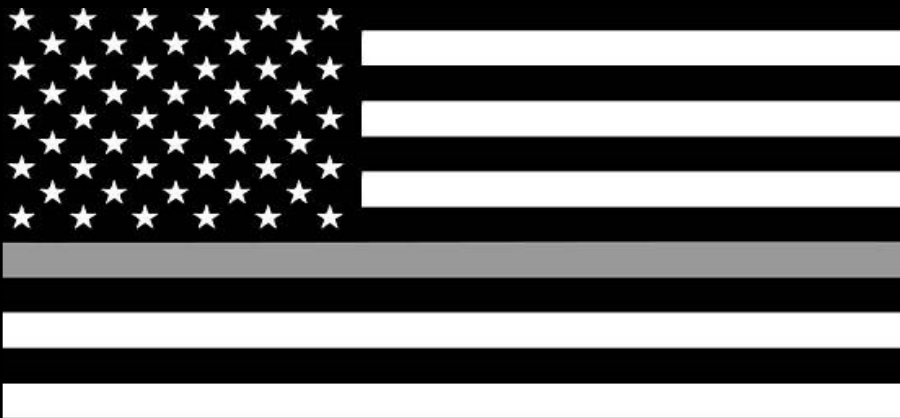


# MCA FORUM

Volume 42 No. 4

August 2019

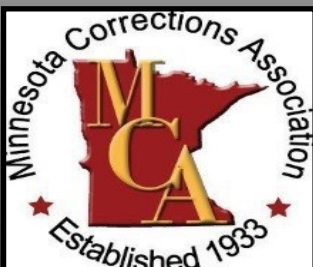
*We Remember: Officer Joseph Gomm and Officer Joseph Parise*



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

[mca-mn@hotmail.com](mailto:mca-mn@hotmail.com)

[www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org)



GET IN TOUCH!

## *In This Issue:*

- Honoring Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm and Corrections Officer Joseph Parise
- The President's Message
- MCA's 2019 Fall Institute!
- Upcoming Training and Events!
  - Technology Updates
  - Legislative Updates
- Did you know that MCA is on social media? Learn how to connect with us and keep up to date with events and trainings!

# REMEMBERING A HERO



After 16 years of honorable service with the Minnesota Department of Corrections located at MCF-Stillwater, Officer Joseph Gomm's life was taken in the line of duty on 7/18/18. Joe, a man full of compassion and integrity, was known for his witty sense of humor, his humble approach to life, genuine persona, dedication to his family, faith and for his love of animals.

On Thursday, 7/26/18, a Full Honors Funeral brought together over 4,000 people, from over 30 states and Canada, to support and honor this amazing hero.

Thank you for your dedication and service, Officer Gomm.

**End of Watch 7/18/18**

*Joe Gomm will be forever missed, but never forgotten.*





# REMEMBERING A HERO

OFFICER JOSEPH PARISE



Officer Joseph Parise worked for the Department of Corrections, located at MCF-Oak Park Heights, for over four years. He enjoyed shooting, playing racquetball, his beloved Honor Guard, spending time with his wife and daughter. Officer Joseph Parise died in the line of duty after experiencing a medical emergency at MCF-Oak Park Heights on Monday, September 24, 2018.

A celebration of Officer Parise's life with public safety honors was held on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel.

Thank you for your dedication and service, Officer Parise.

End of Watch September 24, 2018

*Joseph Parise will be forever missed,  
but never forgotten.*





## President's Message

*Connie Hartwig, 2019 MCA President*

Hello to all of our MCA Members and Happy Summer!

Our summer is racing by and I am sure a lot of you are preparing your children to get ready for school or getting your kiddos off to college. Book bags, erasers, crayons, pencil sharpeners, laptops and the list goes on...and gets more expensive the older our kids get. This time of year always brings me a touch of melancholy as it reminds me of how fast our days go by. I feel like our lives are defined by the beginning of the school year, then Christmas and New Year's break, the end of the school year and summer breezing by again. Now I know there are a lot of memorable events sprinkled throughout the year and I am hopeful you all take the time to embrace those times, especially in our busy working worlds.

