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President's Message

Sarah Eischens - 2017 MCA President



Greetings MCA Members,
 Summer is flying by fast and I certainly have enjoyed the beautiful Minnesota weather. As the summer is winding down, we are starting to focus on MCA's Fall Institute on October 25-27 at the beautiful Grandview Lodge. Please look for registration and the exciting lineup of presenters on the MCA website. We are putting together a workshop on Juvenile Expungement and Collateral Consequences in collaboration with MACPO. Look for an e-blast to come out in the near future to attend this training.

Training and Education committee has done a great job putting together monthly workshops for MCA members. The next workshop topic is Gambling Addiction and will be held on August 18, 2017 from 9am-12 pm at DOC Central Office. Please check out our website to register for the workshop which is free to the first 40 MCA members.

In June, MCA held its annual picnic in appreciation of the hardworking volunteers, board and chairs members. The picnic was held at the Warden's House at MCF-Stillwater. It turned out to be a day with great food and conversation. I wanted to say a special thanks to all the members of the MCA committees and committee chairs. It can be both a rewarding and learning experience. I know everyone is very busy with their usual workload and yet are dedicated to serving on MCA committees. The picnic is a small thank you for the hard work. The chairs have brought forth great ideas from the hard work the committees are doing to ensure and enhance services to our members.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help support the mission of MCA. We have a great diverse representation of committee members from the institution, treatment, all three probation delivery systems and other professionals in the corrections field. If you are interested in volunteering please go to our website and check out the different committees that might interest you. Communications is looking for additional members to assist putting out the forum and other media communications to the members.



Mn Adult & Teen Challenge



2017 MCA Board of Directors

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Dan Raden, Co-Chair

dan.raden@state.mn.us

Feel free to email myself or other board members with ideas or areas of improvement for MCA. We are always open and looking for feedback on how to better serve our members. Have a great summer.

Best Regards,
Sarah Eischens
MCA President 2017



Legislative Affairs

Cal Saari - MCA Legislative Liaison

"An excellent 2017 Legislative Summary is now available on our MCA webpage. Our thanks to member Les Schultz for his diligent work on this!"

This is a 36 page document in a really good format that allows you to look at the Table of Contents and go directly to the change you want to review. Thank you so much Les, for sharing!!

Since this will be the last FORUM you will see prior to the Fall Institute, I thought I'd use this venue to detail our plans for the Legislative update workshop at that conference. The Legislative Update workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, October 26th, 1:15 PM to 2:45 PM**. One subject that our membership has most often mentioned this year is what's going on with our pensions? So this year we have decided to focus our workshop on that topic. I am pleased to announce that we have received a commitment from Susan Lenczewski, the Executive Director of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, to present at this session. Susan will address the recommendations of the Pension Commission that resulted in the language contained in Senate File 3, Special Session, 2017, which makes significant changes in pension formulas and benefits. This bill was passed by both the House and the Senate during the Special Session, but was vetoed by Governor Dayton due to provisions related to labor standards that would have preempted local government's ability to set wage and benefit levels higher than state law. It is expected to be re-introduced, probably with some minor modifications, early in the 2018 Session because of its strong support from Legislators in both chambers. The intent of this legislation is to strengthen the long term financial health of PERA, MSRS, the Correctional Plan and other public pensions.

The Boards of all of our pension plans have also been involved in the drafting of these proposed changes. With that in mind, we have also invited PERA Executive Director Doug Anderson and MSRS Executive Director Erin Leonard, together Senator Julie

Juvenile Justice Committee

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Legislative/Adult Justice Committee

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Lloyd Grachek

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Technology Committee

David Heath, Chair

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Victim Services Ad-Hoc Committee

Lori Korts, Chair

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Rosen (R) Senate District 23 in the Mankato area, who currently chairs the Legislative Pension Commission, to join Ms. Lenczewski in this discussion.

All current public employees, and employers as well, will be affected by this legislation, as will current annuitants. This should be a "must see" workshop for everyone.

