

ADVOCATE

A PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

Summer 2006

History of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association

Part 4: 1996 – 2006

Envisioning the Future

(This is the fourth in a four part series on the history of VJJA.)

VJJA began its fourth decade with the installation of a new slate of officers: President – Lewis Wright; Vice-President – Jim Woolf; Secretary – Karen Wright; and Treasurer – Kathi Meenehan. Ron Belay rounded out the Executive Board as Immediate Past President.

1996 would see the most significant changes in juvenile justice legislation in 20 years in Virginia. In the legislative arena, VJJA supported post-dispositional detention, making it a felony to assault a juvenile probation or correctional officer, toughening the child support laws for committed youth, creating more halfway houses, and examining the after hours on-call issue for juvenile P.O.s. The Association also threw its emotional support behind VJJA member Eddie Fowler who, on February 9, received a successful heart transplant at Henrico Doctors Hospital in Richmond.

The Editorial Committee published three issues of the Advocate in 1996: Spring; Summer; and Fall. In the Spring issue, Editor Bob Truitt announced that he would not retire as editor as he had

previously announced in the Fall, 1995 issue because “circumstances changed enough to cause a rethinking of the original decision.” President Lewis Wright continued the tradition of a President’s column in the newsletter, changing the name of his column from ‘The Prez Sez’ to ‘On the Spot’ beginning with the Summer issue.



**“Celebrating 40 years
of advocating for
court-involved
children and the
professionals
who touch
their lives.”**

Much of 1996 was spent reacting to major Code revisions and gearing up for VJJA’s 30th birthday celebration held at the Sheraton Inn in Charlottesville, November 6-8. The Fall Advocate contained reminiscences from long time members about VJJA’s history. The theme of the annual conference was ‘Prescription for Mental Health – Ours and Theirs,’ with keynote speaker Steve Kissell presenting on how to reduce stress, increase job performance and improve employee morale. At conference time, the Association had 349 members and the following workshops were offered at the institute: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

History, continued on page 8

The Editor is currently on Summer Sabbatical. The following was originally printed in the July, 1997 issue of the Advocate.

Frumpy Old Men

By G. Conway

(A One Act Play for Three Very Old Actors)

The Year: 2026

The Scene: A hotel bar in suburban Richmond, VA. Two very old men, Ron Belay and Dave Marsden, sit slumped over their drinks at a corner table. They have been invited to Richmond to help VJJA celebrate its 60th Anniversary.

Ron Belay: Can you believe it? I drove my Harley all the way up here from Blacksburg for this shindig, and all they got to wash the bugs off my teeth is a 7-Up with a lemon twist? Who'd have thought that you wouldn't be able to get a scotch and water at a VJJA President's Reception?!

Dave Marsden: I went to the bathroom to get a beer out of the bathtub, and the only thing in the tub was a tub!

Ron: This outfit sure has gone to heck in a hand basket!

Dave: Not like the good old days, that's for sure . . .zzzzz. . .Not what it used to be. . .zzzzz. . . Not like the old gang. . .zzzzz. . .the old gang. . .zzzzz. . .

Ron: Wake up! Wake up, you old coot!

Dave: Huh?...What?...

Ron: Yeah, the old gang. I keep in touch. Saw Eddie Fowler last week.

Dave: How's Eddie doing?

Ron: The boy's doin' great! Thanks to modern science, he trades his heart in every three years, just like a leased Oldsmobile. He even got one of those chest zippers put in for easy installation.

Dave: I've read about those. . .I think.

Ron: Eddie sure likes the heart he's got now though. Used to belong to a woman professional golfer.

Dave: No kidding?

Ron: Yep. Eddie's golf game has never been better. Only problem is he can't parallel park worth a hoot.

Dave: Well what about Truitt?. . .Bob Truitt. He's dead, I guess.

Ron: Dead? Hardly! Last year, Bob hit the Powerball Lotto for 89 million bucks!

Dave: 89 million, you say! That must have really changed his lifestyle.

Ron: Right. If anything, Truitt is tighter now than he ever was. Still shoppin' those outlet malls; stayin' in a Motel 6; looking for a free lunch. In fact, when Bob dies his lawyer has written instructions to liquidate all his assets and sew the cash into Bob's casket liner.

Dave: You mean....?

Ron: That's right. Ol' Bob plans to take it with him. Not like Kathi Meenehan.

Dave: Kathi? What's going on with Kathi?

Ron: Shoot! You ain't heard about Kathi? You ain't heard about "Mosby's Pride?"

Dave: Mosby's Pride?...That's a horse isn't it?

Ron: A horse?! That horse won the Triple Crown last year. Meenehan owns that horse, and she's rollin' in it. Money, that is. Got a postcard from her last week. She's in the Virgin Islands, suckin' down them blue drinks with the umbrellas in 'em datin' guys half her age! That lady knows how to have a good time.

Dave: That's far out, it really is.

Ron: That's nothin'. Tracey Chiles and Luanne Blair are workin' as street mimes in San Francisco; Lewis Wright is a full-time disc jockey for the USO in Saudi Arabia; and Karen Wright is a lobbyist for the National Rifle

Views, continued on page 14



Beth's Blog

By VJJA President, Beth Stinnett

This is the time of year when every third e-mail message sent results in an “out of the office” auto reply; our colleagues’ way of rubbing it in our faces that they are on a sunny beach drinking a cocktail with an umbrella while we are back at the office. Worse than the out of the office replies, though, I once sent an e-mail to my co-workers from a cruise ship cyber café. I thought it was pretty nifty that an e-mail could be sent from the middle of the ocean. My co-workers were not as enamored by the high seas technology. I received an immediate reply threatening to cover my office in sand and suntan oil if I dared send another message. So, having learned my lesson, I resisted the temptation when I was standing under the live webcam at the Hog’s Breath in Key West last December to call the office to say, “Can you see me on the internet?” My favorite OOTO replies this year have been sent by Jim Woolf and Advocate Editor Gary Conway. Jim’s reply is always good for a laugh and will inform the reader where he can be found chasing a little white ball. Gary’s reply indicated he was on a “family trip.” I thought of previous Conway “family trips” that had been chronicled in the Advocate and knew immediately why he chose to use “family trip” instead of “vacation.” Remember the tale about his older son hooking his younger son while fishing?

With Gary’s replies as the exception, other OOTO’s have me longing to go on vacation and inspire visits to lastminutetravel.com and other vacation search sites. So, with the July 4th holiday approaching, I was looking forward to a nice, relaxing 4-day weekend ... but it wasn’t to be. Instead I spent the holiday at a Richmond area hospital where my husband underwent an emergency appendectomy.

The weekend had started off quite nicely, with a movie and an early dinner at Maggiano’s. There were plans for shopping after dinner, until my husband started complaining of abdominal pain. I initially thought the illness a bit convenient and wondered if it wasn’t a creative way to avert our shopping plans. I was certain I would find when we arrived home that a Red Sox game was being televised. But the pain turned out to be all too real and resulted in “last minute travel” to the emergency room at the local hospital. So, I traveled during the holiday; but I can assure you it wasn’t a destination listed

on any of the websites I visited and isn’t a travel package I’d recommend. Perhaps what appeared to be minimal hospital staffing during the holiday weekend contributed, but post-surgery patient care was near non-existent.

Among the more surprising things to me was the extent to which I needed to care for my husband. I found myself performing much of the care while the nursing staff spent most of their time, not in patient rooms, but at the nurses’ station. Don’t get me wrong. I was happy to provide the care, but what if I hadn’t been there? If despite my constant inquiries, it was two hours after surgery before my husband received his pain medication, how many hours would have passed if I had not been there? If I hadn’t been there retrieving ice water and saltines, how long would he have waited before his first post-surgery meal arrived? What type of care do patients receive when they don’t have the benefit of having a family member or friend present?

