

VICFA
PO Box 6838
Charlottesville, VA 22906

March 2013



VICFA

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
President, Wayne Bolton
Vice President, Lois Smith
Treasurer, Jay Smith
Secretary, Christine Solem

Editorial Review: Suzi Croes
Proof Reader: Susan Verbeeck and Shannon Sankar
Contributing Columnist: Ann Buteau and Richard Altice
Designer: Shannon Sankar

VICFA Voice is published monthly by a volunteer staff.
Copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. Distributed free to all members and select mailing list. No part of this publication may be used without written permission of the publisher. Contribute to this publication via email to editor@VICFA.net or by mail to Editor, VICFA, PO Box 6838, Charlottesville VA 22906.

Members At Large: Richard Altice, Suzi Croes, Ed Ely, Susan Verbeeck, and Richard Bean.

Website: www.VICFA.org
E-group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VICFA>

Our Mission: *To promote and preserve unregulated direct farmer-to-consumer trade that fosters availability of locally grown or home-produced food products*

Share this newsletter with a friend - encourage others to join VICFA!

Annual membership is \$25.00.

Please make check payable to VICFA and send to PO Box 6838, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print clearly)

* Required fields

*Date _____
*First Name _____ *Last Name _____
Company /Farm Name _____
*Address _____
*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____
County _____ Congressional District _____
*Phone (_____) _____ - _____
E-mail _____
Website _____

Producers, please list the products that you sell:

*Do you want to be listed in the Membership Directory? Yes No

Note. Your directory listing will contain all of the above information unless you indicate otherwise below.

How did you hear about VICFA?

Comments:

March 2013

In This Issue:

Happy Valentine's Day 2013
Excitement in the General Assembly - HB 1852 and HB 1430 - Big Moments for VICFA

2013 Legislative Session Responses from VICFA Members concerning the outcome of HB 1852

VICFA President Shuts Down The General Assembly
Wayne Bolton Makes A Stand on Feb. 5, 2013

VICFA Notes: March Meeting & Announcements

Happy Valentine's Day 2013

By Ann Buteau



It was a day to remember at the General Assembly in Richmond, where food freedom activists had gathered in Senate Room B to see what the Senate Agriculture Committee would decide about HB 1852 (home processed foods inspection exemptions) and HB 1430 (the "Boneta Bill"). There was excitement and tension in the air. There were many more "ordinary people" than the usual handful of VICFA members, as Martha Boneta had done an amazing job of rallying friends and supporters to her cause. They were there to support both bills, just as we were.

HB 1852 was the first of the two bills to be heard by the committee. As Del. Orrock introduced the bill, we lined up ready to testify if necessary. We could not believe how quickly things happened next. Senator Hanger made a few comments to the effect that there had been some issues with including pickles on the list of exempted foods in the past, but those had been resolved, with a limit of \$3000 on gross sales of pickles being included in the bill. Senator Hanger looked up and down the committee, said he didn't think there was any need for discussion, asked for a vote, the vote was made and the bill passed unanimously.

It was over, just like that, no debates, no more frustration, 4 years of persistence finally paid off. For those who laughed at "the pickle bill's of the past few years, producers now have a whole lot more products they will be able to make and sell without inspection, which can only benefit local economies, as the money stays local and the benefit passed on. I hope those who take advantage of this change in the regulations will become VICFA members in recognition of the role VICFA played in getting the bill passed.

So, we waited for HB 1430 (the "Boneta Bill"). This bill was a whole lot more controversial. Speakers testified in its favor, and in reply there were multiple testimonies against the bill. The one that stood out to me as most upsetting, was the Farm Bureau lobbyist Trey Davis who amongst other comments, made the comment that he was speaking on behalf of FB members, and that "the majority of Farm Bureau members opposed this bill" (...excuse me, but I do not remember being polled as to my opinion on this bill and I am a Farm Bureau member... but for how much longer I am not sure...) .

Senator Stanley picked up on his statement and said he'd had a number of calls from constituents who were Farm Bureau members who were in fact in favor of this bill. An entertaining question and answer session followed.

