

President's Notes

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 4 2026: Informal Board Meeting (online)
Sept 9-11 2026 Retraining (VA Beach)
Sept 10 2026: Annual Membership Meeting (VA Beach)
Sept 21 2026: 118th Session Begins
Nov 20 2026: 118th Session Graduates

RETRAINING IS COMING!

The 2026 Annual Retraining Conference is slated for Sept 9-11 2026 at the Delta Hotel in Virginia Beach. Featured at retraining this year is follow up to research on finding bones using ALS, this time after a fire. There will also be a case presentation on a 1987 cold case featuring differentiating identical twin DNA.

Hotel reservations are due by August 17th to receive the group rate.

The cost for Retraining is \$150 again this year. Registration is open until Sept 1.

Please visit the Alumni Association website to pay for registration and annual dues.

<https://vfsaaa.org/store/>

-Andrea Feldman
VFSAAA President, 89th Session



As always, if you are interested in more Academy merch the website is:

<https://vfsaaa.org/vfsaaa-merchandise-store-/>

Email me (afeldma@gmu.edu) or any board member for the password



Social nights on Tuesday and Wednesday will be at Shorebreak, including the annual cornhole tournament.

Thursday night at the hotel we have planned a great buffet dinner planned including an open bar! Tickets are \$30 each and will sell out fast.

Alumni Highlight:

Lieutenant Marc Ramey 109th Session



Marc was born and raised in Front Royal. He has spent 19 years in law enforcement. 17 of those years were with Front Royal Police Dept and the last two with Warren County Sheriff's Office.

What was your first scene after academy graduation?

Stolen Auto. Was able to pull prints from driver door and gain touch DNA to assist in solving the case..

Most important take away:

Just the dynamic of working alongside like-minded professionals and recognizing that there is always more to learn and improve upon. The experience reinforced the importance of slowing down and being methodical when processing any scene. It is easy to become focused on moving quickly, but doing so can cause critical details to be overlooked. Taking the time to thoroughly evaluate the scene and remain attentive to even the smallest details can make the difference in identifying key evidence, as the missing piece of the puzzle may be right in front of you.

Why CSI?

When I began investigations and crime scenes I was mentored by a lead detective at my agency Zach King. We had a breaking and entering once and I saw him take a photograph of a fingerprint on a piece of glass and was able to submit the photo for comparison. It interested me that process was even possible and inevitably that piece of evidence solved the crime. Although it was always in me to want better and to learn more, I knew I had to learn how to process scenes to the best of my abilities if I wanted to be able to solve complex crimes.

Favorite snack:

Peanut Butter Crackers





VIRGINIA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY
Alumni Association

To: VFSAAA

Date: September 10th, 2026

From: Mark Garman, Secretary

Re: VFSAAA Board Meeting Minutes June 12th, 2026

Executive Board:

President	Andrea Feldman	
1st Vice President	Robby Richardson	ABSENT
2nd Vice President	Greg Locke	ABSENT
Treasurer	Heather Marshall	
Secretary	Mark Garman	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Marilyn Durham	ABSENT
Immediate Past President	Sam Shumate	
Legal Consultant	Rick Conway	
DFS Consultant	Jeff Dwyer	

Regional Directors:

Northern Director	Zack King	ABSENT
Eastern Director	Karyn Buhrman	
Western Director	Justin Rothgeb	ABSENT
Central Director	Mike East	

Committees:

Derek Richards	Benson Committee	ABSENT
Eric Deel	Audit Committee	ABSENT
Alison Fox	Nominating Committee	ABSENT
Marilyn Durham	Memorial Committee	ABSENT

Others Present:

Jason Austin	Member/DFS Instructor
Bryan McIntee	Member/DFS Instructor
Tiffany Alston	VFSA Admin

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 PM by President Andrea Feldman.

It was determined that there were enough members present or on-line to establish the necessary quorum.

