

Senior Statesmen of Virginia 2009 Annual Report

Overview

During 2009 our organization (SSV) held eleven (11) regular meetings, which are summarized below, as well as ten Board meetings. The regular meetings were all held on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July, at the Senior Center. These meetings were held between the hours of 1:30 and 3:00 PM with the exception of the August and October candidates' forums 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. At this writing, the Board meetings for 2010 will be held on the 2nd Wed of each month at 11:00 AM at the Branchland's Manor House. All members are invited to attend the Board meetings.

Events that took place during the year included the completion of a web page; www.seniorstatesmen.org. All of our meetings were podcast and can be listened to on your computer by connecting to any particular meeting directly from our website. You can also go to www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/ and listen to our 2009 regular meeting programs from that site. Some of our older meetings are also available on that site. We will try to keep our web page updated with the future 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.

While major emphasis during 2008 was placed on increasing our membership, in 2009 emphasis was placed on meeting attendance and reinstating our position of non-partisanship in conducting our candidates' forums. In an email to the SSV President the seated delegate representing the 58th District of the House of Delegates stated that our Candidates' Forums were a model that others could follow. This success can be attributed, in large measure, to those SSV members who moderated our candidates' forums.

Near the end of the year the Senior Center once again invited us to hold all of our regular meetings at their location on Pepsi Place. In November of 2009 we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Senior Center to hold all of our regular 2010 meetings at their location. This agreement will terminate in late December of 2010 and both organizations can review and decide whether to continue the relationship in the future.

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 98 individual paid memberships plus 12 included spouses for a total of 110 members. At the end of the year we had 104 paid individual memberships plus 15 included spouses for a total of 119 members. This was a net increase of 9-members, or approximately 8%. While we had a total of 26 new members joining during the year we lost 17 due to several leaving the area, non-renewals, and four passed away. The individuals who passed away were honored in one of our monthly Announcement/Newsletters during the year. They were among 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 loses due to the various causes and to gradually raise our total membership level.

Financial

At the beginning of the year SSV had a total of \$2775.95 in its account. At the end of the year the balance was \$1805.72. Extraordinary expenses during the year included \$400 to Wordcast Productions for developing our web page, an advance purchase of postage stamps (before the price increase) to be used during 2010, a gift to Our Lady of Peace for providing meeting space for our Board meetings, and memento gifts to our out going Board members. The organization's normal expenses are mostly for supplies used for preparing and mailing our monthly Announcement/Newsletter. SSV was 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/donations are as follows:

Expenses

Office and printing supplies, postage:	\$1649.98
Annual Insurance costs:	200.00
Annual State Corporation fee:	25.00
Web Page:	400.00
Gift, Our Lady of Peace:	100.00
Memento, gifts:	94.50
TOTAL	\$2468.98

Income

Dues/donations:	TOTAL	\$1498.75
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Summary of Meetings

The average attendance at the SSV meetings during 2009 was 58 members and guests. This average attendance was significantly higher than the average attendance for the previous year. Our August House of Delegates Candidates' Forum drew more than 103 (some guests did not sign in) members and guests. The next highest attendance was in January when UVA Professor Edwin T. Burton spoke on the Economic Crisis. Attendance for that meeting was 92 members and guests. 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 all of the programs can be heard by going to the podcast address given above.

- January: *The Financial Crisis—Which Inning Are We In?* Dr Edwin T. Burton, UVA Professor of Economics.
- February: *Martha Jefferson Hospital: The Old and the New.* James E. Haden, President and CEO of Martha Jefferson Hospital.
- March: *The Changing Face of Virginia Politics.* Bob Gibson, Executive Director, Sorensen Institute.
- April: *The Older Dominion Partnership: How Virginia is Preparing to Ride the Age Wave.* John W. Martin, CEO of the Southeastern Institute of Research.
- May: *A Report on the Outcome of the 2009 Virginia Legislative Session,* Delegates Rob Bell and David Toscano, representing, respectively, the 58th and 57th Districts.
- June: *Health Insurance: The Problem, the Solution.* David Shreve, former Professor of Economic History at UVA; Robert Graham, Director of Billing, Department of Ophthalmology at UVA; Donna Goings, Real Estate Agent.
- August: *Virginia House of Delegates Candidates' Showcase.* Steve Landes (R), incumbent Delegate, 25th District; Dr. Greg Marrow (D), Candidate for Delegate, 25th House District; David Toscano (D), Incumbent, 57th District; Robert Brandon Smith III (I) Candidate for Delegate, 57th District; Rob Bell (R), incumbent Delegate 58th District; Cynthia Neff (D) Candidate for Delegate 58th District.
- September: *A View From the Hill: Social Security and Medicare, Where from Here?* Laura Feldman, Organizer, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

October: *Candidates' Forum: Albemarle County Board of Supervisors.* Dennis Rooker (I), incumbent, Jack Juett District; David Slutzky (D), incumbent, Rio District; Rodney Thomas (R), Candidate for Rio District; Madison Cummings (D) Candidate for Samuel Miller District; John Lowry (I), Candidate for Samuel Miller District; Duane Snow (R), Candidate for Samuel Miller District.

November: *The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.* Billie Campbell, COO for the TJPDC.

December: *An Overview of the History of The Senior Statesmen of Virginia.* Gene Ecton Davis, Founding Member and Past President of SSV. (Annual Meeting and Election of Officers).

**2009 Annual Report prepared by:
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