The other newsworthy item I want to touch on relates to the start of the MCA Political Action Committee. Several months ago the MCA Board of Directors granted the Legislative Committee authority to form a PAC which will solicit political contributions from the membership which will be used to make political donations to legislators and/or legislative candidates. This will be the only use of these funds according to the rules of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. All contributions to this fund will be **voluntary** and will be under the jurisdiction of the MCA Legislative Committee. The PAC Committee will be comprised of the Legislative Committee Chair (currently Mark Bliven) and two other Legislative Committee members selected by that Committee and this Committee will determine all contributions from this fund upon the recommendation of the MCA Legislative Liaison. I expect the Legislative Committee to announce a PAC fund treasurer at its August meeting. The Treasurer will be a non-voting member of the fund. A monthly report of the PAC activity will be prepared and submitted to the MCA Board. Other details are yet to be worked out. More will be reported in weeks ahead.

We emphasize again, that all contributions to this fund are voluntary, and the success of the fund is dependent on the financial health of the fund, so we encourage all members to consider a contribution to this fund, which enhances our political strength. Thank you all for your support of our legislative work!

Calvin Saari
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First Drone Force Field used to stop Contraband

By David Heath - Technical Committee Chair

Drones, illegal contraband drops, and various methods to stop them from entering the perimeter of a Correctional



Facility, have been common in the news. In the MCA Technical committee, we have looked at everything from eagles trained to snatch a drone from the air to guns that can fire a net to bring them down. Jamming Drones has always been FCC illegal, as it potentially disrupts needed police and emergency communications around a facility. The British are taking another approach and were recently in the news for a type of "force field" drone defense system.

The new system is called Sky Fence and uses a network of sensors to jam the drone's computer called disruptors. It creates a 2000 foot high fence around the walls of the correctional facility. When the drone flies into the fence, it bounces off. The drone operator screen goes black and it just returns to the last place it had signal, which is backward a few feet from the fence where it came from.

The technology is being introduced at Les Nicolles prison on the Channel Island of Guernsey, where around 20 "disruptors" will be installed on the perimeter and inside. Sky Fence has been created by UK companies Drone Defence and Eclipse Digital Solutions. The CEO of the company said, "Someone described it as the final piece in a prison's security puzzle. I think it could have a significant worldwide impact."

The technology is being installed this summer and it is the first prison facility in the world to use it. The big question I see on this technology is whether it could pass FCC jamming regulations and not disrupt needed communication channels. Depending on what signals the disruptors actually interfere with, may determine its value in the USA.

If it only disrupts the signal to the drone itself, it might be a great answer to a big problem. I am sure we will hear more about this technology as the British further develop it in their Correctional facilities.

Reference Article on the technology:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/16/british-prison-first-use-disruptor-create-drone-proof-shield/>

Check out the video in the engadget link. It shows a flying drone bouncing off.

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/05/17/anti-drone-sky-fence/>



Debunking Common Myths of Correctional Industries

Written by David O. Milton, MINNCOR CEO, and Amanda Evenski, MINNCOR Marketing

Federal legislation, enacted in the 1870's, compels all corrections commissioners to make "meaningful work available" to inmates. This was the beginning of the corrections industry (CI) at the state and federal level. For a small few states, this was also justification for "chain gangs", the concept of "hard labor", "breaking rocks", etc. While every state is different, Minnesota has never embraced such practices.

In 1994, Minnesota legislation enabled MINNCOR Industries, with the stipulation that it must be self-funded. In other words, there will never be a taxpayer funded budget allocation for MINNCOR. MINNCOR can only survive so long as it generates sufficient revenues from the sale of its products and services. MINNCOR strives to make a positive difference in the lives of offenders who are provided this work opportunity.

Correctional Industries have had a consistent presence in the United States. CI programs have proven that recidivism is reduced from 40 percent to 24.2 percent, as calculated by the National Correctional Industries Association using median recidivism calculated from self-reported statistics submitted by state and federal CI agencies.

