

Senior
Statesmen of
Virginia

www.seniorstatesmen.org



The purpose of SSV, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational and advocacy organization, is to enable seniors to identify and articulate their viewpoints on the issues affecting all the citizens of Virginia; to encourage knowledge of and active participation in the public processes of government; to disseminate information about the social, governmental, and educational institutions; and to prepare resolutions stating positions on member-selected issues for distribution to appropriate public officials.



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the **Senior Statesmen of Virginia** will be held on **Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm** at the **Senior Center, Inc., 1180 Pepsi Place**

Fifth Congressional District Candidates Forum

Senior Statesmen of Virginia has sponsored the 5th Congressional District candidates' forums for many years. All of the candidates for this year's August forum were invited: **Jane Dittmar** (D), **Tom Garrett** (R), **Stephen Harmon** (Libertarian), and **Yale Landsberg** (Independent). **Jane Dittmar** and **Tom Garrett** have confirmed their participation.



Jane Dittmar is the immediate past chair of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and former representative of the Scottsville District. Through her position as supervisor, she served on the Governor's Broadband Advisory Council.

Jane is a certified mediator for both General District and Circuit Courts and has served as court coordinator for the General District, Juvenile and

Domestic Relations, and Circuit courts of the City of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene and Louisa. She is also a principal in *Positive Solutions Group* and a business consultant specializing in strategic planning. Jane's background is business and she has owned and worked with many businesses in the Commonwealth particularly when she served as president of the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce from 1992-2000.

Jane became a Virginian when she was six years old, attending Arlington County Public Schools after her family moved from rural Illinois. She graduated from the University of Virginia where she received a degree in Economics. Since then, Jane attended the UVa Darden School's Executive Program and Virginia Tech's Center for Public Administration and Policy. Over the past 40 years, she has lived in Nelson, Fluvanna, and Albemarle Counties, and the City of Charlottesville. Jane resides with her husband, Frank Squillace, in Albemarle County. They have raised six children (Will, Mary, Virginia, Leia, Jed, and Joe), four of whom are in college.

Jane will bring her experience and action-oriented approach to Congress to make sure it is accountable, transparent, and responsive to our needs in the 5th District. She is committed to public service, and is ready and willing to work for you, for us, for the 5th.



Tom Garrett is in his second term as state senator representing the 22nd District. He earned both his Bachelor's and Law Degrees from the University of Richmond, and began his service to our country with six years in the Army. During that service he honed his leadership skills, had an opportunity to work with great American patriots, and fight for the Constitutional rights we hold dear.

In 2007, Tom entered public service in a new way. That year he challenged and defeated a two-term incumbent for the office of Commonwealth's Attorney in Louisa. Tom worked tirelessly and won that election by 17 percent! It was the first time in decades that an incumbent countywide office holder was defeated – and the first Republican countywide candidate to win since Reconstruction.

In 2011, Tom was elected as the state senator for the 22nd district following a reshuffling of district borders that saw the 22nd moved eastward and into the 5th, 6th, and 7th Congressional districts. Tom emerged victorious from a spirited 5-way nomination contest and subsequently won a resounding general election contest against an accomplished Democrat opponent, despite being outspent nearly 2-to-1.

In the Senate, Tom has focused on expanding liberty, reclaiming our Constitutional rights, fiscal responsibility and restraint, and common sense reductions in the size and scope of government. Tom is not afraid to stand alone on an issue when he believes it is the principled thing to do. In 2015, Tom was the lone no vote in the Virginia Senate on the final budget bill after arguing that it included wasteful spending and put the state into competition with private and small business owners.

The program is free and open to the public and will be moderated by **Bob Gibson**, senior researcher at the Academy for Civic Renewal, a part of the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. He served eight years as executive director of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership prior to joining the academy on July 1. He has a long personal interest in Virginia's politics and government and is a 1972 graduate of the University of Virginia with a major in government and foreign affairs, and he received a masters degree in education at UVA in 2014.

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Bob Gibson—continued from page 1)

Before coming to the Sorensen Institute in the spring of 2008, Bob was a political writer, columnist and editor at the Charlottesville Daily Progress for 32 years. He specialized in covering local, state, and national politics. He is the winner of several Virginia Press Association awards, the 1993 Virginia Bar Association Award in the Field of Law and Justice and the 1993 Southern Journalism Award for investigative reporting about racial disparities in sentencing. He was also familiar to many Virginians as a guest on public radio.

Bob is married to Sarah McConnell, who hosts the public radio program "With Good Reason" from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. They have three grown daughters: Helen, Logan and Stella. He grew up in Arlington before moving to Charlottesville in 1968.

In case you missed the June 8, 2016, meeting of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia...



Dr. Meredith Richards, president of the Virginia Rail Policy Institute and chair of Cville Rail and the Piedmont Rail Coalition, told Senior Statesmen of Virginia members and guests on June 8, 2016, about the importance of passenger and freight rail to Virginia and to the nation. Virginia has funded six passenger trains including the Northeast Regional that goes between Lynchburg and DC with a daily stop in Charlottesville. The other state-funded passenger trains are the two Richmond-DC Amtrak trains, the two Newport-DC Amtrak trains, and the one Norfolk-DC Amtrak train. These trains are some of the most profitable of all of the Amtrak state-supported and short regional trains. The Newport-DC is the most profitable Amtrak short-route and the Lynchburg-DC regional is the second most profitable.

In addition to the Lynchburg regional train, Charlottesville also is served by Amtrak's Crescent (New Orleans to New York City) and the Cardinal (Chicago to New York City). Over 134,000 passengers last year (and over 788,000 passengers since 2009) board, or depart, their train at

Charlottesville's depot on West Main Street every year. More passengers get on or off the Northeastern Regional in Charlottesville than in any other city between Lynchburg and Boston. There are plans to expand passenger rail from Charlottesville.

In contrast to the growth of passenger rail travel since 1997, freight rail has been declining over the last several years and has dropped precipitately in 2016. Much of the decrease is a result of the declining shipments of coal and petroleum. Even so, approximately 19 percent of freight goes on the rail network.

Trains take traffic off of our roadways. For more information please see the Virginia Rail Policy Institute website (www.varpi.org)

You can hear the entire presentation on the Charlottesville Podcasting Network at: <http://www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/>.

Photo courtesy of Dan Gould, Charlottesville Podcasting Network

Mark your calendar

Wednesday, September 14, 1:30 p.m., Dahlia Lithwick speaking on the **Supreme Court**

MONDAY, October 17, 1:30 p.m., Liz palmer, chair of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, and **Tim Keller**, chair of the Albemarle County Planning Commission: **"Growth."**

Wednesday, November 9, 1:30 p.m., Albemarle County Chief of Police **Ron Lantz** and Charlottesville Chief of Police **Al Thomas Jr.** speaking on **policing issues in Albemarle and Charlottesville.**

*Membership in the SSV is open to all past and present citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. **Join now!** Annual dues are just \$20.00. Mail your check in the amount of \$20.00, (payable to "SSV") to Senior Statesmen of Virginia, P.O. Box 6591, Charlottesville, VA 22906.*

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P.O. Box 6591
Charlottesville, VA 22906