



WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE
VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Virginia Women in Public Finance Summer 2021 Newsletter

Summer 2021

2021

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Virginia Women in Public Finance is Excited to Deliver our Summer 2021 Newsletter!

We have provided an action-packed highlight reel of what we've accomplished over the past year including many great virtual events.

One thing is clear: COVID didn't slow us down and we are happy to have had our VWPF membership by our side as we navigated these waters together.

Thank you for your support and encouragement along the way. Your friendship has helped us make the best of a difficult year.

Claim Your VWPF Face Masks

This spring, the VWPF sent a courtesy facemask to our membership as a token of our appreciation for your support and friendship. Almost 200 masks were distributed, but it's not too late to get yours! If you would still like a VWPF mask, we have a few left so simply provide your name and mailing address [here](#).

Check out some of our members proudly wearing their masks!



Thank You to Former VWPF Board Member Linda Abravanel!

VWPF would like to extend a special Thank You to Linda Abravanel for her service to this organization and its Board of Directors over the years. Linda has been a friend, mentor, and professional comrade to many of us. Linda



served on the Board for many years and as VWPF's President during the 2019-2020 term and with her at the helm, we were well prepared to weather the pandemic storm together. She has volunteered her time and expertise to VWPF mission over the years and we are proud to call her a friend.

Welcome New Board Member, Kelly Pickerel!

VWPF extends a warm welcome to our newest board member, Kelly Pickerel. Kelly is a Strategy Consultant with Wells Fargo who covers the Government & Institutional Banking Group via the Commercial Bank Business Management Office (BMO). She is a veteran banker who has been involved in the community and non-profit arena throughout her career, first serving as trustee to issuers, developers, and higher education facilities, moving on to institutional sales with Evergreen Investments, and now working with the Wells Fargo Government, Health & Higher Education, and Not-for-Profit banking teams.

As a long-standing member of the VWPF, she joined as an extension of her commitment to the well-being of her home state and the desire to stay connected to the members who have and continue to contribute. When asked how she felt about being asked to join the Board, her reply was, "Wow, I am honored to be considered and willing to take over the Events Committee, but only as long as Ann Shawver keeps me straight." Joking aside, she looks forward to being part of the ongoing growth of the organization, especially as it relates to events planning and diversity, equality and inclusion.



Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

The DEI Committee has had an eventful and impactful first year. Read below to learn more about what we've been doing and how you can become active in our efforts.

Book Club Overview

The DEI Committee is promoting educational growth opportunities for all members through reading and discussing topics in the diversity, equality and inclusion space with its book club events.

The first event was held in February 2021 where the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson was discussed. Our summer book club event was held on July 15, 2021, during which we discussed: *Becoming* “An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by Michelle Obama, the former first lady of the United States.” Please join us in future interesting discussions.

Culture Sharing Event

On April 15, 2021, Virginia Women in Public Finance’s DEI Committee hosted a Culture Sharing Event in honor of Celebrate Diversity Month. During the event, attendees shared traditions and celebrated their unique and varied cultures in an informal, friendly setting.

NEW Resource Site!

We have created a DEI Resource Section on our website to help with individual learning opportunities. Check out our updated [Programs](#) page to learn more about our DEI Committee and review all the great material.

VWPF’s DEI Committee is proud to provide ongoing opportunities to learn about what makes us diverse, to increase awareness, conversation, and engagement on matters of diversity. We encourage you to connect with us for any programmatic ideas you would like us to consider.

The DEI Committee meets virtually at noon on the third Thursday of the month and invites new members to join.

Please contact Committee Chair Lisa Haley at info@virginiawpf.org for more information.

2021 Event Recap

Preparing Issuers for Success in the New Year & Beyond

On February 2, 2021, VWPF and the Association of Public Finance Professionals of DC, MD, and VA hosted a panel discussion to prepare the public finance community for challenges and opportunities in achieving success in 2021. Panelists included Manju Ganeriwala, Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia; Rhonda Cheatham, Management Operations Chief at Office of the Chief Financial Officer, District of Columbia Government; and Alethia Nancoo, Partner at Squire Patton Boggs. During the event, panelists discussed potential legislation around federal funding for state & local governments, infrastructure, and more.

News Literacy Lunch & Learn

On March 24, 2021, VWPF hosted an event to assist participants with learning to think critically when consuming and evaluating news, recognize biases, avoid common traps, and seek out reliable information. The two speakers, who are local educators and experts in the field, shared practical tips for finding, evaluating, and discussing news sources.



View a recording of the event [here](#).

