



# VIRGINIA JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Henrico County, Virginia  
May 19, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

## MINUTES

### Present:

**Beth Mohler Stinnett**, President; **Robert Bermingham**, Immediate Past President and Legislative Liaison; **Ronald Telsch**, Secretary; **Robert Foster**, Blue Ridge District Chair; **Marie Bristow**, Capital District Chair; **Scott Warner**, Awards Committee Chair; **Gary Conway**, Editorial/Publications Chair; **Lewis Wright**, Bylaws Committee Chair; **Katherine Farmer**, Institute Planning Chair; **Bill Harrell**, 2006-07 VaLORS Campaign Chair; **Katherine Grimm**, Tidewater Vice Chair; and **Tammy Deihl**, Northern District Secretary.

### Not Present:

Jim Woolf, Vice President; Donna Baker, Treasurer; R. Lynn Dotson, Northern District Chair; Samantha Higgins, Valley District Chair; P. Doug Poe, Southwest District Chair; Paul Gregg, Tidewater District Chair; Rick Teague, Scholarship Committee Chair; Sheila Hightower, Public Relations Committee Chair; Diane Floyd, Training Consultant; Richard Hagy, Standards & Benefits Chair; Brigette Peterson, Grants Committee Chair; and, Tina Casper, Website Committee Chair.

### In Session:

President Stinnett called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

### General Announcements:

Mr. Rodney Hubbard will be returning to work at the beginning of June; Mr. Kevin Moran is also back at work; DJJ Leadership/Management Conference was well attended by VJJA members (nearly ninety members in attendance); JDAI Conference was also well attended by VJJA members; several management changes within DJJ were recognized; and, Mr. Doug Poe and Mr. Ronald Telsch recently spoke at national conferences.

Ron Jordan and Bill Elwood – Advantus – presented later during the meeting.

### I. Minutes of Last Meeting

Mr. Birmingham made a motion to dispense with the reading of and accept the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

A letter that was sent to Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Director Green on behalf of the Association was distributed by President Stinnett.

## **II. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Baker, Treasurer, was not present. President Stinnett made the following report: as of 4/30/2006, the General Account balance was \$11,470.86, and the Institute Account balance was \$26,081.01. Ms. Bristow made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Mr. Foster seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. (See attached.)

## **III. District Reports**

- A. Tidewater: Ms. Grimm reported that the well-attended (175 participants) 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference went well with featured speaker, John Rosemond, a parenting expert. A half-day training is set for June 16<sup>th</sup> on Cultural Diversity. Mr. Harrell was honored for his legislative efforts. Ms. Diane Floyd was honored for her past leadership in serving as Conference Planning chair for the past fifteen (15) years.

The Tidewater District has approximately 480 members (the highest in the state and 47% of the total association membership).

- B. Capital: Ms. Bristow reported they are holding a gang training session on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and a free gift is being offered for membership renewal. While, their local advisory board is still being formed, two appointments have been made: Matt Bond, 14<sup>th</sup> CSU, Legislative Coordinator and Katherine Farmer, 14<sup>th</sup> CSU, Training Coordinator. The annual Crab Feast training will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup>. A free gift is being offered for membership renewal at the gang training session. They may possibly invite local representatives and other elected officials to their annual crab feast training. Copies of their local advisory board meeting minutes were distributed.

The Capital District has approximately 142 members.

- C. Valley: President Stinnett reported on behalf of Ms. Higgins and distributed her report on activities in the Valley District. This District submitted a formal request for training funding to assist the District in providing a day-long mini-conference on methamphetamine abuse/manufacture and its impact on families and children. The district has raised some matching funds already. Mr. Foster moved and Ms. Bristow seconded to approve the district request for \$1000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

The Valley district has 98 members.

- D. Blue Ridge: April 28<sup>th</sup> the District co-hosted a gang training session. Mr. Foster reported all is progressing well.

The Blue Ridge District has approximately 79 members.

- E. Northern: Ms. Dehr reported that on June 13<sup>th</sup> a training session entitled "Who Moved My Cheese" on relaxation and stress, including a membership drive will be conducted at the Ferlazzo building in Manassas.

The Northern District has approximately 138 members

- F. Southwest: Mr. Poe was not present but presented his report via President Stinnett and presentation of a videotape from a television news report on their recent training on Sexually Aggressive Children. A written report was distributed.

