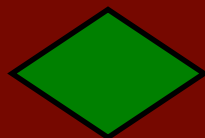


MCA FORUM



Vol. 40 No. 6

Happy  
Holidays



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## **2017 MCA**

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Dan Raden, Chair

## **President's Corner**

Greetings MCA Members,

It is hard to believe our 84<sup>th</sup> year with MCA is coming to a close. I hope everyone is enjoying the start of this holiday season. As I reflect back on this past year as president I am impressed with all the hard work and accomplishments by the board and committee members. We not only increased membership, we have increased the value of the membership.



I am grateful to the committee members, board members and chairs for the support in making MCA the great organization it is. We have spent countless hours working to improve communication, trainings and benefits. MCA offers an opportunity for all corrections professional from field to institution to treatment to be included in an organization. I look forward to the exciting year ahead lead by our incoming president Mark Groves. We will be celebrating our 85<sup>th</sup> year and hope to make it the best one yet.

I wanted to thank those who attended Fall Institute. From the impressive keynote speakers to the diverse breakout sessions, the institute had something to offer all MCA members. The institute offered fabulous entertainment and networking opportunities. The Fall Institute Committees worked hard to pull off a top notch conference and their hard work is much appreciated.

We appreciate all the members continued support in MCA's mission and vision. 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.

Best Regards,

Sarah Eischens

MCA President 2017



## Technology Committee

### 2017 Active Shooter Prevention Technologies

By David Heath—Committee Chair

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#### Legislative Liaison

Calvin Saari

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Lori Korts, Chair

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Jane Schmid, Chair

#### Administrative Manager

Debbie Beltz

With mass shootings becoming a common occurrence in the USA, I decided to research technologies helping prevent these crimes. I came across several companies that are offering solutions that could help minimize the damage and make Police intervention happen quicker. Also, where the future might be heading in terms of technology, in an attempt to stop the madness.



Three technologies that can help right now are Shot Spotter, NetTalon, and Guard 911. Shot Spotter has been around for quite a while and uses sound sensors around a city or building. When shots are fired, it pin-points the location so law enforcement can quickly respond. Currently there are over 90 cities using this technology in the nation. Shot Spotter is now offering something called Secure Campus, which is an auditory gunfire-detection system that maps the layout of a school and sends the precise location of the gunshots to the local Police department. Currently, there are lawsuits stemming from the Las Vegas shooting incident, claiming that the Mandalay Bay Hotel should have had this type of technology to pin point gunfire location. Possibly lawsuits might drive more installations of Shot Spotter in the future, depending on what happens in this case.

<http://www.shotspotter.com/campus-security>

NetTalon is a company taking this concept a step farther. Their Virtual Command System automatically locks every door with reinforced steel and bulletproof glass, within seconds of a teacher sounding the first alarm. A computer terminal at the local police department then lets law-enforcement take control of the school. With the help of motion detectors and cameras, dispatchers can track an active shooters location. They can also cloud the shooters vision, by releasing smoke from canisters installed at strategic points in the ceiling. The idea is to potentially push the shooter into a location where they are more easily apprehended.

<http://www.nettalon.com/technology/>



Guard911 is a mobile phone application that can be downloaded by law enforcement. This technology equips teachers at a school with a digital “panic button” that instantly blasts an alert to the phone of every police officer—on duty or off—within a certain radius of the school. To date, some 35,000 responders have downloaded the app.

<http://www.guard911.com/>

Other non-technical products like the Sleeve and Nightlock are also being sold. Simple devices to jam doors shut in active shooter situations.

<https://fightingchancesolutions.com/>

<https://nightlock.com/classroom-workplace-emergency-lockdown/>

Robot designers are now talking about making robots that could kill. Law Enforcement in Dallas have already used the first armed robot to detonate a bomb and kill a suspect. Security robots by Knightscope are also roaming the malls and parking lots in some US locations. They are currently working on gun detection software that can alert authorities when spotted. I wrote about this company less than two years ago in an MCA article, wondering if they will ever use lethal force. Armed drones both legal and illegal could also become both a future deterrent and a possible threat. It all depends who is using it. The good guys or the bad guys. The link below is a good short read on some of these concepts.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/01/bulletproofing/508754/>

