



**NEWSLETTER**  
FALL EDITION 2013

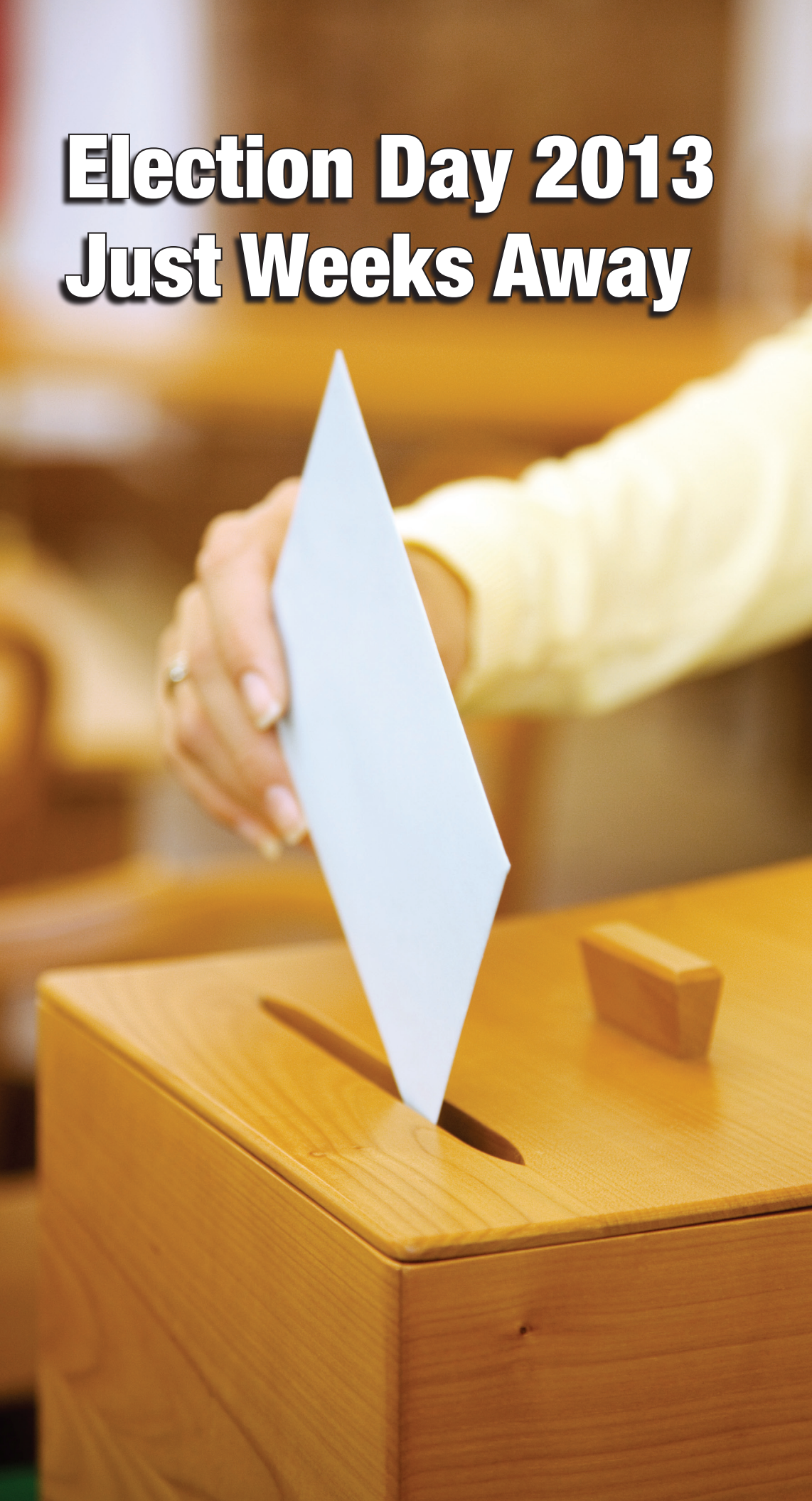
# Election Day 2013 Just Weeks Away



John W. Jones  
Executive Director  
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 706  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 225-7152

