

Newport News Mayor Sam Wallace or Susan Wallace

Relations to Other Characters

- **Representative Chase:** Very testy relations. The Representative endorsed Wallace's opponent in the last election, and actively worked to thwart Wallace's campaign. While acknowledging common points of economic interest, the two are otherwise deep political enemies despite sharing a similar party.
- **GBI CEO Brewer:** A required relationship for any mayor, the two have not always seen eye to eye on the need for climate resilience and particularly union support. However, the CEO understands that building up the shipyard for resilience could be a lucrative opportunity and has had a somewhat open mind on the future direction required for the shipyard and its workforce.
- **Substacker Carmichael:** Cordial relations. As a reporter at the *Daily Press*, Carmichael covered the mayoral campaign in a mostly balanced way. Now writing a Substack with *Virginia Stripes*, Wallace is curious how Carmichael will shape their opinions in the years ahead.
- **Union President McKinley:** Good relations but not an automatic ally. President McKinley has been focused on building up the voice of GBI workers, and in this way, is aligned with Wallace's goals of a vibrant and future-proofed economy for the region.
- **Admiral Reid:** Limited prior interactions.

Objectives

For this Newport News native, the demise of the shipyard would also be a loss of a way of life. It cannot happen. As with all politicians, **Wallace wants to win reelection**, and at the same time, would be extraordinarily thrilled if Representative Chase were to lose theirs, despite their positive influence on the House Armed Services Committee. Building a strong and vibrant GBI union is a hope, and minimizing scandalous coverage is an obvious goal as well.

Special Resources

Mayoral Campaign Fund (Mayor): \$500,000 will be added at the beginning of each scene to spend as small donations from the community roll in. Double down on your own campaign, even while burnishing or burning the reputations of allies and enemies, respectively.

Representative Daryl Chase or Denise Chase

Relations to Other Characters

- **Mayor Wallace:** Very testy relations. Representative Chase backed the previous mayor who was running for reelection, and actively worked to thwart Mayor Wallace's campaign. While acknowledging common points of economic interest, the two are otherwise political enemies.
- **GBI CEO Brewer:** A quiet if strong ally. The two are natural partners, with CEO Brewer often supporting the Representative's goals with the American Defense Project Super PAC, while the Representative has influenced naval and other defense contracts for the CEO. That said, it's a strategic relationship, and both understand when the two need each other when it comes to limiting the local union — and when they don't.
- **Substacker Carmichael:** Somewhat negative view of each other. Carmichael was not a muckraker as a journalist at the *Daily Press*, but did cover the Representative's reelection opponent far more extensively than Chase had desired. Now writing the *Virginia Stripes*, Chase is concerned that Carmichael might become even more of a loose cannon.
- **Union President McKinley:** Testy relations and not an ally. President McKinley has been focused on building up GBI's union, a cause that Chase is deeply worried will make the shipyard financially unattractive for national funding.
- **Admiral Reid:** Representative Chase has had extensive negotiations with Admiral Reid on all matters of Naval procurement over the past three years. The two have traditionally had something of a *détente*, and are not close friends.

Objectives

Like all politicians, **Representative Chase desperately wants to win reelection**, and Hurricane Helen is upending a carefully choreographed campaign. The Representative would also like to see Mayor Wallace lose election, with an ally once again running city hall. Keeping the union membership to small numbers and keeping scandals to a minimum are both on-going priorities.

Special Resources

Super PAC Funding (Representative): \$2,500,000 will be added at the beginning of each scene to spend as large dark money donors sign checks to the American Defense Project Super PAC. Double down on your own campaign, even while burnishing or burning the reputations of allies and enemies, respectively.

