

MCA FORUM

Volume 44. No. 2

Spring (April/May) 2021



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!!

mca-mn@hotmail.com

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

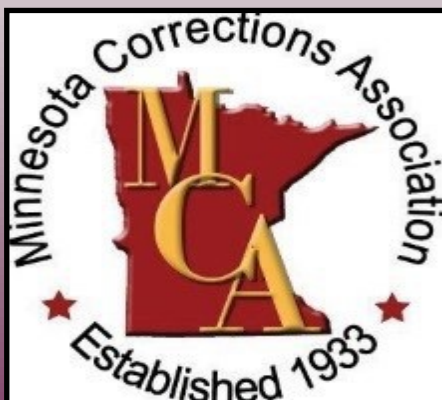
MCA website: www.mn-ca.org

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GET IN TOUCH!



**"Spring" into action and
join MCA today!**



President's Message

Mark Bliven, 2021 MCA President

As we make progress on dealing with Covid-19 we are also preparing ourselves to respond to the upcoming verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial and the fallout from the tragic police shooting death of another young man, Daunte Wright - father, son, and brother.

The disparate treatment of people of color is a fact of our society. It is something we need to respond to in a way that moves us to a society that values everyone in an equitable manner. We in Minnesota will be in the national spotlight with our moves and responses under a level of scrutiny that will affect us deeply in our jobs and entire lives.

We can't dismiss these issues as only applying to those serving in law enforcement positions. We are all accountable for how the criminal justice system works for those in the shadows as well as those who enjoy the sunshine of opportunities and achievements.

Those of us in the corrections field along with the many supporting community partners can continue to demonstrate and lead in restorative and transformative ways. We must hold ourselves accountable but also make sure we are supportive of those affected by the fear and trauma imposed by these continued inequities in our community.

Communication, outreach, and a willingness to simply listen is the way we can move forward with real change. We are stumbling but there is no shame in dedicated attempts to address these issues if they are sincere moves forward.

As I see a number of great people retire and move out of the corrections field I want us to make sure we are supporting those in the early stages of their corrections careers. Whether just starting in the treatment world, social services and housing, facility operations, community corrections, or one of many other fields all contributing to transitions to a more successful life we need to make sure that the veterans in the field support the future of our business. Nothing is more important than a warm hand-off of our responsibilities, passion, knowledge, and skills. That should be our goal along with making sure today that we enjoy and celebrate our contributions as we operate in this field but inevitably move on one day.

Our trainings, publications, and simple daily interactions are what make us successful and worthy of thanks for a job well-done. Please remember to give thanks and understanding to your colleagues who are working in this field in these stressful times.



Get **HELP**
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Mn Adult & Teen Challenge locations are now offering treatment and support services to any Minnesota resident via a secure virtual environment.

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LC- "Group online has been a blessing just for the fact that we can do it."

AB- "Telemedicine outpatient treatment has been very impactful in my life! I am very close to being finished with the program... and, because of telemedicine my life looks completely different and so much better than it did before I started. I know it is different than doing it in person, but I don't necessarily think it is a drawback... it is just a new and different way to do it. And, it works!"

TS- "This program is very personal for a virtual platform/I was impressed with the level of connectivity."

BG- "If telemedicine treatment was not offered through MNTC I would not have been able to take part in this amazing supportive group. I live in Chaska and currently have no driver license due to DWI. I had heard such amazing things about the MNTC program that I wanted to be able to take part in the program. Luckily I was able to do so because I could participate and interact with this group through zoom. I have found such an amazing group of supportive women in this group and one of the most compassionate counselors. I am not sure where I would be in my recovery without them."

AM- "I think that zoom has been very helpful in making it possible to attend group even if we are having transportation issues or time constraints. "

Client Testimonials

Client Testimonials



Tales from the past: AIDS Civilian Imprisoned at MCF-OPH.

By Roger Baburam, Communications Committee

"There is no medical or public health reason for denying this person entry into the United States, much less for placing him in a secure setting."

