



NEWSLETTER



Edition #10, Issue #3

John B. Wilt, C.S.T, C.P.P., Editor & Publisher

Spring/Summer 2021



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From the Desk of VACJE President Delmar P. Wright, Ph.D.

Since the spring of 2020 there have been significant disruptions caused by the coronavirus outbreak as many colleges and universities in Virginia and other states canceled in-person classes or shifted to online-only instruction. Many merged in-person instruction and online. Some institutions developed or expanded for fully or primarily online instruction, some used hybrid models and a lesser number continued to offer fully or primarily in-person instruction.

Some schools canceled or shortened 2020 spring breaks which prompted concerns relative to the potential impacts on academic success and mental health well-being. Some students expressed concerns that the coronavirus would negatively impact their ability to complete their degree requirements as planned. The move to online-only classes raised concerns related to the overall quality of remote instruction, impacts on student performance and access to as well as the availability of needed technology.

Many schools transitioned to short-term pass/fail grading systems instead of the standard letter grades with potential long-term negative impacts on students relative to credit transfers and graduate school admissions. Campus visits and admissions testing were disrupted in the spring of 2020 and for many public colleges and universities institutions freshman enrollments and others declined.

Campus closures and the moves to online learning also resulted in colleges and universities facing a number of unexpected

expenses and revenue losses as a consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak. These expenses included but were not limited to: student refunds for room and board, increased cleaning costs, course development and technology costs associated with moving courses online, testing and tracing, distancing accommodations, and the cancellation of athletic events and other sources of revenue streams. Due to these expenses and revenue losses, numerous colleges and universities reduced overall spending and procurements, implemented hiring freezes, cut salaries, and furloughed employees among cost-cutting measures.

Covid-19 has also had an unprecedented impact on our discipline; criminal justice. For example, court facilities were required to close and suspend operations and court proceedings were delayed or accelerated. Jury trials were suspended as were grand jury proceedings and in-person bench trials. Under some circumstances, individuals in pre-trial detention experienced prolonged detentions. There has been a growing backlog of cases in many jurisdictions and inmate overcrowding has increased in some facilities. Courts have been required to temporarily relocate to larger structures in some jurisdictions to accomplish social distancing needs.

Law enforcement agencies have also been required to implement safety measures and risk mitigation measures such as new protocols and methodologies to interact with members of the public, procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment for personnel, increased and frequent sanitation of law enforcement vehicles, deep cleaning of law enforcement facilities, and other new safety measures. There has also been an increased interest in and level of attention devoted to the emotional and physical wellness of law enforcement personnel. Public access to law enforcement facilities have been reduced and there has been a reduction of community policing services and activities. Some agencies have suspended citizen ride-alongs, citizen academies, community forums, and in-person responses to certain calls for service.

Some agencies have suspended their basic training academies and most non-COVID related in-service training activities. There have also been modified personnel schedules and modified roll calls as well as limited staff access to facilities. Some have reduced their staffing and have furloughed employees. Staffing shortages and reduced morale have been the consequences in many instances. From the standpoint of professors and in-

structors, some would likely say the pandemic has made our jobs more difficult. New modes of teaching or rapidly moving to another way of teaching with new requirements or demands in the midst of a global pandemic have been sources of stress. ZOOM fatigue and technology burnout can add to that stress; particularly in the long term.

Moreover, there has always been a need to treat each student in each class as an individual with individual needs, expectations and motivations. However, we have been required to address the unprecedented questions and emotional needs of students precipitated by the pandemic while perhaps dealing with personal child care and education issues, personal and family health concerns, financial uncertainty, job uncertainty, changes to working conditions, added job responsibilities, job losses by former colleagues, and decreased connections with extended family members, friends, colleagues, and students, etc. We are also expected to remain current in your discipline.

As the president of the VACJE, your colleague, and more importantly one who cares about you as an individual, I encourage you to take the time needed to care for yourself and your own emotional, psychological, and physical well-being during these very difficult and unusual times against the backdrop of the global pandemic and the national social unrest.

I look forward to continuing to work with the entire VACJE Board and each member of the Association as well as other stakeholders and partners as we build better together.

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MISSION STATEMENT

To be approved by the VACJE membership

We, as criminal justice educators, have as our mission:

- to advance, inspire, and promote the highest quality and practices of criminal justice education to students and practitioners in the community colleges, colleges, and universities within the State of Virginia.
- to foster communication and support among all criminal justice educators in Virginia.
- to inform the membership of pending (or possible) changes in criminal justice programs or agencies among the post-secondary educational institutions in Virginia.
- to articulate a unified voice for official communication with other educational agencies, organizations, and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- to enhance the quality of life-long educational experiences and opportunities for our criminal justice students.

To accomplish this mission, we propose that the VACJE:

- 1) Sponsor an annual meeting of criminal justice educators for the purpose of :
 - a. providing a forum for the expression of thoughts, ideas, and concerns;
 - b. share training and teaching methods and techniques;
 - c. conducting an annual business meeting;
 - d. allowing individuals to meet their peers throughout the state, providing an opportunity for individual networking;
 - e. presenting a pertinent workshops and programs to enhance individual members professional development;
 - f. allowing an opportunity for the expression of individual viewpoints while arriving at a unified consensus or official position for the Association.
- 2) Sponsor semi-annual meetings as required for the above listed and/or other necessary reasons. These reasons might include:
 - a. providing a forum for Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Administration of Justice (ADJ) Peer Group Conferences;
 - b. discussing various articulation agreements;
 - c. developing or modifying changes in the VCCS ADJ Course Content Summaries;
 - d. providing for Administration of Justice/Criminal Justice Program professional development opportunities.
- 3) Maintain a current (and regularly updated) list of full-time criminal justice educators in the various Virginia educational and other selected institutions. The list should include:
 - a. the individual's name
 - b. faculty rank
 - c. job title or description
 - d. complete official mailing address
 - e. E-mail address
 - f. telephone numbers for: office, fax, residence (if desired)
 - g. home address (if desired for communication)
- 4) Communication with members via an informal newsletter, E-mail or Web Site page as appropriate. As a result of these missions -- the VACJE will create informal and formal networks to communicate, build alliances, and establish an environment of growth, challenge, and unlimited potential for all its members, as we advance quality criminal justice education in the State of Virginia and in the world.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS BY-LAWS:

To be approved by the VACJE membership

I. **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Virginia Association of Criminal Justice Educators, hereafter referred to as the VACJE.

II. **Purpose:** The purposes of the VACJE are to:

- A. Advocate for professional standards and competencies in criminal justice education;
- B. Continuously search for new techniques and approaches in the delivery of academic criminal justice programs to advance criminal justice education in the Commonwealth of Virginia;
- C. Provide professional development opportunities for criminal justice educators;
- D. Inform and update criminal justice educators of the current research findings in criminal justice education;
- E. Enable criminal justice educators to network, connect, collaborate and exchange innovative teaching approaches;
- F. Support criminal justice agencies in the recruitment of an academically and professionally educated workforce in the criminal justice field;
- G. Develop a criminal justice education curriculum at the college, university level, and secondary schools; supports the development in other recognized educational institutions, such as criminal justice training academies,
- H. Develop strategic community partnerships in the criminal justice field

III. **Members**

- A. Regular membership in VACJE shall be open to all persons who engage in the teaching, training, or administration of education or training programs in the field of Criminal Justice or who are practitioners in criminal justice agencies or organizations.
- B. There shall be five additional categories of membership.
 1. Honorary life members, who may, in honor of their retirement and in recognition of at least 10 years of continuous service to VACJE be appointed as such by a majority of the members at a regular meeting of the membership. Honorary life members shall not be required to pay dues.
 2. Life members, who have paid in no more than 3 consecutive annual installments a sum to be determined from time to time by the board.
 3. Institutions and organizations that deliver or receive criminal justice education or training.

