



VANNO Voice

VANNO: Celebrating 5 Years of Service To Those Who Serve

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<u>Looking for a Consultant or Vendor</u>	For many of our organizations, June marks both a beginning and an end--the end of a fiscal year and the beginning of the terms of office for new board members or new officers on our boards. I hope your organization will take advantage of the growing number of opportunities around Virginia to orient, educate, and train your volunteer leaders.	
<u>Searching for Grant Funding</u>		
<u>2009 Affordable Health Insurance Coverage</u>	Some of these opportunities are contained within this newsletter; however, I encourage you to connect with Nonprofit NoVA, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence (Charlottesville), the Nonprofit Resource Center of Western VA (Roanoke), Rappahannock NonProfit Center (Sperryville), Volunteer Hampton Roads, Bristol Organizations, Southside VA Nonprofit Resource Center, and the Partnership for Nonprofit Excellence (Richmond). Each of these local support centers provides training and networking opportunities designed to meet the unique needs of nonprofits in its region. VANNO often works collaboratively with these centers to achieve its goals statewide, and we are truly grateful for the partnership we enjoy with them.	
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<u>501(c)3 Organizations Must Not Endorse or Oppose Candidates</u>	Did you know that, across Virginia, nonprofits engage approximately 139,000 volunteers? And those are just the ones we know about! This statistic provides another example of how Virginia's nonprofits impact their community-leveraging volunteer social capital to meet a variety of community needs. Though times are tight for all of us, let's not forget what an incredible resource our volunteers are-especially our volunteer leaders.	
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Trying to fill a position? Looking for a job? VANNO launches Online Statewide Nonprofit Career Center to match employers with qualified candidates. While there are many regional job boards for the nonprofit community scattered across the state, VANNO's online Career Center helps nonprofits promote their job openings to potential candidates statewide. It also provides an efficient way for job seekers to look for jobs in the nonprofit sector across the state. To access VANNO's Career Center, visit www.VANNO.org. Searching the job listings is free! VANNO member organizations can post a job announcement at a discount.

Looking for a Consultant or Vendor

Looking for a Consultant or Vendor? Visit VANNO's Online Yellow Pages at www.vanno.org

Searching for Grant Funding?

VANNO members receive a complimentary subscription to the online funding database **GrantStation** (a \$600 value).

Shopping for Affordable Health Insurance Coverage?

Shopping for affordable health insurance coverage for your employees? Contact VANNO's broker Dave Dixon at 877-767-1479 to learn about the providers and plans in its group health insurance program.

Trying to Manage an Executive Transition?

VANNO members receive a 30% discount on publications from Fieldstone Alliance. Their latest publication, *Managing Executive Transitions: A Guide for Nonprofits* by Tom Wolfred of CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, helps nonprofit boards and Executive Directors handle leadership turnovers in a way that prevents problems and sets the organization on a path for long

term success. For more information, visit www.ManagingExecutiveTransitions.org

Looking to Save on Unemployment Insurance?

Save up to 60% on unemployment costs with UST. UST helps nonprofit organizations save money on their unemployment costs through lower rates and expert claims monitoring. For more information on UST please visit www.ChooseUST.org , or call toll-free 1-888-249-4788, or visit www.VANNO.org for more information on this and other member benefits.

Need a Free Color Printer?

To qualify for and benefit from the Xerox FreeColorPrinters program, organizations must print approximately 2,000 pages (4 reams) per month or spend \$125 or more on outsourced printing and ink each month. Participants simply submit a monthly page count and purchase all supplies - which are priced competitively -- through the Xerox FreeColorPrinters program. For any nonprofit doing a reasonable volume of printing, this is a great opportunity! Qualifying nonprofits will receive: A new Xerox Phaser 8560/DN business class color printer with 3 year onsite warranty and FREE delivery of the printer. For more information, go to www.VANNO.org and click on "Benefits and Services."

LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Comment on the Redesigned 2008 Form 990

Now that filing season is underway, and as a part of the IRS' on-going effort to obtain input from the tax-exempt sector, the IRS's Exempt Organization Division is accepting comments on the redesigned 2008 Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. Please email the IRS at Form990Revision@irs.gov to submit your comments.

Need Guidance from the IRS on Mergers or Terminations?

Download this [IRS worksheet](#) on how an exempt organization notifies the IRS when it terminates or merges.

501(c)3 Organizations Must Not Endorse or Oppose Candidates

501(c)3 Organizations Must Not Endorse or Oppose Candidates for Public Office. See this recently released [IRS report](#) examining the activity of 110 charities and churches during the 2004 election cycle. The IRS revoked tax exempt status of six of these organizations because they engaged in prohibited political activities.

Virginia Lobbyist Disclosure Statements Due July 1, 2009

Failure to meet this July 1 deadline will result in a civil penalty of \$50 assessed against individual lobbyists and against each organization they represent. These civil penalties will accrue until the disclosure statement is filed with the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Should you have any questions, please visit www.commonwealth.virginia.gov or you can contact (804) 692-0116 or Chris.Frink@governor.virginia.gov.

