

Feb. 15, 2017

Thomas A. Silvestri

President and Publisher, Richmond Times-Dispatch

Vice President, Richmond Group, BH Media Group

In 2017, Tom celebrated 40 years in newspapers, including 35 at the Richmond Times-Dispatch or its parent companies.

In June 2012, BH Media Group named Tom to its leadership team as the vice president of its new Richmond Group. The appointment occurred shortly after Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway acquired the Richmond Times-Dispatch and 62 other newspapers and publications that were owned by Richmond-based Media General Inc.

Under Media General, Tom was leader of the Richmond Media Group, which includes the Richmond Times-Dispatch, TimesDispatch.com, Richmond Suburban News and Richmond.com. Under his watch, the Public Square has become a nationally recognized initiative in the importance of civil discourse on issues of importance to a community.

In January 2005, Tom became president and publisher of The Times-Dispatch, which was in the midst of transforming from a regional newspaper into a full-fledged multimedia source of high-quality news, advertising and commentary delivered where and when the customer wants it.

Prior to rejoining The Times-Dispatch, he had been president of Media General's community newspapers, responsible for 20 daily newspapers, more than 25 weeklies in five Southeastern states.

An advocate for the importance of journalism, Tom is a former deputy managing editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, where he helped create three news departments and several stand-alone sections, and launched a training program that attracted national attention for its breadth and reality-based approach. Before joining The Times-Dispatch in 1982, Tom was a reporter and editor for the Gannett Westchester (N.Y.) Newspapers.

Tom received a Bachelor of Arts from Pace University (Pleasantville, N.Y.) and holds a Master in Business Administration degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has held many officer posts in helping non-profit organizations, including past chair of the Greater Richmond Chamber, the American Press Institute, Leadership Metro Richmond and the Capital Region Collaborative. In 2013-2015, he served as president and chair of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association. In 2013, he also was inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame. He is also a frequent speaker, moderator and emcee for community and industry events.

He and his wife, Sue Kurzman, live in Richmond, with their two cats, Choo-Choo and Lou-Lou. Tom's annual resolution is to get a hobby.