4. Student membership shall be open to those students pursuing academic study in criminal justice or a related field.
 5. Corporate sponsors and community partners who have expressed an interest in criminal justice educational initiatives.
- C. Voting: Each member in the above categories (Section III-A+B-1/2/3) whose dues for the current year have been paid are entitled to one vote in any election, referendum, or membership meeting. Student members, corporate sponsors, and community partners are excluded from voting privileges. Each institutional or organizational member shall appoint one person to carry its vote. No voting by proxy shall be permitted. Ballots shall be sent to the members in a manner determined by the VACJE Board and include mailed ballots (i.e., U.S. Postal Service) or electronic ballots. The Board will determine how ballots are to be returned and the deadline for voting. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure his/her business address and email address are currently on file with the association. Each member shall be assigned a membership number to account for all ballots.
- D. Dues: Membership dues shall be at such rate or rates, schedule or formula as may be approved by the Board of Directors from time to time.
- E. Termination:
1. Any member may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting, for conduct prejudicial to the mission and purpose of the VACJE, after due notice and opportunity to be heard by the board.
 2. A member who has not paid dues by December 01 will be dropped from membership.

IV. **Meetings**

- A. Timely notice of the location and time of meetings of the membership of VACJE, both annual and special, shall be provided to the membership.
- B. The Annual Meeting shall be held in the fall of each year, unless circumstances require the board to do otherwise.
- C. Special meetings of VACJE may be called by the president, by the board, or by one-tenth of the membership, upon 14 days written notice to the members, stating the purpose of the meeting.
- D. At meetings of the members, twenty percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of votes shall prevail.
- E. The Annual Meeting and special meetings may be held in-person or virtual, as determined by the Board of Directors.

V. **The Board of Directors**

- A. The board shall consist of the president, the immediate past president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and not more than four directors-at-large.
- B. The board shall set policy, evaluate operations, monitor finances, and have responsibility for long-range planning.

- C. No public statement of policy by any member, representative, committee, group, volunteer, employee, director, or officer shall be binding upon, or constitute an expression of, the policy of the VACJE unless approved or ratified by a majority of the directors.
- D. Unless otherwise ordered by the board, regular meetings of the board shall be held at least four times each year. Special or additional meetings of the board may be called by the president and shall be called upon the written request of three directors, with at least forty-eight hours written notice having been given.
- E. A majority of the board (5) shall constitute a quorum.

VI. **Election of the Officers and Directors**

- A. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's (See Section VIII, paragraph B) report and ballot, the president shall immediately distribute to all members in good standing, the names of the nominees on a Ballot approved by the Board of Directors and arrange for additional write-in names. The Board shall establish a minimum of two weeks for voting and the date and time by which all ballots must be received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee. The returned ballots shall be tabulated by the nominating committee. The nominees who receive the most votes shall be elected. The nominating committee shall certify the results to the president and a public announcement of newly-elected officers and directors shall be made as soon as appropriate.
- B. The terms of office for Officers and Directors At-Large shall be for two years.
- C. Vacancies
 1. The board shall declare vacant any office or director-at-large position if that officer or director-at-large has been absent from two consecutive board meetings- Absences may be excused by vote of a majority of the board, or
 2. There was no one elected to the office or director-at-large position.
 3. Recommendations for filling officer or director-at-large vacancies shall be made by nominating committee. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the board of directors by a majority vote at any regular board meeting.
- D. Upon completing four years of service as a director-at-large, an individual shall be ineligible to serve as a director-at-large for the following term in that position.
- E. Individuals who are not current in dues payment shall not be eligible for election, and when directors or other officers are not current they shall be removed from office and a vacancy declared within 30 days of the dues becoming due.

VII. **Officers and Duties**

- A. The officers of the VACJE shall be the president, the vice president, and the immediate past president, the secretary, and the treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws.
- B. The term of office for the officers shall be as follows:
- President – Two-Years
 - Immediate Past President – Two Years
 - Vice President – Two Years
 - Secretary – Two Years
 - Treasurer – Two Years

The term of office of the President and Immediate Past President shall be limited to two (2) years following installation (or until the end of the respective term of the predecessor, if the person shall not have completed such term) and until the election of a successor. If the out-going President cannot fulfill the term of Immediate Past President, the most recent Immediate Past President will be asked by the Board to serve the remainder of that term.

In the event the President cannot fulfill the term of that office or his/her duties, the Vice President shall succeed to that office for the balance of that term.

The Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer may serve two terms. If the Vice President, Secretary, and/or Treasurer cannot fulfill the term of that office, or his/her duties, the Board shall appoint a person from the membership at-large to serve for the balance of the term. To receive the appointment from the Board, the member must receive a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

The term of office of the newly elected officers and directors-at-large shall commence on January 1 following the election and end on December 31, at the end of the two-year term.

The officers and directors-at-large shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be provided by the Bylaws, parliamentary authority of the VACJE, *Robert's Rules of Order*, or as the Board of Directors may determine.

- C. No member shall hold more than one position on the board at a time.
- D. The president of the board shall:
- Serve as the executive head of the VACJE, and shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the board.
 - Appoint all committee chairs from the Board members and approve all committee members.
 - Be an ex-officio member of all VACJE committees, but is under no obligation to attend committee meeting and is not counted as part of the committee's quorum.

- Serve as the official spokesperson for the Association and shall speak and act on behalf of the Board and the members within existing policy and Board decisions. The President may, at his/her discretion, delegate the spokesperson responsibility to another Officer or Director-at-large for a specific period of time.
 - Have authority to approve expenses not to exceed \$100 per occurrence without prior approval of the Board.
 - Have other duties as assigned by the Board from time-to-time.
 - Report to the Board, at every Board Meeting all issues addressed and actions taken in keeping with the provisions of this section.
- E. The vice president shall serve as president-elect and as program chair. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall exercise the functions of the president.
- F. The immediate past president shall assist the president in such duties as may be mutually agreed upon and shall chair and recruit members for the nominating committee.
- G. The treasurer shall maintain the roll of the membership. The treasurer also shall oversee receipt and proper disbursement of all funds by the VACJE. Such funds shall be kept on deposit in financial institutions approved by the board. Checks shall be signed by any two of the following: president, vice president, and treasurer. Checks drawn for less than \$100 require only the signature of one of those aforementioned. The Treasurer shall develop internal controls for the association which shall be reviewed and approved by the Board.
- H. The secretary shall keep a formal record of each meeting and provide same promptly and in electronic form to the webmaster.

VIII. **Standing Committees**

Standing Committees are those identified in these Bylaws. The Chair of each Standing Committee shall be a member of the Board

- A. A Program Committee shall be chaired by the vice president, who shall, with the assistance of the board, recruit additional members to serve on the Committee. The program committee shall plan, publicize, and manage the annual meeting.
- B. A Nominating Committee composed of three members and chaired by the immediate past president shall be appointed by the president and approved by the board promptly after the new officers are installed.
1. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to recruit and gain the consent of candidates for the board and for offices within the board, as well as for appointments and nominations made by the board to external groups.
 2. Every reasonable effort shall be made to recruit candidates who within the preceding three years have participated actively in VACJE

meetings and projects, and to recruit a sufficient number of candidates to give the membership a choice at the time of election.

3. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations (including self-nominations) from the membership.
4. The Nominating Committee shall submit its Report and Ballot to the President and the Board not later than October 1st of each even numbered year. The Board shall approve the Ballot and the President shall direct its publication and distribution to the members for voting. The list of candidates and their biographical information shall be made available on the VACJE Website and newsletter. The outcome of the election shall be made know at the Annual Meeting.
5. The nominating committee shall also present to the board for its approval the names of candidates to fill unexpired terms within 30 days of the Board's declaration that the position is vacant.

C. The Communications Committee shall be chaired by a board member, who shall be appointed by the president with the consent of the board. That individual, and other committee members appointed by the President shall assume responsibility for printed and virtual communications materials and methods employed by VACJE.

D. Other committees, such as ad hoc, special, or advisory, shall be appointed by the President as the Board or President shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the VACJE. Each Committee shall have a chair appointed by the president and shall report at the annual meeting on its activities during the preceding year.

E. The term of membership on any committee is two (2) years and may be renewable.

IX. **Finances**

- A. The VACJE's fiscal year shall begin on 1 September and end on 31 August.
- B. The accounts of the VACJE shall be audited bi-annually by two members appointed by the president with the consent of the board at the beginning of a new term of officers and Board members. The audit report shall be presented to the membership at the annual meeting.
- C. The VACJE shall be registered with the Virginia State Corporation Commission and the Internal Revenue Service.
- D. At the beginning of every new term for Officers and Board members, the Board will review and approve the internal controls of the Association.

X. **Parliamentary Authority**

- A. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the VACJE in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the VACJE may adopt.

XI. **Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended by the membership by a two-thirds vote of those eligible to vote, provided that the amendment has been recommended by the Board and subsequently distributed to the membership at least 30 days prior to the close of voting.

XII. **Dissolution**

The VACJE shall use its funds only to accomplish the objectives and purposes specified in these bylaws. On dissolution of the VACJE, any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more regularly organized and qualified charitable, educational, scientific, or philanthropic organizations to be selected by the board of directors.

VACJE

Virginia Association of Criminal Justice Educators

Membership Application and Information

New Member _____ Renewal _____

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE () _____ WORK PHONE () _____

E-MAIL _____

FACULTY RANK _____

EMPLOYER _____

WORK ADDRESS _____

ASSOCIATION DUES

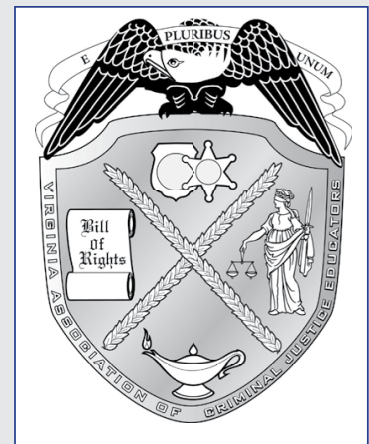
ANNUAL DUES: \$50 DATE _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$300

RETURN THE COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WITH THE DUES PAYMENT TO THE TREASURER
(CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO VACJE)

For further information on membership, contact:

Paige Merkord-Reed
Treasurer
2340 Four Leaf Circle
Dayton, VA 22821



LIFE MEMBERS

Gary Boyer	Jerry Lane
Irving Comer	Bud Levin
Emma Cox	Jay Malcan
Lynda Cooksey	John Mocello
Renee Douglas	Michelle Newton-Francis
Dennis DuBuc	Ray Smith
Martin Greenberg	Tom Varner
Jim Johnson	John Wilt
James Husband	Nicolle Parsons-Pollard
Tim Kindrick	Robin Widener
	Delmar Wright

TREASURER'S REPORT

**THE BANK BALANCE AS OF
MARCH, 2021**

\$3,071.24

SURVEY

What have you learned in the past year about teaching criminal justice in the middle of a pandemic?

How have you been able to engage your students, and what techniques have worked best and which have not worked so well?

E-mail your thoughts on these questions to jbwilt@aumail.averett.edu

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MEMBER NEWS

ALPHA UPSILON LAMBDA PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER



Alpha Upsilon Lambda Professional Chapter Charter Ceremony held at the James R. Ingram Justice Center in Danville, VA

MEMBER NEWS



Five members gathered 10 bags of trash on Goodyear Blvd.

MEMBER NEWS

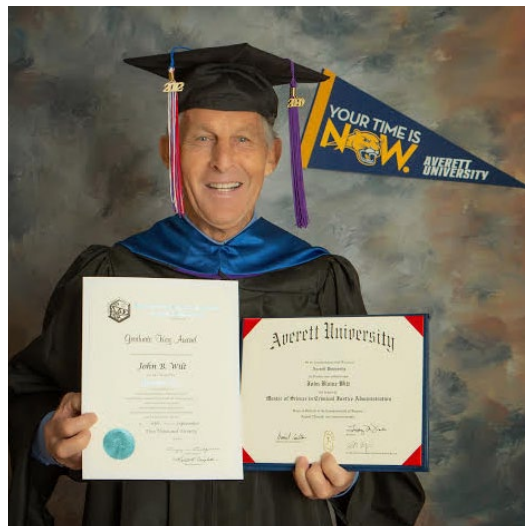


Krispy Kreme February 2021 doughnut sale fundraiser

Future professional chapter activities include:

- March 27th Rummage Sale
- 20th Annual “Run for Justice” on June 12th
- “50-50” Fundraiser at South Boston Speedway on August 14th

MEMBER NEWS



A significant portion of John Wilt’s on-line graduate program was research and writing about restorative justice at colleges, universities and at juvenile and adult corrections facilities. At the November 19, 2020 VACJE virtual conference, John provided the membership with a presentation on restorative justice theory, principles and practices and discussion of the potential for initiating a restorative justice program in Danville, VA. The response to John’s PowerPoint presentation was quite positive!

MEMBER NEWS (BIOS)

John Bolling

MS, ARM

Senior Public Safety/Risk Management Consultant

Over 35 years of Law Enforcement, Loss Prevention, Safety and Security Experience

Member of Virginia Chiefs of Police Association

Works with members of Virginia Sheriff's Association

Member of Public Risk Management Association

Instructor in Virginia Criminal Justice Academies

Retired Police Officer-Roanoke City Police Department

Worked in Patrol, Investigations, and Forensics

Expert witness in the following areas: Fingerprints, Crime Scene Documentation and Preservation, Handwriting Analysis

Supervised Forensic Lab: for three years, eight years in the forensic field

AFIS Operation (Ten Prints & Latent Prints)

Task Force for illegal Drugs, Robbery, Organized Retail Theft, and Drug Diversion

Certified DCJS Instructor

Certified DCJS Compliance Agent

Trained in Fingerprints, Developing Latent Prints and Preparing them for evidence,

Pattern interpretation Classifying and searching of Fingerprint Records

Trained in Police Photography, Questioned Document Examination, Firearms Identification, and Modus Operandi

Trained in Civil and Criminal Investigation

Created 14 hours of DCJS credits for Law Enforcement Driving and Law Enforcement Safety Also for Public Safety First Responders

