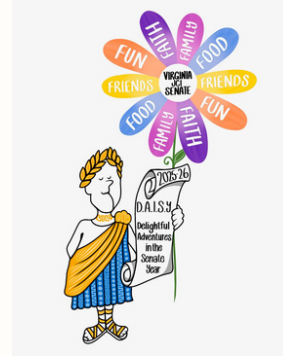


Virginia JCI Senate

Delightful Adventures In the
Senate Year
October 2025



Upcoming Events

- Oct. 28 | 7 pm
Halloween Zoom
- Nov 11 | 7pm Executive Board Meeting
- Nov 18 | 7pm:
Gratitude
sharing/Holiday
traditions Zoom
- Dec. 5-6 | Fall meeting and Senate Holiday Festus
- Dec. 13 | Wreaths Across America
- Dec 16 | 7pm Reindeer Games Zoom

THE VILLAGE
VIRGINIA JCI SENATE
MIXING UP SOME FUN

WE'RE COOKING UP A VILLAGE RECIPE BOOK

REPLY BY JANUARY 31 to
hopendaies@gmail.com

SEND IN YOUR RECIPE TO EARN ONE PETALS PER RECIPE.

WRITE RECIPE IN WORD - TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT 12

IDENTIFY TYPE OF RECIPE (Dessert, Entree, Appetizer, Tips/Tricks)

ADD YOUR NAME AND SENATE NUMBER AT BOTTOM OF RECIPE

EMAIL TO HOPENDAISIES@GMAIL.COM

Scholarship Fund

Support the Lost Senator Fund & Scholarship fund by shopping at Pampered Chef with this special link starting Oct. 31 to Dec. 10th.



President

We had a great time in Columbus Ohio for the Fall Board meeting of the East to West Year under US JCI Senate National President Bruce Sostak. Melissa Sleeth, Anne Johnson and I road tripped out there. It was a beautiful trip across Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. The leaves up in the mountains have even started turning fall colors. I love fall most of all. We realized on the drive that we don't want to drive longer than 6-8 hours for another meeting and we will fly.



We had a great number of Senators in attendance with us in Columbus. Anne Johnson #49625, Ariel Jones #65423, Art Esenberg #26704, Beth Fujishige #69219, Jacque Camlet #67098, Jim Miller #34554, Joanie Cramer #65355, Kathleen King #68704, Kay Faries #70346, Melissa Sleeth #69220, Tom Cramer #61957 and Tom King #59642. It was wonderful to meet Jim Miller for the first time. Dual members with us included Ann Harrison #75822, Diane Duell #74147 (who let the entire contingent know about the DAISY Program) Gary Duell #48384 (who said I created a monster; your welcome LOL), Joan Travis #76201, Katy Lemmer #73037, Lisa Geier #78779, Lori Palo #66475 and Sam Young #37972. And drumroll to our newest dual member to join Virginia because of my Daisy lanyard is Carolyn Smith #64564. She is a nurse who resides in Arizona and is a DAISY award winning nurse. Which in nursing is a BIG DEAL! Please welcome her to Virginia. She may try to join us for the Martini mix off in the winter.

I also just got back from a 6 day, 5 night Disney cruise to the Bahamas with one of my lifelong friends made in the Jaycees. We were local presidents together in 2000 and have become family. Honeybear and I have spent Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve every year since Michael passed away together. It was an amazing trip despite the first night being super rocky and us both having motion sickness. However, it didn't dampen the trip. We spend the days relaxing in the sun, having the drink of the day, playing some trivia and meeting DAISY Duck. Daisy Duck is super sassy and lovable. The characters really take the time to talk with you whether a princess or someone in the



character costume. The weather was perfect and the trip was truly the best. We were pixie dusted all trip long with people leaving us candy or gifts in our “fish extender” hanging on the wall of our door. We also left gifts in other doors including some of my flower resins that I have been making all year. Folks loved them. It was truly a magical trip and I hope to go again in a few years. I cannot wait to spend some time with you all for our Festivus for the rest of us. I hope you enjoy the fun-filled weekend we have planned from seeing the holiday lights at Lewis Ginter if you choose to join us to having some of Rudolph’s tipsy punch. Bring your wrapped gift of up to \$20 for our annual gift exchange. Our holiday extravaganza will include snowflakes, Diwali and some Hanukkah sprinkled in. Lots of lights and colors to enjoy our own little Senate Festivus for the Rest of Us. I hope you will join us!!! Let’s share our holidays together and maybe there will be some special guests joining us as well. Come and see for yourself.



We have some amazing fun coming your way and I invite everyone to join us. Here are our fun zoom calls for the next few months.

