



VIRGINIA LEADERS

Linking leaders with a statewide view

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2006

Valley Economy Viewed in Global Context

Tours of Specialty Blades, Inc. (Staunton) and Dynamic Aviation (Bridgewater) were eye-opening to the Class of 2006 during their June session in the Shenandoah Valley.

After Friday's visit to Specialty Blades, participants commented:

"Outstanding!"

"Martin's a visionary." [Martin Lightsey, Board Chairman]

"Peter rocks!" [Peter Harris, President]

"Best presentation of the global economy."

Then on Saturday, their tour of Dynamic Aviation prompted even more superlatives:

"A true inspiration."

"The best yet."

The session offered outstanding speakers and panel presentations on the economy, transportation and education. The class complimented the nice balance of excellent presenters and information, entertainment, hospitality, meaningful discussion, passion and inspiration. To cap it off with a unique cultural experience, the "...gracious hospitality" and "...fabulous dinner" in a Mennonite home was a highlight enjoyed by all.

With travel to Mary Baldwin College, Washington & Lee University, Bridgewater College and a brief stop at the Virginia Horse Center, the session captured the flavor of Staunton, Lexington, Harrisonburg, Bridgewater and other communities in the region.

At the conclusion of the session, participants reflected on the different assets of the area as

compared with Southside, considering the "I-81 challenges" and "...the advantages the area enjoys that also bring their own unique set of challenges, such as how much growth is enough." One participant summed it up simply: "This was a great experience."



A competitor at The Virginia Horse Center in Lexington during LEAD VIRGINIA's Valley Session in June 2006

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Class "Gels" in Northern Virginia

One of the highlights of the class visit to Northern Virginia in July was Saturday morning's Leadership Case Studies. The session was moderated by Stu Mendelsohn, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP, former Fairfax Supervisor and member of LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors. With expert facilitators for breakout groups in education, transportation, land use and immigration, the class served as a brain trust to focus on creative solutions.

Participants appreciated this opportunity to reflect and discuss what they had learned from previous speakers and site visits to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, the Center for Innovative Technology, Fairfax County Alternate Emergency Operations Center, George Mason University and the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Of-

fice. Many members of the class praised the value of the interactive case study exercise in giving them the ability to get to know each other and "...gel as a class."

The balance of "Inside the Beltway" and "Outside the Beltway" presentations, visits and meals gave participants insight and perspective on the different jurisdictions in Northern Virginia.

The class learned of the role of CIT and technology in Northern Virginia's economy—and the vital role Northern Virginia plays in the economy of the Commonwealth. They also developed a deeper understanding of regional transportation problems and the intricacies of coordinating land use and transportation issues in proposed solutions.

Particularly meaningful to the class was the passionate panel that discussed model approaches to educating today's at-risk youth, developing the workforce, and making the education process seamless from kindergarten through university. These and the other presentations and site visits broadened participants' perspectives on the social dynamics of change. Participants expressed appreciation for "...another great session."



Northern Virginia Traffic Photo Courtesy of VDOT

News Highlights:

LEAD VIRGINIA's web site now has:

- an on-line interactive application form as a convenience to applicants for the Class of 2007.
- detailed session agendas, bios of presenters and photo galleries.

Please visit www.leadva.org and enjoy!



Rear Admiral Frederic R. "Rick" Ruehe, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, and Navy Liaison to LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors

Profile: RADM Frederic R. Ruehe

VIRGINIA LEADERS begins a new feature with this issue—a profile of one of the leaders comprising LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors, alumni and participants.

This issue's profile is of **Rear Admiral Frederic R. "Rick" Ruehe**, Navy Liaison to LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors.

Rear Admiral Frederic R. "Rick" Ruehe assumed command of Navy Region, Mid-Atlantic in November 2005. As the Commander of the Mid-

Atlantic Region, which includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, he is responsible for the safety, security and efficient operation of more than ten naval shore installations that provide direct logistical and administrative support to over 100 home ported ships and over 40 aircraft squadrons of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He is stationed in Norfolk.

RADM Ruehe also serves as the Department of Defense Regional Environmental Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region. In this capacity, he sup-

ports the Defense Department mission through the coordination, communication and facilitation of environmental issues and activities across all branches of the Armed Forces.

RADM Ruehe is a native of Hampton, VA, a 1973 graduate of the University of Illinois and holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Southern California. His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (4 awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (5 awards) and the Navy Commendation Medal.

"...we somehow found each other as a class... In the future, if we need each other on a project or to help on an issue, I think we will be there for each other. I look forward to the future to watch it unfold as we strive to be an asset to our state."

- **Connie Saunders '05**, President, Personnel Pool of Virginia, Bluefield

2006 Executive Committee

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Chair: G.S. Fitz-Hugh, Jr., Kaufman & Canoles Consulting, Richmond

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Communications: Charles E. Agee, III, Director, Community Affairs, Philip Morris USA, Richmond

Alumni: Donna Fleming, Executive Director, College Summit of the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C.

