



VIRGINIA JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12th District Court Service Unit, Chesterfield, VA
September 15, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

CIRCLE THOSE PRESENT:

Beth Mohler Stinnett, President; Robert Bermingham, Immediate Past President and Legislative Liaison; **Jim Woolf**, Vice President; **Ronald Telsch**, Secretary; Donna Baker, Treasurer; **R. Lynn Dotson**, Northern District Chair; Robert Foster, Blue Ridge District Chair, **Colleen French**, Blue Ridge District (Public Relations); **Samantha Higgins**, Valley District Chair and Membership Chair; **P. Doug Poe**, Southwest District Chair; **Marie Bristow**, Capital District Chair; **Paul Greggs**, Tidewater District Chair, Scott Warner, Awards Committee Chair; **Ellen Patterson**, District Officer; **Gary Conway**, Editorial/Publications Chair; **Lewis Wright**, Bylaws Committee Chair; **Katherine Farmer**, Institute Planning Chair, Rick Teague, Scholarship Committee Chair, **Sheila Hightower**, Public Relations Committee Chair; Bill Harrell, 2006-07 VaLORS Campaign Chair; **Diane Floyd**, Training Consultant; **Richard Hagy**, Standards & Benefits Chair; Brigette Peterson, Grants Committee Chair; Tina Casper, Website Committee Chair; Katherine Grimm, Tidewater Vice Chair; and Tammy Dehr, Northern District.

President Stinnett called the meeting to order at 10:10. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. **Deron Phipps**, Legislative Liaison with the Department of Juvenile Justice, was introduced. Colleen French, Blue Ridge District officer, was introduced. President Stinnett distributed a memorandum written by Steve Pullen, Deputy Director – DJJ, encouraging DJJ attendance at the Fall Institute. She presented a general review of current Commission on Youth initiatives, including Ombudsman legislation. Lastly, information was distributed for RoboCuff, one of our Fall Institute vendors, on a new product line they are offering at the conference. Copies of recent Board of Juvenile Justice agendas and minutes were distributed, as well as ICCA conference information

General Announcements:

I. Minutes of Last Meeting

Mr. Conway requested a correction to the minutes: “at this time no advertising has been....” Marie Bristow made a motion to dispense with the reading of and accept the minutes from the last meeting. Jim Woolf seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence Report

Material has been recently distributed regarding the upcoming conference inviting guests, speakers, and founding members to attend.

III. Treasurer's Report

Donna Baker, Treasurer, was not present and submitted a written report. As of 8/30/2006, the General Account balance was \$15,545.22; the Institute Account balance is \$25,089.69. Jim Woolf made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Marie Bristow seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. (See Treasurer's report attached.)

Individual District accounts were reported as follows (September 15, 2006):

Northern Virginia: \$511.44
Valley: \$306.49
Capital: approx. \$200
Blue Ridge: no report.
Southwest: \$1948.24
Tidewater: > \$47.50

There was a general discussion on tax status and options.

IV. New Business

A. 2007 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Deron Phipps presented an overview of Legislation currently being examined in Virginia, including Commission on Youth, Crime Commission, and JLARC studies, Supreme Court concerns, and proposals by the CSU Director's Association.

It appears few agency initiatives will be pursued. The Department of Juvenile Justice is addressing the Interstate Compact for Juveniles issue.

He presented general comments on Association support for upcoming bills and the process of patron selection, and other professional guidelines to facilitate our legislative agenda.

Mr. Telsch proposed that VJJA offer its members instruction/training to help mobilize and overcome reluctance to lobby for bills and approach legislators.

Mr. Woolf reported that the final result on our VaLORS legislative support survey was 95 responses with 90 yes, 89 pledges totaling \$2,821 with 5 voting no.

B. Year End Report (Fiscal or Calendar)

President Stinnett proposed that we assemble a year-end report to document association activity for the preceding year to remain with our historical records.

C. Mission, Goals and Work Group Discussion

Ms. Higgins distributed membership talent assessment material to the District chairs/representatives present.