- Oct 28 at 7pm: Halloween Zoom Dress up and Scavenger zoom–winners for most creative and best overall costumes
- Nov 18 at 7pm: Gratitude sharing/Holiday traditions Share with us what you are grateful for and any holiday traditions from any holiday you celebrate and thank our veterans.
- Dec 16 at 7pm: Reindeer Games Play some fun games together and relax before the holidays
- Jan 27 at 7pm: The Election of the First Female President of the Virginia Jaycees and Why It Was Never Supposed to Happen. Join Doc Serota to discuss this historic event in the Virginia Jaycees History. All Senators and Jaycees welcome With Joy and Cheer this Senate year,
Karen “DAISY” DeWitt Gage #78980





Treasurer

Happy Fall Senators. I want to let the team know about my new email for all JCI Senate Treasurer related issues. Please send to: vajcisenatetreasurer@gmail.com. This will hopefully become the permanent email for all future Treasurers for continuity purposes.

Also, if you have been a past Treasurer, I am putting together an SOP for future treasurers. If you have any "lessons learned" from your years, please pass them along. We want to make things easier for the people that come after us.

I hope everyone enjoys the wonderful fall weather and I look forward to seeing everyone in December, if not sooner.

Your devoted Treasurer
vajcisenatetreasurer@gmail.com
Laura Murphy #78824

Products

Show Your Senate Pride!

We've teamed up with a new vendor for VA JCI Senate gear! [Check out the latest items here.](#)

Details:

- Sizes: XS-4X (add \$3 for 2X, \$5 for 3X, \$6 for 4X)
- Color: True Royal Blue
- Personalization: 2 lines - \$10 | up to 3 lines - \$12
- Select shipping so your order is mailed directly to you

Rep your Senate pride in style — order your new gear today!

'25-'26 Board of Directors

President: Karen Gage
Immediate Past President: Tom Cramer
Vice President: Jacque Camlet
Chief of Staff: Cathy Ralston
Secretary: Lin Martin
Director at Large/
D.A.I.S.Y. Coordinator: Hope Ellison
Bar Chair: Brian Morris
Rooms, Reservations & Outings:
John Mosesso
Comms. Director: Marissa Garcia
Hospitality: Ron Sleeth
Liaison: Debbie Agee
Treasurer: Laura Murphy
Assistant Treasurer: Tim Eckert
Chaplain: Melissa Sleeth
Historian: Art Esenberg
Sgt. at Arms: Troy Anderson
Sweepstakes Raffles Chair: Ruth Ann Bates
Foundation Raffles Chair: Jen Rebbly
Scholarship Chair: Cindy Kinney
Audit Chair: Jeff Bobich

Scholarship Coordinator

The 2025–2026 Scholarship program is now underway. We're already receiving inquiries from students, so I am hopeful for a great group of applications to review after the January 12, 2026 deadline.

Fundraising for our scholarship awards is doing really well. We are 2/3's of the way to our goal. Thanks to everyone who participated in our Pampered Chef fundraiser and many thanks to those who have also donated to our scholarship program.

We will be having another Pampered Chef fundraiser from October 31 to December 10. This would be a great time to stock your kitchen, take care of a few Christmas gifts, AND support this worthy program!

Use this link to order from Pampered Chef beginning 10/31/25.

Rooms Reservations & Outings

Hello Fellow Senators,

Happy Autumn everyone! And yep, its time to think about the Holidays. And for us that means our Fall meeting and Senate Holiday Festivus the weekend of December 5–6. Please be sure to register! We will have our traditional Dutch Treat Dinner on Friday evening starting at 5:30pm at Crafted (4900 Libbie Mill East Blvd), Southern inspired food. Then for those that are interested, we will sleigh ride over to the GardenFest of Lights at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. We do not qualify for a group discount, thus you will need to buy tickets on your own. It is a timed entry, thus so you may have a relaxing dinner, I am suggesting selecting the 8:00pm entry time, the lights go till 10:00pm. This should give you time to enjoy.

LMA Meeting will be at 9:00am, followed by Senate meeting at 10:30am. I will have suggestions for lunch and an excursion until we all meet back up at 4:00 for the start of the Festivus. We will have a White Elephant gift exchange with a \$20 value on a new or never used item. On the registration form, there is a link to sign up for a food item. Apologies not everything is in one place, I tried to consolidate as best as I could. (Time and location of Foundation meeting is being finalized.)

