



# 2025 Spring Conference / April 24-26

OMNI CHARLOTTESVILLE | CHARLOTTESVILLE

## AGENDA AT A GLANCE

The LGA Board of Directors approved the following sessions (9 MCLE, pending approval).

### THURSDAY, APRIL 24

**8:30-9 am BOARD BREAKFAST**

**9 am-1 pm LGA SPRING BOARD MEETING**

*Meeting and noon Lunch with Committee & Practice Group Chairs*

**11 am REGISTRATION OPENS**

**1-1:15 pm OPENING REMARKS**

**1:15-2:45 pm GENERAL SESSION A**

#### ***Legislative Update***

*Moderator:*

**Daniel N. Whitten**, County Attorney, County of Fluvanna

*Speakers:*

**David Blount**, Deputy Director, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

**Michelle M. Gowdy**, Executive Director, Virginia Municipal League

*Panelists will provide an update on the results of the 2025 General Assembly session and the veto session, highlight bills impacting the practice of local government law, and discuss important issues coming out the session.*

**2:45-3:15 pm BREAK**

**3:15-4:45 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5 & 6**

#### ***The Great GASB: Navigating Local Government Finance and Taxation***

*Moderator:*

Catherine B. Lea, Town Attorney, Town of Orange

*Speakers:*

**Leah D. Han**, Deputy County Attorney, County of Hanover

**Michael W.S. Lockaby**, Member, Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC

*This session combines practical advice and real-world scenarios in a discussion designed to help you ensure legal compliance, and effectively advise your clients regarding Comp Board appropriations, GASB issues, school budgets and appropriations, and the intricacies of managing litigation liabilities and debt compliance and bond covenant compliance for localities navigating financial and taxation processes central to local government operations.*

#### ***OSHA and VOSH – Administrative Framework for Enforcement of Workplace Safety Standards***

*Moderator:*

**Lisa A. Robertson**, Assistant Division Counsel, County of Prince William County Public Schools

*Speakers:*

**Alfred B. Albiston**, Litigation Manager, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry

**Brandi A. Law**, Senior Deputy City Attorney, City of Hampton

*Panelists will discuss the relationship between the regulations and standards of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as implemented within the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virginia State Plan, and the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Program administered by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. This presentation will provide an overview of the relationship between the State Plan and the VOSH Program and will describe the processes and procedures used by VOSH to investigate and*

*enforce occupational and health standards within local government workplaces, fines that apply to public entities, and procedures for informal resolution conferences and appeals from citations.*

**5:30-6:30 pm**

**“FRIENDS OF BILL W.”**

*Support meeting for those in recovery*

**5:45-6:45 pm**

**YLGA-HOSTED HAPPY HOUR**

*All are welcome to join before we leave for the opening night party!*

**7-9 pm**

**OPENING NIGHT PARTY**

This spring's Opening Night Party will be held at Three Notch'd Brewing Company, located at the IX Arts Park, 520 2nd St SE, just a short walk from the Omni Charlottesville. LGA has bought out the entire venue for the night, ensuring an exclusive and vibrant atmosphere with craft beers, delicious food, and plenty of space to mingle. For those interested, brewery tours may also be available to explore the brewing process up close. If you prefer not to walk from the hotel, transportation will be provided. We look forward to kicking off the conference with you in style!

**FRIDAY, APRIL 25**

**7:30 am**

**REGISTRATION OPENS**

**7:30-9 am**

**BREAKFAST**

**8-8:50 am**

**PRACTICE GROUPS**

**9-10:30 am**

**GENERAL SESSION B**

***The Basics of Virginia Governing Bodies: Meetings, Rules of Procedure, and Actions***

*Moderator:*

**Matthew C. Freedman**, City Attorney, City of Lynchburg

*Speakers:*

**John C. Blair**, City Attorney, City of Staunton

**Lola R. Perkins**, County Attorney, County of Surry

**Courtney R. Sydnor**, City Attorney, City of Hampton

*Panelists will discuss the basic requirements applicable to meetings, rules of procedure, and actions of Virginia governing bodies. The panelists will also address and discuss methods to help local government attorneys navigate through conflicts among governing body members. This presentation is designed for the new local government attorney but will also serve as a refresher to the experienced local government attorney.*

