

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Recap: Annual Legislative Breakfast

Arlington, VA - Leadership Arlington and Leadership Center for Excellence held the fifth annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, April 8 from 7:00am until 9:00am at Army Navy Country Club (1700 Army Navy Drive Arlington, VA 22202). With approximately 150 people registered, guests heard state legislators share updates on current political issues and the valuable leadership lessons they learned during this year's Virginia General Assembly legislative session.

Legislators in attendance included Senator Adam Ebbin (D-30th District), Delegate Pat Hope (D-47th District), Delegate Mark Levine (D-45th District), Delegate Alfonso Lopez (D-49th District) and Delegate Rip Sullivan (D-48th District). Scott McCaffrey, Managing Editor of the *Sun Gazette*, moderated the panel of legislators.

The event began with remarks from each legislator. Delegate Hope, a Leadership Arlington Signature Program Class 2010 member, shared that he thought that there are "leadership opportunities breaking out in the General Assembly." He also stated, "This session demonstrates that you can be proud to be a Virginian." Delegate Lopez commented there is still a significant mountain to climb, but "the relationships you create across the aisle can be incredibly good."

McCaffrey asked the legislators to share their guiding leadership principal for the work they do at the state level. Here is what each legislator shared:

- Delegate Hope comments that it's vital to understand the process. 2017 legislation is being discussed now, so it is important to talk to the stakeholders throughout the process. He also embodies collaboration, especially working with the other side.
- Delegate Levine, a freshman legislator, believes that details matter. By "looking in the weeds," he was able to question funding for a bill and ultimately produced a better solution.
- Delegate Lopez's guiding principle is listening. He remarked that not everyone has the same perspective, and it's important to "walk in someone else's shoes for a day."
- Delegate Sullivan shares his principle is team effort. It's important to establish trusting relationships with good people and empower them to do good work.
- Senator Ebbin wraps up the question by stating all of the delegates answers displayed important leadership principles. He adds that being solicitous will foster collaboration. He tries to ask other representatives, "What is it you want to work on that I can help you with?" and, in return, they ask the question back.



Following the legislators' remarks, questions opened up to the audience. Questions topics included transition from incarceration into society, Medicaid and how women and minorities can have a voice in legislation. Overall, the five legislators shared what legislation has passed and what they are doing to assist bills becoming laws.

After the event, Senator Ebbin shared this tweet, "Great discussion and breakfast with @LeadershipARL this morning! Thank you for building a stronger community." Mike Richardson, Vice President & Commercial Banking Officer for Chain Bridge Bank and Signature Program Class of 2013 member, tweeted that the Legislative Breakfast is "always an informative event, and it's good to hear compromise still exists."

For pictures from the event, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

Thank you to Change Agent Sponsor, Verizon, as well as the table sponsors who made this event possible: AHC, Inc., Arlington Economic Development, Bean, Kinney & Korman, PC, Chain Bridge Bank, Northern Virginia Community College, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), Volunteers of America and Washington Gas.

About Leadership Arlington and Leadership Center for Excellence

The mission of Leadership Arlington is to enlighten, inspire and connect leaders to strengthen the community. The mission of Leadership Center for Excellence is to accelerate individual, organizational and community impact through innovative consulting and leadership development. For more information, visit www.leadercenter.org or call 703-528-2522