

SPECIAL EDITION

Volume 43 No. 4

October 2020



In this issue:

President's Message

MCA Awards

Scholarship Winners

Special Recognition

Committee Reports



GET IN TOUCH!

mca-mn@hotmail.com

Feel free to e-mail MCA to get in contact, join a committee, become a sponsor or to get involved!

MCA website: www.mn-ca.org





President's Message

Mary Oberstar, 2020 MCA President

Dear MCA Members & Colleagues:

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy!

I bet by now we've all heard the question "Is this our new normal?" I sure don't know the answer; how about you? In response to that question, someone told me: "Normal is just a setting on your dryer." So, is this our new normal? Is there no "normal" except for that dryer setting? Does it matter? We just continue to tumble through it and do our best, no matter what comes our way. Ahhh...2020...one for the books!

I'm writing this message at a time when any other year I would be excitedly anticipating the fall conference & networking with you. I continue to hold hope that soon we'll be back to in-person training & networking - bigger & better than ever!

In the meantime, I'd like to update you on a few things that have been happening with MCA:

- ◆ MCA memberships for current members is extended through 2021.
- ◆ Retirees who did not partake in a lifetime membership at time of retirement were offered an incentive to get that membership.
- ◆ Thrivent Financial, one of MCA's long-time sponsors, offered financial wellness virtual learning opportunities for our members.
- ◆ Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge, another amazing MCA sponsor, also offered virtual learning opportunities related to clients.
- ◆ Education & Training is exploring additional training options for members-stay tuned to see what's coming!
- ◆ At time of this writing, results are just in for president-elect position. Congratulations to Jane Schmid of Brown County; she'll take the reins after Mark Bliven serves in his presidency role in 2021!

I'm also excited to congratulate MCA's 2020 award recipients!

- ◆ Corrections Person of the Year Award: **Officer Antonio Espinosa, MCF-Stillwater**
- ◆ Professional Achievement Award: **Program Dir. Kevin Szczyrbak, Woodland Hills**
- ◆ Professional Achievement Award Field Service: **Corrections Agent Career Holly VanPelt, DOC-Albert Lea District**
- ◆ Professional Achievement Award Correctional Facility: **Troy Vincent, Ed. Director, MCF-Stillwater**

So many are deserving of an award. A huge thank you to each of you who works to keep our communities

President's Message—Continued

- ◇ Board of Directors Award: **Mark Groves, Rehab Counselor Career, Dept of Employment & Economic Development**
- ◇ Technology Award: **Sr. Agent Kaylee Henson, Wright County**
- ◇ Corrections Officer of the Year Award: **Sgt. Luke Beland, MCF-Faribault**
- ◇ President's Award: **5th Judicial District Multi-County Veterans Court Program**

These award recipients have done amazing things to make our world better. Thank you!

So many are deserving of an award. A huge thank you to each of you who works to keep our communities & coworkers safe, humanely keeps those under our care safe, and who provide services to help those people leave incarceration, supervision, or treatment better than they entered.

I'd like to end my message by extending my sympathies to the family of Commissioner Orville Pung on his passing. He served as Minnesota Department of Corrections commissioner from 1982-1993. Mr. Pung was commissioner when I started my career with the department and I remember him as an amazing leader. I still get a chuckle when I think of a time early in my DOC career when he came to the facility where I worked and wanted a new ID made. And...me being me, I refused to make it since he didn't have a driver's license to prove who he was. (p.s. - he got it after Warden McRae vouched for him as the commissioner!). He took it good-naturedly and I hope he was pleased I was following policy and didn't just hand some unknown person a Commissioner of Corrections ID. Please see page in this issue dedicated to the man who was a force for good in corrections.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions, comments, thoughts, or ideas!

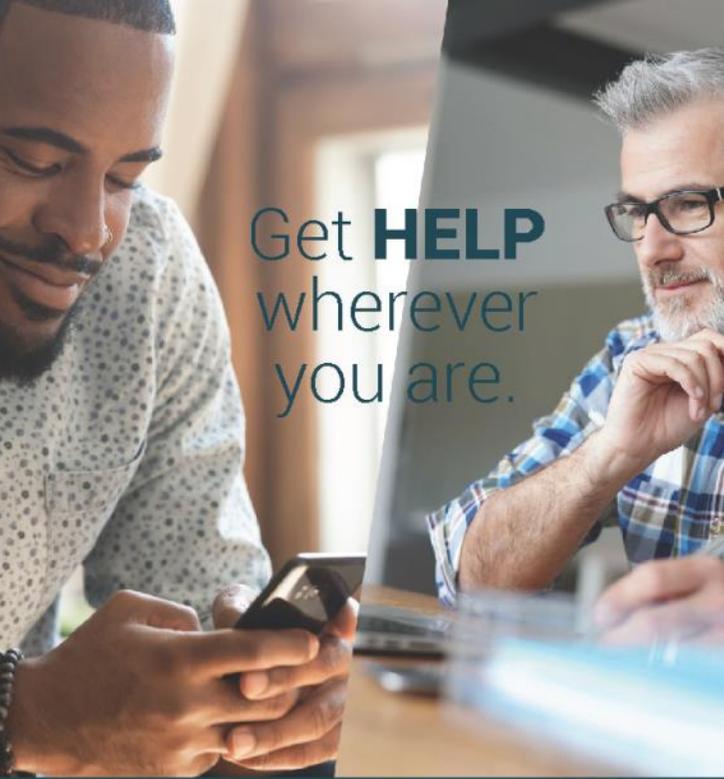
Warm regards,

Mary Oberstar

2020 MCA President

mary.oberstar@state.mn.us





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LC- “Group online has been a blessing just for the fact that we can do it.”

AB-“Telemedicine outpatient treatment has been very impactful in my life! I am very close to being finished with the program... and, because of telemedicine my life looks completely different and so much better than it did before I started. I know it is different than doing it in person, but I don’t necessarily think it is a drawback... it is just a new and different way to do it. And, it works!”