MN Commissioner of Health Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, (Mpls. Star and Tribune, Ap. 6, 1989).

In April 1989, Hans Paul Verhoef, a Netherland AIDS counselor and educator, stopped in the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on his way to San Francisco to attend the 7th International Annual AIDS Forum and the 11th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference. Customs officials noticed AZT in his baggage, the experimental drug used to prolong the lives of individuals with AIDS. He admitted he had the HIV virus, so the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detained him for immediate deportation.

He was detained under a late 19th century federal law that permitted immigration authorities to prevent foreigners from coming to the United States with a "dangerous and contagious disease." In 1987, Congress amended the law to include the HIV infection under the "contagious category" and any individuals seeking entry into the country were barred unless granted a waiver. Mr. Verhoef had not filed a waiver prior to his departure, however, he immediately filed for one after he was detained, but it was promptly denied on the grounds he posed too much of a risk of harm. INS then fingerprinted and handcuffed him and ordered his confinement until deportation. He immediately appealed his deportation and sought a waiver to the travel ban; his confinement was then extended until resolution from an immigration judge. He was eventually placed at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights (MCF-OPH).

Reaction

Without any criminal charges, Mr. Verhoef's detention at a maximum security prison created a national and international fervor. He became an instant, international *cause celebre* for AIDS activists. The main topic at the San Francisco conference he was to attend now became his confinement at MCF-OPH and the paranoia the disease generated. The international AIDS community objected to the immigration ban and threatened to boycott all future international AIDS Health Conferences in the U.S. Governor Rudy Perpich's administration was indignant about the INS decision; his Commissioner of Health, Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, called for Mr. Verhoef's immediate discharge and even called on President Bush to immediately apologize to him. She said, *"There is no medical or public health reason for denying this person entry into the United States, much less for placing him in a secure setting."* Minnesota congressmen Martin Sabo and Bruce Vento also called for his release and an inquiry into his detention.

Placement at MCF-OPH

INS thought custody confinement was necessary until there was a judicial resolution of his decision to appeal the deportation. After two days at the Scott County jail, Mr. Verhoef was transferred to the MCF-OPH medical unit as they thought this facility, with its medical accommodation and 24 hours medical personnel, was more appropriate.

Lt. Tom Hell, 3rd Watch shift commander at the time, remembers this episode well. He was briefed to the unique situation by Warden Frank Wood, then met Mr. Verhoef at Intake and escorted him to the medical unit, and provided him with a radio and a TV, per Warden Wood's instructions. The rooms in the medical unit are much larger than the regular cells and they have hospital beds with regular mattresses, instead of a mattress on a concrete slab. Lt. Hell said: "Staff all treated him very well, and we took no extra precautions as far as masks and gloves when we dealt with him." Dr. Ken Carlson, Health Service Director at the facility, said Mr. Verhoef did not require any special medical services but, per protocol, he was seen by a nurse. Dr. Carlson recalled staff referring to his placement at the facility as the "Commissioner Plan," a method to include him in the institution count. Both Lt. Hell and Dr. Carlson recalled Mr. Verhoef being pleasant.

A remarkable, unprecedented event for a MCF-OPH resident occurred when DOC Commissioner Pung and Warden Wood took Mr. Verhoef, uncuffed, out for breakfast at a nearby Perkins Restaurant. Their conversation was pleasant even though the circumstances were not. Later, Mr. Verhoef gave a press conference at the prison, where he acknowledged he was treated well by prison staff but indicated he was "stressed out" by the situation.

