



## Our Story

The Western Region Jail Association traces its roots back to the formation of the Western Virginia Chief Correction Officers Association in 1982. Comprising visionaries such as George Keyes, Steve Huff, Rodney Scott, Betty Vaught, Tommy Levell, and Yvonne Hoefle, these founding members were committed to enhancing correctional practices in the region. Meeting every three months, they collaboratively worked to improve and standardize correctional procedures, setting the stage for a transformative journey in correctional professionalism in western Virginia.

After five years of focused meetings, H.T. Leary advocated for expanding the association's impact by opening its doors to all correctional professionals. This pivotal decision led to the transformation of the association into the Western Region Jail Association (WRJA). With a renewed vision, WRJA became a dynamic entity fostering inclusivity, comprehensive training, and development initiatives, aiming to elevate the knowledge and standards of correctional professionals from diverse jurisdictions.

## Past Scholarship Winners



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# H.T. Leary Memorial Scholarship

Western Region Jail Association

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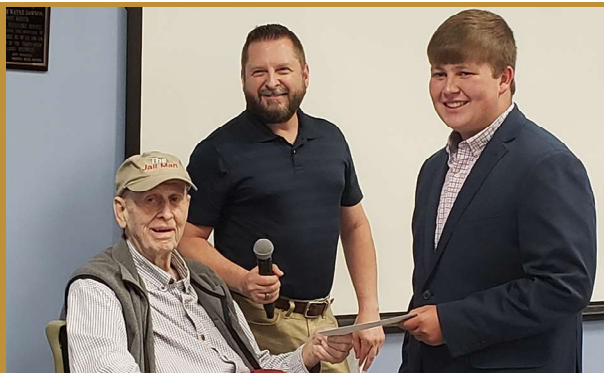




## H.T. Leary Memorial Scholarship

The Western Region Jail Association awards two \$500 dollar scholarships annually in memory of visionary member H.T. Leary. He was instrumental in helping establish the Western Region Jail Association and was a strong supporter of the organization over the years.

The scholarship is available to eligible students who are currently enrolled in an accredited college, university, or technical school, or who have been accepted to enroll in such an institution. The scholarship award will be made payable to the recipient and/or the college or university.



H.T. Leary (scholarship is named)

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration, the student must:

1. Be a member of the WESTERN REGION JAIL ASSOCIATION or an immediate family member (son, daughter, spouse) of a member.
2. The student must submit a completed application to the WESTERN REGION JAIL ASSOCIATION Scholarship Committee. HT Leary Scholarship Application is in PDF form. The completed application must be returned to Captain Brian M. Geiser, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Roanoke City Sheriff's Office, 340 West Campbell Avenue \*Roanoke, Virginia 24016, or emailed to [brian.geiser@roanokeva.gov](mailto:brian.geiser@roanokeva.gov) prior to the deadline (TBD).
3. The student must be enrolled in at least three (3) semester hours in an accredited college, university, or technical school to be considered for reimbursement. Classes are not limited to criminal justice subjects.
4. The student may be required to appear for a personal interview before the Scholarship Committee.

Apply Now - [www.mywrja.org](http://www.mywrja.org).



## Testimonial

I am Investigator Sheldon Ainsworth, with the New River Valley Regional Jail in Dublin, VA. I am writing to give you a status update on my son, Joseph Ainsworth, who was awarded one of the Western Virginia Regional Jail Association scholarships four years ago.

Joseph will be graduating from Virginia Tech next semester with a Bachelor's degree in National Security and Foreign Affairs/Russian Language. He is a member of the Corps of Cadets, a senior Corps of Cadets Historian, and is contracted with the Army ROTC to commission as a 2nd Lieutenant on active duty upon his graduation. He received his Army branch assignment earlier this week to Army Intelligence with a branch detail to Armor.

I wanted to thank the Western Region Jail Association for believing in him and the support you provided in making his educational and career path of serving this great country of ours come true.

Sincerely,

Investigator S. Ainsworth  
New River Valley Regional Jail