Below 100 Authorized Trainer

Created Safety Awareness Training Courses, Newsletters, and Webinars

Policy Develop & Review Experience (Sr. Director Level)

Motivational Speaker-Keynote & Guest Speaker numerous conventions, functions, and training sessions

Corporate Management and Leadership experience (10yrs) to include Human Resources & Employment Law Topics

OSHA 10 & 30 Hour Authorized Trainer

Risk Management Certified (ARM Insurance Institutes)

Risk Management Experience-Insurance, Risk Analysis, Bench Marking, Trend Analysis and Claims

Masters of Science Degree in Security Management-Bellevue University

Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration-Averett University

Associates of Applied Science in Business Management-Virginia Western Community College

American Institute of Applied Science



Hobbies:

Love the outdoors:

Hiking

Kayaking

Nature Photography

MEMBER NEWS (BIOS)

Daisy Ball

Daisy Ball is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program at Roanoke College in Salem, VA. Her research focuses on the intersection of race and the criminal justice system, with a special focus on the criminal justice contact of Asian Americans. Recent publications have appeared in journals including Deviant Behavior and Sociological Spectrum.

MEMBER NEWS (BIOS)

Matt Carter

I began as Executive Director at Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy in Martinsville, VA on Feb. 1, 2021. The academy services 13 law enforcement and public safety agencies across Patrick County, Henry County, and Pittsylvania County.

I retired from the Danville Police Department on Sept. 1, 2020 with 27 years of service. I attended Danville Community College from 1989 through 1992 and received an associate's degree in both Liberal Arts and Administration of Justice. I attended Averett College (before it was Averett University) from 1992 through 1995 and received a bachelor's degree in Sociology / Criminal Justice. I attended Longwood University from 2000 through 2002 and received a master's degree in Sociology with a Criminal Justice concentration. I pursued the thesis option and wrote about white collar crime. During my time at the Danville Police Department I worked as a Patrol Officer, Criminal Investigator, Lieutenant of Services, Captain of Community Police, Captain of Professional Standards, and Captain of Investigations. I also served as Public Information Officer at various times. I previously instructed Report Writing for Criminal Justice Professionals at Danville Community College. I also instructed Police In America and Organized Crime at Averett University. I most recently instructed Ethics and the Criminal Justice Professional at Danville Community College in 2020. I am also a U.S. Marine Corps Reserves veteran (SSGT trained in Combat Engineering and as a Counterintelligence Specialist). I am married to a school nurse in Caswell County, NC Public Schools (Amy) and have two children; Luke (14) and Kara (10).



MEMBER NEWS (BIOS)

Jillian Noel

Jillian Noel is an Assistant Professor of Administration of Justice (ADJ) at Germanna Community College, Adjunct Faculty at Averett University and ESL Teacher's Aide at Harford Community College

Jillian has served as a Department Chair of the Administration of Justice/Legal program at Germanna Community College. She has worked as a Deputy Sheriff at Arlington County Sheriff's Department.

Jillian's educational background includes an Associate in Arts and Sciences Degree General Studies Germanna Community College, Associate in Applied Science Degree Police Science Germanna Community College, Bachelor of Arts Degree Old Dominion University and Master of Business Administration Averett University



MEMBER NEWS (BIOS)

Vickie Holland Taylor

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science with a Sociology concentration and my Master of Arts degree in Sociology from Appalachian State University where I served as a teaching fellow in Graduate School. Unlike many in this organization, I have never been in law enforcement or majored in it. Appalachian did not offer a Criminal Justice program at that time. I did, however, find the Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency courses thoroughly fascinating.

I was hired by Danville Community College to teach the Introduction to Sociology course to students in the transfer programs and what was then called Police Science, then Law Enforcement, and eventually Administration of Justice. As the latter program grew and more students were interested in taking Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency, I was tapped to teach these courses and to advise students in the program and to serve on the Advisory Committee. I enjoyed teaching these classes and getting to know the students in the ADJ program. I especially loved the field trips to the prison camps, jails, and maximum-security prisons in Virginia and North Carolina. It would have been nice to have had GPS in those days, especially when travelling to Central Prison in Raleigh, NC. Of course, the students thought it was humorous when I got out of the Virginia state vehicle to flag a Raleigh police officer in the middle of a road to get directions.

While at DCC, I have not only taught, but I was also the first Coordinator of Student Activities, an Advisor to the Student Government Association. I referred and umpired sports among other things. In 2016, I was inducted into the DCC Sports Hall of Fame. I have been privileged to be an advisor to the Upsilon Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for the Two-Year College. This past weekend our chapter won the Distinguished Chapter of the Region Award and I was given the Continued Excellence Award for Advisors.

For the past several years I have once again been advising and guiding students in the Administration of Justice program in addition to those in the Liberal Arts/Social Science program. A great joy for me is seeing my former students advance in rank and be recognized for achievements in local police departments and related fields. I also celebrate with them as they retired which I plan to do at the end of summer session after fifty years with Danville Community College. It is time!



DIVERSITY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

NOTES TAKEN BY JOHN WILT

Noted scholar and author Dr. Martin Greenburg recently informed me of a February 18, 2021 Webinar on “Diversity in Law Enforcement”. Here are my notes from the 47 minute Webinar which featured Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Dr. Patrick Oliver, Sheriff Anthony Cureton and moderator Steve Cook. “Diversity in Law Enforcement “ is a continuing series of Webinars sponsored by the Major County Sheriff’s of America (MCSA) organization founded in 1998 with its HQ in Alexandria, VA: (The March 18th MCSA Webinar will discuss “Wellness in Policing”)

Law enforcement agencies must hire well! Hiring must be character-based. The reality is this: the law enforcement agency’s culture is going to dictate who gets hired and who is kept out of law enforcement. From his book (see link in this email), Dr. Patrick Oliver identified these six qualities that police officers must have: (1) integrity; (2) a service-oriented spirit; (3) good human relations skills; (4) team player; (5) performance-oriented/good work ethic; (6) self-control.

Sheriff Anthony Cureton’s NJ-based sheriff’s office has a 30-page job application that helps him select the best candidates.

A bill in NJ has helped reduce the law enforcement officer hiring wait time!

Law enforcement officers must be “reflective” of the communities they serve. Sheriff Cureton manages a law enforcement agency of 600 sworn personnel with 100 sworn officers who are considered minority law enforcement officers.

A short video featured Dr. Jennifer Cobbina’s book *Hands Up, Don’t Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, And How They Changed America* where she posits that the culture of policing encourages violence against minorities and the added thought that the DOJ is currently investigating racially biased police practices. Dr. Cobbina’s current position and research interests are as follows:

Jennifer E. Cobbina is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. Her primary research focuses on the issue of corrections, prisoner reentry and the understanding of recidivism and desistance among recently released female offenders.

DIVERSITY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT (CONTINUED)

Thoughts expressed during the Webinar included the observation that the current criminal justice “system” engages in over-policing as well as over-incarceration.

Sheriff Cureton presented himself as the “elephant in the room” who wished that more “discussions” about the crisis in policing could take place. Sheriffs and police chiefs are the CEOs who should be leaders and “out front” leading the “discussion”. Webinar discussants asserted that law enforcement agencies are “degrading the quality of police applicants”. Ideas of recruitment, hiring and retention surfaced again and again during the Webinar. Changes to the current police culture must be revised holistically; the change is CEO-driven! CEOs are responsible for “managing” the culture of policing.

