

# MCA FORUM



Volume 43 No. 1

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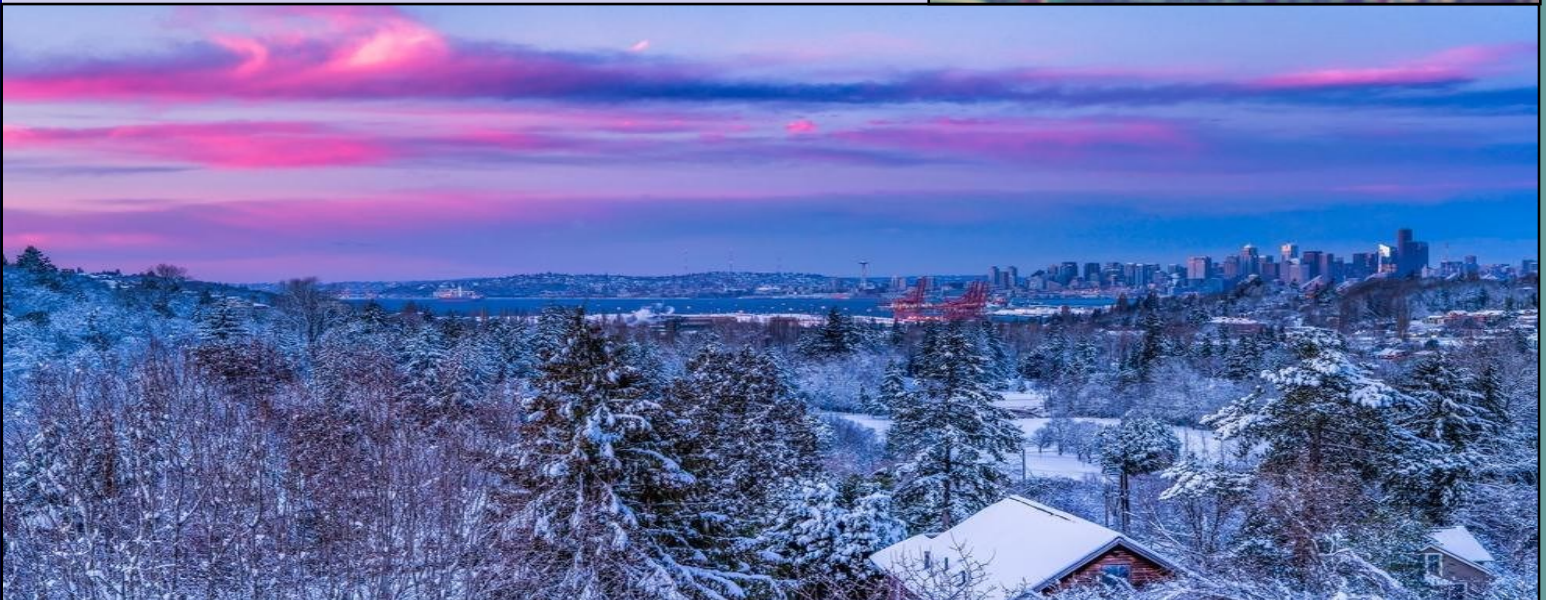
GET IN TOUCH!

## HAPPY 2020!

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

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

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





## President's Message

*Mary Oberstar, 2020 MCA President*

Greetings MCA Members & Colleagues:

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your MCA president for 2020! It's an honor to step into this role to serve you and work alongside you as we continue the great work of this association.

2020 brings us another year filled with phenomenal learning events as well as research and information offered to members in other formats. The calendar is already filling with events – including:

- *Corrections Capitol Day* on Thursday, February 13- brought to you by MCA's hard-working & knowledgeable Legislative Liaison and Adult Justice/Legislative Committee
- *Spring Conference – Criminal Minds* on Thursday, March 26 – brought to you by the fantastic Spring Workshop Committee
- *Surviving/Thriving in the Trenches - Parts 3 & 4* (it is not a requirement to have attended parts 1 & 2) on Friday, April 17 – MACPO/MCA co-sponsored event – brought to you by the Education and Training Committee and MACPO
- *Annual Juvenile Justice Conference* on Thursday, April 23, brought to you by our Juvenile Justice Committee

Be sure to check the website (<http://www.mn-ca.org/>) to register for these important events and look for additional events as they're added!