PUBLIC POLICY IMPACTING NONPROFITS

VANNO Continues to Advocate against City of Richmond Service Charge

On May 21, VANNO Board Chair Bill Gray met with City Council President Graziano, the Mayor's chief of staff, the assessor, and representatives of the city attorney's office and the finance department to go over VANNO's summary of the limitations that state law imposes on the City's ability to assess service charges. The City intends to review their classifications in order to determine which tax-exempt organizations on their list are not liable for the charges because they are in one of the categories exempted by VA Code Section 58.1-3400. They also acknowledged that it will take additional administrative

time and effort to determine which of the remaining organizations are not liable because they individually qualify as organized for private nonprofit charitable or educational purposes under VA Code Section 58.1-3402. Ms. Graziano suggested reconvening the group after the City has completed at least the first part of that task, but the assessor gave no estimate of how long that would take. **Please contact VANNO immediately if you become aware of other attempts to enforce payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) in other cities or counties in Virginia.**

Virginia 2009 Governor's Race Underway

VANNO will be partnering again with the V3 Campaign to engage candidates running for statewide office in a discussion about their knowledge of and experience with nonprofits, as well as to learn their positions and policies toward supporting and engaging the nonprofit sector. VANNO encourages all nonprofit leaders, when attending campaign events, to ask two critical questions:

1. Please describe your personal and professional experiences with nonprofit organizations.
2. Please provide three specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with and strengthen Virginia's nonprofit sector to achieve the goals of your campaign.

Email what you learn to VANNO at info@vanno.org.

TRAINING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Institute at the University of Richmond's
Institute on Philanthropy

You can earn a certificate in Fundraising or Nonprofit Marketing in one week and jumpstart your success for the coming year. Check out our schedule and browse the new website while you are there:

<http://scs.richmond.edu/professional/philanthropy/summer-institute.html> Scholarships are available. Applications and registration forms are located online at:
<http://scs.richmond.edu/philanthropy>

HUD Grantwriting Workshops

Grantwriting & Organizational Development "Critical Basics" Seminars in Richmond with live webcasting to Culpeper and Luray - different topics at each seminar -Sept 9, Oct 8 contact anne.davis@hud.gov.

Upcoming Idealware Seminars

Upcoming Seminars Include:

Turn your attention to learning about the software that can help you raise money- maybe even in time for this year's appeal. Idealware has a great line up of online seminars about the software that can help your organization. VANNO members receive a discount for Idealware seminars (usually \$40 each). Learn more and register for the below seminars by [clicking here](#). Upcoming seminars (all at 1pm):

- Building an Effective Email List - Thursday, 6/25
- Introduction to Website Analytics - Wednesday, 7/8
- Editing a Website without Technical Skills - Thursday, 7/16

Worry Free Advocacy Seminars

VANNO will be partnering with the Alliance for Justice to convene three of these hands-on workshops throughout Virginia. Participants will learn the dos and don'ts of legal lobbying and advocacy activity for nonprofit organizations. The workshops will occur later this summer and early in the fall. More details to follow.

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Trying to Navigate Federal Stimulus Fund Information?

Many nonprofits across the country are trying to find specific information on federal, state, and local grant opportunities

under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Here are some tips that update some of the information in VANNO's Special Reports (see below):

- If you have received block grant funds or other support from your state or local governments, start with them by visiting their websites or calling. Here's the official Recovery.gov [link](#) to basic information at the state level.
- If you are considering applying for a federal grant, this [link](#) to the federal department recovery sites enables you to focus on likely sources of federal funds for your programs, and review what federal departments are saying about grant programs they are administering.
- The www.grants.gov website is the portal for all applications. If you want to consider applying for federal grants, [registration](#) is the key first step. Take time to become familiar with all the search tools for grants - including a specific one to [recovery funds](#) - and the tips and tools the site offers for applicants.
- To read grant descriptions and deadlines, go to www.VANNO.org and download the list. Additionally, as part of Stimulus.Virginia.gov's transition to a disclosure and transparency website, users may now sign up for email updates related to Virginia's economic recovery efforts and implementation of the ARRA. Go to www.stimulus.virginia.gov.

New Foundation Center Map Guides Nonprofits to Stimulus Dollars and Other Resources

The Foundation Center, the nation's leading authority on organized philanthropy, has collected an extensive array of resources on how nonprofits may be able to access stimulus package funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

- The Center's new MapShot: Best ARRA Funding Resources by State provides a state-by-state display of funding opportunities and other pertinent information.
- Also informative is the Center's PhilanTopic blog post, *What Do Nonprofits Need to Know About the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?* For more information, please visit www.foundationcenter.org or call (212) 620-4230.

Also, VANNO, in partnership with the National Council of Nonprofits continues to provide information via the Special Reports on Economic Stimulus and Recovery. Visit VANNO's website at www.vanno.org to see the latest report, #7, which summarizes a recent White House Briefing for Nonprofits.

Need Free Legal Service?

The Pro Bono Clearinghouse, a program of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation, provides pro bono legal services to non-profit organizations in the greater Richmond area. 150 attorneys serve as volunteers who have agreed to donate their time and services to help charitable organizations in the community. If your nonprofit currently has a need for help with a legal transaction or you would like additional information about the Pro Bono Clearinghouse program, please contact Carol Deitrick at (804) 780-2600 or by email to cdeitrick@richmondbar.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VANNO is on Facebook!

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VANNO Advocates for Serve America Funding for Virginia's Nonprofits

VANNO Board Member Susan Sanow spoke at the public hearing of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the agency charged with dispensing Serve America funds, including those directed toward nonprofit capacity building. VANNO's message to the Corporation included a request for it to respond to proposals from some of Virginia's most underserved regions.

VANNO Welcomes New Board Members

At its June 16 meeting, the VANNO Board of Directors appointed David Cullen, Executive Director of the Central Virginia EMS Council, and Phillip Hearne, Library Director of the Masanhutten Regional Library, to three year terms on the Board.

VANNO is grateful for the generous support from **The Cameron Foundation, John Randolph Foundation, Wachovia Foundation**, and numerous nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individuals across Virginia.

The Virginia Network of Nonprofit Organizations serves and represents the collective interests of nearly 40,000 nonprofits in Virginia. Founded in 2004, VANNO strengthens, promotes, and represents nonprofits through education, advocacy, networking, and group purchasing. For more information, visit www.vanno.org.