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**President's Message**

KAREN EVANS  
MCA President  
Wright County Community Corrections



Where does the time go? It seems like I just started as MCA President and here we are announcing the newly elected 2014 officers. Congratulations to President Elect Michelle Smith, Vice-President Steve King, and Secretary Lynn Rohl — what an experienced group of professionals we have elected to represent MCA.

As I write this message, the Annual Fall Institute is drawing near — just a few days away. This year we are headed to Rochester MN, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Once again, the Annual Fall Institute Chairs and all the committee members have worked very hard to bring you another fantastic event. This year the kick off speaker is Coach Ken Carter, a nationally-known speaker and famed basketball coach. In his presentation, Coach Carter talks about accountability, integrity, teamwork and leadership as necessary elements to success. Mr. Carter is also an author and his latest book is titled, **"Yes Ma'am, No Sir" The 12 Essential Steps for Success in Life**. Along with having a great key note speaker, there are workshops that will meet the training requirements of adult and juvenile field agents, institution staff, as well as, special programming staff.

The Annual Fall Institute is also our time to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of corrections professionals in Minnesota. I want to personally congratulate all MCA award winners. You represent all that Minnesota Corrections strives for. I encourage members to visit the MCA website at [www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org) to see the list of award recipients. Award recipients will be recognized at the start of the conference and during the special awards ceremony scheduled on Wednesday evening. Please consider joining us at the awards event Wednesday evening to support our award winners.

## MCA Sponsors



I want to acknowledge all the vendors and sponsors who support MCA. The resource fair participants, networking and hospitality vendors, and special event sponsors, add so much to the entire experience. Thank you for your support.

Because of the support of all corrections professionals and stakeholders, MCA continues to thrive and remains a strong and respected organization. MCA persevered through the fiscal downturn the past several years and has emerged as strong as ever. Please consider volunteering your time and talents. Let's keep MCA moving forward.

Sincerely, *Karen Evans*

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## Spotlight on: MCA Annual Training Institute

MONTY VIKDAL  
MCA Annual Training Institute Chair  
Program Manager/Community Corrections Supervisor  
DFO Community Corrections



The Annual Training Institute Committee has worked hard to plan and organize an annual training institute that will meet the needs of the membership. We hope you are able to join us as MCA celebrates its 80th Anniversary in beautiful Rochester, Minnesota.

Highlights to this year's program and the list of training sessions being offered can be found by [clicking here](#). Training tracks will include programs related to: Juveniles, Special Programming, Evidence Based Practices (EBP) / Transition from Prison to Community (TPC), and Public Interest.

We will begin our conference on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> with Opening Remarks and the Award Presentation for the Corrections Person of the Year. This will be followed by our Keynote Speaker – Coach Ken Carter and a variety of training workshops during this two day conference. The full awards ceremony will take place Wednesday evening with a pre-award social in the Marriott Ballroom Foyer from 5:00-5:30. We have nearly 50 Exhibitors attending this year's event and a good number of them to contribute to our hospitality event Wednesday evening. Hope to see you there!

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## Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC)

NELL HURLEY  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Recovery Connection

Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC) is a nonprofit organization that strengthens the recovery community through peer-to-peer support, public

education, and advocacy. Launched in early 2010 and based in St. Paul, MRC serves thousands of Minnesotans seeking or in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs.



MRC's peer-based recovery support programs include Recovery Coaching and Telephone Recovery Support. These programs utilize individuals who are already rooted in recovery to support those trying to initiate and/or maintain their recovery. Recovery Coaches work one-on-one and in-person with those who have requested a Recovery Coach. Through our other peer-based program, Telephone Recovery Support, the person who has requested recovery support receives a phone call of support from a volunteer peer once a week for 12 weeks. All of MRC's



Recovery Coaches and Telephone Recovery Support volunteers are trained to know what's available in our community in terms of resources that can help remove barriers to recovery.

In addition to peer-based recovery support, MRC offers a variety of free workshops, events, social activities, volunteer opportunities, and speakers throughout the year that support recovery and strengthen the recovery community. Signing up for our E-Newsletter through our website at [www.minnesotarecovery.org](http://www.minnesotarecovery.org) is the best way to stay informed about MRC events.