Lately, it has been very difficult to watch the news and the horrific incidents of senseless killing sprees. Watching the sadness and mourning of family and friends is heart wrenching. It seems as though everyone is pointing a finger at someone or some organization to take blame for these cowardly acts. I feel more than ever, it is critical for us to hold each other up and express empathy towards each other. Someone is always going through some type of critical situation in their lives and we do not always know the depth of their situations. Our jobs are difficult enough and the challenges we face on a daily basis with our clientele can be overwhelming. I am honored to work among colleagues whose number one priority is to promote public safety and serve the citizens in our communities. Simultaneously, we are tasked with working with some of the most dangerous and difficult people in our facilities and on our caseloads in the community, while trying to assist in facilitating change for the good. It takes a village to do our jobs and please have each other's back.

So many things are happening behind the scenes on our MCA Committees. Our Fall Institute Planning Committees are busy wrapping up loose ends to ensure a wonderful conference at beautiful Grand View. There are exciting things planned for our attendees. Training and Education is busy planning more monthly trainings for the rest of the year. On Friday August 16th, Mark Groves will be presenting a workshop on Ethics and Boundaries which meets CEU criteria. It will be in the Afton Room at Central Office. On September 27th, there will be a Domestic Violence panel that gives people a perspective from victims and families on various types of domestic violence. More information to come on MCA's website. MACPO and MCA will be providing two more workshops and then in December, MCF-Red Wing will host a training on maintaining boundaries while working with juveniles. Thank you everyone for putting together these trainings for our members.

When you have time, please thank a committee member. Remember, there is always time to volunteer and hopefully something will spark your interest. There are a lot of volunteers looking to pass the torch to others in order to continue making MCA the wonderful association that we are. I implore you all to help continue to grow our membership by encouraging your fellow employees to join MCA so they can witness the benefits of this supportive and fun-filled environment.

Take care,

Connie B Hartwig





It was with great honor that our MCA Board and Committee members were able to serve the meal for Stillwater staff, families and honored guests at Joseph Gomm's first anniversary Memorial on July 18, 2019. We served over 400 people, including Joe's family. It was a very moving day and hopefully keeps us on our path to continued healing. I am still amazed by our Executive Board members who recommended that MCA cover the cost of the meal served that day. The generosity and service of our Board, Committees and members continues to humble me.

Additionally, MN DOC Unions also contributed money for the event. Thank you for that.

I want to mention the following individuals who helped out that day to help make the meal a success: MCF-Red Wing, Missy McCann, Kari Boser, Laura Anderson and Kayla Perkins; MCF/LL, Jarah Mitchell and Beth Kirk; Jessica Raptis from DOC CO; and Ryan Busch from Wright County Court Services.



## ~ Upcoming MARRCH Training ~

# Shared Solutions Addiction Summit: Viewing Marijuana through a Public Health Lens

September 13, 2019 Mankato Civic Center

### Shared Solutions Addiction Summit:

#### *Viewing Marijuana through a Public Health Lens*

**Friday, September 13 | Mankato Civic Center | Mankato, MN**

Join MARRCH to hear from thought leaders, content experts, and leaders in the field for a day of learning and discussion surrounding one of the most salient public health topics facing Minnesota addiction care. This summit will address various aspects of Marijuana legalization and provide education and training on how best to address the changing landscape of marijuana in addiction care.

#### **CREDITS**

MARRCH plans to offer the following types of credits:

#### **Minnesota Board of Behavior Health and Therapy (BBHT):**

- o *Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) – Pending*
- o *Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) – Pending*
- o *Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) – Pending*
- o *Minnesota Board of Social Work (BOSW) – Pending*

#### **REGISTRATION RATES**

**Early Bird Regular Rate (Register by September 3) | \$35**

**Regular Rate (Register after September 3) | \$45**

**Student Rate | \$20**

**Non-CE Rate (will not apply for Continuing Education) | \$20**

**[View Full Agenda & Register](#)**

**Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health**

1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252 | St. Paul, MN 55114

[www.marrch.org](http://www.marrch.org) | [news@marrch.org](mailto:news@marrch.org)



## **Join MACPO for the 18th Annual MACPO Support Staff Conference!**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019  
Registration from 8-9 a.m.  
Holiday Inn & Suites - St. Cloud, MN**

### **Training Topics Include:**

#### ***Effective Communication in Corrections***

by Sarah Gibbison, Margit Heald, and Brian Niessen

#### ***Balan-ZING: The Art of Finding Balance in Conflict, Stress & Life!***

by Gaye Hanson

**Cost: \$100 - lunch is included with your registration and will be served from 12-1 p.m.**

(If you are requesting a vegetarian or gluten free meal, please contact Michelle Nistler at [michelle.nistler@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:michelle.nistler@co.cass.mn.us) by 9/23/2019.)