Immigration Resolution

Immigration Judge Robert Vinkoor overruled INS opposition, indicating Mr. Verhoef met the standards for a waiver from the law prohibiting HIV infected persons from entering the country and did not pose a substantial health risk. He was ordered to post a \$10,000 bond and given a deadline date to depart the country after the conference was over. INS sought an emergency appeal, but the Board of Immigration Appeals refused to stay the decision. He was released from MCF-OPH after six days confinement (including two days at the Scott County jail) to attend the remaining days of conference

Moral Panic

Now this incident is seen as an example of the 1980's panic surrounding the AIDs crisis. Minnesota Health Commissioner Sister Aston said, "We are astonished and appalled by the lack of basic knowledge about AIDS displayed by the INS." Other factors may have factored into the decision, including the economic recession and the fear of an influx of foreigners taking American jobs. The ban was finally repealed in 2010 under President Obama's administration, which referred to the travel ban as a "decision rooted in fear rather fact." Reflecting on this incident years later, the late DOC Commissioner Orville Pung said the INS response to this matter was manifestation of "collective stupidity," a scared response to AIDS.



Photo shows Lt. Tom Hell, who was the MCF-OPH watch commander when Mr. Verhoef was admitted to the prison

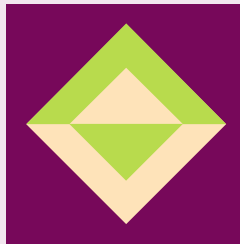
Conclusion

The placement of a Dutch citizen at MCF-OPH, in April 1989, occupied, albeit briefly, national and international headlines. Mr. Verhoef was the first foreign traveler in Minnesota to be turned away by INS under this travel ban thus becoming the first time most Americans became aware of such a ban. The irony of the story is that an AIDS prevention professional was prevented from attending an AIDS health conference even though health professionals declared HIV not contagious through casual contact.

It is a testimony to the professionalism of MCF-OPH staff that Mr. Verhoef was treated with such dignity and that the staff did not succumb to the prevalent paranoia and panic of the disease. And undoubtedly, there has never been a case—and probably never will be—where a corrections commissioner and a prison warden took a resident from a maximum-security facility out for breakfast without restraints.

Sadly, Mr. Verhoef succumbed to the disease and passed away in the Netherlands in 1990. But a powerful end to the story is that Judge Richard Vinikoor, who released Mr. Verhoef, talked with his then 10-year-old son, Michael, about the case. This, to a great extent, inspired the young man to become an infectious disease physician, specializing in primary care for HIV positive patients.

I am grateful to the late Commissioner Orville Pung for telling me about this incident and to MCF-OPH's retired Lt. David Korte for his assistance in gathering information for this article (and to his wife, Karen Erickson, for her editorial assistance).



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Consumer Electronics Show 2021

It has been practice over the past few years that the first article of the year submitted by the Technology Committee addresses the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. During a typical January, the presence of the Consumer Electronics Show in and around Las Vegas is unmistakable. Hotel prices skyrocket, restaurants and clubs are packed, and workers log extra hours to ensure everything goes on without a hitch. Last year there were approximately 170,000 attendees, which generated approximately 169 million dollars in direct spending.

It was expected that we would see a large number of pandemic-inspired technology, with products designed to keep your hands to yourself. Among them was a new video doorbell from Alarm.com that uses video analytics to ring itself whenever it sees someone standing at your door. You would no longer have to press a button, and the built-in camera and microphone lets you talk with visitors through your phone without opening the door (similar to what is already on the market with Ring). There is even labeling on the doorbell which directs the visitor not to touch it. It can also trigger smart lights. This doorbell can also differentiate between people, animals, and packages. <https://investors.alarm.com/news-releases/press-release-details/2021/ADDING-MULTIMEDIA-Alarm.com-Develops-the-First-Touchless-Video-Doorbell/default.aspx>



Gaming company Razer introduced a high-tech N-95 mask. A concept at this point (called Project Hazel), this mask would be a high-tech face mask with active ventilation, a clear shield to see people, and a case that recharges the ventilators along with sanitizing of the mask via UV as it is charging. It also has LED lights on it!