About now, you are likely wondering what any of this has to do with juvenile justice or VJJA (aside from the fact that I was at the same hospital where members Eddie Fowler and Rodney Hubbard got new hearts). It is not just that I’m miffed that while everyone else was grilling burgers and brats and enjoying fireworks, I was fetching a tray of beef broth and Jell-O, but rather that I began to realize my husband’s hospital experience was analogous to the plight of children who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, often without family members or others to advocate on their behalf. Without professionals actively advocating on their behalf, they are a population whose voice goes unheard and needs go unmet.

During this, our 40th year as an association, we’re using the working slogan, “Celebrating 40 years of advocating for court-involved children and the professionals who touch their lives.” Consistent with our mission of advocating for quality services for children, it is a befitting slogan, as ours is an association with a proud history of child advocacy.

Despite our strong history, when I think about where we need to go as an association over the next several years, child advocacy is an area where I believe we need a renewed

Beth, continued on page 19



Membership Matters

By Samantha Higgins

The greatest asset to VJJA is its members. The misconception is that VJJA is an association of DJJ employees. Although the bulk of our membership is employed by DJJ, we are open to any professional working with at-risk or court-involved children. To look at the diversity of the organization, the membership data was compiled to see who the members of VJJA are.

Our members are law enforcement officers, mental health counselors, probation officers, parole officers, judges, attorneys, teachers, principals, program managers, probation supervisors, juvenile correctional officers, administrators, researchers in the field of juvenile justice, CSU directors, truancy officers, CSA coordinators, Office on Youth staff, private providers, residential staff, detention home staff and I can go on, but you'd probably rather I didn't. So let's look at the numbers in the Membership Composition chart.

DJJ Staff, including Court Service Units, Juvenile Correctional Centers and administration, account for 45% of the membership. Private providers are the second largest group with 24% and detention centers are in third with 18%.

The VJCCCA/Local Government/Offices on Youth, schools and other sectors are only a small percentage of the state total, but membership from these agencies has increased over previous years. The majority of our members (64%) are community based workers.

Broken down by district, the Tidewater District has by far the most members with Capital and Northern Districts tied for second. The Blue Ridge District holds the record for largest member growth by a district, with their membership more than doubling over the past year.

So who are our members? They are professional, caring,

hardworking individuals trying to make a positive difference in the lives of children, families and their communities. And to honor our members, VJJA will be offering events, drawings and surprises throughout the year.

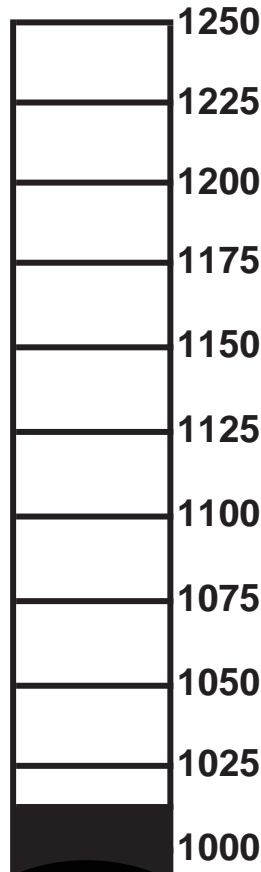
The fun begins with the 2006-2007 membership year on July 1, 2006. The '05-06 year came to close on June 30, 2006 with the largest member total in VJJA history - 1038 active members. This is an increase of 205 members over last year.

Thus far, approximately 200 members have already renewed. I know renewal notices were a bit delayed this year and I apologize. However, thanks to modern technology we were able to reach a significant portion of the membership in a short period of time by way of e-mail. If you actually read your notice, you know that the first of the drawings are about to begin. It all starts with the new membership year and a renewal drawing.

Anyone renewing their VJJA membership prior to August 1, 2006 will be entered in a drawing for VJJA logo wear. What is even more exciting is that this year, all renewing members and newly joining members will receive a 1966-2006 40th Anniversary membership certificate. Beth and I are very proud of the layout and hope the membership will enjoy it as well.

A new option this year on the membership application and renewal is an opportunity to have your copy of the Advocate sent electronically as opposed to postal delivery. The Editorial Committee is most interested in the response and preference of the membership.

So please do not forget to check your personal preference. If neither option is selected, you will continue to receive your copy by mail. You should also be aware that the



**New FY'07
Membership
Goal**

Membership, continued on the back cover

community safety
with care
and concern



Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week
July 16 - 22, 2006



Book 'Em By Eric Assur

Enrique's Journey, by Sonia Nazario, 2006, Random House

Some months ago you may have seen a book review in the pages of the Advocate of The Kite Runner. If you haven't read that great paperback, the movie will soon be out. Here is another book related to your job and life that you may want to consider reading.

Enrique's Journey is written by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Sonia Nazario, and is about immigration – the illegal type from South and Central America. The author does not address the immigration from Nepal, Egypt, Mongolia or even India via Canada and North Dakota or Minnesota. Life near the Mexico - USA border is tough; but life on the border is not nearly as dangerous as the journey from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador or other poor nations through Mexico. If the police do not arrest, rob or beat you, the robbers, formal gangs (18th Street, MS13) or 'migra' are likely to do that or worse. All of our courts, correctional centers, group homes and detention homes now have or soon will have teen immigrants who came to Virginia illegally. These youth often come alone to join a single mother who left them behind when she fled in order to earn a living and send money back to the family in her home country. This book (and the more than 50 page afterward) is all about the dangerous journey via rail, bus, river and desert. Death is common in those seeking to join their mothers in El Norte, USA. If you think that Ms. Nazario prevaricates in this book - well, ask a client or two to tell you of the journey of their immigrant friends. This is a sad travelogue. It is worth reading as it foretells more of the future in our youth service profession.

It is important to realize that our youth population is increasingly immigrant. The afterward data offers estimates that may astound you. Are there really 1.7 million children living illegally in the U.S.? And does the Mexican government annually deport 200,000 Central American migrants, most trying to reach the United States? Our own ICE reports annual undocumented immigration of at least 48,000 "children entering the

U.S. from Central America and Mexico without either parent." Hispanics are the nation's largest and fastest-growing minority group, accounting for 49 percent of the country's growth from 2004 to 2005. The increase in young children is largely Latin American youth with 45 percent of U.S. children younger than 5 being minorities.

You don't have to be in a position to be voting on state or national legislation to educate yourself on this type of entry to the states. You might want to also read American Gulag by Mark Dow, or subscribe to the weekly immigration enforcement news bulletin for the Department of Human Services ICE (the old INS) at www.ice.gov. This book is a quick read; worthy of an hour of training credit; and may help you get to know the Enrique, Pablo, Juan, Luz, Lourdes, or Javier who is or will soon be your client.

Book 'Em II By Bill Harrell

Help at Any Cost: How The Troubled Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids, by Maia Szalavitz (2006, Riverhead Books NY 326 pp., hardback)

As alternatives for dealing with problem adolescents, privately-run "tough love" programs have taken in tens of thousands of American children over the past four decades. Various known as "therapeutic boarding schools", "boot camps", "wilderness" and "behavior modification" programs, some made millions for their owners while ruining the lives of countless adolescents and their families. This readable and disturbing volume examines four of the major culprits: the North Star wilderness program; Straight Incorporated; the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs; and KIDS.

The author, an investigative journalist with impressive credentials, traces the programs' origins and florescence to four major sources: the popularity of Synanon's attack therapy (orig: 1958); Phyllis and David York's

Continued on the next page

ToughLove (1982); the drug-ware panic of the 70's; and hyper vigilant parenting. A lack of regulation or legal restraints, anecdotal "success" stories, exploitation of parental desperation and the programs' cult milieu allowed "treatment practices" to flourish from which death row inmates and mental patients are protected, are forbidden under the Geneva Convention, and for which parents would be prosecuted for child abuse.

