

Minutes from WVAPO Virtual Meeting on 04/18/25

*****Motions made during meeting are italicized*****

Members present: Jessica, Dane, Erika, Lucy, Jerrod, Danielle, Matt, Heidi, D.R., Dave, Jerry, Kevin, Tracy, Lon, Darren

10:00 AM – Meeting began. Following the Governor’s Proclamation declaring a ½ day holiday for Good Friday, our meeting was held virtually. *Jessica immediately made a motion to accept the minutes from our virtual meeting in December. All were in favor of the motion.*

10:01 AM – Danielle presented WVAPO Account Financial Report. We also had a detailed discussion regarding the recent fraudulent transaction on the WVAPO website. Since we did not contest the transaction within 48 hours, it was cleared by GoDaddy. The card owner contested the fraudulent charge and was refunded, but we had to pay a penalty as a result.

10:04 AM – *Danielle made a motion for the treasurer to have the authority to immediately contest fraudulent transactions on the GoDaddy website without the need for a motion to avoid unnecessary and costly penalties in the future. All were in favor of the motion.*

10:06 AM – *Motion to accept WVAPO Account Financial Report. All were in favor of the motion.*

10:08 AM – Only one (1) Officer, Jennifer Lester, did not receive a years of service award. *A motion was made to award her 10-year service plaque. All were in favor of the motion.*

10:09 AM – Since we met virtually, Jessica suggested that we mail the remaining conference gifts (WVAPO Crewneck Sweatshirts) to those who did not receive them at conference. *Danielle made a motion for Kevin to mail the shirts and be reimbursed for the cost from the WVAPO account. All were in favor of the motion.*

10:12 AM – Dave reported that there were not many updates from the education committee. They are potentially eyeing a three (3) day secretary training in the fall, but he is still working out the details with Chris Salmons.

10:14 AM – Chief’s Committee has been quiet, but Jerry reported on a few topics from the chief’s meeting, specifically Probationers who are convicted for child abuse and required to register. Looking into whether those cases need modifiers like special programs, rather than counting as a single case.

10:19 AM – Long discussion regarding extra incentives for employee retention, especially if we are not going to continue to get incremental raises. Currently, overtime is strongly discouraged, and you are required to work at least six (6) hours to account for your paid lunches. A lot of agencies that are competitive with our wages offer and often encourage working some overtime. The Governor has publicly stated that he does not want to lose employees to surrounding states, but there have been no announcements on what is going to be done for retention.

10:23 AM – Should there be an adjustment or removal of salary caps for extra education? Extra education should be encouraged, especially with the reimbursement incentive, but should there be caps for +15, +30, or +45 hours beyond a master's degree? *Matt made a motion for Jessica to examine the financial ramifications/feasibility with Administrative Office. All in favor of the motion.*

10:35 AM – Jessica met with Senator Grady. Meetings are to inform, rather than demand. Discussed extended supervision for 3rd Offense Domestic Violence cases. She was a proponent for getting extended supervision for solicitation of minors.

10:41 AM – Senator Grady was surprised we pay for our firearms. Are there potential grants for those who cannot afford them? It would need approval from Supreme Court.

10:42 AM – It was reported that they are looking into pay for all state employees in surrounding states. PEIA disbandment was just a rumor. They are exploring private insurance options, but most are as expensive if not more.

10:44 AM – Metro News had a list of twenty-nine (29) line items that were cut from the state budget. A direct link to the letter from the Governor's Office to the Secretary of State can be accessed from that page.

10:46 AM – I spoke briefly regarding two (2) Senate Bills, SB196 and SB138. As of April 24, 2025, they have both been signed by the Governor

- Senate Bill 138, which takes effect June 12, 2025, enhances penalties for 2nd and 3rd offense fleeing. Fleeing by Means Other Than a Vehicle, Fleeing in a Vehicle, and Fleeing resulting in property damage 2nd and 3rd Offense are now felonies, which carry prison terms of 1-3 years and 2-5 years, respectively.
- Senate Bill 196, which takes effect July 11, 2025, is a complete overhaul of the Uniform Controlled Substance Act. Please take note that there are **MANY** changes that are not listed here, but some notable changes are as follows:
 - Possession with Intent to Deliver a Schedule I or Schedule II Narcotic Substance or Methamphetamine is punishable by an indeterminate sentence of not less than three (3) nor more than fifteen (15) years.
 - Possession with Intent to Deliver fifty (50) grams or more of Methamphetamine or five (5) grams or more of Fentanyl is punishable by an indeterminate sentence of not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) years **and are not eligible for an alternative sentence of probation, home confinement, or having their sentence suspended for any reason.**
 - Possession with Intent to Deliver not less than five (5) but fewer than fifty (50) grams of Methamphetamine and not less than one (1) but fewer than five (5) grams of Fentanyl is punishable by an indeterminate sentence of not less than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) years **and are not eligible for an alternative sentence of probation, home confinement, or having their sentence suspended for any reason.**

- Conspiracy sentences have been converted to indeterminate sentencing. Conspiracy to Deliver the above-mentioned quantities of Methamphetamine or Fentanyl **are not eligible for an alternative sentence of probation, home confinement, or having their sentence suspended for any reason.**

10:49 AM – Last store was small, and sales were down for the second time in a row. Check still needs signed and deposited.

10:51 AM – No website updates currently. Matt will send an update regarding their new Family Treatment Court. Dave will send an update regarding his graduates from ADC. Jessica reported that Wood County hired a new JDC Officer, so she will provide an update regarding that hire.

10:55 AM – No PO of the Year updates yet, as it is still too early in the year. New voting process was a success, so it will continue to operate that way moving forward.

10:56 AM – No major Judiciary Committee updates. Jessica still needs to set up a meeting. Still no word on the recent survey groups.

10:57 AM – D.R. reported that the requalifications are still ongoing. The course is timed for a reason. All Officers need to take care of their firearm and respect the course. All new hires need to get into the upcoming class. There have been no new updates regarding regular defensive tactics training for all Officers. Chief's Committee to get involved and push it along.

11:09 AM – Matt will be drafting an ALLPO email regarding the WVAPO. Elections at the conference needs to be more streamlined, and we would like to move on from counting ballots by hand. QR Code or other hyperlink options for electronic voting? Should we open nominations before conference and close them in a reasonable amount of time to prepare the ballots?

11:13 AM – No Ethics Committee updates at this time.

11:14 AM – Jerrod is still working on the packet to present to the Justices and Administrative Office regarding recommended changes for our retirement. University Police were just let into the Deputy Sheriff's Retirement, which was a surprise.

11:17 AM – The board would like to have at least one (1) meeting in person per year. Maybe do two (2) meetings in person and two (2) virtually? Should we change the venue? Also, for transparency's sake, should we post our minutes on the WVAPO website?

11:25 AM – Meeting Adjourned.