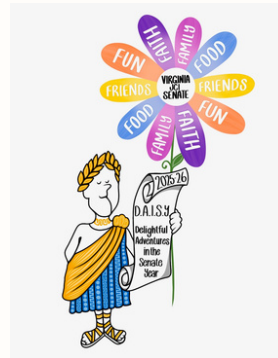


Virginia JCI Senate

Delightful Adventures In the
Senate Year
April 2026



Upcoming Events

- **May 12** | 7pm Executive Board Meeting
- **May 29** | LMI and Senate Meeting Waynesboro VA
- **Jun. 9** | 7pm Executive Board Meeting
- **Jun. 14–19** | National Senate Meeting San Antonio, TX



President

A Year of Daisies: Faith, Family, Food, Friends & Fun
As our Daisy year comes to a close, one thing is clear—we showed up, we lifted each other up and we made it count. This year was rooted in connection, powered by community and filled with moments that truly mattered.

Here's a look at what made this year bloom:

- **Monthly Zoom Gatherings** that kept us connected across the miles. Special thanks to Doc Serota #32245 for his inspiring presentation on the first woman elected to the President of the Virginia Jaycees and Katy Lemmer #73037 for elevating our charcuterie game!
- **Martini Mix-Off Weekend** in Virginia Beach—a perfect blend of fun and friendly competition
People's Choice: Sherry King #67690 and her sister with the Milky Way drink
Judges' Favorite: Tom Cramer #61957 & John Mosesso #71551—equal parts hilarious and delicious with their skit and drink
- **Welcoming New Senators** Chuck Rogers #84584 (Tuckahoe) & Charlie Pitts #84834 (Virginia Beach)
Growing Our Dual Membership Family Emily Nock (MD), Gary Brooke #58420 (OH/WV), Lara Thom #83098 (NJ/IL), Joan Travis #76201 (NJ), Carolyn Smith #64564 (AZ), Diane Duell #74147 (PA), Gary Duell #48384 (PA), Nicole Dapp #74656 (PA), Katy Lemmer #73037 (PA), Scott Bryant #67910

continued on page 2



President continued

- Pampered Chef Fundraisers Three parties + generous Senators = \$1,500 raised for our Virginia Scholarship winners
- Lost Senate Fund Support Over \$632 raised to help bring new Senators into the family—because that’s who we are

With growth comes reflection. We were honored to welcome so many new members this year and we also pause to remember those we lost: **Gene Belvin #27191**, **Lee Brooks #45886**, **Bernie Kirsch #11503**, **Ruth Nefflin #70907** and **Gerry Sproles #14886**. They remain forever part of our story—deeply missed and always remembered.

This year wasn’t just about events—it was about living our theme: **faith, family, food, friends and fun**. And none of it happens without this incredible board. Their heart, hustle, and dedication made every moment possible.

As we head into our final Virginia meeting and prepare for elections, I do so with deep gratitude. It’s been an honor to serve alongside each of you. I look forward to recognizing our amazing board with small tokens of appreciation—just a glimpse of the gratitude they deserve. Next stop: San Antonio! We’re bringing a strong Virginia contingent to celebrate a truly successful Daisy year—and we have even more to cheer for:

- Jackie Julien, stepping into Region III NVP (Rolling with the Homies!)
- Tom King, our next US JCI National Administrative Vice President (2026–2027)

And as we turn the page, please give your full support to Jacque Camlet and her incoming board—the future is in great hands.

Here’s to a year that bloomed beautifully and to all the seeds we’ve planted for what’s next. Thank you for allowing me to serve—it’s truly been a DAISY of a year!

Karen “DAISY” Gage, 53rd President Virginia JCI Senate

P.S. Start polishing those charm skills—the best “suck-up” before and/or during the May weekend just might go home with a very special prize... a Daisy Duck doll straight from Tokyo Disney!



Vice President

Hello Senators!!
Happy spring!!!

