

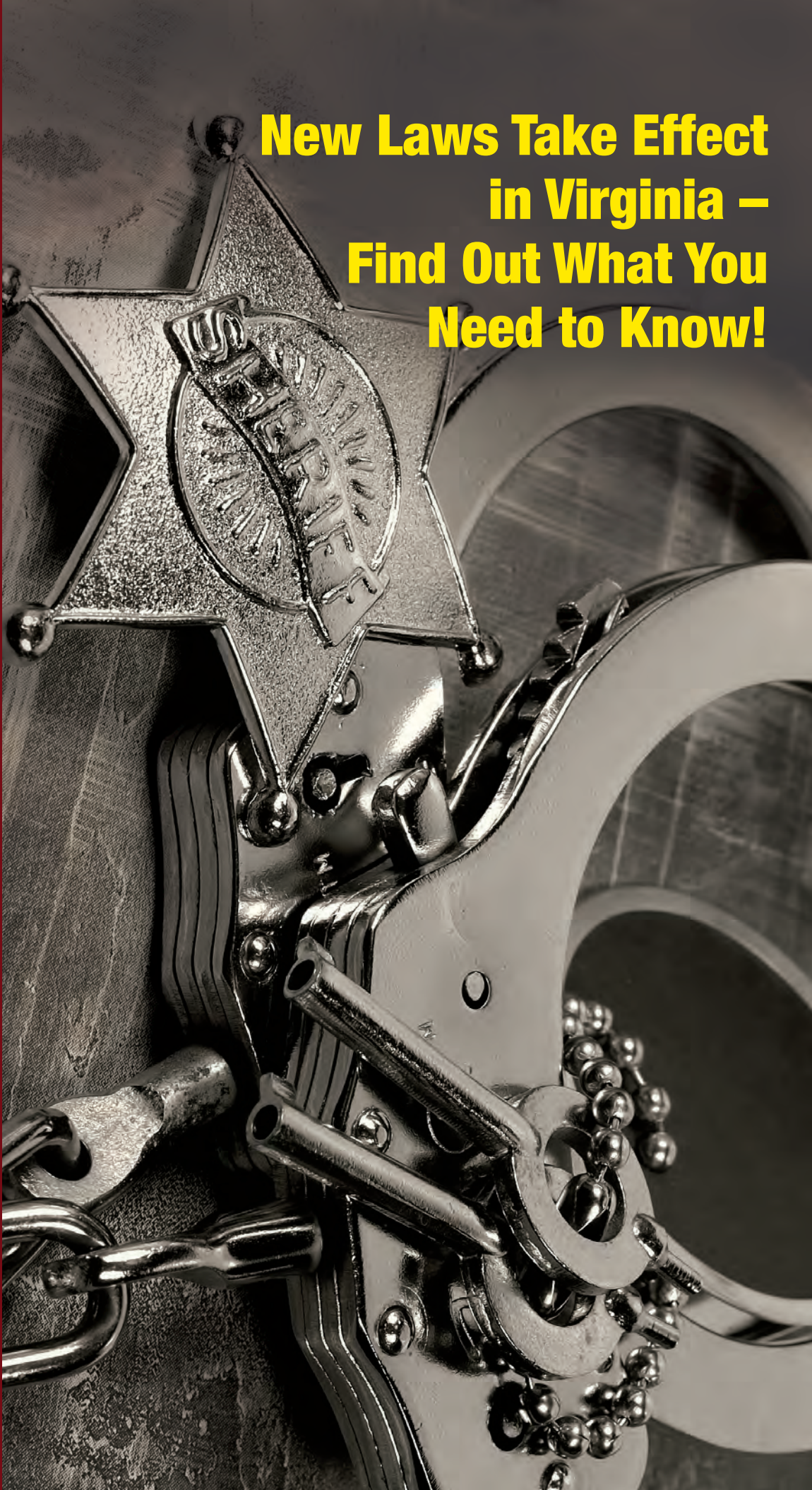


# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2012



VSI Executive Director  
Sheriff John W. Jones  
701 East Franklin St., Ste 706  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 225-7152



## New Laws Take Effect in Virginia – Find Out What You Need to Know!

### IN THIS ISSUE ...

- New Laws Passed by VA  
Gen. Assembly..... 2**
- America’s Night Out! ..... 3**
- Conference Recap ..... 3**
- Deputy Sheriff Killed in  
the Line of Duty ..... 3**
- Find Us on Facebook..... 3**
- VSI Scholarship  
Winners Announced! ..... 4**
- Message from Executive  
Director John Jones..... 4**



2012-2013

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# 2012 VA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI) monitors all legislation that impacts the office of the Sheriff. VSI would like to touch on a few key pieces of legislation that will promote the public safety of Virginia residents and aid law enforcement officers in our efforts to fight crime:

**S14** aims at curbing the production of methamphetamine by electronically monitoring the sales of nonprescription drugs, like pseudoephedrine, used to manufacture the illegal stimulant. By putting most of these retailers under one electronic pseudoephedrine sales tracking system called the National Precursor Log Exchange, or NPLEx, customers are restricted from buying more than the legal limit of these medications, and consumers can continue to enjoy the use of over-the-counter cold remedies without having to get a doctor's prescription.

**HB 1238** provides that between July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2014, state and local agencies may direct cash funds and proceeds from forfeited drug assets to the Virginia Public Safety Foundation to support the construction of the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial. Funding decisions shall be made following an internal analysis that determines contributions will not negatively impact law-enforcement training or operations.