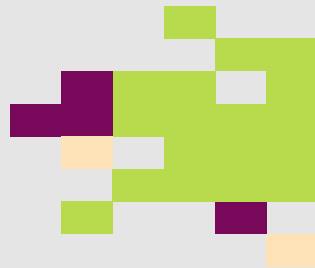
<https://www.razer.com/concepts/razer-project-hazel>

Senior citizens have been a high-risk group for many reasons during this pandemic. A product was introduced at CES meant to help them has to be the smartest ceiling lamp out there. It is called the Nobi. It uses sensors and AI (Artificial Intelligence) for active monitoring, and can detect falls and other risks, and send alerts. It also has a built-in smoke detector, and air-quality sensor, and a 4G SIM card in case wi-fi goes down or is turned off for any reason.

<https://nobi.life/>



The year of going virtual is intimidating for lots of folks going forward. “This is the new normal” is a line thrown about now. 2020 was the testbed for operating virtually, whether it be conventions or meetings with your colleagues. We learned to operate more efficiently. More technology will lean on progress made and take advantage of a change in what is “normal” now. Just don’t forget what human beings need the most....not the latest technology, but each other.



This article was submitted by:

Joe Ventre

Technology Committee Chair



Past President Photos – Can You Help?

Submitted by: *Mary Oberstar; Past President*

MCA's website includes a link to past presidents listed by year, along with a photo if we have one.

Our goal is to have a photo of each of our past presidents and we're asking for your help! If you know any of the past presidents, or family or friends of them, will you please reach out to see if you can obtain a photo? If you have one, please send it to MCA at mca-mn@hotmail.com with "past president photo" in the subject line and ensuring the past president's name is listed in the email.

Here are the names of those without a photo, and the year he/she served as MCA's president.

1933-1934 Howard R. Hush	1935 John J. Doyle	1936 Arthur C. Lindholm
1937 Stanley Hedstrom	1938-1939 Joseph H. DeWitt	1942 Arnold Walthers
1943 William Esau	1944 John Zbaracki	1945 Franklin Petri
1946 Eugene Burns	1947 Martin Nilan	1948 Leonard Gibson
1949 Donald McFarlane	1951 W.F. Mero	1952 Edward Sedio
1953 Ray Horwath	1954 Allen Hallberg	1955 Olaf Swenson
1957 Gordon Nelson	1959 Ken Young	1961 Eugene Burns
1964 Jay Willett	1965 Robert Wyckoff	1970 William Henschel
1972 Harvey Akerson	1981 Audrey Bakke	1989 Tom Zoet

I believe our collective membership can accomplish this goal of a photo for each of our past presidents!

If you have never visited the past presidents page, you can find it here: <http://www.mn-ca.org/Members>. You must be a member to view it, so please log in and scroll about ¾ of the way down to where it says "Past President Photos" & click that link to the names.

Thank you!



180° Degrees

Turning lives around

CLIFTON PLACE

A Twin Cities program for formerly incarcerated men

Clifton Place supports and provides resources for clients to secure stable employment and housing and maintain sobriety. **We offer support through:**

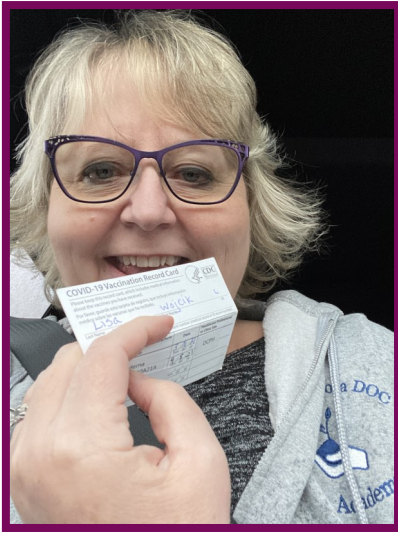
- short-term housing
- structured programming
- case management
- transitional housing opportunities

OVER 9,000

men have transitioned back into the community after incarceration after Clifton's Place.

OVER 70%

of men who go through the Clifton Place successfully graduate from the program.