As we approach an exciting new chapter for our organization, we invite all members to take an active role in shaping our future by participating in the upcoming May meeting. This gathering will be especially important as we prepare to hold elections for our 2026–2027 board. Strong leadership is the foundation of a thriving organization, and our board plays a vital role in guiding our mission, supporting our members, and driving new initiatives forward. That's why we're calling on you to get involved—whether by attending the meeting, casting your vote, or stepping forward as a nominee.

Why Attend the May Meeting?

This meeting is your opportunity to:

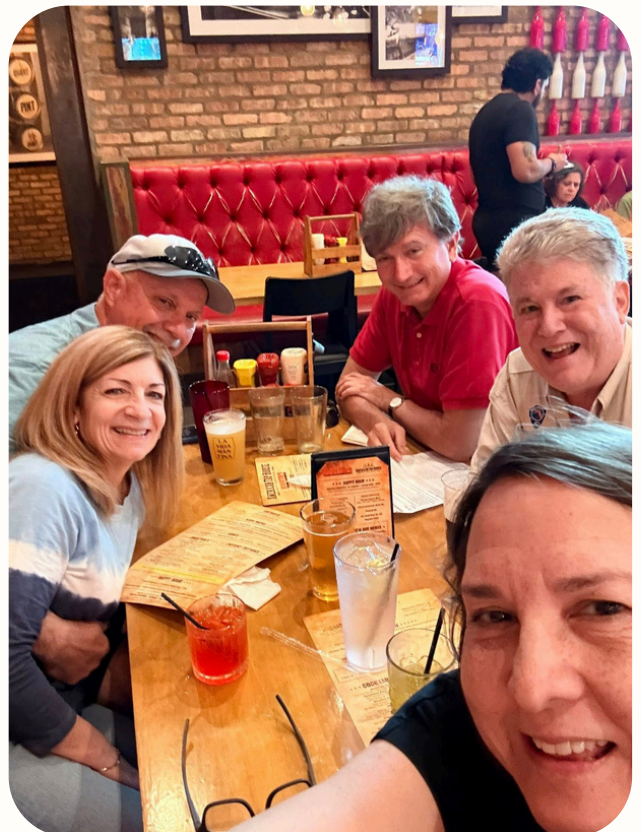
- Hear about goals and priorities for the coming year
- Support fellow members who are stepping up to lead
- Connect/reconnect with fellow Senate members
- Most importantly—Congratulate, thank and celebrate President Daisy and her board for a phenomenal year

Take the Next Step

Mark your calendar for May 29–31 in Waynesboro, and consider how you can contribute. Submit nominations, attend the discussion, and be part of the decision-making process.

If you have any questions about the election process, specific positions or interest in serving in some capacity, please contact me or Tom Cramer. We look forward to seeing you there!

Jacque Camlet #67098





Treasurer

Happy End of year to my fellow Senators.

I want to Thank you all for making my job easy this year (or at least I hope so). We still have to do our audit. Please note any reimbursement is due to me by June 20th, so I can ensure payments and close out by June 30th in anticipation of an early July audit. That way, I can ensure the incoming treasurer can start their books clean as close to July 1st as possible. Thank you to President Karen for such an exciting "DAISY" year. Hope to see many of you in May.

Laura Murphy #78824

'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
Rebby

Scholarship Chair: Cindy Kinney

Audit Chair: Jeff Bobich

Products

Show Your Senate Pride!

Shop here for your 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!



Region III NVP

Hello Senators,

It has been a pleasure working with President Karen “Dasiy” Gage and her team this year. I truly enjoyed my visits to the great Commonwealth of Virginia and making new friends and catching up with old ones. I appreciated the hospitality you provided during my visits. And a special thank you to John Mosesso for driving me around. Congratulations to Hope Ellison for receiving the well deserved Frank L. Butler Region III Board Member of the Year. Also congratulations to Jackie Julien for being elected 2026–2027 Region III NVP at the MAI Meeting in Jamestown, NY.

