

VALCV NEWS



Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2006

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 3, 2006

We hope you will mark your calendar now for the Virginia League of Conservation Voters annual event to honor our Legislative Leaders and Heroes. This year the event will be held at a new venue, Ayrshire Farm in Upperville, home of Sandy Lerner.

Thanks to Sandy and all of the event committee members who are working hard to plan this important evening.

Please call Moira Holdren at 804-225-1902 for more information, or to reserve your ticket.

2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

The 2006 legislative session adjourned on March 11th but lawmakers are scheduled to return to Richmond in a special session until a budget agreement is reached. As anticipated, transportation funding remains the sticking point. While we did not achieve all of the land use and transportation solutions we sought this session, these issues were hot topics for discussion among legislators, reporters, and citizens back home. Progress was made in elevating the importance of giving localities more tools to manage their growth and traffic.

As the session came to a close, there were several important “unresolved” bills that were sent to Governor Kaine. The VALCV Executive Committee met with the Governor on March 20 to discuss transportation solutions and possible executive actions such as amendments or vetoes leading to the reconvened or “veto” session on April 19. We asked Governor Kaine to address the following:

- ◆ Land use and transportation practical solutions
- ◆ Land conservation tax credits
- ◆ Energy (SB 262)
- ◆ Air quality (HB 1055, SB 651)
- ◆ Agricultural water withdrawals (HB 1185)
- ◆ Farm wineries (HB 1435)
- ◆ Menhaden harvest cap

To research the text of the bills and to see the recorded legislative actions, go to <http://leg1.state.va.us>

Once the 2006 session has finally concluded, VALCV will compile the votes for our annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard. Look for your copy in the mail in June to learn how your Senator and Delegate voted on conservation legislation!

VALCV WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Two new Board members have joined VALCV and we wanted to extend a warm welcome to them both!

John Montgomery, of Henrico County, is a partner in the law firm of Montgomery & Simpson and ran for the House of Delegates in the 97th district in January. John was recently named Chairman of the Virginia Game & Inland Fisheries Board.

David Crowe, of Madison County, has also joined the Board of Directors. David is the President of Rockfish Realty LLC, a company that owns and manages working farms in the Piedmont region of Virginia. David is on the Board of the Piedmont Environmental Council and is a trustee of the College Foundation at his alma mater, the University of Virginia.

VALCV SPECIAL ELECTION REPORT:

VALCV would like to extend its enthusiastic congratulations to VALCV endorsed candidate, Senator Mark Herring (D-Loudoun). Sen. Herring ran a strong race, focusing on land use and transportation reform. VALCV spread Sen. Herring's important message through a direct mail piece to 25,000 voters in his district. This message resounded with voters and he won with 61% of the vote. VALCV looks forward to working with this friend of the environment in coming years.

NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT VALCV

Mike Kaestner has been hired as the VALCV Program Coordinator and began his duties in February. Mike comes to VALCV with an Urban Studies and Planning background. His research interests include regional core service disparities and the demography of sprawl. He has worked on local and statewide political campaigns, including a past VALCV Legislative Hero, Del. Viola Baskerville. Mike is based out of our Richmond office and can be reached at 804.225.1902 or mkaestner@valcv.org.

Missy Neff, our former Program Director, was recently appointed Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources for Administration by Governor Tim Kaine. We wish her the best of luck in her important new role.

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Use your Ukrop's Valued Customer card to contribute to Partnership for Smarter Growth (PSG), our Richmond regional program. Register online or by phone at 1-800-556-GIVE. Once you have registered, you'll designate your UVC card number and VALCV-EF (PSG's fiscal agent) as your charity. Each time you shop, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to VALCV-EF and earmarked for PSG.



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

MISSIONFISH.ORG

Do you sell items on eBay? You can designate a portion of your sales to go to VALCV—EF our 501 c(3) organization, through MissionFish. When you list an item, choose a percentage to donate, then choose VALCV-EF from the list of certified non-profits. You'll be prompted to register with MissionFish and when your item sells, the designated percentage of your proceeds will be donated to VALCV-EF.



SUSTAINING DONOR PROGRAM

Our Sustaining Donors offer consistent and vital support to our political advocacy programs. As a Sustaining Donor you can have a specific amount deducted from your credit card monthly or quarterly, so your generosity is felt all year. Call 804-225-1902 or visit www.valcv.org to set up your account.