Treasurer's Report:

Heather Marshall, Treasurer, presented the following Treasurer's Report for June 2026. The report was emailed by Treasurer Heather Marshall to all Board members before the meeting.



VIRGINIA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY

Alumni Association

VIRGINIA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report March 19, 2026 through June 10, 2026

Heather Marshall, Treasurer

Previous Available Balance: from Treasurer's Report March 18, 2026 **\$ 34,679.69**

Expenditures

3/26/26	CC	Delta Hotels (Conference deposit)	\$ 2,500.00
5/19/26	CC	Vinyl Status (stickers & magnets)	\$ 176.00
6/1/26	CC	Shenandoah Trophies (restock of gear)	\$ 2,208.95

Total Debits **-\$ 4,884.95**

Balance (after debits) **\$ 29,794.74**

Income

5/21/26	Deposit	\$ 200.00
6/2/26	Deposit	\$ 1,750.00

Total Deposits **\$ 1,950.00**

Balance (after deposits) **\$ 31,744.74**

Legacy Fund (unchanged) **\$2,586.26**

Benson **\$ 656.95**

CD Balance **\$ 7,115.49**

Total Funds **\$ 35,617.02**

A Motion and a Second were made to approve the June 2026 Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

Secretary's Report:

The Meeting Minutes from the March 2026 Board Meeting were presented to the Board by Mark Garman, Secretary. This was done via email prior to the meeting.

A request was made by Rick Conway, Legal Consultant, to amend the March 2026 Meeting Minutes to indicate that the actual start time of the meeting was different from the start time that was assumed by several Board members due to miscommunication. Therefore, some of the Board members missed the meeting. After a period of discussion, the March 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were amended.

There were no other questions or comments on the March 2026 Minutes.

A Motion and a Second were made to approve the March 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

New business was discussed during Committee presentations.

Committees:

Bylaws:

Mark Garman, Secretary, reported that our current Bylaws, approved by the membership at the 2024 Annual Meeting, are posted and available on our website, www.vfsaaa.org. Mark said that the Bylaws need to be amended at the 2026 Annual Meeting to reflect the new address for the Association. The new address is 8850 Times Dispatch Blvd, Suite #100, Mechanicsville, VA, 23116. Mark said that the updates will be posted on our website, www.vfsaaa.org, for the membership to review before the Annual Meeting at the 2026 Retraining Seminar.

Membership Ethics:

Rick Conway, Legal Advisor and Committee Chairperson, spoke to the Board about the Justin Sigmon investigation. Rick said that he has emailed Sigmon several times covering the Membership/ Ethics Committee investigation and our Bylaws. Sigmon said that he will not contest his removal from the Membership and resigned from the Association.

The Memberships/Ethics Committees recommendation to the Board was to revoke Sigmon's membership.

There were no other questions or comments on the revocation of Sigmon's membership.

A Motion and a Second were made to approve the revocation of Simon's membership. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

Sales:

Greg Locke, 2nd Vice President and Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report.

President Feldman said that clothing shipments for the 2026 Retraining Seminar have already been received. Despite requesting that the order stick to blues and grays for clothing items, shirts in a maroon color were ordered and received. Also noted were the lack of small and medium sizes.

There was a period of discussion by the Board concerning the stickers/magnets that were received, what clothing sizes the Association should stock, the prices of some of the items, storage issues at the DFS, and obtaining coffee tumblers.

A Motion was made to authorize \$2000.00 for the purchase of additional clothing items in blues/grays and in additional sizes. A Second was also made. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

President Feldman said she would contact Greg.

President Feldman suggested replacing the padfolio, that was previously given out to each new incoming student, with a clipboard that could be used on scene work. She said she would research the cost and advise the Board.

A reminder was made about the purchase of VFSAAA items on Shenandoah Awards website.

<https://www.sanmar.com> is Shenandoah Awards website.

https://stores.inksoft.com/virginia_forensic_science_acade/shop/home is the link to the VFSAAA Merchandise Page.