Griffith Barrett Industries CEO

Alexander Brewer or Alexandra Brewer

Relationships to Other Characters

- **Mayor Wallace:** A real nuisance, to be frank. The mayor's obsession with climate change as well as support for the union could threaten the entire future of the shipyard, and thus undermine GBI's most important business line. Brewer quietly funded Mayor Wallace's opponent (a fact unknown to Mayor Wallace), but was unsuccessful in halting Wallace's victory.
- **Representative Chase:** A quiet if strong ally. The pair are natural allies, with Brewer often supporting Representative Chase's goals with the American Defense Project Super PAC, while the Representative has influenced naval and other defense contracts for GBI. That said, it's a strategic relationship, and both understand when the two need each when it comes to limiting the local union — and when they don't.
- **Substacker Carmichael:** Limited prior interactions since Carmichael recently started the *Virginia Stripes* to cover GBI and other issues in Hampton Roads. Could be a great ally or foe depending on their ultimate influence.
- **Union President McKinley:** Deep antipathy. Brewer has successfully fought union efforts through Virginia's right-to-work laws, but McKinley seems hell bent on damaging GBI's long-term viability as a company. Reducing McKinley's influence is an always-on, important priority.
- **Admiral Reid:** Brewer and Admiral Reid have friendly ties given the close business interests of GBI with the Navy's strategy. Brewer has implied — but never said explicitly — that there would be an opening for the admiral on GBI's board of directors in the future.

Objectives

If in real estate the quip is "location, location, location", as CEO of a publicly-traded defense contractor, the equivalent is "stock price, stock price, stock price." **GBI's stock must move up** — and it's only going to get there with the the Navy's backing of as many new carriers that will pass through Congress. A strong stock price will ensure Brewer keeps their job.

Recurring Decisions

GBI Workforce Target: In each scene, Brewer must designate the target size of the shipyard workforce. The Pentagon generally expects 10,000 workers per carrier, but GBI can decrease or increase that number to heighten profits or show its commitment to a carrier as strategically desired. The number of union personnel can not be directly determined.

Special Resources

GBI Corporate Resources (CEO): Starts at \$100,000,000, and unlike all other characters, is *not* replenished each scene. Also unlike all other characters, the total amount is public given the listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange. Spending these resources negatively affects GBI's share price by demonstrating to Wall Street the inefficiency of the company. Balance making the right investments and burning the corporate coffers.

Virginia Stripes Substacker

Ryan Carmichael or Rhonda Carmichael

Relations to Other Characters

- **Mayor Wallace:** Cordial relations. Carmichael covered Mayor Wallace's last campaign in a mostly balanced manner as a reporter for the *Daily Press*, and has been energetic in covering early policies in their administration now on Substack.
- **Representative Chase:** Somewhat negative view of each other. Carmichael has not traditionally been a muckraker, but covered the Representative's reelection opponent far more extensively than Representative Chase desired as a reporter with the *Daily Press*. Now on Substack, the relationship is open for interpretation.
- **GBI CEO Brewer:** Limited prior interactions. Carmichael hopes to make a name for themselves covering GBI better than other writers, and this is a relationship that could build up the *Virginia Stripes* brand — or sink it.
- **Union President McKinley:** Cordial but limited relations. Carmichael's focus with their Substack has been on the military installations in the region, which has limited their coverage of unions dependent on but not directly related to the vagaries of the services.
- **Admiral Reid:** Limited to no interaction.

Objectives

In the tumultuous world of modern digital journalism, the currency of the realm in 2024 is subscribers. **You want to drive your subscribers as high as possible**, both to ensure your stories reach the widest possible audience and also to ensure your own financial livelihood in the always-churning media industry. Carmichael wants to make it nationally, and that's only going to come from a good local story.

Recurring Decisions

GBI Stock Price Prediction: As a service to subscribers, the *Virginia Stripes* newsletter analyzes GBI's business and offers a stock price prediction. In every scene, you will submit a prediction for GBI's next stock price, which will help or hurt subscriber numbers depending on how accurate it is.

Special Resources

Free Newsletter Analyses (Substacker): In each scene, Carmichael can write 3 articles positively or negatively on other characters (including themselves), as well as write about the shipyard. Unlike other resources, these issues are publicly announced to all players. Build up brands or burn bridges?

