

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 11, 2014, 1:30 – 3 p.m.**  
at the **Senior Center, Inc., 1180 Pepsi Place**

### Leigh Middleditch and Terry Cooper Can Virginians bend legislators to pass a constitutional amendment ending partisan gerrymandering?

The work of Congress has largely ground to a halt. It seems totally unable to address the problems and opportunities we face in any meaningful way. That same gridlock seems to be invading our state legislature more and more. **Leigh Middleditch** and **Terry Cooper** are part of a group that's trying to do something about that: **OneVirginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting**, a nonpartisan group that believes a major cause of our legislative gridlock is partisan gerrymandering, the drawing of legislative districts' lines for the purpose of partisan advantage.

**OneVirginia2021** is seeking to amend Virginia's Constitution to take that power away from the legislators and delegate it to an independent, nonpartisan commission of Virginia nonpoliticians who will have to draw the district maps in strict compliance with common sense, nonpartisan standards — like respect for city, county and voting precinct boundaries, compactness and contiguity. The program will be moderated by SSV President **Bob McGrath** and is free and open to the public.

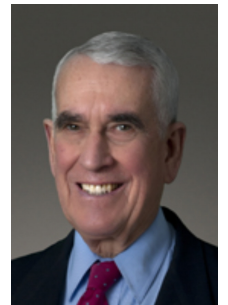


**Terry Cooper** does political research, principally opposition research for Republican candidates. He is a graduate of Episcopal High School, Princeton University and the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was research editor of the Virginia Law Review, a member of the National Moot Court Team and elected to the Order of the Coif, the law-school

equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. He practiced law with the Wall Street firm Sullivan & Cromwell and held executive positions with three Fortune 500 companies before founding his firm, Terry Cooper Political Research, in 1982. Terry has taught opposition research at the Republican National Committee's Campaign Management Colleges, at American University's Campaign Management Institute, at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, at the University of Florida and at training programs sponsored by the state Republican parties of Virginia, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Washington State.

**Leigh Middleditch** is a vice president with McGuireWoods Consulting where his practice is now concentrated in the nongovernmental and exempt organizations fields. Leigh has previously served on the Board of Visitors and as the legal advisor to UVA and was a founder of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. He also held the position of university lecturer in the Law and Darden Graduate Business Schools and is co-author of *Virginia Civil Procedure*. Leigh has

been chair of the University's Health Services Foundation; Virginia Health Care Foundation; Charlottesville-Albemarle Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Chamber of Commerce; Senior Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association, and a member of the ABA Board of Governors. He has also served as a director of the United States Chamber of Commerce; trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello); and University of Virginia Law Association. He currently is on the Board of the Montpelier Foundation; the U.Va. White Burkett Miller Council and Foundation for the Study of the Presidency; and is a Trustee of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation. Leigh served on active duty with the United States Navy from 1951-1954 and retired as a Captain USNR.



## ***In case you missed the May 14 Meeting:***

**Senator Creigh Deeds and Delegate David Toscano** provided their perspectives on the issues that came before the 2014 legislature. **Senator Bryce Reeves** and **Delegates Rob Bell, Steve Landes and Matt Fariss** were invited but responded they had scheduling conflicts. **Judy Wyatt**, Delegate Landes' legislative director, attended in his absence.

Both Senator Deeds and Delegate Toscano emphasized that service in the General Assembly is a part-time job with full-time responsibilities, and the members have to work for a living, and so sometimes there are things they can't attend because of other responsibilities and the need to pay their bills, and so some of the people who aren't here, can't be here.

Senator Deeds noted that the legislative session is still in session. The regular session ended the second Saturday in March, but they are required to pass a two-year budget and if the budget is not in place by July 1, we will be in absolutely uncharted water. Senator Deeds has been there for 23 sessions and as Virginians, he said we can be very proud of the legislative process, and what happens here happened first - in 1619. But the process has become more partisan. Yet by working together, two major things were accomplished. The front-end crisis intervention piece of mental health treatment was addressed and will continue over the next four years to develop a model of mental health treatment. The second major accomplishment was to craft legislation to reduce the number of SOL tests and set up an educational accountability council to figure out how to replace the SOLs. The hang up is over the budget and Medicaid expansion. There are 400,000 people in Virginia that would qualify for Medicaid expansion and Virginians are paying for it already. The question is, do we bring those dollars back to Virginia—5 million dollars a day. There is bipartisan agreement in the Senate to move forward.

Delegate Toscano has participated in the SSV legislative report program every year since 2006 when he was elected to the General Assembly, and that year the legislature went up to June 30 before they passed a budget, and the delay was largely due to debates over transportation funding. He cited a few victories in the current session, including the SOL and mental health reforms, and a little bit of a budget reform bill that passed in the aftermath of the scandal involving Governor McDonnell. In terms of where we are right now, the Senate has refused to take up the House budget, and the House has refused to take up the Senate budget. So much has to do with the politics on the ground. The Republicans are scared to death of being primaried by folks from the Tea Party ilk who, if a Republican votes for anything that smacks of supporting Barack Obama, is going to get primaried. But in the end, Delegate Toscano believes that most of his colleagues realize you can't kick away 5.2 million dollars a day. You've got to find a way to get our money back. There are hundreds of millions of dollars at stake for UVa.



### ***Mark your calendar***

**Please note that the Senior Statesmen of Virginia have always observed a tradition of taking off the month of July, and so there will NOT be a meeting held in July. The NEXT MEETING will be held on Wednesday, August 13.**

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](mailto:jimp@videoprovirginia.com)

**Please visit our website at: [www.seniorstatesmen.org/](http://www.seniorstatesmen.org/)**

## **Senior Statesmen of Virginia**

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