TS- “This program is very personal for a virtual platform/I was impressed with the level of connectivity.”

BG- “If telemedicine treatment was not offered through MNTC I would not have been able to take part in this amazing supportive group. I live in Chaska and currently have no driver license due to DWI. I had heard such amazing things about the MNTC program that I wanted to be able to take part in the program. Luckily I was able to do so because I could participate and interact with this group through zoom. I have found such an amazing group of supportive women in this group and one of the most compassionate counselors. I am not sure where I would be in my recovery without them.”

AM- “I think that zoom has been very helpful in making it possible to attend group even if we are having transportation issues or time constraints. “

Client Testimonials

Client Testimonials

Mackenzie Mike



Hunter Holcomb



Scholarship Winners!

We are proud to announce our scholarship winners for 2020. During this difficult year, these students have had to make persevere through many obstacles. We would like to thank all of our applicants for their hard work and dedication during these trying times.

Mackenzie Mike is the daughter of Rico and Shar Lopez. Mackenzie attends the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse with a major in Secondary Education. Her career goals include creating a space for teenagers to feel safe and heard in the classroom. Her application states, "There have been so many times I have sat in the classroom and felt that the educator in front of me saw me only as a student in a desk, not as a person with opinions, ambitions, and dreams." In addition to her educational responsibilities, Mackenzie works as a CNA and has been involved in several clubs and organizations. Congratulations Mackenzie!

Hunter Holcomb is the son of Kristi Holcomb. He currently attends Colorado Mesa University, majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensics. His career goals include being a police officer and eventually a detective or investigator. His application states, "In the world today, there is a lot of backlash against police officers. Many see them as bad people. I would like to be able to change the way people see them. I want to be able to make a difference during these trying times and show that not all cops are bad." In addition to attending college, Hunter also is involved in coaching and playing Lacrosse. Congratulations Hunter!



MCA Membership Extended!

ALL MCA MEMBERSHIPS EXTENDED TO 12/31/2021

While our opportunities to network and provide training have been virtually non-existent, please know that MCA is still here, working for you through continued reviews and research on best practices, following & reporting on legislative action, and through other means.

As our way of sending our positive thoughts and apologies to our members, all current (paid) memberships and those who become a member in 2020 will have their membership extended through December 31, 2021!

More Membership Opportunities

- **Individual member \$35**
- **Joint MCA/MACPO membership \$50**
 - ⇒ (That's a savings of \$20! - \$35 if purchased separately)
- **Retiree \$50 lifetime. Must have an active individual membership at time of retirement.**
 - ⇒ For a limited time, those that have already retired may get the lifetime membership for \$50 without having an active MCA membership. Contact the MCA Office.
- **Student membership \$10. Must meet student membership criteria.**
- **MARRCH & MSSA members ~ you can get an MCA Individual membership for \$25*. Just email the MCA office at mca-mn@hotmail.com**
 - ⇒ Applies to new MCA memberships.



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Congratulations

Jane!



2021

President-Elect



Jane Schmid is a Career Corrections Agent with Brown County Probation, providing supervision of high risk/high need justice involved juveniles through an Intensive Supervision Probation Specialty Court program. Jane has been the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) agent for juveniles for the past 12 years, and has also served as supervising agent for the former Brown County Juvenile AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) and Treatment Specialty Court. For the past five years, Jane has been the Chair of MN Corrections Association (MCA) Juvenile Justice Committee and represents MCA on the governor's state advisory group, Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC). Prior to turning to probation, Jane worked as a Licensed Social Worker in children's mental health and child welfare/protection in Nicollet and Sibley Counties for nearly 10 years, and has experience in residential care with the Sheriff's Youth Programs of MN and The Bridge of Runaway Youth in Minneapolis. Jane is a 1993 graduate of St. Thomas University with a BA in Social Work. She is dedicated to working with youth in need, with a focus on mental and chemical health issues with a special emphasis in creating a unified effort with other corrections organizations toward juvenile justice legislative change. Jane was the 2019 recipient of the MCA Professional Achievement: Field Services award.



“The job that any prison has got to face is to make somebody less dangerous than when they came in, and there’s no role for that like education. ”

- Orville Pung, Pioneer Press 2016

Orville Pung

September 8, 1936- August 31, 2020



Minnesota Commissioner of Corrections
1982 to 1993

“Orville Pung, who advocated for humane incarceration and drug treatment, served as corrections commissioner to three governors.”