**10:30-11 am**

**BREAK**

**11 am-12:30 pm**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3 & 4**

***Risk Management– Why Does It Matter in Local Government?***

*Moderator:*

**Anthony R. Bessette**, Senior Assistant County Attorney, County of Albemarle

*Speakers:*

**Tracey Dunlap**, Virginia Risk Sharing Association

**John Honeycutt**, VaCorp.

**Lisa A. Robertson**, Assistant Division Counsel, County of Prince William School Division

*Panelists will discuss the management of legal and financial “risks”, as part of public bodies’ operations, using appropriate insurance coverages, and by attention to commercial contract clauses intended to shift risks in ways unfavorable to public entities. Panelists will discuss the importance of understanding their public bodies’ insurance coverages, of working with insurance providers to ensure that public officials and employees receive appropriate education and training, and the need for attorneys to scrutinize contracts for boilerplate provisions intended to shift risks to public bodies (which may result in unintended waivers of legal rights or immunities, or violations of Article VII, Section 10 of the Virginia Constitution (the ‘Debt Clause’).*

## **Employment Law and Virginia Local Governments: The Basics, Grievances, and Collective Bargaining**

*Moderator:*

**Jeremy E. Carroll**, Member, Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC

*Speakers:*

**Jeremy E. Carroll**, Member, Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC

**Meghan S. Roberts**, Deputy City Attorney, City of Alexandria

**Timothy R. Spencer**, City Attorney, City of Roanoke

*Panelists will discuss employment law issues concerning discipline and discharge relevant to Virginia local governments, including employee investigations, procedural due process, progressive discipline, grievances and other employee rights, and collective bargaining, among others.*

**12:30-1 pm**

**RECEPTION**

**1-2:30 pm**

**LUNCHEON & AWARDS**

**2:30 pm**

**FREE TIME/AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**

*Visit the registration desk for area options.*

**8-10 pm**

**HOSPITALITY SUITE**

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 26**

**7:30 am**

**REGISTRATION OPENS**

**7:30-9 am**

**BREAKFAST**

**8-8:50 am**

**PRACTICE GROUPS**

**9-10:30 am**

**GENERAL SESSION C**

### **Cybersecurity: Risks to Virginia Localities**

*Moderator:*

**James L. Windsor**, Member, Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

*Speakers:*

**Laura M. Carini**, Deputy City Attorney, City of Roanoke

**Joseph A. Dickinson**, Member, Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

*Panelists will discuss data privacy and cybersecurity challenges facing local governments today. Speakers will share real-life experiences from recent cyberattacks, transactional due diligence cases and regulatory compliance struggles. They will also discuss the alarming rise in ransomware threats, wire fraud and some of the vulnerabilities in local government systems. Attendees will gain valuable insights into identifying and protecting sensitive citizen information and understanding the practical aspects of implementing best practices to enhance data privacy and cybersecurity policies and compliance controls. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to safeguard your municipality in an increasingly valuable and risky digital landscape.*

**10:30-11 am**

**BREAK**

*(Hotel check-out time is 11 am.)*

**11 am-12:30 pm**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5 & 6**

### **Hot Topics in Law-Enforcement – Balancing Technology and Privacy**

*Moderator:*

**April R. Wimberley**, Deputy City Attorney, City of Charlottesville

*Speakers:*

**Sau Chan**, Deputy City Attorney, City of Charlottesville

**Michael P. Kochis**, Chief of Police, City of Charlottesville

**Karla J. Soloria**, Assistant City Attorney, City of Norfolk

*Panelists will discuss the practical usage and benefits of the latest law enforcement technology, the Fourth Amendment and other Constitutional concerns raised by such technology, recent litigation surrounding Flock cameras, and the challenges of adopting new technologies and considerations regarding public education and engagement.*

### ***The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and Blight***

*Moderator:*

**Bonnie N. Brown**, Deputy City Attorney, City of Alexandria

*Speakers:*

**Emily C.R. Bittner**, Senior Assistant County Attorney, County of Chesterfield

**Anne Ligon**, Assistant City Attorney, City of Hampton

**Kimberly Mikel**, Building Code Official, City of Hampton

*Panelists will discuss blight, unsafe structures, building code requirements, enforcement procedures, remedies, and present example case studies, including the enforcement measures taken to address a multifamily apartment complex in Hampton, such as enforcement in General District Court and injunction. The panel will also discuss relevant updates to case law.*