

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
VIRGINIA CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION (VCA)**

**EFFECTIVE**

**September 1, 2005**

As used in this Constitution, the terms “corrections” or “correctional” shall include adult and juvenile, local, state, and federal regional detention facilities, probation and parole agencies, adult and juvenile correctional facilities, and community-based programs for offenders. Governmental agencies, regional commissions and/or private agencies and corporations may administer these programs.

# CONSTITUTION

- I. The name of the Association shall be the Virginia Correctional Association, a Dual-Member Chapter of the American Correctional Association.
- II. The Association shall be non-sectarian and non-partisan.
- III. The purposes of the Virginia Correctional Association are as follows:
  1. Provide a professional development association of persons, agencies, and organizations, both public and private, who hold in common the goal of improving the corrections profession through education of its members, provision of scholarship support for educational and training activities, and advocating professional standards for the corrections profession.
  2. Support life-long learning for individuals engaged in or retired from the corrections profession or closely related fields. This includes individuals employed by correctional, judicial or criminal justice agencies, volunteers and ex-offenders.
  3. Support laws, policies, and administrative procedures to safeguard the rights of correctional workers, victims, and offenders in the adult and juvenile correctional process.
  4. Promote recognition of corrections as a profession, and those who work in corrections as professionals, and to ensure the validity of that recognition by encouraging the recruitment and development of professional and highly qualified staff.
  5. Ensure the representation of minorities, women, and other protected classes in the ranks of corrections professionals and to inform policymakers and the public of the importance of such representation for a safe and effective corrections system.
  6. Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with other correctional associations and agencies for mutual assistance and the interchange of ideas and information.
  7. Foster a professional Code of Ethics that is applicable to all individuals working or volunteering in public and private correctional agencies, institutions, programs and services throughout the corrections profession.

8. Promote adherence to professional standards, including accreditation by national organizations, relating to correctional services, facilities and management practices.
  9. Publicize and interpret current correctional issues to the public in order to obtain understanding, support and participation.
  10. Encourage the expansion of on and off campus undergraduate and graduate courses, which would prepare individuals for entry into the corrections profession and promote the maintenance and enhancement of the practitioner's knowledge and skills.
  11. Conduct or sponsor correctional conferences, congresses, institutes, forums, seminars and other meetings on the state and local level.
- IV. The business affairs and the programs of the Association shall be conducted on a non-discriminatory basis. Membership shall be available to anyone regardless of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status, disabilities, or sex.

Individuals and organizations may be admitted to membership in the Association as provided in the Bylaws.

- V. Non-Profit Status—The Virginia Correctional Association considers itself to be a not for profit organization and will apply for IRS recognition under Section 501(c)3

Upon dissolution and liquidation of the Virginia Correctional Association the Virginia Correctional Association shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of any liabilities of the Virginia Correctional Association, dispose of all the assets of the Virginia Correctional Association exclusively for the purposes of the Virginia Correctional Association in such manner, and to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, as the Virginia Correctional Association may determine. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the City of Richmond Virginia in which the principal office of the Virginia Correctional Association is located, exclusively for such purposes, or to such organizations as such court shall determine.

- VI. Amendments—Changes to the Virginia Correctional Association Constitution can be made in the same manner as prescribed in the Virginia Correctional Association Bylaws, following such procedures as are contained in the current Virginia Correctional Association Bylaws.

VII. Principal Office—The principal office of the Virginia Correctional Association will be maintained in the City of Richmond Virginia.

Approved effective September 1, 2005

Virginia Correctional Association

By:

Typed Name and Title: John B. Taylor, VCA President

Date: September 1, 2005