

Senior Statesmen of Virginia 2008 Annual Report

Overview

During 2008 our organization (SSV) held eleven (11) regular meetings, which are summarized below, as well as eleven Board meetings. The regular meetings were all held on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July, at either the Northside Library or at the Senior Center. These meetings were held between the hours of 1:30 and 3:00 PM with the exception of the August candidates' forum which was extended to 3:30 PM. The Board meetings were all held two days prior to the regular meetings from 10:30 AM until noon at Our Lady of Peace retirement home on Hillsdale Drive. It is the intent of the Board to hold all of its 2009 board meetings at the same time and location as those held during 2008. All members are invited to attend the Board meetings.

With the approval of the membership attending the regular June meeting, our Bylaws were modified to remove the requirement that new members be 50 years of age or older. While the old requirement has not been an issue its removal may allow us a little more flexibility in the future.

Events that took place during the year included the establishment of a web page; www.seniorstatesmen.org and most all of our meetings are now being podcast. You can now go to www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/ and listen to most of our 2008 regular meeting programs on your computer. We will try to keep our new web page updated with the meeting topics as soon as we can get them established and scheduled. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to get commitments from some of the speakers and politicians that we try to obtain. This makes it difficult to plan our programs as far in advance as we would prefer.

Near the end of the year the Senior Center invited us to hold all of our regular meetings at their location on Pepsi Place. In December of 2008 we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Senior Center to hold all of our regular 2009 meetings at their location. This agreement will terminate in late December of 2009 and both organizations can review and decide whether to continue the relationship.

Membership

Our membership dues remained at \$15 for the year. The dues are for an individual but include spouses who want to belong. At the beginning of the year we had 86 individual paid memberships plus 9 included spouses for a total of 95 members. At the end of the year we had 98 paid individual memberships plus 12 included spouses for a total of 110 members. This was a net increase of 15 members. While we had a total of 31 new members joining during the year we lost 16 due to several leaving the area, non-renewals, and six passed away. The six individuals who passed away were honored in our January 2009 Announcement/Newsletter. They were some of our strongest supporters and we miss them.

To keep our dues as low as possible SSV needs to continue to bring in new members to offset our loses due to the various causes and to try to gradually raise our total membership level.

Financial

At the beginning of the year SSV had a total of \$2,661.97 in its account. At the end of the year the balance was \$2,775.95. The organization's expenses are mostly for supplies used for preparing and mailing our monthly Announcement/Newsletter. SSV is very fortunate to have member Jim Peterson who writes and prepares this monthly document and member Berta Hysell who applies the addresses and postage for mailing. If it were not for the work that these two members donate to SSV our expenses would be much greater than they are. A general summary of expenses and income from dues are as follows:

Expenses

Office and printing supplies, postage, refreshments at 2 meetings:	\$1079.77
Annual Insurance costs:	200.00
Annual State Corporation fee:	25.00
TOTAL	\$1304.77

Income

Dues: TOTAL \$1418.75

It should be noted that the cost of establishing the web page is not included in the above expenses since the bill was not received until 2009. This expense will have a negative impact on next year's balance.

Summary of Meetings

Except for the August meeting, the average attendance at the SSV meetings was on the order of 35 to 40 members and guests. Our August forum featuring Virgil Goode and Tom Perriello, candidates for the 5th district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, drew more than 400 members and guests. The next highest attendance was in April when Delegates Toscano and Bell were with us and in June when Drs. Evans and Chesler discussed Medicare issues. Attendance for these two meetings was approximately 50 and 70 respectively. A listing of the speakers and topics for each month is given below. The SSV does not meet in July. A summary of each meeting was given in the monthly SSV Announcement/Newsletter, which all members have received, and most of the programs can be heard by going to the podcast address given above.

- January: *Current Issues Facing the Albemarle and Charlottesville School Systems*, Dr. Rosa Atkins, Superintendent of Charlottesville Public Schools, and Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent of Albemarle County Public Schools.
- February: *The Older Dominion Project is Coming*, Dr. Richard W. "Dick" Lindsay, M.D.
- March: *The Miller Center: Research, Reflect and Report*, Former Virginia Governor Gerald Baliles, Director of the Miller Center of Public Affairs at UVA.
- April: *A Report on the Outcome of the 2008 Virginia Legislative Session*, Delegates Rob Bell and David Toscano representing, respectively, the 58th and 57th Districts.
- May: *An Overview of the 2008 Legislative Session*, Senator Emmett Hanger, 24th Senate District
- June: *Medicare Physician Care in Jeopardy*, Dr. David L. Chesler, Geriatrics Physician, and Dr. Jonathan M. Evans, Chief of Geriatric Medicine at UVA.
- August: *Fifth Congressional District Candidates Showcase*, Congressman Virgil H. Goode, Jr., and his challenger, Tom Perriello.
- September: *Candidate for the Democratic Nomination for Governor*, Senator Creigh Deeds, 25th Senate District.
- October: *Preparing to Celebrate 200 Years of Rail In Virginia*, Richard L. Beadles, Director of the Virginia Rail Policy Institute.
- November: *Climate Change: Challenge and Opportunity for Virginia*, Albert C. (Al) Weed, Executive Director of Public Policy Virginia and owner of Mountain Cove Vineyards.
- December: *Alzheimer's Basics, Impact and Brain Health*, Susan B. Friedman, President and CEO of the Central and Western Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

2008 Annual Report prepared by:
Marvin Hilton, President, SSV