CI programs have been shown to save taxpayers money. Over 90 percent of CI programs are self-funded and operate solely from the revenue they generate from products and services they provide. MINNCOR runs a successful operation all at no cost to taxpayers. Since 2015, MINNCOR has given back \$3.3 Million to Minnesota's General Fund. Annually, MINNCOR purchases more than \$11 Million of raw materials, goods, and services from local Minnesota businesses. CI programs nation-wide support local businesses and the economy by purchasing \$1.2 Billion in raw materials, supplies, component parts, equipment and services to support its operations.

Correctional Industries are sometimes accused of utilizing slave labor, the DOC will not and cannot encourage, sponsor nor mandate forced labor, under any circumstances. All MINNCOR industry or program assignments are exclusively voluntary. Beyond employable trade skill learnings, industry assignments play a key role in promoting harmony inside the facility. Eligibility for an industry assignment requires a GED equivalent and sustained positive behavior. Job openings are posted, prospects complete an employment application and go through a competitive interview process. Supervisors maintain applicant waiting lists for most MINNCOR jobs. Lastly, MINNCOR assignments, across the six facilities with industry operations, make up more than 25% of those facility's population. Without MINNCOR opportunities, idle rates would skyrocket to almost 45%. The most practical way that MINNCOR can support the DOC mission to reduce recidivism is to create as many industry assignments as possible. MINNCOR routinely rejects business opportunities if it is

determined that the proposed manufacturing process would somehow reduce the number of assignments. For FY17, MINNCOR industry assignments averaged 1,700 participants.

Offenders who participate in CI programs are paid according to the offender compensation policy and are able to use their earnings to satisfy financial obligations and court-ordered restitutions. Over \$10 Million, based on the PIECP 2017 Study, has been contributed to Victim Compensation and Restitution Funds since the inception of the Federal Program in 1979. In addition, CI programs generate significant savings of taxpayer dollars. Based on recent research, the benefit-cost ratio of EMPLOY is \$15.90 over a 5-year time period; meaning, in five years, every dollar invested in The EMPLOY Program has led to an estimated \$15.90 overall, with \$5.10 benefiting the taxpayers and \$10.80 benefiting other societal outcomes. These estimates are based on findings from a national clearinghouse of rigorous evaluations of criminal justice practices.

In the competitive business world, where MINNCOR competes every day for satisfied customers, PRICE matters. In turn, price is driven by costs such as input materials, tools, utilities and labor. Because of free competition, MINNCOR can never charge more than the prices made available by our competitors (for-profit businesses). MINNCOR faces many hidden costs, including training and supervising an unskilled, sometimes lacking formal education, recovering, emotionally, physically and spiritually scarred labor force. In terms of the cost of security, a for-profit business typically may have one security guard for one (night) shift per day. As you may well know, security, investigation, controlled movement of people and material, etc. are exponentially higher and logistically problematic for MINNCOR.

Directly addressing the “elephant in the room”, paying a “livable wage” at MINNCOR would reduce current industry participants from 1,700 to approximately 165 (We can't raise prices to cover increased labor costs). Without industry assignments, what would the newly created idle offenders do? Employing a significant percentage of the population allows more people access to training, skills and an opportunity to improve their circumstance today and in the future. Quite simply, MINNCOR works, every day, for anyone that has hope and a vision for the future.



Treatment Director Pathways Counseling Center, Inc.

Jerrod Brown (pictured), Don Porth, & Kathi Osmonson

Ten Facts about Youth Fire setting that Criminal Justice Professionals Need to Know

Here are some tips to share with criminal justice and forensic mental health professionals about the seriousness of youth fire setting and the value of youth fire intervention programs.