D. Special 40th Anniversary Observances and Awards

Mr. Greggs reviewed the photo archive he has collected and is in the process of scanning pictures electronically and now has 838 slides on one diskette. We will have a Hall of Memories at the Fall Institute where the slides will display continuously, along with other artifacts.

The possibility of giving lifetime memberships to the charter members was introduced.

E. Membership Dues

The Board discussed proposing a general dues increase to the membership at this year's fall institute conference. It was approved by the Board to recommend increasing dues to \$20 annually for numerous reasons to be presented to the membership. See notes under the Editorial Committee report.

F. Proposed Legislative Interests

Office of Children's Services Ombudsman: Mr. Telsch gave an overview of his personal involvement with this piece of legislation.

Prescription Funding: similar to children who have received psychiatric hospital services are entitled to continuing free medication, Mr. Telsch suggested that we pursue similar legislation for DJJ/court-involved children.

V. Old Business

A. **DCJS Conference:** Ms. Higgins and President Stinnett reported that a booth was established at this conference and it generated several memberships and positive information sharing.

B. **Probation and Parole Recognition:** celebratory activities were again well received.

C. **Corporate Seal:** the new corporate seal has been ordered for official use in accordance with the bylaws. It will emboss paper and foil seals.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Awards and Recognition: Mr. Warner was not in attendance but asked President Stinnett to remind members that the recognition submission deadline is today at 5 p.m.

Mr. Woolf requested that we find an alternate award for significant others but for whom a lifetime membership seems inappropriate based on longevity of contribution. A request was made that Mr. Warner and Mr. Woolf develop criteria for Board review for a series of graduated awards.

- B. Benefits:

President Stinnett gave background information on how this committee was formulated and separated from the Standards Committee.

- C. Bylaws

Mr. Lewis presented bylaw changes for Board consideration and proposal to the membership.

Ia. The proposed change allows for mailed ballots rather than annual membership meeting voting. Motion was made by Marie Bristow to approve the change. Seconded by Paul Greggs. Motion carried.

IIIb. The proposed change allows for District Election Officers to conduct the business normally done by the elected officer to eliminate any potential conflict. Jim Woolf moved, Doug Poe seconded to approve and the motion carried.

VIIa. The proposed change is that a Standards Committee and Benefits Committee be established as separate entities within the association. The proposed change also establishes a Training Committee, a Web Site Committee, a Resource Development Committee, and to change the Editorial Committee to Publications Committee to properly reflect its current function within the association. Marie Bristow moved, Jim Woolf seconded, and the motion carried.

Ih. This proposal adds proxy voting for Class II officers at VJJA Board meetings by the District officers or substitute advisory members. Jim Woolf moved and Marie Bristow seconded, and the motion carried.

- D. Editorial

Mr. Conway discussed the expanding development of the *The Advocate* and a need to increase the permanent budget of the publication, or find alternatives, such as electronic-only publication.

The Board discussed several options: possible dues increases; online membership renewal; partial electronic/paper publication of The Advocate; corporate status for reduced tax benefits on mailings; possible payroll deduction function allowing for an easier increase of dues; and others. Membership increases must be approved by the membership at the annual meeting.

A motion was made to transfer funds from the Institute Account to cover any shortfall in funds for the fall issue of The Advocate for this year. Moved by Jim Woolf, seconded by Marie Bristow, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Woolf to submit to the membership a request to increase annual membership dues to \$20.00 beginning on July 1, 2007. Seconded by Marie Bristow. Motion carried.

E. Grants and Resources Development

No report offered.

F. Institute Planning

Ms. Farmer distributed information regarding the latest planning for the Fall Institute.

G. Legislative Committee

Mr. Bermingham reported via President Stinnett that he wishes to relinquish these duties as soon as practically possible.

H. Legislative Liaison

The honorary Citizen Legislator award given to VJJA has been issued to us and authorization for a purchase to frame the award was approved. Moved by Paul Greggs and seconded by Lynn Dotson was carried

I. Membership

Ms. Higgins gave a membership report. Members have been renewing at a customary rate, and a record number would be established if the outstanding renewals are processed. Currently, we had 672 members, 485 renewed, 187 new, and 542 not renewed to date.