- Pioneer Press 2020



Pictured with Commissioner of Corrections Tom Roy

1971 MCA President

Thomas Houle

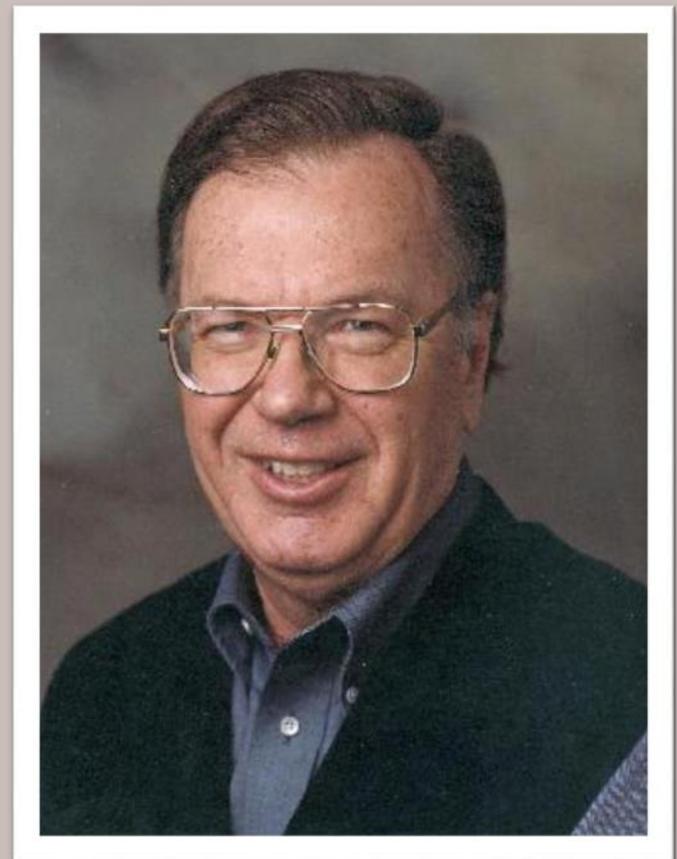


“ I keep thinking of writing about his time in Minnesota Corrections. Tom always remained interested in news of the department and corresponded with people he worked with from time to time. He went back to the summer gathering a couple times and we both attended a gathering in Duluth a few years ago (it may have been more than a few).”

- Gloria Houle

Thomas Duane Houle, age 84, of Sioux Falls, SD died on April 24, 2020 in hospice. Tom is survived by his wife Gloria, daughter Kathy of New York City, son Kevin and his wife Heather and beloved granddaughter Kate of St. Paul, MN, sister Barbara Gaughan of Forest Lake, MN, brother David and his wife Jennifer of Kalaheo, Hawaii, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Kenneth, and sister Joanne. He was a member of All Souls Unitarian Universalist church in Sioux Falls. A memorial service and visitation will be held on a future date at Heritage Funeral Home. As final gift, Tom's body has been donated to the University of South Dakota Medical School as a learning opportunity for medical students. Memorials may be sent to All Souls Unitarian-Universalist church or a charity of your choice.

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men have transitioned back into the community after incarceration after Clifton's Place.

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of men who go through the Clifton Place successfully graduate from the program.



2020 MCA Awards

Corrections Person of the Year: This award is given for outstanding contribution in the field of corrections in Minnesota by an individual in any employment. It could be clergy, judge, legislator, group home parent, etc., as well as a correctional professional.

Corrections Officer of the Year: This award is inspired by Minnesota Corrections Officers Joseph Gomm and Joseph Parise, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. This award will be given to a uniformed officer who demonstrates extraordinary character; who has gone above and beyond the scope and responsibilities of their position to ensure the safety and security of their colleagues. The recipient of this award will be nominated for their standard of professional achievement.

Professional Achievement Award

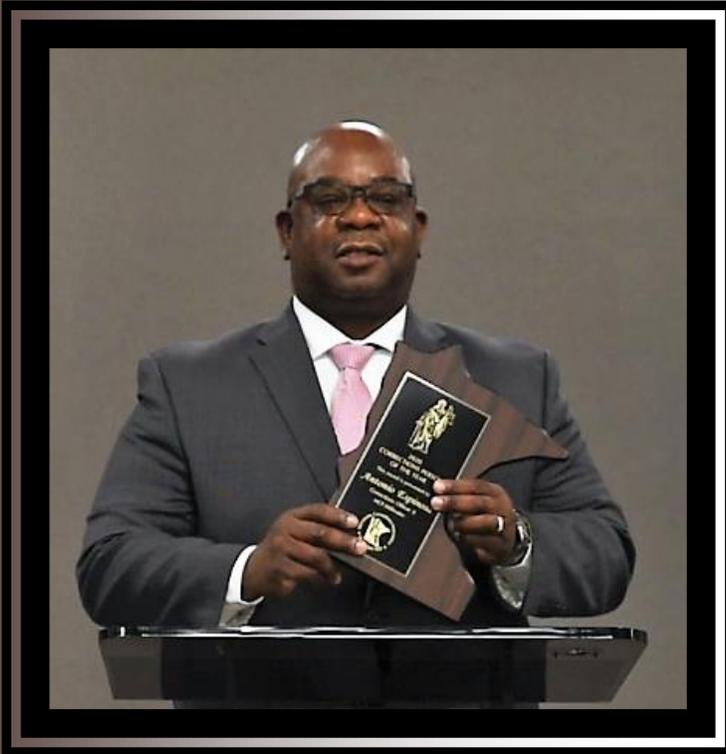
Professional Achievement Award-Field Services

Professional Achievement Award-Correctional Facilities

The professional achievement awards are given to individuals who have demonstrated achievement over a period of time, but shall not exclude professionals new to the field of corrections who have displayed outstanding achievement.

President's Award: This award is given to programs, resources or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice, which demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness and innovation.

Technology Award: This award is given to individuals, programs, resources or facilities working with technology in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice, which demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness and innovation.



Corrections Person of the Year

Corrections Officer Antonio Espinosa was nominated by Transitions Coordinator Nichole Vee as Corrections Person of the Year. Officer Espinosa reached out to Ms. Vee in an effort to bring back cultural events to the facility and bridge the gap between incarcerated individuals and staff. He saw an opportunity to bring something positive to the facility after Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm's murder. Officer Espinosa applied for and was awarded a grant, which allowed him to start a project called "Art from the Inside". This program lets the community see what kind of beauty can come from inside the prison walls.

Antonio has served as a Corrections Officer for over 18 years at MCF-Stillwater. He is certified in Crisis Intervention Training and is a Transition from Prison to Community Specialist. He has proudly served as a member of the MCF-Stillwater Honor Guard for the past 8 years and coordinates the annual Toys for Tots fundraiser at the facility. He helped to launch a men's support group called Stand Up that is co-facilitated by officers and incarcerated men. He also coordinated a series of multi-cultural events for the incarcerated men that brought community leaders, political figures, and artists into the facility to bring a positive message and hope to the men. His latest effort, **Art from the Inside**, creates the opportunity for incarcerated artists to have a visual voice through engaging, community-centered exhibitions of their art. His vision is to empower incarcerated artists to experience personal transformation and restoration.

Antonio is proud to have received the MCA 2020 Corrections Person of the Year award.