Minorities who desire a career in policing are not seeing a sufficient number of minority law enforcement officers, i.e. “see it to be it”. Black officers are seen as “black wearing blue”. Recruiting minorities means contact with historically black colleges, black fraternities at historically black colleges (and elsewhere) and reaching out to hispanic organizations to attract minority candidates. It was strongly suggested that the “relationship” of law enforcement agencies with ethnicities is largely non-existent and must be corrected to improve the current picture of minority law enforcement recruitment.

Final thoughts from the Webinar are that law enforcement agencies should promote what is called a “step-ware pathway” to becoming a law enforcement officer. This includes: (1) explorer programs; (2) cadet programs with a “coaching” component; (3) internships similar to the FBI’s “honors program”; (4) an auxiliary program; (5) a reserve officer program. Once hired, rookie police officers should be assigned a mentor. Panelists agreed that the above-mentioned initiatives involve a long-term commitment!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



https://richmond.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/lawmakers-reach-compromise-on-criminal-record-expungement/article_921f64ac-ebd5-5802-ba6f-92c99704cd05.html

LAWMAKERS REACH COMPROMISE ON CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

Democrats in the House and Senate who had been at odds over legislation to allow criminal record expungement reached an agreement that advocates said will be a huge improvement for Virginia.

House Majority Leader Charniele Herring, D-Alexandria, outlined the changes Wednesday when the Senate Judiciary Committee advanced her bill.

She said the compromise would “remove barriers and address systematic inequities to provide a clean slate for Virginians who have paid their debt to society or have had charges deferred or dismissed.”

The legislation would affect tens of thousands of people, according to the Legal Aid Justice Center, one of the supporters.

“If the bill is enacted, Virginia will move from the bottom of all 50 states to very near the top for a person’s ability to seal criminal records,” Rob Poggenklass, an attorney with the organization, said in a statement. “This legislation would have a dramatic, positive effect on tens of thousands of lives.”

Sheba Williams, executive director of the nonprofit Nolef Turns, joined in that statement of support for the compromise.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Initially, Herring's bill would have allowed for the automatic expungement of about 80 misdemeanors for people who had not been in further trouble. Such convictions, or charges that were dismissed, show up on background checks, hindering ability of people to get jobs and housing.

Advocates for automatic expungement said old charges take an especially hard toll on people of color. Virginia is currently one of only seven states that don't allow for expungement of any criminal conviction.

In the Senate, Sen. Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, opposed the House proposal, instead supporting a conservative plan that requires people to petition a court to have a record sealed.

The compromise legislation, which still needs General Assembly approval, would allow for automatic expungement after seven years of about eight misdemeanor charges, Herring said. They include trespassing, possession of marijuana and disorderly conduct.

The legislation would also allow people to petition a court for expungement of other misdemeanors after seven years and certain felonies after 10 years.

Domestic assault and DUI charges would not be eligible for automatic expungement or a petition for sealing.

Surovell said hours were spent working on the compromise with help from a mediator, Mark Rubin, resulting in "a fairly major piece of legislation."

Private companies that sell criminal records for background checks must delete records the state seals under the bill.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

https://richmond.com/news/state-and-regional/number-of-prison-inmates-serving-life-sentences-continues-to-rise-in-virginia-and-nationally-report/article_a1a45c9f-24e7-50cf-9c6d-125cc2f73025.html

NUMBER OF PRISON INMATES SERVING LIFE SENTENCES CONTINUES TO RISE IN VIRGINIA AND NATIONALLY, REPORT FINDS

The number of Virginia inmates serving life with or without parole — and “virtual” life sentences of 50 years or longer — now constitutes 14% of Virginia’s prison population and 15% nationally, a new study has found.

More people are serving life sentences in the U.S. — 200,000 — than there were total prison inmates in the early 1970s and five times more than in 1984, according to the report released Wednesday by The Sentencing Project.

Since 2003, when The Sentencing Project conducted its first national census of persons serving life in the prisons in all 50 states and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the number of such inmates has risen 66%, the organization says.

In all, 1 in 7 prison inmates in the U.S. are serving life, life without parole, or a virtual life sentence. One in 5 Black men in prison are serving life terms, and Hispanics make up 16% of all those serving life.

The increase in life sentences, according to the report, is a result of changes in the law that toughened sentencing and limited parole, starting with the so-called war on drugs in the 1980s.

Virginia ended parole for crimes that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 1995, and at the same time stiffened prison terms for violent repeat offenders.

According to the Virginia figures, 4,239 Virginia inmates are serving life sentences with the possibility of parole; 1,628 are serving life without parole; and 1,326 are serving “virtual” life sentences of 50 years or more. In all, the number of Virginia inmates serving life has increased 90% from 1970 to 2020, the report says.

Efforts have been underway in the General Assembly to ease sentencing, including ending many mandatory minimum sentences — a proposal also backed by some Virginia prosecutors .

The report recommends abolishing life without parole sentences, “which is virtually unheard of in the rest of the world,” and imposing a 20-year cap on prison sentences except in rare circumstances.

“We arrive at this recommendation after decades of witnessing heavy-handed punishments being added to the criminal legal system while social science makes clear that extreme punishment produces little public safety benefit,” the report says.

The report, “No End in Sight: America’s Enduring Reliance on Life Imprisonment,” also urges widening early release opportunities for current inmates.

Two states with the largest increases in people serving life from 1970 to 2020 were Utah at 458% and Nevada at 415%. The two states with the least were New Jersey, with a 30% increase, and Maine, with a 24% increase.

The report says a long-term downward trend in violent crime already was already when the changes to toughen sentences were made at the state and federal level.

The Sentencing Project, begun in 1986, describes itself as working for a fair and effective U.S. criminal justice system through research to promote reforms in sentencing policy; addressing unjust racial disparities; and advocating for alternatives to prison.

“The increase in life imprisonment and the growing extremity of our civil criminal legal system was largely driven by policies enacted in response to public fears about crime, often rooted in sensationalized media stories rather than the actual prevalence of violent crime in most communities,” the report says.

Longer imprisonment, however, does not boost public safety since the majority of violent offenders “age out” of criminal conduct by adulthood.

The study found that most inmates serving life terms committed violent crimes, with 57% convicted of murder and 19% of a sex-related crime. Nationally, almost 4,000 people are serving life terms for drug crimes, 38% of whom are being held in the federal system.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/no-end-in-sight-americas-enduring-reliance-on-life-imprisonment/>

NO END IN SIGHT: AMERICA'S ENDURING RELIANCE ON LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Before America's era of mass incarceration took hold in the early 1970s, the number of individuals in prison was less than 200,000. Today, it's 1.4 million; and more than 200,000 people are serving life sentences – one out of every seven in prison. More people are sentenced to life in prison in America than there were people in prison serving any sentence in 1970.

Nearly five times the number of people are now serving life sentences in the United States as were in 1984, a rate of growth that has outpaced even the sharp expansion of the overall prison population during this period.

The now commonplace use of life imprisonment contradicts research on effective public safety strategies, exacerbates already extreme racial injustices in the criminal justice system, and exemplifies the egregious consequences of mass incarceration.

In 2020, The Sentencing Project obtained official corrections data from all states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons to produce our 5th national census on life imprisonment.