I'd like to introduce you to your board of directors – those who continue to work tirelessly to bring you the best of the best!

Mark Bliven, President-Elect	Laura Anderson, Vice-President
Connie Hartwig, Past-President	Kaylee Henson, Secretary
Robyn Wood, Treasurer	Mark Groves, MCA Liaison
Brian Collins, Adult Justice/Legislative	Amy Moeckel, Dan Raden, and Shannon Fette Annual Training Institute
Connie Hartwig, Awards; Nominating	Elana Brunner and Tara Rathman, Communications
Cheri Humphrey & Melissa Peterson, Education & Training	Kari Boser and Jane Schmid, Juvenile Justice
Calvin Saari, Legislative Liaison	Samantha Kurth, Membership
JoAnn Brown, Sponsorship	Ryan Busch and Katie Campbell, Spring Workshop
Melissa McCann, Student Services/Research	David Heath and Joe Ventre, Technology
Landyn Prescott-Miles and Lori Quist, Victim Services	Debbie Beltz - Administrative Manager



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## President's Message, continued

Due to MCA's well-run, professional, and valuable contributions by your board and fellow members, membership continues to grow. It draws not only corrections and criminal justice professionals, but also those who partner in the field. Many members also become volunteers with the association - serving on or chairing committees or contributing in other ways. If you're not currently involved in this capacity and have a desire to be, I encourage you to reach out about opportunities available to you. And, knowing how busy we all are, if now isn't the time for you to become more involved, it's understood. Being a member of this top-notch association and learning and growing through training, the FORUM, and networking is equally important!

Speaking of membership & growth, a goal is to continue that upward trend in membership so if you know of organizations, groups, or individuals who may benefit from an MCA membership, please make them aware of us and send them to the website to join.

The business we're in can sometimes be tough. The support of our peers through networking and training opportunities can help us maneuver through the difficult days. My wish for you as we continue to traverse our chosen paths is wellness and safety each and every day.

If you have ideas, questions, or suggestions for MCA's continued success, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Mary Oberstar*

2020 MCA President

[mary.oberstar@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.oberstar@state.mn.us)



# Corrections Capitol Day

***Thursday, February 13, 2020***

***8:00am-12:00pm***

1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul

Afton Room, West Entrance - Main floor, to the right.

Breakfast Buffet will be served.

**Sponsored by:**

**MCA**

**MACCAC**

**MACPO**

**MARRCH**

**MN ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE**

Several key legislative chairs will be attending this event and will address the session.

This is a great opportunity for everyone involved in Corrections to receive an update on the 2020 Legislative Session and what's pending on issues pertaining to our delivery system and to share the legislative agendas of those sponsoring this event.

See You There!

***Registration for this event is now closed.***





## **MCA SPRING WORKSHOP**

### **Criminal Minds:**

*Supervising offenders with various mental health needs*

***March 26, 2020***  
**9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Owatonna Country Club**  
**Owatonna, MN**

#### **Workshop Presentations by:**

- **Barb Sorum** - Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities
- **Tim Leslie, Dakota County Sheriff** - The SMART Center and Dakota County Approach to Mental Illness in the Community
- **Steven C. Norton Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist** - The Criminal Mind: Crime and Mental Illness
- **NAMI** - In Our Own Voice: Personal Perspective of Having a Mental Health Condition

#### **Exhibitor Resource Fair**

**Lunch (provided)**

#### ***Hotel Accommodations:***

*Country Inn & Suites*  
*130 Allan Avenue SW*  
*Owatonna, MN 55060*  
*507-455-9295*

*Rate \$96 plus tax*  
*Ask for the Minnesota Corrections Association Block - (Block Closes February 28th)*

# Save the Date!

## MCA/MACPO 2nd Annual Juvenile Justice Conference

April 23, 2020

COMING

SOON!