The password for our page must be obtained from Greg Locke, 2nd Vice President, Sales Committee Chairperson at Cfu2109@gmail.com or 540- 974-6880.

Memorial Table:

SGT-at-Arms Marilyn Durham, Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report.

Information on the Memorial Table Committee can be found on our website, www.vfsaaa.org.

Website:

Mark Garman, Secretary, reported that our website, www.vfsaaa.org, was currently up to date. Tiffany Alston, VFSA Administration Assistant, now has administration access to our website.

PayPal:

Mark Garman, Secretary, reported that PayPal was up to date. Tiffany Alston, VFSA Administration Assistant, now has administration access to PayPal and she has a card reader at her office.

Retraining 2026:

Jeff Dwyer, DFS Consultant, said that plans for the 2026 Retraining Seminar were progressing.

Benson Fund:

Derek Richards, Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report. It was noted that the Benson Fund is not IRS compliant for failure to file IRS Form 9090. The form has not been filed correctly since 2017 and as a result Benson's tax status as a 501(c)3 has been revoked. To be reinstated Benson must refile with the IRS as if it is the first time they are seeking 501(C)3 status.

Mark Garman, Secretary, said he would contact Derek and check on any updates.

Social Committee:

Zack King, Northern Director and Committee Chairperson, reported the following.

The cost for the Association to host the Social will be about the same as last year, and he is looking at a "south of the border/Mexican" menu. There will be an open bar with beer and wine.

Coffee service will run about \$600.00 for Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

A decision will be made by the Board on the number of tickets sold at the Summer online meeting.

Dan Grinnan Fall Classic Golf Outing:

Karyn Buhrman, Eastern Director and Committee Chairperson, submitted this information.

**THE VIRGINIA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Presents the
**DAN GRINNAN FALL CLASSIC
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

September 8TH, 2026 @ 12PM

HONEY BEE GOLF CLUB
2500 S INDEPENDENCE BLVD
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456
757-471-2768

\$45 PER PLAYER

(Includes cart/green fees plus additional \$10 towards prize money)

PAYMENT DUE AT THE GOLF COURSE

(1ST & 2ND PRIZES AWARDED)

FOUR MAN FLORIDA BEST BALL

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
KARYN BUHRMAN 757-869-8286
kmbuhrman@hampton.gov

The Dr. Paul Ferrara Award:

Marilyn Durham, SGT-at-Arms and Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report.

Information on the Dr. Paul Ferrara Award and the individual nomination letters can be found on our website, www.vfsaaa.org on the Dr. Paul Ferrara Award page.

Raffle Committee:

Justin Rotheb, Western Director and Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no report.

Vendor:

Mike East, Central Director and Committee Chairperson, said that two vendors have signed up so far and that Mike Grimm from Grimm Forensics has committed to attend. Continuing Mike East said that Strohmman Enterprises has donated two Garmin watches and Southern Police Supply donated a shotgun, again, this year.

Novelty T/shirt:

Karyn Buhrman, Eastern Director and Committee Chairperson, said three designs were submitted. The Board voted and selected the shirt shown.

**Hospitality Night:**

Karyn Buhrman, Eastern Director and Committee Chairperson, said the event will be held at Shorebreak Taphouse just like the last several years.

Virginia Forensic Science Academy

Alumni Association

Networking/Hospitality Event



Location: SHOREBREAK Pizza & Taphouse

2941 Shore Drive, VA Beach

Date: September 8TH, 2026

Time: 6-10PM

A Motion and a Second were made to approve a budget of \$2500.00 for the Hospitality Night. A Second was also made. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

Nomination Committee/Honorary Membership.

Alison Fox, Committee Chairperson, was not present however she sent the below ~~suggest~~suggested slate to President Feldman. The slate will be posted on our website, www.vfsaaa.org, and will be presented during the Annual Meeting at the 2026 Retraining Seminar.