**IN THIS ISSUE ...**

- Election Day 2013  
Just Weeks Away ..... 2**
- Safety Tips For an  
Enjoyable Fall..... 2**
- Virginia Sheriffs' 80th Annual  
Fall Conference Recap ..... 3**
- VSI Supports the U.S.  
Department of Veterans  
Affairs' Drive to End  
Veteran Homelessness ..... 3**
- Donate Your Vehicle Through  
Action Donation Services .... 3**
- Sheriff Washington Elected  
to NSA Board of Directors ... 4**
- Message from  
John W. Jones..... 4**





2013-2014

**President**

Sheriff Steven L. Dye  
Russell County

**Immediate Past President**

Sheriff Alex L. Caldwell, Jr.  
City of Staunton

**Vice President**

Sheriff Anthony W. Roper  
Clarke County

**Secretary**

Sheriff C. O. Balderson  
Westmoreland County

**Treasurer**

Sheriff Javier J. Smith  
Charles City County

**Board of Directors**

Sheriff James R. Edwards, Jr.  
Greensville County

Sheriff Thomas D. Jones  
Charlotte County

Sheriff Michael S. Mondul  
City of Danville

Sheriff Shannon B. Zeman  
Floyd County

**Executive Director**

John W. Jones

## ELECTION DAY 2013 JUST WEEKS AWAY

In the summer issue of *VSI Newsletter*, we looked at a number of new laws which passed through the Virginia General Assembly this year (see “2013 Virginia General Assembly Legislation Retrospective”), and analyzed their impact on our Virginia Sheriffs and their staffs, from legislation dealing with texting while driving and the use of drones by law enforcement to protecting our Sheriffs’ personnel from individual liability and injuries sustained in the line of duty.

These new laws represent the culmination of the democratic process -- which begins with Virginia voters going to the polls to vote for the candidates of their choice. With Virginia’s Election Day 2013 just around the corner on Tuesday, November 5th, the Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute urges you to familiarize yourself with the candidates and the issues and cast your ballot for those men and women

who understand the needs of law enforcement and the importance of allocating critical funds to promote public safety.

Virginians will be electing a new governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and House of Delegates representation, as well as important local offices. Good governance and smart policy start with educated voters, so avail yourself of the many resources to learn more about all the candidates and their positions. Study all the candidates’ websites and contact them. Ask inquiring questions. Attend debates. Be informed and know your choices.

To find out what polling location you’re assigned to or to obtain an absentee ballot, please visit the Virginia State Board of Elections website at: [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) and **be sure to vote on November 5th!**

## SAFETY TIPS FOR AN ENJOYABLE FALL

It’s another beautiful autumn here in Virginia, with all that entails -- changing colors, crisp weather, the return of classes and with it football games and tailgating. With the falling temperature and falling leaves, and especially with our youngsters making their way to school, it’s a good time to review some information which can help us all have a safe and happy season.

Safety starts at home -- a busy place during the fall. Falling leaves mean raking, bagging, and cleaning gutters. Be sure to dress properly for outside work, keeping in mind the variable autumn weather. Be careful with mowers and other maintenance equipment, especially when using ladders, and remember to lift with your legs when hefting bags of leaves, etc. Have your chimney or furnace inspected to avoid dangers when heating your home.



When out and about, especially when driving during the morning and afternoon, be mindful of children making their way to and from school. Help crossing guards and bus drivers protect our kids at busy intersections and drop-offs by obeying their signals, and be careful of slippery wet leaves on the road surface. *(Continued on pg. 3)*

## *“Tips for an Enjoyable Fall”, Continued*

Halloween is just a few weeks away -- you can help ensure it is an enjoyable experience for children and families by encouraging safe activities. Check with your local community for Trick-or-treat schedules, and if your children are taking part, remember that masks and costumes can reduce a wearer's vision and mobility. Have a flashlight handy and make sure costumes are flame retardant and highly visible, and always check any candy your kids receive before they eat it. Commonsense and preparedness will go a long way toward a wonderful Virginia fall season!