Please don't forget to recognize deserving individuals for the annual National Awards. They are due May 1, 2026

Awards & Submission Details:

- Thomas E. Humphrey Memorial Award – Outstanding Senate State President
- Donald D. “Donnie” Alvis Memorial Award – Outstanding Region Vice President
- Ira Moser Memorial Award – Outstanding Ambassador / Nationally Elected Officer
- Ron Robinson Memorial Award – Outstanding Appointed Officer
- Jim Calder Memorial Award – Outstanding Senator

Submit nominations for the above awards to US JCI Senate President, Bruce Sostak at 54thpresident@usjcisenate.org

- Nolan Terrill Memorial Award – Outstanding Newsletters and Communications

Submit nominations to US JCI Senate Secretary, Dawna Norfleet at Secretary@usjcisenate.org

- Tom Stone Memorial Award – Outstanding State Treasurer Submit nominations to US JCI Senate Treasurer, Tom King at Treasurer@usjcisenate.org
- Tom Sellmer Memorial Award – State Chaplain Walter Calhoun Award – Regional Chaplain

Submit nominations for these awards to Chaplain Paul Myers at Chaplain@usjcisenate.org If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you for your support this past year, I was honored for the opportunity to serve as your NVP. I hope to see you in San Antonio. Get those registrations in! I will be having a Region Dinner, and will share details at a later date.

Thank you,
Letha Grimes



Communications Director

I don't often include my own article but given that this newsletter will be my last, I wanted to share some thoughts. I have had the privilege to be a part of President Karen's DAISY garden. Karen has been incredibly dedicated to ensuring the success of this year. She has committed so many hours and contributed her creative ideas for engagement with the VA Senate. I am grateful for the opportunity to be on her team.

I want to acknowledge other previous leaders of the VA Senate that identified a way to engage me as a new Senator when I moved to Japan and then to Texas: Jackie Julien, Lillian Cheng, Beth Fujishige, Sheri Polychrones, Tom Cramer, Ariel Jones, and of course Karen. I am grateful for the opportunity and this experience afforded me the chance to connect with many new wonderful people and learn some new things.

As we launch into a new Senate year, from a communications aspect, I do feel that authenticity is important. There are perks to leveraging AI for sure, but I encourage everyone to take the time to review it should you decide to leverage it.

Let's continue to stay connected and have conversations in our Facebook group. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve and I will see you soon in Texas.

Best, Marissa Garcia #78634





Rooms Reservations & Outings

Greetings Fellow Senators,

I write this a week out from my daughter's wedding, so expect to see lots of pictures at the May meeting. I have my daily task list from now till the wedding.

At this time of year, my role as Rooms, Reservations, and Outings Director is basically done, especially since LMA is hosting the May meeting. It has been a pleasure to serve you this past year and don't you worry I'm not going anywhere (actually, you should worry).

I really enjoyed putting together the quarterly meetings and hoped you have enjoyed the ventures along the way.

I am still largely involved in the county fair scene, and will be visiting some around the state, let me know if you wish to join me.

Thank you for all of your support. Have a Daisy of a time,

John

Chaplain

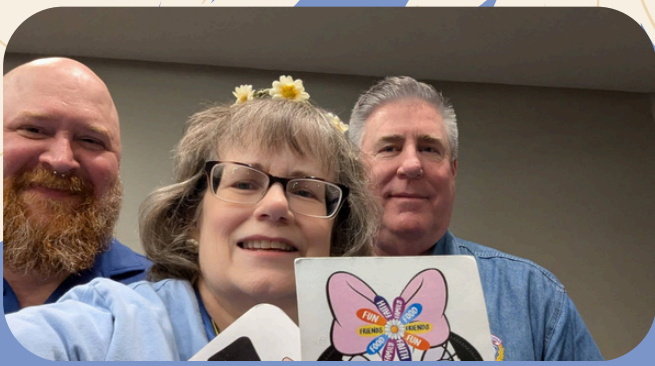
Hello Virginia JCI Senate!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chaplain this year. I've tried to give you prayers to provide food for thought at our meetings and occasional messages I've sent out over the past months. I've enjoyed wishing you all a happy birthday through cards and Facebook messages. And don't worry, I will continue to send out wishes until our very last day on June 30th! I've also send you wishes of sympathy and recovery, and hope those of you affected have been supported by your Senate family.

