



## Committees Overview

The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) is only as strong as its members. Member committees drive the work of the VMA on critical manufacturing issues as well as create the foundation of our “grass roots” advocacy. Committees are central to the government affairs function of the VMA, but they also drive our professional development, networking, regulatory and outreach services. Involvement in VMA committees is the best avenue to directly affect change, get involved and stay informed. All Full and Associate Members are encouraged to participate in committees of interest. For more information about any of the following committees, please contact Sharon Sykes, Director of Member Services, at [ssykes@vamanufacturers.com](mailto:ssykes@vamanufacturers.com).

### VMA Standing Committees:

#### ENERGY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Chair: Keith Tonga, Honeywell**

**Vice Chair: David Hudgins, ODEC**

**Board Liaison: Becky Merritt, Dominion**

**VMA Staff: Sharon Sykes**

This committee reviews proposed legislation, regulation and administrative rulings related to energy conservation, distribution and the development of domestic resources.

#### ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY (EHS&S) COMMITTEE

**Chair: Jim Thornton, Newport News Shipbuilding**

**Vice-Chair: Chuck Stiff, Altria**

**Air Regulation Subcommittee Co-Chairs: Jim Taylor, MeadWestvaco and Joe Furr, WestRock**

**Water/Waste Regulation Subcommittee co-chairs: John Petchul, Greif and Scott Wolff, Honeywell**

**Legal Counsel: Air - Dr. Tom Knauer, Water/Waste - Brooks Smith and Andrea Wortzel**

**Board Liaison: David Anderson, WestRock**

**VMA Staff: Sharon Sykes**

This committee is concerned with state and federal policies and programs, including legislative proposals, regulations and administrative rulings on environmental as well as occupational health and safety matters. It reviews proposed programs and public policy changes and makes position recommendations as well as assists in drafting legislation. Technical expertise is required for the preparation of testimony and comments for state and federal legislative bodies and administrative agencies, which is completed within the Air and Water/Waste Regulation Subcommittees, as appropriate, under the leadership of legal counsel.

#### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL

**Board Liaison: Scott Tilley, VMA Chairman**

**VMA Staff: Brett Vassey**

The Government Affairs Council is made up of VMA members as well as lobbyists representing member companies advocating for pro-manufacturing public policies to local, state and federal elected officials to accomplish legislative and regulatory agenda items driven by the work of the other VMA committees.

#### RETIRED MANUFACTURERS COUNCIL

**Chair: Dr. Reinhold Brand (retired from Evonik)**

**Vice Chair: Dan Williams (retired from Richmond Corrugated)**

**Board Liaison: Dr. Reinhold Brand**

**VMA Staff: Sharon Sykes**

The mission of the Retired Manufacturers Council is to promote the general well-being of industrial organizations in Virginia by advocating for pro-manufacturing public policies to local, state and federal elected officials. Its purpose is to: 1) Organize retired manufacturers into a grass roots political action group for advocating for pro-manufacturing legislation, supporting select candidates for public office, and supporting other issues involving retiree pensions or their livelihood; 2) Expand messaging of *Dream it. Do it. Virginia* to students, transitioning military, dislocated workers, parents, educators and community leaders; and 3) Grow the VMAPAC and increase its effectiveness.

#### COMMERCE COMMITTEE

**Chair: TBA**

**Vice Chair: TBA**

**Board Liaison: TBA**

**VMA Staff: Sharon Sykes**

Newly formed, this committee will be part of the support system for VITAL, the Conference on World Trade and the newly formed Virginia International Trade Association. It will also focus on supply chain opportunities and barriers for Virginia manufacturers and their suppliers, including any state, local or federal procurement regulations as well as exporting opportunities and barriers to global markets. The image of manufacturing as well as marketing locally manufactured goods may also be explored as well as professional development.

**SUSTAINING VIRGINIA**

**Chair: Larry Cummings, Trane**  
**Co-Chair: Yolanda Pagano, O'Brien & Gere**  
**Board Liaison: TBA**

**VMA Staff: Sharon Sykes**

*Sustaining Virginia™* is program for manufacturers in support of their sustainable business practices in the Commonwealth of Virginia. *Sustaining Virginia™* has a voluntary web-based assessment that member companies (and others) can use to self-assess their sustainability performance. This ten-category sustainability index is the first statewide recognition program of its kind designed to honor manufacturers for their commitment to sustainability and improving the environment, communities, and economic future of Virginia.

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**TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Jed King, WestRock**  
**Vice Chair: Open**  
**Board Liaison: TBA**

**VMA Staff: Sharon Sykes**

This committee is concerned with state, local and federal tax policies and programs, including legislative proposals and administrative rulings on subjects of taxation directly applicable to manufacturers. It reviews proposed changes and makes position recommendations. It assists in the preparation of testimony and comments for state, local, and federal legislative bodies and administrative agencies as well as assists in drafting legislation and regulations. It further initiates studies and surveys detailing the dynamic effects of tax policy on manufacturers.

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**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Open**  
**Vice Chair: Open**  
**Board Liaison: TBA**

**VMA Staff: Sharon Sykes**

This committee reviews major legislative and administrative proposals related to transportation systems, services, rates, and taxes, and makes position recommendations. It assists in the preparation of statements on transportation proposals under consideration by state and federal legislative bodies and administrative agencies.

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**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Formerly VCATS)**

**Chair: Gary Forget, Volvo**  
**Vice Chair: Nat Marshall, B&W**  
**Board Liaison: Tanya Cook, Philip Morris USA**

**VMA Staff: Vanessa Rastberger**

The purpose of the Virginia Council on Advanced Technology Skills (VCATS) is to serve as the industry's voice on issues impacting the recruitment, retention, development and advancement of a skilled workforce and competitive workplace. Its three areas of focus are: (1) education and workforce policy, (2) partnership development, and (3) workplace affairs. Each of these efforts is led by a sub-committee that examines existing and emerging strategies, policies and programs impacting business operations. VCATS also oversees the *Dream it. Do it. Virginia (DIDIVA) Network* working to 1) rebrand manufacturing as an advanced technology industry and (2) close the skills gaps in Virginia's incumbent, emerging and transitioning workforce by expanding the skills pipeline of individuals by focusing on work readiness; customized pathways to advanced level training with specialized credentials that are competency-based, independently assessed and industry-endorsed; and articulating career credential to degrees by (3) expanding the statewide partners network.

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