



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***LEAD VIRGINIA Announces New Board Members***  
***New members' broad experience advance program's mission***

**RICHMOND, Va. (April 19, 2011)** – *LEAD VIRGINIA*, the statewide leadership program now entering its sixth year of educating Virginia's leaders about the issues most relevant to the Commonwealth, has appointed four new members to its Board of Directors. Each member will serve a three year term.

- **Giblert T. Bland** – Chairman, The GilJoy Group, Virginia Beach
- **R. Helm Dobbins** – Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer, American National Bank & Trust, Danville, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2008
- **Elizabeth G. Povar** – Director of Business Development, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Richmond, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2009
- **Rhonda VanLowe** – Legal Counsel, Rolls-Royce North America, Reston, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2008

“Our four new board members bring a remarkable amount of experience across the Commonwealth that will help our organization grow and flourish,” said Susan Horne, president and CEO of *LEAD VIRGINIA*. “These leaders will help the board improve the *LEAD VIRGINIA* program and carry out its mission to connect diverse leaders across industries and sectors to promote positive change in Virginia.”

**Hugh Keogh**, President Emeritus, Virginia Chamber of Commerce, will serve as the new board chair through 2012.

Six board members were nominated and re-elected for a second term.

- **Michael P. Drzal** – Attorney at Law, LeClairRyan, PC, Blacksburg, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2007
- **Jorman D. Granger** – Vice President Client Accounts, Northrop Grumman, Chester, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2007
- **Carl W. Levander** – President, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Chester, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2007

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- **Bernard A. Niemeier** – President & Publisher, Virginia Business Magazine, Richmond, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2007
- **Honorable Christopher K. Peace** – Virginia House of Delegates, Mechanicsville
- **Junius H. Williams, Jr.** – Managing Director, VA/NC State & Local Affairs, Dominion Resources Services, Inc., Norfolk, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2005

*LEAD VIRGINIA* sincerely appreciates the tireless support of board members whose terms expired in 2011, for their stewardship and unwavering support. Outgoing board members were presented with certificates of appreciation by chair Hugh Keogh:

- **G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr.** – Senior Advisor, Kaufman & Canoles Consulting, Richmond, and Inaugural chair *LEAD VIRGINIA* Board
- **Stuart Mendelsohn, Esq.** – Partner, Holland & Knight LLP, McLean
- **Dr. Suzanne W. Morse** – President, Pew Partnership for Civic Change, Charlottesville
- **Michel Zajur** – President & CEO, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Richmond, *LEAD VIRGINIA* Class of 2010

*LEAD VIRGINIA* brings together experienced, established senior-level executives from public and private entities across the state to learn about important local and regional issues and opportunities. *LEAD VIRGINIA* educates participants about regional differences and statewide needs through the shared experience of seven, two-day sessions held throughout the Commonwealth.

Endorsed by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, state universities and regional leadership organizations, *LEAD VIRGINIA* offers leaders a forum for gaining deeper insights into complex statewide issues, exchanging resources, creating momentum and working within and outside the political arena to usher in positive change for the Commonwealth. Specific curriculum themes of local/regional economies, as well as the larger issues of health and education, are explored through in-depth dialogue, on-site field studies and experiential activities designed to highlight the diverse interests of each region.

**About LEAD VIRGINIA**

*LEAD VIRGINIA* was incorporated as a charitable and educational organization in March 2005 and is patterned after similar models of statewide leadership programs across the nation. Led by a board of directors composed of business, education, government, non-profit and community leaders from across Virginia, *LEAD VIRGINIA* uses a proven model for developing a statewide network of leaders by engaging academic, business, civic and government advisors to educate class members on the wide range of key issues in Virginia. 2011 sustaining sponsors of the program include Altria, Bon Secours Richmond Health System, HCA Virginia and Norfolk Southern Corporation. Additional sponsors include Dominion Resources, Northrop Grumman Virginia Business, Columbia Gas of Virginia, A Nisource Company, MWV, Verizon and XO Communications. For more information, visit [www.leadvirginia.org](http://www.leadvirginia.org) to download our media kit.

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