Corrections Officer of the Year

Luke Beland began his career with the State of Minnesota in 2006 as a Corrections Officer and has been a Corrections Officer, Corrections Sergeant, and in November of 2018 Luke was promoted to Corrections Due Process Investigator.

The level of commitment and dedication that is displayed in his work is evident in how he handles offender issues daily. Luke can be counted on to use every resource available to make sure that Due Process is served. Luke has a sign that he put on display in the Due Process area that states "Nothing Escapes Us". Luke is committed to making sure that while he is at work he lives that motto. His commitment to making sure we have the right person, and the right penalty, is commendable. This also creates a safer facility for every staff. Luke looks to understand the offender, the choices, and circumstances that lead to their decision. He makes sure all discipline is fair and that every offender has the opportunity to be heard. Luke's investigations are thorough, his attention to detail, and his ability to know and understand more about the incidents than the offenders involved, along with his ability to be reasonable and arbitrary, leads to offenders accepting responsibility for their actions on an unprecedented scale.

Luke has been very active in Employee Development. He's a staff instructor in Incident Command System, Firearms/Use of Force, Self Defense and Control Tactics, A-Team Advanced Responder Training and Interpersonal Communications. He is a Lead Firearms Instructor, has been a Facility Training Officer, and was a development group member for A-Team Training in 2011 and Communication Skills in 2015. He's also on the Crisis Intervention Team, Incident Command System and Security Threat Group Committees. Luke is also active in his local union, having been a Steward since 2010, and was recently elected President of the local.

It is dedicated and committed Officers like Sergeant Luke Beland who will lead the State of Minnesota and the Department of Corrections into the future as "The Leader" in Corrections.

His commitment to developing his own skills and those of his peers has been an asset to the facility and has been praised by his supervisors over his career. Luke is honored to have received the 2020 MCA Corrections Officer of the Year award and attributes his success to the many senior staff who mentored and advised him along the way.

Professional Achievement Award



Katie Campbell nominated Corrections Career Agent, Holly VanPelt, for this year's Professional Achievement Award Field Service. Holly deserves this award for a long list of reasons but mostly because she is a leader (without even likely realizing it), and she truly cares about the wellbeing and success of her colleagues and her clients. Holly takes the time to talk with people and truly listen to them; she meets people where they are and strives to help them move forward yet recognizing this is not always easy and there will likely be challenges. Holly is calm, levelheaded, compassionate, and a critical thinker. She also has a great sense of humor, which is needed in this type of work! Holly stays up to date on current trainings and goes above and beyond to ensure she is trained in the most current evidence-based interventions. Holly is not afraid to speak up and advocate for herself, her colleagues, or her clients, and her input and feedback is valuable. Holly is a leader in our district and a valuable agent in corrections. Katie stated: "I am thankful and lucky to have her on our team. She is not only my colleague but my friend, and she is someone who leads by example."

Holly began her career with the Minnesota Department of Corrections as an agent in April of 2007. Prior to this, she worked at the Freeborn County Jail for three years. She is a facilitator for Integrated Conflict Management System (ICMS), and she assisted in creating and then presenting training for an MCA workshop on conflict. Holly is also a trainer on conflict at Agent Academy. Holly went through the DAP training and is a co-facilitator for DAP in Mower County in a partnership with Correctional Services and DOC. She is also trained in "Moving On," a program for at-risk women. Holly recently completed the Drug Court training with the Criminal Justice Partners with the hope of starting one in Mower County.



Professional Achievement Award

Troy has gone above and beyond what has been expected of him since he started with corrections. Recently he accepted a work out of class position as the Education Director at the Stillwater Correctional Facility. Just being considered for the position is a testament to his dedication and character. In the short time he has been in the position he has hit the ground running and is already making positive changes in morale in the Education Department. He brings to this position 22 years of experience with the Minnesota Department of Corrections. In that time, he has served as the Lead Carpenter for the facility. He has spent the last 9 years teaching in our CT-Cabinetry Program. Additionally, Troy has dedicated many hours of service to the DOC/Stillwater facility by serving on the following committees: Safety Committee, Employee Recognition Committee, Industry Security Committee, and the Multi-Facility Tool Committee. Beyond committee work, Troy was instrumental in the design and remodel of the warden's house and the administrative suite now occupied by Warden Bosch and AW Wanchena. Troy is continually working on projects that benefit the entire facility as well as the community he lives in. Troy has served Stillwater through good and bad times and has witnessed a lot of change over the years and has always been on the positive side of it.

Professional Achievement Award



Kevin Szczyrbak graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior in 1996 with a BA in Political Science and a concentration in Criminal Justice. Kevin has been demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to the overall mission of The Hills Youth and Family Services as Program Director for over 20 years. Kevin has held several different leadership positions within the residential treatment center to include supervisor, case manager, Assistant Director of Residential Services and his current position as Program Director. In his career as an advocate for children, Kevin has trained at national, state and local conferences on effective treatment interventions for adjudicated youth. He offers a unique perspective into the world of juvenile justice and residential treatment not only through his professional life, but also his personal life. Kevin also finds time to coach football and is currently in his 18th season.

Kevin is deeply focused on achieving high quality outcomes for the clients, while ensuring the success and safety of the staff that he leads. Kevin has demonstrated a true understanding, respect and compassion for all those he comes into contact with. This can especially be seen in the youth that he is responsible for on a daily basis. Kevin has a positive attitude and cares immensely about the success of each and every client. Most recently, he was a key leader in The Hills Juvenile Justice Redesign. This redesign helped shape current and future programming.

Kevin leads out in front and never asks of staff what he isn't willing to do himself. It is a pleasure to work with Kevin and he is well deserving of the 2020 MCA Professional Achievement Award.



**MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL BRANCH**
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Multi-County Veterans Court

MCA

President's Award

The 5th Judicial District Multi-County Veterans Court Program serves the Counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, and Watonwan. This program accepted their first veteran participant on 12/01/2012.

