



PRESS RELEASE

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Recap: Leadership Arlington's Annual Legislative Breakfast

Arlington, VA - Leadership Arlington held its fourth annual Legislative Breakfast at The Westin Arlington Gateway on Friday, April 17 from 7:00am until 9:00am. More than 200 regional leaders registered to hear state legislators share updates on current issues and the valuable leadership lessons they learned during this year's Virginia General Assembly legislative session.



Delegate Sullivan, Senator Ebbin, Senator Favola and Delegate Krupicka

Legislators in attendance included Senator Adam Ebbin (D-30th District), Senator Barbara Favola (D-31st District), Delegate Pat Hope (D-47th District), Delegate Rob Krupicka (D-45th District) and Delegate Rip Sullivan (D-48th District). Scott McCaffrey, Editor of the *Sun Gazette*, served as the moderator for the event.

In sharing their reflections on leadership lessons learned, many of the legislators began by commending the attendees. Senator Favola and Delegate Hope mentioned their sincere admiration for all the community leaders in the room. Delegate Krupicka revealed, "This is my favorite event that I do every year. I find it very interesting and your questions valuable."

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

- Senator Ebbin - Persistence and collaboration
- Senator Favola - Collaboration and relationship building
- Delegate Hope - Relationship maintenance and focusing on the end goal, not the credit
- Delegate Krupicka - "Seed planting" in which you plant many opportunities to see what grows
- Delegate Sullivan - Patience

In discussing the ways they individually and collectively impact change at the Virginia General Assembly, it was clear to the legislators that working well with others is a necessary leadership trait. Senator Favola and Delegate Krupicka shared strong views on the benefits of collaboration. Senator Favola discussed how she worked to tackle two difficult and controversial issues this session. By working with others across party lines, identifying the commonalities applicable to all regarding the issues and acknowledging the diverse views of others, she was more successful in creating greater dialogue around these pressing matters. Similarly, Delegate Krupicka shared that his primary leadership lesson from the session was "knowing when the best strategy is to give someone else the idea and step away from it." By emphasizing the issue as the main concern rather than who receives the credit, more is accomplished because "you create a space where people can really collaborate to work on harder issues."



Senator Favola was very passionate about the importance of collaboration.



Delegate Sullivan enthusiastically shared his leadership lessons as the "newbie" of the legislators in attendance.

Session efficiency was another hot topic for the legislators. Senator Ebbin described the session as efficient because higher priority issues were dispatched during the earlier part of the session. Delegate Hope concurred, adding, "You want to control some of the silliness we've seen over the years - protesting, etc." Efficiency has always been an issue at the Virginia General Assembly due to the short amount of time available for legislators to make change happen. Delegate Sullivan described it as "like having children. You're never really prepared. You think you are, but no." He shared this year's session was better prioritized and organized, allowing for leaders to make the most out of the short time together.

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

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About Leadership Arlington

The mission of Leadership Arlington is to enlighten, inspire and connect leaders to strengthen the community. The vision of Leadership Arlington is a prepared, inspired and inclusive leadership who together embrace responsibility for the common good. For more information, visit www.leadershiparlington.org or call 703-528-2522.

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