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Write For VICFA!

We'd love to feature your article in an upcoming newsletter.
Contact suzicroes@gmail.com

VICFA

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
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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.

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Company /Farm Name _____

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

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How did you hear about VICFA?/Comments:

VICFA Voice

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

April 2015

In This Issue:

Meet ALEC - A Corp. Cartel
Know thy enemy: Discover some of the secrets of the corporations by the curtain: ALEC: American Legislative Exchange Council.

The White Coats Are Coming
HB 1461 - Raw Milk Bill brings doctors to the General Assembly.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline
An update and contact info should you wish to express concerns or make inquiries.

Raw Milk in West Virginia
Lawmakers in WV have passed a Raw Milk Bill.

VICFA Notes:

Announcements

- Amendments of VICFA By-Laws
- VICFA Annual Meeting
- VICFA Board of Elections
- Special VICFA Lifetime Membership Announcement
- April Meeting

ALEC And Your Representative Connection

By Richard Altice

For years, VICFA has been going to the General Assembly and doing battle in the committees in efforts to bring Liberty and free market principles to our Commonwealth. Some-times we win, but for the most part we are ignored.

I embrace a quote from Albert Einstein, "Doing things over and over again and expecting different results is insanity". It is my belief that we must learn to think outside the box, evaluate what we are doing, identify who our enemy is and learn Sun Tzu's, *The Art of War*. This is an invaluable tool, not only for generals but in the world as a whole.

In the theme of holding your friends close and your enemies closer, we need to know who our enemy is.

Having come from defeats in the committee meetings, we are immediately displeased with the Delegate or Senator who brought it about. But, he/she is only the visible hand of our defeat.

I want to introduce you to one invisible hand behind the curtain, or the unseen wizard of Oz. ALEC, American Legislative Exchange Council. ALEC is a cartel of corporations who espouse limited government, free markets and Federalism, or so they say on their website (you can't see all the site without being a member). They have meetings to decide what is best for America or a state and to get these decisions enacted into law. They donate to Delegates, Senators and Congress members. They meet with the Delegates & etc. Tell them what they want and the Delegates go to their respective states and get it done.

You won't find this on their website www.alec.org, you'll need to check out ALEC at Wikipedia (on the web) and alecexposed.org. *Don't take my word for it, do your own research on this, there is too much information to be learned for this short article (It's easy as all three websites are together on the prompt page).

The alecexposed.org site has been redone since I first looked at it and they have modified their language. At first you could tell they were a very left leaning (now so now), but they have a lot of information on which corporations are in ALEC (a lot) and which politicians are part of it (a lot again). The amount of money donated to each politician is also reported.

Don't forget that all this is for the benefit of the corporations, but in the name of free markets. Go to the wikipedia.org site and find out more on ALEC and how on one hand they work on some good projects and, while that holds your attention, the other hand is doing far more sinister things.

I am involved in taking a Civics course and have learned that we, the people, gave permission for the government to be in existence. That the government is the servant to us, to protect us within the confines of the Constitution, and that Senators, Delegates and Congress people are supposed to listen to us. (Look it up in the Virginia Constitution Article 1 section 2 and the preambles of the Declaration of

continued from page 1

Independence and the Constitution).

I am more and more convinced that Democrats and Republicans are opposite sides of the same coin (or as a friend says, the same buzzard), and that both want to impose their own flavor of tyranny.

Civics and Constitutional study have been removed from schools, dumbing us down, making us ignorant of our responsibility to administer our government. This is the responsibility of the people and not that of a group of corporations. This makes for an oligarchy.

Our founding fathers gave us a Republic, if we can keep it. To keep it we need to study civics and our Constitution so that each of us become lawyers (one who studies law). We, the people must involve ourselves back into our government, for our absence makes for a vacuum that will be filled by something like ALEC.