The core team consists of a full-time Veterans Court Coordinator, a dedicated Veterans Administration representative, two fulltime dedicated case managers, probation agents, county Veterans Service Officers, mental and chemical health clinicians, a veterans workforce specialist, prosecuting attorney and defense counsel representation.

Since its inception The overall Veterans Court team members themselves have been comprised of 80% veterans and have come from several different 5th Judicial District counties and various veterans organizations from the Twin City metro area as well as membership from the local Mankato community. In addition, all of our veteran participants receive a trained veteran mentor to assist, support, and guide them during their participation in our program.

For many veterans, ongoing conflicts and numerous deployments have led to damaging physical and psychological consequences, including anxiety, depression, traumatic stress, substance use or dependence, traumatic brain injury and other wounds and homelessness. These problems are not unique to only veterans of today; veterans from pre-9/11 conflicts remain at risk for psychosocial health problems even decades after their period of service.

All participants depending upon need are provided services for employment and employment training; mental health evaluation, diagnosis, and appropriate levels of counseling/treatment; chemical dependency evaluation, diagnosis, education, and treatment; financial counseling; and safe sober housing. We also assist them to access and receive services offered through the Veterans Administration. We have helped multiple veterans to get back payments, and upgrades to their service connected disability ratings.

To date the program has had 63 graduates from 15 different counties as every veteran receives services. Many of the graduates have returned to the program to become mentors for other participants.

The Fifth Judicial District Veterans Court Program demonstrates dedication, loyalty, leadership, and overall exceptional program services for the past eight years, which reflects great credit upon itself, the Fifth Judicial District, the Minnesota Corrections Association, and the State of Minnesota.

The 5th Judicial District received their award via Zoom.

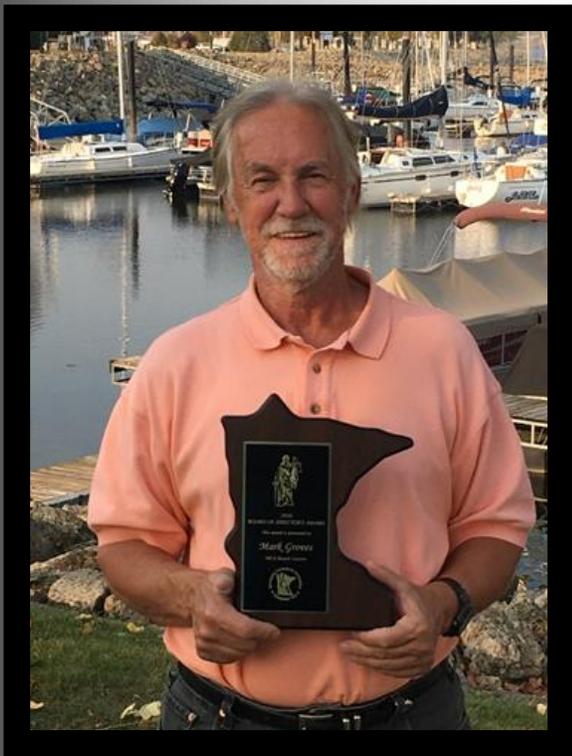


Technology Award

Kaylee Henson is a Juvenile Probation Agent with Wright County Court Services (WCCS) since 2015. She graduated from St. Cloud State University in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and later obtained her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Leadership from Concordia University St. Paul in 2017.

Since the day Kaylee was hired she has been challenging agents and management to think differently in the way we supervise our clients. She has extremely quick fingers when it comes to technology. You toss out a name and within two minutes she will have provided you with their whereabouts and who they are hanging out with. Kaylee is always trying to find creative ways for Wright County Court Services to supervise our clients through technology. Keeping up with technology and the different applications and programs that our clients are using is a passion of hers. She has worked with our Special Investigation Unit in our Sheriff's Department, other law enforcement agencies and then most recently the ATF. She has helped keep drugs off the streets, sex offenders from reoffending and locating others when their whereabouts were unknown. She has been extremely effective in using technology to her advantage while supervising clients and continuing to educate Agents at WCCS to utilize technology as another tool of supervision.

Kaylee is more than deserving of this technology award.



Board of Director's Award

Mark Groves is currently serving as the MCA Liaison Board Member, but has been an MCA member since 1980. He was the 2018 MCA President and has been an active MCA board member since 2010. Mark is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Minnesota State Services for the Blind. Prior to this position, he was the Division Director of Rehabilitative and Veterans Services for the Volunteers of America Minnesota with overall supervision of 85 employees. Mark also worked for Minnesota Department of Corrections as the Facilities Reentry Coordinator providing oversight to all reentry program elements in Minnesota. Mark has a Master of Education from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota.

This newer MCA liaison board position was created from the dedicated work Mark Groves had already been doing and his commitment to keep us growing as an organization! The position was created to cultivate new relationships and advance current relationships with MCA. Mark's purpose with this position has been evident! He continues to collaborate with other organizations such as MACPO, MSSA, MACCAC and MARRCH even in the most uncertain times of 2020. In a short period Mark's commitment paid off! Education and Training opportunities increased, our membership and diversity increased and the synergy of supporting each other has reached new heights and Mark has definitely been the driving force! We have all been impressed with Mark's CAN DO attitude! He strives for excellence and innovation for MCA's future and we are honored that he continues to be an active member for our organization. Mark's ambition is inspiring and when you believe in success and follow through greatness is achieved!



Community Justice Services

Building relationships, responsibility, quality of life and opportunity for successful and positive reentry

Amicus

For over 50 years, Amicus has helped build successful lives and stronger communities. Amicus One to One is one of the state's longest standing and most successful transitional mentoring programs for those leaving incarceration. We also offer a variety of services providing pre and post-release reentry support, including:

- Drop-In Reentry Support (employment, housing, etc.)
- Employment preparation training
- Support groups for men and women and more!

