

VIRGINIA CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Q U A R T E R L Y M A G A Z I N E



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Spring 2015

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photograph by Wanda Judd

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Virginia: The Right Choice for Global Enterprise

By MAURICE A. JONES, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND TRADE

The Commonwealth of Virginia was founded as a business venture more than 400 years ago by the Virginia Company of London, a joint-stock company formed both to bring profits to its shareholders and establish an English colony in the New World. Since its founding, the Commonwealth has remained a journey of economic opportunity. Virginia's progress may be attributed to its many assets, including: an impressive roster of global companies; continued growth of businesses in strategic sectors; a welcoming and supportive business climate; and a superior workforce. These advantages provide a solid foundation for growth and make the Commonwealth a great place for enterprise.



International Leader

More than 750 international companies from 44 countries around the globe call Virginia home, representing more than \$8.3 billion in investment over the past 10 years. While independent third parties have noted the benefits of conducting business in Virginia, the corporations who call Virginia home most powerfully demonstrate the Commonwealth's business leadership position. Virginia serves as the headquarters for 35 Fortune 1000 firms and 52 firms with annual revenues over \$1 billion. The resilient success of Virginia businesses such as Stihl, Northrop Grumman, DuPont, Micron, Canon, Lipton and MeadWestvaco is the best indicator of what can be accomplished in the Commonwealth. The prestige and diversity of companies that join or continue to grow in Virginia—Rolls-Royce, Amazon.com, Microsoft, Bechtel, Tranlin, Inc., K2M, Corporate Executive Board and Continental, to name a few—highlight the Commonwealth's ability to consistently attract leading companies across different sectors.

Growing Businesses in Strategic Sectors

A diverse economy is critical to attracting firms and generating jobs in the 21st century. Virginia is well positioned to catalyze growth in key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, information technology and professional and business services. These sectors are both growing and providing good paying jobs to our workers.

Advanced Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector remains a vital component of the U.S. and Virginia economies. While not the dominant employer it was a generation ago, manufacturing helps drive technology, productivity, and innovation across many industry sectors. While Virginia has seen job losses in manufacturing, the sector employs over 230,000 employees and represents over \$115 billion in direct annual economic output. Accounting for direct and indirect jobs in Virginia, 13% of all jobs in Virginia are related to manufacturing. Wage levels and overall industry multipliers are higher for the manufacturing sector than other industry sectors, contributing to overall state income and economic stability. Key manufacturing operations are found in most regions of Virginia and provide a viable foundation on which to build.

Information Technology

Virginia has enjoyed national and international acclaim for its leadership in the broad arena of information technology. Currently, there are over 300 cyber security companies in Virginia, and more firms are being established each month. Systems and integration design and data center operations are some examples of the formidable information technology footprint here in Virginia. In fact, there are 10,800 employees working in data centers at an average salary of \$94,000. The Northern Virginia region is clearly

the dominant presence for the industry, but this is being dispersed in varying degrees to other regions of the state. Today, with broadband deployment across Virginia's rural areas, fiber redundancy and low latency times open up potential for growth of the sector across the Commonwealth.

Virginia's information technology strength bodes well for other sectors in Virginia, as the technologies and capabilities which arise out of the technology arena inevitably migrate to and find useful applications in most other industries. Advanced manufacturing operations in all sectors—medical and life technologies, bioinformatics, global logistics, research and development, corporate management and headquarters, and even federal and defense/security related operations—are all dependent on highly robust and reliable technologies in sensing, monitoring, processing, managing and controlling systems as the lifeblood of these industries. Information technology is the connective tissue and enabling activity that is common to all and gives rise to a distinct competitive leverage point for Virginia.

Professional and Business Services

Professional and business services activity in Virginia has been a leading contributor to Virginia income and job growth. Federal spending policy has certainly impacted this, particularly as it relates to the contracting community in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads and elsewhere. Still, there is a considerable base of highly skilled talent in Virginia, requisite infrastructure and a network of highly formidable companies that are adept at reading and responding to dynamic market changes. As companies continue to right-size, engage in strategic alliances, mergers, and develop new strategies for survival and growth, Virginia must be positioned to assist and add value.

Notwithstanding recent trends of reduced federal spending, federal and security operations offer opportunities for Virginia for the same reasons cited by the private sector. There are opportunities to be had in agency footprint consolidations and reorganizations that result from a diminished physical federal footprint. Virginia, especially Northern Virginia, has ample inventory of office space which can be a strong consideration in evaluating a Virginia option. Likewise, the other assets (access, talent, vendors, taxes policy, regulation and utilities) help promote the Virginia case relative to competitor options.

Pro Business Climate

Virginia boasts competitive, stable operating costs, and a low, six percent corporate income tax—one of the lowest in the nation—that hasn't increased since 1972. The Commonwealth offers a variety of performance-based business incentives, including tax credits, exemptions and grants. Virginia views incentives as an investment in its economic future and as a basis for a rational business decision for both the Commonwealth and the companies. The Governor's Opportunity Fund, soon to be called the Commonwealth Opportunity Fund, is a vital, proven deal closing incentive that Virginia and its communities have successfully used for almost two decades. The Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund provides strategic grants made to businesses that add value to Virginia-grown agricultural and forestal products. The Virginia Investment Partnership Grant and the Major Eligible Employer Grant are discretionary performance incentives designed to encourage continued capital investment by Virginia companies, resulting in added capacity, modernization, increased productivity or the creation, development and utilization of advanced technology. Virginia also offers extremely competitive sales and use tax exemptions. The Virginia Jobs Investment Program is an incentive program offering customized recruiting and training assistance to companies that are creating new jobs or experiencing technological change.




Virginia's robust incentives help attract new business and support and encourage the growth of companies in the Commonwealth. Plus, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership provides invaluable service to those seeking a prime business location, focusing on cultivating new business investment, fostering international trade growth and encouraging the expansion of existing Virginia businesses.

World Class Workforce

Companies everywhere highlight workforce as a key factor for expanding or locating their businesses in Virginia. The Commonwealth offers a strong education system and a dynamic workforce—both of which provide a solid foundation for business and job growth. Virginia is among the most educated states in the country, with more than 575,000 students enrolled in over 100 in-state institutions of higher education. Virginia's education system also hosts 23 community colleges with transferable programs across the state that partner with companies to offer customized workforce

training programs. As a result, Virginia's higher education system is the 11th largest in the nation, and its resources are unsurpassed in terms of availability and quantity. A tradition of lifelong education means that Virginia's workforce is consistently prepared for changing technologies, delivering a pipeline of skilled applicants for companies today and for industries of the future.

Virginia is a right-to-work state, and our workforce is readily recruitable, trained, highly productive and comes with the benefits of strong work ethic and moderate cost. With a population of more than 8.3 million and a workforce of over 4.2 million, Virginia successfully supports the Commonwealth's substantial industry base.

The Commonwealth boasts a rich history and even richer assets. She continues to innovate and craft contemporary programs that bolster economic development in the 21st century. Our invitation is to preserve a centuries-old legacy and enhance our standing as a leading state for business. 

Session marked an important, bipartisan step forward on heroin and prescription drugs

By ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK R. HERRING

More than 3,000 Virginians have lost their lives in the last five years to a heroin or prescription drug overdose. It's a stunning number made all the more devastating when you hear firsthand the stories of those lost from friends and family members. These heartbroken mothers and fathers share with pride the amazing things their children accomplished in their lives, and speak glowingly of all they had in front of them. Almost without exception, they share two common messages: "Don't let this happen to another child in Virginia," and "I never thought this could happen to my family."



We're beginning to see a broadly shared understanding by law enforcement, educators, public health officials, and elected leaders of both parties, in all parts of the state, that our Commonwealth, like many other states in the mid-Atlantic, faces an epidemic of heroin and prescription drug overdose deaths. The two are problems in and of themselves, and they're also linked, because prescription drug abuse often leads to use of the cheap, potent heroin police are seeing on the streets.

There is no stereotypical victim to this crisis. It is claiming the lives of men and women of all ages, from all parts of the Commonwealth, of every socioeconomic background. We are losing young college students who became addicted following a sports injury and switch to heroin, middle-aged women who became dependent on prescription opiates, and seniors who have been overprescribed powerful opiates for chronic pain.

Something has to change, and we're putting the tools in place to start turning this problem around through evidence-based strategies.

In the Office of Attorney General, we have launched a statewide strategy that includes prevention and education alongside enforcement.

For the first time ever, we've placed prosecutors from the Office of Attorney General in Hampton Roads to assist local prosecutors with complex drug cases, and our prosecutors in Northern, Central, and Western Virginia continue to focus on heroin cases at the state and federal level. We're focusing on the dangerous, high-level dealers and distributors, many of whom come to Virginia from out of state, who are fueling the troubling rise in fatalities.

We are teaching young people about the dangers of heroin and prescription drugs through our Virginia Rules youth education program. There's no experimenting with heroin, and we want to make sure young people understand that this is something that can grab hold of them or even kill them in just one use.

Our office is seeking professional accountability for doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who steal, overprescribe, or otherwise make prescription drugs illegally available.

We partnered with Governor McAuliffe's administration and law enforcement from across the state for a summit in October to find out what's working and what new tools are needed.

And after months of working with Republicans and Democrats, law enforcement officials and public health advocates, parents, and those in recovery, my office helped put forward smart, evidence-based legislative reforms that were passed by the General Assembly.

In addition to several bills from Governor McAuliffe's Task Force, we worked with Richmond Democratic Delegate Betsy Carr and co-patrons to introduce a "safe reporting," or "good Samaritan" provision, as exists in 23 other states, to encourage those who witness an overdose to call for help without fear of prosecution. This would provide a limited defense from prosecution for minor possession

or intoxication charges if someone reports an overdose in progress, stays on the scene, and cooperates with officials.

We worked with Richmond Republican Delegate John O'Bannon, a neurologist from Richmond, on a bill to allow every law enforcement agency in Virginia to carry naloxone, a lifesaving overdose antidote that saved more than 10,000 lives across the country in 15 years. The bill also provides important protections for the law enforcement officers and first responders who may be asked to carry and administer naloxone.

Finally, we worked with Fairfax County Senator Janet Howell to give probation officers access to Virginia's prescription drug monitoring program to ensure probationers aren't accessing prescription opioids.

These are concrete steps we have taken to save lives and get treatment for those struggling with addiction. The bills were introduced by a bipartisan slate of legislators, passed with unanimous bipartisan support, and were endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys. I'm proud that they are now law.

The only bill that didn't make it to the finish line was a bill to help Virginia prosecutors hold dealers accountable when their drugs lead to a death. We worked with Republican Delegates Jackson Miller and Scott Lingamfelter, two Northern Virginia Republican delegates known as strong advocates for law enforcement and criminal justice issues, to craft a bill that prosecutors could use to seek accountability for deadly drug deals at the state level. Each chamber passed a version, but the differences could not be reconciled in a conference committee. My office has prosecuted many of these cases at the federal level with the U.S. Attorney's office, and will continue to do so, but we will also try again next year to give Virginia prosecutors this important tool. When a dealer's deadly product kills a Virginian, they should be held responsible for that.

As we move beyond the legislative session, we'll be working to inform law enforcement and prosecutors about these new tools that can help them combat the heroin and prescription drug crisis in their own communities. My office is also exploring whether any multi-state or regional efforts can help address our problem here in Virginia. To be sure, this session was the first step, not the last, to addressing the heroin and prescription drug epidemic.

Virginians should be proud that their elected officials were able to come together in a bipartisan way to enact proven, evidence-based reforms. As Virginians, we must all do our part to educate our families and friends about the horrific dangers of heroin and prescription drug abuse. I don't want one more parent to bury a child, or one more child to lose a parent, to heroin or a prescription drug overdose.