The relationship between us and our government is much like a rider on a horse. We have dropped the reins and the horse knows it and is doing as he pleases. We are going for an unwanted ride. Pick up the reins, control our horse government; learn civics and the Constitution, and most importantly, get personally involved. ■

For more information go to: <http://nationallibertyalliance.org/>

The White Coats Are Coming Doctors On Call At The GA

By Suzi Croes

Something piqued my curiosity this legislative session while attending the Ag Sub-Committee hearing on HB 1461 a Milk Exemptions bill. It was the presence of a doctor, in full white coated regalia (including a stethoscope) as if he had run right over from the hospital to be at the General Assembly meeting.



Where did he come from?

I couldn't help but think... "Is there a doctor in the house?"

Now, I have seen doctors down at the GA before, hawking flu vaccines and representing bills that fund Medicaid or some other medical related issues. So, it wasn't unusual that I would see one. Just that he would be at an Ag meeting. We have had doctors give personal testimony to the health benefits of foods from the farm. They come of their own volition, passionate about good nutrition, wanting to make a difference.

This "White Coat" was different. Not really up on the raw milk issue, he just seemed out of place, as he haltingly gave his testimony against raw milk which pretty much was verbatim CDC propaganda.

Turns out he is part of the Medical Society of Virginia (MSA) "White Coats on Call" (WCOC) a medical lobbying group and in order to be visual, they wear their "white" coats. MSA is a very large group with many partner subgroups like the American Academy of Pediatrics - Virginia Chapter and Virginia Academy of Family Physicians. As a group they meet once a year to discuss what political action they would like to endorse. This year's meeting is in May.

MSV focuses on issues relating to the medical profession like malpractice caps, Medicare cuts, substance abuse care and others. The WCOC stagger their lobby days to cover most of the General Assembly session.

HB 1461 a raw milk bill was probably not an issue on their agenda for 2015. However, a WCOC can be brought in on a bill to lend professional weight where needed. That must be where the "on call" comes in.

As out of place as the white coated doctor was, I don't think that the MSV is gunning for Ag issues. That gives us the opportunity for discourse. Possibly educating some of these "white coats" on the real food issues could be the next thing in true health care! ■

Atlantic Coast Pipeline Update:

NOW is the time to send a letter to FERC if you have concerns!

By Anne Buteau

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)'s "scoping period" has begun. It will END on April 28, unless they extend the deadline in response to pressure from the public. We are responsible for telling FERC what they need to include in the required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). ANYONE can submit comments and concerns.

This is the official document of the regulatory process and every question or issue that we expect FERC to examine MUST be sent to them by April 28. They are not obliged to consider any concerns that do not arrive by that date. Our letters must "raise the bar" as high as possible.

Dominion would like FERC to investigate as few issues as possible, minimizing identification of negative impacts from the ACP, which must be considered in the decision by FERC to grant the permit or not.

When you write to FERC you must identify the project at the top of the letter:

**Atlantic Coast Pipeline/Docket # PF15-6
Re: Harmful impacts of proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

Would this pipeline impact you directly? Include specifics: how it may affect your spring or well, your family's peace & safety, wetlands, an historic cemetery, worries about erosion, sedimentation in your streams, property values, and business income. More broadly, what about damage to the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Virginia, the region, our nation, even the world? Fossil fuels are causing climate change, period! Include links to related articles to prove your points.

Most important points to stress in your letters:

- 1) Ask FERC to extend this "scoping period" to June 27 - to compensate for the recent route proposals
- 2) Ask FERC to allow the full 120 days to comment on the "draft" Environmental Impact Statement, given its anticipated complexity and length.
- 3) Ask FERC to require Dominion to fully consider alternative ways to meet the supposed "need" for this gas, including alternate routes that use existing pipeline, utility & transportation easements, renewable energy, and increased efficiency.
- 4) Ask FERC to fully assess all cumulative impacts of past pipelines and foreseeable consequences of existing and proposed pipelines in Virginia—including the broader related impacts of fracking, exporting, and climate change.
- 5) Ask FERC to detail the exact "mitigation measures" they will require of Dominion to compensate for all the damage.