Individual tragedies recount the worst outcomes of the programs' exploitative practices and inhuman abuses, all in the name of "help." Read of Aaron Bacon's agonizing death from a bleeding ulcer during a North Star desert hike, his suffering recorded poignantly in his own words, while staff accused him of "faking it" almost until the moment his heart stopped. Or of Richard Bradbury, ruled a "druggie" by Straight Incorporated, held initially against his will, then coerced into submission by methods combining attack therapy, isolation, deprivation and confession. Finally, Lulu Newton's successful lawsuit against KIDS, which kept her for thirteen years after persuading her mother that requests for pleather pants and dyed hair were definite signs of a "drug problem."

A number of lawsuits have been won, and many programs have been closed down by authorities. Unfortunately many owners have taken their money, operating manuals and staff elsewhere, kept their recruiting networks, and cloned the programs under new names in other states or locales such as Costa Rica and Jamaica.

This work should give pause to the "Do something . . . it can't hurt!" school of thought. And the last twenty-two pages, with authoritative information, perspective and pointers for parents seeking help for a teenager with a genuine problem, are alone worth the price of the book.



At the 2006 DCJS Conference in Williamsburg, Board Members Samantha Higgins and Katherine Farmer staff the VJJA Exhibit while members Tom Currier and Tom Gooding review upcoming training announcements.



VJJA Treasurer Donna Baker makes good use of Family and Medical Leave Act. (Vince and new baby Patrick.)

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened!

Happy 40th Birthday VJJA!
**"Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Present
and Envisioning the Future"**
November 1 - 3
Sheraton on West Broad Street, Richmond, VA.

History

Continued from page 1

in Front Line Mental Health Providers; When All Else Fails; Understanding the DSM IV; Dual Diagnosis; Real Justice; Emotion Quotient; Mask; and Neurolinguistic Programming.

Winners of the 1996 VJJA Meritorious Service Awards were: Administration – Valerie Boykin, Parole Services Unit; Community Service – Carol Blair, Waynesboro Office on Youth; Probation – Diane Brogan, Roanoke CSU; and Residential Care – Wayne and Mary Edgerton, Chester Group Home. The Robert S. Sutton Humanitarian Award was presented to Bob Truitt.

At the beginning of 1997, Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair Luanne Blair resigned her position and made a move to Texas, leaving Tracey Chiles to Chair the Conference Planning Committee on her own. DJJ Director Patricia West also resigned her position to accept a judgeship and was replaced by Judge Marvin Gardner who promptly resigned to turn the DJJ reigns over to Sheila Hill-Christian. VJJA Districts were particularly active throughout 1997 offering a variety of training, networking, and social opportunities. VJJA membership rose from 395 in January to 485 in July, largely due to new programs and staff fueled by the 1996 legislative changes.

Advocates were published in the Winter, Summer, and Fall of 1997 containing such features as: the 1st Annual 30th Anniversary Poetry Contest winners; conference articles; district reports; Robert O'Brien's financial advice column; a legislative overview; and a futuristic one-act play about VJJA's 60th anniversary bash.

The 1997 conference was held at the new Holiday Inn-Koger Center in Richmond, November 5-7. Luanne Blair came all the way back from Texas to attend, and at the 1997 social new member Bridges Radick Spiva first performed her popular backward somersault beer drinking trick which would entertain members for several years thereafter. The 1997 conference provided two general sessions, one on Cultural Diversity and the other on Violence in the Workplace. The keynote speaker, Dewey Cornell, spoke on Juvenile Violence and Gangs, and afternoon workshops included: Parole Programs; Stress Management; and Therapeutic Programs for

Juvenile Detention and Other Residential Facilities.

The 1997 Meritorious Service Awards winners were: Administration – Randy Blevins, 28th District CSU Director; Community Service – Josephine Burch, Volunteer Activities Coordinator with the Newport News Department of Juvenile Services Volunteer Program; Court Services – Kathi Meenehan, Probation Supervisor with the 20W CSU; and Residential Care – Arlene Eyster, Director of the Centerville Group Home.

1998 saw most of the VJJA Board re-elected for another term: President – Lewis Wright; Vice-President – Jim Woolf; and Treasurer – Kathi Meenehan. Ron Belay remained as Immediate Past President. Secretary Karen Wright had resigned from state service and from her position on the Board and Janice Bottoms was elected as the new VJJA Secretary. 1998 also saw the inauguration of a new Governor, James Gilmore, and the appointment of a new DJJ Director, Reverend Gerald Glenn.

With the probation officers' on-call law suit having been settled in November of 1997, there was a significant upheaval among VJJA's membership when, on March 1, 1998, DJJ began implementing timesheets for probation officers to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). In his July, 1998 'On the Spot' column, VJJA President Lewis noted that he had "received quite a few calls from people wanting to know what VJJA was going to do about this." "My concern is that some folks reacting to a very legitimate feeling that present circumstances are unfair," Mr. Wright continued, "are responding in counterproductive ways. I have heard that some members have boycotted VJJA training and even decided not to renew their membership."

In response to members' concerns, VJJA maintained an open dialogue with DJJ and was invited to "submit a proposal to DJJ about restoring some type of compensation for on-call work." In fact, VJJA presented two proposals to address the issue: one offering monetary compensation for on-call duties; the second providing compensatory time for being on-call. Neither proposal was accepted by the Department, and FLSA timesheets ultimately became a way of life in court service units around the state.

The Advocate was published in the Winter, Summer,

Continued on the next page

and Fall of 1998, and by July membership had risen to 528. The annual conference was held November 4-6 at the Roanoke Marriott with 189 people in attendance. With Conference Planning Chair Tracey Chiles out on maternity leave, the conference planning was truly a group effort.

The 1998 Meritorious Service Awards winners were: Administration – Gary Conway, District 23-A CSU Director; Community Service – Miranda Snead, Surveillance Officer with the 25th District CSU; Court Services – Tim Cradic, P.O. with the 30th District CSU; and Residential Care – John Newell, Special Placements Coordinator for DJJ.

In the Fall, 1998 issue of the Advocate, Standards & Benefits Committee Chairman Richard Hagy published an ‘Open Letter to VJJA Membership’ calling the membership’s attention to an issue “brought up by Bob Hurley of Abingdon.” “While attending a Virginia Retirement System seminar,” Mr. Hagy wrote, “he realized that State Police, local law enforcement officer, fire fighters and Sheriff’s Departments are included under a special benefits plan that provides early retirement and a supplement.” Hagy went on to point out that some VJJA members shared similar job duties with positions entitled to these special benefits; and ended his article by posing the following question: “Should juvenile probation officers, juvenile detention workers and juvenile correctional workers be included under this special benefits plan?” This “special benefits plan” was the Virginia Law Officers Retirement System (VaLORS).

January of 1999 marked the launching of VJJA’s website, www.vjja.org, thanks to the hard work and expertise of Dennis Mondoro and Tina Beck. With the resignation of Janice Bottoms as State Secretary, Kristie Perry was appointed by the Board to fill out the term.

The Advocate was published three times in 1999, in January, May, and September. In the May issue, former VJJA President Dave Marsden announced his retirement as Superintendent of the Fairfax Detention Home. In his announcement, Mr. Marsden noted that “VJJA has been a wonderful experience for me and I truly believe that the heart of Juvenile Justice in Virginia resides in the membership of this fantastic organization.” In response, Marsden’s long-time nemesis Gary Conway wrote, “The day Marsden walks out that door the average I.Q. of this

place will go up 12 points.”

By conference time, VJJA membership had reached an all-time high of 586. Registration totaled 223 for the annual conference held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House, November 3-5. The keynote speaker for the 1999 conference was Ron Culbertson who gave an hilarious presentation entitled, “It Takes a Lot to Please Some People.” Williamsburg workshops included: Faith Community Network; Aggression-It’s Not Just for Criminals; Treating Families; New Approaches; and Adolescent Problems.

The 1999 Meritorious Service Awards winners were: Administration – Jack Mootz, James River Detention Home; Community Service – Ron Hutchinson, summer camp coordinator, Disciples of Christ Church; Court Services – Lewis Brim, District 2A CSU Probation Officer; and Residential Care – Jerome Holman, W.W. Moore Detention Center.