Mark R. Herring is the 48th Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia. [V]

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A Healthy Virginia: *Improving Access To Care*

By WILLIAM A. HAZEL JR., SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Last fall, Gov. Terry McAuliffe launched the “A Healthy Virginia” plan, a 10-point outline of initiatives to improve the health and lives of Virginians. Since then, there has been some substantial progress on several of those points.

As part of the ‘A Healthy Virginia’ plan, Gov. McAuliffe initiated the Governor’s Access Plan (GAP), a program that offers limited physical and behavioral health coverage for low-income, uninsured Virginians with serious mental illness. The plan could help up to 20,000 Virginians with serious mental illness get the care they desperately need. The strength of the response is indicative of the need – as of the end of March, more than 1,700 participants had signed up with the GAP program, in 125 localities around the state. It’s clear that this program will help improve the lives and health of people with the most severe mental illnesses.

Also in March, Virginia expanded its Medicaid and FAMIS coverage to provide dental care services to low-income pregnant women. This initiative could provide dental care to as many as 45,000 pregnant women in the Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS programs. A mother with oral health problems can also pass cavity-causing bacteria on to her baby and is at a higher risk for pre-term delivery. But many low-income women go through their pregnancies without any dental care. On March 1, Virginia’s “Smiles for Children” program began providing dental benefits to these pregnant women, improving the likelihood of a healthy delivery and baby.

The General Assembly this winter approved four of six bills proposed by the governor’s Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse. These bills will help address the fast-growing problem of heroin and prescription painkiller abuse and overdose in the Commonwealth, by allowing more first responders to administer overdose-reversing medications; providing civil immunity for those professionals who administer that medication; requiring hospices to notify those who prescribe medications when a patient has died; and encouraging greater registration with the Prescription Monitoring Program.

The task force continues to work to find ways to reduce the misuse and abuse of these powerful painkillers and of heroin. Opioid abuse is reaching epidemic levels nationwide and is a spreading and serious problem in Virginia. Since 2000, deaths from prescription painkiller abuse in Virginia more than doubled. Between 2011 and 2013 alone, heroin-related deaths in Virginia nearly doubled. Often, people who are addicted to prescription painkillers are turning to heroin because it has similar effects yet is cheaper and easier to get than are prescription opioids.



It’s important to reduce the social stigma associated with addiction issues. Heroin use and abuse of prescription painkillers are problems that touch all social strata, and it is critical for people to talk about these issues openly and encourage those who are addicted to seek help.

The Governor’s Task Force on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response held its final meeting in March. This meeting was marked by Gov. McAuliffe signing an executive directive to create a new Center for Behavioral Health and Justice, a recommendation by the task force. Too often, people with mental and behavioral health issues end up in front of a judge when what they need most is a doctor. The center will improve coordination between behavioral health and justice programs, and help Virginians with behavioral and mental health needs who are in the justice system get the treatment and health care they need.

The mental health task force also heard an update on the impact of the changes made to the civil commitment procedures in 2014 in an effort to strengthen the crisis response system. More people are seeking help – between July 2014, when new laws went into effect, and December 2014, there were increases in the numbers of emergency evaluations, and the number of admissions to state hospitals was 27 percent higher for adults than in 2013. It’s heartening to note that during that six-month period, no one was turned away from getting the inpatient care they needed due to a lack of bed space, and that the changes to the civil commitment procedures are having a positive effect.

There is also good news to report in the continuing effort to help military veterans get easier access to health care. In March, Gov. McAuliffe, Secretary Bill Hazel and Secretary John Harvey met with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald to discuss ways that Virginia can partner with the VA to accelerate access to health care for Virginia veterans. Gov. McAuliffe was the first sitting governor to meet with Secretary McDonald since his appointment to lead the VA. The meeting gave the governor and secretaries a chance to tell Secretary McDonald about the needs of Virginia veterans and how federal action could help them. Under the new Veterans Choice Act, veterans living 40 miles or further from a VA facility or waiting more than 30 days for care at the VA could seek care outside the VA. But originally, the rule measured 40 miles as the crow flies, rather than by road miles. The Secretaries shared that the interpretation of this rule was too strict for some veterans, such as those on the Eastern Shore, who lived less than 40 miles from a VA facility but still faced significant transportation barriers in reaching a VA clinic. In late March, the VA announced it will relax the “40-mile” rule, which should help Virginia veterans in rural areas of the state. Using road-mile measurements instead should allow more Virginia veterans to use their VA benefits without having to drive long distances to VA facilities.

The spring will see the Health and Human Resources secretariat continue efforts to advance the ‘A Healthy Virginia’ plan and work to improve the health and well-being of all Virginians. ▮



COVER PHOTOGRAPH

A large equestrian statue of George Washington atop a granite pedestal is located just northwest of the Capitol at the formal entrance to the square. This monument was conceived to honor Washington and to glorify Virginia’s contributions to independence. Virginia’s role in the Revolution is depicted by six of her sons surrounding General Washington, who is dressed in a military uniform. Smaller allegorical figures below the six pedestrian statues are inscribed with themes reflecting each patriot’s contribution: Andrew Lewis, Colonial Times; Patrick Henry, Revolution; George Mason, Bill of Rights; Thomas Jefferson, Independence; Thomas Nelson, Finance; and John Marshall, Justice. American sculptor Thomas Crawford designed the monument. The cornerstone was laid on Washington’s Birthday, February 22, 1850, and the Washington statue was unveiled on February 22, 1858. Crawford died in 1857 after completing the statues of Washington, Jefferson and Henry. His American colleague Randolph Rogers executed the statues of Mason, Marshall, Nelson, and Lewis, as well as the allegorical figures, the last of which was put into place in 1869. - http://www.virginiacapitol.gov/index.php?p=capitol_square

Virginia Public Safety and Homeland Security:

Women Leading The Way By BRIAN MORAN, SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

In a public safety field traditionally dominated by males even in recent years, the McAuliffe Administration can point with justifiable pride to the 10 women who hold leadership positions in the Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

"The public safety world has many facets, ranging from law enforcement officers and firefighters all the way to forensic science and juvenile justice," says Brian J. Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. "The women who hold leadership positions in our Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretariat bring a wealth of experience, along with their perspective as women, that make them extremely effective leaders. We are fortunate to have them on our team."

Karen Brown

Chair, Virginia Parole Board

Ms. Brown is an experienced former prosecutor who began her career as a judicial law clerk at District of Columbia Superior Court. She served as Commonwealth's Attorney in the cities of Newport News and Chesapeake for 16 years, prosecuting cases in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations, General District and Circuit Courts with a concentration on child abuse and sexual assault cases.

"My background allows me to effectively balance victims' rights with fairness toward offenders," Ms. Brown says. "It's a unique—and necessary—perspective when dealing with these types of cases."

Jane Sherman Chambers

Director, Commonwealth Attorneys' Services Council

"I know Virginia's prosecutors," says Ms. Chambers, "and I firmly believe that they are strong, ethical and dedicated to serving crime victims to the very best of their abilities. My mission, which I am very proud to carry out, is to support them in their ethical pursuit



of justice." She prepared for the directorship by serving for nine years as CASC's Violence Against Women resource prosecutor. Before joining the CASC, she prosecuted for the City of Hampton for 11 years, five of which she served as Hampton's only domestic violence prosecutor. She received her Juris Doctor degree from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary.

"I understand the needs and challenges of the newest prosecutors and also those of the seasoned veterans," Director Chambers says.

Victoria Cochran

Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

For the last 14 years, Ms. Cochran has worked as a criminal justice and mental health "boundary spanner," leading key stakeholder groups throughout the Commonwealth to develop programmatic, policy and process initiatives that enhance systems interoperability and improve outcomes for justice involving individuals with behavioral health issues. Her leadership was instrumental in establishing Virginia's first Crisis Intervention Team and the program's ensuing statewide expansion. She received her Juris Doctor degree from the College of William & Mary's Marshall Wythe School of Law, and spent 17 years as a public defender in southwest Virginia. Just prior to her appointment as Deputy Secretary, she was Director for the Office of Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Services in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS).

"We achieve our best outcomes when we work collaboratively across traditional boundaries," Ms. Cochran says. "We make data-driven decisions together that improve public safety and enhance the lives of our citizens."

Francine C. Ecker

Director, VA Department of Criminal Justice Services

Fran Ecker believes a key ingredient to preparing her to become director was her work in the late 1980s as manager of the Children's Justice Act Program for DCJS. "That experience brought me into contact with prosecutors, chiefs and sheriffs, judges and law



Front row, from left: Jane Chambers, Director, Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council; Judy Napier, Commissioner, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC); Brook Pittinger, Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Fire Programs; Katya Herndon, Chief Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Forensic Science; Francine C. Ecker, Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Back row, from left: Angela Valentine, Chief Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice; Victoria Cochran, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; Brian J. Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; Gov. Terry McAuliffe; Tonya Vincent, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; Karen Brown, Chair, Virginia Parole Board.

enforcement training academy directors, among others,” Ms. Ecker says. “Together, we improved the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases. I believe the skills required to work with such diverse groups of professionals and stakeholders serve me well today.”

Director Ecker has been instrumental in the design, development, and implementation of state and local criminal justice, prosecution, law enforcement, child welfare, and domestic and sexual violence grant programs in whatever capacity she has served. She says her early career work in the New River Valley in southwest Virginia provided her a unique perspective on the needs of women in rural communities in the Commonwealth.

Katya Herndon

Chief Deputy Director, Department of Forensic Science

Katya Herndon has a rare combination of experience: legal counsel, media and public relations, and knowledge of forensic science. After earning her Juris Doctor degree from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, Ms. Herndon began her legal career at the Supreme Court of Virginia, clerking first in the Chief Staff Attorney’s Office and then for Senior Justice Richard H. Poff. She then became an Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney for Henrico County. She entered the field of forensic science when she was hired as the Department of Forensic Science’s first in-house legal counsel.

From 2006 to 2014, Ms. Herndon was the Director of Legislative and Public Relations for the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia. “During that period, I served on the Forensic Science Board as the designee for the Executive Secretary, which allowed me to keep abreast of changes at the Department of Forensic Science,” Ms. Herndon notes. “The nearly eight years I spent representing the judiciary before the General Assembly provided me with extensive legislative experience and a strong understanding of how Virginia government operates.”

Linda Jackson

Director, Department of Forensic Science

Director Jackson began her career with the Department of Forensic Science in 1995 as a Controlled Substances Examiner. She has held several positions since then, culminating with her appointment as director in 2014. In her role as Chemistry Program Manager, she managed all technical aspects of the controlled substances, toxicology and trace evidence disciplines. She currently serves on the National Commission on Forensic Science and co-chairs the subcommittee on Accreditation and Proficiency Testing. She earned her master’s degree in chemistry from the University of North Carolina—Charlotte in 1999.

“I have a unique combination of experience working on the bench as a drug chemist and working on national committees that recommend policies and practices in the field of forensic science. This has provided me the foundation, and the necessary perspective, to lead DFS forward as its director,” Ms. Jackson says.

Judy Napier

Commissioner, ABC Board of Commissioners

Ms. Napier brings experience in both the public and private sectors to her role as an ABC Commissioner. Before her appointment in 2014, she served as Director of Business Development for CGI, an international information technology company, where her accounts focused on state and local government. Between 2002 and 2009, she served Governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine as Deputy Secretary of Technology and Assistant Secretary of Technology, respectively. She also has served as Legislative Director for the State Homebuilders Association.

“State government service has given me great joy in that you can quickly see the results of your work,” Ms. Napier says. “The dual

perspective of the private versus public sectors is very valuable. It has been very rewarding.”

