



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the

Senior Statesmen of Virginia will be held on
Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
at the **Senior Center, Inc., on Pepsi Place**

Health Insurance: The Problem, The Solution

This forum will examine the problems with our health care system today, their origins and how they would be addressed by a proposed national health insurance program. The panel for this discussion will include the perspectives of a consumer/patient, a medical professional and an economist.

Each panelist will describe the impact of the current health insurance system from their perspective and the effects that changing to a national health insurance program would bring. After the presentations the panel will answer questions from the audience. The forum will be moderated by SSV member **Bob McAdams**.



Donna Goings is a local real estate agent with 23 years of experience, a member of the National Association of Realtors, a Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), and a graduate of the Realtor's Institute (GRI). Donna served four years on the Board of the Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors including two years as treasurer. Donna received her Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Wake Forest University in 1968. A former teacher of math in the Charlottesville Public School System Donna has served as president of the Charlottesville Education Association and chairperson of the Charlottesville Political Action Committee for Education. Donna has also been active in her community by serving on the Charlottesville Rail Board, on the CHART citizens' advisory committee on transportation and as an organizer of her Westwood Road area Neighborhood Watch. Donna's current concern is health care reform.



Robert Graham has, for 10 years, served as director of patient billing for the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Virginia. During this time, Robert has served on a number of committees at the University of Virginia Health Center dealing with billing issues for both physician and hospital charges. Robert received his Bachelor of Music Degree from Indiana University in 1980 and his Masters Degree from Indiana in 1981. As a trombonist, Robert has performed with the Baton Rouge Symphony, Richmond Symphony, West Virginia Symphony, Lynchburg Symphony and Charlottesville Symphony orchestras. Robert was the adjunct instructor of trombone at the University of Virginia from 1985 through 2001. He has also performed professionally with the Broadway touring production of Annie and with the Cab Calloway orchestra.



David Shreve is a former professor of economic history at the University of Virginia, where he held a joint appointment at the Miller Center of Public Affairs and the Department of History. He was a candidate for the United States Congress in 2008. A specialist in national, state, and local economic policy and 20th century U.S. political history, David also served as a budget analyst for the Louisiana legislature, where he was the legislative analyst responsible for the state Medicaid program, its indigent care hospital system, and all of the Bayou State's health care departments and agencies. In that capacity, he was also a member of the governor's health care estimating conference and the legislative representative to the Kellogg-Robert Wood Johnson task force on public health reform. He is the vice president of Advocates for a Sustainable Albemarle Population, a member of the Virginia Organizing Project Tax Reform Committee, the editor and associate editor of seven volumes in W.W. Norton's

Presidential Recordings series, and the author of numerous essays and articles on American political economy and of the forthcoming book, *American Promise: Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and the Forging of the Modern Economy*.

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE LAST SSV MEETING...

At the May 13 SSV meeting, Delegates **Rob Bell** and **David Toscano** provided their perspectives on the issues that came before the 2009 legislature. Delegate Bell said that the session was dominated by the budget in response to the significant reduction in state revenues caused by the decline in consumer spending and other economic factors. He also cited two areas of legislation he sponsored: reform of practices in assisted living facilities; and identity theft. In demonstrating the breadth of legislation considered, Delegate Toscano pointed to a proposed bill that would have allowed "wind energy drying devices," (or more commonly referred to as "clothes lines") even if local homeowners associations wished to prohibit them. On a more serious note he discussed the budget cuts proposed by the governor for education and sheriffs' departments.



Questions raised by members of the audience covered a wide range of issues including: the revenue sharing agreement between Albemarle and Charlottesville; the stimulus package provision that would extend unemployment benefits from the current 29 weeks to 59 weeks; offshore oil drilling; legislation affecting senior citizens; how the federal stimulus package will help Virginia; the use of fossil fuels; the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund; and the use of new technology to expand the availability of energy.

The entire presentation to the SSV can be heard on the Charlottesville Podcasting Network at <http://www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/>.

Congratulations to SSV member, **Madison Cummings**, for winning the Democratic nomination for the Samuel Miller District seat on the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. Madison, like present Rivanna Supervisor Ken Boyd, previously served on the Albemarle County School Board as have SSV members **Sue Friedman**, **Diantha McKeel**, and **Gordon Walker**.

The Senior Statesmen of Virginia is pleased to **welcome** two new members: **Donald and Sally Clark**, 1705 Old Forge Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-295-7199.

Mark your calendars...

Note: NO meeting in July. Wednesday, August 12, 1:30 until 3:30 p.m., Senior Center, Inc., on Pepsi Place, "**House of Delegates Candidates Showcase.**" Invited participants are incumbent Delegate **Rob Bell** (R) vs. challenger **Cynthia Neff** (D); unopposed incumbent Delegate **David Toscano** (D); incumbent Delegate **Steve Landes** (R) vs. the winner of the Democratic primary, challenger **Greg Marrow** or **James Noel**.

The purpose of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia, 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.

*Membership in the SSV is open to all past and present citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. **Join now!** Annual dues are just \$15.00. Mail your check in the amount of \$15.00, (payable to "SSV") to Senior Statesmen of Virginia, c/o Jim Peterson, 1969 Ridgetop Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22903-8808. Telephone: 434-987-9014. E-mail: jimp@videoprovirginia.com*

Please visit our website at: <http://www.seniorstatesmen.org/>

Senior Statesmen of Virginia

c/o Jim Peterson

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