

NVAN Annual Legislative Breakfast Forum

Beginning in 2000, the Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) has held an annual legislative breakfast forum to present its legislative platform to the Northern Virginia delegation of the Virginia General Assembly.

In the beginning, a handful of legislators attended the Fall forum, and a small group of NVAN representatives presented the legislative platform for the upcoming legislative session. Each year the two-hour forum has gained traction in the number of participants, the number of sponsors, and the visibility of the event.

At the forum, General Assembly members expect to learn NVAN's issues, greet constituents and be recognized by the moderator. Community members value the opportunity to speak with legislators, especially about the NVAN platform issues, and more broadly about the needs of older Virginians. The forum generally draws between 160 and 200 or more total attendees.

An NVAN breakfast planning committee identifies sponsors, selects a keynote speaker, works with the host location, designs the agenda, invites the legislators, posts the forum registration announcement, and engages in community outreach. Sponsors agree to donate toward the cost of the event, and in return they are allotted space for a display table, and their logos are shown during the program. Attendees pay a small amount for a hot breakfast.

NVAN has used several central, accessible locations that have offered a pleasant dining experience, as well as room for participants to network and discuss current issues. Greenspring Village in Springfield VA hosted the breakfast for eight years, and contributed the rental cost of the dining/conference facility and transportation shuttle service from parking lots. The Hyatt Fair Lakes hosted the breakfast for one year; and Marriott at Fair Oaks hosted it for eight years. In the following years, the breakfast has been held at the Country Club of Fairfax – except that the event was virtual in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic.

For many consecutive years, Peggy Fox from WUSA9 News graciously moderated the forum gratis. Recently David Broder, a member of the NVAN Legislative

Committee, has been the capable and lively MC. Keynote speakers over the years have been compelling and informative.

A Chronological Snapshot of the NVAN Annual Legislative Breakfast Forum

2000 - Lincolnia Senior Housing multipurpose room, Alexandria (Fairfax County). Seven legislators/aides; 30 attendees¹ including 6 presenters from NVAN. NVAN planning group of four purchased and set up bagels & cream cheese, fruit juice, & paper goods, and Lincolnia provided the coffee.

2001 - Culpepper Garden Senior Housing dining/multipurpose room, Arlington. 8 legislators/aides; 40 attendees. Culpepper Garden provided continental breakfast, covered by the charge of \$5 per person.

2002 - Greenspring Village, Springfield. Small dining facility across from auditorium. 17 legislators & aides; 125 attendees. Charged \$10 which included a country breakfast buffet.

2003 - Greenspring Village, Springfield. Larger conference center/dining room. First time co-sponsored with AARP & NARFE (National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees). This was a Candidate's Form (election year). 15 candidates and 125 attendees. *This was the year of Hurricane Isabel locally and a tornado in Richmond.* Charged \$15 which included a country breakfast buffet.

2004 - Greenspring Village, Springfield. Cosponsors: AARP, NARFE, and NCPSSM (National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare). 19 legislators & aides; 164 attendees. Charged \$15 which included plated breakfast of yogurt, fruit, & danish.

2005 – Greenspring Community, Springfield. Cosponsors: AARP, NARFE, NCPSSM, TLC4LTC (Tender Loving Care for Long Term Care), ProAging Network /Guide to Retirement Living (first cosponsor from the business (19 elected and 8 hopefuls) + 127 attendees*. Charge \$15 which included a country breakfast.

¹ Attendees – all forum participants as registrants or guests, exclusive of elected officials or official candidates for state office.

2006 - Greenspring Community, Springfield. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Greenspring Community, VA Federation of NARFE, NCPSSM, ProAging Network, VAPCA (VA Assn. of Personal Care Assistants). 13 state legislators and 164 attendees. Charged \$20 which included a country breakfast.

2007 - Greenspring Community, Springfield. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Greenspring, NCPSSM, ProAging Network/Guide to Retirement Living, VAPCA, VA Federation of NARFE, TLC4LTC. 21 legislators, aides, and candidates and 180 attendees. Featured speaker: Betty Booker, Long-time Reporter on Aging Issues for the Richmond Times Dispatch, "Where are we now? What do we do next?" Remarks from Gail Jaspen, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Charged \$20 which included a country breakfast.

2008 – Greenspring Community, Springfield. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Greenspring, NCPSSM, ProAging Network/Guide to Retirement Living, VAPCA, VA Federation of NARFE, TLC4LTC. 20 legislators and aides and 140 attendees. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: James Firman, President and CEO of the National Council on Aging, "Getting Ready for Baby Boomers: Needed Changes in Aging Services and Public Policy". Remarks from Linda Nablo, Commissioner of the Department for Aging. Charged \$20 which included a country breakfast with pancake bar.