***Deadline to register is September 27th!***

**Register Now!**

*Click Here*







**Fall Institute**

**October 22nd - 25th**

**Registration is open!**







## Highlights of the MCA Annual Training Institute

### Join us for MCA's Annual Training Institute!

October 22-25, 2019

Grand View Lodge - Nisswa, MN

**Registration is open! Register and pay by 9/1/19 to receive the early bird rate!**

The Annual Training Institute will kick off with the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday evening.

### **Tuesday, 10/22/19 - MCA Awards Ceremony and Social Hour - 6:30pm**

Come and support your peers as they are recognized for their hard work over the past year!

### **Wednesday, 10/23/19**

**7:00-8:30am:** Registration and Resource Fair

**8:30-10:30am:**

Honor Guard and National Anthem

President's Welcome - President Connie Hartwig

Opening Remarks - Commissioner Paul Schnell

**"STOP ACTING YOUR AGE!" - Matt Havens, Keynote Speaker**

**10:45 - 4:30pm:** Breakout Sessions

**The Awards Social Hour  
is sponsored by:**



*Please join us to a networking vendor-sponsored event with food and fun!*

### **Wednesday, 10/23/19 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm - Vendor Hospitality**

**9:00pm - Midnight - Electrifying Dynamics DJ / Cash Bar**

Where: Keep an eye out for the details of the location.

**\*Raffle drawings (must be present to win)!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Thursday, 10/24/19**

**7:30-8:30am:** Registration and Resource Fair / Past President's Breakfast

**8:30am-10:30am:** - **"The Magic of Positive Change" - Tim Gabrielson, Keynote Speaker**

**10:30-10:45am:** - Break/Resource Fair (**Raffle Drawing - must be present to win!**)

**10:45am-4:30pm:** - Workshops/Lunch/Resource Fair

### **Entertainment and Networking Night: 10/24/19 at 6:00pm**

**"Taste of Grandview" Event** - Gull Lake Center

*4 stations with delicious themed foods for dinner*

**Premier Thursday  
Evening Sponsor:**



**Music by the D-Boys!**

More food! Pizza / Cash Bar

\*\*\*\*\*

# Communications Committee

With the annual fall conference just around the corner, we wanted to ensure that everyone knows where to find important updates and links to our sponsors on social media. Please follow us on Twitter @JoinMnCA; like us on Facebook – Minnesota Corrections Association; and follow us on Instagram @ joinmnca. All postings are maintained by the communications committee. If you have any ideas regarding what postings you'd like to see more of or any questions regarding the accounts, feel free to message us on any of the social media platforms and we would be happy to start a conversation!

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Going to the Fall Conference?

Don't forget to download the attendify app before you go!







## MCA SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

We are excited to say that the awards social hour this year will be sponsored by Midwest Monitoring and Surveillance (MMS)! MMS offers a wide range of services to our probation field in Minnesota. These services include home detention, numerous forms of alcohol monitoring, GPS tracking and lab services. MMS provides timely responses to violations 24/7 through highly trained professionals who work in tandem with our probation agencies. While their offices are housed out of Minnesota, they provide systems and services to agencies nationwide. You can find them on Facebook by searching Midwest Monitoring and Surveillance and visit their website at [www.midwestmonitoring.com](http://www.midwestmonitoring.com) to learn more.