Thanks to President Karen and the rest of her Board, and I look forward to seeing you at our last meeting.

In God's spirit,
Melissa H. Sleeth





Immediate Past President

Dear Fellow Senators,

Once again, that time of year is upon us—when we gather to elect our new Board of Directors and look ahead to another exciting chapter together. Elections will be held at our upcoming meeting on May 28th, and we encourage anyone with an interest in contributing to something truly special to get involved. Serving on the Board is not only rewarding, but also a chance to help shape the experiences we all enjoy. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Tom Cramer, Chairman of the Board.

We are looking forward to a fantastic May meeting—one filled with anticipation as we welcome our next leadership team, and, just as importantly, celebration as we recognize the incredible accomplishments of President Karen Gage and her team.

As many of you know, President Karen—affectionately known as Ms. Daisy—has led a truly memorable year. Her Daisy-themed program brought energy, creativity, and plenty of fun to our group, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who took part.

Please join us in congratulating her on a job exceptionally well done, and in warmly welcoming the new team that will carry us forward. We can't wait to see you there!

Warm regards,
Tom Cramer
Chairman of the Board
Senator61957@gmail.com

Hospitality Director

Hello Jaycee Senators,

As we wind down the year of the DAISY I would like to thank each and every member of the Village and beyond who have made this year such a success. I am constantly amazed by the willingness and generosity of this group of people. I would like to give a special shout out to John Mosesso and Brian Morris for all of the work put in to the rooms and the bar. It is truly a team effort to make it all come together.

The May meeting is being run by the LMA but I am sure everyone will be out there willing to lend a hand anywhere it is needed.

It has been a pleasure to serve this year as your Hospitality Director and I look forward to assisting in any way needed in the coming year. In the meantime, if you have any questions feel free to reach out directly at 804-986-3302 or rbsleeth@verizon.net. Thanks again.

Yours in Jaycees,
Ron Sleeth #79099





Scholarships

3 scholarship winners from Virginia have also won at the National level!!

The 2025–2026 Scholarship program received almost 50 applications. As always, all of the applicants were exceptional and our job of picking 3 winners was very difficult.

Many thanks to my committee: Ruthann Bates, Debbie Agee, and Kearsten Adams. They devoted so much time and effort reviewing all the applications and selecting our winners. Thank you all so much for all your help. And a special thank you to Sheri Polychrones who scanner is way faster and more efficient than mine and saved me so much time and effort. Thank you!!

The winners are:

Caleb Cassell is the Vocational winner. Caleb is from Chatham, Virginia and will be pursuing a career in diesel and heavy equipment repair. He is dual-enrolled at Guilford Technical Community College and will complete his training there in the next year. He has maintained a 3.75 GPA while actively participating in sports and community activities. He said “Perseverance is a characteristic I have adopted, in part, due to my dyslexia...Instead of using dyslexia as an excuse for poor school performance, I have achieved high academic performance. Throughout high school, I maintained a 4.06 weighted GPA and earned a spot in the top 20% of my graduating class.” Caleb has a bright future.

Martin Tang is one of our college-bound winners. Martin is from Chantilly, Virginia and will be majoring in Business at George Mason University. Martin’s personal story of being the child of Vietnamese refugees is compelling. His motto is “It’s broken, just fix it” and has led him to solve a number of problems such as creating financial literacy workshops for senior centers to help elderly immigrants not fall victim to internet scams. He developed tutoring programs for low income and immigrant families to help students do better on SAT’s and other tests so as to ultimately attain the American dream of a better life.

Hunter Guthrie is one of the college-bound winners. Hunter is from Vienna, Virginia and will be attending Brown University majoring in Environmental Studies. Hunter’s academic performance is stellar with a 4.624 weighted GPA, and he completed an Associate’s degree from Northern Virginia Community College during his junior year in high school. His community service is exemplary. During covid he created a network to collect unsold food from businesses such as Panera and distributed the food to local food pantries. His work in this area has won numerous awards and recognition from a variety of organizations.

It has been a great pleasure to chair this committee, and I believe we make a difference for these students in attaining their goals.

Cindy Kinney