



Virginia Juvenile Justice Association Capital District Elections 2021

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Candidate for Chair

MATT BOND
Probation Supervisor
DJJ – 14th District Court Service Unit
Henrico, VA

Matt Bond is a long time member of VJJA's Capital District Chapter and is seeking election as a District Chair. Currently, Matt serves as Vice Chair. Matt was first employed by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in 2000 as a wage Probation Officer. In 2002, he obtained fulltime employment as a Probation Officer with the 14th District Court Service Unit – Henrico, and continued in that role until 2011 when he was promoted to Senior Probation Officer. Matt has also served in the role of Courtroom Expeditor. In 2012, Matt was promoted to his current role of Probation Supervisor. In that role, he supervises the Courtroom Expeditor Unit. Matt is a certified instructor for the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) curricula. Matt was the 2020 recipient of VJJA's Meritorious Award in the Area of Court Services. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is also a graduate of the Department of Juvenile Justice's inaugural Justice Transformation Institute (JTI) – Cohort I. Pre-pandemic, Matt was a frequent traveler and "island hopper". Originally from Northern Virginia, when not traveling, Matt makes his home in Richmond. If elected VJJA Capital District Chair, Matt is looking forward to establishing an active VJJA Local Advisory Board (LAB) representing the diversity of workplaces in the Capital District. He hopes to reinvigorate the Capital District Chapter by increasing membership, resuming networking mixers, sponsoring community service work projects, and planning regional-based training events.



Candidate for Vice Chair

LEKEISHA HENRY
Assistant Superintendent
DJJ – Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center
Bon Air, VA

LeKeisha Henry is a member of VJJA's Capital District Chapter and is seeking election as a District Officer for the first time. LeKeisha began her career with Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in 2005 as a Rehabilitation Counselor at Beaumont JCC. From 2007 until 2012, she worked in supervisory roles within the community mental health field in the areas of therapeutic day treatment and intensive in-home services. LeKeisha returned to DJJ in 2012 as a Counselor Supervisor at Beaumont JCC, a position she held until 2015 when she was promoted to Community Coordinator. During her tenure with DJJ, LeKeisha has supervised the Sex Offender and Aggression Management & Substance Abuse (AMSA) treatment units, as well as the Intensive Redirection Behavior Unit (IBRU) and the Work/Education Release Program (WERP). In 2016, LeKeisha was named Acting Community Manager at Beaumont JCC and later promoted to Community Manager at Bon Air JCC, where she was responsible for the Community Treatment Model units, to include the Sex Offender treatment units, Vulnerable Populations Unit, as well as the resident work and apprenticeship programs. In 2018, LeKeisha was promoted to her current role of Assistant Superintendent at Bon Air JCC. LeKeisha also serves as an advisor to Bon Air's Student Government Association. Finally, LeKeisha is a certified YASI instructor for the Collaborative Casework I & II curricula. LeKeisha received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia Union University.

Dear Capital District Members:

In accordance with the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) Bylaws, the following members have been nominated to hold office in the Capital district for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2022. Please vote for one candidate per office (space will be provided for write-in candidates). Voting will be on-line and available December 1 – December 15, 2021. Thank you for participating in the election process.

Vicky Eaton,

Capital District Election Officer



Candidate for Vice Chair

WILLIAM FELLS, JR.
Probation Supervisor
DJJ – 15th District Court Service Unit
Hanover, VA

William Fells, Jr. is a member of VJJA's Capital District Chapter and is seeking election as a District Officer for the first time. William has served in various roles with the Department of Juvenile Justice, including as a Juvenile Correctional Officer at Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center, a Rehabilitation Counselor at Beaumont JCC, a Probation/Parole Officer at the 15th Court Service Unit (Caroline and Hanover), and a Senior Probation/Parole Officer at the 15th CSU (Hanover). William was promoted to Probation Supervisor at the 15th CSU (Hanover) in 2021. He serves on DJJ's CSU Procedures Committee. William believes in the power of communication, collaboration, and rapport building and seeks to carry out these beliefs every day in his efforts to affect better outcomes for the youth and families he serves. William truly believes that "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work". In his spare time, William enjoys watching sports, mentoring, playing pickup basketball, bowling, traveling, and spending time with his family. Williams holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, with a Pre-Law Concentration from Hampton University. He also received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Capella University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Public Administration from Capella University. William was born and raised in Henrico County.

See Page 2 for Candidates for District Secretary and District Treasurer



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(Page 2 of 2)



Candidate for Secretary

DON EDWARDS, JR
Director of Community Relations
National Counseling Group
Richmond, VA

Don Edwards is a member of VJJA's Capital District Chapter and is seeking election as a District Officer for the first time. Don has been employed in the human services field for more than 25 years. Presently, Don is employed as the Director of Community Relations for the National Counseling Group. In that role, Don has primary responsibility for community outreach activities and business development for Richmond City, Henrico, Goochland, Powhatan, Hanover, Petersburg, Chesterfield, Farmville, Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Prince Edward and other surrounding areas. Don also serves as the company's chaplain. Don attends meetings of the Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) and is a member of the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT). He is also a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and is a board member for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Don attended Virginia Union University where he obtained a Bachelor of Social Work degree and the Samuel Dewitt School of Theology at Virginia Union, where he obtained a Master of Divinity degree in Theology. Don is a New York native who loves all that Virginia has to offer and enjoys collaborating with like-minded individuals. He believes his calling in life led him to work in the helping professions.



Candidate for Treasurer

NICOLE MCCOMBS
Senior Probation Officer
DJJ – 12th District Court Service Unit
Chesterfield, VA

Nicole McCombs is a member of VJJA's Capital District Chapter and is seeking election as a District Officer for the first time. Nicole has more than 8 years experience working in the juvenile justice field. Currently she is a Senior Probation Officer with the 12th District Court Service Unit - Chesterfield. Nicole has taken on a lead role with practice improvements at her CSU, serving as both an internal coach and quality assurance coder for Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). She also participates with the CSU's newsletter. Previously, Nicole was employed by DJJ's Division of Residential Services as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center. In that role, she founded and co-chaired the Morale Boosting Association. Nicole attended Pittsburg State University in Kansas where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in psychology and received a minor in accounting. Although a transplant hailing from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Nicole takes pride in being a Chesterfield resident. When not serving the families of Chesterfield, Nicole enjoys outdoor activities such as skating, biking and hiking. Recently, Nicole combined her love of the outdoors and love of tinkering when she converted a Dodge Promaster to a camper van and spent two weeks out west touring several national parks.

WHAT WE DO

Awards & Recognition — The association recognizes members who have made extraordinary contributions by awarding Meritorious Awards in the Areas of Community Service, Court Services, Residential Services, and Administration. Additional recognition events and activities are held throughout the year.

Professional Development — The Fall Juvenile Justice Institute is the organization's premier professional development event, attracting participants from throughout the Commonwealth and presenters from across the nation. Single day, district level training events are also held.

Networking — The association regularly provides opportunities for member engagement and networking with likeminded professionals.

Resources/Publications — Information on proven models, promising approaches and effective strategies is disseminated through a variety of forums. The Advocate, a professional newsletter, has been published since 1975.

Scholarships — Named in memory of Robert E. Shepherd, Jr. and Rodney C. Hubbard, the Association awards professional development scholarships to obtain new credentials, to attend specialized training, for academic courses, or to attend state and national conferences.

Advocacy — From promoting proven practices to tracking legislation, our organization has a proud history of advocating for system-involved children and juvenile justice professionals.