June 11, 2026

Andrea Feldman, President
Virginia Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association
8850 Times Dispatch Blvd.
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Dear President Feldman,

As Chairman of the Nomination Committee and the Honorary Nomination Committee for the Board of Directors, I respectfully submit the following names to you and the members of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association for the 2026-2027 Board of Directors for consideration in the annual election at the Annual Membership Meeting to be held on September 9 through September 11, 2026, in Virginia Beach, VA.

Executive Board:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| • President | Andrea Feldman |
| • 1st Vice President | Robby Richardson |
| • 2nd Vice President | Greg Locke |
| • Treasurer | Heather Marshall |
| • Secretary | Mark Garman |
| • Sergeant-at-Arms | Marilyn Durham |

Regional Directors:

Below are the Regional Directors recommended by their respective regions:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| • Zack King | Northern Director |
| • Karyn Buhrman | Eastern Director |
| • Justin Rothgeb | Western Director |
| • Mike East | Central Director |

Honorary Membership:

- Sarah Dwyer

Sincerely,

Alison Fox

 Digitally signed by Alison Fox
Date: 2026.06.11 10:45:09 -04'00'

Alison Fox, Nomination Committee Chairperson
Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Special Agent

President Feldman also reported that the Board received one nomination for Honorary Membership.

A Motion and a Second were made to approve the Honorary Membership. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

The proposed Honorary Membership will need to be voted on for approval by the membership during the Annual Meeting at the 2026 Retraining Seminar.

The nomination letter is shown below,



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

CENTRAL LABORATORY
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory
dfs.virginia.gov

8850 Times Dispatch Boulevard, Suite 100
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116
(804) 786-4707 FAX (804) 746-4464

June 11, 2026

To: VFSAAA Nominating Committee

Re: VFSAAA Honorary Membership Nomination for Sarah K. Dwyer

During the 81st Session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in the spring of 2012, Ms. Dwyer began the tradition of offering a homecooked meal to the students of Academy sessions. I can still remember how she brought up the idea... pointing out how these students have spent the last several weeks either eating out or cooking in their small hotel kitchens. Since then, she has served heaping portions of homemade spaghetti and desserts, at our home, to 28 of the 36 sessions that have attended from the spring of 2012 to the fall of 2025. Four sessions missed out due to COVID and another four, well, the timing just did not work out for the Dwyer family but the students were fed nonetheless (two cookouts hosted by the Stockman family and two dinners out hosted by the Dwyer family).

At Annual Retraining, Ms. Dwyer presented to the group in 2014 and in 2015 created the novelty T-shirt design in which she spearheaded the ordering and distribution of customized shirts commemorating the 40th anniversary of the event.

Additionally, Ms. Dwyer has been in the field of Forensic Science for 22 years beginning as an Evidence Technician with the Chesapeake Police Department. She then became a Latent Fingerprint Examiner with the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS). While at DFS, she became the first Latent Fingerprint Examiner in Virginia to defend the science of fingerprints in a Daubert hearing in Federal Court. Also, during her time at the Central Laboratory in Richmond she took part in Academy instruction for the 76th – 82nd sessions before leaving DFS for the Henrico County Police Division as a Senior Latent Print Examiner and where she is now the County's first civilian supervisor of the AFIS Unit. Ms. Dwyer is also a Certified Latent Print Examiner through the International Association for Identification (IAI) and serves on the Board of Directors for the Chesapeake Bay Division of the IAI.

I humbly nominate Sarah K. Dwyer for honorary membership in the Virginia Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association for BOTH her exemplary work in the field of forensic science and her unique continuous contributions to the Virginia Forensic Science Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey W. Dwyer".

Jeffrey W. Dwyer
Forensic Training Manager

President Feldman asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. A Motion and Second were made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 PM.

The next official meeting of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association will be the Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for September 10th, 2026, at the Annual Retraining Seminar, Virginia Beach, VA.

Mark Garman, Secretary

Signed by:

Mark Garman

**These Minutes were approved by the Membership at the Annual Membership Meeting
September 10th, 2026.**

DRAFT