The advocacy work that MRC engages in helps reduce stigma by bringing visibility to the recovery community and to the fact that people can and do recover. MRC's annual Recovery Month activities, held each September, are a great example of how we carry out this work. The Recovery Month website, [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov), says of Recovery Month:

***National Recovery Month (Recovery Month)*** is a national observance that educates Americans on the fact that addiction treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life. The observance's main focus is to laud the gains made by those in recovery from these conditions, just as we would those who are managing other health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and heart disease. ***Recovery Month*** spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover.



This year MRC held its third annual Walk for Recovery at Lake of the Isles, where close to 2,000 people gathered for food, fun, and fellowship along with a 2.86 mile walk around the lake. This event allows our community to celebrate recovery, show support, generate hope, reduce stigma, and offer living proof that recovery is real!

Also, the Rally (Caps) for Recovery event continues to be a way to bring the recovery community together to celebrate recovery. On September 10, 2013 over 1,400 supporters of recovery, individuals in recovery, their families, friends, allies, and the professionals who serve them banded together to cheer on the Twins and stand up for recovery!



One final note: MRC respects and encourages *all pathways* to recovery, so whether a person recovers through a 12-step program, a faith-based program, in a

culturally specific way, or any other way, MRC is here to help encourage, support, and connect anyone seeking recovery in a way that is suitable for them.

For more information about MRC programs and services, please visit our website at [www.minnesotarecovery.org](http://www.minnesotarecovery.org) or call 651-233-2080.

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## Novadebt: A Nonprofit to Know: Offering Financial Education and Personal Financial Counseling

JORDAN QUAYLE  
Novadebt Education Developer

A credit check has become a standard part of the approval process for many aspects of society. Companies rely on credit scores and credit histories to determine if, or on what terms, they will extend a loan, contract or service. Many individuals expect a credit check to be a part of the process for a mortgage or car loan, but are surprised to learn cell phone companies, insurance companies, landlords, and employers, for example, may also use credit to make decisions about doing business with a consumer.



For incarcerated individuals, there are many barriers to reentry into society. Certainly, having bad credit due to unpaid collections or a debt load, or lack of any credit history, adds to the obstacles. Staff at Novadebt, a nonprofit financial education, housing and credit counseling organization, maintain an education and counseling program pre-and post-release to help individuals and their families.

Through Novadebt's Minnesota office in Roseville, education workshops are offered to incarcerated individuals at county jails and state correctional facilities. In part, Novadebt has a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Corrections to offer workshops on the fundamentals of financial management and credit as part of the facilities' pre-release programming. Additionally, Novadebt staff provides a wide variety of education materials to county and state correctional facilities. The free handouts and brochures are available in many resource areas, classrooms, and visiting areas.



Financial education materials are also accessible in the Educational Library of Novadebt's website at [www.novadebt.org](http://www.novadebt.org). Many professionals in the field find the materials helpful to reference or provide to individuals with budget or credit related questions. Below is a list of common questions that need to be covered with individuals

who attend a Novadebt workshop while incarcerated or seek personal financial counseling post release.

- How do I get a bank account?
- Who can look at my credit?
- How do I get a copy of my credit report?
- What do I do if I know someone was using my credit while I was incarcerated?
- What is the best way to deal with Student Loans, especially if I am in default and would like to go back to school?
- Is it a good idea to settle for less than the full amount of a collection item?
- What is the best way to 'clean up' bad credit?
- How do you get credit if you do not have credit?



Many incarcerated individuals struggle to cover the basic cost of living, let alone any debt they also face. With this, Novadebt staff takes care to discuss the types of debts and which are most important to prioritize. Many incarcerated individuals spend scarce resources as a result of collection efforts on old bills, such as medical bills or cell phone accounts. Collection calls on these debts further impede on the individual's ability to pay more significant obligations such as

student loans, child support, fines, or taxes. Encouragement is offered regarding modification and income based repayment options. Education facilitators often explain, if there are not resources to pay on all debts, putting even a small payment towards government backed obligations is typically more productive than answering the demands of other collectors.