I can't remember the last time I was so excited about something in my life! Ok, I can remember – it's been the births of my granddaughters and my sons getting married. But getting the COVID vaccination was incredibly important to me. I was diagnosed with immune deficiency last year and my husband has medical issues impacting his immune system. This meant we both had to be incredibly diligent about everywhere we went, people we interacted with, and keeping ourselves safe. It's been a long year of rarely leaving our home. Getting the vaccination has now given me a feeling of freedom, and I'm very grateful!

- Lisa Wojcik, Minncor CEO

Proud to be vaccinated!



I received the vaccine because I wanted to not only protect myself from the potentially life-threatening side effects of contracting COVID, but to also reduce the possibility of transmission of COVID to others. I believe in the science behind vaccinations and am so grateful we were able to witness what global cooperation and funding can do to help protect the health of humans. I wanted to be a part of the group that would help MN reach herd immunity through vaccination and am grateful that the Department of Corrections provided a safe and simple way of receiving the vaccine.

- Jessica Raptis, State Program Administrator, Sr.



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Legislative Affairs

Calvin Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison

As I prepare this report for inclusion in the next edition of the FORUM, I just left another "zoom" legislative committee Session, as these past few weeks we seem to be spending most days and even late night sessions. Committees are now reviewing and hearing comments on the many Omnibus bills that are under review.

I've previously discussed the content of the House Public Safety Omnibus bill and the appropriation for that Division. The Omnibus bill is over 100 pages and as introduced, contained at least thirty five policy provisions from bills heard by the Committee during the current Session. Last week this Committee spent about 11 hours through three days milling through the bill and hearing at least thirty three amendments during these sessions, thus changing the language of the bill, and requiring it to be heard by other Committees. Last week, the Ways and Means Committee took a close look at the House Judiciary and Civil Law Division Omnibus bill, and following extensive discussion, ended up attaching that bill to the House Public Safety bill, which makes the current proposal quite different than the original document.

Last week we finally had access to the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Appropriations bill and their Omnibus bill. The Senate document is quite shorter than the House version and only includes fourteen policy provisions. It includes some changes to Drug offenses, some change to Child Porn and Sex Trafficking, Domestic Violence pilot programs, and alternatives to incarceration, among them. The Appropriations budget falls somewhat lower than the House bill or the Governor's second amended recommendations. These of course, will be the specifics to be debated in the Conference Committee.

Once each Division passes their Omnibus bills and they do not match in language, a Committee Conference Committee is named comprised of three Senators and three Representatives including the Committee's Chairs. They meet as necessary to bring the bills into conformance, and then need to be adopted by each of the full bodies in each Division. If this cannot be accomplished, the bill dies for this session.

The top priority for the Legislature this year is to adopt a Budget for 2022-23 and 2023-24. Failure to do this could result in another government shutdown, which we are already hearing from several close to the process. The budget must be in place prior to June 30, 2021 to avoid the shutdown.

This has been a very difficult year for Legislators, particularly those dealing with Public Safety issues as Policing issues continue to be the primary discussion because of the daily headlines. Almost all of the amendments to bills that we're seeing now, are addressing the policing behavior. Rep. Brian Johnson, a former police officer from Cambridge, calls the legislative proposals "hostile" to law enforcement and Public Safety.