Thus, for the Fall meeting:

1. Complete Registration Form (\$20) (Be sure to click submit and you will receive a confirmation)
2. Buy ticket for the GardenFest of Lights (\$22) (Optional)
3. Book hotel room Hampton Inn & Suites Richmond/Glenside; Book by November 19th! We have filled the first room block – rooms have been added – if you can't get into the block – message President Daisy and she will contact the hotel.
4. Sign up for Festivus Food item (included on registration form)
5. Buy John a nice gift Ho! Ho! Ho! (aka White Elephant item)
6. Email Ron Sleeth what you are bringing for Friday night hospitality
7. Come, relax, and have a jolly old time

Till we meet again, have a daisy of a time!
John #71551

VA Senate Wreaths Across America Program Coordinator

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13, 2025 for Wreaths Across America. What is it? National Wreaths Across (WAA) America Day is an event held in more than 4,900 local communities, at sea and abroad each December. It is a day where thousands of volunteers of all ages, demographics and backgrounds gather to place live balsam veterans' wreaths on the headstones of our nation's heroes, joining together to say each of their names out loud one more time and in doing so, keeping their memories alive.

In December of 2024, Virginia Senators from across the Commonwealth participated in this program and all agreed it was a very moving and impactful program, with many saying they plan to participate again this year.

How to Participate

There are three ways to participate:

1. **Volunteer** – find a participating cemetery or location near you, sign up and attend that day.
2. **Sponsor a Wreath** – for the cost of \$17, you can sponsor a wreath to be laid on the grave of a veteran to honor them. Five dollars of that money will be forwarded toward another wreath to be placed that day too. It's called the \$5 Forward program.
3. **Sponsor a Grave Specific Wreath** – for a cost of \$17, you can sponsor a wreath for a specific grave at a specified cemetery. You will need to provide the name, section, row and marker of the gravesite. You also will designate whether you or someone else will lay that wreath on that grave. Five dollars of that money will be forwarded toward another wreath to be placed that day too. It's called the \$5 Forward program.

How to Sign Up

This year, the Virginia Senate is participating in Wreaths Across America under the US JCI Senate. Visit www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/FL1122 to volunteer or sponsor a wreath, and learn more about this meaningful event.

By participating through the US JCI Senate page, it will enable our national organization to track how many Senators participate in the WAA program this year. **The deadline to sign up to volunteer or sponsor a wreath is Friday, November 28.** Please note that when you fill in your name to either volunteer or sponsor, please put (VA) after your name to specify you are from Virginia.

I am looking forward to working with the Virginia Senators this year to have even more of you participate than last year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,
Anne Johnson #49625
Virginia Senate Wreaths Across
America Coordinator





Region III RVP

Hello Virginia Senators,

Thank you to all the Virginia Senators that made me feel at home at your summer meeting. The first trimester has concluded, and President Karen #78980 introduced the DAISY theme for this year. The theme aims to engage members, encourage participation, and promote friendly competition.

It was great to have 29 Region III Senators in Columbus, OH, for the US JCI Fall BOD Meeting. I hope many of you can travel to Melbourne in January. I want to congratulate Senator Laura Murphy #78824 for being recognized with one of President Bruce's Ranger Badges at the Fall BOD Meeting.

As we move into the second trimester, remember to reach out to Senators you haven't seen for a while, sometimes all it takes is a personal invitation for them to attend a meeting or social. Virginia has many great projects coming up, and below is a list of additional Region III and National events for reference. I hope to see you there as we traverse "East to West, Exploring Our Senate."

- October 31 – November 2, 2025 – Maryland JCI Fall Meeting – Ocean City
- November 7–9, 2025 – West Virginia JCI Senate 55th Anniversary/Dirty Santa – Wheeling, WV.
- December 13, 2025 –Wreaths Across America (Pick your location)
- December 20, 2025 – Maryland JCI Senate Holiday Party – Hagerstown, MD
- January 15 – 18, 2026 – US JCI Winter BOD Meeting – Melbourne, FL
- March 7, 2026 – Maryland JCI Bull & Oyster Roast – Edgewater, MD
- April 9–12, 2026 – MAI – Jamestown, NY

Also, I hope we will continue communication and support of JCI USA as part of President Bruce's plan, and I want to offer my assistance to the Jaycee Chapters within the region where needed. Virginia has done an excellent job getting involved with the National Programs such as S.O.A.R, Return the Favor, Wreaths Across America and support for Presidential Sweepstakes. I look forward to seeing you at Virginia's Festivus for the Rest of Us weekend. Enjoy these beautiful fall days, and if you get the chance... "cast a line" and Get Hooked" on Region III.

Sincerely,

Letha Grimes #63946 | Region III NVP | Region-III-NVP@usjcisenate.org

GET HOOKED



2025-26



D.A.I.S.Y.

Delightful Adventures In the Senate Year



A daisy does not pretend to be a rose. Life is all about finding people who are your kind of crazy. In the world full of Roses, you should be fresh as a DAISY – you are Awesome Every Daisy.

This year we are focusing on activation, retention and most of all having fun! Earn petals and daisies by doing the items in each of the five categories.