612-877-4250

www.voamnwi.org/community-justice

Residential Reentry Centers

For nearly 50 years Volunteers of America Minnesota has provided residential re-entry services for men and women who are allowed to complete part of their prison sentences in the community. The centers maintain around the clock shift staff and a strict system of accountability.

The facilities offer participants reentry support in areas such as:

- Financial education
- Job readiness
- Healthy relationships
- Time and anger management
- Cognitive reconstruction and more.

Residents have an opportunity to transition back into community gradually and thoughtfully, while avoiding further involvement in the criminal justice system. Participants are referred to the centers by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Probation Office, or by the Minnesota Department of Corrections Work Release Unit.

Volunteers of America of Minnesota and Wisconsin was founded in Minnesota in 1896 and Wisconsin in 1929. We offer more than 60 services to help vulnerable children, adolescents, families, older adults, students, persons with disabilities and special needs, and ex-offenders. We offer services for more than 23,000 people, from 800 employees and 1,000 volunteers.



To learn more about us, click on the logo above.

Services

- Community Family Supports
- Community Services for Seniors
- Education
- Mental Health Services
- Rehabilitative and Veterans Services
- Residential Treatment
- Service Enriched Housing
- Services for People with Special Needs
- Housing
- Residential Care

MCA Annual Training Institute will be held in 2021 at Grand View Lodge



The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Annual Training Institute Committee is pleased to announce we are returning Grand View Lodge for the 2021 Annual Training Institute.

Please join us in celebrating 87 years of MCA:
October 27-October 29, 2021.

Stay tuned for updates on the MCA website at www.mn-ca.org !



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

WE ASKED AND YOU VOTED!!

Due to Covid-19, the Board felt that it would be appropriate to have our Secretary, Kaylee Henson and our Vice President, Laura Anderson serve one more year in order to appreciate their full responsibilities on the Executive Board.

Our Board brought a VOTE to our members who agreed to have the Vice President and Secretary positions terms increase to 2-year terms commencing in 2021 and moving forward. This is consistent with the Treasurer position.

Our President Elect Position will remain a three-year commitment and voted on annually.

Finally, our membership voted on the following bylaw changes in June:

1. Create an MCA Liaison Board Member position - The goal of this position is to collaborate with partner organizations to increase membership, increase diversity, increase training opportunities and increase communications. Mark Groves is the current Board Liaison
2. Create an MCA Safety Committee - The purpose of this Committee is to provide a safe workplace and protect the health of our members. Wayne Niles is the current Chair of the Safety Committee

Bylaw changes that were voted on by the membership at the Members Annual Business Meeting are to change the Victim Services Committee to Silver Line Support Committee. This committee will identify wellbeing needs and resources for professionals within the corrections field.

Thank you for your continued support of MCA!

Executive Board

President: Mary Oberstar
President-Elect: Mark Bliven
Vice President: Laura Anderson
Secretary: Kaylee Henson
Treasurer: Robyn Wood
Past President/Awards: Connie Hartwig
Administrative Manager: Debbie Beltz
MCA Liaison: Mark Groves

2020 Annual Report Summary

Annual Business Meeting



2020 MCA President

Mary Oberstar

As needs no explanation, 2020 has been a year like no other. All significant events were postponed until next year, with the exception of Corrections Capitol Day in February. This gave me little opportunity to connect face-to-face with members and stakeholders. It was a year for creativity. Mary attended Capitol Day, continued her work through support of various committees, worked to create a new safety committee and broadened her overall knowledge and experience of MCA. She further stated at the conclusion of her report, "Although I haven't had the opportunity to attend events and meet with many of you, I have been working throughout the year with the rest of the board to continue finding ways to provide you information and resources. This will continue going forward. I look forward to when we can network in person once again. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president in 2020!"



2020 Vice President

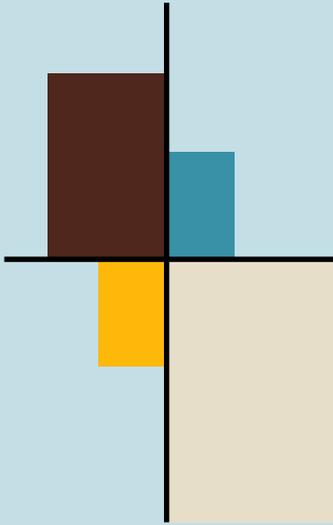
Laura Anderson



2020 has been a year of uncertainty due to the COVID 19 pandemic, however the MCA executive and full board members have continued to meet virtually throughout the year to resume the operations of our organization. Laura has worked with the nominating committee and participated in virtual training with MAARCH. She also worked on updating the MCA operating manual.

Adult Justice & Legislative Committee

The committee, like most others, was and remains affected by COVID. We continue to meet monthly via Skype. The bonding bill and supplemental budget bill became the committee's primary focus. The announced closures of MCF-Willow River and MCF-Togo heightened the committee's awareness of legislative action during the special sessions. We remain hopeful that the legislature will come through. Our legislative agenda remains largely unchanged. We added language regarding law enforcement in light of recent scrutiny. We believe that law enforcement, while imperfect, is a critical partner in the criminal justice system and our efforts to prevent crime, rehabilitate people, and make victims whole. The proposed 2021 legislative agenda will be distributed to membership electronically for review in October and to the board for adoption in November or December. We will continue to work with our legislative liaison, Cal Saari, as we approach the election and the next legislative session.