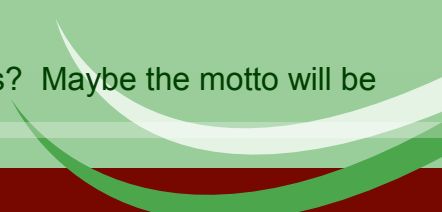
The link below is a private school in Miami taking unique precautionary measures by offering/selling bullet proof backpack materials to parents for their kids. Definitely a sad sign of the times, but also maybe not a bad idea considering the recent threat levels.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/11/10/florida-school-selling-bulletproof-panels-students-backpacks/853214001/>

Hopefully a variety of combined prevention efforts will help the situation. From better mental health and gun control screening, using all the technologies available, and utilizing simple things like door jams and workplace violence training. Also, looking into some of the ways Japan, Australia, Norway, and the United Kingdom have almost eliminated gun violence might not be a bad idea either. There are some astounding comparison statistics to the USA in gun violence from these countries.

In one article I read doing this research, the writer believed that in the USA, most people will never consider mass shootings a real threat, until it hits home. Until it is as common to know someone killed in a shooting as it is to know someone who has died of cancer. That same article spoke of John Kennedy envisioning a man on the moon in 1961, even though he had no idea how to get it done. The writer stated the best minds need to do the same thing again, and envision the USA with the lowest world gun violence rate in 2025, and then actually achieve it.

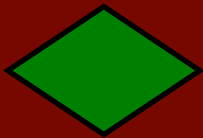
That may be the rose colored glass viewpoint but who knows? Maybe the motto will be “Make America Safe” again. I hope it happens.



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### Capitol Day Update!!!

We continue to work with other organizations in planning for a 2018 Corrections Capitol Day. We have a "tentative" approval from the Department of Administration for use of a meeting site within the newly remodeled State Capitol. The date is Thursday, April 5th starting with an early breakfast and presentations from several Legislators (to be invited). We are waiting for confirmation on our meeting site before we can move ahead. We do expect some added costs with this move, and we are actively seeking other agency collaborators to join us in sponsoring this annual event. We hope to have further details on this later in December.



December is upon us and we enter the Christmas Holiday Season. With that, please accept Season's Greetings from my wife Barbara and I, with our hope that we all will enjoy this festive time with family and friends.

Calvin Saari  
Legislative Liaison  
sisuwithsaari@aol.com



I really need to begin this article to you with an expression of appreciation to the MCA Board of Directors for honoring me with their Board of Directors Award at the Fall Institute. I am now beginning my 54th year in the Corrections field, 40 years with Arrowhead Regional Corrections and the last 13 years with MCA, and this is the first formal recognition I've ever experienced! I commented at the award ceremony that it is said that the best award one can receive is to be recognized by your peers, and for that, I am honored and thank each of you for your support and recognition! It is truly an honor to be able to work for and on behalf of MCA!

This time of the year is really "the lull before the storm" as they say, as we await the start of the second year of this biennium. Legislators will not be returning to the Capitol until mid-February so we'll have a rather short Session in 2018. This period is normally a quiet time as we anticipate the start of the work session with the same leadership structure and the same legislators in Committees. The recent disclosures of inappropriate behavior on the part of some Legislators, however, could disrupt this mundane structure we all anticipated. I think everyone is holding their breath, reluctant to even talk about what might happen. I think only public pressure for action will move the legislative leadership to make any drastic moves before the Session begins. We already hear from several people that we should leave it up to the voters to decide who represents us. Well, one thing for sure, we now have another cloud hanging over the Legislature in addition to the legislative budget debate with the Governor. As you know, the Supreme Court sided with the Governor on this issue, but the tension between the leaders and the Governor has not been diminished. More reasons for my earlier prediction not to expect a lot of achievement on issues in 2018.

The MCA Board of Directors approved our 2018 Legislative Agenda at its November meeting so I will now be sharing that with Legislators as we meet to discuss items from our agenda. It will be a short, but busy legislative year. Remember, our legislative agenda is a moving document which is always subject to change depending on what issues catch legislative attention. If anyone has any suggestions or comments for us, please feel welcome to contact me or any other member of our Legislative Committee.