Brook Pittinger

Deputy Executive Director, Department of Fire Programs

As the Department of Fire Programs’ first female Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Pittinger oversees budgeting guidance, strategic planning, validation of programs, and coordination of policy in an agency with a \$30 million budget that employs 74 office personnel across seven division offices. She first joined DFP in 2005 as the Quality Assurance Chief, serving also as Government Affairs Manager and Director of Administration before her current appointment. Before coming to the Commonwealth, she worked for Kings Dominion as their international program supervisor and for Newport News Shipbuilding as a business analyst. She holds a master’s degree in public administration from VCU.

“I have a natural passion for public service, which has grown over the years,” Ms. Pittinger says. “The most rewarding thing for me is to play a small role in helping to train our fire services heroes and make sure we meet the fire services community’s ever-changing and demanding needs. The ultimate goal is to ensure that everyone comes home!”

Angela Valentine

Deputy Director, Department of Juvenile Justice

Thirty-eight years ago, Ms. Valentine started working directly with kids in trouble as a probation officer with the Henrico County Court Services Unit. Since then, she has devoted her career to helping wayward young people follow a better path. Through her years with DJJ, she has developed and implemented numerous initiatives, programs and juvenile justice reform procedures based on progressive evidence-based research within the juvenile justice field. On the national level, Ms. Valentine has worked with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

“Having spent my very rewarding career with one agency, I believe my historical perspective on how DJJ has evolved as an agency, plus the strong collaborative relationships with state and national agencies I’ve developed over the years, serve me very well in my current role,” Ms. Valentine says.

Tonya Vincent

Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Twenty-four years of law enforcement experience, both as a police officer and in command positions, made Ms. Vincent an ideal candidate to oversee the Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ Services Council, the Department of Corrections, the Virginia State Police and the Virginia Parole Board on behalf of Secretary Moran. Prior to her appointment in 2014, she served in two key leadership roles for the City of Richmond: Deputy Chief of Police with the Richmond Police Department and Interim Director for the Department of Social Services. Ms. Vincent’s career also includes serving 22 years with the Arlington County Police Department, where she retired as a captain. Her educational accomplishments validate her commitment to continuous learning and development. She holds two master’s degrees (Business Administration and Public Administration) from Virginia Tech, and is currently enrolled in Virginia Tech’s Ph.D. program.

“Throughout my career, I have always focused my efforts on improving the lives of others,” says Ms. Vincent. “My leadership style has enabled me to motivate, mentor, and empower employees in order to achieve their goals and the mission of the agency. More importantly, having the ability to cultivate strong relationships with community groups from diverse socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds is essential to improving the lives of your constituents.”

Virginia Making Strides Towards Ending Veteran Homelessness in 2015

By MATT LESLIE

In January 2014, The US Department of Housing and Urban Development found that, on any given night, there were approximately 620 homeless veterans in Virginia. Governor Terry McAuliffe quickly responded to this problem by becoming just the fourth Governor to join the Mayors' Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, publicly committing to eradicate veterans homelessness in Virginia by the end of 2015. Thus, the charge to the Virginia Department of Veterans Service:



End Veterans Homelessness by 2015. Fast forward--on February 5th, 2015 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Governor McAuliffe joined state, local, private and federal leaders to recognize community partners from Roanoke, Richmond, the Peninsula, and South Hampton Roads who participated in a "100 Day Challenge" to combat veteran homelessness in Virginia. By the January 30, 2015 end of the 100-Day Challenge, 462 formerly homeless veterans had gained access to a permanent home of their own. Some of those veterans now have a place to call home for the first time in years, including a veteran in Hampton who spent 22 years on the street. This far exceeds the original goal of the 100 Day Challenge, and also represents approximately 75% of the 2014 Point in Time Count. The Commonwealth is well on its way toward eradicating veteran homelessness in Virginia.

So how did this happen? Once the problem was identified and under the Governor's leadership, your Department of Veterans Services and a myriad of state and private partners took action. The 100 Day Challenge represented the first time any state had organized a large scale, public/private initiative to end veteran homelessness. The Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness (GCCCH), the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness coordinated this initiative with support from the Virginia Housing Development Authority and Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The Challenge drove stronger and streamlined coordination between local Continuums of Care, Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Centers in Virginia, Public Housing Authorities, state and local government, nonprofits, veteran service organizations and faith based partners.

One of the keys to our success was utilizing the Housing First approach. The Housing First system orientation recognizes that the most fundamental need is indeed housing, and that without housing other needs (such as mental illness, substance use, low income, history of chronic homelessness, etc) cannot be completely addressed. By implementing Housing First, the four 100 Day Challenge communities have created systems that can effectively identify veterans through coordinated, community outreach, and efficiently place Virginia's most vulnerable veterans into homes of their own with access to supportive services.

This improved streamlining of coordination has yielded tangible results--solving the homelessness problem for hundreds of Virginia's veterans. One such veteran is Robert Baldwin, a homeless Vietnam-era Army veteran who was successfully housed in Richmond through the 100 Day Challenge. After being honorably discharged in 1975, Robert returned to his hometown of Richmond. Over the course of the next four decades, Robert experienced periods of homelessness and unemployment as he struggled with depression and substance abuse. Through coordinated efforts by the Richmond 100 Day Challenge team, he was housed in his own apartment through Virginia Supportive Housing in October 2014. Additionally, Robert is receiving counseling

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services through McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which also helped to connect him with additional benefits including monthly disability income. "I have freedom. Peace of mind." Robert told the Governor at the February event. "I can't even describe it." Robert Baldwin's story is just one example of how the increased coordination and streamlined processes among VAMCs and community providers have resulted in dramatic decreases in the turnaround time to place veterans in housing, and leveraging additional community resources.

Governor McAuliffe Signs Directive Establishing Center for Behavioral Health and Justice

The executive action ensures interagency collaboration to address gaps in the behavioral health system. By HOLLY COY

On March 23rd Governor McAuliffe signed Executive Directive Four to establish the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice, an interagency collaborative to better coordinate behavioral health and justice services. The announcement came during the final meeting of the *Governor's Task Force for Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response*, which originated under former Governor McDonnell in response to the tragedy with Gus Deeds, and was continued by Governor McAuliffe in April 2014.

"Nearly a year ago, I asked this Task Force to continue its work and develop bold ideas to help the Commonwealth address the gaps in our behavioral health system," said Governor McAuliffe at the meeting. "Through the Center we will achieve better coordination of programs and services, state and local governments, and our public and private sectors. This will help ensure that Virginians with behavioral health needs in our justice system are treated with dignity and receive the health care services they desperately need."

During the past decade, Virginia lawmakers, the Supreme Court and Executive Branch agencies have spearheaded various efforts to identify and address the needs of persons with mental illness who become involved with the criminal justice system. While many initiatives have demonstrated some success, significant challenges remain in assuring coordination and collaboration across the criminal justice and behavioral health systems at local, regional and state levels.

"The Center is a statewide means to enhance collaboration across the criminal justice and behavioral health systems," said Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran. "It will provide a one stop shop for access to data, information about evidence based programs and technical assistance, decreasing inappropriate incarceration, enhancing public safety and reducing stigma using sound data driven decision making."

The purpose of the Center is to address these very issues by creating greater behavioral health and justice coordination across

public and private sectors through a collaborative, multi-systems approach to: data collection and analytics; evidence based programs and practices; education, outreach and training; and technical assistance and resource development.

"Too often, when mental illness and law enforcement are mentioned in the same breath, it is in the context of a tragic situation," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dr. Bill Hazel. "Establishment of this Center for Behavioral Health and Justice shows a formal commitment to change that perception and to change outcomes for Virginians."

The Center was one of the key components of the 25 recommendations the Task Force sent to the Governor in October 2014. *The Joint Subcommittee on Mental Health Services in the Twenty-First Century*, created via legislation in 2014 to look at mental health services over the course of 4 years and Chaired by Senator Deeds, also endorsed the Center as a priority.

The directive establishes the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice and requires an Executive Leadership Council to develop an organizational structure and implementation plan for the Center by July 1, 2015. The Leadership Council will include: the Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources; the Commissioners of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Health; and the Directors of the Departments of Corrections, Criminal Justice Services, Juvenile Justice and Medical Assistance Services.

"I thank the Governor and his administration, the dedicated members of this Task Force, and the General Assembly for taking significant actions to address Virginia's serious behavioral health needs throughout the last year," said Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, Chair of the Governor's Task Force. "The establishment of the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice is another step in the right direction that will help ensure better coordination of programs and services for years to come."

The Governor's Task Force for Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response concluded its work at the end of March, as it was set to expire in April 2015. It was chaired Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and co-chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Bill Hazel; and Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Brian Moran.

Holly Coy is the Policy Director for the Office of Lt. Governor Ralph Northam. 



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While housing 462 formerly homeless veterans throughout Virginia in 100 days is a significant accomplishment, we all recognize that such efforts are not the end, but the beginning. Taking the lessons learned from the first 100 Day Challenge, the original four communities have recommitted to another 100 Day Challenge to collectively house 260 more homeless veterans by the end of May 2015.

"Virginia is closer to meeting our goal today more than ever before," said Governor McAuliffe. "We now need to continue to

remember that the needs of veterans experiencing homelessness are urgent, but if we keep up the momentum, we can ensure that veteran homelessness is prevented whenever possible or becomes and remains a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience."

Matt Leslie, MSW, is the Director, Housing Development for Veterans, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Virginia Department of Veterans Services. 

Child Care: *Virginia's Evolving Improvement*

By SENATOR EMMETT W. HANGER, JR.

A name to a face; a tie to your community; a child rather than just a number or statistic. Sometimes that is what you need to start a policy change.

Child care is something every parent must consider in some form or another. And good parents try their utmost best to be diligent in finding reputable, safe providers. Likewise, good providers work hard to offer safe, affordable care. But recently, tragic news accounts over and over have demonstrated that when parents can't verify a trustworthy background and providers are not afforded a template for safe care, then you end up with children in harm's way. Worse, you end up with the abuse or death of precious children. And these losses prompted critical work in the Virginia General Assembly.

I and other legislators set out in 2014 to craft a legislative workgroup to improve inadequacies in background checks for providers. Federal law was being implemented that those taking federal subsidies would be subject to a more comprehensive national-based fingerprint background check. A name-only check was being conducted in Virginia at the time. The workgroup was tasked with implementing a system-wide fingerprint background check to catch those working with aliases and verify information out of state.

This Session, I offered legislation to implement the recommendations of that workgroup as well as close a loophole that some barrier crime violators were still not prohibited from offering child care services.

In addition, Delegate Bobby Orrock and numerous other legislators in the House and Senate offered a variety of legislation to address licensure and threshold issues. In the end, Delegate Orrock and I shepherded through bills that ended up in conference to finalize the end result of consensus reform.

Advocates for tighter licensure requirements worked along side of those who wanted to maintain exemptions for religious and other reasons and those who wanted to keep a non-licensed option as well.

Though no one got exactly all they wanted, we did pass reform legislation that reduces the licensure threshold from 6 to 5 children; requires a fingerprint background check of all licensed or registered providers; closed the barrier crime loophole; and provides tools for local governments and the Department of Social Services to know who in the community is offering child care in a licensed or unlicensed setting.

There is still work to do but we can build on the reforms we have put into place this session. Many of the provisions have a delayed enactment of a year or two, so DSS can better prepare and educate parents and providers to insure the safety and well-being of our children. A positive step forward has been made, and families should feel confident that concerns are being heard. Work will continue, and though the ultimate issue of care falls to parents, the Commonwealth needs to continue to insure the proper tools are offered to insure safety and education to all involved.

Member of the House: 1983-1992; Member of the Senate: 1996-District 24 includes all of Augusta County, Greene County, Staunton City, Waynesboro City, Madison County; part of Rockingham County and Culpeper County. [V]



Virginia's Democracy Deficit: *Uncompetitive Elections*

By BRIAN TURNER

Competitive elections are a hallmark of a democratic political system. Election results should reflect the general policy preferences of the voters, and electoral competition allows the voting public to weigh competing visions of the best policies. Elections should also serve as civic rituals that link the voter to the political system. Wearing the "I voted" sticker should be a meaningful act.

