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President's Message
Monique Drier
MCA President

As I begin to write this article the final plans are being put in place for the 2014 Fall Institute a very exciting time of the year for Minnesota Corrections Association and all of its members. This year we are travelling to the Northwood's vacation spot of Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN. It is very hard to believe that my year as President has gone by so quickly. One thing that has been reinforced through this experience is my belief that leaders need to know how profoundly they affect others. In 2014 I have had the opportunity to see this in action. I have learned many things over this past year. We embarked on some new journeys. As a fiscal agent for a juvenile justice grant, I have been able to attend many meetings and represent MCA at many meetings and events around the state. I would definitely say that this has been a year of growth for the organization. The grant we received has helped to expand the exposure of MCA to many areas of the state as well as allowing the organization to be a pioneer in offering feedback to reform juvenile justice as we know it.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Fall Institute Chairs and their sub -committees for setting up the conference for all of us to benefit from. The fall institute allows all corrections personnel at all levels the opportunity for incredible networking while attending the conference. Please be sure to thank all that have had a part in the planning of this event.

Lastly, the Fall Institute is a time to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all corrections professionals. Special congratulations to all awards winners. Looking forward to seeing all of you at Grandview Lodge in October 2014.

MCA Platinum Sponsors



Legislative Affairs – October 2014 CAL SAARI MCA Legislative Liaison



As we prepare this report for inclusion in the October issue of the MCA Forum, we are now into the final four weeks of the "political season" as all candidates make their final pleas to their constituents. Of course there is no election in Minnesota this Fall for the state Senate seats so they all retain their positions and we expect no major changes in the Committee structure on the Senate side, but things are somewhat hazier on the House side, where all Representatives are up for election. There continues to be fourteen election battles around the state that are considered very close races. They are scattered around the state and most are in areas that are considered toss ups because of very close election results in the past. The Republican minority claims they need to win in seven of those contests, and hold all their other seats, in order to take over as the majority on the House side. In addition, the Governor's contest is also considered competitive by many, with most polls currently showing Governor Dayton with about a 6 -8 % lead as we head into this final month. A change there would also have a significant dynamic in the start of the new biennium on January 6, 2015. Bottom line is we all need to do our civic responsibility and make sure we vote and give a clear mandate for our legislative leaders.

We are set at this point for our legislative update workshop at the Fall Institute, which will be conducted on Thursday afternoon, 3:00 - 4:30 PM. We're happy to announce that we have leaders from both political parties joining us for a discussion on what the next legislative session might address, and also hear their comments on our legislative priorities. Joining us will be Rep. Carly Melin, DFL, District 6A, who is running for her third term. She has been vice chair of the Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee and is also an Assistant Majority leader. She has been a very active supporter of several of our priority items and has become known as a fierce advocate for her positions. Joining Carly will be Senator Warren Limmer, (R) District 34, who has been in the legislature since 1988. He is an Assistant minority Leader and serves as the ranking minority

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member on the Senate Judiciary Division. We have worked with Senator Limmer over the past several years and have found him to be a real friend of Corrections with a keen interest in assuring best practices in our field. He has appeared at many of our organization functions and is always interested in the priority issues we present.

We also hope to have Senator Ron Latz, DFL, District 46, who has been in the Legislature since 2002, and is currently the Senate Chair of the Judiciary Division. Being a practicing attorney in addition to serving in the Senate, Senator Latz has a solid knowledge and background on Public Safety and Corrections issues. He has often advocated on our behalf and has always been prepared to hear from us on concerns involving our membership. These legislative leaders will again assure us of an interesting discussion at our workshop.

I hope to see many of you at the Fall Institute. Please stop and visit with me and let me know your interests and concerns as we prepare for the next Session. Thanks to all for your support of our work in legislative activity on behalf of MCA.

