NEW LAWS PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY

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The VSI 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, 901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or phone (804) 225-7152.

NEW LAWS AHEAD

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 busy enjoying your summer in the Commonwealth of Virginia. While summertime brings lots of opportunity to explore our state’s beaches and parks, and enjoy outdoor activities, it also brings some extra risks.

If you or a family member is planning to go biking this summer, make sure you wear a helmet and other safety gear, and abide by traffic laws. If you’re out jogging, remember there are more cars on the road during the summer months and more tourists in Virginia, so please take extra precaution by utilizing sidewalks when available and always jog facing traffic.

While legal fireworks are a tradition for many on July 4th, they can be dangerous for users, pets, and the environment. Many types of fireworks are illegal in Virginia unless you are a licensed contractor. And many local governments have banned fireworks or restricted their use, so be informed about what is prohibited. If you are permitted to set off legal fireworks, make sure you take precautions when setting them off.

I want you to know 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 questions about the subjects we discuss in this issue of the VSI newsletter, or if any other concerns about crime prevention or public safety efforts in your community.

I deeply appreciate your involvement as a loyal supporter of the Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute.

Sincerely,

John W. Jones, Executive Director
Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute
901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301
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SPECIAL THANKS!

More than 250 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs from all across the Commonwealth, along with exhibitors and speakers, attended the 2017 Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute Spring Conference held April 19-21 in Norfolk, Virginia — all made possible by the members of the VSI through annual contributions.

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 public safety and the duties of law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Important training sessions were conducted to enhance crime prevention efforts. The conference also featured seminars on “Radicalization — 2017 Terrorism Update,” and “Protecting Your Assets and Avoiding Sanctions for Failure to Preserve Evidence,” and “Mental Health and Jail Issues that Affect Sheriffs,” among others. In addition, during the conference, VSI announced the VSI Certification Program for sheriffs and deputies. Applications will be accepted this fall for the inaugural class of VSI Certified sheriffs and deputy sheriffs.

The Norfolk Waterside Marriott made an excellent venue for the event and now the sheriffs are looking forward to their fall conference this September. Many thanks to our Associate Members for making this year’s spring meeting a resounding success!
NEW LAWS TAKE EFFECT — HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute 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:

• Driver’s education requirement includes protocol when pulled over by law enforcement — H.B. 2290 requires driver’s education courses in the public school system to include specific instructions for how to respond as a driver during a traffic stop.

• Driving slow in the fast lane — H.B. 2201 requires drivers to stay to the right when driving on a highway except when passing another vehicle. A vehicle sustaining speeds lower than the posted speed limit in the left lane could incur a fine of $100.

• Reselling of tickets — Signed into law, H.B. 1825 allows Virginians to resell tickets they’ve purchased for concerts, sporting, or theatre events. The law specifically outlines that Virginians may not be denied admission from events with a ticket they’ve purchased from someone else.

• School Resource Officers may carry guns — H.B. 1392 signed into law allows schools to hire armed security guards who have been retired from law enforcement for 10 years or less.

• We’re also proud to report that the General Assembly provided pay raises to Virginia’s law enforcement community. The General Assembly approved the career development and compression pay raises offered by Governor McAuliffe and increased the bonus proposed by the governor to a pay raise of 2% effective August 1, 2017.

Finally, the General Assembly approved legislation that allows sheriffs to purchase sheriff’s vehicles off a contract negotiated and offered by the Virginia Sheriffs’ Association (VSA). Not only does this speak well of the respect the legislators have for the VSA, this action will save money for counties and cities when purchasing law enforcement vehicles.

VA’S ONLINE STORE NOW OPEN

The VSA online store is now open. This is an exciting new way for our members to show their support for the Virginia sheriffs. To be the first to purchase official VSA merchandise, visit the official VSA Online Store at vasheriffs.tacshops.com. There you will find high-quality men and women’s apparel, items for hunting, and other items that are perfect for gifts.

By shopping at the VSA Online Store, you will be taking your support of your local sheriff’s office to the next level. A percentage of every sale will provide the VSA with additional funds to continue their great work in fighting for legislation to protect the citizens in our community. And while supplies last, for each order placed, you will receive one travel mirror FREE! If your order exceeds $50 you will also receive a complimentary umbrella.