If one accepts these normative propositions about what elections "should" do, then one can argue that Virginia suffers from a democracy deficit. Too many of our elections are uncompetitive, and thus fail to produce meaningful policy debate, elect representatives who reflect the general policy preferences of the voters, and provide a meaningful civic ritual for the citizenry. The problem is caused by a redistricting process based on partisan gerrymandering. This problem is found in every state of the union and has existed since the founding of the republic, but it is exaggerated in contemporary Virginia.

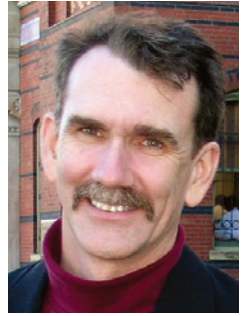
The nature of the problem can be seen by comparing statewide contests with elections in the various districts. Virginia has become a swing state in recent presidential elections. Statewide elections have been closely contested, with several razor-thin margins between the candidates, including the Attorneys General races in 2005 and 2013 and U.S. Senate contests in 2006 and 2014. In fifteen statewide races over the last decade, there have been five "blowouts" (ten point margin of victories), three of which came in the Republican sweep of state executive branch offices in 2009 and two in Democratic victories in the 2008 U.S. Senate race and the 2013 Lieutenant Governor election. Democrats have won ten of these elections, and Republicans five.

The situation is distinct in the General Assembly, especially in the House of Delegates. After taking a 52 to 47 majority in the House in 2000, the Republicans were able to control the redistricting process and improved their seat total to 64 in the 2001 elections. That margin eroded as the state became more competitive, but still the GOP controlled between 54 and 59 seats in the latter half of the decade. In the 2011 elections, thanks to redistricting the Republicans increased their majority to 66 seats, and added one more in 2013, so as to now have a two-thirds majority in the House of Delegates in a state that is nowhere nearly this "red."

Likewise, Virginia's delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives does not reflect the competitive partisan balance in the state. While Democrats have won all four U.S. Senate races since 2005, Republicans have won the majority of seats in the House, in most years controlling eight of Virginia's eleven seats. Since the 2006 elections, the GOP has won 37 of the 55 House races, again over two-thirds of these races. And a whopping 87% (48) of these so-called contests were blowouts, with Democratic congressman Bobby Scott leading the way by winning the Third District without opposition three times and easily defeating his opponent by over 40 points the other two times over the past decade.

Redistricting in Virginia is controlled by the state legislature, as is the case in 37 states. Advanced geographic information system (GIS) technology allows the gerrymander-minded politician to quickly draw district lines that protect party and incumbents. Indeed, one such Virginia politician expressed to me his relief that, thanks to redistricting, he had no opponent in the 2011 elections. Certainly,

See *Virginia's Democracy Deficit*, continued on page 14



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Virginia's Democracy Deficit from page 12

campaigning for a job that pays just \$17,640 a year is unpleasant, and raising money for campaigns is another area of major concern for the democratic process, but an uncontested election is surely not the desired outcome in a democracy.

According to an analysis of congressional districts conducted by Azavea, a geospatial software firm, Virginia ranks low on measures of district compactness, which in turn is evidence of gerrymandering. There are several ways to measure this, and on one such measure Virginia ranked fourth among the 45 states with more than one congressional district for uncompact districts. On two other measures, Virginia ranked seventh. Democratic party-dominated Maryland ranked number one on most measures; indeed Azavea shows that states controlled by Democrats tend to have less compact districts. States, like Virginia, with split control of the legislature at the time of the redistricting, tend to have the most compact districts, but this did not seem to hold true in the Commonwealth. These analyses do adjust for geographic features, such as Virginia's irregular land and water boundaries.

Gerrymandering is associated with lower levels of electoral competitiveness in Virginia. An analysis conducted by Ballotpedia measures state legislatures for the degree of competitiveness according to elections contested by both of the major parties, primary challenges to incumbents, and the number of incumbents who seek reelection. On these measures, Virginia ranked near the bottom (between 41st and 45th) in both the 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 cycles, with the exception of a rank of 22nd for the number incumbents seeking reelection in 2011. Evidence that low levels of competition reduce voter turnout requires a more exhaustive district-by-district analysis than I conduct here. It is true that the lowest turnout rates in Virginia occur in years where there are no statewide races on the ballot, such as in 2011 when turnout hit a low of 28.6%.

The outcome of Virginia's gerrymandered House of Delegates leads to the potential that the legislature fails to represent the public's general policy preferences. To admittedly cherry-pick one example, a public opinion poll conducted by the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University found that 61% of Virginians favored Medicaid expansion, but Governor McAuliffe's proposal to do just that has been repeatedly blocked by the majority in the House of Delegates.


Reform measures have been pushed since at least 1998 when Delegate Kenneth Plum proposed the creation of the Virginia Advisory Redistricting Commission. This would have proposed redistricting maps to the General Assembly, which would then go through the usual legislative process to produce the final maps. This proposal got nowhere in the House. In 2005, Delegate Jim Shuler proposed a constitutional amendment to create the Virginia Redistricting Commission, which would draw the final maps without consideration of political data or incumbency. Unsurprisingly, this proposal did not prosper. More recently, a 2010 bipartisan effort led by Senators Creigh Deeds (D) and Jill Holtzman Vogel (R) to create the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission, which like Delegate's Plum 1998 bill would submit a map to the legislature, passed the Senate but died in the House of Delegates. Similar efforts have appeared in each regular session of the General Assembly in recent years. In 2011, Governor Bob McDonnell created the Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission to oversee the redistricting process, and this Commission did produce maps, but the Commission was unable to much influence the General Assembly's redistricting efforts.

Thirteen states have some form of an independent redistricting commission that has the exclusive authority to draw the district maps. Azavea's analysis notes that congressional districts are more compact, i.e. less gerrymandered, in states that use these commissions. A constitutional challenge to such commissions, *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, was heard by the Supreme Court on March 2, 2015, but at stake here is whether a state can adopt a redistricting commission through popular initiative, something not available to Virginia voters, and whether these commissions can draw maps of congressional districts. Plaintiffs in this case make no claim that such commissions are unconstitutional for the purposes of drawing state legislative lines.


Virginia's congressional district lines were overturned by the Federal District Court in Richmond on October 7, 2014 in *Page v. Virginia State Board of Elections*. At stake here is whether Virginia's Third District is an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. The Court was at pains to explain that the district when drawn would probably have passed constitutional muster, but the subsequent Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) requires a different analysis. This is an important case, but it does not address the problem of gerrymandering.

The problem of gerrymandering is difficult to resolve because those who benefit most from it are not some special interest group, but the very legislators who control the process. The defendants in *Page* note that the congressional map drawn in 2011 was accepted by all of the congressional incumbents. Citizen pressure groups such as the Virginia Redistricting Coalition do exist, but the paradox is that citizen pressure groups' main weapon is that they can threaten legislators with possible failure to win reelection, while the reform of the redistricting process would attack the best reelection insurance incumbents have. Redistricting issues are complex and inherently partisan, which can fracture citizen support for reform. If the outcome of gerrymandering is the creation of democracy deficit, then it becomes that much harder to pressure legislators, safe in their uncompetitive, low-voter turnout districts. Reform is desirable, but will only come through sustained pressure on those who control the redistricting software.


Brian Turner is the Chair of the Political Science Department and a professor at Randolph-Macon College.



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Are the Virginia Tea Party movement and the Virginia Republican Party all that different?

By STEPHEN J. FARNSWORTH AND ELLEN O'BRIEN

The harsh nomination contests among Republicans for seats in the state legislature in recent years, as well as the Dave Brat versus Eric Cantor congressional primary last year, suggest that Virginians who belong to the Tea Party movement and those who belong to the Republican Party are locked in mortal combat for the future of conservatism in the Old Dominion.

In fact, Virginians who consider themselves part of the Tea Party movement and Republicans who do not align with the Tea Party agree on a lot more policy matters than those contested GOP nomination battles would indicate.

A statewide survey of 1,000 Virginians conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the University of Mary Washington last fall showed widespread policy agreement among the respondents who said they belonged to the Tea Party and those who said they were Republicans but not members of the Tea Party. Both conservative groups offered responses in many issue areas that were quite different from the self-described independents and Democrats in the poll.

When asked how to reduce the deficit, for example, 53 percent of Republicans and 61 percent of Tea Party members responded that only spending cuts should be used, a relatively minor difference. The real difference was between those two groups and the others in the survey: only 33 percent of independents and only 21 percent of Democrats favored only spending cuts to reduce the deficit.



FARNSWORTH



O'BRIEN

With the respect to the military budget, both Republicans and Tea Party members strongly endorsed spending more on defense, with 70 percent and 76 percent respectively favoring greater expenditures. In contrast, half of the Independents and only 41 percent of the Democrats wanted to see more money spent on the Pentagon.

As expected, though, neither conservative group thought much of the commander in chief. Only 14 percent of Tea Party supporters and only six percent of Republicans not affiliated with the Tea Party said they approved of President Obama's performance in office. And only 38 percent of Tea Party believers and 36 percent of Republicans favored Governor McAuliffe's plan for Virginia to expand Medicaid, the insurance plan for poor residents.

The biggest differences between Tea Party backers and Republicans, it turns out, concern personalities more than issues. In the wide ranging 2016 presidential nomination field, the largest number of Republicans (31 percent) said they favored Mitt Romney, the relatively moderate 2012 nominee who at the time of the survey was weighing another run for the Republican nomination. Other Republican favorites for 2016 included two other relatively moderate options: Jeb Bush (17 percent), the former governor of Florida, and Chris Christie (12 percent), governor of New Jersey. Tea Party supporters were more likely to favor Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky (22 percent), a libertarian, than Republicans were (seven percent). But Romney was about as popular with Tea Party voters (25 percent) as Paul was.

On the question of whether Virginia should secede and become its own country, 31 percent of Tea Party supporters favored the idea, as compared to seven percent of Republicans.

The survey demonstrates that the policy differences between Republicans who do not identify as Tea Party members and voters who do generally are not as vast as the rhetoric that the party and the movement put out. Clearly, there are differences over candidate preferences and some issues, but overall these differences seem more like sibling rivalry than fundamental issues cleavages.

Even so, such disputes don't make for harmonious family gatherings—be they primaries or conventions—as Virginia conservatives have been learning in recent years.

Stephen J. Farnsworth is professor of political science and international affairs and director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. Ellen O'Brien is a research associate at the center and a political science major at UMW. The UMW Virginia survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI) from October 1 to 6, 2014. Telephone interviews were conducted by landline (500 respondents) and cell phone (500 respondents, including 247 without a landline phone). The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 3.5 percentage points.



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Smoke on the Mountain

Bringing Competitive Barbecue to Galax, Virginia

By LYDIA FREEMAN

The Smoke on the Mountain barbecue competition has a flair for singularity. With trophies awarded as handcrafted fiddles, banjos, and acoustic guitars, a dual-circuit competition, and beach music in the evenings – this barbecue championship draws top-ranked competitors from around the nation.

“We don’t have a hard time recruiting,” said Ron Passmore, the contest’s founder. “2014 was the first year we’ve turned teams down.”

Passmore began researching barbecue competitions in 2003, shortly after he opened his own barbecue restaurant, “The Galax Smokehouse.”

“It was the only professional barbecue house opened in the twin counties,” Passmore explained. “Being a small business, we weren’t able to get away on the weekends to compete, and in an effort to give back to the community we thought it would be interesting to bring professional barbecue competition to Galax.”

Competition in the world of professional barbecue is heated, and the Smoke on the Mountain championship is no different. Teams pull into the town on Thursday night and start cooking early Friday morning. Judging begins on Saturday: first with a blind delivery in a blind box. The meat is tasted by a team of judges for awards in categories like whole hog, chicken, ribs, brisket, and “anything butt.”

