

Senior
Statesmen of
Virginia

www.seniorstatesmen.org



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the

Senior Statesmen of Virginia

will be held on

Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

at the Senior Center, Inc., on Pepsi Place

Charlottesville City Council Candidates Forum

The November election will fill three City Council seats. We are pleased that all officially declared candidates for these seats have accepted our invitation to participate in this forum. This forum occurs before the Democratic Party primary and before the deadline for Independents to file final papers, so while not all participants will be on the November ballot we have the opportunity today to hear and explore the views of the entire set of declared candidates on Charlottesville issues and priorities for City Council.

Sue Liberman, president of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia, will be the forum moderator. She will ask each candidate for an up to three minute opening statement. The audience is encouraged to provide written questions. The moderator will choose as many of these questions as time permits for answers and discussion by the candidates.

We asked each candidate to provide us with a short bio or statement of their positions (100 words or less) and a photo. These appear on the following two pages listed by affiliation and then alphabetically by name. *Editors note: Independent candidate Paul Long filed his paperwork to run for City Council as this newsletter was being put to bed, so the photo and text for his listing was excerpted from an article published on July 28 in the Charlottesville Daily Progress.*

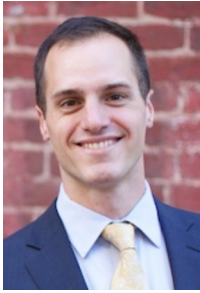


Bob McGrath, SSV vice president and program chair.



Sue Liberman, SSV president and this month's program moderator.

Paul Beyer - Democrat



I was born and raised in Charlottesville. Our small family business, R.L. Beyer Custom Homes, has 20 employees and a 40 year history in the community. I also have an arts background, graduating NYU with degrees in film, writing and history. My platform is Jobs / Sustainability / Arts because I believe the City needs to focus on job creation, the economic vitality of the region, and supporting small business. A pragmatic small-business perspective will be useful on Council. Of equal importance is maintaining the creative and entrepreneurial communities that are the pride of Charlottesville and maintain our distinct culture. www.beyeforcouncil.com.

Kathy Galvin - Democrat



I'm the granddaughter of immigrants, the daughter of an auto mechanic with an 8th grade education and an army nurse who earned her bachelor's degree on the GI Bill. Growing up in Massachusetts, I saw factories close and neighborhoods wither; it's no wonder I studied economics, geography, and architecture. I've run my own practice since 1989, raised two sons with my husband, and served on several public bodies, including Charlottesville's elected City School Board since 2007. My vision is a Charlottesville that expands economic opportunity, especially for our most vulnerable, while minimizing our region's footprint - Greener, Smarter, Stronger, by Design.

Collette Blount - Democrat



My hometown is St. Louis, Missouri. I received my B.A. in 1986 from Wellesley College and did my graduate work at The College of William & Mary, where I received my M.A.Ed. in 1994. In that same year, I moved to Charlottesville, where I've been a teacher in the Albemarle County and Charlottesville City schools. Since my election to the City School Board in 2007, I have served on the following committees: Quest Advisory, Pre-School Advisory, and Children, Youth & Family Services. My community activities include: Dialogue on Race facilitator, coach, and tutor. My daughter, Jo, is a junior at Columbia University.

James Halfaday - Democrat



I have been a resident of Charlottesville for five years and while here, fell in love with our community. I currently serve on the Charlottesville Police Advisory Council and the Building Code of Appeals. If elected to City Council I will work hard to provide every citizen of our city the opportunity to reach their goals, educationally, socially and economically. I believe in equal opportunity for all and that the education of our young people should be one of our top priorities. I also believe in the preservation of our natural resources and support dredging first. I look forward to serving the city if elected.

Brevy Cannon - Democrat



A University of Virginia graduate, Brevy Cannon has lived in Charlottesville since 1997. Age 36, for the past five years he has been a news writer for UVa. Today. His well-rounded background includes work as an electrician, farmhand and on Capitol Hill for Senator Bob Kerrey (Nebraska). In Charlottesville he serves as a volunteer firefighter and a leader of Left of Center, a group of young progressives. He is on the board of the Charlottesville Community Scholar Program, and served on the CACF Future Fund grant committee that recently awarded \$50,000 to the Buford Schoolyard Garden Project.

Satyendra Singh Huja - Democrat



I seek a second term on city council because I am committed to public service and think that I can make a significant difference in the quality of life in our community for all our citizens. I bring extensive experience, creativity and a track record of accomplishments. I will work to preserve and enhance our environment; promote balanced transportation with network of sidewalks, bike lanes and more frequent bus service; improve deteriorating infrastructure of water, sewer, drainage and sidewalks; promote quality education especially for early childhood needs; provide for targeted workforce development; and provide for safe and decent housing and neighborhoods.

Dede Smith - Democrat



Deirdre "Dede" Smith moved to Charlottesville with her husband, UVA Professor Tim Wilson in 1979. They have lived in the Fry's Spring neighborhood for 30 years, where they raised two children. Dede has been active in civic affairs for decades, with a particular interest in environmental and educational issues. Recognition

for her contributions includes the Distinguished Dozen Award in 2003 for her work at the Ivy Creek Natural Area and as a member of the Charlottesville School Board. Dede's volunteer activity now includes the Virginia Master Naturalists, Tree Stewards, and advocacy for preservation of the city's natural and historic resources.