The Southwest District has approximately 86 members.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Legislative Liaison**

Mr. Ron Jordan and Mr. Bill Elwood from Advantus were introduced by Mr. Harrell to discuss their perspective on our Request for Proposal for lobbyists to assist our VaLORS campaign. Although the company declined to offer their services, they wanted to personally present why they think we do not have a high probability for success.

Mr. Jordan presented that the Legislature would be more inclined to downsize VaLORS and not increase it presently. A potential backdoor approach might be to change the code section that identifies parole officers, rather than addressing this as a retirement system statute change. However, the \$4 million cost would remain the same, and would be identified in any budget impact statement.

Mr. Elwood indicated that the issue is not equity in terms of job function, but rather it is a funding/benefits issue related to VRS. He further addressed the difficulty of coordinating such an effort between the Senate, House, and Governor's Office. Although the inequity is recognized, there is no strong consensus to fix it by adding personnel to the system; rather, the preference may be to exclude positions already in the system. Changes in GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Practices) may require the state to openly book its finances in a different manner, which would also bring additional scrutiny to the true cost of our request.

Mr. Jordan discussed other options as the state examines the potential change from a Defined Contribution plan to a Defined Benefit plan. He mentioned one possibility of proposing an enhanced VaLORS benefit provided directly through affected employees' contributions. Also, some traction may be made by identifying employees who are essential versus non-essential personnel as far as governmental designation. They referred us to the California Peace Officers Association to examine that association's efforts toward broader, less self-serving issues, and their relative success at influencing legislation there.

General discussion by the Board followed on our legislative efforts.

Mr. Harrell presented the association's remaining options at this time regarding VaLORS: withdraw our effort, pursue it on our own, and/or hire a lobbyist to assist us. Mr. Wright requested that we invite other lobbying firms to discuss this issue with the Board to hear other opinions.

Mr. Harrell asked the Board for its decision on soliciting member funds for a lobbying effort, but recommended that it be deferred until such time as we have definitively identified the purpose for the expenditure of such funds. Consensus was to delay deciding on the fund solicitation.

Mr. Harrell asked that committee members be assigned to the committee to assist him if we decide to continue our effort. President Stinnett will ask each District Chair to identify members willing to assist with VaLORS and other legislative efforts. Topical suggestions will also be solicited. It was further discussed that we should make effort to influence the two-year study examining juvenile justice issues currently requested by the General Assembly.

Consensus of the Board was that we will not drop our VaLORS effort, but that we should examine other issues we can support that may potentially assist and benefit our members in the juvenile justice system. There was agreement that we should pursue or

initiate child-focused legislation rather than maintaining a single issue presence.

B. Legislative Committee

Vacant.

C. Conference Planning Committee

The 2006 Fall Institute is in the final planning stages. Ms. Farmer indicated a conflict had developed with the conference's hotel arrangements. She needed to adapt the physical layout somewhat to accommodate certain elements of the conference, and a potential problem with the seating for the conference banquet. Mr. Greggs and his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee will have an on-going presentation during the conference showing the progress of the association over the last forty years. Multiple sessions, awards, prizes, gifts, and socials will be available. License plate frames will be given away as a VJJA advertising effort, along with briefcase bags and/or duffel/gym bags.

A call-for-presenters has been issued and responses have been favorable with more than fifty (50) proposals received. Twenty-four different workshops and additional plenary sessions will be offered. Plenary session speakers will include Ed Latessa, Marilyn Van Dieten and Fred Dyer. It was noted that the state travel rate for lodging for the Richmond Metro area has been increased to \$96.00 per night. Reservations may be made now to help us meet the guaranteed number of blocked rooms reserved for our conference. The Sheraton's switchboard number is 804.285.2000.

D. Public Relations Committee

President Stinnett distributed a proposed brochure and membership application being readied for professional printing. Each District was to examine the draft and send their comments to the President.

The Board was briefed on the concept of VJJA 'ambassadors' to present on behalf of the association and to solicit membership. Mr. Wright has developed a PowerPoint presentation to assist the effort. Such ambassadors would also include a speakers' bureau from among our membership.

Targeted membership areas included correctional center employees and under-represented CSU's, as well as other area-specific groups.

E. Bylaws Committee

Mr. Wright distributed proposed adjustments to the Bylaws that could be presented to the membership at the fall conference. In addition to the suggested changes presented, President Stinnett reported that Mr. David Smith, Valley District Vice-Chair, has suggested that the bylaws clearly reflect that elected district officers attending Board meetings may vote by proxy for an absent District Chair when representing their district.