I am tired of lobbyists interpreting the wording of bills and the intentions of bills to suit their agendas. Senator Stuart had an exchange with Mr. Davis to the effect that most normal people would know what the bill intended. Seems to me that you have to be a lobbyist to see things differently to most other people.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

You never know what you will hear at these hearings, apparently according to one senator, it says in the Code of Virginia that you have to earn 75 percent of your income from agriculture to be a "real farmer". Most of the people who have farmland and cows round here have off farm jobs or other businesses so they can have benefits, pay the bills, and keep their farms, so I wonder how many of them qualify as "real farmers"?

Eventually the bill was voted on and it did not pass. Only Senators Obenshain, Stuart, Stanley and Black voted in favor. Supporters were dismayed, but as we know, there is always next year...

So, if you weren't there, you missed a piece of history in the making. It was SO heartening to see so many people I didn't know, all taking a day off work and spending their hard earned dollars to get to Richmond to support what they believe in. I really can't afford it, and am too busy too, but sometimes "you gotta do what you gotta do".

In my opinion, the support from those non VICFA members who were present as the two bills went through the legislative processes, helped get HB 1852 passed, so I am sending out a huge "thank you" to them for their dedication, and to everyone else who made phone calls or emails too. ■

The 2013 Legislative session was fast and furious with so many agricultural bills intent on freeing the commerce possibilities for farmers here in Virginia. The number of people getting involved this year really was a game changer, helping to carry HB 1852 through the House and the Senate. At this time all that remains is a signature from the Governor! Another step toward food freedom with much work still to do as other bills did not fare as well.

"We were afraid they would try to amend adversely the pickle section of the bill, especially in the Senate Ag committee. We were ready with our arguments, but they were not needed as it slipped through the Senate Ag committee 40 to 0 - just like stepping on a banana peel! "

-- Christine Solem

"After so many years of struggling, it was amazing how fast HB 1852 was passed. It took us by surprise and left a feeling of great relief! "

-- Susan Verbeeck

— VICFA President Shuts Down the Virginia Assembly

By Richard Altice

On Tuesday, Feb. 5th VICFA President Wayne Bolton went to great lengths to make his mark for VICFA by shutting down the General Assembly Building in Richmond. Earlier that day nine of us got together to car pool to Richmond to visit the General Assembly

page 2

Building to see our representatives; Jim Edmunds and Tom Garrett, then observe the Senate meeting and tour the Capitol. VICFA members Wayne Bolton and Richard Altice were part of the group. Tom Garrett was not available, as he had gone to the Senate. Jim Edmunds was in his office and available for us to visit and to hear what had been going on and we were able to tell him our thoughts and preferences on several issues.



WAYNE BOLTON

Having finished our visits in the General Assembly we walked across the block to the public entrance to the Capitol, where we went through security again and made an appointment for a tour of the Capitol. We then started down the long corridor and began climbing the steps to get us to the Senate gallery. Our young leader, Daniel Bradshaw, who had been an assistant to Tom Garrett last year, gave little thought to climbing the numerous flights of stairs but shortly Wayne got winded and asked "why weren't we using the elevator?" At this point we all saw the wisdom in his point and began seeking out the elevators.

After a bit of confusion as to which floor we wanted, we found the Senate gallery floor where we needed to go through another security checkpoint. After filing through we were ushered to seats. I had just taken my seat when I heard a commotion behind me. I turned to find Wayne, face down on the floor between the bench seats. People were responding immediately.

Wayne had hit his head on the edge of the bench in the fall and was bleeding from the cut. The Capitol police were right there getting a compress on Wayne's head. With Wayne being taken care of, I wondered if this commotion had bothered the Senate and found that they had gone into a break.

Senator Northam, who is a doctor, had come up from the Senate floor to render assistance and presently the Capitol police EMT was there. Also, our Senator, Tom Garrett was there to see how Wayne was and to render what help he could. The doctor and the EMT bandaged Wayne's head and called for an ambulance to take him to the VCU emergency room where he would be thoroughly checked out. Kathy Tran, a good friend would go with him.

