



# NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2019



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# Virginia Sheriffs Ready for 2019 Session of the General Assembly

## PRIORITIES:

1. Address low compensation for all deputy sheriffs and support staff
2. Increase funding for school resource officers
3. Tackle growing opioid crisis
4. Address critical staffing needs in sheriff's offices





2018-2019

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Appomattox County

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City of Danville

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**Executive Director**  
John W. Jones

## VSA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

This year the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) will work with members of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly to focus on the issue of low compensation again for deputy sheriffs, school safety, staffing and many other critical public safety needs.

While progress was made last year, we are pushing this year for adjustments to provide a livable wage. We continue to have a high turnover rate for first-year deputies. Other law enforcement agencies are recruiting directly from the sheriffs' offices once their training is complete and are able to offer higher salaries. This remains an ongoing battle for the VSA.

Did you know that sheriffs are Virginia's only elected law enforcement officers and are provided for in the Constitution of Virginia? Sheriffs' offices are also the primary law enforcement office in 86 counties in Virginia, making over 63,000 part A and part B arrests annually and answering nearly 2 million calls for service. Sheriffs are absorbing additional responsibilities each year, including the overwhelming responsibility of mental health transports and addressing the mental health crisis in local jails.

In addition, sheriffs serve more than 3 million civil process papers to keep the court system moving and provide security to keep Virginia's courts, judges and



users of the judicial system safe. Sheriffs also serve as the keepers of all local jails and many serve as policy makers on regional jail boards and authorities. Compensation should reflect these growing responsibilities.

VSA is also advocating for increased funding for more school resource officers, greater time spent by counselors with students, and creating a mental health and suicide prevention tip line as part of an initiative on increased school safety.

Finally, VSA is proud to be involved in the Governor's Opioid Task Force to address this continuing crisis. Opioids kill more Americans under 50 than guns or car accidents. The Fauquier County Sheriff's Office and sheriffs throughout the Commonwealth will be monitoring legislation that helps tackle the growing opioid epidemic.

## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM NOW OPEN



The National Law Enforcement Museum opened on October 13, 2018 in Judiciary Square, Washington D. C. Through innovative and engaging exhibits, artifacts, and programs, the museum is dedicated to telling the story of American

law enforcement by providing visitors a "walk in the shoes" experience.

In addition, part of the Museum's mission is to "strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve with thought-provoking programs that promote dialogue on topics of current interest."

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is a proud sponsor of the museum, which recognizes the officers and the profession. The VSI "Heroes Live Forever" license plate, offered by Virginia's DMV, has generated valuable resources to recognize Virginia's law officers.

# AVOID WINTER DRIVING HAZARDS



Winter weather has arrived in Virginia! I want to remind Fauquier County residents about some driving tips provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation to help you stay safe on our roadways:

- Before beginning your trip, know the current road and weather conditions.
- Make sure your car is winter ready (check your brakes and tires, battery and ignition system, antifreeze, lights, windshield wipers, and oil; and properly lubricate door locks to prevent freezing).

- Clear ice and snow from all windows and lights — even the hood and roof — before driving.
- Always wear a seatbelt.
- Leave a few minutes early.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Do not pass a snowplow or spreader.
- Keep an emergency winter driving kit in your car.

# WINTER DRIVING EMERGENCY KIT

- ✓ Ice scraper
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Jumper cables
- ✓ Boots & Gloves
- ✓ Cell phone car charger
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Food/Snacks
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ Blanket

# SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!

One of the many benefits the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute offers is our scholarship program. This award — which is funded by generous VSI supporters like you — is granted to full-time or part-time students majoring in criminal justice and attending a Virginia state college or university. In fact, with the help of loyal members like you, we awarded 71 scholarships for 2018-2019 to Virginia's youth.

The online scholarship application is currently available on our website. In addition to the application, students must submit transcripts, a copy of the student's voter registration card if the student is 18 and an essay. A full list of application materials can be found at <https://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>. Applications are due May 1, 2019.

# REAL ID COMPLIANT DRIVER'S LICENSES



Virginia residents may now upgrade their driver's licenses to be compliant with the federal REAL ID program, which was enacted after the September 11, 2001 attacks. If residents do not upgrade their driver's licenses by October 2020, their IDs will not be sufficient to board a plane or enter federal facilities or military bases. But you may use other forms of approved ID to board a plane, including a passport.

To upgrade your license you must apply in person and provide physical documentation of your identity, legal presence in the U.S., Social Security number, and two proofs of residency. Please be aware that there are fees to upgrade your license.

## STOP BY VSA'S ONLINE STORE!

Have you visited the VSA online store yet? You will find high-quality men's and women's apparel, items for hunting, and other items that are perfect for gifts. Visit the store at: [vsa.thepromomall.com](http://vsa.thepromomall.com)



# PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF ROBERT MOSIER



On behalf of everyone at the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, I hope you and your family had a joyous and safe holiday season.

With the prospect of wintry conditions for the next several months, I urge you to take extra care and caution when traveling on Virginia's roadways. I've included

some tips on how to prepare for winter conditions, including some essentials for your vehicle's emergency kit.

With your continued strong support, my sheriff's office will work to promote crime prevention and public safety efforts in our community and all across Virginia during this winter season. At the same time, we are focused on continuing to bring much-needed attention to improving the working conditions of our hardworking deputy sheriffs, and enhancing the criminal justice system to deal with the ever-increasing challenges faced by law enforcement, the courts, and correctional system — including the growing abuse of heroin and prescription drugs.

In the year ahead, you can count on my sheriff's office to focus on combating crime, promoting public safety, and keeping recidivism rates low in our communities. I urge you to contact my office if you have any questions about the subjects discussed in this issue of the *VSI Newsletter*, or any other concerns about crime prevention or public safety efforts in our community.

Thank you for all you do to support Virginia public safety officers — and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert T. Mosier".

Sheriff Robert Mosier  
78 W Lee St. #200  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
(540) 422-8600

## VIRGINIA'S FIRST-EVER ONLINE RE-ENTRY PORTAL

Virginia has launched its first-ever online re-entry portal which offers critical resources to sheriffs, practitioners, and citizens to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully transition back into their communities.

This online portal is the first of its kind to help Fauquier County and all Virginia communities ensure offenders receive opportunities to choose a better path and avoid decisions that could land them back in local and regional jails. The comprehensive website can be found by going to [VirginiaReEntry.org](http://VirginiaReEntry.org) and includes a variety of resources: from information on best practices in the re-entry field and examples of efforts around Virginia to grant information and resources for families and communities to help their loved ones re-enter society in a productive way.

As we wrote about in the Fall edition of the VSI Newsletter, Virginia was ranked as top in the nation for lowest recidivism rates. Sheriff's offices across the state are offering inmates opportunities to rehabilitate and educate themselves while they are incarcerated to help make a productive transition from jail to the community.

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## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

Four years ago, Governor Terry McAuliffe proclaimed January 9, 2015 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. This is a day designated to appreciate the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices made by law enforcement officers and their family members on a daily basis in order to protect our schools, workplaces, roadways, and homes. We appreciate your support on this day and throughout the year for public safety officers in the Fauquier County area for everything they do to keep our communities safe. Mark your calendars for January 9, 2020!

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

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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.