

Senior
Statesmen of
Virginia

www.seniorstatesmen.org



The mission of SSV, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational and advocacy organization, is to enable seniors to identify and articulate their viewpoints on the issues affecting all citizens of Virginia, to encourage knowledge of and active participation in the legislative process of government, and to disseminate information about the social, governmental, and educational institutions that offer support and assistance.



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the **Senior Statesmen of Virginia** will be held on
Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
at the **THE CENTER, 491 Hillsdale Drive**

When the Fascists Came to Town: Charlottesville and the Rise of the Alt-Right Nicole Hemmer, University of Virginia Miller Center

The images of torchlit marches and white-power terrorism that flowed out of Charlottesville in August 2017 shocked the nation. But for many Charlottesvilleans, it was not unexpected: the city had been under siege for months during what anti-racists activists called "The Summer of Hate." Why did this group of neo-Nazis and alt-right activists target Charlottesville? How did they build a base here? And where do they fit in the city's history of black life, white supremacy, and progressive politics?

Nicole Hemmer, a presidential historian at the University of Virginia's Miller Center, covered the events of August 11 and 12 for Vox, where she is a columnist. She is the creator, producer, and host of the podcast series "A12: The Story of Charlottesville," named by The Guardian as one of the best podcasts of 2018.



Hemmer is an expert on the history of American politics and media. As an assistant professor in Presidential Studies at the Miller Center, she works on a wide-ranging set of projects, both scholarly and public. She works in the Presidential Recordings Program, focusing on the Nixon administration and its media relations. Her broader scholarship focuses on the history of conservatism and media. Her first book, *Messengers of the Right, Conservative Media and the Transformation of American Politics*, charts the history of conservative media activism in the United States, and her current work-in-progress is a history of conservatism in the 1990s.

Hemmer is also an active public intellectual, appearing frequently in print and on air. She is founder and editor of the *Washington Post's* "Made by History" blog, a contributing editor to Vox, and she also writes a syndicated columnist for Fairfax Media in Australia. She co-hosts and produces the popular history podcast *Past Present*. Her commentary on U.S. politics has appeared in numerous national and international outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Politico*, *Atlantic*, *New Republic*, *Vox*, *Los Angeles Times*, and NPR's *Morning Edition*. She provides regular analysis to Australian and American broadcast outlets, on both radio and television.

Hemmer holds an appointment as a research associate at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, where she was a postdoctoral fellow in 2011-12. She received her PhD in U.S. history from Columbia University, and previously taught at the University of Miami. In 2015, she was a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution.

The program will be moderated by **Bob McGrath**, SSV past president, and is free and open to the public.

In case you missed the May 8 meeting:

May's SSV program was the annual General Assembly recap. All our local representatives were invited, and Sen. Creigh Deeds and Delegates Steve Landes and David Toscano were able to attend. Representatives each gave an opening statement about their individual efforts with explanatory comments about their positions. In addition, they each provided background information and additional details about why they voted the way they did. This was a good year for funding the budget due to windfall from new federal tax law, a good economy and the new ability to tax internet sales. Virginia has chosen to use some of the funds for the VA Housing Trust, a pay raise for teachers and hiring more school counsellors. Another topic was redistricting. To become code the bill passed this year must pass next year with the same language and then be approved by the voters as an amendment to the VA constitution. Route 81 improvements will require a gas tax increase affecting only areas near route 81. Sen. Deeds explained that this is because when northern Virginia had highway improvements, other areas of the state did not feel they should pay the cost, so now the 81 improvements will be paid by the local residents over 20 years with an approximate cost increase of 6-8 cents per gallon. In answer to the question about the tax benefits used to attract Amazon, each panel member felt that the value to the whole state and the fact that all states are trying to attract business and offer perks made the offer worthwhile. This SSV program was the final SSV General Assembly appearance for retiring delegates David Toscano and Steve Landes. The program ended with the group thanking all the delegates for their service to Virginia and attendance at SSV programs.



You can hear the entire program as recorded and podcast by the **Charlottesville Podcasting Network** by accessing it on the Senior Statesmen website: www.seniorstatesmen.org/. Also available on the website is a PDF file of the PowerPoint presentation utilized by Delegate Toscano, so you can listen to the podcast and follow along as you view the slides.

Photo courtesy of Dan Gould, Charlottesville Podcasting network

Mark your calendar

REMINDER: In keeping with SSV tradition, there will not be a meeting in July.

Wednesday, August 14: Candidates Forum

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. Telephone: 434-806-4474. E-mail: jimp@videoprovirginia.com

Please visit our website at: www.seniorstatesmen.org/

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