With the beginning of the year 2000, VJJA re-elected Executive Board was installed in office: President – Lewis Wright; Vice-President – Jim Woolf; Secretary – Kristie Perry; and Treasurer – Kathi Meenehan. The Board appointed Tina Beck from Fairfax County to serve as the Association’s Webmaster. Beth Stinnett was appointed to serve as liaison between the Editorial and Website Committees to integrate the newsletter to an on-line format. Also in January of 2000, VJJA Past President Dave Marsden was appointed to serve as Chief Deputy Director of Virginia’s Department of Juvenile Justice.

In the April 2000 issue of the Advocate, Editor Bob Truitt announced that he was stepping down as editor after 15 years, this time for real. “I’ve been doing this immensely enjoyable task since 1985,” Mr. Truitt wrote in his final column, “and perceive that it’s now time to move on. It doesn’t seem that long. But time really does fly when you’re having fun.”

Mr. Truitt’s departure left the VJJA newsletter in a quandary. First, no one was willing to take over the editor’s job; and second, Mr. Truitt’s connections in the Tidewater Area had enabled the Advocate to be printed and mailed at no cost to the membership. In the Summer of 2000, Gary Conway agreed to accept the position of Editor. The newsletter was given a budget of \$1,200, and the Board agreed that ad space could be

Continued on the next page

sold in the Advocate to offset the cost of printing and mailing. Quality Quick Print (now Compton Design) of Lexington, Virginia became the Advocate's printer.

Ads first appeared in the Fall 2000 issue of the Advocate and were placed by United Methodist Family Services and Family Preservation Services. With only two Advocates published in 2000, the newsletter returned a surplus of \$795.35. The Fall 2000 issue of the newsletter also introduced the membership to an advice column entitled "Ask Uncle Buck."

The 2000 conference was held at the Sheraton Park South in Richmond, October 25-27. Keynote speaker Sgt. Jerry Flowers with the Oklahoma City Police Department spoke on "Gang Migration." Workshops for the event included: Wrap Around Services; The Club Scene; Lessons Learned; and Ritual Crime & The Occult. The 2000 Meritorious Service Awards winners were: Administration – Bill Weaver, District 2A CSU Director; Community Service – Barbara Marques, P.O. with the Hanover CSU; Court Services – Bob Bermingham, Fairfax County CSU; and Residential Care – Chuck Dockery, Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center.

At the beginning of 2001, VJJA's membership had dropped to 473, but bounced back to 510 by the Summer. Advocates were published in the Winter, Spring, and Fall of 2001, with the Spring issue containing an interview with DJJ's Chief Deputy Director Dave Marsden. In the article, Mr. Marsden discussed a variety of issues impacting juvenile justice in Virginia. Among these issues were a restructuring of juvenile correctional centers "emphasizing treatment, education and child development," and a shake up on the community side so that "decision-making in hiring and budget management can be made at the unit level." Mr. Marsden also talked about technological advances involving case management and video intake.

In the Fall of 2001, Mr. Marsden was appointed Acting Director of DJJ when outgoing Director Carl Peed accepted the position of Director of Community Policing with the U.S. Department of Justice. In an open letter to VJJA's membership published in the Fall issue of the Advocate, Marsden said, "I look forward to being able to meet with many of you in the near future and thank you for your continuing support."

The 2001 institute marked VJJA's 35th anniversary and

was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, November 7-9. The conference began with a round table discussion led by DJJ Deputy Director Tim Howard addressing current programming and initiatives within the Division of Community Programs. Other workshops included: Cult Behavior in 12 Step Groups; Strength-Based Strategies; The Importance of Gender-Specific Programs; Drug Screens-What are We Missing?; Current Treatment Trends for Sexual Offenders; and When a Good Drug (Oxycontin) Goes Bad.

The 2001 Meritorious Service Awards winners were: Administration – Lewis Wright, Supervisor with the 14th District CSU; Community Service – Employees of the Fairfax County Juvenile Court; Court Services – Tom Keating, P.O. with the 15th District CSU; and Residential Care – Aileen Smith, Admissions Coordinator at the Camp Kenbridge Boot Camp.

With the exception of perennial Vice President Jim Woolf, 2002 began with a new VJJA Board of Officers being installed: President – Bob Bermingham; Vice-President – Jim Woolf; Secretary – Beth Stinnett; and Treasurer – Donna Musiello. Lewis Wright remained on the Executive Board as Immediate Past President. Mark Warner was sworn in as Virginia's new Governor, Dave Marsden was still serving as DJJ's Acting Director, and VJJA boasted a membership of 573.

At the first Board meeting of 2002, President Bob Bermingham appointed Teri Larsen from the 15th District CSU as Chair of the Legislative Committee, filling the position vacated by Mr. Bermingham; and Katherine Farmer with the 14th District CSU was named the new Conference Planning Committee Chair, taking over for Tracey Chiles. With the Commonwealth facing another major fiscal crisis, VJJA was kept busy in the legislative arena unsuccessfully trying to get funding cuts restored for Offices on Youth, SABRE, and VJCCCA. Efforts to have Juvenile P.O.s included in VaLORS were also to no avail.

With a letter to Governor Warner from President Bob Bermingham, VJJA went on record in the Spring as supporting Dave Marsden remaining on as DJJ's Director. On June 4, however, Governor Warner appointed Delegate Jerrauld Jones from Norfolk to be the Director of Virginia's Department of Juvenile Justice.

Continued on the next page

For the first time in many years, the Editorial Committee managed to publish its four quarterly issues of the Advocate in 2002. Articles included a three-part series by Anne-Marie Cusac entitled "Arrest My Kid, He Needs Mental Health Care", a piece on the detention assessment instrument, information from VJJA's President and Membership Chair, conference material, successful local programs, and information about DJJ's new Director.

The 2002 annual conference was held November 6-8 at the Sheraton Park South in Richmond. In the face of serious budget problems in the state, the conference theme was "We're All in This Together;" and in an effort to ensure a successful conference the flyer for the event noted that "VJJA will reimburse the first 150 members who register for the conference for half of each night's stay in the hotel for both nights." Additionally, the VJJA Board limited the registration fee for members to \$25 and also provided several meals. With VJJA covering expenses for its members to the tune of nearly \$23,000, and many members not being reimbursed due to funding cuts, the 2002 conference still had 235 people in attendance.

The opening session for the 2002 institute contained possibly the longest title in VJJA Institute history: "The Undeniable Connection Between Child Maltreatment & Juvenile Delinquency: Implications for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Programs, Practices, and System Solutions." The keynote speaker, Carey Cockerell, spoke on 'A Graduated Sanctions Approach to the Treatment of Juveniles,' and institute workshops included: MST: Is it Really Different from Any Other In-Home Mental Health Services?; Suburban Kids in Detention and Corrections; Emerging Trends in Juvenile Justice; GHB: What is it and How is it Effecting Our Kids?; and It's a Whole New World Out There.

The 2002 Meritorious Service Awards winners were: Administration – Richard Hagy, Superintendent of the Highlands Juvenile Detention Center in Bristol; Community Service – Board and Staff of Norfolk's Botanical Garden; Court Services – Lynn Dotson, Senior P.O. with the 31st District CSU; and Residential Care – Staff of the Chesterfield Youth Group Home. Also at the 2002 Awards Luncheon, President Bob Bermingham presented Past President David James with a VJJA Lifetime Membership.

The first Board meeting of 2003 was held at the Ramada

Inn at Virginia Beach on March 26. At that time, the General Account balance was \$13,032.09, the Institute balance was \$16,559.14, and the Association had a membership of 630. Brigette Peterson was appointed to a newly created position of Chair of the Ad Hoc Grants Committee to help secure funding for the VJJA institute.