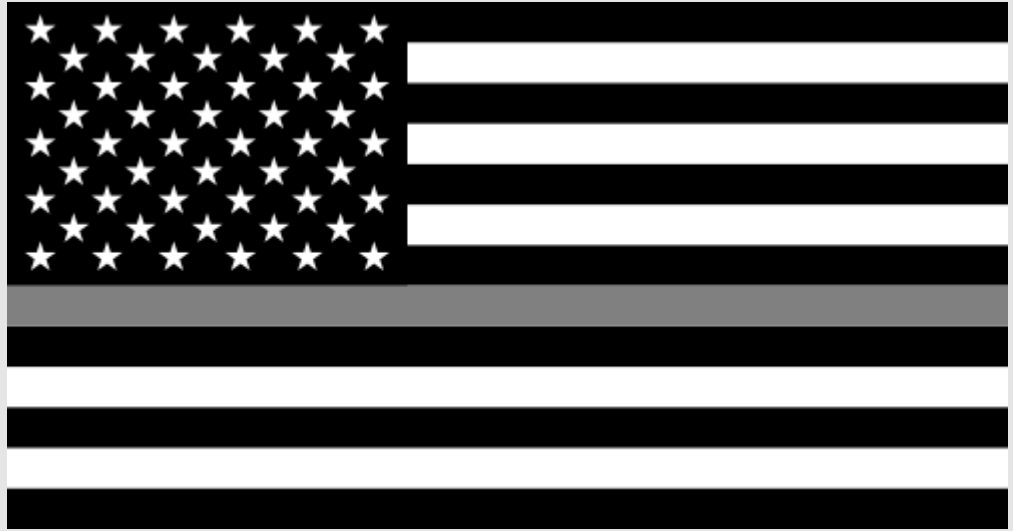
It's going to continue to be a very busy time up to adjournment on May 17th. And to say the least, a very challenging time for Legislators. There is already some talk in legislative circles that another special session or two could well be on the horizon.

Please look at the MCA website for more detailed information on the bills in Public Safety in my Legislative Update reports. Thanks for your comments and for your support as we all work through this difficult time. Oh, how we need in-person meetings again!! Let's all do our part to expedite the return to some normalcy!



Corrections Officer Week

May 2nd - May 8th



By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Correctional officers have the difficult and often dangerous assignment of ensuring the custody, safety and well-being of the over 600,000 inmates in our Nation's prisons and jails. Their position is essential to the day-to-day operations of these institutions; without them it would be impossible to achieve the foremost institutional goals of security and control.

Historically, correctional officers have been viewed as "guards," occupying isolated and misunderstood positions in prisons and jails. In recent years, the duties of these officers have become increasingly complex and demanding. They are called upon to fill, simultaneously, custodial, supervisory and counseling roles. The professionalism, dedication and courage exhibited by these officers throughout the performance of these demanding and often conflicting roles deserve our utmost respect. The important work of correctional Officers often does not receive the recognition from the public it deserves. It is appropriate that we honor the many contributions and accomplishments of these men and women who are a vital component of the field of corrections.

In recognition of the contributions of correctional officers to our Nation, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 132, has designated the week beginning May 6, 1984, as "National Correctional Officers Week," and authorized and requested the President to issue an appropriate proclamation.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 6, 1984, as National Correctional Officers Week. I call upon officials of State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

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Community Justice Services

Building relationships, responsibility, quality of life and opportunity for successful and positive reentry



Amicus

For over 50 years, Amicus has helped build successful lives and stronger communities. Amicus One to One is one of the state's longest standing and most successful transitional mentoring programs for those leaving incarceration. We also offer a variety of services providing pre and post-release reentry support, including:

- Drop-In Reentry Support (employment, housing, etc.)
- Employment preparation training
- Support groups for men and women and more!

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www.voamnwi.org/community-justice

Residential Reentry Centers

For nearly 50 years Volunteers of America Minnesota has provided residential re-entry services for men and women who are allowed to complete part of their prison sentences in the community. The centers maintain around the clock shift staff and a strict system of accountability.

The facilities offer participants reentry support in areas such as:

- Financial education - Job readiness - Healthy relationships
- Time and anger management - Cognitive reconstruction and more.

Residents have an opportunity to transition back into community gradually and thoughtfully, while avoiding further involvement in the criminal justice system. Participants are referred to the centers by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Probation Office, or by the Minnesota Department of Corrections Work Release Unit.