“Then the team site will be visited on site three times for an on site presentation, and they have to show how that meat gets from a raw state to the cooked state,” explained Passmore. “All four scores (one blind box score and presentation scores from three judges) are added together.”

Special finals judges judge the top three teams. These four judges have not tasted any barbecue the entire day.

The Smoke on the Mountain competition holds a rare appeal for possible teams: the Memphis Barbecue Network (MBN) and Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) certify the competition. This makes the contest a dual-circuit competition, and for contestants, this means more money and chances to compete in the larger MBN and KCBS competitions.

The contest has rapidly grown in popularity. In 2003, the MBN contacted Virginia Governor Mark Warner and advised him to declare Smoke on the Mountain as the State Barbecue Competition of Virginia.

MBN honored Smoke on the Mountain again in 2014.

“The World Food Championship awarded Memphis Barbecue Network eight tickets to the championship,” Passmore explained. “That network has more than 300 contests around the country. We’re one of those three hundred. Only eight tickets were given to be able to compete. MBN, unsolicited by us, chose ours to be one of those eight. Our 2014 Grand Champion represented Virginia at the World Food Championship.”

The Grand Champion? Food Network’s former reality television barbecue stars, The Shed. The team comes from the restaurant, The Shed, a barbecue and blues joint located in Mississippi.

In 2014, The Shed took home the title of Grand Champion from Smoke on the Mountain and went on to compete in the World Food Championship in Las Vegas. The Shed left that competition with first place in the category of brisket.

The previous year, The Shed was featured on Food Network as they competed in Smoke on the Mountain. More information on the show can be found at www.foodnetwork.com/shows/the-shed.

The 2015 competition will take place on July 17 and 18 in Galax, Va.

On Friday, July 17, the cooking gets started. Onlookers are welcomed to come and observe as competitors begin preparing their hogs. The Wine and Beverage Garden will open at noon, and DJ Andy Wright will be providing music in the afternoon.

“Friday everyone’s basically just getting started,” explained Keith Andrews, who has worked with the competition for the past ten years.

Each night from 8:00-11:00 p.m. a sixties-style beach band will perform. Friday will be *The Land of Oz*, and *The Tams* will follow on Saturday night.

“Even though we’re eat up here with bluegrass, we do beach music,” explained Andrews. “And we do have beverages. It gives people a chance to get out and have a few drinks. The sixties. Beach music. That’s basically what we do. It’s just feel-good music.

It’s a great time to come and see how people do a competition, have barbecue, drink a cold beer, and listen to good beach music.”

Although the Smoke on the Mountain Competition includes entertainment, Andrews stated that it is a competition, not a festival.

“What we’re having trouble getting people to remember is that it’s not a barbecue festival, it’s a barbecue championship cook-off,” Andrews explained. “It’s a competition. It’s like going to watch NASCAR. You can’t drive the cars at a race, and you can’t drive the cookers while they cook. You can’t just walk up to someone who is competing and get barbecue off of them.”

Even so, the competition does provide spectators with many opportunities for barbecue.

“Saturday we have the People’s Choice Award when you can go and judge the barbecue,” said Andrews.

“You go in and donate so much money, and you get a pinch of all the vendors and then you judge them. You can participate in that. You have everybody’s number, and we just write down what you like the best. That’s been a big hit and good money raiser. By the time you go through and get a pinch of all these different kinds of barbecue ... well, you’ve gotten a good amount of barbecue.”

Smoke on the Mountain is even gaining popularity from unlikely locals.

“I know this guy, and his wife is in a nursing home,” Andrews explained. “Burke went and got his wife, Marlene, out of the nursing home and wheeled her out and brought her down. They had the best time. She just sat there in her wheelchair and listened to that good old music from years and years ago.”

From top-of-the-line competitors like The Shed to couples like Burke and Marlene, Smoke on the Mountain has become a major player in the world of barbecue competition.

For more information on the Smoke on the Mountain barbecue championship, visit the website at www.smokeonthemountainva.com

Lydia Freeman is a graduate of Bluefield College and former Intern at David Bailey Associates. Currently Teach for America fifth grade teacher in Northampton County, NC.

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Virginia's Legislative Process: *Fair, Equitable and Transparent?*

By BEN GREENBERG

There is an old saying around Virginia's Capitol in Richmond and probably in capitols around the country: "There are two things one should never see made: sausage and laws." I am in the rather unique position of having seen both made more times than I can count. In addition to having spent 35 years trying to make a difference in the legislative process as a non-profit lobbyist and a former state agency legislative liaison, like a former governor of Virginia I am also the son of a butcher.



After so many years working at the General Assembly, I thought I had seen everything, especially how committee and subcommittee chairs decide how legislation is considered during their meetings. Well, I was wrong.

I have watched committees and subcommittees and their leaders operate in every imaginable way over the years. I have watched leaders use their authority to help advance their cause or position. I have watched fair and equitable procedures used in extremely difficult circumstances. I have seen advocates for one position or another line up to speak, lines so long that committee and subcommittee schedules were beyond challenged. I have also seen people in the audience wanting to speak on issues not be recognized. In such circumstances the people almost become invisible.

Yet, one day this past session I heard a subcommittee chair respond to a well-known lobbyist from a powerful organization in a manner I had never seen before. When this lobbyist stood up to speak in front of the table full of subcommittee members, the subcommittee chair said, "If I let you speak, I will have to let everyone speak". He then went right back to business dealing with the measure in question as the lobbyist and a packed room of interested individuals and advocates realized that there would be no opportunity for the public to speak and share their thoughts on the issue in question.

My first reaction was that I wanted to share this story with my fellow members of Transparency Virginia (TV). This is a new coalition of groups and individuals concerned with the legislative process and the manner in which the people's business is carried out by our elected public officials. Members of the coalition formed shortly before the session began spent the 2015 General Assembly session observing and recording legislative actions taken in committees and subcommittees, actions that too often contradict the fair and open process to which the coalition and many legislators are committed.

I was excited when we formed Transparency Virginia. The commitment and energy of the group gave me hope that we could become catalysts for change, change in a legislative process that may use procedures unfair to the very citizens who depend on legislative action to help them cope with the difficult challenges of life.

The members of the coalition identified many potential concerns that could be monitored in the legislative process; however, the group decided to focus its initial efforts on tracking three aspects of legislative activity during the 2015 General Assembly session: 1) **Meeting notices:** Providing adequate notice of meetings and their dockets; 2) **Consideration:** Giving every bill and resolution the opportunity to be heard; and 3) **Votes:** Recording all committee and subcommittee votes when bills are acted upon.

Cost of Cleaner Power Could Take Toll on Low-Income Families

By CHARLES STEELE, JR.

There continues to be contentious debate in Washington on the best approach to address the issue of climate change. Environmental groups have lined up against business interests in what has become a heated battle over potential legislation.

But one voice that may not be heard as clearly in this ongoing debate is the significant cross-section of American families who are living on very limited means. And as lawmakers grapple with this weighty issue, I'd suggest a key point of advice: Don't treat one problem by creating another, potentially more serious challenge.

That caution comes to mind with regard to the new regulations on power plants that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will propose this summer. As a step toward addressing climate change, the EPA wants to curb carbon emissions from coal-burning power plants and wants governors across the country to shut down coal-fired plants in their states.

The problem is that these are the same plants that provide the largest portion of our electricity, and usually at the most affordable rates. Climate change may well be a serious issue, and one that deserves an informed response from our government. But the EPA's plan isn't the right one. According to a growing number of experts who are responsible for overseeing our nation's electricity supply, the EPA's plan will do next to nothing for global warming but will raise the cost of electricity for both homes and businesses. It could even make the supply of electricity for all of us less reliable.

Continued on next page

To the average citizen in Virginia, it may seem obvious that these three areas of emphasis would be important components of a fair and equitable legislative process. It may also seem incomprehensible that the legislative process would not guarantee that these three procedures would always be part of the process for each bill and resolution introduced.

Members of Transparency Virginia actively monitored committees and subcommittees in the House of Delegates and the Senate throughout the 2015 session. While we knew that we didn't cover all 101 committees and subcommittees, we had confidence that we would monitor the work of a significant number of them, enough to provide the basis for assessing the legislature's implementation of the three important legislative procedures selected for the 2015 session.

Transparency Virginia issued its first report shortly after the half-way point of the 2015 session. The initial findings provided justification for the three activities chosen to be monitored and tracked. More comprehensive and detailed findings have been identified since the mid-session report.

The final results of TV's first session were announced in a press conference on Tuesday, April 14th, in the House Briefing Room of the General Assembly Building. We hope that the announced findings will provide a foundation for future changes in the legislative process, changes that will make the Virginia General Assembly more transparent than ever and fairer for the people of the Commonwealth.

Ben Greenberg is the State Legislative Coordinator of Virginia Organizing, a non-partisan statewide grassroots organization that brings people together to create a more just Virginia. Readers who would like to receive a copy of Transparency Virginia's 2015 General Assembly session report should forward their request to bengreenberg@earthlink.net. 



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As a person who has spent a lifetime fighting on behalf of poor people, this concerns me greatly, and it troubles the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that I represent.

The reason is simple: Higher electricity bills hurt poor and low-income families the most. These communities, frequently consisting of disadvantaged minorities, already spend a larger share of their limited income on monthly utility bills—far more than affluent communities spend as a share of their income. In fact, a Stanford University study suggests that the new regulations would mean households in the lowest income group shouldering increased energy costs at more than twice the rate of households in the highest 10 percent of income.

Paying for electricity is not a discretionary expense. The poor and the elderly on fixed incomes need heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer as much as higher-income households, only they have fewer dollars to pay for these necessities.

Rising utility bills can often result in painful sacrifices—a poorer diet, poorer health, fewer of life's little pleasures and certainly none of the costlier ones. And utility bills are bound to climb as the most affordable electricity is eliminated, forcing us to rely on costlier sources. People's health conditions are impacted if they are forced to live without air conditioning or heat, or if meals are skipped just to foot higher utility bills.

This is a case of government trying to make things better while creating spin-off problems. Surprisingly, even the environmental benefit will be negligible. That's because American power plants are now far cleaner, and are no longer the largest source of carbon emissions. Instead, power plants and factories in Asia produce far greater carbon output.

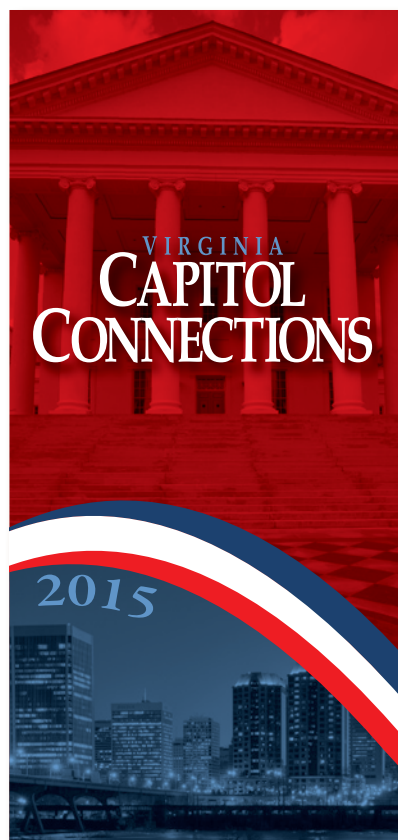
Overall, the EPA is asking us to pay the price for a problem we can't fix, and it expects low-income households to pay the largest share.

Before the EPA adopts these measures, it should think twice about pursuing extreme rules that will have a negligible environmental impact, but could bring great pain to hard-working everyday Americans.

Steele is president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a civil rights organization co-founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Editors note: Reprinted with permission from Dr. Charles Steele Jr. and The Hill.