An ambitious legislative agenda was discussed to: eliminate P.O.s from conducting custody investigations and doing advisements; allow Intake Officers to jail anyone over 18 whose original offense was committed prior to age 18; notify CSUs of detention review hearings; clear up a jurisdictional issue regarding the underage consumption of alcohol; and renew efforts to include juvenile P.O.s in VaLORS. On July 17, VJJA was presented with a Citizen Legislator Award by Delegate Robert Bell for its efforts to initiate new legislation.

For the second straight year, the Advocate published four quarterly issues in 2003. Articles included pre- and post conference information, President Bermingham's regular 'Bob's Turn' column as well as Jim Woolf's quarterly 'Membership Matters,' book reviews by Eric Assur, and advice from Uncle Buck. The Spring issue also contained R. Erich Telsch's first 'Just Us' column that would become a permanent fixture in the newsletter.

The annual institute was once again held at the Sheraton Park South in Richmond, November 5-7, with 190 registrants. Workshops included: Targeted Community Action Planning; Understanding the Meaning of Gang Related Tattoos; Current Trends in Juvenile Justice; Situational Leadership; Religion 101; Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence; and Domestic Terrorism & Profiling. The 2003 conference might best be remembered for the Board's decision that "the President's Reception will end by 9:30 to ensure the focus of the conference remains quality training and attendance at early morning training is not impacted by late evening social events. Refreshments/Beverages will include pizza, beer, wine and bottled water. No liquor is to be served."

2003 Meritorious Service Award winners were: Administration - Rodney Hubbard, Director of the District 23-A CSU; Community Service – Officer Christopher Corcoran, Henrico County Police Department; Court Services – Kim Koeppen, P.O. with

Continued on the next page

the 25th District CSU; and Residential Care – Nancy Fleming, Acting Assistant Superintendent at Culpeper JCC.

2004 opened with the re- installation of VJJA's existing slate of officers: President – Bob Bermingham; Vice-President – Jim Woolf; Secretary – Beth Stinnett; and Treasurer – Donna Musiello. Lewis Wright continued serving as Immediate Past President. The Association had a healthy General Account balance of nearly \$14,000, an Institute Account in excess of \$25,000, and a record high membership of 627.

During 2004, the Association's website was expanded in a number of areas, including the addition of back and current issues of the Advocate. Beth Stinnett was appointed to assist Tina Beck with the website; and at the May 21 Board meeting, Paul Greggs was appointed to chair the 40 Year Anniversary Celebration Committee.

In the Virginia Legislature, VJJA continued to support legislation to remove P.O.s from conducting advisements, and giving Intake Officers the authority to order confinement of a person over the age of 18 in a jail rather than a detention center. On August 10, VJJA received another Citizen Legislator Award presented by Delegate Rob Bell. The issue of including juvenile probation officers in VaLORS was also pressed in the halls of the General Assembly and at public hearings around the state. On October 24, the Association sponsored "VJJA Day at the General Assembly." 55 VJJA members converged on the General Assembly to lobby individual legislators regarding VJJA-supported legislation.

The four quarterly issues of the Advocate were published in 2004 with regular columns by the Editor, President, Membership Chair, Ron Telsch, and book reviews by Eric Assur. Other subjects addressed in the newsletter were disproportionate minority contact, legislative updates, and juvenile mental health and drug court projects. The June issue of the Advocate acknowledged the passing of long-time VJJA member and friend Bill Weaver who died from a heart attack on June 12. The Fall Advocate celebrated the career and retirement of John Newell. At the November 3 Board meeting, Advocate Editor Gary Conway expressed concern about the increased cost of printing and mailing the newsletter on a quarterly basis, and suggested that the Board consider going with a solely electronic mail version of the Advocate. The consensus of the board was "that the print copy of the newsletter is a

tangible benefit to members and money is not currently an issue." The Board decided to "maintain the print publication for now but start supplementing the print copy with an electronic copy and see how things go."

The 2004 institute was held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House, November 3-5, with themes of Gangs and Disproportionate Minority Contact. At 6:00 p.m. on November 4, the Association held its first ever 'Leadership Mixer,' an effort to encourage members to become more involved in VJJA, particularly in leadership roles. Over 50 people attended. 2004 Meritorious Service Award winners were: Administration – Mike Morton, Deputy Director with the 4th District CSU; Community Service – James Culverson and the Virginia Wilderness Institute; Court Services – Gregory Fissell, P.O. from the 17th District CSU; and Residential Care – Mike Sawyer, Executive Director with the Apartment Living Program in Virginia Beach.

At the beginning of 2005, VJJA had 790 members and a General Account balance of over \$16,000. The Institute Account was in excess of \$34,000. At the May 23 Board meeting, President Bermingham announced that the inclusion of juvenile probation officers in VaLORS would again be a primary legislative focus of the Association. To lead that effort, Bill Harrell, Director of the 5th District CSU, was appointed the VaLORS Campaign Chair for the 2006-2006 Campaign.

In March of 2005, the Association co-sponsored gang training with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention. VJJA was also asked to be an exhibitor at the Department of Criminal Justice Services Conference in June. Throughout 2005, VJJA and its members were increasingly appearing as presenters at state and national forums. Under the leadership of Tina Casper and Beth Stinnett, the Association's website expanded to include VJJA's Mission and bylaws, board member contact information, committee updates, timely legislative information, current and back issues of the newsletter, meeting minutes, membership and scholarship information, calendar of events, a photo gallery, Members in the Spotlight, a job bank, and links to many other valuable online resources. Through the website and in other ways, VJJA celebrated Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week, July 17-23.

Continued on the next page

The celebration included member recognition, daily trivia questions and prizes.

Once again in 2005, the Advocate published its four quarterly issues containing articles from the status of Video Intake to the closing of the Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center. With membership, mailing costs and newsletter pages at an all-time high, the purchase of ads by private providers managed to offset the cost of the Advocate to keep the Editorial Committee within budget during the year.

Against this backdrop of rapid growth, change, and expansion, Bill Harrell's comprehensive campaign on the VaLORS issue unfolded across the state. VaLORS contacts were named in every court service unit. Legislators were contacted in person, by phone, and through letter and e-mail. VJJA members testified at public hearings throughout the state and at key committee and sub-committee hearings. In September, Mr. Harrell put out a comprehensive 30 page report entitled: 'Juvenile Probation Officers' Line of Duty Qualifications for the Virginia Law Officers Retirement System (VaLORS): A Report to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.' This report, written by Mr. Harrell with printing costs assumed by VJJA and the Virginia Court Service Unit Directors Association, was widely circulated to key legislators.

At the Board meeting held in conjunction with the annual conference in November of 2005, the General Account balance had held steady at over \$16,000, and the Institute Account had ballooned to nearly \$46,000. The Board had much discussion about how to distribute its wealth. In the end, it was decided to make additional funding available to the Districts to conduct regional training, and to create a Children's Advocacy Fund of \$1,500 "to have a formal means for making periodic contributions to support child-serving, philanthropic activities in the state."

The 2005 institute was held at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach, November 2-4. The theme of the conference was "One Size Doesn't Fit All," and featured several nationally-recognized presenters. A record number of exhibitors (50) registered for the conference and nearly 400 people were in attendance. Training was provided on gender responsive programming, adolescent development and decision-making, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, and tours were offered

of local residential facilities. 2005 Meritorious Service Award winners were: Administration – Jim Rankin, Director of the 31st District CSU; Community Service – the youth of the Oak Ridge Juvenile Correctional Center; Court Services – Chuck Watts, Supervisor with the 25th District CSU; and Residential Care – Colleen French, Assistant Superintendent with the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center.

On November 23, VJJA member Rodney Hubbard underwent a successful heart transplant operation at Henrico Doctors Hospital. It was at the same hospital and by the same surgeon who had performed Eddie Fowler's successful transplant in February of 1996.

