



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

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DECEMBER MEETING SAVE THE DATE

## Notes and Thoughts from the VICFA Annual Membership Meeting June 18, 2017

by Anne Buteau, VICFA President

The meeting was held at a “Polyface Farm”, Swoope, home of the Salatin family and it was exciting to see some new members in attendance. We feasted on all kinds of delicious homemade foods, carefully inspected by ourselves before we happily ate them!

The meeting was called to order by acting President, Vice President Richard Altice and we had brief introductions as there were new members present. This is always interesting and beneficial as you never know what interests and skills people have and it is a great to hear their brief story of why they joined VICFA.

The agenda and minutes from the March meeting were adopted, then we had the Treasurers’ report from acting Treasurer, Jay Smith. As usual we could do with more new members, donations and advertising revenue, so if any of you have friends who would like to support farm food freedom please encourage them to join. They may call me on 434 263 4946 (after dark is best) if they have questions.

After the report by the Nominating Committee presented by Barbara Russell (thank you!), the elections took place and the Board of Directors for the year 2017-2018.

### 2017-2018 VICFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President- Anne Buteau  
Vice President- Richard Altice  
Treasurer- Jay Smith  
Secretary- Bryony Marshall

Members at large:  
Christine Solem  
Susan Verbeeck  
Josiah Tillett  
Page Glennie  
Sina McCullough

Thank you to everyone for being willing to step up and serve, especially our long standing board members, Richard, Jay, Susan, Josiah, and Page who have put in much time to keep VICFA going, plus of course Christine Solem “the goat lady” who keeps us all in line.

At this point, I’m also sending a big thank you to former VICFA President Lois Smith for her years of service, and especially her dedication to lobbying and making VICFA a more recognized name in the General Assembly in Richmond.

Then followed the Newsletter, Action Alert, and Membership reports by Suzi Croes (Newsletter Editor and Communications ). Our Action Alert openings and “clicks” are increasing which means more folks on the action alert list are becoming more engaged in VICFA so that is good news. We’d like a variety of contributors to the newsletter so if anyone likes to write they can submit an article for publication to [suzicroes@gmail.com](mailto:suzicroes@gmail.com)

The VICFA Board of Directors discussed and voted to sign up for the upcoming 2018 HEAV Convention. This is becoming an annual event for VICFA and a great opportunity to reach out to new families.



In June, VICFA attended the Homeschool Educators Association of Virginia Convention in Richmond. This has been our most successful outreach effort for new members over the last few years and was spearheaded by John and Jean Young. At the convention working the booth this year with John and Jean were Suzi Croes and Richard Altice. We hosted a well attended presentation by Delegate Pogge on the political climate down at the VA General Assembly with an introduction to VICFA and what we do. This was followed by a Q&A session with Delegate Pogge, Christine Solem, Suzi Croes, and myself on the panel addressing various farm and food freedom questions from the floor. Thank you to Delegate Pogge for joining us! (One attendee who later became a new VICFA member said she’d got more than \$25 worth of information in that one session alone!)

Then followed discussion on fundraising and Sina McCullough agreed to be the “go to person” on fundraising efforts with the full support of the Board, so if anyone would like to host a farm to table meal, or has any other easy to accomplish fundraising ideas please get in touch with her at [sina@1791.com](mailto:sina@1791.com) Thank you Sina

Board Members are willing to travel to members homes for informal pot luck gatherings to give an overview of VICFA and what we have accomplished over the years, and the ongoing challenges to food freedom that consumers and especially farmers face.

VICFA has also been approached to assist in bill reading for the Virginia Tea Party. New member Chad Chenier volunteered to do this. Thank you Chad! This is very useful as although VICFA does not align itself with any political party, if we spotted a Bill in the General Assembly that would further increase regulation on small farms/producers, or restrict peoples food choices even more, there would quite likely be a number of Tea Party members who would also be concerned. In the same way, we find allies in “tree hugging locavores” who once they find out what small farmers face, are quite willing to make phone calls to help preserve a more sustainable farming system and increase their access to local foods.

This year we will be pursuing a yoghurt bill and are seeking a sponsor...more on that bill soon!

I encourage you to attend the quarterly meetings to contribute, stay informed and see what you can do to help with projects as “many hands make lighter work”.

If you go to the website or send friends there, please tell them that even though it is a bit “dated” there is still a lot of useful information to be found there, especially the archived newsletters and the history of VICFA’s accomplishments over the years. A new and glossy one will appear as soon as we have the person and/or money to accomplish it...

The Annual Meeting adjourned on time, and we parted re-energized for the upcoming challenges ahead.

I look forward to meeting members I have not met and having long time members come to meetings now they are only quarterly, or hosting an informal one in their home.

**Thank you all** for being members of VICFA.

Anne Buteau- President VICFA

## Lois Smith: President VICFA

Lois Smith is a hard act to follow. She was at the helm of VICFA for a number of years, during which she lobbied endlessly against bills we opposed, and for ones that we supported, most particularly for the successful addition of a number of products to the "Kitchen Bill" in 2013.