Aside from the education programming offered in the corrections arena, Novadebt offers a wide range of core services. Any individual, with any type of budget, financial, or credit related concern is encouraged to reach out to a certified counselor for free. Novadebt credit counselors and housing counselors are available at 1-800-992-4557 or at [www.novadebt.org](http://www.novadebt.org).



For more information on Novadebt's education programs (including material or workshop requests) or to learn more about our counseling services, please contact Jordan Quayle, Education Developer at 1-800-772-4557 ext 80176.

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## Midwest Mentoring Forum – Register NOW!

STEVE NELSON  
Performance Excellence and Communications Manager  
Amicus

Mentoring people rejoining the community after incarceration has been called one of the most fulfilling experiences in a volunteer's life. It can also hold some challenges. Issues such as setting safe boundaries, understanding cultural differences between the mentor and the mentee, and navigating the correctional system can be vexing without a little guidance.

The Midwest Mentoring Forum will be on November 7, 2013 from 1- 7 p.m. at Calvary Church in Roseville. This conference focuses on mentoring for adults who are reentering the community post-incarceration.

It's free - but capacity is limited and you need to pre-register. We would love to see as many mentors and potential mentors as possible attend this event! For more information, please contact Steve Nelson at [steve.nelson@voamn.org](mailto:steve.nelson@voamn.org) or call 651-788-6573.

To register for the event: <http://midwestmentoringforum.wordpress.com/>

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## DEED

LUIS BROWN PEÑA  
State Program Admin. Supervisor Principal  
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is Minnesota's principle employment and economic development agency and administers the state's Wagner-Peyser, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Act, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and Minnesota-funded workforce development programs.



DEED's mission is to lead the nation in the attraction and encouragement of new businesses, the retention, support and expansion of established businesses, and the support and creation of job opportunities for our State's citizens. The Department

prepares workers for jobs in demand by aligning available resources, empowering consumers, enhancing their job search skills and initializing/maintaining progressive relationships with the business community through the incorporation and redirection of existing partnerships/relationships and maximizing present resources

On July 1, 2010, DEED established an Inter-Agency Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Corrections to meet and respond to mutual agency goals and to provide specialized employment –related services to individuals prior to their release from Minnesota Correctional Facilities. Commensurate with the Inter-Agency Agreement, the we provide pre-release services at the correctional facilities including classes and workshops in which participants receive information, training and assistance regarding employment and job search. We deliver post-release services to ex-offenders including individual assistance, case management, access and referrals to WorkForce Center services, referrals to external education and community based organizations, and employment retention and follow-up assistance. We also coordinate re-entry activities with DOC staff, WorkForce Center partners, education agencies and community-based organizations to assist ex-offenders in achieving and retaining employment. **The ultimate goal of this service is to reduce recidivism and to enable the smooth transition of ex-offenders to the social/community mainstream.**

One of our primary post–release instruments delivered throughout the State is the “New Leaf Workshop for Offenders and Former Offenders.” This workshop is designed specifically for job seekers who must address a criminal record in their job search process, and are having a difficult time obtaining employment due to their barriers and or record. We provide two model workshops:

The **eight day – 4 hours per day New Leaf** - is a series of workshops offered Monday through Thursday from 12:30pm to 4:30pm at the North and South Minneapolis Workforce Centers.

**An alternative abridged one day – 4.5 hour New Leaf workshop** is offered once per month on Fridays at different Workforce Center throughout the State of Minnesota.

These classes expand upon our nationally recognized “Creative Job Search” curricula with specific strategies to empower ex-offenders to address and overcome barriers to employment - including attitude, respect, accountability, job and personal skills assessment and identification, resume writing, cover letter content and format, completing job application, the National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) test, “Ban the Box” and other empowerment issues, applicable Minnesota State Statutes and Laws, background checks, the disclosure of criminal records and addressing subsequent employer concerns, surviving the interview, and the development of current knowledge of WOTC/Tax Credit for Employers, Federal Bonding Services, and additional resources.

All "New Leaf Series" Workshop participants take the NCRC test to demonstrate and affirm to employers that the individual possesses the necessary basic skills to successfully perform in entry-level jobs.. A further developmental benefit to the NCRC participant is that she or he achieved the first tangible step in identifying a career path and in verifying the skills they need to strengthen in order to perform successfully and advance in the workplace. Registration for these classes are available online at [www.positivelyminnesota.com/WFCworkshops](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/WFCworkshops) and also by calling the respective Workforce Centers.