**HB 556** prohibits publication on the Internet of the personal information of certain public officials by the Commonwealth. The bill provides a court process for these public officials to protect their personal information.

**HB 965** would require all campus police to enter into mutual aid agreements with local law enforcement for investigations of deaths and sexual assaults that occur on campus.

**HB 969** would require local prosecutors to invite campus police to join the local Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), which establishes local investigative policies.

For a full list of crime prevention and law enforcement related bills passed in the 2012 Virginia General Assembly, I urge you to visit:

**[http://vasheriff.org/  
legislative/2012-legislation](http://vasheriff.org/legislative/2012-legislation)**



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

August 7, 2012 is the 29th annual “National Night Out,” a nationwide crime and drug prevention awareness program that provides a unique opportunity for counties in Virginia to join forces with thousands of other communities all across the country in promoting cooperation with police and community crime prevention efforts.

The nationwide event is coordinated by the National Association of Town Watch, and is sponsored each year by Target stores and the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau. Over 37 million people from over 15,000 communities participated in National Night Out in 2011.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

If you'd like to know if your County is taking part in this important crime prevention event, I urge you to contact your Sheriff's office. Or if you'd like to learn more about how you can personally get involved, you can go online to: <http://www.natw.org/nno/>.

## DEPUTY SHERIFF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Charles City County Deputy Sheriff Michael C. Walizer, 36, died in the line of duty on March 31st. He was an 11-year veteran of law enforcement. Sadly, he left behind a wife and four children, ranging in age from one to eleven. Mike was answering a call for service when the accident happened. Thanks to the support we receive from Virginia citizens, like you, VSI was able to step in to help Deputy Walizer's family through this most difficult time.

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is proud to assist families in need when tragedies like this occur. Because of donations from our Associate Members, VSI is able to provide assistance when a community is experiencing distress such as the case of Deputy Walizer ... and your support helps to make that possible.

VSI was able to step forward with a contribution to the local memorial fund, set up to provide much needed immediate financial assistance.

## SPECIAL THANKS!

Sheriffs from all across the Commonwealth, along with exhibitors and speakers, attended the 2012 Virginia Sheriffs' Institute Spring Conference held in Newport News, Virginia in April.

This year's conference provided an important forum for Sheriffs and deputies to discuss new laws passed by the Virginia General Assembly and their impact on the duties of law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, important training sessions were held for law enforcement officers to enhance crime prevention efforts.

The Newport News Marriot at City Center made an excellent venue for the event and now the Sheriffs are looking forward to their annual conference later this fall. Many thanks to our Associate Members for making this year's spring meeting a resounding success!



Don't forget to Join Us on Facebook! — Where we'll keep you updated on breaking news, including legislation that could impact law enforcement efforts in Virginia. And feel free to post your feedback on ways we can improve our programs that benefit Virginia Sheriffs, Deputies, and citizens like you.

# PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM VSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN W. JONES



On behalf of all of us at the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, I hope you and your family are excited to jumpstart your summer plans in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Here are some safety tips to keep you and your family safe during these busy summer months:

If you're traveling out of town as so many Virginia families are planning to do this summer, keep your travel plans private — don't "broadcast" when you are traveling away from

home, when you are home alone, where your children are if they aren't with you, etc.

Sadly, Facebook and other social media outlets are providing would-be criminals with a wealth of information and knowledge that they can use to commit crimes against people in our community. Just as important, now that school is out, know who your children are with and know the parents of their friends.

We all can do our part to reduce crimes of opportunity by keeping your garage doors closed and locked, back doors and windows locked, and cars locked. Remember to keep your valuables OUT of plain sight.

As always, it is my privilege to serve as Executive Director of VSI and I urge you to contact your Sheriff's office if you have any concerns about crime prevention efforts in your community. Make no mistake, my fellow law enforcement officers and I will continue to strive to do everything in our power to serve and protect the residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And please, I hope you'll continue to be an important partner in our efforts to keep your community secure by reporting crimes and suspicious activity when you see them so that we can do our very best to keep your community a safe place to work, play, live, and raise our families.

I deeply appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John W. Jones, Executive Director  
Virginia Sheriffs' Institute  
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 706  
Richmond, VA 23219

## VSI ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP FUND WINNERS!

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With the help of residents like you, the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI) secures the critical funding needed to continue providing desperately needed scholarships to Virginia citizens to pursue Criminal Justice degrees — a great source of pride for us all and a vital step in ensuring our safety. VSI is the only organization in Virginia helping the state's law enforcement students with Criminal Justice scholarships.

One of our most recent scholarship award recipients is Jonathon R. Smith, of Appomattox County, Virginia. Jonathon is planning on attending Virginia Wesleyan College where he will be pursuing a course of study in Criminal Justice.

Jonathon is just one of many scholarship recipients throughout Virginia and we're proud to help him and other students achieve their goal of becoming law enforcement officers. In fact, with the help of loyal members like you, we've awarded 78 scholarships for 2012-2013 to Virginia's youth.

### We Want to Hear from You ...

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*Drop us a note, give us a call, or send us an email.*



701 East Franklin Street - Suite 706  
Richmond, Virginia 23219



(804) 225-7152 phone



(804) 225-7162 fax



vsavsi@virginiasheriffs.org

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute solicits articles and comments from associate members of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute for inclusion in this newsletter. Articles and comments should be directed to: John W. Jones, Executive Director, Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, 701 East Franklin Street, Suite 706, Richmond, VA 23219-2512, or phone (804) 225-7152.

*The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute does not solicit donations by telephone.*