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Franco Ambrogi (center), son, Mark Ambrogi (right), son-in-law, Kevin Reardon (left)



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It's All Relative...

A Different Kind of Capitol Connection

By SARAH ALDERSON

As I made the trek back to the Capitol for the 2015 General Assembly session, one of the first things I saw was the new slogan for the Library of Virginia posted prominently on the front of their building, "Find Your History." When I drove around the building, I also noticed another display that asked "Who's your great, great, great granddaddy?" Then I had to laugh, because I know who a few of mine are and at least one had made similar trips to Richmond nearly two hundred years ago.



It was then I felt like the library was challenging me, reminding me of genealogical research I hadn't done and of an article I'd wanted to write for this magazine about another type of Capitol connection.

Those who work here know that Mr. Jefferson's Capitol is filled with history, but how much of that history do we connect with on a personal level? How many of us know that our own roots go deeper than what we're doing here today?

A few years ago, the retailer Abercrombie and Fitch made headlines with a controversial t-shirt emblazoned with the words, "It's all relative in West Virginia." Some West Virginians were upset about it, and initially I was, too. Later I decided to embrace the saying.

Since I was born and raised in the Mountain State, I'm more than a little familiar with the often inappropriate jokes. However, having a great many relatives scattered across the Old Dominion as well, I've never understood how they can tell those jokes as if it has nothing to do with them. After all, most people with ancestral ties to this area have a lot of distant relatives throughout both states. It could certainly be said "it's all relative" in Virginia, too.

That leads me to family connections at the Capitol itself. I never thought about this possibility before I came to work at the Capitol Studio ten years ago for the 2005 session. Many people who go into politics in some way do so at least in part because of a family link of some kind. I never had an interest in the political process before or thought about any relationship I might have to it. I'm embarrassed to admit that I was also one of those members of the voting public who didn't pay much attention to state politics.

One day that first session, as we were preparing for a show at the studio, a co-worker was trying to pronounce a guest's name. When I heard the various attempts, I asked to see the spelling. The guest was Creigh Deeds, and even though I had never heard of him I instantly knew how his name was pronounced.

When we finished taping the show, I asked the senator if Creigh was a family name. He replied that it was, and as he started to explain further, I just smiled and told him that my paternal grandmother's maiden name was Creigh. After some discussion, we discovered we had similar links to the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia, including to the Civil War martyr, David Creigh. In fact, David's father Thomas, who came to America from Ireland in 1791, is our 4th great-grandfather.

Senator Deeds was also impressed with my Alderson family tree. Through his knowledge of history of the two Virginias, he knew a little about that side of my family including my 5th great-grandfather, Elder John Alderson, a pioneer minister who founded my hometown of Alderson, WV in 1777 with a land grant from then Governor Patrick Henry. Elder John's father, also a minister, had immigrated to what is now Rockingham County from England in the early to mid-1700s.

When I told my father about meeting the senator, he said that I

was also related to other notables in Virginia government including John Floyd, the 25th Governor of Virginia and John Buchanan Floyd, the 31st Governor, as well as Marshall Coleman, the Attorney General in 1977 who ran for governor in 1981 and even another John Alderson from Fincastle who has been active in Virginia politics.

Then a couple of years ago, when I heard that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission was looking for descendants of the first African-American legislators in Virginia, my interest in finding more of my own history was renewed.

With a little more research, I found that my 4th great-grandfather, Joseph Alderson, (son of the pioneer minister) was a member of the General Assembly. The "History of Greenbrier County" tells that Joseph "represented Greenbrier County in the Legislature of Virginia for several terms, riding horseback from his home to Richmond to attend the sessions." In "The Rise and Fall of Alderson, West Virginia", it says "Mr. Alderson did not normally wear suspenders and when he left for Richmond in 1832 to take his seat in the Legislature all his friends contributed and bought him a pair of suspenders AND a belt, saying they did not want him to be caught with his pants down while he was representing them."

Joseph's son, Colonel George Alderson (my 3rd great-grandfather) followed in his father's footsteps by representing Fayette County in the Legislature as well. And now as I walk through the halls of the Capitol, I think about these great-grandfathers who walked here before me.

It was during these discoveries that I stumbled on another connection to Deeds. I found that not only was Elder John Alderson also his 5th great-grandfather, but Joseph was his 4th great-grandfather, too. And since our 4th great-grandfather Creigh also had a son who traveled from Greenbrier County to Richmond to serve in the legislature, there are a lot of Capitol connections in these family trees.

The deeper you dig into your genealogy, the more there is to find. As I've done research for this article, I found that Deeds and I are also related through the Feamster family, who are pioneers of Bath County. And we are likely related to Senator Steve Newman as well. Joseph Alderson married Mary "Polly" Newman, the daughter of Jonathan Newman of Botetourt. Joseph and Polly also conducted a lot of business in Lynchburg. Tradition has it that the first Newman came to America with Sir Walter Raleigh to the first settlement in Virginia. So connections can run deep.


This all brings me back to the question, "How many of us working around Capitol Square are actually related in some way?" Just this past session, Chap Petersen mentioned in comments on the Senate floor that he's related to Toddy Puller, and that he recently learned he's also related to their fellow senator, Donald McEachin. The list could probably go on and on.

The fact is, if any part of your family has been in Virginia long enough, as so much of mine has been since at least the 1700s, it's likely that you're connected to a lot of other folks in the two Virginias.

The Library of Virginia urges everyone to "Find Your History," and they offer many ways to learn how. As their Public Relations and Policy Coordinator Jan Hathcock told me, "We have the histories of people like Thomas Jefferson here, but we have those of people just like you and me, too." Their talented staff has been instrumental in finding many of the first African-American Legislators' descendants, and they can help you, too.

Writer Madeleine L'Engle once said, "If you don't recount your family history, it will be lost. Honor your own stories and tell them too. The tales may not seem very important, but they are what binds families and makes each of us who we are."

Remember, when it comes to history, it's all relative. And who knows, you might just find your own Capitol connections along the way.

Sarah Alderson is an award-winning freelance writer who also works in the Senate broadcast control room during sessions and the Capitol Studio throughout the year. She can be reached at aldersonproductions@gmail.com 



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Western Division

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| ALT | Altoona Curve (Pittsburgh Pirates) |
| BOW | Bowie Baysox (Baltimore Orioles) |
| ERI | Erie SeaWolves (Detroit Tigers) |
| HAR | Harrisburg Senators (Washington Nationals) |
| BNG | Binghamton Mets (New York Mets) |

Eastern Division

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| NBR | N. Britain Rock Cats (Colorado Rockies) |
| NHM | N. Hampshire Fisher Cats (Toronto Blue Jays) |
| POR | Portland Sea Dogs (Boston Red Sox) |
| REA | Reading Fightin Phils (Philadelphia Phillies) |
| TRE | Trenton Thunder (New York Yankees) |



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Appropriate Use of School Counselors

By RENÉE ZANDO

School Counselors have an important role in the schools to help children achieve academic and lifelong success. The education of a Licensed Professional School Counselor equips them with the knowledge and training to address the academic, career, and social/emotional well-being of all students when they implement a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes student success. However, many school counselors face obstacles implementing a true comprehensive school counseling program and addressing the needs of all students. Many school counselors across the nation and across the Commonwealth of Virginia are faced with the challenge of large caseloads and being assigned too many non-counseling related responsibilities that inappropriately take time away from providing a successful comprehensive school counseling program.

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) has published a list of Appropriate Activities for School Counselors and Inappropriate Activities for School Counselors. After a recent survey conducted by the Virginia School Counselor Association (VSCA) that was completed by almost 600 school counselors in Virginia, the three most common non-appropriate activities assigned to our school counselors that have the greatest impact to their ability to provide services to students are 1- coordinating cognitive, aptitude, and achievement testing programs, 2- coordinating school wide individual educational plans, student study teams, and school attendance review boards, and 3- supervising classrooms and common areas. If district and school administrations eliminated or reassigned certain inappropriate duties, the school counselors can provide the services that truly can maximize student success and provide them services they need for post-secondary planning. Appropriate alternatives for these most common duties would include interpreting cognitive, aptitude, and achievement tests; collaborating with teachers to present

school counseling core curriculum lessons to students; providing individual and small group counseling to students; and advocating for students at individual education plan meetings, student study teams, and school attendance review boards.

When Professional School Counselors are used appropriately in schools, they should be accountable for providing a comprehensive school counseling program that addresses the needs of all students. Another important factor to make sure all student needs are met, is by ensuring that the ratio of students per school counselor aligns with the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) recommendation of 1:250. School Counselors can then deliver a program based on the ASCA National Model's areas of foundation, delivery, management, and accountability. When used appropriately, school counselors would be required to devote 80% of their time to direct or indirect services with students which includes delivering structured lessons based on student's needs, individual student planning, and responsive services, as well as providing referrals for additional assistance, and consultation, and collaboration with parents, teachers, other educators, and community organizations.

When Professional School Counselors are used appropriately in schools, they can be a powerful asset to provide a program that uniquely addresses the developmental needs to students and provides them with services to address their academic, career, and personal/social development need. School Counselors can also be an integral role to prepare students for some of the needs of our state and nation including Governor McAuliffe's Workforce Development Initiative and The First Lady's Reach Higher Initiative. A comprehensive School Counseling Program not only ensures student success, but also provides students the support to become productive citizens.

Renee Zando, Board Member Virginia School Counselor Association, School Counselor in Henrico County. ▮

Career and Technical Education—For Every Student

By DR. BRENDA D. LONG

Is Career and Technical Education (CTE) the exception, or should it be the rule? A recent opinion article by Dr. Tim Hodges, director of research for Gallup Education Practices, asked that question. Today's CTE programs provide cutting-edge, rigorous, and relevant programs and opportunities to have high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers.

The success of Virginia's secondary CTE programs continues to be documented while teaching transferable workplace skills and academic and technical content. Virginia is taking the lead in connecting students with high-demand jobs through the Governor's STEM Academies, the Governor's Health Science Academies, and the industry credentialing initiative. The 2012 General Assembly recognized the value of Virginia's secondary-education CTE credentialing by requiring students working toward a Standard Diploma to earn a CTE credential.

It is possible to have both college readiness and career readiness, and students would not need to decide between the two. After all, the purpose of CTE is to prepare students to have a successful career, regardless of what their professional goals are. Career readiness is a mixture of definitions, which are centered on learning skills for a specific entry-level job or are defined in broader terms of workplace skills.

CTE already has the foundation for strengthening career readiness



and offers a blend of academic, technical, and employability skills through 16 Career Clusters.

According to Dr. Hodges' article, U.S. business leaders stated, "candidates' knowledge and applied skills in a specific field are more important factors than where the candidate went to school or what their major was. To be successful in the workplace, college-bound students still need specific knowledge and skills, which they can get from CTE programs."

It is a given that most career pathways require some form of postsecondary education, such as a certificate, a two-year degree, a four-year degree, or beyond. Career readiness encompasses all of these postsecondary options and includes engaging workplace experiences, through which students apply academic and technical skills to real-world projects, problem-solving, and project-based learning situations.

During the 2012-2013 school year, more than 575,000 Virginia secondary students enrolled in one or more CTE courses. Approximately 46 percent of high school graduates completed two or more CTE courses, while about 48 percent of students receiving an Advanced Studies Diploma also enrolled in one or more CTE classes.

Recent studies suggest that whether students take one CTE course or enroll in a full sequence of courses, CTE should be a part of every student's education.

Dr. Brenda D. Long is the Executive Director of the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education and has more than 30 years of experience in CTE as a classroom teacher and administrator. ▮



Smart Cookies Visit Virginia Capitol

Girl Scout representatives from throughout the state traveled to Richmond to speak to legislators during their annual Girl Scout Legislative Day. By MARCY GERMANOTTA

Each year, Girl Scout representatives from various Girl Scout councils in Virginia gather in Richmond to hold an annual Girl Scout Legislative Day at the State Capitol. The day helps raise awareness of the issues important to girls and young women and helps educate legislators on what Girl Scouts are doing to address challenges girls face today. Another important goal is to help demonstrate to policymakers that Girl Scouts is a resource and an authority on issues affecting girls and welcome being part of community discussions where their expertise can truly be considered the voice of girls.

