



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Randall P Burdette  
Director

*Department of Aviation*  
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Dear Virginia Pilots:

The Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) and Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) have developed a new volunteer flying organization, the Virginia Volunteer Pilot Group (VVPG). Its function is to provide volunteer pilot groups such as Angel Flight, Civil Air Patrol, Virginia Helicopter Association, Pilots and Paws, LightHawk and as many others as we can recruit, a way to assist the Commonwealth communities during times of emergency.

During Katrina and other emergencies, GA Pilots have been a great asset and on some occasions, a well-meaning challenge to the emergency personnel. We are working in advance to establish communications processes and procedures to utilize this wonderful asset that is GA, to assist the communities within the Commonwealth during an emergency. We are focusing on coordinating with organizations because we cannot handle thousands (or even hundreds) of pilots calling to volunteer. Individual pilots will be given information on participating organizations and encouraged to contact them to join or provide assistance.

We have been working with some of the organizations already communicating processes and how organizations could receive missions from VDEM with assistance from DOAV. We have completed our first series of table top exercises and are working to improve and streamline communications. Organizations flying missions requested by VDEM would be provided some liability coverage for working on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Our next meeting and the first one **open to all pilots** is scheduled for May 5th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Chesterfield County Airport. Participating organizations will have the opportunity to have exhibit booths on display and be able to discuss their roles in this process.

Lindy Kirkland, President of the Air Care Alliance, is working with us to coordinate the volunteer organizations. On the DOAV staff, Sonny Rea, one of our Command Pilots is the lead working together with Scott Denny, one of our Senior Airport Planners and also supported by Vernon Carter, our Manager for Facilities, Equipment and Security, and Mike McEwen, also one



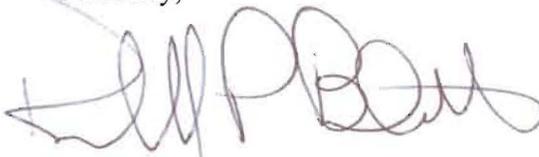
of our Command Pilots. We also hope to use the VVPG to help promote awareness and recruitment for the participating organizations.

Please join us at the Chesterfield County Airport (KFCI) on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to learn more about the VVPG. Lunch will be served so please RSVP by April 25<sup>th</sup>.

For further information and details about joining the organization, please contact Sonny Rea at [sonny.rea@doav.virginia.gov](mailto:sonny.rea@doav.virginia.gov); (804) 236-3639 or Scott Denny at [scott.denny@doav.virginia.gov](mailto:scott.denny@doav.virginia.gov); (804) 236-3632.

We hope to see some of you at our May 5th meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall Burdette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Randall Burdette  
Director