State elections were held in December and the following officers were elected without opposition: President – Beth Stinnett; Vice-President – Jim Woolf; Secretary – Ron Telsch; and Treasurer – Donna Baker. The new Board assumed office on January 1, 2006, and held their first meeting on February 28 at the Virginia Farm Bureau in Goochland County. In conjunction with the meeting, the Board conducted a retreat to enhance team building and brainstorm ideas. New Membership Chair, Samantha Higgins, announced that VJJA's membership was now at a record high 983. The General and Institute Account balances remained healthy at \$12,603.24 and \$26,699.27, respectively. Lewis Wright was appointed as the new Chair of the Bylaws Committee. Advocate Editor Gary Conway again expressed concern about the rising cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, with the Board again labeling the newsletter a "tangible benefit of membership" that should continue to be funded.

The VaLORS Campaign under the leadership of Bill Harrell was going full speed ahead into the 2006 legislative session, when it suffered a major setback. On February 9, Senator Kenneth Stolle's SB393 was heard by the Senate Finance Committee. This bill placed SPORS, LEOS and VaLORS into one omnibus law enforcement retirement system. A late amendment to the bill eliminated adult probation and parole officers hired after July 1, 2006 from the enhanced retirement benefits. According to Senator Stolle, "The State can't afford law enforcement retirement benefits for all public safety officials." VJJA's VaLORS bills died in both the House and Senate Committees. SB393 met the same fate. Mr. Harrell noted that "the inequity of our VaLORS

Continued on the next page

exclusion must keep going before the General Assembly until it is corrected, and now is the time for someone to take the reins for the 2006-2007 legislative campaign.”

Worn out from the long VaLORS Campaign, it appeared as though the Association in general and Bill Harrell in particular was ready to give up on the goal of including juvenile probation officers in an enhanced retirement system. It was decided, however, to make one last ditch effort. This time, VJJA would abandoned its “do-it-ourselves” campaign and seek the assistance of a professional lobbyist. Lobbyists Ron Jordan and Bill Elwood from Advantus Strategies LLC attended the May 19 Board meeting and delivered a grim prognosis: There is a general attitude in the legislature against enhanced retirement benefit programs. Future lobbying efforts to include juvenile probation officers would be fruitless.

On June 9, Bill Harrell sent out a memorandum to Probation Staff in DJJ with the topic, “VaLORS Future: You Decide.” In this memo, Mr. Harrell outlined VJJA’s past efforts regarding VaLORS and put forth the opinion expressed by Advantus. If the VaLORS Campaign was to continue, affected employees would have to come up with \$15,000 in pledges to hire a lobbyist. “If not,” Harrell wrote, “the campaign ends.” The deadline of June 23 for pledges to be received came and went. Only 92 responses were received with 87 pledges totaling \$2,771.

In the Spring of 2006, VJJA welcomed its 1,000th active member, Ms. Stephanie Garrison, Director of the 13th District CSU. As this Advocate goes to print, plans are well under way to mark VJJA’s 40th birthday at the annual institute scheduled for November 1-3 at Richmond’s Sheraton on West Broad St. The 2006 conference will celebrate “40 years of advocating for court-involved children and the professionals who touch their lives.” It should prove to be a very memorable event.

This concludes our presentation of the History of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association. Despite the hours of work and nearly 15,000 words it took to document this history, we know that it is not all inclusive. As we stated at the beginning of this series in the Fall of 2005, however, “It is our hope that by understanding the Association’s history, we might enhance our appreciation for what VJJA is today.”

Views

Continued from page 2

Association.

Dave: Man! I can’t believe that everybody is still so... active. But, what about ...Conway? You know he and I haven’t spoken since the 40th Anniversary Conference back in ought six. He made me so mad that night, I could have killed him.

Ron: Yeah, well...Conway’s dead.

Dave: Dead?!...My God, what happened?

Ron: Gary really went downhill fast after that 40th Anniversary Conference. In fact, he returned home after that very conference to find his wife in bed with another man...a liberal democrat.

Dave: Ha! You’re kidding me! That’s hilarious!

Ron: T’weren’t funny for the democrat. Conway shot him dead before he made it to the front door.

Dave: Then...Conway died in prison?

Ron: Get real! He got charged with manslaughter alright, but his lawyer had the charge reduced to killin’ an endangered species. Conway got off with a fine and court costs. But he lost his job and took to drinkin’ pretty heavy.

Dave: Drank himself to death. I knew it.

Ron: Nope. He spent 10 years on the pro wrasslin’ circuit. Wrassled under the name of “The Scarlet Pimpernel.”

Dave: Somebody broke his neck. Is that how he bought it? An aluminum folding chair across the neck?

Ron: Will you let me finish?! Conway cleaned up his act out there at the Betty Ford, then got elected to two terms as Lieutenant Governor of Maryland. Back in January, he married a 22 year-old woman who was an Oriole Usher at Camden Yard. For their honeymoon, Conway drove his bride up to New Haven, Connecticut to tour the Remington Arms Factory, when....

Dave: Car wreck?

Continued on the next page

District Reports

Blue Ridge

Submitted by: Robert Foster, Chair

Continued another active spring and early summer by being able to partner and co-host existing training sessions. Our district offered five local training opportunities this year. Most recently we co-sponsored a one day conference, "Sexually Aggressive Adolescents" through the leadership of the Southwest District. We also partnered with the 21st Court Service Unit to present a day of gang training and a day of two training sessions, Defensive Driving and Terrorism Awareness. Additional training is planned for this fall.

The Blue Ridge District ended the membership year with 79 members; up from 37 in FY 2005. We welcomed many new and returning members including: Glendora Dalton (Job Readiness); Danny Fallen (Lynchburg Juvenile Services); Tamara Rosser (Lynchburg Juvenile Services); Spring Johnson (Piedmont Juvenile Detention); Jim O'Hare (Roanoke Juvenile Services); Danny Secrist (Youth Haven I); Eddie Wilkerson (Southside Regional GH); Rodney Wilkerson (Family Preservation Services); Tracy Maddux (Roanoke Detention); Frank Rogers (Bedford County Administrator's Office); Madaline Wells (21st CSU); Martha Phillips (22nd CSU); Tom Deane (23rd CSU); and Jessica McCauley (23A CSU).

While the Blue Ridge District has experienced many accomplishments, the fact that Rodney Hubbard has returned to the 23A CSU beginning on June 5, 2006, for two and a half to three days per week is truly one of our happiest. As everyone knows, in November of 2005, Rodney underwent a heart transplant and has shown classic strength and determination in his quick recovery. He has fully regained that serious look and kind smile that have been associated with him for years.

The Blue Ridge District is also pleased to recognize Tom Currier, Lynchburg Detention Home, as the longest active member with the Blue Ridge District and possibly the entire Association (approximately 35 years). Tom recently was quoted as saying that he will likely continue to be a member even after his retirement from the Detention Home because, "I agree with the mission and goals of this association." When asked why he has renewed his dues over the years he went on to explain "it was just the right thing to do." Tom feels due to the work of the current and past presidents, especially over the last ten years, this association has grown more credible and gained the respect of the entire juvenile justice community. Tom is without question a true asset to our Association and a key to future progress.

Many members in our district are deserving of recognition for their contributions and achievements throughout the year: Butch Jefferson, a Truancy Prevention Specialist with Bedford County (and former UVA football player), is assisting the Bedford YMCA with their Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) efforts; Amy Morgan, Youth Counselor Supervisor at Sanctuary Crisis Intervention Center, and Jim O'Hare, Roanoke Department of Juvenile Services, are sitting as members of their community's Disproportionate Minority Contact Task Force; Sanctuary co-sponsored a training on "Using Strengths to Guide Service Delivery"; Angela Hiatt, recently became a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC) and is already putting her new credentials to work running groups for the Martinsville CSU; Linda Fain, Martinsville Probation Supervisor, celebrated 25 years of state government service; Juanita Irby, VJCCCA Coordinator for Campbell County, organized a Gang Awareness Workshop for nearly 70 professionals working in and around Campbell County; Sandra Dawson and Angela Hiatt recently spoke to youth and families in the Martinsville area about peer pressure, gang involvement and the consequences of delinquency; Jessica McCauley is congratulated on her engagement to Billy and is planning an October wedding; congratulations to Tony Reed in that he has been key in creating a residential transitional facility for non-violent adult offenders which focuses on housing and job training skills; Alan Hullette, RVJDC Superintendent, was recently recognized by a local church for his community leadership and has been busy performing magic shows for local community service agencies; and Sandra Dawson, Linda Fain, Angela Hiatt and Debbie St. John, organized a training session "Working with Juveniles and the Court Service Unit," designed to foster relationships between local agencies involved with the 21st District Court Service Unit.