2009 – Greenspring Community, Springfield. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Greenspring Village, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, ProAging Network, TLC4Long-Term Care, the Virginia Association of Personal Care Assistants, the Virginia Federation of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees. 30 legislators and aides, and 160 registered participants. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Kathy Sykes, Senior Advisor, Aging Initiative, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Remarks from Linda Nablo, Commissioner of the Department for the Aging.

2010 – Hyatt Fair Lakes. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Commonwealth Council on Aging, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Tom West Financial Services, Virginia Association of Personal Care Assistants. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services. Remarks by Sandy Markwood, Executive Director, National Association of Area Agencies on aging.

2011—Marriott at Fair Oaks. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Commonwealth Council on Aging, Virginia Association of Personal Care Assistants. 35 legislators and aides, and 150 registered participants. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: John Martin, President and CEO, Southeastern Institute of Research and the Boomer Project. Remarks from Katie Roeper, Assistant Commissioner, Virginia Department for the Aging.

2012 – Marriott at Fair Oaks. Cosponsors: Right at Home, AARP Virginia, Buckley’s for Seniors, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Virginia Association of Personal Care Assistants. 35 legislators and aides, and 150 registered participants. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Hubert “Skip” Humphrey III, Assistant Director, U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Remarks from Jim Rothrock, Commissioner, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.

2013 – Marriott at Fair Oaks. Cosponsors: 45 legislators and aides, and 150 registered participants. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Inova PACE Program, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services, SEIU Virginia 512, Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Bob Blancato, National coordinator, Elder Justice Coalition, President of AARP Virginia. Remarks from Amy Marschean, Senior Policy Analyst, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.

2014 – Marriott at Fair Oaks. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Robert Brink, Deputy Commissioner for Aging Services, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.

2015 – Marriott at Fair Oaks. Moderator: Peggy Fox.

2016 – Marriott at Fair Oaks. Cosponsors: Goodwin House, AARP Virginia, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services, Inova PACE Cares for Seniors, SEIU Virginia 512, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Matz Blancato & Associates, The Virginian, The Medical Team. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Veronica

Li, Author, “Caregiving Wisdom from an Ancient Sage.” Remarks from Marcia DuBois, Director, Division for the Aging, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.

2017 – Marriott at Fair Oaks. 38 legislators or aides, and 210 registered participants. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Melissa Andrews, President & CEO, LeadingAge Virginia. Remarks from Marcia DuBois, Director, Division for the Aging, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.

2018 – Marriott at Fair Oaks. Cosponsors: SEIU Virginia 512, Chesterbrook Residences, AARP Virginia, Goodwin House Alexandria, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, Margaret O’Reilly PC, Matz Blancato & Associates, SeniorSource, Home Instead Senior Care, Central Senior Center, The Virginian. 200+ attendees. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Jennifer Lee, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. Remarks from Marcia Dubois, Director, Division for the Aging, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.

2019 – Country Club of Fairfax. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Goodwin House, Inova, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, Capital Caring, Chesterbrook Residences, Home Instead Senior Care, The Kensington, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, SEIU Virginia 512, The Medical Team, The Virginian. Moderator: Peggy Fox. Featured speaker: Sandy Markwood, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Remarks from Marcia DuBois, Deputy Commissioner, Division for Community Living, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.

2020 – Virtual event. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, Inova, Kensington Senior Living, Chesterbrook Residences, Home Instead Senior Care, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, SEIU Virginia 512, The Medical Team. 200+ attendees. Moderator: David Broder. Featured speaker: Bill Benson, President, Health Benefits ABCs.

2021 – Virtual event. Cosponsors: AARP Virginia, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, Inova, Kensington Senior Living, Chesterbrook Residences, Home Instead Senior Care, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, SEIU Virginia 512, The Medical

Team. 35 legislators and aides, and 250 attendees. Moderator: David Broder. Featured speaker: Brian Altman, Deputy Director, U.S. Administration for Community Living, substituting for Edwin Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Administration for Community Living. Remarks from Kathryn Hayfield, Commissioner, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

2022 – Country Club of Fairfax. Cosponsors: Goodwin Living, AARP Virginia, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, Inova, Capital Caring Health, Home Instead Senior Care, The Kensington, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, SEIU Virginia 512, Chesterbrook Residences, The Medical Team. 170+ attendees. Moderator: David Broder. Featured speaker: Jean Accius, Senior Vice President of Global Thought Leadership, AARP. Remarks from Kathryn Hayfield, Commissioner, Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services.