

**2010 VFC Fall Legislative Board Meeting  
Invited Speakers**

**Dana Dickens  
President & CEO  
Hampton Roads Partnership**

E. Dana Dickens, III was appointed President & CEO of the Hampton Roads Partnership on January 7, 2005. Dana is responsible for implementing the policies of the Partnership's Board of Directors and the general management of the Corporation.

Prior to coming to the Partnership, Dana was full time president/owner of First Service Insurance, providing life and health insurance, retirement services, and accident insurance for public schools in Virginia.

Dana has a distinguished background in public service in Hampton Roads having served as Vice Chairman on the Suffolk Planning Commission, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Ordinances. Later he successfully ran for City Council and became the first ever "rookie" Councilman elected Mayor. He served two terms as Mayor of the City of Suffolk.

Dana served on the Board and Executive Committee of the Hampton Roads Partnership prior to being appointed as its third president. He also served on the Executive Committee of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance and served as Vice Chair of the Mayors and Chairs Caucus of Hampton Roads.

Other leadership positions include the Chairmanship of the Western Tidewater Water Authority and member of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. He was Chairman of the High Growth Coalition and had an active leadership role in working with the General Assembly and the shelter industry on growth issues. The Virginia High Speed Rail Development Committee and the Urban Land Institute have elected Dickens to their Board of Directors.

Selected by the Rotary Club as Suffolk First Citizen 2003, Dana was also presented the award of excellence for the Local Government Elected Official from a City with population over 50,000 at the 2003 Annual Conference of the Virginia Downtown Development Association. The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association selected him for their 2004 Leadership Award for excellence in Virginia planning. Dana was chosen Elected Official of the Year 2004 by the Virginia Downtown's Association, and served on the Virginia Municipal League's Legislative Committee. He also chaired the VML Finance Committee.

In 2006, Governor Timothy Kaine appointed Dana to the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Dana graduated from NC Wesleyan College with a BA Degree in history. He and his wife, Linda Kay Rankin Dickens, reside in the village of Eclipse, located in Northwest Suffolk.

**John O. Wynne  
Vice Chair  
Council on Virginia's Future**

John O. Wynne is the retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Landmark Communications, Inc., which has interests in newspapers, broadcasting, cable programming and electronic publishing.

Mr. Wynne is Rector, Board of Visitors, University of Virginia; former Chairman of the Board, University of Virginia Investment Management Company; Member of the Board of Trustees, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Member of the Board of Trustees, Eastern Virginia Medical School Foundation; Vice

Chairman of the Board, The Norfolk Foundation; Member and former Co-Chairman, Hampton Roads Partnership. He serves as Vice Chairman on the State appointed Council on Virginia's Future.

He is the Past Chairman of the Board of the Virginia Business Council; former Board Member and member, Executive Committee, University of Virginia Alumni Association; former Charter Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, Princeton University; former Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board at Princeton; former Co-Chair of Leadership Giving for Princeton's \$1.1 billion Anniversary Campaign (1995-2000); and former Co-Chair of the \$1.75 billion Aspire Campaign (2005-2007); former Trustee and member, Executive Committee of Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges; former Trustee and President, Board of Trustees, Norfolk Academy; former Director and Member, Executive Committee, National Cable Television Association; former Chair, National Satellite Programmers Group; former Member of the state-appointed State Council of Higher Education of Virginia; former Member and Vice-Chair, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters; former Chair, United Way of South Hampton Roads Capital Campaign; and former Director and President, Junior Achievement of Tidewater.

Awards – In 1997, Mr. Wynne received the Vanguard Award for Programmers from the National Cable Television Association, and the Governor's Award from the National Academy of Cable Programming for "his leadership and insight in making The Weather Channel the preeminent provider of weather information, and one of the most innovative and popular networks on television..."

In 2006, he received an award from the National Governor's Association for Distinguished Service to State Government for his work in creating and then helping to implement the Council on Virginia's Future, which focuses on developing a long-range strategy and performance management system for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 2009, as Vice Chairman of the Council on Virginia's Future, he received the EVGA Innovation in Government Award from Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, which celebrates the accomplishments of Virginians who have made distinctive contributions to the practice of government and to the well-being of Virginia's communities and citizens.

Mr. Wynne received his BA from Princeton University in 1967 and JD from the University of Virginia in 1971. Prior to joining Landmark Communications, Mr. Wynne was an attorney with the firm of Willcox & Savage in Norfolk. He is married to the former Susan Snodgrass. They live in Virginia Beach and have two living children and a granddaughter.

**Saphira Baker**  
**Founding Principal**  
**Communitas Consulting**

Saphira Baker has been working collaboratively with public and nonprofit agencies to improve communities for twenty years. She currently serves as the Founding Principal of Communitas Consulting, located in Charlottesville, Virginia, with clients throughout Virginia. At Communitas, Saphira brings diverse stakeholders together to build sustainable community change projects, builds stronger and more efficient organizations through strategic planning, and creates accessible and action-oriented research projects. Saphira's expertise includes health and human services, workforce development, civic engagement, education, and youth development. Previously, as Deputy Chief Administrator for Human Services for the City of Richmond, she was responsible for managing a \$92 million human services portfolio and coordinating community improvement efforts across agencies and sectors. Saphira has a forthcoming essay on "New Approaches for Large Scale Community Change: Local Government and Nonprofit Collaboration" coming out in this month in the *Stanford Social Innovations Review*. Saphira has a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a B. A. from Brown University. She is a Lecturer in Strategic Planning at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia. Additional information is available on her website, [www.communitasconsulting.com](http://www.communitasconsulting.com)

**Bessy Kong**  
**Senior Policy Advisor**  
**Office of Urban Policy**

Bessy is on assignment from HUD to the Office of Urban Policy. At HUD, she was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Programs, and Legislative Initiatives for the Office of Public and Indian Housing. While there she led policy initiatives on rent and income determination, deconcentration in the voucher program, domestic violence and many other issues affecting both the public housing and housing choice voucher programs. Previous to her work with HUD, Bessy was with Peace Corps where she served as Peace Corps Country Director in Namibia as well as chief of staff to the Director of Management. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines from 1975-1977. In addition to her government service, Bessy worked in Los Angeles, CA as a land use and environmental planner in which capacity she was involved with some of the largest developments in the City of Los Angeles; Playa Vista residential development, Porter Ranch planned community, and the Farmer's Market redevelopment. She eventually founded her own firm, Kong & Associates, specializing in land use planning for small and medium development companies and not-for-profit institutions. Bessy has a BA from Smith College and a Masters in Urban Planning from Columbia University.