## **VSI'S 80TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE RECAP**

From September 15-17, Sheriffs from across Virginia gathered together at the Norfolk Waterside Marriot Hotel for the Virginia Sheriffs' Association's 80th Annual Conference and Exhibition. The Conference hosted more than 500 sheriffs, deputies, exhibitors and guests and represents the Association's largest annual event.

Conference attendees benefited from a great program with of an array of speakers relating to criminal justice and sheriff's office management, and numerous exhibitors displayed the latest equipment and merchandise. The Moseley Architects/Virginia Sheriffs' Association annual golf tournament, President's Reception in the exhibit hall, and Monday night cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk sponsored by Conmed Healthcare Management and the annual banquet on Tuesday evening were notable highlights of the event.

## **“VA HELPING THE VA” — VSI SUPPORTS THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' DRIVE TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**

As a strong supporter of Virginia's Sheriffs and Sheriffs' Deputies, you know all about the selfless courage the men and women of Virginia's Sheriffs' Offices display on a daily basis in performing their duties. And just as these brave and dedicated law enforcement officers need and appreciate your help, there are thousands of American veterans who have served their country honorably and bravely in the United States Armed Forces who need a helping hand today as well.

## **A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT VSI — DONATE YOUR VEHICLE THROUGH ACTION DONATION SERVICES**

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute has partnered with Action Donation Services, a property donation service, to make supporting our work on behalf of Virginia's Sheriffs even easier. Through the service, you may donate a car, boat, truck, RV, aircraft, yacht, snowmobile, jet ski, motorcycle, heavy construction equipment, or other property to VSI, and be sure that we'll receive the maximum value for your gift, while you receive the maximum legal tax deduction for your donation.

If you have unwanted vehicles taking up space, why not consider them in your support for Virginia's Sheriffs? To learn more about this great opportunity, please visit Action Donation Services' website at [www.actiondonation.org](http://www.actiondonation.org), or call toll free at 1-866-244-8464 today!



That's why the VSI is pleased to bring a very worthwhile program benefiting America's homeless veterans to your attention. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015, because no one who has served our country should ever go without a safe, stable place to call home. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please visit the VA online at: [www.va.gov/homeless/](http://www.va.gov/homeless/), or call 877-4AID-VET (424-3838) today.

# PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM VSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOHN W. JONES



I hope you and your family enjoyed your Virginia summer -- time sure flies by, doesn't it? As you receive this Fall edition of the VSI Newsletter, children across the Commonwealth are already back to school and looking forward excitedly to Halloween! For adults, fall means

raking leaves, and importantly, the call to perform our basic civic duty and take part in Virginia's 2013 Elections by voting on November 5th.

As we note in this issue, effective law enforcement and public safety, like all good governance, begin with choosing effective leaders to represent *us* -- the people of Virginia. That's why it's so vital that voters are informed about all the candidates and their positions on the issues which affect us all. In the next few weeks, you have the opportunity to be involved in the democratic process to ensure that Virginia's Sheriffs and Sheriffs' Deputies are empowered and properly funded to carry out their duties protecting our communities and rights. From Governor on down the ballot, it's up to us to ensure Virginians get the leadership we deserve.

Fall in Virginia is a wonderful time, from the cool crisp days and gorgeous fall foliage to school activities, football games, trips to the orchard for apples and pumpkins, festivals of all kinds and of course, Halloween. Inside this issue, we've included some practical tips to help us experience all the fall season and its activities have to offer safely and enjoyably.

On behalf of everyone here at the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, we greatly appreciate the partnership of citizens like you in making sure our Commonwealth is a great place to live, work, and learn.

Thank you again for all you do to support us -- have a great autumn and don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 5th!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Jones".





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

## FLUVANNA COUNTY SHERIFF RYANT L. WASHINGTON ELECTED TO NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is proud to announce that Sheriff Ryant L. Washington of Fluvanna County, Virginia has been elected to the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) Board of Directors. The NSA, headquartered in Alexandria, works to provide training programs and other resources to enable sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice nationwide to perform their jobs in the best possible manner and to better serve the people of their jurisdictions.

## We Want to Hear from You ...

*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](mailto:vsavsi@virginiasheriffs.org)

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

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.