All of this took about 20 minutes, Wayne had halted the Senate for 20 minutes. Of all the years that he had been to the General Assembly trying to influence them on some legislation, many times without success, all it took was for him to misstep in the gallery and fall, to stop the Senate. He still insists that the steps were camouflaged in such a manner as to be hard to see.

With Wayne off to the emergency room to be examined, the rest of us, with regret, continued the tour of the Capitol. During the tour, which was interesting, we got updates on Wayne from Kathy. By about 3:30, the tour was completed and work on Wayne was finished. All he needed was some super glue on his head and a bandage and he was ready to go home.

We all got back to our respective cars and Wayne was driven home. While in the emergency room, he had gotten a phone call from Lt. Gov. Bolling, who was checking on his condition. Later in the week Wayne received a Get Well card signed by the whole Senate. What a way to get the attention of our legislators, but such are the things Wayne will go through for VICFA and its causes. Wayne we thank you for your dedication and wish you a speedy recovery! ■



VICFA Notes

Don't miss our March Meeting

The March Meeting will be held in Wingina, VA on March 10, 2013.

**** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS HOURS ARE NOW IN EFFECT ****

VICFA would like to extend our appreciation to our host for this month's meeting. Thank you to Richard Bean!

We will share in a potluck lunch at 1:00 pm, followed by our general business meeting from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. VICFA membership meetings are open to the public. Please bring a dish and a big helping of enthusiasm to share. Broaden our reach - invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

Sunday, March 10, 2013

1:00 PM

hosted by Richard Bean
1407 Huntinglodge Rd
Wingina, VA

DIRECTIONS:

From Charlottesville Area: Take 9th St NE (VA-20). Turn left onto Monticello Ave. Proceed for about 16 miles. Turn right onto Langhorne Rd. After 1.4 miles, Bear left onto VA-626. Continue on Langhorne Rd. After about 3 miles, Turn right onto James River Rd. Continue on VA-626 for 0.3 mile, then Bear left onto James River Rd. Continue on James River Rd. Continue on Cabell Rd. for about 8 miles, then Turn right onto James River Rd (VA-56). After about 2.4 miles, Turn right onto Hunting Lodge Rd. Go approximately 1.4 miles. Your destination on Hunting Lodge Rd is on the left.

From the Richmond area: Take I-195 N, (toll road) toward I-64 W. Keep left onto Powhite Pky (VA-146 S) (partial toll road) toward VA-150/US-60/VA-288. After about 6 miles, Take the US-60/Midlothian TnPk exit onto Midlothian Tpke (US-60 W). Proceed for about 60 miles. Turn right onto S James River Hwy (VA-56). Proceed for about 15 miles. Turn right onto Hunting Lodge Rd. After about 1.4 miles, your destination on Hunting Lodge Rd is on the left.

Countryside Natural Products Is Now:



And we have moved to a new, larger location in Waynesboro, Virginia.

- Certified Organic, Soy-Free Feeds
- Animal Health Products
- OMRI Approved Organic Gardening and Farming Products

Delivery Available Throughout Central Virginia
See our Website for Driver Dan Delivery Routes
– Nationwide Shipping –

www.countrysideorganics.com

888-699-7088

801 2nd Street, Waynesboro, VA 22980

Advertise in VICFA Voice!

Classified Ad rate per month, prepaid:
\$5 first 25 words, \$ 0.20 per word thereafter.

Display Ad rate per month, prepaid:

PAGE SIZE	1 MONTH	6 MONTHS	12MO.
Full page (size - 8"x10.5")	\$100	\$95	\$90
1/2 page (sizes - 8"x5.25" or 4"x10.5")	\$50	\$47.50	\$45
1/4 page (size - 4"x5.25")	\$25	\$23.75	\$22.50
1/8 page (size - 4"x2.5")	\$12.50	\$11.88	\$11.25

page 3