Maplewood YMCA  
Community Center



Plan NOW to join us for

# PROJECT 2000 XXXI

**Bloomington, Minnesota**

Thursday, June 11 - Sunday, June 14, 2020

Featuring the CPO Foundation

## **Annual National Memorial Ceremony**

**Friday, June 12, 2020**

*The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation's  
Annual Four-Day Gathering for  
Correctional Officers and Families also features*

*Educational Seminars  
Four Hosted Meal Functions  
Activities for "Kids & Teens"*

# Corrections Peace Officer's Foundation

## TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

Corrections Peace Officer Foundation's (CPOF) is coming to Bloomington

PROJECT 2000 XXXI

June 11<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

MCA is spreading the word and the work of CPOF. MCA members please visit their website at [CPOF.org](http://CPOF.org) and consider joining this Foundation and attending their Conference in June.

We hope to get more people involved and it starts by being a member. The cost is \$60 a year. This conference is something to experience and we have a great opportunity to do so this year, but you need to sign up. Look at it this way, it is a cheap insurance policy if something were to happen to you or your family or a colleague.

Soon we will be looking for volunteers to work at the conference and as plans are finalized we'll update you. Be sure to sign up and if you have any questions please contact me at 651-779-1367 or [connie.hartwig@state.mn.us](mailto:connie.hartwig@state.mn.us). If you know of someone who may benefit from CPOF, please feel free to reach out to me and I can help you through the process.

This amazing Foundation was established in 1984 and first came to MCA's attention in August of 2018, during the American Corrections Association Conference when Joe Gomm's photo was displayed at their Exhibit. CPOF and their Honor Guard came out to help and support the families and staff after the deaths of Joe Gomm and Joe Parise.

### About CPOF

The Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation is a national, non-profit charitable organization created in 1984. Its primary function is to preserve and support the surviving families of Correctional Officers who lose their lives in pursuit of their chosen profession of protecting the public from those remanded to correctional custody and supervision in the nation's prisons and jails.

The CPO Foundation is a bona fide charity registered with the Internal Revenue Service under IRC 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1) & 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), ID No. 68-0023302. The CPO Foundation is not a political action group or committee of any kind, nor is it affiliated with any political action group or committee of any kind, nor is it involved in any collective bargaining issues with any employee groups, associations and/or administrations. It is the policy of the CPO Foundation that we do not recognize privatization in the field of Corrections. The CPO Foundation adheres to the policies of the Federal Government's Department of Justice. Those policies recognize only law enforcement officers within the public sector.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation, Inc. is to operate and maintain a general fund for the perpetuation of the memory of those Correctional Peace Officers killed in the line of duty; to provide for their spouses, children or other beneficiaries; and to promote and project a positive image of the Corrections profession, both internally and to the general public.

#### *"Taking Care of Our Own"*

The Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation defines catastrophic when an Officer and/or staff member at a Correctional Facility, because of a catastrophic illness, injury, or event, are suffering severe financial hardship. Our resources within the Catastrophic Assistance Program are not infinite. They are limited and the Catastrophic Coordinator's along with our contacts at the individual facilities must verify and explore the extent of the financial need. Our Catastrophic Assistance Program is not intended to supplement an entire paycheck and is primarily for Correctional staff, their spouse or dependent children.

In the case of illness or injury, if extensive travel is involved in obtaining treatment and/or therapy for the Applicant, their spouse or dependent children, financial assistance may be provided to help with medical travel expenses incurred. In bereavement situations, financial assistance is limited to the Applicant, their spouse or dependent children if there is a dire need and no insurance or other finances are available. The CPO Foundation Board of Directors will strongly consider assisting Correctional staff in situations related to natural disasters: fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, etc.

The Minnesota Corrections Association now has the honor of being a life-time sponsor of CPOF.