Founders' Awards Presentation & Scavenger Hunt

On May 25, 2021, VWPF hosted an awards program coupled with a fun-filled virtual scavenger hunt! At the beginning of the event, we were honored to present the Lifetime Achievement award to JoAnne Carter, Managing Director at PFM, and the Rising Star award to Rashida Reneau, Vice President at Wells Fargo Securities. Following a delivery of remarks and a video presentation honoring the award recipients, attendees participated in a virtual scavenger hunt that involved trivia, games, and a fantastic opportunity to network with colleagues and peers.

View a tribute video for JoAnne Carter [here](#) (Password: JoAnneCarter).

Thriving Together: Women and Men and Leadership Success in the Workplace

On June 14, 2021, Ballard Spahr and the VWPF hosted an interactive virtual discussion on the differences in work experience and interpersonal styles between men and women and how these differences and styles influence the way individuals lead. During the discussion, Peter Dean and Molly Shepard, partners in business and life, led a conversation that added to the already accomplished communications skills of successful professionals; stimulated thinking from neurobiology research findings; and promoted a greater understanding of workplace dynamics.

View a tribute video for Rashida Reneau [here](#) (Password: RashidaReneau).



Virginia Movers and Shakers

Janet Aylor retired from the Virginia Department of Treasury with Bradley Jones replacing her as the new Director of Debt Management.

Kailyn Campbell is now the Budget Supervisor in Henrico County. She was previously a Senior Associate with MuniCap.

Jessica Giroux is the Director of Government & Public Affairs at the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). Jessica previously served as Director of Governmental Affairs at the National Association of Bond Lawyers (NABL).

Terry Stone is the Finance Director for the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe following retirement from Hanover County Public Schools where she served as Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations.

Lisa Thorne-Izes retired from Prince William County Public Schools where she served as Director of Financial Services.

Shenandra Usher has joined Albemarle County as the Assistant CFO for Operations. Shenandra previously served as Accounting Manager in Decatur, Georgia.

Find us on LinkedIn

Did you know the Virginia Women in Public Finance has a group profile on LinkedIn? Expand your network and reflect your affiliation with one of the strongest chapters.



If you are already part of the group, don't forget to set your notifications to "get notified of all new posts" so you can stay up to date on all our activities.

Find us on LinkedIn [here](#).

Live Reception VWPF Fall Signature Event

We have missed seeing you in person!

VWPF friends, colleagues, and peers will gather at our first in-person event in over a year. At the event, we'll be networking, sharing stories, and presenting our scholarship recipient with her award.

Our program will be held the evening of the first night of VGFOA's fall conference.

We will be following CDC guidelines to ensure our guests are safe as possible. Don't forget to bring your mask!

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

6:30 to 9:00 PM

The Tobacco Company Restaurant, 1201 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA

6:30 Registration, cocktails & hors d'oeuvres,

6:45 Welcome Remarks: Giedre Ball

7:15 Presentation of the Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship:

Misty Upson

7:30 Mingling & Networking

9:00 Conclusion



National Chapter of Women In Public Finance Update

Women in Public Finance is proud to announce the 2021 Women in Public Finance Founders' Awards Recipients

Lifetime Achievement



Rachael Eubanks
Treasurer
State of Michigan

She's Our Hero



Suzanne Beitel
Chief Financial Officer
Seattle Children's Hospital

Rising Star



Danielle Scott
Senior Managing Consultant
PFM Group Consulting LLC

The Founders' Awards event will be held on Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 at Sheraton Grand Chicago in Chicago, IL during the **25th Annual Women in Public Finance Conference**.

Register for the 2021 Conference and Founders' Awards [here](#).



WPF Event Recap: Building Women Leaders: How to Join a Corporate Board

On May 19, 2021, the National Chapter of Women in Public Finance hosted an event entitled Building Women Leaders: How to Join a Corporate Board. During this webinar, a panel of experienced corporate board members from the public finance industry discussed the process of board recruitment and provided insights for WPF members about how to position themselves to join a corporate board.

The event provided content on the following:

- Corporations with higher levels of representation by women on their Boards of Directors more effectively manage risk, focus on long-term priorities, and report higher rates of return on equity.
- Female public finance professionals have substantial experience that can be leveraged to make an impact on a corporate board.

View a replay of the event [here](#). Please note, to view the event, you must be a WPF Member. If you are not already a member, consider joining today by clicking [here](#).

Join our LinkedIn!

Have you joined our group on LinkedIn? It's easy as ever to find us. Click [here](#) to join.

Once you are connected, you'll be able to share information & learn about upcoming events - we can't wait for you to join!

Subscribing to VWPF News

Do you have a colleague who would like to be added to our e-mail listing?

It's easy to self-enroll via the VWPF website. Click [here](#) and complete the requested information.

E-mail communications from VWPF are sent using Mail Chimp. Some entities do not accept communications from Mail Chimp. In such cases, use of a personal e-mail address is beneficial.

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