KEY FINDINGS

One in 7 people in U.S. prisons is serving a life sentence, either life without parole (LWOP), life with parole (LWP) or virtual life (50 years or more), totaling 203,865 people;

The number of people serving life without parole — the most extreme type of life sentence — is higher than ever before, a 66% increase since our first census in 2003;

29 states had more people serving life in 2020 than just four years earlier;

30% of lifers are 55 years old or more, amounting to more than 61,417 people;

3,972 people serving life sentences have been convicted for a drug-related offense and 38% of these are in the federal prison system;

More than two-thirds of those serving life sentences are people of color;

One in 5 Black men in prison is serving a life sentence;

Latinx individuals comprise 16% of those serving life sentences;

One of every 15 women in prison is serving life;

Women serving LWOP increased 43%, compared to a 29% increase among men, between 2008 and 2020;

The population serving LWOP for crimes committed as youth is down 45% from its peak in 2016;

8,600 people nationwide are serving parole-eligible life or virtual life sentences for crimes committed as minors.

The unyielding expansion of life imprisonment in recent decades transpired because of changes in law, policy and practice that lengthened sentences and limited parole. The downward trend in violence in America that continues today was already underway when the country adopted its most punitive policies, including the rapid expansion of life sentences. The increase in life imprisonment and the growing extremity of our criminal legal system was largely driven by policies enacted in response to public fears about crime, often rooted in sensationalized media stories rather than the actual prevalence of violent crime in most communities.

Yet debate around the utility of long prison sentences often ends with the mention of violent crime, even though we know that life imprisonment does not make us safer. The vast majority of people “age out” of criminal conduct by adulthood. Lengthy prison terms hold people well after their risk of committing a new offense becomes minimal.

In this report, we reveal for the first time that 30% of the life-sentenced population is 55 or older. The imprisonment of an aging population has become a fiscal and humanitarian crisis the country must confront. The urgency of this crisis grows ever greater as the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately jeopardizes the lives of older Americans in prison. Reoffending by persons released after serving long terms is rare, making the need for expediting releases for older lifers the only humane public health and public safety approach.

Racial and ethnic disparities plague the entire criminal justice system from arrest to conviction and is even more pronounced among those serving life sentences. One in 5 Black men in prison is serving a life sentence and two thirds of all people serving life are people of color. An abundance of scholarship finds evidence of racial and ethnic disparities resulting in harsher sentencing outcomes because of race. Elevated rates of Black and Latinx imprisonment are partly caused by higher levels of engagement in violent crime, but are worsened by the racially disparate impacts of heavy-handed policies initiated during the 1980s and 1990s.

Communities that are under-resourced and over-punished need greater investment in evidence-based solutions that interrupt crime at its root. Public investments for supporting youth, ensuring access to medical and mental health care, expanding living wage employment opportunities and ensuring affordable housing are a better use of public resources than lifelong imprisonment. Lengthening prison sentences produces diminishing returns on public safety and robs struggling communities with necessary resources to fend off violence in the first place.

Despite a growing awareness that ratcheting up prison sentences, not crime trends, fueled mass incarceration, many sentencing reform proposals fall short of addressing this head on. Indeed, changes directed at scaling back punishments for low-level and nonviolent crimes are favored because they confront low-level and nonviolent crimes; this emphasis has had the unintended consequence of further legitimizing the utility of long-term imprisonment.

To reverse course on the nation's 40-year prison buildup, we must scale back all punishments and evaluate individuals based on their current behavior and prospects for a crime-free life upon release. Since more than half of the people in prison are serving sentences for a crime of violence, we must not only reevaluate appropriate sanctions in response to violent crime, but also how to prevent violent crime in the first place.

Some states are beginning to address overly long prison terms through second-look legislation. In 2018, California passed a law to allow prosecutors to seek sentence modifications from judges if sentences are believed to be excessive. In 2020, the Council of the District of Columbia passed legislation that provides people who were under 25 at the time of their offense and sentenced to a long term, the chance to petition the court for resentencing and early release after 15 years. At the federal level, Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey introduced the Second Look Act in 2019 which would allow a federally incarcerated person to petition the court for a sentence modification after 10 years.

These are important first steps. More must be done.

Recommendations

Abolish Life Without Parole

Sentences of life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) are virtually unheard of in the rest of the world. They are considered antithetical to personal transformation, the primary goal of many other corrections systems. Even more, they violate fundamental principles of human dignity. Instead of serving the interests of justice, LWOP unnecessarily burdens systems with the heavy cost of housing, feeding, and providing medical care for the more than 55,000 people. This disproportionately elderly population must live in institutions not well designed to care for them.

The elimination of LWOP will recalibrate all sentences underneath it. Public perceptions of incarceration minimize the negative impact of a 5- or 10-year sentence on an individual when compared to the extremes of a life sentence. Creation of a more fair and just system depends on ending all extreme penalties.

Limit All Life Sentences to 20 Years Except in Rare Circumstances

As with the country's use of LWOP, virtually unheard of elsewhere in the world, imprisonment beyond 20 years is a predominantly American phenomenon. Life sentences have been part of the American criminal legal system for decades, but only in the age of mass incarceration have they become part of the mainstream. In order to sensibly confront extreme sentencing, reduce mass incarceration, and redistribute resources to communities that would benefit from robust crime prevention, we recommend a 20-year maximum for all life sentences. We arrive at this recommendation after witnessing the continued expansion of America's zeal for ever-harsher punishment while decades of practical experience, data, and social science support more restorative approaches.

If, after 20 years of imprisonment, it is clear that the individual continues to engage in conduct that would put the public at risk if they were released, a period of civil confinement could be considered by a court. Individuals potentially subjected to such confinement would be entitled to strict due process rights and legal representation. This is similar to the practice in Norway, often held as the gold standard in corrections. The goal here would still be rehabilitation and reintegration, not exclusion, and mandatory periodic review to assess readiness for release would continue.

Accelerate and Expand Release Opportunities

America suffers from a broken parole system, or in some jurisdictions, no parole system at all. In jurisdictions with parole, the review process is mired in political jockeying and often manipulates victim experiences to secure a parole denial. A just parole system would operate independently from the politics of the executive branch both in the ultimate decision to release an individual, as well as the composition of the parole board. The board should be composed of professionals with expertise in social work, psychology, the law, and corrections. Crime of conviction should not be the determining factor in the decision of the parole board. The focus of the parole board hearing should be on the person's development while incarcerated, current public safety considerations, and identifying what supports are needed to ensure success after release.

States should also adopt "second look" policies that reconsider the appropriateness of continued incarceration given the passage of time and changed circumstances within the individual. Beginning this review at 10 or 15 years aligns the U.S. with the international community and the American Law Institute, a national nonpartisan body of legal experts. It should not take the corrections system more than 20 years to empower an individual with the skills necessary to live crime-free after release.

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Reorient Victim and Community Involvement Toward True Healing

In its present orientation, the justice system — and prosecutors specifically — employ victim testimony from individuals at high risk of retraumatization in order to obtain tough sanctions for the defendant. Survivors are not provided with the tools and resources sufficient to cope with the emotional, physical, and financial effects of having experienced crime. A reorientation of the role of victims requires investing in restorative and community justice models that heal the harm caused by violence at their root, creating a system that is "survivor-centered, accountability-based, safety driven, and racially equitable." Experts in this space know that we are all safer when we uplift victims, hold everyone accountable for their actions, and do so with empathy and compassion; not assume victims or communities are well-served by long-term imprisonment.