# MCA ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE



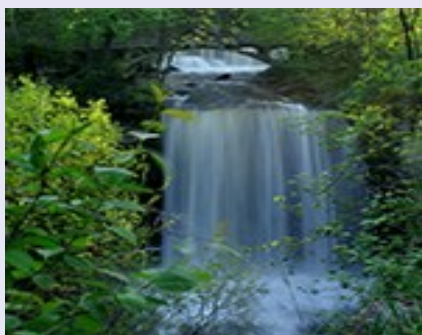
**Check it out!**

## **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 doing a phenomenal job at preparing for the 2020 Annual Training Institute. Please join us October 27, 2020 to October 30, 2020, located this year in the beautiful river city of Mankato, Minnesota.



Minneopa Falls



Watch for notification on the opening of registration and the program schedule coming soon on the MCA website at [www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org). There will be an Early Bird option for conference registration you won't want to miss out on!

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 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.

Our present committee is working diligently to deliver a memorable experience! Chairs for the 2020 Annual Institute this year include:

**Committee Chairs:** Shannon Fette, Amy Moeckel, Dan Raden

**Arrangements Chairs:** Tom Jungmann and Tom Redmond

**Resource Fair Chairs:** Tyler Grandstand and Jason Mereness

**Hospitality/Networking Chairs:** Adriana Dibella and Raul Sanchez

**Registration Chairs:** Vicki Lanners and Jean Wipper

**Program Chairs:** Pat Leibel-Beiring and Christine Schweich

***If you have interest in being a sponsor for the Annual Training Institute,***

***contact JoAnn Brown at [JoAnn.Brown@state.mn.us](mailto:JoAnn.Brown@state.mn.us)***



## *Upcoming Training Events!*

***Check out the details on upcoming training and events!***

**March 11-13, 2020 - MN Social Service Association Conference and Expo:**

**[MSSA Annual Training Conference - Shaping Our Future Together](#)**



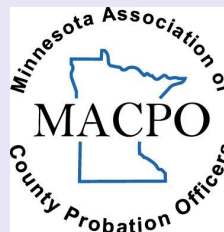
**April 29 - May 1, 2020 - Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health:**

**[MARRCH Spring Retreat](#)**



**May 27-30, 2020 - Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers Conference:**

**[MACPO 63rd Annual Spring Conference](#)**



**Be sure to check out the Resource page on the MCA website for training, resources and updates!**

**The Resource page is regularly updated with the information including:**

- **Trainings/Conferences/Events**
- **Scholarships offered by other organizations**
- **Internship and University Resource List**
- **Corrections Associations List**
- **Resources – misc. resource guides**

# Consumer Electronics Show - Las Vegas

*Joe Ventre, Technical Committee Chair*

CES is the world's gathering place for all those who thrive on the business of consumer technologies. It has served as the proving ground for innovators and breakthrough technologies for 50 years — the global stage where next-generation innovations are introduced to the marketplace. This year's Consumer Electronic Show was no different than recent shows, which highlighted the effectiveness of the Internet of Things (the connection of everyday things online...i.e lightbulbs, thermostats, etc.). However, this year was about the Intelligence of Things. The Intelligence of Things is all about sharing of data. "Things" (as opposed to people) have become intelligent. They can communicate and can take actions based on information gleaned from sensors, smart devices, databases, systems and information from the worldwide web. We now live in a world where "things" can interact with each other to monitor, manage and control complete systems in order to make our lives better.



SABRE, the number one pepper spray trusted by police and consumers worldwide, introduced their new SMART Pepper Spray with GPS tracking and 3<sup>rd</sup> party monitoring. Building on SABRE's commitment to making people safe every day, the smart device can be paired with the SABRE Personal Safety App. The app is designed to send alerts to assigned contacts by push notification. The alert will include the user's location at the time the pepper spray deploys or the in-app alert button is pressed. A geotracking feature continues to monitor the user's location following the initial help alert. The app will include a paid subscription option, which will also send an alert to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party monitoring service who can call first responders on the user's behalf. According to a recent A & U Study, 78 percent of consumers are worried about the safety of their loved ones and 47 percent of consumers want their personal safety device to connect them to others. The SABRE SMART Pepper Spray features SABRE's maximum strength formula as well as a 10-foot (3 m) range and 25 bursts for protection against multiple threats.