***Thank you to Midwest Monitoring for your support in this year's Fall Conference. We appreciate your support and all the work you do!***



***Thank you GTL for sponsoring MCA and making networking and social events possible at this year's MCA conference!***

Global Tel Link (GTL) can be found on Facebook:  
@GTLGlobalTelLink and on Twitter: @GTLCorporate

# Thank you!



## Attention Past MCA Presidents!

The venue may change from year-to-year for MCA's Past President's Breakfast, but the camaraderie and fun remain the same. We've had some great leadership in our past that really helped get and keep MCA moving forward. We are an association of about 1,000 members.

Our annual get-together is a time where their year as president was remembered and their service to our profession is honored.

Thanks to all who attended last year's breakfast, and thanks to all of MCA's past presidents for your service to our profession and MCA!

*Dear Past President:*

*You are cordially invited to attend the 2019 MCA Past President's Breakfast, sponsored by 180 Degrees! This year's breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2019, at Grand View Lodge, 23521 Nokomis Avenue, Nisswa, MN 56468. We will be meeting in the Headwaters Private Dining Room in Grand View's Main Lodge.*

*Please send RSVP to [mark.groves@state.mn.us](mailto:mark.groves@state.mn.us) by October 1, 2019 at or feel free to call me at (651) 318-9275. We look forward to seeing you there and having a chance to catch up.*

*When you RSVP, please let me know what mailing address you would like for MCA to have on file for you. We would like to update our Past Presidents mailing list.*

*Also, if you would like conference information let me know and I will have Debbie Beltz, MCA Administrative Manager get in touch with you.*

*You can make overnight hotel accommodations by contacting Grand View Lodge directly at 1-218-963-8737.*



# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

By: Cal Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison



Wow! Summer is really flying by! I wanted to use this report for the FORUM to remind our membership that we will again be presenting a legislative update session at the Fall Institute on the opening day, 10/23/19. We are pleased to be able to have Rep. Dan Wolgamott from the St. Cloud area make a few comments at the initial general assembly. There will also be a breakout session from 10:15 -11:45am, sponsored by the MCA Legislative Committee. We are hoping to have Rep. Jack Considine and Senator Warren Limmer join Rep. Wolgamott in a general dialogue about the last legislative session, and then discuss with our attendees what our legislative agenda looks like for the 2020 Session. These three legislators have been very helpful to us in the past and have shown us their in-depth knowledge of how the system works.

We will presenting our 2020 Legislative Agenda at this workshop for discussion and it will be used as a talking point guide for our discussion with our legislative presenters. This should be a very good workshop for those of you interested in the legislative process.

I have been amazed at the high number of Legislator fundraisers taking place around the State. I ask that our membership watch for these announcements in your home areas and try to attend these events, introduce yourself to your area Legislator, if you don't already know them and tell them you are a member of MCA. As I meet with the Legislators individually, they often mention to me and name a MCA member who made contact with them. This really means something to them and Legislators are always receptive to their home area constituents. This really enhances our image as an organization so please make an effort to do this.

We are working on the new 2020 Legislative Agenda and this effort is being led by Mark Bliven, so if you have an issue or suggestions on what might be included in our plan, please reach out to Mark, myself, or any member of the Legislative Committee.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your support. A special expression of gratitude also goes to those members of the Legislative Committee, who play an important role in this effort to develop material for me to discuss with Legislators. See you at the Fall Institute!

Cal Saari  
MCA Legislative Liaison  
218-969-0151

## ~ Minnesota Haven Launch ~

*By Lori Korts, Victim Services Committee Chair*



The Minnesota Department of Corrections is required by statute to provide specific notifications to victims of offenders committed to the Commissioner of Corrections. However, victims are not automatically registered for notification, which is considered an opt-in right. In order for a victim, or any other community member to receive notification, they have to submit a request to the DOC. These notification requests are processed by Victim Assistance and Restorative Justice Program (VARJP) staff. Once the request is received, an account is created in the victim notification system, which then triggers notifications.

On July 9, 2019, after several years in development, the Minnesota Department of Corrections launched the Minnesota Haven victim notification system. The previous notification system, MnCHOICE, was developed under contract with Appriss, the same company that developed and manages the VINE notification system. MnCHOICE was available for victims to register for notifications directly through the system. After a potential data breach in 2015, access to the system was limited, and victims were no longer able to access the system on their own. Subsequently, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, in collaboration with the Office of Justice Programs at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), secured funding to replace the MnCHOICE system with one that is built internally, and will have the potential to interface with Minnesota specific offender databases.