## Incoming Board of Directors

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### Legislative Liaison

Calvin Saari

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Mark Groves

### President Elect

Connie Hartwig

### Vice President

Mary Oberstar

### Secretary

Gina Evans

### Treasurer

Jennifer Guse

### Past President/Awards Committee

Sarah Eischens

# YOUR 2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Tara Rathman

### Education & Training Co-Chairs

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Nate Jackson

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Shannon Fette

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Mark Bliven

### Membership Committee Co-Chairs

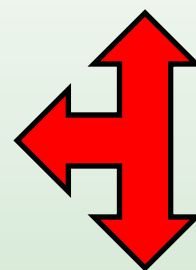
Jenna Reuter

Dan Kempf

### Nomination Committee Chair

Laura Anderson

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS



### Nomination Committee Chair

Laura Anderson

### Sponsorship Chair

JoAnn Brown

### Student Services Chair

Lloyd Grachek

### Technology Chair

David Heath

### Victim Services Chair

Lori Korts



**We have another successful MCA Fall Institute under our belts and the survey results are in; we ARE getting Better and Better.....**

**I want to thank all of the people who helped out this year. We officially have 723 members and will continue to recruit new members over the coming year. We are actively reaching out to students and have some fun plans to continue to recruit more and more people.**

**Our goal for the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is to have 1000 members come celebrate with this milestone.**

**If you have any great ideas to make this happen our Committee would love to hear from you. Please reach out to us!**



## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS!!!**



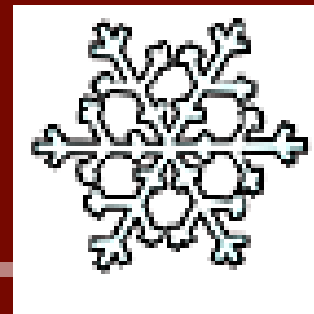
## **Suggestibility in Criminal Justice Settings: A Need for Increased Awareness, Understanding, and Training among Professionals**

**Author: Jerrod Brown, Ph.D.**

Suggestibility can be defined as the proneness of an individual to accept and adopt the inaccurate or false views of another person as truth. For example, when confronted by someone else's explanation of an event, an individual prone to suggestibility may adopt this alternate explanation as their own memory of the event. Although the behavioral and environmental etiological origins of vulnerability to suggestibility are dynamic and complex, suggestions can be inspired by a range of stimuli from verbal and non-verbal communication with another person to reading text or exposure to various forms of media. This phenomenon not only afflicts children, but it can be observed in humans of all ages across the developmental lifespan. Awareness of suggestibility is of paramount concern in settings such as the criminal justice system where self-reported information is used to make life-altering decisions.



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.



Suggestibility's impact on memory can have a deleterious influence on justice at each and every point in the criminal justice system. First, beginning with the investigation of a crime, there is a danger of generating false memories during investigative interviews, interrogations, and police line-ups. In particular, interrogative suggestibility is of great concern because information gathered during this process plays a large role in deciding whether to charge an individual with a crime. This is only exacerbated by interrogative techniques including repetitive questioning and negative feedback. Second, during trials, suggestibility can limit a defendant's capacity to assist their defense counsel and, more broadly, their competency to stand trial. Alternatively, suggestibility could also contribute to inaccurate information entering the court record through eyewitness testimony and cross-examinations. In such instances, the likelihood of wrongful convictions increases. Third, suggestibility can complicate the supervision of an individual while incarcerated or in the community. Simply put, individuals with suggestibility issues may have difficulty maintaining compliance with the rules and requirements of a jail, prison, or terms of community supervision (e.g., probation or parole). Throughout all of these phases of the criminal justice system, individuals with suggestibility are often mistaken as lying and malingering by professionals working in these settings. In light of these grave consequences, a greater awareness of suggestibility and, in turn, its influence on false memories is necessary among law





### Corrections Person of the Year

Holly Clark, Youth Support Specialist Minneapolis YMCA

### Professional Achievement Award Field Services

Debra Schmitt, Probation Officer Mower County Corrections

### Professional Achievement Award Facility

Gino Anselmo, Superintendent MCF-Togo

### President's Award

Carlton County Restorative Justice Program

### Board of Director's Award

Cal Saari- MCA Legislative Liaison

# AWARDS COMMITTEE



**The mission and highlights of this year's Annual Training Institute Committee**

**include:**



# Let's Celebrate 85 years of MCA

## MCA Annual Training Institute

AMY MOECKEL, DAN RADEN, & SHANNON FETTE

MCA Annual Training Institute Chairs

The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Annual Training Institute Committee is looking forward to what is sure to be a memorable conference in Duluth on October 24-26, 2018!