Fall Institute Committee

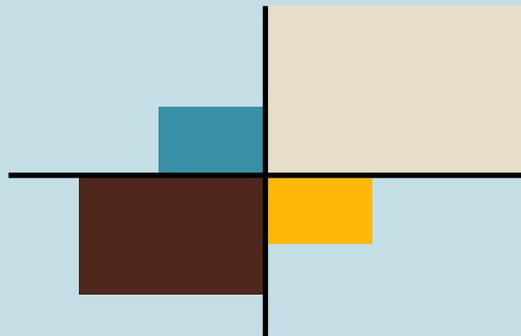
As a result of COVID 19, the Fall Training Institute was unable to take place this year. The conference was scheduled to be held at the Verizon Convention Center in Mankato 10/28/20-10/30/20. The contract was adjusted to 2024 with no penalty. Keynote speakers were rescheduled for 2021 again with no penalties. Next year the Fall Training will occur at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa 10/27/21-10/29/21. We will return to Grand View Lodge in 2022. In 2023 the Fall Institute will be held in Duluth for the 90th Anniversary before returning to Mankato in 2024 as previously mentioned.

Communications Committee

The communications committee has been working to be more active with our social media accounts over the past couple of years. We continue to highlight sponsored trainings, training from our partners and other organizations, accomplishments of our members, and upcoming events. At the height of the global pandemic, we decided to publish the Forum seasonally, or until more normal business is resumed. During this time, we continue to seek out topics of interest for members and incorporate sponsor highlights in each edition. This was to be the fourth year that MCA had utilized an app for the Fall Conference. We look forward to bringing this option to our guest at next year's conference.

Education & Training Committee

In 2020, the MCA Education and Training committee was reestablished and initially started on formation of a new team of committee members. The team was able to meet a few times at the beginning of the year and started to work on determining key topic areas of interest/need for trainings to be completed for the annual year. A plan was developed to focus on a few specific topics and have presentations completed in various areas of the state so that more members would be able to attend. Due to COVID and/or staffing constraints within DOC plans for in person trainings were put on hold and the team was unable to plan further trainings due to workload constraints. MCA also was planning to continue to team with MACPO to offer joint trainings this annual year. The Series Surviving/Thriving in the Trenches was to be continued from series that began in 2019 and unfortunately was also cancelled due to COVID. MCA was able to have one series of virtual lunch and Learns regarding Financial Wellness with completion of a three part series on September 23rd. This was presented by Dan Athmann from Thrivent Financial, one of MCA's long term sponsors. Goals for 2021: Committee plans to work again on getting trainings and education held with an on line format. Continue to partner with MACPO on trainings and education as well.

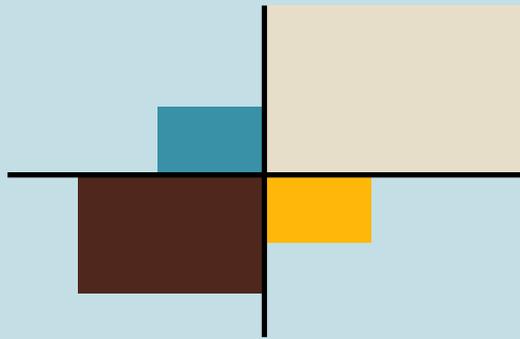


Juvenile Justice Committee

MCA Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) meets monthly, every second Thursday of the month at the DOC Central Office in St. Paul. Thus far in 2020, our committee has held nine meetings addressing a variety of juvenile justice issues detailed below. Due to COVID-19, these meetings have been taking place via Zoom since May. One of our committee's major goals for 2020 involves a commitment to a finalization of the JJ21 (Juvenile Justice) Project coordinated by Mark Haase starting in 2014. Another committee goal for 2020 was to host a second Annual Juvenile Justice Conference in the spring of 2020. However, as many can relate, the COVID pandemic emerged and halted the Conference. JJC will be working to reschedule and secure presenters for the second Annual Juvenile Justice Conference in the remainder of 2020. We look forward to hosting another successful conference addressing juvenile justice issues in MN in 2021. Throughout our JJC meetings, committee members are free to discuss and propose juvenile justice issues deemed in need of attention. The issue of placement beds for juveniles around the state remains a concern. Agents are finding our juvenile clients are on extensive waiting lists for (6-7 months) residential treatment and (2-3 months) for corrections programs. We continue to experience particular struggles with juveniles who have significant mental health issues with aggressive behaviors, seeing a growing female population. Agents end up seeking out of state placements for youth or having to place youth in programs that are unable to meet their extensive needs, often resulting in more legal charges.

Legislative Liaison

So how do we respond to our activity during 2020? It's been a most unusual, unorthodox year, very little time allowed in the Legislative Halls, almost no presence allowed at legislative hearings, and almost no group interaction with Legislators. On the other hand, as legislative lobbyists, we have never been this busy. My informal logs literally shows "hundreds" of phone conversations with Legislators and their primary aides in order to keep abreast of legislative activities. I have expanded our base of contacts with many more Legislators and feel that this will be extremely useful to us in the next Legislative Session. With the 2020 Presidential election now less than a month away, and every Legislative seat up for election, it's going to be an exciting month. Political pundits claim there are at least twenty-six (26) legislative seats that are toss-ups, five in the Senate and twenty-one in the House. The results of those seats will determine the structure of the new Legislative Biennium and which parties will control the House and the Senate. There should be no need to convince everyone of you of the importance of your vote. It has been my pleasure to represent our membership for the past sixteen years and no question about it, this has been the most unique, challenging year, but this experience has only enhanced my optimism and desire to continue this work on behalf of all of you, working with Legislators to assure we continue to demand best practices for Corrections in Minnesota! Thanks to everyone for your support!