The first phase of the development of Haven was successfully launched, without service interruption for the victims. VARJP has worked with stakeholders to ensure there was a smooth transition between the systems. Currently, Haven is only accessible by VARJP staff. As the system continues to be developed, the access will be expanded to additional work groups, with the hope of an eventual open system, which would be directly accessible to victims. The MN.IT Haven development team worked tirelessly to ensure the newly launched system was designed thoughtfully, with the needs of victims as the core consideration. This is one of the first internally developed notification systems in the nation and is celebrated by all users today!

If you, or someone you know would like to register for notification about status changes for an offender under the authority of the DOC, please contact the VARJP at 651-361-7250 or [victimassistance.doc@state.mn.us](mailto:victimassistance.doc@state.mn.us)





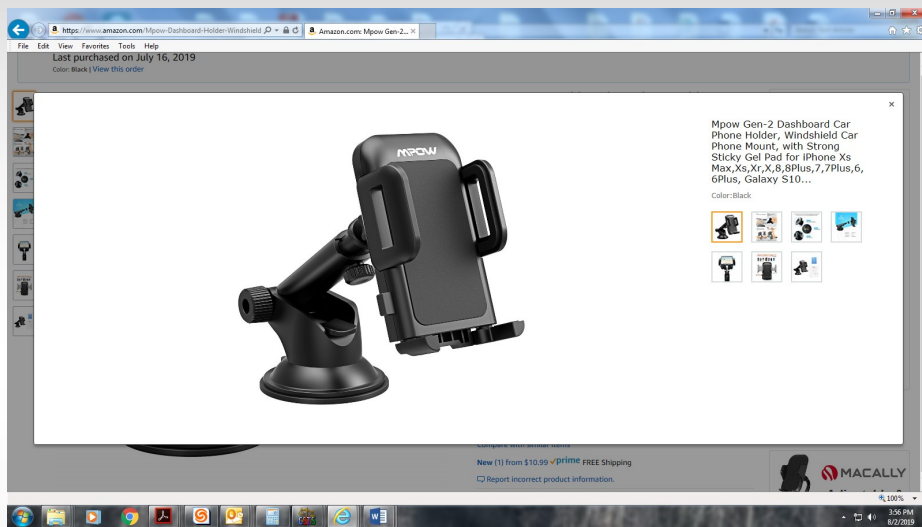
# Hands Free Cell Phone Tips

*By David Heath—Technical Committee Chair*

I have a couple of simple tips on cell phones with the new hands free laws going into effect this month.

Tip # 1 – Get a dash mount for your phone so you don't need to look down at all. There are many different types and varieties. I have heard some of the vent types can be difficult to remove your phone from.

I bought this dash mount off of Amazon for about \$10 and it works well. It is easy to mount and dismount. It holds an I-Phone 8 with an Otter box securely. It hasn't fallen off yet and the angles adjust easily too.



Tip # 2 – Learn to disable your screen lock when navigating

To do this on an I-Phone: go to Settings > Display and Brightness > Auto-Lock > Never

Then launch Google Maps and type in your address destination. Then re-mount your phone on the dash mount and your screen will not lock while you are in route to the destination. You can also activate your turn by turn voice directions. From my understanding, this is only legal for navigation applications.

The application is hands free, as long as you set it all up before you leave your parking spot. This is kind of like having an in screen dash navigator. Just remember this is very hard on your phone's battery life. After you get to your destination I would suggest setting your lock setting back to 30 seconds or under 5 minutes. I keep mine at 30 seconds most of the time. For security, if you lose your phone you want it to lock as well. So, my advice is set it back after you have arrived where you are navigating to.

For more information on the Hands Free Law, visit:  
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/hands-free/Pages/default.aspx>



**HANDS-FREE  
MINNESOTA LAW**  
HandsFreeMN.org

# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## HANDS-FREE MINNESOTA

### What can I do under the new law?

The new law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, *but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone*. Remember, hands-free is not necessarily distraction-free.