MCA is committed to making this year the most amazing year yet to celebrate the members!

- \* Cutting edge training at the front of the latest trends in corrections
- \* Provide a top location for networking with fellow peers in corrections from all over the state
- \* 2 ½ day training
- \* Provide training that will attract a diverse population 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

LEGISLATIVE NEWS!!

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

# Save the Date!



Capitol Day  
Thursday, April 5th





## Victim Information Corner for Education

Welcome to the Victim Information Corner for Education (VICE) column. The MCA Victim Services Committee will highlight Victim Advocacy Agencies from throughout the State of Minnesota. It is our goal to provide MCA members with information about the victim Advocacy support that is available in your communities. If you know of an agency or program that you would like highlighted, please send the contact information for the program to [lori.korts@state.mn.us](mailto:lori.korts@state.mn.us). The first step to effective collaboration between criminal justice professionals is knowledge of services available. Please feel free to share this program's information with your peers, as well.



a program of Family Pathways

The Refuge Network is a multi-community organization whose primary purpose is to provide supportive services for people who are currently involved in or have been in an abusive relationship. Annually, the Refuge serves 2300+ victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

### Program Services & Offices

All victim services are free and confidential.

- 24 Hour Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Shelter/Safe Housing
- Personal Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Sexual Assault Advocacy
- Criminal Justice Advocacy
- Emergency Room Response
- Support Groups
- Parenting Groups
- Youth Services
- Visitation Services
- Community Education
- Professional Trainings
- Law Clinics
- Paralegal Services
- Men's Batterer Intervention Services

#### Offices located:

<u>Isanti County</u>	1575 East First Avenue Cambridge 55008 • 763-689-3532
<u>Chisago County</u>	10625 Railroad Ave, Suite 204 Chisago City 55013 • 651-257-2890
<u>Kanabec County</u>	214 Railroad Avenue NW Mora 55051 • 320-679-1737

24 hr. Crisis line 1-800-338-7233 (SAFE)

### The Black Dog Hill Shelter

In 2009, the Refuge Network opened a battered women's shelter. Since opening, 1,046 women and children have found safety and healing. Black Dog is the only shelter within a 5,600 square mile area.

### Step Up

Batterer's Intervention Program

In an effort to end domestic violence, the Refuge developed the Step Up program to help abusive men change their behavior by targeting their attitudes, values and beliefs. The program is 26 weeks in length. Since 2011, 84 men have completed the program.

[familypathways.org](http://familypathways.org)



**Student  
Services  
Scholarship  
Winner**



**MCA is proud to announce  
the winners of the  
Educational Scholarship**

**SETH CUSHING &  
KELLY SHANAHAN**

**KELLY SHANAHAN**

This scholarship will help Kelly financially in paying her tuition and help to validate all of the hard work and effort I have put towards my future for so many years. It will help me immensely in maintaining my 4.0 GPA and gaining valuable experience as an intern which will prove critical to the success of my law school application.

# **Education and Training Spring Training Update**

**\*\* TENTATIVE \*\***

**Location: Willmar**

**Date: March 22nd**



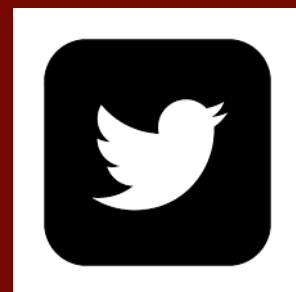
**SETH CUSHING**

Seth is a freshman at Gustavus Adolphus College . He is excited to play hockey and baseball in college, while creating new memories with his teammates. Seth volunteers with youth sports program in the community and looks forward to continuing those efforts throughout his college career.



**@JoinMnCA**

MCA Social Media



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