Lois increased VICFA's name recognition at the General Assembly, and was also renowned for her "everlasting burger". This meal from McDonalds or Burger King was years old, never decomposed, and was never eaten by ants or flies! The wrapper fell apart before the "food" which was shown with great effect to many a receptionist and delegate in the General Assembly who could not believe what they were seeing.

Lois became a great spokesperson for VICFA. I enjoyed working with Lois through the years on VICFA projects and hope that in the future she will return and join in again with whatever is going on at the time. I stepped down in 2014 from being an active VICFA Board member, to campaign against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, but felt last year that now was the time to dedicate more time to VICFA again.

The core of VICFA has been serving on the board in various roles for many years and I really encourage more new members to come to our quarterly meetings and find out what we all do "on the board". It's not that bad really!!

So, THANK YOU Lois for all you have done over the years for VICFA and hope to see you back in Richmond soon!

All the best,  
Anne Buteau

Join us for our next **VICFA** meeting on **December 10th, 2017**

Hosted by

**Farmstead Ferments Mercantile**

330 Valley Street,  
Scottsville, VA 24590

**Farmstead Ferments will also be giving a special presentation on fermentation!**

The meeting will start and 12pm with our usual potluck meal followed by our business meeting.

All are welcome, please bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing you all.



## 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.
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<b>1/8 page</b> <i>(size - 4"x2.5")</i>	\$12.50	\$11.88	\$11.25

### Write For VICFA!

We'd love to feature your article in an upcoming newsletter.  
Contact [suzicroes@gmail.com](mailto:suzicroes@gmail.com)

**Questions or comments about VICFA? We want to hear from you!  
Get in contact with a board member!**

#### VICFA BOARD MEMBERS

**President-** Ann Buteau,  
434-263-4946

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**Secretary-** Bryony Marshall  
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#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

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We invite YOU  
to become a member and let your voice be heard...

JOIN NOW

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;  
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

## Wayne Bolton—September 21, 1935 to June 5, 2017



It was about February of 2007 when a friend told me a Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers meeting was going to be held in Farmville, Va. It was here that I met Wayne Bolton who was president of VICFA. Over the years Wayne and I worked together making phone calls in political campaigns and campaigning for the rights of consumers and the small independent farmers. We made numerous trips to the General Assembly in Richmond, Va., to lobby for and against bills we either were in favor of or against it. It wasn't long, as I attended each of the meetings that I became the vice president of VICFA.

For a while there 3 of us traveling together to the various locations in Virginia to where a member was hosting a meeting. Many of these trips were 1 to 2 hours one way. This gave us plenty of time to discuss what ever was going on in the various political arenas. These discussions were always exuberant. Wayne and I were like two peas in a pod in our political views.

I remember one time going to Beaver Dam for a meeting, the two of us were going east on Rt. 60 the other side of Cumberland Court House where the road is straight but up and down long hills. We were in such an excited conversation that my foot got too heavy and on a down hill slope that my speed was up to 70 mph when I looked.

As my eyes came back onto the road, there was a deputy coming from the opposite direction. I had already started braking and I was hoping he wasn't running radar, but I saw him slow down and pull over to turn around. I pulled off the road with the deputy behind me and got an invitation to see the judge.

Wayne was a terrific campaigner, always fully involved. It was a shame that time caught with him.  
Richard Altice

*I remember Wayne most for his easy way of speaking with others, his friendly, likable demeanor making the important points of food freedom easy to understand for the uninitiated, he spoke plainly, without any fancy superlatives.*

*Wayne was often fond of pointing out that most young people (and by that he meant anyone younger than him) don't realize what freedoms they have lost throughout the years and that it is up to those that do know to educate about and preserve those freedoms for the future children of our country. It is a point well taken. Always be vigilant. Thank you, Wayne.*  
Suzi Croes

"Wayne Lebanon Bolton age 81, of Green Bay, Va. passed away on June 5, 2017.

Wayne was born on September 21, 1935 to the late Marion and Cloeva Myers Bolton. He was a man who enjoyed the simple things in life including his family, farm and nature. He spent a lot of time outdoors and had humming bird feeders.

Wayne's passion was to advocate for the rights of small the farmer. He served as president for Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers (VICFA) and he hosted the "Farmers Market Report" on WHVL radio station Friday mornings. Wayne was very active in serving his Lord Jesus and faithful to his church family. Wayne also served in the Army and was stationed in California and Germany.

Wayne was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia May Gammon. Wayne is survived by his son, Stacy Bolton (Angel) of Mechanicsville, Va., Rodney Gammon of Greenbay, Va., Linda Gammon of Powhatan and a brother Art Proffitt of Richmond, Va.

Wayne's children are very appreciative for the love and support of his church family at Piedmont Church of Christ.

A memorial service was held Monday, June 26, 2017 at 3 pm at Amelia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia, Va."

**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:

# VICFA



**VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT CONSUMERS  
& FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

VICFA Communications  
VICFA VOICE Editor and Production- Suzi Croes

WE THANK ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTING WRITERS- Anne Buteau and Richard Altice