Camera maker Arlo launched its first wireless floodlight camera, with night vision, a siren, two-way audio to converse with intruders and an ambient light sensor to automatically adjust its brightness. Another company, Sunflower Labs, used CES to show off its "home drone security" system. If trespassers step onto your lawn, a camera-equipped drone flies out from its resting place to take a look at them and streams the live video to your phone.



ADT is retooling its DIY smart home security portfolio with the launch of a new brand, Blue by ADT, which will initially include three stand-alone smart cameras and a Wi-Fi extender plus doorbell chime. Founded on the pioneering work of LifeShield, acquired by ADT in 2019, Blue by ADT provides lifestyle-driven security solutions for customers who prefer the flexibility of highly portable equipment and no-contract, month-to-month professional monitoring options. The LifeShield brand has become Blue by ADT, and LifeShield systems will continue to be supported by the Blue by ADT team and are interoperable with Blue by ADT cameras. Blue by ADT works with Apple HomeKit, Google Assistant, Amazon Alexa, and IFTTT so customers have more options to integrate their smart home devices for a seamless, fully integrated DIY smart home and smart security solution.

Continued on next page

## Consumer Electronics Show Update - continued



Abode systems, a provider of DIY smart home security, announced the abode Outdoor/Indoor Smart Camera, a versatile video camera developed in direct response to demand for robust indoor/outdoor and front door video protection. Modular by design, the new abode camera can be used indoors and outdoors and can be deployed using a number of included mounts to optimize installation flexibility and provide intelligent video coverage wherever customers need it most. With advanced computer vision capabilities built-in, abode customers can opt-in to have their Outdoor/Indoor Smart Camera understand when an authorized user is approaching or inside the residence vs. an unauthorized user, stranger, or intruder. This functionality is at the sole discretion of the user and can be toggled on or off at any time to manage a personalized database of known and unknown users.

The CES continues to provide insight into the world of next-generation personal and property protection those who work in the field of public safety might choose to utilize.



CES is owned and produced by the Consumer Technology Association, which provides the ultimate platform for technology leaders to connect, collaborate, and propel consumer technology forward.

## Legislative Update



*Cal Saari - Legislative Liaison*

By now I'm sure everyone knows the legislature opens the 2020 session next week on February 11th. Many legislative committees, however, have been busy during the interim, conducting hearings around the state, providing a broader segment of the public an opportunity to have their voices heard. As an example, I attended a Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Division hearing in Hibbing on January 21st, a hearing dedicated to hearing six different gun bills which did not get hearings in the 2019 Session. This drew a very large crowd with at least half of them bussed in from the Twin Cities and Duluth. Dealing with gun legislation is always quite volatile and the crowd proved that again in this hearing. I was personally embarrassed with the behavior of the crowd. At times it appeared to be a mob mentality with vulgarities being directed toward Senators who were speaking on bills. Numerous crowd demonstrations delayed the hearing and the steady stream of interruptions ruined an opportunity for the public to hear both sides of the issue. I couldn't identify most of the demonstrators so I'm going to assume they were among those bussed in for the purpose of demonstration-at least that's my hope, for it was a disgrace if they were Iron Rangers. Anyway, that's the way many of the out-state hearings go on some major issues. Six gun bills were heard that day at the informational hearing and I doubt most of them will get a second hearing in this session.

Several more hearings have been conducted at the capitol. One January 29th the House Public Safety and Corrections Sub-Committee conducted a joint hearing on the rising costs of prisons and probation programming. This too, was well attended, and the Committee and public heard from Commissioner Paul Schnell, and representatives from MACCAC and MACPO. This ended up being an overview of the corrections delivery systems with a lot of statistics revealing increased costs over the years.

The information provided a historical perspective of the three delivery systems in corrections and I'm quite sure will result in some newer legislators again asking a valid question as to why we continue to operate a three-tier system. This question seems to arise every four to five years but to date, has never resulted in change.

The bottom line of this hearing was best presented in comments by Commissioner Schnell that more dollars are needed to address our many issues, but he doesn't see the pie getting any bigger -we just have to find a way to re-allocate our resources. Our membership will get another opportunity to question legislators on this and other interests at the 2020 Corrections Capitol Day on February 13th at the DOC Central Office (Afton Room) beginning with a breakfast at 8:00 am and presentations by invited legislators from 8:30-Noon.

