



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.

The VAGP is proud to present several programs which we believe speak to our advocacy on behalf of our membership as well as outreach to our members.

LEGISLATIVE

For decades the VAGP has taken an active role in advocating on behalf of public procurement professionals in the Virginia General Assembly. The VAGP accomplishes this through its Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee consists of procurement professionals reflecting the diversity of the agencies that are members of the VAGP. This includes members from Fairfax County (the largest public entity in the state) to small rural towns. It includes institutions of higher education, K-12, cities, towns and counties, as well as regional agencies. The Legislative Committee meets year round, but is especially active during the General Assembly session. Along with the VAGP's legislative consultant, the committee reads, reviews and tracks the hundreds of bills introduced that have the potential to affect the public purchasing profession. It should be noted that the VAGP only focuses on bills that have a direct impact on the public procurement profession. The VAGP avoids taking partisan positions on social or fiscal issues.

The Legislative Committee also receives and responds to input from the VAGP membership regarding bills that are under consideration.

The Legislative Committee prepares a monthly report detailing the bills it is tracking. This report is posted on the VAGP website for its members' edification.

Through its legislative consultant, the Legislative Committee will advise, and, if needed, render its support or opposition to bills introduced in the General Assembly. It will alert the general membership if additional support is required. After the General Assembly session has ended, the Legislative Committee continues to monitor the bills to see which bills will be signed (or vetoed) by the Governor.

At the conclusion of the legislative process, the Legislative Committee prepared a Powerpoint webinar that reviews and explains the new laws that may affect the members of the VAGP. This webinar promoted in advance and is offered to our members at no charge. The Powerpoint webinar is also posted on the VAGP website so members can who could not attend the initial broadcast can watch it at their convenience. A spreadsheet summary of bills is also posted on the VAGP website. The 2020 Legislative webinar is available at <https://cityofsuffolk.sharefile.com/d-sdfcaadc649e1404892aaabe5a03611b6>



The Legislative Committee has developed a partnership with the Virginia Municipal League to participate in the process of addressing procurement-related legislative issues and has also worked with members of the Architect/Engineering (A/E) community to resolve potential issues prior to they before they are brought before the General Assembly.

Through its legislative and outreach efforts, the VAGP has been recognized for its expertise in procurement legislation. This has cumulated in the VAGP being included in the recently formed procurement workgroup.

In the 2021 General Assembly session, a formal public body workgroup was established to review and study proposed changes to the Code of Virginia in areas of procurement. The first meeting is schedule to be the summer 2021.

Members will be the Director of Small Business and Supplier Diversity, Director of Department of General Services, Chief Information Officer of Virginia Information Technology Agency, the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Director of Planning and Budget, the President of the Virginia Association of State Colleges and University Purchasing Professionals (VASCUPP), a representative from the Attorney General's Office, a staff member from the House Appropriations Committee, a staff member from the Senate Finance Committee, a staff member from the Division of Legislative Services and the **President of the Virginia Association of Governmental Purchasing**. (*emphasis added*)

With the VAGP's inclusion in this prestigious workgroup, the VAGP now has a "seat at the table" and will be able to play an even more active role in the formation of procurement related legislation. The bill establishing the workgroup is here: <https://cityofsuffolk.sharefile.com/d-s736f5f8325c34b1f88a3fdcc79bf035b>

ZONE CHAPTER AMBASSADORS

There are many benefits with having a large organization like the VAGP. Economies of scale, deeper financial resources, greater access to sponsors, and large pool of members to volunteer and assist in the organizations activities. But there are potential drawbacks as well. Members may feel neglected or "just another body". The VAGP has recognized this potential situation and moved to negate with the establishment of the Chapter Zone Ambassador Program.

The Ambassadors program serves as an avenue to enhance communication, networking and

information about VAGP to our members throughout the state.

Ambassadors are located in each of the nine different zones to provide a more personalized and intimate relationship with the members in their zone. Some of their 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 Committee and VAGP Professional Development Committee to provide seminars, workshops and other professional development opportunities. A zone map is available at: <https://cityofsuffolk.sharefile.com/d-sdfef9da044e843b681d0ee0c8b2ef341>

Ambassadors are also able 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 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. See link for a list of current Ambassadors. <https://cityofsuffolk.sharefile.com/d-s9270d8eab4c44708a93df34971565cad>

PUBLIC PURCHASING MONTH

VAGP, along with the Capital Area Purchasing Association, recognizes 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 other governmental officials, the general public, business and corporate leaders, academia and the media.

Each year, the VAGP submits a request to the Governor's Office to formally recognize March as Public Purchasing Month. The Governor's proclamation is an opportunity for public agencies and their procurement professionals to help raise public awareness through accomplishments, planning activities, and holding special events. To view the Governor's proclamation go to this link: <https://cityofsuffolk.sharefile.com/d-sdb94ea82db0a4167aa5c0f92990bc199>

MEMBER RECOGNITION

The success of the VAGP would not be possible without all of the contributions of our members. The VAGP has several awards that it bestows on those who provide exceptional service to the VAGP. Those awards are:

Distinguished Service is awarded for service to VAGP or NIGP which results in state and/or national recognition that positively reflects on the purchasing profession, providing active leadership in purchasing organizations and community affairs and contributions to education and professional development at the state and/or national level.

Lifetime Membership is for continuous and significant long-time service to VAGP.

Volunteer of the Year - The recipient of this award must be a member in good standing and must have served VAGP in a volunteer capacity during the previous calendar year. All members are eligible to receive this award except the voting members of the Board of Directors during their term of office. Individuals may nominate themselves, other members or elected officers could nominate individuals for this award.

T. Gordon Sandridge Lifetime Achievement Award - is VAGP's most prestigious award. It is to be presented to an individual who possesses high ethical and moral standards and is recognition of outstanding lifetime contributions and/or service to public procurement.

Leading Light Award - The purpose of this agency award program is to recognize an agency who has taken the "Lead" in the public procurement profession through innovative ideas and achievements that "Light" the way for other public procurement professionals.

Service Recognition – awarded to the President and First at Large Board Member

Manager of the Year – awarded to person who best meets the criteria for NIGP Manager of the Year.

Buyer of the Year – awarded to person who best meets the criteria for NIGP buyer of the Year.

CONCLUSION

The VAGP many programs provide a multitude of avenues for the VAGP to provide advocacy and outreach for the organization, its members and the public procurement profession. And the VAGP is committed to ever improving and increasing its advocacy and outreach to further our mission of supporting its members and the agencies they serve.