Local 9999 Union President Tobin McKinley

Relationships to Other Characters

- **Mayor Wallace:** Good relations and a regular ally. McKinley has been focused on building up the shipyard union, which in most cases is aligned with Wallace's vision for an economically dynamic and resilient Hampton Roads region that offers robust job opportunities for all citizens.
- **Representative Chase:** Testy relations, and much more distant than the relationship with Mayor Wallace. McKinley has tended to stay clear of national politics where Representative Chase spends the bulk of their time. Chase has not been an enthusiastic supporter of Local 9999 compared to Mayor Wallace.
- **GBI CEO Brewer:** Sworn enemy. Brewer has met once or twice with McKinley on union issues, but has remained aloof, and has actively thwarted the growth of the union in corporate-friendly Virginia. Brewer needs to respect the union's importance in protecting GBI's workforce and long-term health.
- **Substacker Carmichael:** Cordial but limited relations. Carmichael's focus with the *Virginia Stripes* Substack has been on the military installations in the region, which has limited their coverage of unions dependent on but not directly related to the vagaries of the services.
- **Admiral Reid:** Limited prior interactions.

Objectives

With such a lightweight organization in the midst of a terrible tragedy, **McKinley feels the deep need to build up the Local 9999 union into a more influential organization by growing membership.** McKinley has become something of a local political power broker, and increasingly sees the need for political friends in City Hall and on Capitol Hill. Like other locals, McKinley believes that limiting carrier contracts for Hampton Roads would be disastrous for the local economy, but if none of the jobs are union — does it really matter?

Special Resources

Union Membership Dues (Union President): Starts at \$2 million given the union's prior savings. Each scene, the union gains \$200 for each member of the union (Shipyard Employees x Union Membership Rate). Thus, 5,000 union members equates to \$1,000,000 in dues.

Admiral

Martin “Marty” Reid or Martha Reid

Relations to Other Characters

- **Mayor Wallace:** Limited prior interactions.
- **Representative Chase:** Admiral Reid has had extensive negotiations with Representative Chase on all matters of Naval procurement over the past three years as the military counterpart to the Secretary of the Navy. The two have traditionally had something of a détente, and are not close friends.
- **GBI CEO Brewer:** CEO Brewer and Reid have friendly ties given the close business interests of the company with the Navy’s strategy. Reid wants carriers for the fleet; Brewer wants carriers to build in order to make profit. There is an implied exit from the Navy for Reid, as several retired flag officers have joined Griffith Barrett Industries as paid advisors.
- **Substacker Carmichael:** Limited prior interactions.
- **Union President McKinley:** Limited prior interactions. Reid has no strong views on America’s labor policy, but serves at the pleasure of the president, and right now, the president is pro-labor. Reid is attuned to the political dynamics and what is needed to get stuff done.

Objectives

As the highest commissioned naval officer in America, Admiral Reid is acutely aware of how Washington works and what it takes to get the fleet the Navy needs. Reid has always played the long game, and is striving to make it to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, which requires an endorsement from the president and from the Senate. **Reid needs to get a carrier deal — any deal — through the Senate, and hopes to get as many carriers as possible without having the deal scuttled entirely.** They will accept an approved zero carriers over a failed deal.

The president has demanded a majority of shipyard jobs be union in swing state Virginia. It’s that or retirement.

Recurring Decisions

Number of Contracts: In several scenes, the Admiral can update their ask to Congress on how many carrier contracts to fund in Hampton Roads. Increasing the number of contracts lowers the probability of passage and vice versa. The number of contracts that can be requested ranges from 0 to 3.

Special Resources

Public Affairs Officers (Admiral): The Admiral has been assigned 3 public affairs officers (PAOs). Each scene, the Admiral can assign each of the 3 officers to help or hurt any key metric or to discuss the shipyard.