### What can't I do with my phone under the new law?

*You may not hold your phone in your hand*. Also, a driver may not use their phone at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at video or photos stored on the phone, using non-navigation apps, reading texts and scrolling or typing on the phone.

### Can I ever hold my phone?

Yes. Hand-held phone use is allowed to obtain emergency assistance, if there is an immediate threat to life and safety, or when in an authorized emergency vehicle while performing official duties.

### Where Can I Put my Phone?

The best way to go hands-free is by turning off your phone and placing it in your purse/bag, trunk, center console or glove compartment. That way it's out of sight, out of mind. If you must have your phone available, placing your cell on a mount is a great option. Remember, if placing it on the windshield, it must be mounted at the bottommost portion of the windshield. You are allowed to place your phone on the passenger seat, in the cup holder or other locations in the vehicle as long as you are not holding the phone. However, those locations are typically not as secure as a mount, center console or glove compartment.

### Can I use a GPS navigation device?

Yes. GPS and other systems that can only be used for navigation are exempt from the Hands-Free law. In-car screens and systems are also exempt. In both cases, most of these systems lock when the vehicle is moving.

### Does the new hands-free law address smart watches?

Drivers can use them as a conventional watch to check time, but smart watches are considered an electronic communications device under the hands-free law. That means the device has the same restrictions as a cell phone. Drivers can use a smart watch the same way they use a cell phone as long as it's by one-touch or voice activation. Drivers can't type, text or do the other things prohibited under the hands-free law.



**HANDS-FREE  
MINNESOTA LAW**  
HandsFreeMN.org

# Remember to VOTE!!!!

full bios on MCA's website

Voting open  
to members only  
from August 18th-29th

## 2021 President-Elect Nominees



**Mark Bliven**

2003 – Present: Minnesota Department of Corrections  
Director of Risk Assessment/Community Notification.



**Melissa Peterson**

Minnesota Child Welfare Training System  
Training and Development Lead



**Gina Evans**

Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge  
Director of Community Outreach



# Vice President Nominees

full bios on MCA's website



**Laura Anderson**

MCF-Red Wing

Juvenile Program Coordinator—Reentry



**Kevin Fors**

MN Department of Corrections

Case Manager, MCF-Shakopee



**Luann Buck**

RS EDEN

Director of Corrections Services

# Remember to VOTE!!!!

# Secretary Nominees

full bios on MCA's website

## Remember to VOTE!!!!



**Nicole Kalow**

Waseca County Court Services

Probation Agent



**Kaylee Henson**

Wright County Court Services

Probation Agent



**Jody Henkemeyer**

Minnesota Department of Corrections

Planning and Performance in Evidence Based Practices

# Save the Date!

## MCA/MACPO 2nd Annual

# Juvenile Justice Conference

April 23, 2020

COMING

SOON!

Maplewood YMCA  
Community Center







## MCA Platinum Sponsors



## 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](mailto:tara.rathman@state.mn.us) or Elana Brunner at [Elana.Brunner@state.mn.us](mailto:Elana.Brunner@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:

[mca-mn@hotmail.com](mailto:mca-mn@hotmail.com)

[www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org)



GET IN TOUCH!

## Contact Us

For more information, please contact us!

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Wyoming, MN 55092

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[mca-mn@hotmail.com](mailto:mca-mn@hotmail.com)

Visit the MCA website: [www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org)

## ***MCA Board of Directors***

### Executive Board

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

### MCA Committees and Co-Chairs:

Adult Justice/Legislative: Mark Bliven & Brian Collins  
Annual Training Institute: Shannon Fette, Amy Moeckel & Dan Raden  
Awards: Mark Groves  
Communications: Tara Rathman & Elana Brunner  
Education & Training: Zayda Harsha & Mary Oberstar  
Juvenile Justice: Jane Schmid & Kari Boser  
Legislative Liaison: Calvin Saari  
Membership: Mark Groves & Jenna Reuter  
Nominating: Roman George & Rick Pung  
Sponsorship: JoAnn Brown  
Spring Workshop: Ryan Busch & Katie Campbell  
Student Services/Research: Melissa McCann  
Technology: David Heath  
Victim Services: Lori Korts