

WMVA - Quarterly Issues Report, 2nd Quarter, April-June, 2020

Keeping you informed

Founded in 2019, the REFORM Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to dramatically reduce the number of people who are unjustly under the control of the criminal justice system. Jessica Jackson, Chief Advocacy Officer, Geoff Holtzman, Director of Communications and Erin Haney, National Policy Director, discuss their work in Virginia.

Gregory A. Poland, MD, Mary Lowell Leary Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, Director of the Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group, Editor-in-Chief of the medical journal Vaccine. Dr. Poland discussed the status of the coronavirus pandemic and what must happen before lockdowns and physical distancing can be eased. He offered recommendations on what to disinfect in homes, whether surgical masks are useful for the general public, what to do about summer vacation plans, and other steps to take to avoid the virus.

Dan Stockdale, Licensed Healthcare Executive in seven states, Certified Nursing Home Administrator, Certified Assisted Living Administrator. Nursing homes and retirement communities have been an intense focal point for the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Stockdale outlined the steps that nursing homes across the country have taken to protect their residents and staff. He explained what families and others can do to help during this time of social isolation.

Issues covered: Criminal justice system, Coronavirus , Personal Health, Government Regulations, Senior Citizens.

This show aired on April 4, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

Steve Light, Director of Public Affairs, discusses the importance of contractors, property owners, and those planning any kind of excavation or digging calling 811 before any digging project. Optometrist Dr. Linda offers advice about children's eye health.

Ken Johnson, PhD, Senior Demographer at the Carsey School of Public Policy and Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. As the coronavirus pandemic spreads across the country, those living in rural areas are increasingly threatened. Prof. Johnson said that people in rural areas are often more reliant on their neighbors than those who live in urban areas, through such things as volunteer fire departments and shared educational resources. He said hospitals and doctors are almost always further away in rural areas. He also discussed the potential impact to agriculture and other areas of the rural economy.

Ellie Hollander, President and Chief Executive Officer of Meals on Wheels America. Ms. Hollander talked about the effect the coronavirus pandemic has on Meals on Wheels and the elderly citizens they serve. She said for many elderly clients, Meals on Wheels volunteers are the only people a senior may see on a given day, so families often depend on them to monitor their loved one's day to day welfare. She explained how someone can volunteer or make a cash donation to help.

Issues covered: Children's Eye Health, Coronavirus, Rural Concerns, Agriculture, Senior Citizens, Volunteerism.

This show aired on April 11, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate the disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Carter Harrison, Director of Public Policy for the Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association discusses the disease's impact.

David Spiegel, MD, Willson Professor and Associate Chair of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, Director of the Stanford Center on Stress and Health. A recent poll found that half of Americans are now suffering mental health issues as a result of the economic shutdown and coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Spiegel outlined the multiple challenges faced by every American during the crisis. He said he expects the mental health effects to be a long-term issue, including increased rates of suicide. He offered tips for coping.

Maureen Mahoney, Policy Analyst, Consumer Reports. From fake cures for coronavirus to phishing emails and phony websites, scammers are taking advantage of consumers' fear as the virus spreads. Ms. Mahoney talked about the way authorities have handled a recent wave of robocalls. She explained how consumers can recognize the signs of a spoofed phone number, or a text or social media message sent by a scammer.

Issues covered: The Impact of Alzheimers, Mental Health, Suicide, Coronavirus, Crime , Consumer Matters.

This show aired on April 18, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

Amy David, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Supply Chain and Operations Management at Purdue University. As store shelves emptied and consumers became frustrated at being unable to get basic supplies during the coronavirus pandemic, many blamed hoarders. Dr. David explained the real reasons behind the shortages, and how the supply chain for food and most other products is much more complex and brittle than most people realize. She talked about ways to build flexibility and redundancies into a supply chain.

Brian Walsh, Certified Financial Planner at SoFi, a personal finance company. Mr. Walsh outlined prudent financial steps Americans should take to protect themselves during the COVID-19 economic tailspin. He discussed scenarios for those who are unemployed, those who are worried about their jobs and those who have received stimulus checks.

Issues covered: Consumer Matters, Coronavirus, Personal Finance, Government Stimulus.

This show aired on April 25, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

The American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), represents the roadway safety infrastructure industry with effective legislative advocacy, traffic control safety training, and a far-reaching member partnership. ATSSA helps shift the focus of transportation towards saving lives and reducing injuries. Roger Wentz, President/CEO and Dave Krahulec, President of ATSSA Foundation, discuss traffic safety.

Rick Seaney, CEO of FareCompare.com. A recent poll found that nearly half of all Americans are ready to travel the moment the pandemic fears are over. Mr. Seaney discussed the current state of air travel. He said, although the current travel outlook is bleak with few flights in the air, there are numerous bargains for consumers who are willing to buy tickets for use later in the year.

Amanda Kubista-Owen, social worker with Mayo Clinic Health System. Among the unintended consequences of government-ordered lockdowns, Ms. Kubista-Owen said cases of domestic violence and child abuse are becoming more frequent, more severe and more dangerous. She offered advice to those dealing with abusive relationships and said that resources are still available to help victims, despite the pandemic.