This year, a Cookies and Milk reception was held in the General Assembly Building where legislators were able to meet council leadership members and several Gold Award recipients. Information from the *State of Girls* study conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute was shared and specific information from the study applicable to girls from Virginia was of particular interest. Each council also shared what each were doing in focus areas of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience: Increasing Girls' Involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; Strengthening Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Skills; Promoting Safe and Healthy Living—Reducing Bullying and Relational Aggression, and successful partnerships that support a thriving nonprofit community.

Part of the day's schedule for the Virginia Girl Scout delegation included a tour of the Governor's home where they were greeted by Virginia First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe who proudly told the girls she was a Girl Scout alumna. Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast Tracy Keller joined other council CEOs, Jean Ann Hughes from Girl Scouts of the Virginia Skyline, and Viola Baskerville from the Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia in afternoon meetings with Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Maurice Jones, and Virginia Secretary of Administration, Nancy Rodrigues. Rodrigues, who lives in Surry, Virginia and who is also a former Girl Scout, discussed ways to help make policy makers and leaders in the community more aware of the leadership aspect of Girl Scouting. She was eager to hear how women in government could help mentor the next generation of leaders and brainstormed ideas for next year's promotion of the Gold Award anniversary.

"We're more than cookies, crafts and camps," GSCCC CEO Tracy Keller said. "We're about helping girls build courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place. When we accomplish that, we accomplish giving the world more responsible and caring leaders."

Marcy Germanotta is the Communications Director, Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast. Photos by Marcy Germanotta. 

Bluefield College Unveils Half-Price Tuition Plan

Bluefield College is taking a bold, innovative step toward making a four-year college education more affordable and more likely lowering the debt students incur.

In an effort to meet the national call to deliver a quality higher education that is more affordable and accessible to those at our country's lowest socio-economic level and in keeping with the college's mission to be a point of access to the youth of Central Appalachia, BC announced a new Pathways tuition plan that substantially reduces its tuition by nearly 50 percent for qualifying students.

During a press conference on the Bluefield College campus, Friday, March 13, surrounded by a room full of local media, secondary school educators, and local and state legislators, BC president Dr. David Olive shared the details of the new tuition model that he said, "will provide a 'pathway' to quality higher education for students of the region with little to no direct out-of-pocket impact on their families."

"Due to stagnate and in some cases declining family income, students and their families are struggling to afford a college education," said Dr. Olive, "and through the Pathways initiative we are doing all that we can to remain accessible to those in our surrounding communities who can least afford the expense of a college education."

Starting with the fall 2015-2016 academic year and believed to be the first of its kind offered by a four-year college, the Pathways tuition plan lowers BC's annual tuition from the standard \$23,295 to just \$12,000 for prospective students who (a) qualify for the federal Pell grant, (b) live at home, and (c) attend a school district within a 45-mile radius of Bluefield College.

Reaching a traditional footprint of Bluefield College, the Pathways tuition plan is open to students of the following school districts: Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington and Wythe in Virginia; and McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming in West Virginia.

Already ranked among the Top 50 Christian Colleges with the Lowest Student Debt by Christian Universities Online and among the Most Affordable Colleges Online by College Choice, Bluefield College is well known for its mission to provide an affordable, accessible quality higher education to students of the region who can least afford it. One-fourth of traditional students attending BC in 2014-2015 qualified for a full Pell award, including 43 percent of the fall 2014 freshman class. In fact, last fall, for the first time in school history, 100 percent of BC students received some form of financial aid.



"Bluefield College has a rich history and admirable mission," said Dr. Olive. "Virginia Baptists and community members partnered 94 years ago to create a college that would serve the educational and spiritual needs of the young people in Appalachia. I'm proud to say we're continuing to do that, and the Pathways initiative will just further our mission of being a place of accessibility."

"Bluefield College takes pride in the assistance it provides to students," said Trent Argo, BC's vice president for enrollment management. "We work with students to seek outside scholarships from local service clubs and organizations to reduce the need for additional loan debt. Students in the Pathways plan have the possibility of not only reducing their loan amount, but also possibly eliminating the need for a loan altogether."

"What a fantastic way to reach out to potential students who otherwise could not afford college costs without being loaded down with student loans," said 1963 BC alumna Glenda Camp, a member of the Bluefield College Advisory Council. "Once again, I am so proud of my alma mater and it's current leadership."

"In recent years, the national discourse on higher education has been centered on concerns over the rising level of student debt, the rising costs of education, and whether the average American family can afford a college education," said Dr. Olive. "Bluefield College recognizes there are families that desire a college education for their sons and daughters, yet they struggle to meet the financial obstacles. In an effort to meet the national call to deliver a quality higher education that is more affordable and accessible to those at our country's lowest socio-economic level and in keeping with the college's mission to be a point of access to the youth of Central Appalachia, we are proud to offer this Pathways plan, an initiative that substantially reduces tuition by nearly 50 percent for qualifying Pell students in our region."

Joining Bluefield College faculty, staff, students, trustees and alumni for the formal announcement were members of the media, local civic leaders, and area secondary school educators, along with

"Private institutions like Bluefield College provide students with a high-quality local option when considering four-year colleges or universities. I am so happy to seeing my alma mater take such great efforts to ensure that Bluefield College is an affordable option to our local qualifying students."

Dr. Tom Brewster

Vice-Chair of the BC Board of Trustees

Drew Lumpkin from Senator Mark Warner's Office; Nick McDavid from Congressman Morgan Griffith's Office; Will Morefield, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates; Darrell Blankenship and April Breimann from the Virginia Workforce Investment Board; Garland Roberts and Charles Stacy from the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors; Don Harris, mayor of Bluefield, Virginia; Mike Watson, town manager of Bluefield, Virginia; H.S. Caudill from the Tazewell County School Board; and Travis Jackson from the Wythe-Bland Foundation.

"I was excited and pleased to hear of the new Pathways program at Bluefield College. I believe many would like the benefits of a private education but it is not always financially available to them. This program can help many economically disadvantaged youth achieve their goal of a private college degree and give them the first step to success. I applaud Bluefield for its innovative thinking and its willingness to reach out to students of all backgrounds."

Lisa Robinson Yost

*BC Alum Class of 2007 and
Board Member Alumni Association*

"As legislators, we have made many efforts to make higher education more accessible at our state institutions," said Morefield, one of several who spoke in support of the Pathways initiative during the press conference. "It's exciting to see a private institution doing the same, because education is the key to our success. We're seeing a mass exodus of our young people in this area, and this is just one more tool that gives them the opportunity to get a quality education from a traditional university right here at home."



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Mark Twain

By BONNIE ATWOOD

“Alive!”



What man can have you thinking about basic morality, questioning your own belief system, squirming at your own inconsistent thoughts, suffering mild confusion, and splitting your sides in laughter? Nobody but Mark Twain.

He took equal potshots at politicians, journalists, preachers, and even sleepy horses at a rare appearance November 9th at Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center. The slow cadence didn't hide the quick wit of the famous American author and humorist. After the turning off of the cellphones, the Arts Center in Henrico County was transformed back in time to 1905, where an adoring crowd gathered to meet Mr. Twain and raise scholarship money for Bluefield College in Southwestern Virginia.

The audience was pleasantly surprised to find that reports of Twain's death had, indeed, been greatly exaggerated, for there he stood, in a pure white three-piece suite and white tie, set off by the chain of an oft-consulted pocketwatch. The other prop was a cigar. Twain assured us that he smokes only one at a time. But he has to smoke one, of course, because he doesn't want to “neglect his habit,” like the poor woman wanted to improve her life and health, but was in trouble because she had nothing to give up.

Twain outlined his bum luck as he traveled west and got dropped from one newspaper to another, still dreaming about the ideal job: working as a pilot on a Mississippi riverboat. From searching in vain for silver in the Nevada territory, to giving advice to the lovelorn who wrote letters to his early version of “Dear Abby,” he delighted the audience with his tangled intricacies almost too confusing to contemplate. This writer's personal favorite was Twain's musings about which baby drowned in the bathtub—Twain or his brother Bill? No one will ever know.

The content was funny, but heavy, and controversial. It was painfully timeless and timely at the same time, when he contemplated

whether there could ever be a just war. Twain was fascinated by his generation's mass media. “Utterances that shake the world”... and arguments by “anyone with a speech and a pen.” He spoke of how a small group of people can start a war cry, denounced at first, then becoming louder and picked up by statesmen who “blame the nation being attacked” until the war becomes justified in a “grotesque self-deception.”

The only persons who seemed to earn Twain's undying respect were Martin Luther, Joan of Arc, and his late wife, Livy. Most of humanity seems desperately in need of missionaries—“to convert these Christians.” Twain took no prisoners. Even George Washington's motives were suspect, as he claimed early in life that he “cannot tell a lie,” only to garner enough admiration to become the first president. Neither did Twain let himself off the hook: “I told my first lie at nine days old. There was nothing wrong, but I cried anyway.” Such “lies of silence,” mused Twain, are heard in the halls of Congress, and are “the national asylum for the helpless.”

Twain's devotion to civil rights was clear, as he referenced some of his favorite books, including his own masterpiece, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The fictional Huckleberry, and the book itself, have been much maligned by modern audiences. But Huckleberry, said Twain, “knew the right thing to do.” By refusing to turn in the runaway slave, Jim, Huckleberry was breaking the law. He had been told that he'd go to hell for this. But, he reasoned, he would choose to go to hell, if it meant he had done the right thing. Twain shared his gift of exposing the twisted logic of the times.

Twain gently argued with the popular naturalist of his time, Charles Darwin. The Twain counterpoint suggested that Darwin's theory of evolution seemed “upside down.” It is only humans, he said, who get caught up in money and war and “passions of revenge.”

Thinking outside the box rises to a whole new level with Twain, whose admonition to the audience was to “find your own way.” He told the children in the front row to “obey the rules when you are young,” but then, like Huckleberry, to find your own way and do the right thing.” Learning can be difficult, he said, as anybody who has taken a bull by the tail can tell you.

“It's not easy to be eccentric,” said Twain. He ought to know.

Twain, whose birth name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens, came in with Halley's Comet. He predicted that he would go out with it.

“And I'm looking forward to it,” Twain told the audience, “Good night.” He exited stage right.

The listeners got the feeling that Twain would have been much loved at Bluefield College, a small Christ-centered college in beautiful Tazewell County, Virginia, where the Commonwealth meets the West Virginia border. The small, private college has less than 1,000 students. It is offering some new programs, such as some online degrees and a new Masters in Education. Founded in 1922, the college gives higher learning opportunities to many students who would otherwise not have the funding to attend college. David L. Bailey made this evening with Mark Twain possible.

Mark Twain would have been proud.

Bonnie Atwood, a freelance writer with Tall Poppies Freelance Writing LLC, is the winner of 24 national and state writing awards, and represents legislative clients with David Bailey Associates. She can be reached at BonAtwood@verizon.net.

Mark Twain “Alive!” Returns

Mark Twain Alive returns to the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, August 30, 4 p.m., to benefit My Political Hero scholarships.

Sponsorships and tickets (\$25) are available from Virginians for Integrity in Government (VIG) • VIG@capitol-square.com
VIG, c/o David Bailey, 1001 E. Broad Street,
Suite 215, Richmond, VA 23219

The Value of an Internship

By EBONY G. SCOTT

Unpaid hard labor doesn't seem appealing to most but there are a few people who appreciate it. Internships are beyond valuable to the average college student. Being one myself I absolutely understand. They are the gateways to our future.