Mr. Foster moved and Mr. Bermingham seconded proceeding with the proposed adjustments - approved unanimously.

Language for Mr. Smith's suggestion shall be prepared for the next Board meeting by Mr. Wright and to be reviewed and voted upon at that time.

F. Scholarship Committee

No report offered.

G. Awards

No report offered.

H. Editorial

Mr. Conway presented that we distributed the winter and spring issues successfully but we currently have an \$800 deficit with two more issues remaining for the year. Causes included postage, publication and printing increases. At this time no advertising has been purchased for the next issues.

Board consensus was that the Advocate is one of the tangible benefits of membership. It was also noted that we have not had a dues increase in over twenty years. Mr. Wright reminded the Board that the membership would need to vote on a dues increase. A suggestion was made to establish a conference surcharge to pay for the Advocate, but the conference fee already has been increased to provide for the events being planned. Another suggestion was made to place a surcharge on annual membership dues specifically to pay for the Advocate. Mr. Wright's notation regarding membership approval would also apply to any such increase. The option to receive the Advocate via the VJJA website with enhanced color graphics was discussed. It was also suggested that we solicit membership opinion on this matter during the membership drive which is starting soon.

It was agreed to increase the Advocate budget (up to an increase of \$5000) to cover expenses through the end of the year. It was also requested that we solicit the membership's opinion on receiving the Advocate electronically.

I. Standards and Benefits

No report offered, except a general expression of concern for identity theft and preserving confidentiality of children's social security numbers. Mr. Hagy will address this concern during our next meeting. A request was made by Mr. Hagy via President Stinnett to consider separating 'standards' from 'benefits' in our association committee structure due to the uniqueness of the two areas. Mr. Hagy is interested in remaining the (Program) Standards Committee Chair, but another member will be solicited to serve as Member Benefits Chair. The Member Benefits Committee will be an ad hoc committee until which time a change is made to the current bylaws.

J. Training Consultant

Ms. Floyd asks District chairs to submit training reports for data collection purposes for the Association. Also, on behalf of Ms. Floyd, President Stinnett reminded all Board members that Ms. Floyd is available as a resource when identifying potential speakers and contracting for and planning events.

K. Membership Committee

Ms. Higgins submitted a written report to the Board regarding current membership stats, renewals, new members, and our thousandth active member. The membership is currently at 1028. It was noted that 64% of our members are not eligible for the VaLORS retirement benefit. President Stinnett briefly reviewed the demographics and level of fluctuations within the association.

L. Website Committee

President Stinnett indicated a change in the Association website now includes a Board Member section. Contact her for the necessary password to have access to templates and so forth that Board members may need.

M. Grants Committee

No report offered.

III. Old Business

None.

IV. New Business

A. Non-profit status information is being gathered. No definitive direction was offered.

B. A new Corporate seal needs to be purchased.

C. Any Board member/District chair needing supplies should contact President Stinnett.

D. It was discussed that we continue to reach out to other groups and entities to form working partnerships for training, staff development, legislation, and so forth. President Stinnett has met with the CSUDA, VPPA, VCJD, VIDC, VCOPPA and others recently.

E. For assistance with District training events please contact Ms. Floyd.

F. We are working on a reciprocal agreement with DCJS to allow displays at each other's conferences. The question was posed if the Association should pursue purchasing a permanent display board/material for events. Consensus was to incur the necessary purchase expense and requests Ms. Hightower - Public Relations - develop such materials. President Stinnett told the board such a display will cost between \$500-1000. Ms. Bristow moved and Mr. Foster seconded pursuing our presence at this year's DCJS conference and it passed unanimously. Mr. Bermingham requested that we continue to monitor the benefit/return in membership associated with any such advertising/presentation effort.

G. It was approved by consensus to repeat our recognition of Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Week with similar expressions as last year. Moved by Mr. Bermingham and seconded by Ms. Bristow, the Board unanimously authorized \$300 in expenditures to assist the District chairs and President Stinnett in their activities honoring CSU staff, as is fitting and appropriate to do so.

### **Adjournment**

At 1:36 p.m., Mr. Bermingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foster and carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., at a location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted by,

***Ronald E. Telsch***  
VJJA State Secretary

Approved this **15th** day of **September, 2006**