J. Program Standards

Mr. Hagy indicated that DJJ Director Green is taking a position on offender re-entry through utilizing local detention home services (step-down transition during the last ninety days of commitment). He additionally spoke regarding mental health needs of children,

and the removal of social security numbers from detention face sheets.

K. Public Relations

Colleen French has agreed to serve in the Public Relations arena.

L. Scholarships

Scholarship Committee Chair Rick Teague was not able to attend the meeting, but submitted a written report. He reported that four of six appointments have been made to the 2006 Scholarship Application Review Team. They include: Bridges Radick Spiva, Blue Ridge District member, a former DJJ Regional Manager and current educator with Bedford County Schools; Kristy Lee, Southwest District member and employee of Lee County Department of Social Services; Christine Franchok, Northern District member and Truancy Specialist with Loudoun County Schools; and Dayna Hansen, Tidewater District member and employee of the Chesapeake District Court Service Unit. Each of the above is a past VJJA scholarship winner.

Through the end of August, six scholarship applications had been received. The committee will continue to accept applications through September 30. Applications and criteria can be downloaded from the association website.

President Stinnett made the Board aware that in his report, Rick pointed out that the amount of the VJJA scholarship(s) has remained at \$500 for several years. Given the rising costs of higher education (the current cost to take a graduate class at a state institution is now \$1000 – see attached spreadsheet) the committee respectfully recommended that the Board consider raising the scholarship amount, beginning with the fall 2007 awards. The suggested increase was to at least \$750, with a preference for an increase to \$1000. In President Stinnett's conversations with the committee chair, she said that he further explained that when the current amount, \$500, was designated, it was enough to cover a 3-credit hour graduate class and a textbook. That amount now covers half of a class.

Mr. Telsch recommended that the need to increase scholarship funds be presented to the membership along with the other justifications for the Board's recommended dues increase. Mr. Woolf concurred.

M. Training

Diane Floyd will be preparing a tally of all training offered during the year for general distribution.

N. Vendor Relations

Sheila Hightower reported on Vendor Relations being established during the Fall Institute. Cost for vendors is currently \$400.00 for early registration and \$425 for regular registration with sponsorships of various events additional.

O. Website

President Stinnett distributed information regarding the number of information acquisitions (hits and breadcrumbs) on our website. She also discussed the Board member access functions of the website. The password _____ was given to Board members.

V. **District Reports**

- A. Blue Ridge: Colleen French says the District is growing regardless the current turnover issues, and will be focusing on training.
- B. Capital: Marie Bristow reported Crab Feast training was successful, and that interagency cooperation is being developed.
- C. Northern: Ellen Patterson and Lynn Dotson reported membership and renewal activity. Training location changes may have helped increase attendance.
- D. Southwest: Doug Poe reported on current activity (training). President Stinnett will be doing a membership appreciation event for local members when she travels there next.
- E. Tidewater: Paul Greggs reported they held training on Cultural Competency recently. March 29/30 is the date for the Spring Conference.
- F. Valley: The Valley District held a one day Methamphetamine Conference in Staunton at the newly renovated Stonewall Jackson Hotel. There was a panel of six presenters and 63 participants attended. The training was very well received and generated much positive feedback.

Note: Mr. Telsch requests all District Chairs to send him an electronic (Word) copy of their written report for inclusion in the minutes (a paragraph or two) to more accurately reflect what each District is doing.

VI. **Additional Agenda Items**

Mr. Telsch made a request for funds from the President's Child's Advocacy Fund (Executive Committee); however, no funds are currently available.

Recognition of the issue of diversity among our Board and membership was expressed by Ms. Floyd, and general discussion followed.

Adjournment

At 2:46 p.m., Jim Woolf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Marie Bristow and carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., at the Fall Institute's Sheraton Hotel location.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronald Telsch
VJJA State Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2006.