Scott Bandy - Independent



With the exception of residing 1986 in Orlando Florida, I've lived in Virginia most of my life. I first moved to Albemarle County in 1989. I made my residence Charlottesville in 1993 and have stayed since.

The majority of my employment record has been limited small jobs. However, I do know what it is to actually be somebody's personal assistant and I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night. No, the Holiday Inn quip was an attempt at humor. There are no exemplary self credentials or recognitions to note.

Brandon Collins - Independent



Brandon, 38, has lived in Charlottesville his entire life, is 38 years old, has a child in the City Schools, is a musician, music teacher, restaurant worker, personal care attendant, and committed activist. He has experienced all of the great things as well as the difficult circumstances and situations that Charlottesville has to offer. He

graduated from Charlottesville High School, attended Piedmont, worked for poverty wages, and has organized in Charlottesville. He frequently addresses City Council, serves on the board of the Charlottesville Center for Peace and Justice, secretary of the Socialist Party of Central Virginia, delegate for the IWW, co-founder of Cville Workers Action Network as well as the lobbying group Virginia United Against Oppression.

Bob Fenwick - Independent



Occupation and Work Experience: seven years US Army Corps of Engineers Officer, served one year in Vietnam, Central Highlands, Brigade Engineer, 4th Infantry Division; Owner Fenwick Construction (VA Class A General Contractor License #13681) 36 years; Writer www.Santas-Little-Helper.com (first Christmas story written for the internet), www.McIntireTheFox.com (a children's story that adults will enjoy as well); Vice President Austro Health and Environmental Education Project, Inc. (IRS 501c3); Internet Web Master. Married 44 years to Victoria, two sons, both serving in the US Army at Ft. Knox.

Paul Long - Independent



Long, who works in the transportation department at the University of Virginia, is a frequent advocate for the homeless and better public transit. He chose to run as an independent because the Democratic Party in Charlottesville is "too conservative." His campaign will focus on drug decriminalization, expansion of Charlottesville Area Transit bus service

and more funding for homeless shelters. Long opposes the Meadow Creek Parkway, saying the money allocated for the road could be better spent elsewhere. "I believe that that money should be spent and made available to Charlottesville Area Transit so that new bus routes could be established."

Andrew D. Williams - Independent



I was raised in the inner-city of Detroit, the cosmopolitan environs of Los Angeles and the staid suburbs of Charlotte, NC. My exposure to these Cities enabled my ability to identify with many people from different cultures and backgrounds. I learned at a very young age to listen, more than I speak and lead when the need arrives. One

core belief I live by is the idea that we must find time to serve not only the next generation of people, but also the previous. I have a sincere desire to serve the residents of my home, Charlottesville. Age: 24

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE LAST SSV MEETING...

At the June 8 SSV meeting, Rosa Atkins and Pam Moran, school superintendents of Charlottesville and Albemarle, provided an overview on "Educating for the Future."

Dr. Atkins described the goal of developing a global school system--going beyond this region to connect students and teachers with resources, and to prepare students with the skills they will need anywhere in the region, state, nation or world. This involves connections; partnerships; innovation; academic rigor; professional excellence; and learning for life. She also discussed a number of legislative issues that need to be addressed. These include benefits; evaluations of staff; time for instruction; alternative modes of instruction and learning; curriculum; and funding.

Dr. Moran introduced guests including a former teacher at Western Albemarle High School (WAHS) and a WAHS graduate (who will be going on to UVA) to discuss how important it is that all students graduate college-ready, citizenship-ready, and workforce-ready. The school places an emphasis on leadership, community service, and how to purposely integrate technology into the curriculum.

Dr. Moran looked at the perspective through the lens of who are we in the world. We hear a lot in the media about our schools not being up to snuff in comparison with the rest of the world. However, in some countries only populations with low levels of poverty are tested. Also, the majority of kids in many other countries don't go past middle school. Another factor is that females in our system have the same access to education as boys, and students with special needs are not shunted to the side. Indeed, when comparing apples to apples, our kids are ranked number 1 in the world. We are about equal opportunity. Yet just because of sheer numbers, if you take only the top 15% of the students in China, that number is greater than all the kids in US schools. What this means is that we can't afford to educate just our middle class students well, but rather all of our students must receive a world class education in order for us to compete around the globe.

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



School superintendents Dr. Atkins and Dr. Moran.

Upcoming meeting schedule...

Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 1:30 until 3:00 p.m., at the Senior Center, Inc., Albemarle County Board of Supervisors' Candidates Forum.

Wednesday, October 12, Michael Cassidy, CEO and President of Commonwealth Institute on Virginia tax policy, October 12th.

Wednesday, November 9, Brian Wheeler, Director of Charlottesville Tomorrow, title TBA.

*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, P.O. Box 6591, Charlottesville, VA 22906. Telephone: 434-806-4474. E-mail: jjmp@videoprovirginia.com*

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

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