Make sure you visit the store often to find the latest authentic VSA apparel and gift merchandise — which will change periodically — as well as the latest promotions. I hope you enjoy shopping at the Virginia Sheriffs’ Association Online Store. As always, thank you for your support.

EXTREME HEAT SAFETY TIPS

According to the City of Falls Church government website, even in cool temperatures, cars get dangerously hot temperatures very quickly. Even with the windows cracked open, interior temperatures can rise almost 20 degrees Fahrenheit within the first ten minutes. Anyone left inside is at risk for serious heat-related illnesses even death. Children who are left unattended in parked cars are at greatest risk for heat stroke, and possibly death. When traveling with children, remember to do the following:

• Never leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.

• To remind yourself that a child is in the car, keep a stuffed animal in the car. When the child is removed in, place the stuffed animal in front with the driver.

• When leaving your car, check to be sure everyone is out. Do not overlook any children who have fallen asleep in the car.

In addition, to stay cool this summer, remember to drink plenty of fluids, wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen, and try to limit outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.

BEDFORD COUNTY SHERIFF NAMED SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

Bedford County Sheriff Mike Brown received the 2017 Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year award from the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) in recognition for his contribution to the law enforcement community this summer in Reno, NV, at the association’s annual conference.

The award, given annually by the NSA, recognizes a sheriff who has made outstanding contributions to law enforcement and the criminal justice profession, demonstrates exceptional service to his or her community, and has contributed to the betterment of the NSA. The prestigious national award is awarded to any active sheriff who has performed the duties of his or her office in the highest professional manner as well as enhances the Office of Sheriff, and is given in memory and honor of Ferris E. Lucas, who served as President of the National Sheriffs’ Association (1944-1946) and Executive Director of the National Sheriffs’ Association (1964-1982).

“Sheriff Brown embodies what this award was created to recognize,” said NSA Executive Director Jonathan Thompson. “There are no limits or obstacles to keeping his community safe and equipping them with the proper tools to succeed, he is not only a great Sheriff but an even better person.”

Sheriff Brown, now serving in his sixth term, was recently honored by the National Sheriffs’ Association for his service of 50 years in the law enforcement community. He has brought programs to Bedford County, and throughout the country, to keep communities safe, including children and members of law enforcement.

NEW CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Virginia sheriffs and deputies work hard every day serving the community in courthouses, jails, and neighborhoods across the Commonwealth. But they work hard behind the scenes, too, improving their skills by taking classes in leadership and professional development, completing their bachelor’s or master’s degree, or instructing their fellow law enforcement officers.

To recognize those sheriffs and deputies who demonstrate a commitment to continual self-improvement, the Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute has partnered with the Virginia Sheriffs’ Association, the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation and the Performance Management Group at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University to establish a certification process.

This program is the only certification program to distinguish the individual efforts of Virginia’s sheriffs and deputies. Participation in the certification program is entirely voluntary. Certification will be good for four years, after which time applicants may apply to be recertified based on continuing professional development.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

With the help of residents like you, VSI secures the critical funding needed to continue providing desperately needed scholarships to Virginia citizens pursuing 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 Anthony M. Pinto, of Williamsburg-James City County, Virginia. Anthony is planning on attending Virginia Commonwealth University where he will be pursuing a course of study in criminal justice.

We’re very pleased to announce that 79 promising Virginia students have benefited from your generous support this year — 77 full-time scholarships at $1,000 and 2 part-time at $500. That’s $78,500 going toward education costs for some great young people that will benefit everyone in our Commonwealth. It’s all part of our effort to provide an opportunity for students across Virginia to pursue a career of service to community in law enforcement, to the benefit of all Virginia’s citizens — again, thanks to our associate and business members!
17 VA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE ROUNDCUP

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LIKE THE VIRGINIA SHERIFFS’ INSTITUTE ON FACEBOOK!

The Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute would really appreciate your “electronic approval”! Please visit our Facebook page today and like us at www.facebook.com/sheriffsinstitute!
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ATTENTION
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