



2015 Annual Report

*Working to End the Death Penalty through Education,
Organizing and Advocacy for 24 years*



VADP Executive Directors, Past and Present

From left: Beth Panilaitis (2008-2010), Steve Northup (2011-2014),
Jack Payden-Travers (2002-2007), and Michael Stone (2015).

Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

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Message from the VADP Board President

Dear VADP Supporter,

Last year was a time of strong forward movement for VADP. In January, we hired Michael Stone, our first full time executive director in four years, and that led to the implementation of bold new strategies and expanded programs.

In 2015 we learned what can be accomplished in today's politics when groups with different overall purposes decide to work together on a specific shared objective — such as death penalty abolition. That, happily, is starting to occur.

As an example, nationally and in Virginia activists from every point on the political spectrum are joining an extraordinary new movement to re-examine how we waste tax dollars on our expensive and ineffective criminal justice system, including capital punishment.

This goes hand in hand with a rising group of abolitionists who don't trust the government to execute people because they don't trust the government to do much of anything right.

Add these forces to the still growing foundation of stalwarts who — as a matter of faith, morality or simple sense of humanity — view the death penalty as wrong, and the stage is set for change.

It's already occurring in other states. When our neighbor Maryland abolished the death penalty in 2014, it became the sixth state to do so in the last ten years. As of now, 18 states do not have the death penalty and another six have not executed anyone in ten or more years.

At VADP we know that abolition in Virginia is possible. But we also know it will take additional

resources to band together the various groups and individuals who oppose the death penalty, whatever their reasons, into a cohesive force.

I would like to thank those of you who made a monetary donation to VADP in 2015. But our work is not done. So I ask you to increase your support in 2016 and to help us find others to join this important movement. And, if you are not yet a supporter of VADP, now is the time to join our vital work to end the death penalty in Virginia, once and for all.

Sincerely,

Kent Willis
Board President



The Death Penalty in Virginia

- ♦ Virginia has executed 111 men and women since 1982, third behind Texas and Oklahoma in the number of people executed since 1976.
- ♦ Earl Washington, Jr. was sentenced to death in 1984. DNA evidence proved his innocence, and he was released after serving 18 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.
- ♦ A person is three times more likely to be sentenced to death when the victim is white than when the victim is black.
- ♦ Murder convictions in rural and suburban areas are twice as likely to end in the death penalty as those in urban jurisdictions.
- ♦ Historically, 5-10 people were sentenced to death each year in Virginia and as many as 14 were executed annually.
- ♦ No jury in Virginia has sentenced an individual to death in over four years.



Accomplishments in 2015

January

- ◆ Hired Michael Stone to serve as the full-time Executive Director of the organization.

February

- ◆ Worked with the Virginia Catholic Conference and ACLU of Virginia to oppose a bill that would allow the use of execution drugs from a secret compounding pharmacy (SB 1393).
- ◆ Enlisted two University of Richmond Law School professors to testify against SB 1393.
- ◆ Virginia General Assembly defeated SB 1393 in a bipartisan vote against execution secrecy.



VADP supporters gather in Roanoke in April.

Spring

- ◆ Met with Republicans who voted against the compounding pharmacy execution drug secrecy bill. Many are critical of the death penalty.
- ◆ Met with VADP supporters at five regional meetings in northern Virginia, Richmond, Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Roanoke.

September

- ◆ Worked with local abolition leaders to organize 14 execution vigils — including Roanoke, Lynchburg, Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, Richmond, Fredericksburg, Newport News, Norfolk, and five northern Virginia locations.
- ◆ Generated 359 appeals to Governor McAuliffe asking that he spare the life of Alfredo Prieto.

- ◆ Gave a presentation at a national death penalty abolition conference about our successful work to defeat compounding pharmacy execution drug secrecy legislation.

October

- ◆ Organized a Richmond luncheon to unveil a *Citizen Advocate of the Year* award in memory of Betty Gallagher. 75 supporters saw Steve Northup receive this award and Del. Scott Surovell get *Legislator of the Year* honors.
- ◆ Met with VADP supporters at five regional meetings in northern Virginia, Richmond, Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Roanoke.

November

- ◆ Received a \$40,000 grant from the national Death Penalty Mobilization Fund to organize a broad coalition in Virginia to seek a ban on the execution of people with serious mental illness
- ◆ Launched a new mobile-friendly web site.

December

- ◆ Worked with the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Virginia, mental health advocacy groups, and existing legislative partners to support legislation to ban the execution of people with serious mental illness.

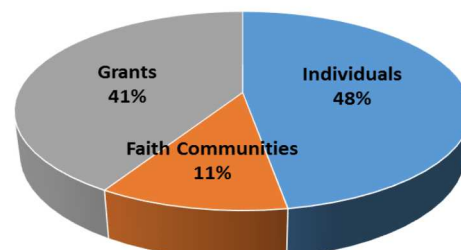


The VADP web site that debuted in November 2015 scales its appearance for mobile devices.

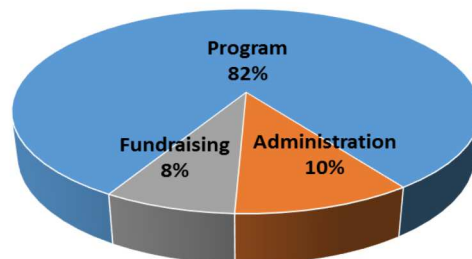
VADP Finances

	2014	2015
Income		
Individuals	\$ 36,095.91	\$ 52,694.49
Faith communities	6,565.00	12,551.52
Grants	30,000.00	46,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 72,660.91	\$ 111,246.01
Expenses		
Staff	\$ 29,532.09	\$ 58,386.07
Travel	471.98	5,738.18
Telephone	1,200.00	448.24
Postage and printing	168.78	569.19
Fundraising	8,239.55	7,413.86
Technology	3,942.88	5,148.24
Contract services	0.00	14,862.01
Miscellaneous	1,462.01	3,932.12
TOTAL	\$ 45,017.29	\$ 96,497.91
Net Income		
	\$ 27,643.62	\$ 14,748.10

Income: \$111,246



Expenses: \$96,498



VADP Board of Directors

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Kent Willis
Arlington

Vice President

Virginia Podboy
Richmond

Secretary

Mary Atwell
Roanoke

Treasurer

Beth Panilaitis
Richmond

At Large Members

Marc Boswell	Richmond
Nicholas Cote	Alexandria
Matthew Engle	Charlottesville
Michael Hash	Ruther Glen
Adam Northup	Richmond
Paul O'Shea	Fairfax
Lauren Ramseur	Richmond
Ewan Watt	Alexandria



VADP board members at a March 2015 meeting in Charlottesville.