As legislators prepare to return to the capitol on February 11th, many of them have been working on behalf of their constituency. The House allows for new bill introductions to be filed before opening day, and looking at that data, there are 212 bills already filled which will be officially referred to committee on opening day. If you're interested in further details, watch the MCA website where I will be filing regular legislative updates on the progress of this session.

Frankly, I don't expect to see a lot of new legislation this year as it's a bonding year, government is politically divided, and I expect to see everything tied to efforts to achieve passage of a bonding package, and that will not be easy. A few months ago, there were bonding requests exceeding \$ 5.4 billion, and with the new bills pending as I stated earlier requesting at least another \$500-600 million can be added to that. The Governor has proposed a bonding bill that slightly exceeds \$ 2 billion, the House talking about \$ 1.5 billion and the Senate advocating no more than \$ 750 million. That doesn't make anything very easy and when the "government trifecta" uses good policy bills to negotiate bonding levels, it's anybody's guess where we'll end up. Adjournment this year is on May 18th - perhaps we'll know more then! Talk to you more during this session.

**Calvin Saari**

MCA Legislative Liaison

[SISUwithSAARI@aol.com](mailto:SISUwithSAARI@aol.com)

218-969-0151

# Thrivent Financial

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**The result:** Your assets are more likely to stretch further - and go to the people and places you want.

## Your Choices Help Determine Your Taxes. Find Out How

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Call 800-345-4588 or go online to connect with Thrivent Financial.

## Focused on people, not profits

Thrivent is a unique community, a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society. We're also a Fortune 500 financial services organization. Our tradition of financial strength is driven by our focus on people, not profits.



**THRIVENT®**  
Be Wise With Money™

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Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada.

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

In the Radical Reconstruction period that followed the Civil War, newly freed black men made great political gains, winning office in Southern state legislatures and even Congress. The Southern backlash was swift and marked by the passage of "black codes" designed to intimidate black voters, prompting a call for formal, national legislation on the right to vote.

The women's rights movement grew out of the abolitionist movement, with activists like Frederick Douglass working alongside Elizabeth Cady Stanton to secure the right to vote for all. That goal was reached with the passage of the nineteenth amendment in 1920.



## Fun Facts: The Shortest Month - February

Source: Mental Floss and Slate

Why does February only have 28 days you ask? (well, 29 this year)...it's the Roman's fault...

*Thirty days hath September,  
April, June, and November.  
All the rest have 31,  
Except for February,  
Which got the short stick because it's cold and no one likes it.*

Well, something to that effect. Some believe February once boasted 29 days and that Augustus Caesar stole a day so he could add it to August, which was named for him. But that's a myth. Rather, February has 28 days because, to the Romans, the month was an afterthought. In the 8th century BCE, they used the Calendar of Romulus, a 10-month calendar that kicked the year off in March (with the spring equinox) and ended in December. January and February didn't even exist:

**Martius:** 31 days  
**Aprilius:** 30 days  
**Maius:** 31 days  
**Junius:** 30 days  
**Quintilis:** 31 days  
**Sextilis:** 30 days  
**September:** 30 days  
**October:** 31 days  
**November:** 30 days  
**December:** 30 days



Tally up those numbers, and you'll see a problem—the year is only 304 days long. Back then, winter was a nameless, monthless period that no one cared for much. (Planters and harvesters used the calendar as a timetable. To them, winter was useless and wasn't worth counting.) So for 61 days out of the year, Romans could ask "What month is it?" and you could correctly answer, "None!"

King Numa Pompilius thought why have a calendar if you're going to neglect one-sixth of the year? So in 713 BCE, he lined the calendar up with the year's 12 lunar cycles—a span of about 355 days—and introduced January and February. The months were added to the end of the calendar, making February the last month of the year.

