

President's Notes



April 13 2026 117th Session begins

June 12 2026 117th session graduates

June 12 2026 Board Meeting (in person)

Sept 9-11 2026 Retraining

On a personal note...

After 15 years with Prince William County PD, the time has come for me to hang up my fingerprint brush and move on from the on call life of a crime scene investigator.

I have accepted a full time position as a professor in the Forensic Science Program at George Mason University.

I'm still happy to help with connecting any resources you might need.

My new email is afeldma@gmu.edu (yes you read that right, there's no N in the user name) or you can reach me on my cell phone: 631-889-4141

-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-/>

You can email Greg Locke, 2nd VP (cfu2109@gmail.com) or myself (afeldma@gmu.edu) for the password



In this edition of the VFSAAA newsletter, two well deserving alumni Detectives are highlighted. The Academy itself has moved into their new digs. Jeff took photos for me to include in the newsletter and share with you all. Board members Robby Richardson, Mark Garman and I went to visit earlier in April for merchandise inventory and let me tell you- the photos don't do justice to what a stunning facility the Central Lab is. The classroom and training facilities are spacious and the best part- parking is ample!

Alumni Highlight:

Detective Renee Jacques 106th Session

Renee has been in law enforcement for 21 years, serving with Prince William County PD and Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office. Renee was born in Portsmouth and grew up a military brat. She found her way back to Virginia to attend VCU, where she graduated with a MS in Criminal Justice



What was your first scene after academy graduation?

Not sure what the first scene was, there have been quite a few in the interim; The most important was a recent outdoor triple murder and trying to manage the size of the scene. Strangely enough, the academy played a part in how I managed that scene.

Most important take away:

Organization of paperwork and thought. Take a moment to evaluate the scene and organize your next steps. Even if a scene is small, follow the steps so you are ready for the big stuff.

Why CSI?

Not sure, I had the usual young person interest in high profile murder cases. On patrol, I realized that I was good at processing burglaries and cars and actually enjoyed it. I got a thrill out of DNA and fingerprint hits. I like finding pieces of a puzzle and trying to create a picture with the clues. I realized that Forensics work was more than high profile murders, it's fingerprints, bullets, DNA, etc and they all have something to say. It's a constantly developing field, which makes it interesting and let's face it, SCIENCE RULES!

Favorite snack:

I don't usually eat on scenes, and I've given up crime scene coffee. But I wouldn't turn down a Lorna Doone cookie.

Alumni Highlight:

Detective Emma Barton 102nd



Emma has served 10 years in law enforcement with the Powhatan Sheriff's Office. Emma is originally from Louisiana, but grew up in Henrico County. Emma is a graduate of Longwood University with a bachelor degree in Criminal Justice and a business administration minor

Do you remember what your first scene was after graduation?

I tried figuring this out so I'm not 100% but close following graduation it was a Death Investigation where a lady was found deceased on her kitchen floor and had her rectum hanging out. Turns out she was having a lot of bowel issues and she pushed too hard on the toilet which led to the insides falling out and then bleeding to death.

What was the most important thing you learned from the academy?

To stay organized and follow the checklist!

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What made you want to get into CSI/Investigations?

First the Nancy Drew Book series then...Forensic Files! No...but for real. I grew up reading Nancy Drew books as a young kid which I think began my love for a good mystery. Then I began watching Forensic Files and became fascinated with the scientific component to help solve the mysteries. This led me to determining I wanted to study criminal justice...became a cop...and the rest is history.

What is your favorite snack on a crime scene?

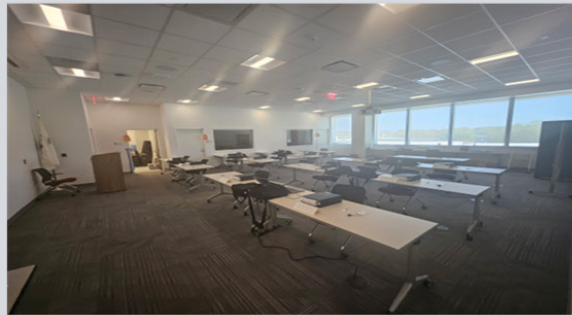
The only snack I believe I have ever had on a crime scene was Pizza and Coffee. So cant say I have a favorite. I guess I just starve until relief comes.

President's Notes

Jeff's Corner: Photos of the new Central Lab

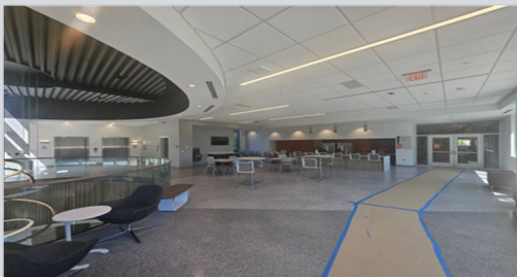


Classroom



Training Lab

Hall of Plaques



Breakroom



VIRGINIA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY

Alumni Association

THE FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT OF THE MARCH 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. IT IS SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES BEFORE ITS APPROVAL AT THE JUNE 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES THERE IS NO DIGITAL RECORDING OF THIS MEETING.

