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President's Message
Michelle Smith
2015 MCA President

I am excited to be writing about our Fall Institute. With all the planning and preparation that goes into this annual training the day has finally arrived.

We will begin the week with our first ever Fall student career fair in conjunction with the Fall Institute. Thank you so much to Lori Korts and her Student Services committee members for making this possible. Many hours of contacts with colleges and local high schools throughout MN and WI offered an opportunity for students to walk the resource fair and listen to a speaker on interviewing techniques. Looking forward to a successful event.

As members travel to Mankato, home of the "Training Camp," they will be blessed with spectacular colors of the season. Once they arrive they will be presented with many options of outstanding trainings arranged by the Fall Training Institute Committee. Their commitment to offering a wide range of topics allows MCA to be a one-stop correctional training event.

I look forward to networking with members and celebrating with the award recipients at this year's conference.

Safe travels to all.

Michelle Smith
President

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Legislative Affairs CAL SAARI MCA Legislative Liaison



The Legislative Committee recommended that we devote this year's workshop to a discussion on the Mental Health crisis as it affects our delivery systems in Public Safety and Corrections. It has become a real "buzz phrase" this year even at the federal level.

Recognizing that the 2015 Legislature appropriated \$ 2 M. to Beltrami County to develop programming to address this issue, we thought this would be a good starting point to open discussion on the problems and potential solutions. I learned that my good friend Sheriff Phil Hodapp of Bemidji was one of the advocates for this initiative, and he and others convinced Senator Barb Goodwin to introduce legislation this past session that resulted in this appropriation. I'm pleased to announce that Sheriff Hodapp has agreed to present some information to us at our workshop which should generate a good deal of discussion. Hennepin County Sheriff Rick Stanek has also been very vocal about the issue and its impact on his jail population, and he too, has readily agreed to participate in our discussion. US Senator Al Franken has done some serious research on this major concern and we're please to have one of his staff Rep's, Bree Maki join our workshop where she will outline some of the work being advocated by Senator Franken. We then added three outstanding legislators to join in our discussion and we are pleased to welcome Senator Kathy Sheran, Rep. Tony Cornish and Rep. Jack Considine to our panel. This should be an outstanding workshop if you have concerns about the issue of mental health with our clients.

We will also use this forum to introduce a draft copy of our 2016 Legislative Agenda, which will be presented by Committee Chair Mark Bliven, giving everyone an opportunity to chime in on our legislative plans for this next Session. Should be a great discussion so consider joining us on Thursday afternoon.

I have also just prepared an annual report on my work as your legislative liaison this year which will be included in the Fall Institute program. I spent a lot of time in this article discussing some of the frustration many of us lobbyists are feeling as a result of the divided government we have in the current biennium. We had a good year advancing our legislative agenda this past Spring and experienced some strong bipartisan support for many issues, particularly the juvenile justice initiatives, but in the final week of the Session with almost everything in Conference Committee, the House leadership was just not going to advance any of those proposals, even with the broad support most of them had. A divided government is not conducive to effective leadership and advancing progressive legislation, so we'll return again in the 2016 Session to work on reviving those efforts from this past year. 2016 is another election year in the Fall, so hopefully voters will recognize what is being counter productive to advancing legislation and put one of the two major parties in full control.

We have our work cut out for us again this next year, and we will also begin preparing for an eventful new biennium in January, 2017. Hope to talk with you at the Fall Institute in Mankato!

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Windows 10 – Should you Upgrade?



By David Heath - Technical Committee Chair

If you have Windows 7 or 8 on your home PC, you probably are getting prompted to upgrade to Windows 10 every time you sign in. If you are not getting these prompts to upgrade, it may mean that Microsoft sees your hardware as potentially problematic. They are attempting to upgrade the easy ones first. Those folks that force a download when **not** prompted by Microsoft, are sometimes experiencing more problems with an OS that is not ready for their hardware. Microsoft is still developing hardware drivers and it is better to wait. Also, make sure Windows updates are current on your system too, so as to not cause the Windows 10 upgrade notification to not show up.

Windows 10 came out on July 29th 2015 and is free for one year to systems with Windows 7 or Windows 8.0 or 8.1. If you do not upgrade by July 29th 2016, Microsoft has said it will charge for the upgrade. .

Here is a direct article quote from a link I read, which I agree with: **“If you have not yet received a notification to upgrade to Windows 10, you should be patient! You have no reason to hurry: You can upgrade for free until July 2016. It may be a good idea to at least wait until the big fall update, Threshold 2, is released.”**

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/upgrade-windows-10-now-wait/>

Apparently Threshold 2 scheduled for October 2015 has been pushed back to November 2015.

<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/81925/20150905/microsoft-s-next-windows-10-automatic-update-threshold-2-delayed-until-november.htm>

I have also heard that if you do not like Windows 10 it is not so easy to go back to Windows 7 or 8 as many articles claim. And you only have a month to do it. Another article quote I have referenced below:

“Yes, while we think you will love all the features of Windows 10, you will have one month after upgrading to revert back to the previous version of Windows on your device.”

As far as charging for the upgrade after one year, it is unclear on what that cost may be. This could just be a Microsoft bluff to get people to upgrade. However, they will probably not offer it free forever.

The link below has some opinions on what will actually happen after 1 year.

<http://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-much-will-windows-10-cost-this-time-next-year/>

Here is another link if you decide to upgrade that could be useful.

<http://bgr.com/2015/07/31/windows-10-upgrade-download-install-tips-tricks/>

By this time next year, there's a good chance most of our home computers will be running Windows 10, if Microsoft's upgrade plan works out. As far as business computers on network domains, that may be a different story. I am not so sure IT Departments care as much about the free upgrade as the potential support issues with users. Typically, business systems have much more hardware and software requirements that **need** to work, compared to the average home PC.

As more home users download Windows 10, more businesses will probably start making the jump. I am going to guess that the IT business world will be closer to July 2017 than 2016.

Good luck to those that make the leap sooner than later. Sometime after Christmas, I will probably upgrade my system to start getting used to it.

Hopefully, it is really a better user experience as Microsoft claims it will be

About the MCA FORUM

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Articles may be submitted to the 2015 *FORUM* editor **Marc Bloomquist** at marc.bloomquist@state.mn.us. 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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