No Roman calendar would be complete without some good old-fashioned superstition mixed in! The Romans believed even numbers were unlucky, so Numa tried to make each month odd. But to reach the quota of 355, one month had to be even. February ended up pulling the short stick, probably because it was simply the last month on the list. (Or as Cecil Adams puts it, "If there had to be an unlucky month, better make it a short one.")

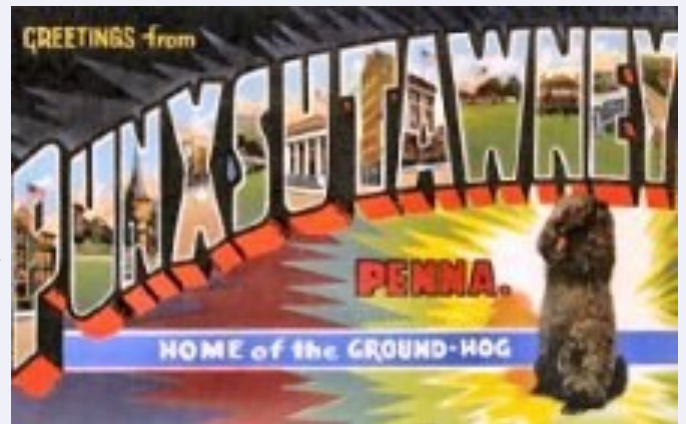
Of course, a 355-day calendar had its bugs. After a few years went by, the seasons and months would fall out of sync. So to keep things straight, the Romans would occasionally insert a 27-day leap month called Mercedonius. The Romans would erase the last couple days of February and start the leap month on February 24—further evidence no one ever cared much for the month. This caused headaches everywhere. The leap month was inconsistent, mainly because Rome's high priests determined when it would arrive. Not only did they insert Mercedonius haphazardly, but the priests (being politicians) abused the power, using it to extend the terms of friends and trim the terms of enemies. By Julius Caesar's time, the Roman people had no clue what day it was.

So Caesar nixed the leap month and reformed the calendar again. (To get Rome back on track, the year 46 BCE had to be 445 days long!) Caesar aligned the calendar with the sun and added a few days so that everything added up to 365. February, which by now was at the top of the calendar, kept its 28 days. ***We can only imagine it's because Caesar, like everyone before and after him, just wanted it to be March already.***



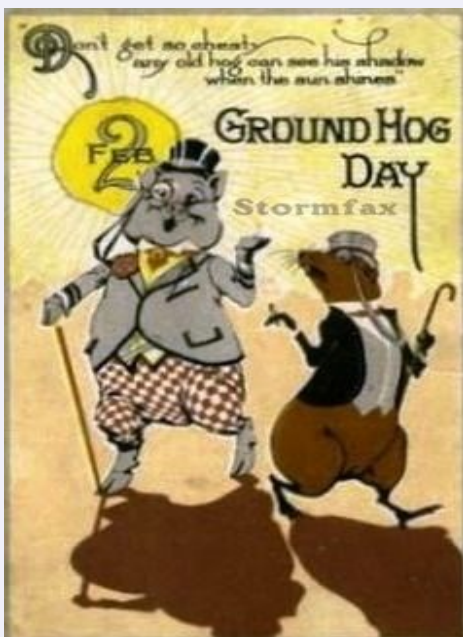
## Fun Facts: Groundhog Day - February 2, 2020

**Groundhog Day** (Pennsylvania German: *Grund'sau dâk*, *Grundsaudaag*, *Grundsow Dawg*, *Murmeltiertag*; Nova Scotia: **Daks Day**) is a popular tradition celebrated in Canada and the United States on February 2nd. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog (*Marmota monax*, also called "woodchuck"; Deutsch: *Grundsau*, *Grunddax*, *Dax*) emerging from its burrow on this day sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks. If it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. While the tradition remains popular in modern times, studies have found no consistent correlation between a groundhog seeing its shadow or not and the subsequent arrival time of spring-like weather.



The weather lore was brought from German-speaking areas where the badger (German: *Dachs*) is the forecasting animal. This appears to be an enhanced version of the lore that clear weather on the Christian Holy Day of Candlemas forebodes a prolonged winter.