1. **Motivation May Not Be Obvious** – Youth set fires for many reasons. In order to understand the behavior, a comprehensive assessment must be completed by a youth fire intervention specialist.
2. **Fire Behavior is Serious** - There is no such thing as an insignificant fire. Although the fire may seem minor, the motivation behind it can be far more complex. Also, minor damage due to a fire is more often a result of dumb luck, not a conscious effort to keep damage minimal.
3. **Size Doesn't Matter** - Small fires are not necessarily less dangerous than large fires. In fact, all fires start small. Treat all fire setting behavior in a consistent and serious manner.
4. **Fire setting and Crime** - Criminal statutes related to fire can be complex. Some fire incidents are clearly a crime whereas others may not be. When in doubt, criminal charges should be considered. In some cases, criminal charges provide leverage to involve the family and reinforce a youth's cooperation with youth fire intervention programs.
5. **Age is Not a Limiting Factor** - Just because a youth is below age of accountability and technically cannot be charged with a crime, intervention is still appropriate. If a youth continues starting fires, child welfare and family services should be a consideration.
6. **Child Development** - Familiarity with the principles of child development is important to understand the youth's capabilities. However, basic tenets of child development may be impacted by learning disabilities and delays.
7. **Youth May Not Know Better** - Despite a caregiver's assertions that the youth knows better, this is not necessarily true. When children are told not to play with fire, but are confronted by adults modeling inappropriate fire behaviors it is confusing. Conversations focusing on what not to do rather than what to do are also confusing for children.
8. **Access and Supervision** - Access to ignition devices and caregiver supervision are the most common factors in youth fire setting. Adults need to create a safe environment which includes limiting access to lighters and matches.
9. **Community Resources** - Fire setting is a community problem. Community resources are necessary to prevent the behavior. Partnerships are important.

Law enforcement, mental health options, burn centers, child welfare, and schools are great resources.

10. It's Up To You – Law enforcement is often the first to encounter youth-set fires. Taking it lightly or dismissing it as criminal mischief or vandalism is a missed opportunity to head off dangerous behavior. Making proper reports to the youth fire intervention program will not ruin a child's life, in fact it may save a life. Scare tactics and threats don't work for changing the behavior, especially when an underlying crisis may be driving fire setting.

Jerrod Brown, Ph.D., is the Treatment Director for Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. Pathways provides programs and services benefiting individuals impacted by mental illness and addictions. Jerrod is also the founder and CEO of the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS). Please email Jerrod at Jerrod01234Brown@live.com if you have questions about this article.

Don Porth holds a BS degree in Fire Command Administration. He began his career in the fire service in 1980 as a volunteer firefighter in a rural Oregon community, becoming a full-time firefighter/EMT in 1983 and served 28 years in the uniformed fire service, 27 years at Portland (Oregon) Fire & Rescue. Deputy State Fire Marshal Kathi Osmonson, BA, MA in progress, coordinates the Minnesota State Youth Fire Intervention Team (YFIT).

MCA Monthly Training Workshops

**1450 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, MN 55108
West Entrance - Afton Room - 1st Floor**

**September 15 – topic to be announced
October 20 – topic to be announced
November 17 – Cultural Diversity
December 15 – topic to be announced**

@JoinMnCA



MCA Sponsored August Training

Gambling Addiction

August 18, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

DOC Central Office, 1450 Energy Park Drive

West Entrance - Afton Room - 1st Floor

Presenter: John Von Eschen

John Von Eschen has been working at Pathways Counseling Center in St. Paul as a compulsive gambling therapist for the last 12 years. He is a state certified LMFT and is a Certified Problem Gambling Therapist. He also works for Northstar Problem Gambling Alliance as a trainer and speaker.



This 3-hour workshop will help participants learn about Northstar Problem Gambling Alliance and the goals of this organization has with in the state of MN. Participants will be provided with resources available to those who seek counseling with a gambling related issue, family members who seek support and professionals who seek assistance with a

client who may struggle with gambling or is actively gambling. This course covers basics of gambling 101, dual addiction and problem gambling as a co-occurring disorder, how a rule 82 (gambling assessment can be administered) and the risks all social gamblers have of developing a problem with gambling by having a "Big Win."

