



THE VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP RETREAT

We can't believe it's almost here!! The 8th Annual Virginia Leadership Retreat (VLR) will be held at The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia from July 28 through July 31. The VLR is a unique event for CAI Community Managers and Business Partners serving in Virginia that is geared towards higher level education during a long weekend of fun and networking. 2016 will be the 7th year in a row that the event will be held at The Homestead, but we are planning some changes to the format to provide a new and refreshing experience in the mountains of western Virginia.

Each year, the Retreat has its own theme and flavor. This year we are celebrating the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, and inviting attendees to join us in "Carrying the Torch of Leadership." Don't worry, we promise we won't ask you to wear a toga (although, personally, I am a little disappointed about this)!!! But the event will provide numerous opportunities to engage in teamwork and friendly competition.

As always, there will be a golf tournament on Friday on the Old Course, or for those of us who would rather play with the amateurs, a free round of mini-golf will be available as an alternative activity. And to fully embrace the theme of the ancient games, we will be hosting an archery tournament on the lawn on Friday afternoon. For attendees preferring camaraderie to competition, there will be a cocktail reception in the Tower Suite on Thursday evening for early arrivals, and the event officially kicks off with the "Opening Ceremony" Welcome Reception on Friday night.

As another "team building" activity, we will be featuring a Wine Pairings seminar in addition to the popular local Craft Beer Tasting that was added to the roster last year. The VLR banquet on Saturday night will again feature a plated dinner so we can enjoy the best food that The Homestead has to offer.

Education is the focus of the VLR, and we are working on assembling an amazing array of advanced topics and engaging expert speakers that will be of interest to both Community Managers and Business Partners. In previous years, our program has been approved for 8 hours of Continuing Education and PCAM Redesignation credits, and we anticipate that this will continue in 2016. We will also be

providing a Virginia Common Interest Community Law and Regulation session that will be facilitated by CICB approved speakers and will meet the requirement for manager licensing/recertification training.

For those of you who did not attend the National Conference in Orlando, this is an affordable and local opportunity to earn your recertification credits during a single event. Although the focus of the VLR is education, what keeps people coming back from year to year is the opportunity to spend a fun and relaxing weekend socializing with our peers while enjoying the amenities of a world class resort. Many VLR attendees take advantage of the reduced conference rate for lodging at The Homestead, and extend their trip for a mini-vacation with the family. There are numerous activities at The Homestead to keep them busy while you are learning, including trap, skeet, and target shooting, canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, archery, horseback riding, paintball, and many more. For those interested in less active pursuits, the recently renovated hot springs spa and wellness center has a wide variety of rejuvenating treatments to renew your mind and body. Networking Happy Hours are great, but imagine how much better you can get to know someone during an entire afternoon on the golf course, or while floating together on the Lazy River with cocktails in hand.

The Virginia Leadership Retreat provides a great opportunity to earn education credits, network with peers, and excel in the Community Association Industry. If you would like more information about the conference, the schedule and registration form are in development and will be downloadable from the WMCCA website, or can be requested via email from the committee at vlrcommittee@gmail.com. Please be sure to "Like" the Virginia Leadership Retreat Facebook page to stay abreast of updates and announcements about the event. We are looking forward to seeing you at The Homestead in July!



Shannon Junior is an Aquatic Ecologist and Territory Leader for *SOLitude Lake Management*[®]. Shannon serves on the organizational committee for the Virginia Leadership Retreat, and has been attending the event since it was launched in 2009.