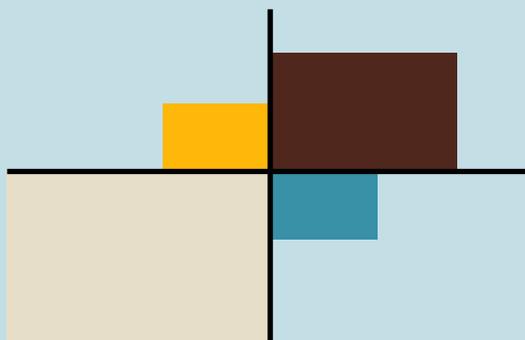


MCA Membership Committee / MCA Liaison

I was appointed to this position. I developed ongoing working relationships with: the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO), the Minnesota Association of Recovery Resources and Chemical Health (MARRCH), and the Minnesota Social Services Association (MSSA) for the purpose of identifying potential cross-collaboration opportunities (e.g., between/among identified groups and initiates/facilitates conversations on these opportunities to ensure alignment with each appointed group's strategic priorities and scope of work. As you know, MCA and MACPO developed a formal joint membership last year. We have many cross-over members. I have been attending the MACPO Board of Director's meetings as an Association Liaison. We encourage the MCA and MARRCH membership to reach out to our Corrections Committee with requests, ideas, and joining us as we move forward. MCA hosts an annual Corrections Institute, an annual Juvenile Justice Conference, monthly Education & Training workshops, et al. We believe it is in the best interest of both the Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Corrections professions to formally partner as we seek effective approaches to successful outcomes. Feel free to contact me with thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. We welcome your input and participation. Thank you.

Sponsorship Committee

The Sponsorship Committee connect with the current sponsors much earlier in the 2020 calendar year and was able to secure 15 sponsor, three of those were new partners this year. The committee struggled a bit to connect with some of the long time partnerships due to the national pandemic-Coronavirus. Because of this, we lost a team member due to budgetary impacts that occurred across many employers. With the decision to cancel all 2020 conferences, the committee came up with a special marketing campaign to encourage the continued support and partnership with sponsors. Some of the new features included: sponsor video showings, specific marketing on the various social platforms used, organization highlighted in the Forum, etc. Several sponsors continued with their partnership with these offerings through the campaign. One sponsor increased their level in efforts to have their organization's video shown to the 3,400 plus contacts in the MCA database. Because we had not heard from some of the sponsors, we decided to gently attempt contacting them and will gear up again for 2021. Also, the Sponsorship offered some minor edits to the section of the MCA by-laws concerning the Sponsorship Committee. Finally, the Sponsorship committee will continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis. If there is an interest to help solicited partnerships with organizations through out the state of MN, reach out us.

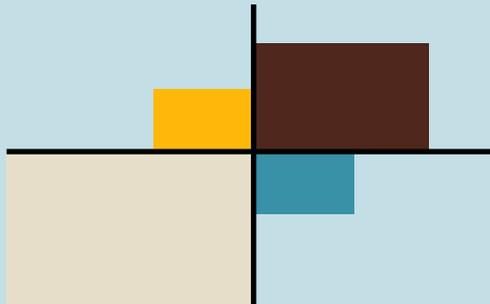


Spring Workshop Committee

The MCA Spring Workshop Committee was to hold its Annual Spring Workshop on March 26, 2020 at the Owatonna Country Club in Owatonna, MN, and the topic of our training was “**Criminal Minds: Supervising Offenders with Various Mental Health Needs**”...Due COVID-19, this has been rescheduled to **March 25, 2021-same training, same location!** The MCA Spring Workshop committee is very thankful to all the speakers, vendors, and attendees that make our trainings worthwhile. We are thankful to have your support and could not have this training without the support of MCA. Continue to look for further details in the future on the 2021 Spring Workshop as well as further training opportunities through MCA.

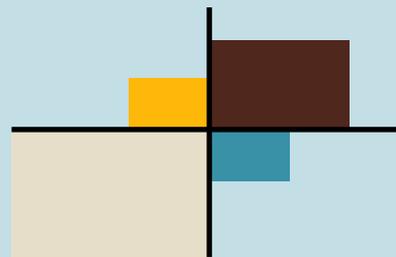
Student Services Committee

We were able to award two \$500 scholarships this year and due to the circumstances of 2020, we were able to approve and offer additional \$100 scholarships. All meetings were held via SKYPE, MICROSOFT TEAMS or via email for collaboration on various events and activities. This is likely to continue due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Thus far, it has worked for this committee to meet utilizing alternate formats versus engaging in in-person meetings. While we would like to return to at least one in person meeting annually, however, we will evaluate this when the in-person format option again becomes available. We are currently looking for new members, if you are interested please contact Melissa McCann. Fall institute scholarships were again budgeted for the year, however, due to the conference being cancelled we were unable to award these scholarships for 2020. We continue to have ongoing outreach with colleges and universities in Minnesota and surrounding areas. In regards to recruitment strategies to connect with students and prospective employees through membership of MCA, I was able to engage in sharing some of those connection strategies with other agencies during the last year. This has been beneficial and an area that I believe could be further explored in 2021 as recruitment and connection with students has been increasingly more creative!



Technical Committee

Primary work consisted of researching and rebuilding all the technology links on the website. It also involved review of the software MCA uses for its website, as well as collecting data and forming links to other sites. The committee submitted several articles to members through the Forum. There was talk on adding a student member to the ranks, after a push from the board to look into student members. That was shelved for the time being during the COVID crisis. Discussion, once again, on gaining at least one other non-student member, as well. Once again, that has been shelved during the COVID crisis. We will continue with member-informative Forum articles and do product research, utilizing vendor webinars when we meet as a group. 2021 will also bring the retirement of Co-Chair David Heath (thank you David for your assistance, and we wish you luck!).



Victim Services Committee

Victim Services was an existing committee; however the new purpose of this committee will be to establish program guidelines, supply support to corrections persons, identify needs and develop responsive services to unique correctional situations.

The process has started by identifying internal / external program evaluations, re-naming process (complete), committee member search, establishing foundational goals, identifying external stakeholders, and forming collaborations.

About the MCA *FORUM*

The **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 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.

Articles may be submitted to the FORUM editor Tara Rathman at Tara.Rathman@state.mn.us

OUR MISSION:

TO PROMOTE THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE CORRECTIONS FIELD AND TO PROMOTE ETHICAL AND JUST CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE.

To contact MCA, join a committee, sponsor us or to get involved, please contact:

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