Meet your MCA Committee Chair



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

David J. Heath

David Heath graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1978, with a degree in Mass Communications and Psychology. Deciding on a career change in 1982, he went back to school with an interest in the emerging field of computer technology. In 1983, he graduated from the Minnesota School of Business with a degree in Computer Programming.

Shortly after graduation, he began programming mainframe and mid-range computers in the 1980's. When the personal computer arrived on the scene in about 1985, he was working for Washington County Minnesota, as a programmer. Liking the new PC technology better, he volunteered to leave programming behind, and start up the PC group at Washington County. David's title changed to Information Analyst, and his mission was to start a PC Information Center. The Information Center was designed to introduce and train users to the new PC technology. He was also assigned the duty of serving as a technology watch dog for new emerging technologies.

Eventually, he was well entrenched in training users and networking PC's all over Washington County with the explosion of the Personal Computer in that era. He built a service reputation and laid the foundation for the networks of today in many of the locations he worked. In 1997, he moved his family of four from the Twin Cities to rural Two Harbors Minnesota, deciding to live full time on vacation property they had purchased earlier in the decade. After that, he began his IT career in Duluth, Minnesota working for two large private organizations, as a Senior Network Administrator and a Systems Administrator. His specialty has been in PC networks and Windows based file servers over the years. He has worked in the Information Technology business for about 30 years, holding a variety of positions in that time frame.

Dave's personal interests are hunting, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, biking, traveling, and following professional sports teams in baseball, hockey, and football. He also enjoys pets and has owned hunting dogs over the past 30 years. He currently has two dogs. A Black Labrador and a Golden Retriever.

In 2008, he returned to the Public Sector working for Arrowhead Regional Technologies (ARC) as an Information Technology Analyst, and still enjoys his role helping ARC staff with their computer related needs. New technology has always been a favorite, and the Corrections field has provided a number of good opportunities to put his skills to good use. He has also found a sense of gratification creating training networks and systems that are helping ARC clients as well. Dave looks for new opportunities to assist the Minnesota Corrections Association and enjoys heading up the Technology Committee. A good cross section of talent in the group has provided excellent insight on the current technical trends happening in Corrections.

News from the Student Services Committee



ATTENTION MCA STUDENT MEMBERS!!!!

MCA, in coordination with the MCA Student Services Committee, has approved funding of the \$100 registration fee for the Annual Training Institute for 20 students who are members of MCA.

The scholarship includes conference attendance, breakfast (following an overnight stay), lunch on October 25th and 26th, and a snack for the road on October 27th.

It also includes the Wednesday evening vendor hospitality/ networking event (food will be served) followed by karaoke where Kat Perkins will perform; and on Thursday evening a networking and entertainment event which will include a dinner buffet and musical entertainment.



Lodging accommodations, travel, and any other expenses would be the responsibility of the selected students.

Interested Student Members should submit a letter of interest **by** September 6th, detailing their current degree track in college, why they are interested in attending the Training Institute, and how it would benefit their career.

Interested students should email the information to Lloyd Grachek-Chairperson of the MCA Student Services Committee at Lloyd.g.grachek@state.mn.us no later than 4 p.m. on September 6th.

Scholarship award winners will be notified by September 13th.

Click [here](#) to see all the details of the Annual Training Institute.

2017

Executive Board Elections



The following positions will be selected for the 2017 Executive Board:

President-Elect
Connie Hartwig
Lori Korts

Vice President
Mary Oberstar
Jane Schmid
Lathan Scott

Secretary
Gina Evans
Kaylee Henson
Kari Pelton

**Remember to look for an E-BLAST in August and VOTE
for your favorite candidate!!!!!!**



2017 Minnesota Corrections Association Scholarship Awards

Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) promotes education by providing two (2) \$500 scholarship for a current member or dependent of a current MCA member to be used during the term a student is enrolled in a post-secondary education program. Scholarship winner will be announced November, 2017.

Eligibility: The applicant must be a current MCA member OR a dependent of a current MCA member. The applicant must be an incoming student or currently enrolled in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or technical school.

Applications deadline is September 15, 2017

Visit the MCA website home page for the Scholarship Form at www.mn-ca.org.