To: VFSAAA

Date: June 12th, 2026

From: Mark Garman, Secretary

Re: VFSAAA Board Meeting Minutes March 20th, 2026
This was a web-based meeting, all attendance was on-line.

Executive Board:

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

Regional Directors:

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

Committees:

Derek Richqards	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	ON-LINE
Bryan McIntee	Member/DFS Instructor	ON-LINE
Tiffany Alston	VFSA Admin	ON-LINE

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:15 AM by President Andrea Feldman.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Heather Marshall, Treasurer, presented the following Treasurer's Report for March 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 November 14, 2025 through March 18, 2026

Heather Marshall, Treasurer

Previous Available Balance: from Treasurer's Report November 13, 2025 **\$ 31,111.50**

Expenditures

11/14/25	CC	Shenandoah Trophies (Past President shirts)	\$ 55.96
11/17/25	CC	Jason's Deli (Board meeting)	\$ 220.00
12/5/25	CC	Transfer of CD to high interest CD account	\$ 7,014.80

Total Debits **-\$ 7,290.76**

Balance (after debits) **\$ 23,820.74**

Income

12/5/25	Transfer of CD for new high-interest rate CD	\$ 7,014.80
12/5/25	Deposit	\$ 2,900.00
3/13/26	Deposit	\$ 50.00
3/17/26	Deposit (Paypal transfer)	\$ 894.15

Total Deposits **\$ 10,858.95**

Balance (after deposits) **\$ 34,679.69**

Legacy Fund (unchanged) \$2,586.26

Benson \$ 656.95

CD Balance **\$ 7,074.64**

Total Funds **\$ 38,511.12**

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

Secretary's Report:

The Meeting Minutes from the November 2025 Board Meeting were presented to the Board by Mark Garman, Secretary. This was done via email prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments on the Minutes.

A Motion was made to approve the November 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. A Second was also made. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

Old Business:

Secretary Mark Garman brought up the Membership/Ethics Committee's investigation into former member Justin Sigmon. Mark advised that Sigmon was sentenced and then released for time served in February of 2025. Mark said he would contact Rick Conway, Committee Chairperson, to work on the Committee's course of action from this point.

It was determined that the Benson Fund is still not IRS compliant. Mark Garman, Secretary, said he would contact Derek Richards, Benson Committee Chairperson, and check for updates on the matter.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

Mark Garman, Secretary, said that because of the address change for the DFS/VFSA/VFSAAA that our Bylaws would need to be updated. The new address is 8850 Times Dispatch Blvd, Mechanicsville, VA, 23116.

Mark said that the Articles of Incorporation for the VFSAAA may also need to be updated because of the address change. He said he will contact Rick Conway, Legal Consultant, for guidance.

There was no other new business to report.

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. As noted above under New Business, our Bylaws need to be updated because of the address change for the VFSAAA. Mark said that the updates will be posted to the membership before the 2026 Retraining Seminar.

Membership Ethics:

Rick Conway, Legal Advisor and Committee Chairperson, was not present. Mark Garman, Committee Member, advised that other than the Sigmon issue, noted under Old Business, there were no other Membership Ethics issues.

Sales:

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

A Motion was made to authorize \$2500.00 for new sales items. A Second was, also, made. The motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions, objections, or dissenting votes.

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.

PayPal:

Mark Garman, Secretary, reported that PayPal was up to date.

Retraining 2026:

Jeff Dwyer, DFS Consultant, said that plans for the Retraining 2026 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 still not IRS compliant. Mark Garman, Secretary, said he would contact Derek and check on any updates.

Social Committee:

Zack King, Northern Director and Committee Chairperson, said he was working on the Social and will have more information at the June 2026 Board meeting. He, also, said that he would check with the Delta about possible coffee service on Wednesday and Thursday morning of retraining.

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, said that he was working on obtaining items for the Raffle.

Vendor:

Mike East, Central Director and Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report.

Dan Grinnan Fall Classic Golf Outing:

Karyn Buhrman, Eastern Director and Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report.

Novelty T/shirt:

Karyn Buhrman, Eastern Director and Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report.

Hospitality Night:

Karyn Buhrman, Eastern Director and Committee Chairperson, was not present and there was no official report.

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 1:00 PM.

The next official Board Meeting of the VFSAAA will be on June 12th, 2026, at approximately 12:00 PM after the graduation exercises of the 117th Session of the VFSA.

Mark Garman, Secretary

Signed by:

Mark Garman

These Minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the June 12th, 2026, Board Meeting.