan. 23.

Fire Chief, Bristol

SALARY: \$43,092-\$59,591.
Deadline: Feb. 28.

**Project Engineer,
King George County**

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ/DOE (+)
benefits.

**Business Development
Coordinator, Buena Vista**

SALARY: DOE (+) benefits. Open until
filled.

**Key Accounts Manager (Utilities
Department), Danville**

SALARY: \$43,000-\$53,000 DOQ. Open
until filled.

**GIS Technician, Shenandoah
County**

SALARY: \$24,961-\$37,055 to start (+)
benefits. Open until filled.

DEADLINE: *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Jan. 23. Submit ads via e-mail to David Parsons at: dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758. VML publishes job advertisements at no cost to its local government members. Non-members are charged a flat rate of \$25 per ad per issue, which includes posting on VML's web site and publication in Virginia Town & City (deadlines permitting). VML edits position descriptions in printed publications because of space limitations.*

CALENDAR**VML-VACo Legislative Day,
Feb. 12, Richmond**

At the Omni Hotel Richmond, 100 S. 12th St. in downtown. VML and VACo staff members will report on legislation of interest to local governments. Local officials are encouraged to then go to the Capitol to participate in committee meetings and lobby state legislators. In the evening, local officials are strongly encouraged to take their legislators to dinner. Cost: \$25 per person, which includes a boxed lunch. A cash bar reception will be open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Hotel rooms are available at the Omni for \$99 for a single or double room. Contact: Peggy Blunt at 804/649-8471 or pblunt@vml.org.

**Virginia Local Government
Management Association,
Feb. 18-20, Charlottesville.**

Mid-Winter conference at the Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville.

**National League of Cities
Congressional City Conference,
March 5-9, Washington, D.C.**

For registration form brochure, other details, visit www.nlc.org.

**Virginia Water Conference,
March 7-9, Virginia Beach**

Speakers, workshops, exhibitors and more. Conference theme: "Restoring Virginia's Watersheds." Full registration: \$175. Double Tree Hotel conference room rate: \$55 per night. Contact: Stuart Stein, at 703/642-5080 or sstein@gky.com.

**Virginia Rural Water
Association 16th Annual
Exposition, March 15-17,
Richmond**

At Holiday Inn Select-Koger Center.
Contact: 540/261-7178.

**Virginia Municipal Clerks
Association Annual Conference,
April 21-23, Williamsburg**

The conference will be held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House. Contact: Shelia Crist 757/220-6103 or scrist@ci.williamsburg.va.us.

**Local Government Attorneys
of Virginia 2004 Spring
Conference, April 22-24,
Roanoke**

At the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. Contact: Leisa R. Steele, Program & Members Services Coordinator, 700 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Tel: 804/371-0202, FAX: 804/371-0234. E-mail: lrs5c@virginia.edu.

**Virginia Building and Code
Officials Association, May 3,
Charlottesville**

Mid-year meeting at the Omni Hotel. Contact: Mary Jo Fields 804/649-8471 or mfields@vml.org.

**Municipal Electric Power
Association of Virginia,
May 26-28, Virginia Beach**

Annual meeting. Contact: Kimberly Pollard at kpollard@vml.org.

**Virginia Local Government
Management Association, June
23-26, Virginia Beach**

Annual conference at the Sheraton Virginia Beach.

**Virginia Association of
Assessing Officers Annual
Conference, Sept. 22-24,
Richmond**

Omni Hotel. Contact: vaao@hotmail.com

**Virginia Municipal League
Annual Conference, Oct. 3-5,
Alexandria**

The 99th annual meeting of VML. Contact: Joni Terry at 804/649-8471 or jterry@vml.org. Exhibitors contact: Kimberly Pollard at 804/649-8471 or kpollard@vml.org.

Preferred method of submitting items is via e-mail to David Parsons at: dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758.

Update

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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