Want to get more involved with the Blue Ridge District? Contact the District Chair or watch the website for an upcoming event. (Robert is the Director of the 21st District Court Service Unit. He can be reached at: blueridgedistrictchair@vjja.org.)

Capital

Submitted by: Marie R. Bristow, Chair

The Capital District ended the membership year with 145 members. We welcomed new members representing court

Continued on the next page

services, detention, DJJ Administration, social services, mental health, private providers and others.

Two local training opportunities were offered during the year. Topics included Addressing the Needs of African American Males and Gang Awareness & Involvement in the Richmond Metro Area. The gang training, held during the month of June, was presented by a panel of law enforcement representatives from the Richmond metro area. Nearly 80 participants attended. On September 7th, the Capital District will host our Annual Crab Feast and Day of Training. Additional information will be available on the website. In the meantime,....SAVE-THE-DATE.

In addition to providing training, members from our district donated many hours of volunteer work; sponsoring school supply drives, serving on community boards, packing holiday food baskets and serving as lunch buddies to elementary school youth.

The Capital District welcomes many new and returning members, including Donielle Langhorne (DJJ Central Office), John Weigel (6th District Court Service Unit), Chuck Kehoe, G4S Youth Services and Mary Ogunmokun of Elk Hill. We also extend congratulations to members: Stephanie Crockett Green on her recent promotion to Investigative & Diagnostic Supervisor; Charles Dockery, on his promotion to Assistant Superintendent at Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center, Julie Truitt on her new position as Substance Abuse Planning Coordinator with the DMHMRSAS; and Yvonne Earvin on her recent position as Post-Dispositional Coordinator with the James River Detention Center. We also congratulate the following members on career milestones with the VADJJ: Ed Murray - 35 years, Angela Valentine – 30 years and Kathryn Dickerson - 30 years.

The Capital District is currently soliciting new members for our Local Advisory Board (LAB). Interested in joining the LAB and becoming more involved? Contact the District Chair or watch the website for an upcoming LAB meeting. Marie R. Bristow is a Team Supervisor with Family Focus, Inc. in Richmond, Virginia. She can be reached at: capitaldistrictchair@vjja.org.

Northern

Submitted by: Tammy Deihl, Secretary

The Northern District ended the membership year with just under 140 members. We welcomed many new and returning members including Jessica Charchalls (Aurora House), Earl Conklin (Falls Church CSU), Sandy Delcid (Arlington CSU), the Honorable Pamela Grizzle (Loudoun J&DR Court), Nicole McGinley (Rappahannock Area Office on Youth), Mary Lynn McKenna (Building Healthy Connections),

George Young (National Counseling Group) and Giovanna Perry Ruffner (Fairfax County Government).

Our district is made up of many “movers and shakers.” Here’s just a sampling of how our members spent the year: Jim Rankin, 31st District CSU Director, brought “Learning for Life”, a character development course, to the Prince William community; Vista Gillespie, formerly of the 31st CSU, was promoted to Senior Probation Officer/Intake Officer and is now employed in the Stafford CSU; Lisa Sheads, Alexandria CSU, was promoted to Senior Probation Officer; Lillian Brooks, Director of the Alexandria CSU, will be providing international technical assistance when she meets with Dr. Chengwen Chen from Hunan Normal University in China; Jim Stevenson, was promoted to Superintendent of the Northwestern Regional Juvenile Detention Center (NRJDC) in Winchester; Mike Mastropaolo is serving on CSA’s State & Local Advisory Team (SLAT); Brett Schlegel left the 15th CSU to accept the position of Coordinator of School Safety for Spotsylvania County Schools; Earl Conklin, Falls Church CSU Director, and his family participated in a 12 mile bike ride and raised over \$6,000 for the American Diabetes Association; a former employee of the Fairfax Boys’ Probation House, Erick King, was recently hired as a Probation Officer by the Arlington CSU; Paige Quattlebaum, Prince William CSU, was promoted to Senior Probation Officer; Carolyn Barger Nesmith, 15th CSU, celebrated her 1 year wedding anniversary; and Tracey Chiles, Fairfax CSU, was promoted to Assistant Director of Central Intake. Also, we congratulate Jim Rankin, Manassas CSU Director, on marking 35 years of service with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

During the month of June, the Northern district held a combination training event and membership drive which included a segment on “Who Moved My Cheese.” Additional training is planned for later in the year.

We send well wishes to members Lynn Dotson (31st CSU) and Jane McMorro (31st CSU) who are both out on medical leave. Also, please keep VJJA District Secretary Elaine Butkiewicz (Alexandria CSU) and her family in your thoughts. Elaine’s home sustained extensive damage during recent flooding in Northern Virginia.

For more information or to become more active with the Northern District, please contact the District Chair or any of the district officers. Ms. Deihl is a Probation Supervisor with the 15th District Court Service Unit.

Continued on the next page

Southwest

Submitted by: Doug Poe, Chair

The Southwest District ended the membership year with 86 members; up from 58 in FY 2005. We welcomed many new and returning members including Karen LaPlante (Radford VJCCCA), Dr. Mary Atwell (Radford University), Richard Chaffing (Bristol Regional Counseling Center), Rodney McMurray (Family Preservation Services), Carol Courtney (Highland Juvenile Detention), Galena Grubb (27th CSU), Greg Cyphers (29th CSU), and Wayne McClelland (30th CSU).

Southwest members have been very busy: Randy Blevins (28th CSU) is serving on the CSA State & Local Advisory Team (SLAT); Elizabeth Williams (28th CSU) just returned from a trip to CA where she attended a taping of the Tonight Show - this fall she will serve as an adjunct professor at Virginia Intermont College in Bristol teaching a domestic violence course; Robbi Hansen (VWI) celebrated 30 years with the Associated Marine Institutes; VWI Administrators James Culverhouse, Johnny Stiltner and Robbi Hansen proudly reported that their program received a score of 100% on a recent internal audit conducted by their parent company; Trudy Wilson, (Washington County CSU) recently facilitated a Moral Combat class for youth and their parents; Jim Cornett (28th CSU) and six members from his church spent seven days in Wave Land, Mississippi performing community service for victims of the Hurricane Katrina disaster; and Neil Bramlette (Appalachian Juvenile Commission) joined the staff of the Advocate as Ad Sales Manager.

During the month of March, the Southwest District partnered with the Blue Ridge District to present a one-day regional conference entitled, "Sexually Aggressive Children" in Abingdon. More than 70 professionals from throughout the Greater Southwest Area attended. The conference was covered by the local news on WCYB, an NBC affiliate, and featured interviews with Court Psychologist Rick Teague, and a local member of the General Assembly. Additional training is planned for this fall.

For more information or to become more active with the Southwest District, contact the District Chair. (Doug is a Probation Supervisor with the 27th District Court Service Unit - Pulaski. He can be reached at: southwestdistrictchair@vjja.org.)

Tidewater

Submitted by: Paul Greggs, Chair

The Tidewater District ended the membership year with 475 members; up from 388 in FY 2005. We welcomed many new and returning members including Judge Judith Kline (Newport

News), Judge Jerrauld Jones (Norfolk), Francisco Medina (Merrimac Center), Christopher Haws (Virginia Beach Detention), Jamila Downs (Norfolk Detention), Teresa Adkins (Brighter Futures) and Alexia Williams, (Chesapeake CASA).