The Justice Center within the Council of State Governments (CSG) offers (1) publications, (2) data and tools, (3) videos (4) news and analysis and (5) events by accessing the following link:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/work-with-us/contact-us/>

The focus of the Justice Center is collaboration between law enforcement and the field of mental health.

Hancock County Restorative Justice Program Expands

The Ellsworth American

By: Jennifer Osborn
March 25, 2021

"The Hancock County restorative justice program for youths is expanding to include adults who have been charged with thefts, according to Leslie Ross, Hancock County case coordinator, and District Attorney Matt Foster. The program brings victims, offenders and affected community members together. There are so many benefits to these programs in that they allow victims to take an active part in a process that allows them to give voice to how this has harmed them and allows them to have a say in how to repair the harm done," Ross said. "As an alternative to jail, it offers the offender the opportunity to take ownership and responsibility for their actions, a chance to follow through on repairing the harm while staying connected to their community. We have been using the program for juveniles in Hancock County for the past several years with the help of Restorative Justice Project Midcoast and it seems to work really well," the prosecutor said. The restorative justice program for youths works outside of the court system in an informal setting with the juvenile community corrections officer, who takes the lead in an effort to divert young people before they become involved in the juvenile criminal justice system. The adult program will work in conjunction with the court system.

<https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/maine-news/cops/hancock-countys-restorative-justice-program-expanding/>

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The focus of the Justice Center is collaboration between law enforcement and the field of mental health.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS (VACJE) VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2020

On November 19, 2020, the VACJE held its first ever annual conference virtually. The conference theme was “Reshaping Today’s Criminal Justice Education for Tomorrow’s Practitioners: The New Guardians.” The conference preceded the annual business meeting held on November 20.

Dr. Quentin R. Johnson the sixth president of Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC), beginning July 1, 2019, was our dynamic Keynote Speaker. Dr. Johnson is a visionary and strategic servant leader with more than 25 years of senior level administrative experience. Dr. Johnson has previously served as Provost, Senior Vice President, or Vice President at six (6) post-secondary institutions, including; two (2) comprehensive community colleges, two (2) comprehensive public universities, and two (2) private post-secondary institutions.

Reshaping Today’s Criminal Justice Education from an Interdisciplinary Studies Perspective was addressed by Dr. Lenneal Henderson. Dr. Henderson is currently Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Eminent Scholar at Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia. He is also currently a Fellow of the International City/County Management Association in Washington, D.C. He was formerly a Visiting Faculty member in the Department of Government at the College of William and Mary; Distinguished Professor of Public and International Affairs; Senior Fellow of the Schaefer Center for Public Policy and Assistant Dean of the College of Public Affairs at the University of Baltimore (Emeritus); Head and Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Senior Faculty Member, Federal Executive Institute; Professor, School of Business and Public Administration at Howard University; Director of Ethnic Studies at the University of San Francisco.

Reshaping Today’s Criminal Justice Education from an International Perspective was addressed by Mr. Michael “Bret” Hood became the director of 21st Century Learning & Consulting, LLC upon his retirement in 2016 after 25 years as a Special Agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). During his tenure with the FBI, Mr. Hood led and served in three different divisions finishing his career by spending the last four years as an adjunct professor of leadership and ethics for the University of Virginia at the prestigious FBI National Academy.

In 2010, Mr. Hood was selected to be part of an elite team tasked to develop a new executive leadership program for the FBI. As such, he joined the FBI Academy staff in 2012 and created unique and interactive courses on the psychology behind leadership, executive leadership, ethics, decision-making and contemporary issues in leadership. In addition to these duties, Mr. Hood has led over 70 international delegations on behalf of the FBI teaching our foreign law enforcement partners about leadership, financial crimes, anti-money laundering and anti-corruption prevention and investigation.

Reshaping Today’s Criminal Justice Education from a Law Enforcement Perspective was addressed by Police Captain Henry Richardson. Captain Richardson has been with the Danville Police Department for 22 years. He is currently the Captain of Investigations and leader of the Crisis Negotiations Unit for past 10 years. He implemented the CIT Memphis Model of Crisis Negotiations for all law enforcement in south side Virginia in 2013. Captain Richardson implemented a modern gang and focused deterrent model of policing in the Danville Police Department beginning 2017 to address new gang issues that has shown violent crime reductions over 60 % since 2016. In addition to his command positions, he has been an instructor at Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy for 17 years. By all received accounts from the conference attendees, participants, and speakers, the 2020 virtual conference was a tremendous success. Each speaker provided notable insights and introspections and demonstrated topical depth and breadth. Individually and collectively the speakers were vibrant, engaging, inspiring, forward-thinking, intellectually stimulating, and academically provocative. The association remains appreciative for the shared perspectives of each speaker. We are also thankful for all attendees and participants.

The 2020 co-conference coordinators were Ms. Lynne Harrison and Dr. Delmar P. Wright. Ms. Harrison is a director-at-large of the VACJE. She is an adjunct faculty member in criminal justice at Averett University and she is a former police officer in the State of Missouri. Ms. Harrison is also a board member of the FBI Richmond Citizens Academy Alumni Association. Dr. Wright is the current president of the VACJE, former vice president, and a former director-at-large as well as a VACJE lifetime member. He is a tenured associate professor of criminal justice with Saint Leo University and a 30-year law enforcement veteran.

The association is grateful to Averett University for providing the ZOOM technology for our 2020 VACJE virtual conference. Dr. James Hodgson, a past VACJE president, provided the critical registration and essential technical support. Dr. Hodgson is a professor at Averett University and he serves as the Online Sociology/Criminal Justice Program Director.

HOW CAN ACADEMIA FURTHER ASSIST PRACTICE?

Delmar P. Wright, Ph.D.
Saint Leo University

The worldwide and universal key drivers and forces of change are people, technology, information, globalization, economics, catastrophic events, and science. Arguably politics and belief systems are also among the drivers. Individually or collectively the key drivers can have interdisciplinary impacts in the areas of public policy, law, psychology, sociology, criminology, social services, education, criminal justice, public health and human services, and business. For criminal justice, the impacts can be applied and multifaceted and can be urgent and compelling in multiple domains, inclusive of informational, physical and digital environments.

These key drivers influence and prompt public policy changes, new laws and changes to existing laws as well as new regulations and changes to existing regulations. The drivers and forces of change also manifest in new crimes, modified crimes, new forms of victimizations, and new or expanded criminal domains, e.g., cyber, transnational, domestic, social media, etc., and new methods to engage in criminal behaviors and activities. Public policies, laws and regulations ultimately influence organizational decisions that reflect the key drivers and forces of change through adopted policies, procedures, processes, practices, protocols, operating plans, strategic planning and management approaches. For example, in policing, the key drivers can impact human resource needs, resource allocations, basic and in-service training, knowledge and skills needs, technology applications, forensic implications, and changes in enforcement and investigative priorities, etc.

Education, professional training and employee development environments generally must monitor and maintain sensitivities to each of the identified key drivers of change and adjust accordingly to maintain well-informed course content, effective content delivery and ensure applied learning beyond theories. Knowledge and understanding needs and practitioner job demands must be considered when building course content. As such there is a growing need for academia to continuously identify factors related to institutional and program strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for improvements, and threats as well as the significance of each factor so as to properly build and not underappreciate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary relationships beneficial to positive practice outcomes.

