



# VBA EMERGING BANK LEADERS

The Emerging Bank Leaders (EBL) is a group that connects Virginia's emerging bank leaders to engage them in the future of the banking industry. Nearly 700 bankers are members of the EBL, which is split into six regions within the state. It is free to join the group, and there are no age or participation requirements. You must be an employee of a VBA member bank, or a graduate of the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management, to join.

## Objectives:



**DEVELOP.** As an emerging bank leader, I develop my professional skills in order to grow and progress within my career in the banking industry.

Members participate in the Emerging Leaders Conference as well as attend Regional Events. The **Emerging Leaders Conference** gives emerging bank leaders the opportunity to share ideas with their peers, gain valuable career insight from bank leaders and learn from industry speakers. Sessions and speakers are chosen directly from input from EBL members. Throughout the year, **Regional Events, like Burgers with Bruce**, are held.



**CONNECT.** As an emerging bank leader, I connect with other bank professionals from across Virginia.

In addition to furthering bankers' leadership and career development, the **Regional Events** are a great opportunity to get to know other bankers and to build relationships within the industry. There are many networking opportunities at the **Emerging leaders Conference**, and registering for **VBA Financial Literacy Programs or Government Relations Events** provides more opportunities to meet and connect with other emerging bank leaders.



**ENGAGE.** As an emerging bank leader, I engage with the industry and other bankers.

Helping improve the financial literacy of Virginia's youth is a major focus of the VBA and the entire banking industry. Members of the EBL receive information on **VBA Financial Literacy Programs** and are encouraged to participate in events like Teach Children to Save Day, Get Smart About Credit Day and the VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program. Likewise, VBA works to positively influence the legislative landscape in support of industry initiatives. Members of the EBL will receive information on **VBA Government Relations programs** and are encouraged to meet and foster relationships with their legislators at events such as VBA Banker Day in Richmond, the VBA/ABA Washington Summit in DC and State Legislative Meetings.

## 2026 EBL Chair:



Kari E. Van Wassen  
VP/BSA Officer & Security Officer  
Chain Bridge Bank  
kvanwassen@chainbridgebank.com

## Scan to Sign-Up:



Contact Chandler Owdom at [cowdom@vabankers.org](mailto:cowdom@vabankers.org) for more information and to sign-up or use the above QR code.