I'd like to offer some program statistics derived from the past fiscal periods, July 2011 thru June 2012, and from July 2012 thru June 2013.

During the twelve month period from July 2011 thru June 2012, inclusive of the State Agency shutdown during July 2011, four DEED staff, including myself, provided: **196 Pre-release workshops to 3613 released offenders, and 372 activities to 7,479 individuals.**

During program year July 2012 thru June 2013, again four staff provided: **213 Pre-release workshops to 4037 offenders** in all eleven (11) Minnesota State Correctional Facilities. Those facilities are **Stillwater, Togo, Red Wing, St Cloud, Faribault, Shakopee, Oak Park, Rush City, Moose Lake, Willow River, and Lino Lakes.** We provided over **396 activities** and **served 8,194 individuals** involved in the pre and post release services through formal and informal outreach, community events, educational exhibitions, transition fairs, Workforce Center events, Minnesota DOC career events, roundtables, Transition Coalition meetings and one-on-one services.

We believe that, in the preparation and support of offenders and former offenders to obtain gainful/sustainable employment and retain a livable wage job, we affirm and deliver the promise of our Agency's mission.

<http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/index.aspx>

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## Legislative Affairs – October 2013

CAL SAARI

MCA Legislative Liaison



This article is written as we prepare for our Legislative Update session at the Fall Institute on October 23rd. We are scheduled for 10:45 AM to Noon on that date, and are pleased to announce that we will have five Legislators joining us that day to discuss legislative issues. Presenters include Rep.'s Michael Paymar, Chair of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Committee, Deb Hilstrom, Chair of the House Judiciary Finance and Policy Committee, Tony Cornish, the Minority Party Lead on both Committees, and they will be joined by Senators Ron Latz and Warren Limmer from the Senate Judiciary Division. This will make for a great dialogue on legislative issues from the five leading legislators on those important committees. There should also be time for a question/answer period so this is a good opportunity to meet some Committee leaders and have your questions answered. We hope to have a good attendance as these Legislators graciously give of their time to meet with our members.

We will also be presenting the first look at the MCA Legislative Committee's Legislative Agenda for 2014, and in the last issue of the Forum, I promised to touch on a few of the new initiatives we will be discussing with the Legislators this next Session.

The Legislature's first priority in 2014 will be the passing of a bonding bill and that should take up a good portion of the Session, but we expect the Public Safety and Judiciary Committees will have a full agenda up for discussion. We'd expect significant discussion on several juvenile proposals including work on the expungement issue which has been a topic of discussion for the past few years but thus far, a topic found to be too extensive to be addressed with limited discussion. This Fall, Rep. Hilstrom, together with Senator Bobby Joe Champion, have started hearings on the expungement issue and they hope to have something ready for in-depth discussion in February. Although we did see new legislation on the stay of adjudication issue, there were so many changes in the language that we are not happy with the legislation and hope to convince the Legislature to re-address that topic as well.

Offender Reentry concerns will again gain lots of attention and we expect to join some of our partner organizations in advocating for voting rights restoration. The current sex offender civil commitment program is in need of reform and there continues to be much discussion about revising the Sentencing Guidelines again.

The US Supreme Court has also made several rulings in recent years on the issue of Juvenile Life sentences without parole which has many states now working to establish new language on that issue. This has been a very active discussion for us as well and our Juvenile Justice Committee is now working on a position paper and justification for addition to our legislative agenda. As you can tell from just these few items, we will again have "a full plate" of issues to discuss with our legislators in 2014. Once we have completed the Fall Institute discussion, we will be presenting the 2014 Legislative Agenda to the Board of Directors for approval and then I will again continue discussions with legislators, so we're looking forward to another very active Session in 2014.

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218-969-0151

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## The Lighter Side

### Bill Gates

A new man is brought into Prison Cell 102. Already there is a long-time resident who looks 100 years old. The new man looks at the old-timer inquiringly.

The old-timer says: "Look at me. I'm old and worn out. You'd never believe that I used to live the life of Bill Gates. I wintered on the Riviera, had a boat, four fine cars, the most beautiful women, and I ate in all the best restaurants of France."