General Counsel

Douglas McDonald, Partner, Venable LLP, Vienna



G.S. "Sandy" Fitz-Hugh, Jr., Kaufman & Canoles Consulting and Chair, LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors, and **John Thomas**, Director, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia and Chair, LEAD VIRGINIA's Curriculum Committee

Graduation Plans

Planning is in high gear to celebrate the graduation of LEAD VIRGINIA's Class of 2006 on Friday, November 17. The Class of 2006 will be joined for the festivities by their families and guests, alumni, the Board of Directors, supporters and other friends and their guests at The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond.

Graduation events include a reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. followed by the program and awards ceremony. Invitations will be mailed early October—and there is still time to add to the guest list. We welcome your suggestions for individuals who might like to join us for the evening to learn more about LEAD VIRGINIA.

We also seek volunteers to assist with graduation for duties such as preparing the mailing of invitations, greeting guests, manning the welcome table and providing guests with nametags, etc. Please contact Addie Kies, akies@leadva.org if you would like to suggest someone for our guest list or would like to help with graduation.



Recruitment Underway for Class of 2007

LEAD VIRGINIA is now accepting applications for the Class of 2007. **The application deadline is January 16, 2007** and class selection will be announced on February 15.

LEAD VIRGINIA encourages prospective participants to apply early using the on-line interactive application at www.leadva.org or a paper application from the Ambassador Packet.

The Class of 2007 will include 40 diverse, proven senior-level leaders representing large and small business, government, education, professions and non-profits, as well as civic leaders across all regions of Virginia.

The program in 2007 will follow a similar schedule and format as that of the Class of 2006. Participants will travel two days each month to seven regions of the Commonwealth beginning in Williamsburg in April and con-

cluding in Richmond in November. For detailed 2006 session agendas, biographies of presenters and photo galleries of past sessions, please visit www.leadva.org.

LEAD VIRGINIA's President/CEO, Susan Timmons, 804-237-1461 or stimmons@leadva.org, is happy to answer questions and provide additional information. She also welcomes invitations to speak with groups and organizations either informally or with a PowerPoint presentation.



Rich Doud '05, President, Arlington Chamber of Commerce and Co-Chair (with Doug McDonald '05) of LEAD VIRGINIA's 2006 Northern Virginia Session

2007 Program Schedule

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Opening/Orientation Session: (Thursday 12 noon to Saturday 12 noon)	April 19-21	Williamsburg
Regional Program Sessions: (Thursday 6 p.m. to Saturday 12 noon)	May 17-19	Southern Virginia
	June 21-23	Shenandoah Valley
	July 19-21	Northern Virginia
	Sept. 13-15	Southwest Virginia
	Oct. 18-20	Hampton Roads
	Nov. 15-17	Richmond

“This has been one of the very best civic or professional programs that I have done in my work life... Thanks for the opportunity and all the friendship!”

- **Richard S. Reynolds, IV '05**, Managing Partner, Norvell Custom Shading Systems, Richmond

In the News

Congratulations to LEAD VIRGINIA:

Board of Directors

Charles E. Agee '05 - named to Executive Committee, Leadership Metro Richmond as Chair of Awareness and PR Committee.

Susan Horne '06 - elected as Vice-Mayor of the Town of Leesburg.

Dr. Kenneth Ruscio - appointed as President of Washington & Lee University, Lexington.

Class of 2006

Rex Hammond '06 - under his leadership as President, the Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce received 5-star

accreditation by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Alumni

Kathleen Barrett '05 - now CEO, St. Joseph's Villa, Richmond.

Kate Berger '05 - featured in article in *Legal Assistants Today* for leadership as Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors for Pittsylvania Co. (article: *Making a Case for Change*, July-August 2006.)

Gina Burgin '05 - named to the 2006 list of Virginia Super Lawyers by *Law & Politics* magazine. (article: *The Young & the Restless*, July 2006), Richmond.

Lisa Fultz '05 - now Director, Small and Minority Business Development, Martinsville-Henry

County Economic Development Corporation.

Rosemary McDowell '05 - presented “Six Secrets to Winning Contacts That Grow Your Business” at the eWomenNetwork International Conference, Dallas, July 2006, will publish two books early 2007: *Successful Strategies for Winning Proposals* and *Successful Strategies for Winning Grants*.

Kimble Reynolds '05 - elected Mayor of the City of Martinsville.

Dr. Darrel Staat '05 - named Innovator of the Year by Virginia's Region 2000 Technology Council.

Please send news to: akies@leadva.org



Photo above, left to right: 2006 participants **Jean Clark**, Dir. of Tourism, Rockbridge Regional Tourism, Lexington; **Susan Horne**, President/CEO, Leadership Fairfax, Inc., Vienna; and **Deborah Johnson**, Senior Manager, State & Local Affairs, Dominion Resources, Woodbridge, celebrating Susan's election as Vice-Mayor of the Town of Leesburg during LEAD VIRGINIA's Northern Virginia Session



Linking leaders with a
statewide view

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Web Site: www.leadva.org



LEAD VIRGINIA's Mission

LEAD VIRGINIA links diverse proven leaders to promote a statewide perspective and improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth.

2006 Contributors List Continues To Grow

LEAD VIRGINIA proudly recognizes and expresses gratitude to the following organizations and individuals for their 2006 contributions :

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Susan Timmons Scholarship Fund

Class of 2005
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Marvin Gilliam
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