How to Earn a Petal: Do at least one item in any Category.

How to Earn A DAISY: Do one item in every Category.

Senators with the most Petals and Daisies will win The KRAZY DAISY Awards at Year-End meeting.

Send in your information with picture proof to Director at Large/D.A.I.S.Y. Coordinator:

Hope Ellison at hopendaisies@gmail.com

July 1 – Aug 11 – pick your prizes at Summer Outing | Aug 12–Nov 11 – pick your prizes at Fall Meeting

Nov 12 – Jan 31 – Pick your prizes at the Winter meeting | Feb 1 – April 30 – pick your prizes at the Spring meeting

FAITH	FAMILY	FRIENDS	FOOD	FUN
Send a notecard in the mail to your Mentor/Mentee for any reason	Help put a New Membership Application (Senatorship) package together (The Liaison will confirm)	Picture/Selfie with 2 or more Senators from anywhere at VA Senate Event	Bring Food to the Hospitality Suite at the Summer Outing	Attend or Lead One of our Zoom Nights
Bring Daisies to a Senator who needs encouragement, is sick/recovering or just because	Recruit a lost Virginia JCI Senator or have them reinstated	Picture/Selfie with 2 or more Senators from anywhere at another States event or JC Event	Bring Food to the Hospitality Suite at Fall Meeting	(in person or Zoom) Attend any of our quarterly meetings
Sign up for the Electronic Mentors National Magazine (must not already receive it)	Contribute to the Lost Senator Fund at any time	Picture/Selfie with 2 or more Senators from anywhere at a National meeting or non-Region 3 meeting	Bring Food to the Hospitality Suite at Winter meeting	Attend a quarterly excursion or special event that takes place
Sign up for National E-news (must be new to receiving it)	Recruit a Senator from another state to join us	Picture/Selfie with 2 or more Senators from anywhere at a Region 3 event	Bring Food to the Hospitality Suite at Spring Meeting	Attend the Holiday Party (12/6/25)
Sign up to be one of our Mentors for a Senator (brand new or reinstated)	Participate in Wreaths Across America December 13, 2025 or Buy a Wreath for it	Picture/selfie with 2 or more Senators at an event that isn't Senate related	Bring/Send Food to a Senator who needs encouragement or just because	Bring a white elephant gift or ornament for the Holiday party (12/6/25)
Contribute to the Scholarship program via a fundraiser or straight donation	Buy 1 or more wreaths for Wreaths Across America December 13, 2025 or Buy a Wreath for it	Get an extra petal on the above pictures when you: •Post it to VA JCI Senate FB Group •When you have a DAISY paddle or the Daisy Duck mascot in the picture •When you are wearing a Daisy bracelet or headband •When you have the SOAR paddle •When you email the pix to pictures@usjcisenate.org	Attend Dutch Treat during our Quarterly event	Participate in the Color Party at the Spring Meeting
Send a card in the mail to a Senator for any reason	Volunteer to work or attend a JC or Senate event in Virginia or another state (i.e. ECSC or PA Senate Ice Cream Sales)		Send in your favorite recipe(s) for our Cookbook by January 31 (earn 1 petal per recipe) The Virginia JCI Senate Village Cookbook	Hang out in the Hospitality Suite Friday night
Bring a gift for one of our four basket auctions	Drive President Daisy somewhere (extra petal if you have a Daisy on your car)	Post a selfie wearing Red on Fridays or Blue on Mondays to the VA JCI FB page or Region 3 FB page	Bring Food to Holiday Party 12/6/2025 Bring Food to another state, region or nation event	Hang out in the Hospitality Suite Saturday night Compete in our Martini Mix Off Competition
Presidential Power Petal at the President's Discretion	Presidential Power Petal at the President's Discretion	President Power Petal at the President's Discretion	President Power Petal at the President's Discretion	President Power Petal at the President's Discretion

I GOT A LOTS OF
PROBLEM
WITH YOU PEOPLE!
AND NOW YOU'RE
GONNA HEAR ABOUT IT!



HAPPY FESTIVUS

THE AIRING OF GRIEVANCES
FEATS OF STRENGTH
FESTIVUS DINNER, FESTIVUS MIRACLE
THE FESTIVUS POLE

VA JCI SENA TE FALL MEETING

FRIDAY NIGHT

5:30PM

DUTCH TREAT

CRAFTED4900LibbieMillEastBlvd, Richmond

craftedrva.com

20% Gratuity on all checks

LewisGinterBotanical Festival of Lights

SATURDAY

Meetings

Festivus Party 4pm

(Gift Exchange)

DECEMBER 5-7

Hampton Inn & Suites

5406 Glenside Drive

Richmond VA

Register under Meetings Tab at
www.vajcisenate.org



SURP RISES IN STORE