Issues covered: Traffic Safety, Consumer Matters, Transportation, Coronavirus, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Coronavirus.

This show aired on May 2, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources is the State Historic Preservation Office. Their mission is to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia's significant historic architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. Guests are Julie Langan, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Elizabeth Tune, director of DHR's Preservation Incentives Division and James Hare, director of DHR's Survey and Register Division.

Benjamin Domb, MD, orthopedic surgeon, Founder and Medical Director of the American Hip Institute & Orthopedic Specialists in suburban Chicago. Dr. Domb said a secondary health care crisis is now brewing. He believes it threatens to be much larger than the crisis caused by COVID-19 itself, after the complete stoppage of all non-urgent procedures such as most surgeries, annual mammograms, routine blood tests and cancer screenings.

Eric Groves, Co-Founder and CEO of Alignable, a social network for local businesses. Mr. Groves shared the results of his organization's recent polling, which found that 34% of small businesses nationwide won't be able to pay their May rent in full, as a result of the government-mandated lockdowns. He said retailers, travel, restaurants and personal services businesses are suffering the most, as more than 44% of all small businesses have been shuttered. He also discussed government aid that is available to help small businesses.

Issues covered: Stewardship of our Historic Resources, Public Health, Government, Coronavirus, Small Business, Economy, Unemployment .

This show aired on May 9, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

Agriculture is Virginia's largest private industry by far with an economic impact of \$70 billion annually providing more than 334,000 jobs in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services promotes the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, provides consumer protection and encourages environmental stewardship. Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, discusses their programs.

Lisa M. Brosseau, PhD, expert on respiratory protection and infectious diseases, Certified Industrial Hygienist, former Director of the Illinois Education and Research Center and the Director of the Center for Healthy Work, both at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health. Prof. Brosseau spent decades studying the efficacy and fit of surgical masks and respirators, and the airborne transmission of infectious disease. She said there is no scientific basis for the general public to use cloth masks to prevent COVID-19. She explained why there is a great difference between the use of masks in medical settings vs going to the grocery store. She is concerned that authorities who are ordering the use of bandanas and the like are not taking the issue seriously, and that masks may cause the public to disregard physical distancing.

Prathit A. Kulkarni, MD, Infectious Diseases Section, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Kulkarni explained the basics of contact tracing and why experts believe it will be an effective weapon in the fight against COVID-19. He said the exact number of contact tracers hired by the government will depend on the population and severity of the outbreak in each geographic area.

Issues covered: Agriculture, Consumer Services, Health, Government, Coronavirus.

This show aired on May 16, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veterans' families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world.

James J. Duane, Professor at Regent Law School in Virginia Beach, VA, author of "You Have the Right to Remain Innocent." Prof. Duane explained the importance of the Fifth Amendment. He believes it is a constitutional right not clearly or widely understood by the average American. He explained why he advises everyone to never answer questions from law enforcement officers without legal representation. He believes when someone is wrongfully convicted of a crime they didn't commit, often it is because of information they voluntarily gave to investigators.

Frank Lalli, investigative journalist, author of "Your Best Health Care Now: Get Doctor Discounts, Save With Better Health Insurance, Find Affordable Prescriptions." Mr. Lalli shared his personal story: after he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a treatable form of blood cancer, he put his reporter's instincts to work and got the wonder drug he needed at an affordable price—thousands of dollars less than he was told he would have to spend. He explained how to negotiate doctors' fees and how to search for assistance in paying for medications.

Issues covered: Veteran Care, Constitutional Rights, Legal Matters, Crime, Personal Health, Consumer Matters.

This show aired on May 23, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

Award-winning country artist Stokes Nielson, who grew up in Dougherty County, is leading a nationwide effort of recovered COVID-19 survivors who are donating their life-saving plasma to COVID-19 patients in critical care. Stokes discusses his +2 Project which works with community blood banks like Georgia's Blood Assurance and Atlanta Blood Services, to ensure COVID-19 survivors can safely and efficiently be empowered to donate their antibodies.

Paul A. Offit, MD, Director of the Vaccine Education Center and Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, co-inventor of the rotavirus vaccine. Dr. Offit discussed the race for a COVID-19 vaccine. He talked about the various strategies that vaccine researchers are pursuing and what the biggest challenges are. He said the typical vaccine takes 20 years to develop. He believes the chances are low that a vaccine will be available by the end of 2020, even with unprecedented resources poured into the research. He expects that there will eventually be multiple vaccines using different approaches because of the great number of companies and government agencies engaged in research.

Bob Bixby, Executive Director of the Concord Coalition, a nationwide, non-partisan, grassroots organization advocating generationally responsible fiscal policy. Mr. Bixby discussed the rapidly expanding national debt. He said although he is a deficit hawk, he believes that the US government has little choice than to pour trillions of dollars into the economy in response to the current economic tailspin. He believes the increased spending should be temporary and carefully targeted, and that taxes will almost certainly have to rise in future years. He talked about the path to recovery, once the COVID-19 crisis has passed.