Comment via FERC's "E-comment" link:

<https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>

Or send your letters via snail mail addressed to:

Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

For more background info, sample letters and the latest news go to www.friendsofnelson.com

West Virginia Law Makers Pass Raw Milk Bill

West Virginia lawmakers have passed a bill letting people drink raw milk through animal herd sharing agreements.

The Bill narrowly passed the Senate but went on to pass the House of Delegates 81-19.

While retail sales of raw milk will still remain illegal in West Virginia, herd-share agreements will allow partial ownership of a cow on paper for those who wish to drink raw milk from the animal. Person's consuming the raw milk would have to sign a form acknowledging health risks. Herd-share programs for raw milk are already legal in Kentucky, Indiana and Alabama.

Doctors would have to tell health officials about any illnesses related to consuming raw milk. Federal officials warned of health risks when children, the elderly and pregnant women consume raw milk and bill opponents worried about people getting sick.

Proponents, many of them delegates who said they grew up on farms, said people should be free to drink it.

VICFA Notes

Amendment of By-Laws



At the March 8th, 2015 meeting the VICFA Board voted to approve that the By-Laws be changed to allow Board members to serve 5 consecutive terms instead of three.

Pursuant to Article XI of the VICFA By-Laws,

"The By-Laws of VICFA may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual Membership Meeting...Any amendment to the VICFA By-Laws requires a twenty-one (21) day written notice to the membership."

Our **Annual Membership Meeting** will be held this year on Sunday June 12, 2015 from 1:00p.m. to 4:00pm, at Polyface Farm, home of Joel and Theresa Salatin in Swoope, Virginia. Please be present to vote on this important amendment to the By-Laws.

Board Elections

2015 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has been appointed. Josiah Tillet will head the committee assisted by Laura Knaup. Please contact them if you are interested in serving on the VICFA Board.

We welcome all active VICFA members to serve on the Board.

Josiah Tillet
jtillet@liberty.edu
434-329-1510

Laura Knaup
lauraknaup@hotmail.com
434-946-7405

VICFA



VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT CONSUMERS
& FARMERS ASSOCIATION

VICFA Special Announcement

VICFA is now accepting a lifetime membership fee in the amount of **\$375.00**. This was approved by the Board at its March 8th, 2015 meeting. Take advantage of this great deal now: live to be old and save!

Don't miss our April Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held in Shipman, VA on April 12, 2015.

**** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME HOURS ARE IN EFFECT ****

VICFA would like to extend our appreciation to our host for this month's meeting. Thank you to Anne, Dan & Elizabeth Buteau

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, April 12, 2015 at 1:00 PM

hosted by Anne, Dan & Elizabeth Buteau

6556 James River Road • Shipman, VA

Phone: (434) 263-4946

DIRECTIONS:

From Charlottesville Area: South on Rt. 29 towards Lynchburg. Go about 30 miles to Lovingson and turn left at the traffic lights (the 3rd Lovingson exit). Turn right on James River Road/Rt 56 East. Go about 7 1/2 miles on this road and you come to our house on the left hand side, mailbox number: 6556, just before an old big white barn. (When you come down a mountain with 25 mph curves you are about 3/4 mile from our house.)

From the Lynchburg area: North on Rt 29, pass through Amherst, Colleen (Look for Blue Ridge Medical Center on right/Big Ice Cream Cone on the left). Go another 1 1/2 miles, turn right towards Shipman/OakRidge on Rt 653. Go to T junction (by the Corner Market) and turn right on James River Road/Rt 56 east. We are approximately 4 miles from this point, on the left, next to the big white barns. Mailbox number: 6556.

From the Farmville area: Go west on Rt 60. Go through Buckingham. Turn right on Rt 56. Cross the James River and we are 6 1/2 miles from there, on the right. Mailbox number: 6556, next to the big white barn.