Calvin Saari
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Techie Talk

3-D Printed Clothing and Body Armor



By David Heath - Technical Committee Chair

Last year, I wrote an article on 3 and 4D printing and one of the future applications was supposed to be a better 3D printed Body Armor vest. I think this technology has future merit in the Corrections and Law Enforcement field to make their jobs safer someday. I did some follow-up research to see what is going on now in the latest body armor. It looks like the US military is looking at both technologies for a number of different applications. This July 31, 2014 article highlights 3D printed clothing and mentions a few other 3D applications as well.

<http://3dprint.com/10820/3d-print-army-uniforms/>

The military is also looking at 4D body armor but it is a going to be years down the road. Currently they are trying to develop 4D materials they can use in manufacturing.

<http://news.d2p.com/2014/03/25/army-looks-beyond-3-d-printing-explores-4-d-technology/>

During my research, I also came across a trade show called “Eurosatory, The 2014 Air-Land Defense Security Exhibition”. Apparently this is one of Europe’s premiere exhibitions of military, defense and homeland security products in the world. The 2014 show, held in Paris from June 16th to the 20th, attracted more than 1,500 vendors from 50 countries around the world. Held every two years, the event draws the top firms in military and defense products. Within this link are advancements in a bullet proof glass that will reduce the thickness by 30% using a new transparent ceramic material. Also, some news on a product by DuPont, called Tensylon making body armor lighter and stronger.

<http://www.bodyarmornews.com/eurosatory-2014/>

Here is another link from a June 27th 2014 article with Military Police testing the latest new vests. The newer, better bullet proof vest were to be released in July 2014.

<http://www.bodyarmornews.com/military-police-provide-feedback-new-bulletproof-vests/>



Hybrid Gangs and Security Threat Groups Workshop

The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) and the Minnesota Community Corrections Association (MCCA) co-hosted an excellent *Hybrid Gangs and Security Threat Groups* workshop on September 19, 2014 at Goodwill Easter Seals in St. Paul. Andy DuBois and Tonja Tidgwell, Investigators from the Minnesota Department of Corrections, were in their element as they provided fifty-plus MCA/MCCA members information and examples about how hybrid gangs affect prisons and the community; how social networking sites are used by hybrid gangs; and presented identifiers and examples for detecting hybrid activity. Both Andy and Tonja are excellent presenters that provided a wealth of material to help corrections professionals be more effective and efficient in their jobs.

Hybrid gangs are new youth gangs engaged in illegal activities. Such gangs are found throughout the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. Traditional gangs usually have structural hierarchy and a code of discipline and conduct. Unlike traditional gangs, Hybrid gangs have very few rules or codes. The new generations of hybrid gangs are devoted to making money through illegal activities such as drugs, robbery, and prostitution.

MCCA hosts a half-day training on the third Friday of each month. ([Check out their upcoming trainings](#)).

MCCA has been offering high quality, affordable education and training opportunities since 1972. Over the past couple years, the MCA Education & Training and Membership Committees have been collaborating with MCCA to provide three to four training opportunities in the Twin Cities for our MCA (and MCCA) members. If you are interested in learning more about these events and/or would like to see MCA host a particular topic, please contact MCA to get more involved and share your ideas.

Confronting the Fire

A peek into the world of juvenile arson

Joseph Becker – Senior Corrections Major, MSU-Mankato

The behavior of juveniles tends to be a topic that has left us all scratching our heads at least a few times throughout our time in the field. We try to form a better understanding of juvenile offenders by discovering and treating the risks and needs of each individual youth and hope that we can change the course of their future for the better. It's an area where we count our wins and have to brush off our losses knowing that we did all we could do. But some offenses leave us more baffled than others, which leads me to the topic of juvenile arson.

Statistics

To gain a better understanding of juvenile arson we need to look at arson in general. Arson is the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property. According to the FBI's 2012 *Uniform Crime Report* 15,656 law enforcement agencies reported 52,766 arsons in the United States which means there were an approximate 18.7 arson incidents for every 100,000 people. Of these arsons they reported that 46.9 percent of all arsons involved structures which include: residential, storage, and public structures. Mobile property made up 23.1 percent of these arsons. "Other types" of property such as crops, timber, and fences accounted for 30.1 percent of reported arsons.