Membership Spotlight



Connie B Hartwig

Connie obtained a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Studies and Sociology from St. Cloud University. In July of 1986, Connie began her career with the Minnesota Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer at MCF-Oak Park Heights. She was promoted to Corrections Security Case Manager at MCF-Stillwater in 1990. Over the next twenty-five years, she held multiple Corrections Agent positions including Work Release, Traditional, High Risk Enhanced, Enhanced Sex Offender, and Intensive Supervised Release. Connie finished her second Work out of Class as a Corrections Hearings and Release Officer in December of 2015. She is now a Corrections Security Caseworkers Career at MCF-Red Wing. She has been a member of the Departments' Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) since its inception in June of 1990. She has served on the MCA Board as Vice President in 1996 and 2016.

She was awarded the Board of Directors Award in 1996. She has worked on multiple committees for MCA, including serving as Chairman for Registration for many years and organized MCA's Annual Golf Tournament for several years.

She is currently the Co-Chair of the Membership Committee and is also on the Student Services Committee. Connie will also be on the Planning Committee for MCA's 85th Anniversary in 2018.

Connie enjoys spending her free time with her husband Russ, roller blading and horseback riding. She loves watching her sons sporting events. In her spare time, Connie enjoys spending time on the family farm with her children and grandchildren.

MCA Fall Institute / October 25-27, 2017

Grand View Lodge



Don't miss out on the 2017 MCA Fall Conference!

This year we're again loaded with fantastic presentations to engage you, motivate you, and enhance your skills, knowledge, & perspective!
Some of the many topics include:

➤ Protective Orders	➤ Behavioral health in juvenile settings	➤ Native Mob Rico case
➤ Financial Wellness	➤ Stalking Risk Assessment	➤ Homelessness
➤ PTSD	➤ Somali 101	➤ Juvenile Justice
➤ Fundamental processes of MI	➤ Schizophrenia	➤ Working with Justice Involved Women

- You'll also hear from **Kat Perkins**, who appeared on *The Voice* & talks to audiences about being "Fearless" – which is also the name of one of her phenomenal songs you'll hear her sing.
- You'll be laughing & learning your way through motivational speaker **Mark Lindquist's** amazing keynote on *8 Ways to Reignite Your Passion!*
- You'll watch an extraordinary documentary about the sex offender registry and sex offender laws, with an important opportunity for Q & A with a panel – including Eric Janus of Mitchell Hamline School of Law who is prominent in the documentary, MNSORP members, & others who impact or are impacted by the sex offender laws.
The opportunities for **networking** are endless at the conference – via the presentations, the resource fair, and the evening networking events planned for conference attendees. And it's all being held at the beautiful Grand View Lodge in Nisswa.

NETWORKING & HOSPITALITY



Wednesday, October 25th:

Hear Kat Perkins perform during hospitality night!

Thursday:

Vendor sponsored hospitality night at Zorbaz with live music!

Details coming soon!!!



For more information and to register:

October 25-27, 2017 / Grand View Lodge-Nisswa, Minnesota

[Click here](#) for **Exhibitor Registration**

[Click here](#) for **Conference Registration - Early Rate Valid if Paid by 9/1/17**

[Click here](#) for the **Conference Program**

[Click here](#) for the link to **overnight lodging** at Grand View Lodge

Committee Chairs include:

- **Dan Raden/Amy Moeckel/Shannon Fette** – Conference Co-Chairs
- **Tom Redmond/Tom Jungman** – Arrangements
- **Jolene Rebertus/Sherry Bohn/Mary Oberstar**– Program
- **Vicki Lanners/Jean Wipper** – Registration
- **Raul Sanchez/Kurt Heideman** – Resource Fair
- **Christine Schweich**-Hospitality-Networking

If you have interest in being a sponsor for the Annual Training Institute – contact the MCA office at mca-mn@hotmail.com or 651-462-8320

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 2017 *FORUM* editor Tara Rathman at tara.rathman@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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