I am currently an intern for David Bailey Associates. I can honestly say I have gained so much from this internship. Whether I'm delivering Redbooks to the General Assembly building, meeting government officials, or just sitting at the desk proof reading articles I'm always learning something. Internships provide great opportunities and experience.



The opportunity is worth way more than getting paid. Just to have a glimpse into what our future might hold is worth it. Internships can lead to an actual job position. Who would want to pass up an opportunity to have a job waiting for you as soon as you graduate?

The word we hear most when talking about a job or a career is experience. Professors, mentors, and advisors constantly remind us how important it is to have experience. If you think about it, it truly is. If the person doing the hiring for your dream job sees that you have experience you'll be considered over any other candidate who does not have experience. You might get hired for a position that is higher than the entry level position.

Ultimately, the value of an internship is grand. All college students need is an inch. We will take that inch and showcase our skills to possible future business partners. We will astound anyone who notices. Internships are a way for us to create opportunities for ourselves and gain experience.

Ebony Scott receives her BA in Mass Communications from Virginia Union University in May 2015.

VCCQM Salutes..... Student Interns!

By BONNIE ATWOOD

They come by the dozens to Capitol Square every winter. Leaving the comfort of, like, the dorm room, the iPod, the college hangouts, and the videogames, to work hard for a two-fold cause: the sake of efficient government and credit toward graduation. Student interns: We salute you, we don't know how we'd make it without you, and we love you.

Many interns choose to work for legislators. We interact with them daily as we travel through the General Assembly Building. David Bailey Associates has been fortunate to have been host to many interns who want to see how the other half lives: they come to the beehive that is the home of our lobbying firm and all the other lobbyists who rent our suite and come to pow-wows here.

They more than earn their keep. They start with the dawn and they run till they have to go to class. They carry stacks of bills from the bill room. They wear out their shoes running from building to building, floor to floor, and room to room, with letters, documents, directories, messages of all kinds. They copy, collate, clip, staple, fold, stuff, seal,

This article originally appeared in the Spring 2005 issue of Virginia Capitol Connections Quarterly Magazine.



stamp, and mail. They write letters, make phone calls, write stories for the magazine. They sit in on our creative meetings and come up with fresh, young ideas. They go to committee meetings and take notes on our important bills. They save our lives.

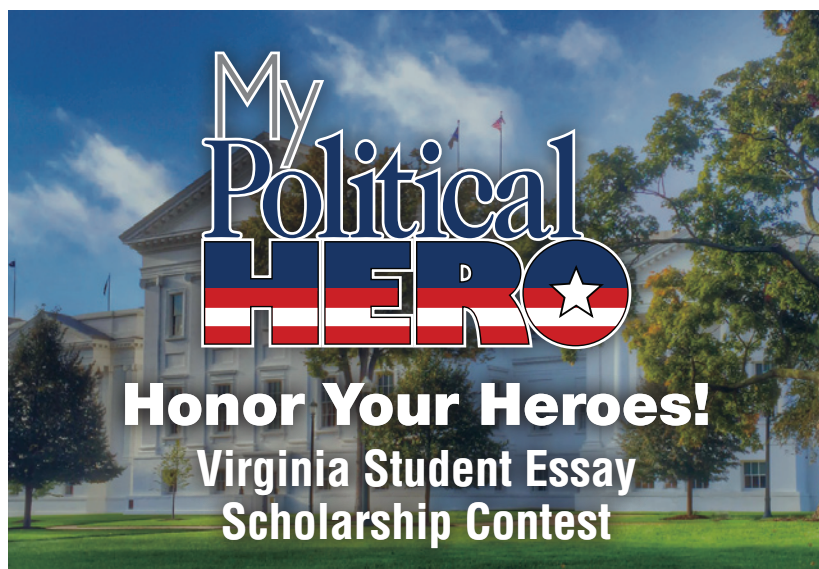
They come through in tough times. I'll never forget when a featured speaker got snowed in from a Saturday legislative workshop. David Bailey and I stepped up to take her place, but we wouldn't have looked as good without our intern, Carla. Her mom called her out of a school basketball game and she hotfooted it over to pitch in at our very successful workshop.

They give us glimpses of their lives. Over sodas and pizza, they tell us their dreams. They seek encouragement, and we are happy to give it. All too soon, they are gone. To all student interns, we say, "You're movin' on up." I think Dr. Seuss says it better:

"You'll be on your way up!
You'll be seeing great sights!
You'll join the high fliers
Who soar to great heights.

"You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.
You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.
Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best.
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest."

Bonnie Atwood, a freelance writer with Tall Poppies Freelance Writing LLC, is the winner of 24 national and state writing awards, and represents legislative clients with David Bailey Associates. She can be reached at BonAtwood@verizon.net.



Calling all Virginia high school Juniors and Seniors! Virginians for Integrity in Government is hosting an essay contest entitled "My Political Hero". VA high school Juniors and Seniors are invited to enter the contest by writing an essay up to 800 words paying tribute to their living political heroes and heroines. The winner of the contest will receive a \$2,000 post-secondary scholarship. VIG will also award \$1,000 post-secondary scholarships. The deadline for submissions is May 1st, 2015.

Virginians for Integrity in Government is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational organization with the mission of providing concerned individuals a means to get involved in government and make a difference. The essays must be typed and submitted on www.mypoliticalhero.org or mail to VIG Essays c/o David Bailey Associates, 1001 East Broad Street, Suite 215, Richmond, VA 23219. For more information and a full list of rules, please visit: www.mypoliticalhero.org.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Should Respect Residential Choice

By JANE POWELL

The Settlement Agreement between the DOJ and the Commonwealth provides those who live in state training centers opportunities to receive services in the community if that is their choice. Instead of respecting choice, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) has taken the paternalistic position that it knows best what residential choice training center families should make, in the interest of “the greater good” and regardless of clearly stated family decisions based on intimate knowledge of the individual concerned and in many cases on years of unacceptable and harmful community placement experiences. DBHDS does not accept the valid and legal choice of continuing training center placement. Instead, the Department bullies families who have made that choice.

Senator John Miller, responding to a harassed training center family’s request, introduced a bill during the last General Assembly session that would have decreased DBHDS phone and in-person badgering of families who had submitted written statements of continued training center choice, but DBHDS representatives persuaded a subcommittee to kill the bill, ostensibly because it would have prevented the Department from informing families of their community options. Their clear intent, however, is not to inform but to harass families into submission to their discharge plans, since intimidation, indoctrination, deceit and bullying are often the subjects of such DBHDS communications rather than valid information.

A recent example is a letter that was sent by CVTC’s Community Integration Manager to CVTC authorized representatives, including those who have repeatedly said no to discharge. The following is a quote from one such letter, with the resident name changed:

“After consideration of these factors and the input of treating professionals, the date that has been tentatively selected for [“Jim”] to move from CVTC is 10.26.15. Therefore, [“Jim’s”] initial pre-move meeting has been scheduled for 8.10.15.”

The letter further says that “each individual at the training center will receive a tentative move date.” Yet the majority of CVTC authorized representatives have refused discharge, many of whom have submitted written documentation of that decision.

Misleadingly, the letter also states that “by May 2014, all of the individuals living at Southside Virginia Training Center had moved to the community . . .” when in fact about 20% of those individuals moved to other institutional settings including some who now live at CVTC. And the Department never mentions the bad outcomes in these wheedling missives. To date, 10% of those moved from training centers to the community have died or been seriously injured.

State and Federal law require the consent of the individual or his authorized representative to discharge to the community. The Virginia Administrative Code defines such consent as “the voluntary agreement of an individual or that individual’s authorized representative to specific services. Consent must be given freely and without undue inducement, any element of force, fraud, deceit or duress, or any form of constraint or coercion.” It is time for DBHDS to live up to the letter and spirit of the law.

The Department’s actions are not only unethical but arguably illegal as well.

Jane Powell is President of Central Virginia Training Center Family and Friends. 



In Service to Our Country

Virginia Officials
and their
Military Service

2015

This informative directory recognizes and celebrates the sacrifices and struggles of veterans serving as state officials in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Included are branches of service, dates of active duty and membership in veterans organizations, in addition to political affiliation and contact information.

In Service to Our Country is an informative reminder of the exemplary military service by these officials to help keep our country free!

Direct questions or comments to:
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In Memoriam

Delegate George Grayson

By JOHN MCGLENNON

Former Delegate George W. Grayson, Jr., passed away on March 4, 2015, of a heart attack at the age of 76. George Grayson was first elected to the House of Delegates in 1973, and served for all but one of the next 28 years, representing Williamsburg, James City County, York County, New Kent and parts of Henrico at various points. George Grayson was an American original.



His career was interrupted for one year in 1983, when an abortive campaign for the US House caused him to skip re-election during a special one-year election called when Virginia's redistricting plan was found to be unconstitutional. He was re-elected in a newly configured district the following year and served until 1983, when his district was carved into four parts and he was placed in a district connected only by the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry, along with fellow Democrat William K. Barlow. George termed the action a "ferrymander" but chose not to seek re-election.

As a delegate, George fought for the environment, for education at all levels, for consumer protection and passionately sought to keep Eastern State Hospital open. He was well known for constituent service, and early in his legislative career, he offered a toll-free "Dial a Delegate" hotline. He was among the first to have a full-time, year-round legislative office.

George was named to chair a commission to investigate the issue of local government structure and organization in the wake of the state's annexation controversy. The Grayson Commission provided a series of recommendations for reform. His legislation allowed senior citizens to audit state university courses for free.

A vocal member of the "Coffin Corner" of the House, George had a gift for attracting attention to his causes, including the designation of the Monarch Butterfly as the state insect.

In his professional life, George retired in 2012 as the Class of 1938 Professor of Government at the College of William & Mary, after teaching for 44 years. He received his BA at the University of North Carolina and his MA and PhD from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University. He also earned a JD from the College of William & Mary while serving in the General Assembly and teaching full-time. An internationally recognized expert in Latin American, and especially Mexican, politics, George published more than two dozen books and monographs, regularly appeared on CNN, PBS and NBC, and was a regular contributor to policy debates on immigration, Mexican drug cartels, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and other topics of the day.

A Remembrance Service was conducted by the Department of Government at the College of William & Mary on March 20 in George's honor, with former Delegate Alan Diamonstein among the speakers. Tributes poured forth from former students, colleagues in the legislature, his department, the policy community and his family.

George Grayson is survived by his wife, Bryan H. Grayson, his adult children Keller and Giselle and their mother, Carmen Brisette Grayson, and other family members.

John McGlennon is Chair of the Department of Government, College of William and Mary.

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Dr. Jennifer Jones ('93)

B.S., interdisciplinary studies with teacher licensure
Author of numerous articles and two books
on education. Recipient of a 2015 Governor's
Outstanding Faculty Award, the highest honor
for Virginia college educators.

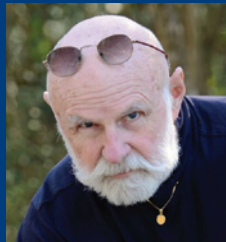
To govern?

Joshua Cline ('09)

B.S., business management
Assistant City Manager and Economic
Redevelopment Director for the City of
Bluefield, West Virginia. Recipient of a 2015
West Virginia Generation Next Award.



To write?



Brewster Milton Robertson ('48)

Associate of Science Degree
Author of four novels, including *Rainy Days* and
Sundays (sold to Hollywood movie producers)
and *Gone to Graveyards* (lauded by the Alabama
State Senate as epic narrative of Korean War).

To oversee justice?

Erin DeHart ('03)

B.S., criminal justice
Law school graduate and former Virginia
Commonwealth's Attorney. Recently appointed
Judge of Virginia's 27th Judicial District Court.



To blaze a trail?



Dr. Garry Jones ('74)

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