Issues covered: Coronavirus, Vaccines, Government.

This show aired on May 30, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America provides support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide. President/CEO, Charles Fuschillo, offers guidance on taking care of someone with Alzheimer's during COVID.

Colleen Tressler, Senior Project Manager, Division of Consumer and Business Education, Federal Trade Commission. Health experts say that contact tracing helps to stop the spread of COVID-19. However, Ms. Tressler noted that scammers, pretending to be government contact tracers, are sending text messages that contain links to malware, to hijack an unsuspecting consumer's computer or phone. She explained how to recognize a scam and how to report one to the FTC.

George Zaidan, science communicator, television and web host, author "Ingredients: The Strange Chemistry of What We Put in Us and on Us." Mr. Zaidan discussed the often-unsettled science surrounding food and health, and why the health aspects of processed food are so controversial. He explained how consumers can try to judge the credibility of media reports about nutrition and food. He also discussed the safety of chemicals that we use on our bodies, such as sunscreen.

Issues covered: Alzheimer's Disease, Consumer Matters, Crime, Coronavirus, Nutrition.

This show aired on June 6, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

Virginia has produced some of the best music talent in the world and has a rich musical heritage. That heritage is preserved in 2 museums; Birthplace of Country Music Museum in Bristol and the Virginia Musical Museum in Williamsburg. Dr. Rene Rodgers, head curator at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum and Buddy Parker, Director of the Virginia Musical Museum, discuss Virginia's role in the history of music.

Mark Votruba, PhD, Associate Professor of Economics in the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. Prof. Votruba was the co-author of a study that examined how layoffs and unemployment may affect crime rates. He found that workers who were let go through no fault of their own experienced a 60% jump in property crimes charges and an overall 20% increase in criminal-charge rates in the year after losing their job. He talked about the possible reasons behind this finding, and how it can be remedied.

Allan J. Hamilton, MD, Harvard-trained brain surgeon, Regents' Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, author of "Younger Next Year": and "Younger Next Year for Women." Dr. Hamilton discussed a wave of encouraging new research suggesting ways to prevent Alzheimer's disease and cognitive decline. He discussed the importance of exercise in generating the growth of new brain cells, and said that it can even result in significant increases in IQ. He explained how women's brains age differently than men, and why preventative steps are even more important for women.

Issues covered: Museums of Virginia, Alzheimer's Disease, Physical Fitness, Aging, Unemployment, Crime.

This show aired on June 13, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

The PKD Foundation is the only organization in the U.S. solely dedicated to finding treatments and a cure for polycystic kidney disease (PKD). They fund research, education, advocacy, support, and awareness on a national and local level. Chris Rusconi, Chief Research Officer, discusses their work.

Philip Moeller, author of "Get What's Yours for Medicare: Maximize Your Coverage, Minimize Your Costs." Health costs are the biggest unpredictable expense for older Americans, who are turning 65 at the rate of 10,000 a day. While Medicare guarantees them affordable health insurance, few Americans know what Medicare covers and what it doesn't, what it costs, and when to sign up. Mr. Moeller explained why Medicare has become so confusing, and how people approaching retirement can understand these complex and important choices.

Caitlin Shetterly, author of "Modified: GMOs and the Threat to Our Food, Our Land, Our Future." GMO products are among the most consumed and the least understood substances in the United States today. Ms. Shetterly shared her personal story of how GMOs affect her family's health. She explained why consumers should learn more about GMOs and why organic foods can be a sensible choice.

Issues covered: Kidney Disease, Medicare, Senior Citizens, Health Care, Food Safety, Personal Health, Consumer Matters.

This show aired on June 20, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keeping you informed

Traffic crashes are one of the leading causes of injury and fatality in the nation but. Most can be prevented. The Virginia Highway Safety Office strives to foster safe behaviors on the Commonwealth's roadways through effective, innovative initiatives. John Saunders is Director of the VA Highway Safety Office.

Suze Orman, personal finance expert, author of "The Ultimate Retirement Guide for 50+: Winning Strategies to Make Your Money Last a Lifetime," host of the "Women & Money" podcast. Ms. Orman discussed strategies to save for retirement, especially in the aftermath of the economic upheavals caused by the coronavirus lockdowns. She explained why she believes that Americans should plan to work until age 70. She also explained why those saving for retirement should be using Roth IRAs and 401ks to save for retirement, rather than traditional IRAs.

David Geary, PhD, Curators Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences in the College of Arts and Science at The University Of Missouri. Significantly fewer men than women are attending college or pursuing other forms of post-high school education. Prof. Geary led a study that found the primary cause is boys' poor reading skills in adolescence. He said the reading gap between boys and girls is detectable from the very beginning of schooling, even in preschool.

Issues covered: Highway Safety, Retirement Planning, Personal Finance, Consumer Matters, Education, Literacy.

This show aired on June 27, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.