Cost

In 2012 the average loss per arson came to an estimated \$12,796. Industrial and manufacturing arsons typically came to four times that amount totaling an average of \$42,133 due to the contents of the structures. Although these are just estimates it shows that even a small act of arson can have detrimental financial consequences for average people, businesses, and society.

The cost of arson is typically calculated based on the calculable damage to the structure or property. But other costs need to be considered such as the amount of public safety personnel involved, time spent responding to arsons, time spent investigating arsons, mental costs on victims and family members of victims of arson etc.

Motives

Although the actual act of arson is similar when comparing juvenile and adult arsonists, there are notable differences between the two which include the arsonists' motives, age, and mental development. A study was conducted by Walsh, D.P., & Lambie in which 18 male youth arsonists and parents were interviewed post offense, in which they found four main motives for juvenile arson;

1. **Curiosity:** Doesn't fully understand the potential of the action. They may just test lighting different objects on fire to see what would happen. More of an innocent non-criminal mindset approach but still can be very costly.
2. **Troubled:** Could be considered a cry for help. The individual may be lacking attention in other areas of their lives and consider arson to gain attention. Could also stem from other personal issues within the home or themselves.
3. **Delinquent:** This mindset is intentional. The juvenile enjoys the destruction and effects of starting things on fire. Knows the full potential and possible consequences of the act but continues with it anyway.

4. **Pathological:** The juvenile may be suffering from a mental disorder which contributes or exacerbates severely disturbing mindset. The juvenile may be sexually aroused by the incident or even addicted.

Identifying High Risk Youth

How do we identify high risk youth? A meta-analysis study conducted by Sakheim, Osborn, and Abrams in which they compared non-arsonist juveniles by interviewing 50 juveniles in residential treatment facilities found several risk factors which include:

- Feelings of anger and resentment at maternal neglect (deprivation or abandonment).
- Feelings of impotent rage at insults or humiliations by peers or adults.
- Excitement, pleasure, or sexual arousal by lighting or watching fires.
- Poor judgment in social situations.
- Weak social anticipation, poor planning, and competence.
- Impulsive behavior.
- Aggressive conduct disorder.

Male and Female

Is there a difference between male and female juvenile arsonists? According to: Roe-Sepowitz and Hickie whom conducted a study which sampled 217 male and 114 female arsonists' found that male and female motives are vastly different. Some of the main differences they found included;

- Females reported a severe or traumatic incident in their lives within a year prior to the offense.
- "Girl arsonists more often reported a history of childhood abuse, higher scores on a suicide ideation scale and were more likely to set fire at school."
- "Boy arsonists were more likely to have greater mental health problems, report gang involvement, a history of prior delinquency and prior arson, and were found to set fires at their residence when compared to girl arsonists."
- Both sexes have regular school attendance.
- Females had more tardiness or truancy.
- Male and Female juvenile arsonists are different.
- Each sex requires individualized assessment and approach.

Intervention

Intervening to prevent juvenile arson can be a rather daunting task seeing as though we can identify risk factors, but we never really truly know if a juvenile is going to commit arson until they actually do. According to a study conducted by Palmer, Caulfield, and Hollin in which they surveyed multiple agencies around the country to find the best practices of preventing and treating juvenile arsonists they found that;

- Intervention before and after (mainly after) the offense helps to significantly reduce recidivism. If left untreated, the individual is most likely going to re-offend.
- The commitment and enthusiasm of staff makes all the difference on the success of the youth and their chances of recidivating.
- There needs to be an improvement regarding data sharing and communication amongst agencies.

- Each juvenile arsonist needs an individualized approach and case plan.
- Cognitive based programming to fit the specific risks and needs of each juvenile arsonist is essential in their recovery.
- Increased funding to programs that deal with/treat juvenile arsonists.