In addition to welcoming new members, we also give kudos to Don Willis who was reappointed to the Board of Directors of the Colonial Services Board; John Matish who was the featured luncheon speaker at the Department of Juvenile Justice's 2006 Leadership Conference; Stephanie Lawrence & Paulette Evans, who together developed and presented a new program "It's a Girl Thing" for the Hampton Court Service Unit; Christie Ek who was promoted to Senior Probation Officer at the 5th District Court Service Unit; Dennis Gilbert & Cathy Sterling (9th District CSU) who, together with Southwest member Doug Poe presented at the 7th Annual Innovative Technologies for Community Corrections Conference in Atlanta, GA; Susan Inman on her promotion to Intake Supervisor with the Norfolk Court Service Unit; Hampton CSU Director Mike Morton, who presented a workshop at the 2006 Virginia JDAI Inter-site Conference; 2005 Scholarship Winner Dayna Hansen who completed a Master of Arts degree at Norfolk State University, graduating with honors (and a 4.0 GPA!); and the Honorable Jerrauld Jones, Norfolk J&DR Court who opened day two of the JDAI Conference with "A View from the Bench". Additionally, we congratulate the following members on career milestones with the VADJJ: William Wheeley - 30 years (recently retired from the Norfolk CSU), Denis Boudreau (Newport news CSU) and Lylas Cooper (Hampton CSU). Dennis West, a supervisor for Tidewater Detention Home and back in the day Less Secure, also retired. The old Less Secure which turned into Salem House 13 years ago is now Transitional Living Program run by Mike Sawyer. He is/was the director of Apartment Living Program and the apartment units they were living in were closed down for renovation and The Tidewater Regional Group Home Commission decided to close Salem House which was a predisposition Program for 13 years and turn it into a Transitional Living Program. We know Mike Sawyer will do wonders with this new program.

During the month of March, the District presented the 15th Annual Spring Institute in Virginia Beach. They also sponsored two other local training events during the year: Cultural Competency in the Workplace; and Tidewater Area Gangs. When not busy working or developing training opportunities, members from our district donated many hours of volunteer work participating in community service work projects such as organizing a holiday food basket program.

Interested in joining the Tidewater Local Advisory Board and becoming more involved? Contact the District Chair Paul Greggs or watch the website for an upcoming LAB meeting.

Continued on the next page

(Paul is the Director of the Westhaven Crisis Center. He can be reached at: tidewaterdistrictchair@vjja.org).

Valley

Submitted by: *Samantha Higgins, Chair*

On July 14, the Valley District presented a one day regional conference, "Methamphetamines: The Impact on Teens, Families & Rural Communities." A panel of experts delivered plenary addresses and workshops on the impact of methamphetamines on the court, foster care and the health care system. The event, held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, was attended by professionals from throughout the Shenandoah Valley. The District plans to hold additional local training this fall at Camp New Hope at the Natural Bridge Juvenile Correctional Center.

The Valley District ended the membership year with roughly 100 members, up from 60 at the end of 04-05. In addition to welcoming new members, we also extend overdue congratulations to: Wendy Baber on her new position as Probation Officer in the Harrisonburg CSU; Ron Telsch on his position as Probation Supervisor in the 25th CSU (Lexington, Botetourt and Covington); Kim Koeppen on her appointment as Co-Regional Director for the Blue Ridge Region of the Virginia Gang Investigators' Association (VGIA); Ron Lassiter (Lexington CSU) for completing 30 years of service with the Department of Juvenile Justice; Bevin Yowell (FPS) on the birth of her second child; to Keith Lisenbee (RACSB) on his promotion to Program Manager; and Donnie Grinnan (Luray CSU) and Janie Schu Grinnan (Page County CSU) on their marriage.

The Valley District is always looking for new members for our Local Advisory Board (LAB). If you are interested in joining the LAB and becoming more involved, contact the District Chair at valleydistrictchair@vjja.org or watch the website for an upcoming LAB meeting.

ADVOCATE

The *Advocate* is a quarterly publication of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association. Reproductions without permission are strictly prohibited. The statements and opinions expressed in the *Advocate* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members or the Board of Directors.

Beth

Continued from page 3

commitment. It is a commitment to which we need to respond both individually and collectively.

Never in our association's history have we been in a better position to champion children's issues. With more than 1,000 active members, our association has not only the largest, but also the most diverse membership we have ever had, and perhaps the most diverse membership in the state. In 1993, our association's name was changed from the Virginia Juvenile Officer's Association (VJOA) to the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA). With a membership comprised of probation and parole staff, detention workers, correctional officers, social workers, law enforcement, public defenders, judges, educators, public mental health providers, private treatment providers, mentors and more, the diversity of our current membership speaks to the need to adopt the more inclusive name. Our members represent nearly every child-serving organization in the state. They are direct service providers, supervisors/managers and policy-makers.

While our members have unique roles and varied responsibilities, what unites them is their shared passion for working with and advocating for court-involved children. We know we have as members all of the right players. Our next step is to tap into the talent and knowledge represented among our group to collectively champion child-friendly legislation and to embrace a best practice culture that promotes the highest quality of services and best outcomes for children.

We have already begun to move in the direction of a renewed commitment to child advocacy by actively partnering and beginning to forge alliances with groups such as the Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention, Virginia Coalition of Private Providers, Child Welfare League of America, Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center, Virginia Juvenile Coalition, Virginia Commission on Youth, Just Children Legal Aid Justice Center, Center for Children's Law & Policy and others. But there is far more we can do both collectively and as individuals and I challenge each of you to assume an active role. As a first step, please provide feedback with regard to the development of VJJA's 2007 Legislative Package. What issues are most important to you and the group of children with whom you work? Let us hear from you.

ADVOCATE

Virginia Juvenile Justice Association
 c/o P.O. Box 1336
 Staunton, VA 24402

ph: 540-245-5315
 fax: 540-245-5326
 e-mail: advocateeditor@vjja.org
 website: www.vjja.org

Membership

Continued from page 4

Membership Committee prefers prompt renewals. Anyone who has not renewed on or before September 1, 2006 will be removed from the membership roster. This will cause a disruption in your delivery of the Advocate, training opportunities, conference notices, legislative issue alerts, lobbying efforts and more. You will also be excluded from any future membership drawings.

So, please renew your membership in a timely fashion. Your

membership and continued support is important to the future of our association.

I'd like to add that it was great to meet so many of our members at the DCJS Conference. I hope to see everyone again at the VJJA Fall Institute, and as always, feel free to contact me regarding your membership status at 540-463-5401 or membership@vjja.org.

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION	STATE	TIDEWATER	NORTHERN	BLUE RIDGE	VALLEY	CAPITAL	SOUTHWEST
Total Membership*	1014	480	137	79	96	142	80
% of Total Membership		47%	14%	8%	9%	14%	8%
Court Service Units (384)	38%	33%	57%	41%	33%	35%	44%
Private Providers (242)	24%	29%	21%	23%	18%	23%	4%
Corrections (224)	22%	25%	4%	18%	23%	16%	50%
Detention (186)	18%	0%	4%	18%	7%	1%	46%
JCCs (38)	4%	3%	0%	0%	16%	15%	4%
VJCCA/Local Govt/OOY	4%	2%	3%	9%	11%	2%	0%
VADJJ Administration (30)	3%	2%	1%	3%	0%	13%	0%
Schools (16)	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Other **	5%	6%	11%	5%	14%	11%	2%

* Does not include retired members or members for whom employment information was not available.

** Other includes: Law Enforcement, Judges, Indigent Defense, Prosecutors, DCJS, CSBs & DMHMRSAS, DCE, DJJ Board, Academia, Halfway Houses, DSS, CSA, CASA

Data Source: Membership Roster May 17, 1006.