



**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION
OF GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES
& RECORDS ADMINISTRATORS**



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**Four Virginians Make
Government Technology's Top 25
Doers, Dreamers, and Drivers List**

Gov. Mark R. Warner, Secretary of Technology George C. Newstrom, Roanoke City Manager Darlene Burcham, and Virginia Beach Chief Information Officer David Sullivan were named to Government Technology magazine's "Top 25: Doers, Dreamers and Drivers."

"It is a tribute to the positive technology-based changes that we have been making in Virginia that four out of 25 people who earned recognition are from the commonwealth," said Warner. "Increasing the efficiency of technology not only saves money. It helps government serve people."

Individuals who made this year's list implemented innovative ideas that improved citizen services and public safety-and they did so with cost-effectiveness demanded by current budget realities.

For the rest of the list and more details on all visit:
<http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=89641>

This artical came from Government Technology's web site:www.govtech.net

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Presidents Message

Greetings and Happy Summer to you all, except it seems we've already had Summer this year the way the Spring has been heating up. And speaking of heating up, plans for the fall conference have been well underway for some time. I hope you are reserving November 3 - 5 for the trip to Virginia Beach and our 20th annual gathering. The program planners have an excellent lineup of speakers, and the hotel, the Sheraton Oceanfront, has promised us an even better meeting experience than we had last year. They have renovated a substantial portion of their complex, thanks to Hurricane Isabel, and are anxiously awaiting our return. VAGARA members should have already received a PowerPoint invitation via your email inbox. If you haven't, please contact me.

After many years of calling ourselves a non-profit organization, it turns out that VAGARA has never actually applied for that status, and is now in the process of doing so. The Executive Board has retained the services of the accounting firm Rose, Sanderson, and Creasy to advise us on the best course to take in filing for non-profit status, and then filing on our behalf with the IRS. They came highly recommended from the Library of Virginia Foundation, who has just completed an extensive search for an accounting firm and selected RSC after narrowing the field from several candidates. Part of the filing process is declaring the services delivered by the organization to its membership. If there is a service you believe VAGARA can and should be offering, please email either myself or one of the other board members to let us know. Continuing to develop our membership is the greatest achievement possible for this association. I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer.


Glenn Smith



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Musings on the MER Conference

Cohasset Associates, Inc., Chicago, IL has served for nearly 40 years as one of the nation's foremost consulting firms specializing in document-based information management. Its educational work is centered on its annual national conference on Managing Electronic Records (MER), which I attended in May. MER is a focused, limited-attendance conference addressing the operational, technical and legal issues associated with managing the complete life-cycle of electronic records. I suggest that whether you are new to the business of E-Records, or simply want to insure you have the latest regulatory, compliance, or technical knowledge needed to successfully manage your program, that you consider the MER Conference as an excellent source for research on records management issues. Additionally, for over 25 years Cohasset has published the definitive legal research on the use of alternative media to paper for storing records and is available electronically as part of the MERresource service, a subscription Web-portal service which Cohasset offers year-around to those unable to attend their conferences in person. Together with ARMA International and AIIM International, Cohasset has researched and prepared white papers on e-records management strategies as well as an eye-opening ERM Survey. Their work has been recognized by the Assoc. of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA), the Association of Information and Image Management (AIIM), the Institute of Certified Records Managers (ICRM), as well as the Society of American Archivists (SAA).

Upon reflection, I thought the presentations were timely and well done, and as with most conferences, found the interaction with other attendees extremely informative. During the continental breakfasts, the formal lunches, and between sessions there was ample time to spend with the 300 other conferees, as well as with the nearly one dozen vendors, including Hummingbird, FileNet, IBM, Open Text, EMC, Documentum, Stellent, and Diversified Technologies. Many of these vendors offered private sessions and one-on-one discussions of their respective products during the day and into the evenings. Slides and notes are made available on all concurrent sessions. Held every year during the same week and at the Westin Hotel Chicago, an attendee is made to feel a special guest at this very educational and informative affair. Most attendees were from the commercial world but nearly 1/3 were from DOD, CIA, NARA, FBI, Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Arizona State Library, Cities of Carlsbad and Edmonton, Virginia Housing and Development Authority, Universities of Pittsburg and Michigan, State of Wisconsin's Department of Administration, and San Diego County.

If your future budget permits, you might want to consider attending the 2005 MER Conference, May 23-25, 2005. It is a significant investment, but their distinguished work and innovative concepts may make it worthwhile for your organization. Cohasset may be reached at www.cohasset.com or by phone at (312) 527-1550.

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