The Groundhog Day ceremony held at Punxsutawney in western Pennsylvania, centering around a semi-mythical groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil, has become the most attended. *Grundsow Lodges* in Pennsylvania Dutch Country in the southeastern part of the state celebrate them as well. Other cities in the United States and Canada have also adopted the event. The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, where crowds as large as 40,000 gather each year (nearly eight times the year-round population of the town). The average draw had been about 2,000 until the 1993 movie *Groundhog Day*, which is set at the festivities in Punxsutawney, after which attendance rose to about 10,000. The official Phil is pretended to be a supercentenarian, having been the same forecasting beast since 1887. In 2019, the 133rd year of the tradition, the groundhog was summoned to come out at 7:25 am on February 2, but did not see its shadow. Fans of Punxsutawney Phil awaited his arrival starting at 6:00 a.m., thanks to a live stream provided by Visit Pennsylvania. The live stream has been a tradition for the past several years, allowing more people than ever to watch the animal meteorologist.





President's Day this year will be celebrated on February 17, 2020.

Initially, the holiday began in 1885 to recognize George Washington, which is why it's still called "Washington's Birthday." For that reason, it was set as February 22nd, which is Washington's actual birthday. However, in an effort to honor all presidents, in 1971, an executive order from President Nixon made it so that the holiday was moved to the third Monday of February.

President's Day never actually falls on the birthday of any president.

Some facts about our Presidents:

1. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day, July 4, 1826. This was also the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
2. James Madison was our smallest president. He stood 5'4" and weighed around 100 pounds.
3. Honest Abe was the tallest president at 6'4".
4. James Monroe also passed away on July 4th. In 1831, he was the last surviving Founding Father.
5. Martin Van Buren was homegrown. He was the first president actually born in the United States.
6. William Henry Harrison was long-winded, but not long lived. After delivering the longest inaugural speech in history in 1841 (8,445 words over 90 minutes), he fell ill and died 33 days into his presidency.
7. James K. Polk did not polka. He was known for banning alcohol, card playing and dancing in the White House.
8. Abraham Lincoln was a wrestler. A good one! He won all but 1 of his 300 matches.
9. Andrew Johnson was really a tailor. Original sold as an indentured servant during childhood, he learned to sew and made all of his own suits while in office.
10. Rutherford B. Hayes lost the popular election, too. However, he squeezed out the electoral college by ONE vote.
11. James Garfield could write with both hands at the same time. Famously, he wrote in Latin with one and Greek with the other.
12. Grover Cleveland was president twice... just not back to back. He served from 1885-1889 and 1893-1897.
13. William McKinley considered carnations his good luck charm. He was assassinated shortly after giving a child the one off of his lapel.
14. Theodore Roosevelt was just a big teddy bear. The teddy bear was produced after work got out he refused to shoot a bear cub on a hunting trip.
15. Speaking of Teddy Roosevelt, did you know that he was blind in his left eye due to an injury during a boxing match
16. Woodrow Wilson's wife was a descendent of Pocahontas. Edith Bolling Galt was also known as the "Presidentress" for the help she provided her husband in office, following his strokes.
17. Calvin Coolidge brought his pet raccoons to the White House. Reuben and Rebecca Raccoon often roamed free through the corridors.
18. Herbert Hoover also had weird pets. He brought two alligators to the White House.
19. John F. Kennedy didn't need his father's recommendation for Harvard. His Dad wrote in a letter that JFK was "careless and lacked application," but JFK got in anyway.
20. JFK was the first president who was a Boy Scout.
21. Gerald Ford (previously known as Leslie Lynch King, Jr.) is the only president to never be actually elected by the voting public to president or vice president (first Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned, followed shortly thereafter by Nixon).
22. Ronald Reagan regularly consulted with an astrologer before making decisions and scheduling big events.
23. Barack Obama's experience working at a Baskin-Robbins as a teen has made him dislike ice cream.





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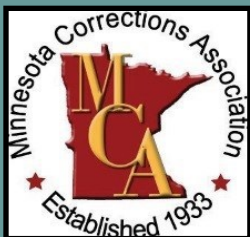
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