The problems inherent in the 21st century and beyond, e.g., the changing nature of crime, victims, offenders, victimizations, and community impacts, etc., will increasingly require solutions that embody and buttress more than a single discipline or single specialization approach, e.g., law enforcement, arrests, prosecutions. Increasingly criminal justice students and other public service students must be sensitized to the necessity for formal collaborative approaches inclusive of an array of professionals to most effectively solve problems. To the latter point, currently multidisciplinary teams in some jurisdictions formally and informally address offenses such as child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, and human sex trafficking, as reflections of the need for collaborative approaches in practice. Such teams generally consist of law enforcement professionals, prosecutors, medical and mental health professionals, social service, child protection services (where applicable), private sector safe housing providers, and perhaps other stakeholders. One example of a legal basis for multidisciplinary efforts may be found in the Code of Virginia 15.2 – 1627.5. Coordination of multidisciplinary response to child sexual abuse and the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults.

Academia is uniquely poised, prepared, and positioned to model what this author has coined the Academically Influenced Multidisciplinary (AIM) approach to addressing multifaceted issues impacting criminal justice. As with the relatively burgeoning interdisciplinary work between academic disciplines in some institutions of higher learning, e.g., criminal justice, social work, human services, and education, so too must varied disciplines intentionally work together in practice. The interdisciplinary exposure of criminal justice students and the AIM approach can provide an appreciation for the operational outcomes to be achieved by collaboratively identifying, recognizing, appraising and responding to multidisciplinary risk factors for the purpose of developing and initiating evidence-based action plans and fact-based best practices to reduce or eliminate the risks. The AIM approach fosters interdisciplinary transference from classrooms to multidisciplinary practice through specific interdisciplinary courses, interdisciplinary lecturers, case studies, interdisciplinary research projects, webinars, symposiums, conferences, certificate programs, partnerships, etc.

To accomplish the AIM approach there is a clear need to confront and explore the current deficits associated with traditional understandings, philosophical gaps, and silo approaches in academia and in practice. There are often self-imposed constraints that negatively impact the depth and breadth of interdisciplinary collaboration in academia and multidisciplinary collaboration in practice. Consequently, there is a need to deconstruct silos that separate academic disciplines thereby limiting the broad academic discourse and interdisciplinary considerations essential to fully preparing students, assisting practitioners and supporting policy makers.

Where needed there must be a deconstruction of practice-based silos that inhibit and prevent effective multidisciplinary approaches to efficacious problem-solving in local communities. Academia can assist in deconstructing the practice-based silos by identifying interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary challenges, modeling interdisciplinary efforts, conducting and reporting interdisciplinary research, and sharing evidence-based multidisciplinary practices and best practices in response to the impacts of the key drivers.

About the author: Dr. Delmar P. Wright is a tenured associate professor of criminal justice at Saint Leo University and a retired 30-year law enforcement veteran. He currently serves as president of the VACJE.

MINUTES

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS

Board Meeting

November 10, 2020

Pending approval by the VACJE Executive Committee

Minutes are from secretary Chuck Kehoe.

In the absence of President Beth Easterling, the Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Vice President Delmar Wright at 3:03 p.m. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was conducted using Zoom conferencing technology. As per the By-Laws, Article 5, Section D. this was the seventh meeting of the Association Year.

Members Present: Vice President, Dr. Delmar Wright (St. Leo University – Fort Lee Center), Past President, Dr. James F. Hodgson (Averett University), Secretary, Charles Kehoe, (Virginia, Commonwealth University), Treasurer Paige Merkord-Reed, (Mary Baldwin University), and Board Members Martin Greenberg (Ret.), Lynne Harrison, (Averett University) and John Wilt (Averett University) Newsletter Editor. President Beth Easterling (Mary Baldwin University), and Robert Roth were excused. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 6, 2020 - The Vice President said the Secretary sent the minutes to the Board the previous night and asked the Secretary to present the minutes. The Secretary asked if there were any additions, corrections, or changes to the minutes. There being none, John Wilt moved and Martin Greenberg seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved
2. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Paige Merkord-Reed reported that the balance in the Association's checking account is \$887.28. There is one outstanding invoice of approximately \$116.00 that needs to be paid for the publication of the Newsletter. The Treasurer said five new members, including one Life Member, have submitted applications for membership and their dues are forthcoming. The universities buying ads in the newsletter will also be paying \$50.00 for a half page and \$100 for a full page. The Treasurer and John Wilt counted the roster and said with the new members the total membership is now 38.
3. Report on the 2020 Annual Virtual Conference - Vice President Delmar Wright reported that the 2020 Annual Conference is ready and the announcements are being sent to various interested parties. Conference Co-Chair, Dr. Lynne Harrison, said there may be some changes in listed speakers. Dr. Harrison said a conference agenda will be available at the start of the Zoom Conference. Dr. Harrison said she will open the Conference on Thursday morning and President Easterling will close the Conference on Friday following the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Harrison said the Round Table Panel discussion will feature Past President, Dr. James Hodgson, Dr. Lynne Harrison, and John Wilt. Each panel member will speak for 10 minutes and leave 15 to 30 minutes for questions. Dr. Harrison said John Wilt's presentation looks longer than 10 minutes. A discussion followed about the agenda for Friday morning. John Wilt asked if the papers that were to be delivered by members and students would still be presented Friday morning. Dr. Harrison said the Annual Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. but that the scheduled can be changed to enable the papers to be presented between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. The Annual Conference would begin at 10:15 a.m. It was decided that John Wilt and one student would present papers on Friday. The Round Table on Thursday would be feature D. Hodgson and Dr. Harrison.

Dr. Hodgson said that as of this meeting only three (3) people had registered for the conference. He said he expects several students from Averett University to participate. He encouraged the Board Members to register. Chuck Kehoe said he will be inviting faculty from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. He said he was going to invite staff from the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice, but he remembered that state agencies are barred from using Zoom for video conferences.

MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Dr. Hodgson said the link for the meeting will be sent to those who registered on Tuesday evening, November 17th, or Wednesday, November 18th. He said the Zoom Conference will open by 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, November 19th.

4. Old Business - Vice President Wright asked if there was any old business to come before the Board. Mr. Greenberg asked where we stand on welcoming members from outside Virginia. Secretary Kehoe said the proposed revised By-laws, that will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, do not limit membership to those working or living in Virginia. Secretary Kehoe said he recalled an earlier conversation regarding the DC colleges and universities. He said at that time it was said there no interest shown in joining VACJE.

John Wilt asked if there was any feedback on the Newsletter. Board members complimented Mr. Wilt on the excellent newsletter.

5. New Business - Vice President Wright asked if there was any new business to come before the Board. Dr. Harrison said that she looked into the inmate who was to give a presentation on the thesis he is doing for his Ph.D. at George Mason University. She said she found that the inmate is seeking clemency for his charge and that she is concerned VACJE could be asked to endorse this clemency. Dr. Wright said he would communicate with President Easterling regarding the inmate's presentation and that if necessary we could make changes in the program. He said VACJE should not be used to foster a clemency.

6. Next Meeting – Vice President Wright said the next meeting will be the Annual Meeting and will be held on Zoom on Friday, November 20, 2020 at 10:15 a.m. EST. There being no further business, the Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by Charles J. Kehoe

November 13, 2020
DATE

These Minutes were approved by the Board on _____.