

# Virginia Juvenile Justice Association

## Southwest District Elections 2015

Dear Southwest Members: In accordance with the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) Bylaws, the following members have been nominated to hold office in the Southwest district for two-year terms beginning in January 2016. Please vote for one candidate per office (space is provided for write-in candidates) and return your ballot to me. All ballots must be to be counted. Thank you for participating in the election process. Results will be published in the next issue of the Advocate. Kevin Heller, 2015 Election Officer

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### Candidate for Chairman

**DOUG POE**  
VADJJ – 27<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit  
Christiansburg

Doug has been employed by the Department of Juvenile Justice for 19 years. He is currently employed by in the 27th District Court Service Unit, in Pulaski, as a Probation Supervisor. Doug is the current Southwest Chair and also previously served in this capacity from 2006 to 2010 and was the 2007 recipient of the VJJA Meritorious Service Award for Court Services. Active in his church and community, Doug is a graduate of Virginia Tech where he earned a degree in Sociology. On a personal note, Doug is married with two children, Isaac and Benjamin, makes his home in Dublin and is a passionate Virginia Tech Hokies sport's fan.



### Candidate for Vice Chair

**KAREN ANDERS**  
New River Valley Community Services  
Blacksburg

Karen graduated in 1999 from Radford University with a Master of Science Degree (Counseling and Human Development). Her work history includes 2000-2002 – worked at the Department of Juvenile Justice as a Substance Abuse Specialist, 2002-2008 – worked at DJJ as a probation officer in the Christiansburg Court Service Unit, 2008 – 2015 – worked as an outpatient clinician, provided counseling services to youth and families; many of whom were involved in the juvenile justice system. In July 2015, Karen accepted a position with the City of Roanoke/Department of Juvenile Justice as Specialized Probation Counselor in the 23-A CSU. She has been licensed (LPC) since October 2013. Karen enjoys working with youth, especially those who have experienced childhood trauma. Even though it can be challenging, it is also rewarding.



### Candidate for Secretary

**KAREN LAPLANTE**  
Radford VJCCCA  
Radford

Karen has worked in the court system for 20 years. Currently she holds the position of Juvenile Crime Control / Children's Services Act Coordinator for the City Of Radford. In her role as CSA Coordinator, Karen has helped organize the Regional CSA Vendor Fair for the past 14 years and has facilitated multiple professional development opportunities for human service professionals in the New River Valley. She is the Chair and founder of Fun Fridays CAMP (Community Adolescent Mentoring Program). Karen is a lifetime resident of the New River Valley, graduating from Radford University with a degree in Social Work. She enjoys riding horses and reading. She is married and has one daughter.



### Candidate for Treasurer

**RON BELAY**  
VADJJ – 29<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit  
Pearisburg

Ron first joined VJJA 43 years ago and has been an active member since that time. A past member of VJJA's state Board of Directors, Ron served as the association's President for 8 years, Immediate Past President for 10 years, Treasurer for 2 years, and District Chair for 2 years. In addition to serving on the Board, Ron has been active at the local level as well, serving as the Southwest District's Treasurer for the past 14 years. Ron has also served as President of the Virginia Court Service Unit Director's Association (CSUDA). Professionally, Ron has been employed in the juvenile justice field for 41 years. He has served as Probation Officer, Probation Supervisor, Chief Probation Officer and for the past 32 years, Director. On a personal note, Ron is a graduate of Virginia Tech. He is married with two sons, three step-sons and one grandson.

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