Does programming work to help rehabilitate juvenile arsonists? Yes. According to their study they also found that programming can be very affected if:

- The juvenile and incident is approached appropriately.
- If you treat each case and juvenile in an individualized approach.
- If the services and intervention are delivered appropriately and delivered in a timely manner.

Most programming is done after the first incident because although you can identify high risk youth it's often impossible to know if certain youth will commit arson until they actually do it. But there is hope. With teamwork, determination, communication, and a positive attitude, we can assist these youth in their life struggles. Never give up, never lose hope.

Sources:

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Join us at the Annual Training Institute



**MCA Annual Training Institute
October 22-24, 2014
Grand View Lodge - Nisswa, MN**

**The 2014 MCA Awards Ceremony
will take place at the Annual Training Institute
at Grand View Lodge with a
social hour being sponsored by 180 Degrees**



Check it out!

MCA Annual Training Institute

AMY MOECKEL/SHANNON FETTE

MCA Annual Training Institute Chairs

Ramsey County Community Corrections

The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Annual Training Institute Committee is doing a phenomenal job at preparing for the 2014 Annual Training Institute. Please join us in celebrating 81 years of MCA at the Annual Training Institute located this year at the Grand View Lodge Nisswa, Minnesota.



***Registration for the conference is now open and there is an Early Bird option for conference registration until 9/1/14. Please visit our website to register:

<http://www.mn-ca.org/>

The mission and highlights of this year's Annual Training Institute Committee includes the following:

- Cutting edge training at the front of the latest trends in corrections
- Provide a great location for networking with peers in corrections from all over the state
- Return to the 2 ½ day training
- Provide training that will attract a diverse group of participants
- Offer a conference with quality programming at a low cost to agencies/participants
- Provide a venue for the annual Association business meeting
- Awards recognition of staff that show exemplary service to the field
- Connect resources/vendors with agencies to meet their needs and include an excellent opportunity for sponsorships as well as the popular resource fair venue

Conference Highlights

The conference will be kicked off each day with relevant inspirational Keynote speakers:

***Tou Ger Xiong - "Teaching Culture through Laughter"**

***Aaron Cross - "Motivation on Wheels"**

***Bobby Smith - "Visions of Courage"**

The Tracks this year include:

1. Juvenile
2. Special Programming
3. EBP/TPT
4. Public Interest

The full conference schedule is available online on the MCA website home page at www.mn-ca.org

With the return of the 2 ½ day training, the following evening activities will be available:

- Wednesday evening please join us for the Vendor Hospitality event from 6pm-9pm located in the Norway Center.
- Thursday evening please join us to celebrate and support your peers as they are recognized for the exemplary services at the Awards ceremony! The celebration is hosted by 180 degrees starting with social hour from 4:30-5:30 followed by the awards ceremony at 5:30 pm.

More details to follow on the fun afterwards, stay tuned!

Committee chairs include:

- **Shannon Fette/Amy Moeckel** – Annual Training Institute Committee co-chairs
- **Tom Redmond/Tom Jungman** – Arrangements
- **Marcie Koetke/Ruth Stadheim** – Program
- **Vicki Lanners** – Registration
- **Jeffrey Hilliard/Jason Mereness** – Resource Fair / Hospitality-Networking
- **Tara Eisenmenger/Christine Schweick**-Hospitality-Networking

A special thank you to the current businesses for being a sponsoring at this year's Annual Training Institute:

- *Past President Breakfast/Award Ceremony Social Hour – 180 Degrees
- *Registration Tote Badge-MN Adult & Teen Challenge
- *Lanyards-MINNCOR
- *Folder/Program Printing – DOC Printing Education Program

If you want to be a specific Annual Training Institute Sponsor – contact the MCA office at mca-mn@hotmail.com or 651-462-8320

Please join us for what is sure to be a top notch memorable training at Grand View Lodge!



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 2014 *FORUM* editor **Steve King** at stevek@co.mower.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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