

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, December 11, 2013, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
at the Branchlands Manor House
1300 Branchlands Drive

Senior Statesmen of Virginia Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia will be held at the Branchlands Manor House on Wednesday, December 11, beginning with a buffet lunch at 12:00 pm..

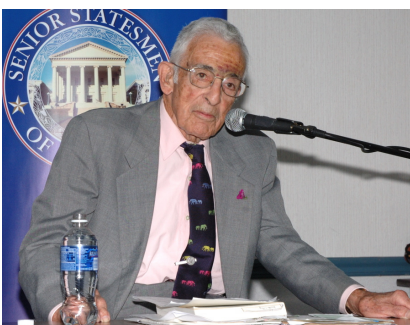
In order to assure appropriate seating and meal planning, SSV members who are planning to attend **must RSVP no later than Friday, December 6**, by calling **973-5932** or sending an e-mail to sueliberman@embarqmail.com.

ANNUAL MEETING: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The election of officers and directors will be held at the Annual Meeting. The nominating committee, comprised of **John McCauley**, chair, and **Bill Davis**, presents the following slate of nominations for 2014 SSV officers and directors: **Sue Liberman**, past president; **Bob McGrath**, president; **John McCauley**, vice president and program chair; **Madison Cummings**, secretary; **Jim Peterson**, treasurer; **Terry Cooper**, **Jeff Gould** and **Nancy Hunt**, directors. **Charles Smith** and **Grace Zisk** will continue on the board as they enter the second year of their two-year terms.

We wish to give special recognition to **Tom Boyd**, **Bill Davis** and **Jim Perkins**, members who have concluded their terms and will not be continuing on the board in 2014. Their hard work, dedication and outstanding leadership have played key roles in assisting our president, **Sue Liberman**, to bring the Senior Statesmen of Virginia to its strongest position ever.

In case you missed the November 13 meeting:



“Reflections on the Supreme Court” was the topic presented by **Henry J. Abraham**, James Hart Professor of Government Emeritus at the University of Virginia. You must listen to the entire presentation (see below) in order to appreciate the breadth and depth of Dr. Abraham’s presentation, but here is just a sampling of the points he addressed.

Over the other two branches of government, the courts represent the choice of more Americans by 10-20 percentage points.

The constitution includes two very significant concepts with regard to the Supreme Court: who is on the court (the members are not elected but rather nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate); and the second major concept—their perception of their judicial role—is the line between judicial

activism and judicial restraint. There are phrases in the constitution which explain why the court so frequently seems to be out of balance.

There are four reasons why presidents select people for the judiciary: merit, political and personal friendship, a person's real politics, and the notion of representativeness. The presidents have done pretty well with selecting members of merit. Only one member has been impeached and he was not convicted; indeed, he was a good jurist but he just had a big mouth. Of the 112 members who have served on the Supreme Court, Dr. Abraham considers only six as failures. He says that 12 are regarded as giants and great justices. The current court is OK.

Religion is one of the representative notions but the present court is not characteristic. Historically, there have been 92 Protestants of the 112 members, 12 Catholics and eight Jews. The present court has six Catholics and three Jews. However, religion does not play a major role in their positions on cases.

A typical perception is that there is a great deal of strife on the court. Actually, the strife is embedded in the cases, and when it comes to their personal and social relationships, the justices are all together.

The current court is divided 4 to 4 with Anthony Kennedy basically a conservative but who likes to be in the middle. Chief Justice John G. Roberts is a conservative. The most conservative member is Samuel A. Alito, although Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas are very close. Stephen G. Breyer and all three women, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, are liberals with Justice Ginsberg the most liberal.

You can listen to the entire presentation on the Charlottesville Podcasting Network at: <http://www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/>.

The Senior Statesmen of Virginia is pleased to **welcome** ten new members, **Patricia Bailey, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Skinner**, 9285 Critzers Shop Road, Afton, VA 22920, 540-456-6392; **Katy Clossin**, 1680 Union Mills Road, Troy, VA 22974, 434-906-7815; **L. Coburn Eisaman**, 2600 Barracks Road Apt 349, Charlottesville VA 22901, 434-295-0140; **Margaret Grove**, 1844 Fendall Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903, 434-293-5020; **Alice and Robert Lucan**, 2635 White Hall Road, Crozet, VA 22932, 434-823-4131; **Heather Ramwell**, 3235 Doctors Crossing, Charlottesville, VA 22911, 434-964-1277; and **Ed Volkstorf**, 263 Grey Dove Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22903, 434-293-8134.

Mark your calendar

Wednesday, January 8: **John Whitehead**, and his new book, ***A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State***.

Wednesday, February 12: **Richard Lindsay, MD**, emeritus professor of Internal Medicine and Family Practice and former head of the Section of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center in Charlottesville: **How the "age wave" will impact our community.**

Wednesday, March 12: **Frank Friedman, PhD**, president of Piedmont Virginia Community College: **The role of community colleges in the modern economy.**

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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