The new man asked: "And... what happened?" "One day Bill Gates reported his credit cards missing!"

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### Rikers

I was applying for a prison guard job at Rikers Island. The warden that was interviewing me asked me if I think I could handle a tough crowd. I replied, "No problem, if they don't behave, out they go!!"

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### Nobel Prize

A man is driving down the road, when he passes a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field. He pulls the car over and watches the farmer doing absolutely nothing. The man walks over to the farmer and asks him, "excuse me sir, but what are you doing?" The farmer replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize." "How?" asks the man puzzled. "Well I heard they give the prize to people who are outstanding in their field."

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### Christmas Shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early", replied the defendant.

"That's no offence", said the judge.

"It is if you do it before the shop opened", countered the prisoner.

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### **Bad Haircut**

A man was coming out of a new barber shop which he decided to try out. He met his friend and his friend asked him if the barber did a good job. He replied, "the haircut looks fine but I didn't like the four-letter words he used when cutting my hair." "What did he say?" his friend asked? "Oops!" the man replied.

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### **Jury Duty**

I was sitting on a jury for a trial of a man accused of robbing a bank. There was not enough evidence to convict him, so we had to declare him not guilty. When the foreman announced, "Not guilty!" the defendant jumped to his feet. "Cool!!" he shouted. "Does that mean I get to keep all the cash?"

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### **Lucky 4th**

Two men at a racetrack were discussing their luck. "An amazing thing happened to me last time I was here," said the first man. "It was the 4th day of the month, and it was the day of my son's 4th birthday. The address of our house is 44, and I arrived at the track at 4:44 p.m." "I bet you put money on the 4th horse on the card," said the second man. "Yes, I did," said the first man. "And it won?" "No, it came in 4th!"

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### **Two Car Crash**

A lawyer was walking down the street when he saw two cars crashing into each other, rushing over he said, "I saw everything I can take either side!"

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### **Police**

I was on jury duty the other day and they had the victim on the stand. "So tell us what happened," the prosecutor said. "I remember it like it happened yesterday," the victim recounted. "He walked in wearing a blue shirt, black pants, and a baseball cap. Then he pulled out the gun." "Hey," the defendant yelled out. "I wasn't wearing a cap!"

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### **Easy Pay**

As the owner of a large company I went down to check out how everything was going. I noticed some guy just chilling in the coffee room. "Just how much are you getting paid a week?" "Two hundred bucks!" Replied the young man. Taking out my wallet I give him two hundred bucks and said, "Here is a week's pay and don't come back!" Turning to one of the supervisors, I asked, "How long was that lazy bum working here anyways?" "He doesn't work here," said the supervisor. "He just walked in to ask directions!"

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## **Police**

Police in Las Vegas took in a robbery suspect, and had him stand out in a line up. Detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all your money or I'll shoot." It came the suspect's turn to say it, and he yelled out, "I never said that, all I said was I got a gun!!"

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## **College Education**

I am by a rest stop on interstate 95 the other day, and I see a couple of prisoners cleaning up the garbage. I go over to them to try to cheer them up a little and one of them comes over and starts telling me, "Here I am with a degree and I'm cleaning garbage." So I ask him, "What type of degree do you have?" Without looking at me he responds, "First degree!"

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## **Armed Robber**

A guy comes into my firm to retain us after he got arrested for armed robbery. He denied all the charges. So when we went down to the police station and the victim pointed him out as one of the five men that held up his store, this client was mad. "He's lying!!! There were only four of us."

## **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

**Annual Training Institute**

**October 23-24, 2013**

**Rochester Civic Center**

**Overnight Accommodations  
at the Kahler Grand Hotel**





## about the *MCA FORUM*

*FORUM* is published six times a year by the Minnesota Corrections Association, a nonprofit professional association incorporated in Minnesota. Articles submitted by our membership do not express the views of MCA or the board of directors.

Articles may be submitted to the 2013 *FORUM* editor Mark Groves at [mark.groves@voamn.org](mailto:mark.groves@voamn.org). Articles should not be of the nature of a commercial solicitation of products or services; rather, they should be informative on topics of interest to MCA membership at large.

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