

2012–2014 OFFICERS

Edward J. Lopez—President
BB&T Distinguished Professor of Capitalism
Western Carolina University
College of Business
Cullowhee, NC 28723

Lawrence W. Kenny—Past President
Professor of Economics
University of Florida
Warrington College of Business
Gainesville, FL 32611

PAST PRESIDENTS:

Nicholas R. Miller
University of Maryland – Baltimore County

Randall G. Holcombe
Florida State University

Steven J. Brams
New York University

Geoffrey Brennan
Australian National University

Bernard Grofman
University of California, Irvine

Michael C. Munger
Duke University

Robert D. Tollison
Clemson University

John A. Ferejohn
New York University

Vernon L. Smith
Chapman University

Peter C. Ordeshook
California Institute of Technology

Dennis C. Mueller
University of Vienna

John O. Ledyard
California Institute of Technology

Charles Plott
California Institute of Technology

Gordon Tullock
George Mason University

James M. Buchanan
George Mason University

2012–2014 DIRECTORS

Georg Vanberg
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Daniel Sutter
Troy University

Peter T. Calcagno
College of Charleston

Noel D. Campbell
Central Arkansas University

Joshua C. Hall
Beloit College

Dear Friends and Members of the Public Choice Society:

We are deeply saddened this day to report that James M. Buchanan, who co-founded the Public Choice Society, has passed away this morning after a short illness. Jim was an intellectual inspiration, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

It is fitting to reproduce a few lines from Professor Buchanan's 2003 [essay](#), "Public Choice: The Origins and Development of a Research Program," in which he describes the role that he, Gordon Tullock, and others played in founding our Society.

"Our book [The Calculus of Consent] was well-received by both economists and political scientists. And, through the decades since its publication, the book has achieved status as a seminal work in the research program. The initial interest in the book, and its arguments, prompted Tullock and me, who were then at the University of Virginia, to initiate and organize a small research conference in Charlottesville in April 1963. We brought together economists, political scientists, sociologists, and scholars from other disciplines, all of whom were engaged in research outside the boundaries of their disciplines. The discussion was sufficiently stimulating to motivate the formation of a continuing organization, which we first called the Committee on Non-Market Decision-Making, and to initiate plans for a journal initially called Papers on Non-Market Decision-Making, which Tullock agreed to edit.

"We were all unhappy with these awkward labels, but after several annual meetings there emerged the new name "public choice," for both the organization and the journal. In this way the Public Choice Society and the journal Public Choice came into being. Both have proved to be quite successful as institutional embodiments of the research program, and sister organizations and journals have since been set up in Europe and Asia."

At the 50th anniversary conference next March, we will continue the tradition of intellectual inquiry that Professor Buchanan co-founded. We will also hold a special commemoration during plenary sessions.

Additional information is available in today's [New York Times obituary](#) and on several blogs and websites.

Please join me in expressing our deep condolences to Jim's loved ones.

Sincerely yours,



Edward J. Lopez
President, Public Choice Society
Professor of Economics
BB&T Distinguished Professor of Capitalism
Western Carolina University