2021 MCA Monthly Trainings

May 21st: RS EDEN—Kathleen Fischer

June 8th: Level 3 Offenders—Ryan Ruzich

July 16th—Reentry Services—Transitions

August 20th: HRU/OSI—Jeff Dansky & Kristin Lang

September 17th—Ethics and Professional Boundaries—Mark Groves

October 15th: The Hills Youth & Family Services—Eric Mattson

October 27th—29th: Annual Training Institute

November 19th: Silver Line Support

Student Services

Did you know that students can be members of the Minnesota Corrections Association? We have many opportunities for internships and employment posted on our website for students and those already in the workforce. Through our connections we are able to assist in getting those who are interested involved with both an opportunity to intern with one of our partners or seek employment through available job postings. Check this out today! If you have students who are interested in connecting with MCA, please have them contact the MCA Student Services Chair, Melissa McCann at Melissa.mccann@state.mn.us.



This is Us!

Mark Bliven, 2021 MCA President has been working in the field of public safety and corrections for decades with most of his career in the area of risk assessment and community notification with the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

An early transplant from northwestern Minnesota into the Twin Cities, Mark attended Macalester College and William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul and has made his home in Saint Paul for most of that time. A two-year "sabbatical" to work in the Wisconsin legislature was book-ended by work with the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board) in the areas of rule writing and pre-service education administration.

Mark is looking forward to a year of continued growth in MCA's important contributions to the vitality and improvement of corrections related careers.



Mark Bliven—MCA President



Jane Schmid—President-Elect

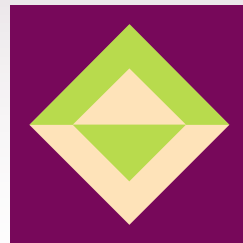


Jane Schmid is a Career Corrections Agent with Brown County Probation, providing supervision of high risk/high need justice involved juveniles through an Intensive Supervision Probation Specialty Court program. Jane has been the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) agent for juveniles for the past 13 years, and has also served as supervising agent for the former Brown County Juvenile AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) and Treatment Specialty Court. For the past five years, Jane has been the Chair of MN Corrections Association (MCA) Juvenile Justice Committee and represents MCA on the governor's state advisory group, Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC). Prior to turning to probation, Jane worked as a Licensed Social Worker in children's mental health and child welfare/protection in Nicollet and Sibley Counties for nearly 10 years, and has experience in residential care with the Sheriff's Youth Programs of MN and The Bridge of Runaway Youth in Minneapolis. Jane is a 1993 graduate of St. Thomas University with a BA in Social Work. She is dedicated to working with youth in need, with a focus on mental and chemical health issues with a special emphasis in creating a unified effort with other corrections organizations toward juvenile justice legislative change. Jane was the 2019 recipient of the MCA Professional Achievement: Field Services award and is the current MCA President-Elect to serve in 2022.



"Hi! I'm Kaylee Henson and I am a Probation Agent with Wright County Court Services. I have been fortunate enough to serve as MCA's Secretary for the past two years. I am a wife and a mother to a two-year-old son and a three month old baby girl. When I have a minute to myself (which isn't often with a toddler and an infant 😊), you can find me binge watching reality tv shows!

Kaylee Henson—MCA Secretary



Intensive Supervised Release Agent with DFO Community Corrections.

I have worked with Olmsted County for 21 years, starting in Child protection and as an ISR agent for 16 years. I grew up in Nebraska and went to college in Sioux City IA as Briar Cliff University.

I have been active with MCA initially as the secretary and most recently as the treasurer.

Within DFO I am active with out Diversity/Inclusion efforts in the County. I am also on a work group with the National Institute of Corrections to develop nationwide probation standards within the next year.

Outside of work I enjoy traveling, fishing, and working out.

Being part of MCA is very valuable due to the strong relationships I have built. Partnering with other agencies has always been something I strive to do.

Robyn Wood—Treasurer





Laura Anderson—Vice President

Laura Anderson began her career with the MN Department of Corrections 15 years ago at MCF-Red Wing. In January of 2006, she was hired as an Office and Administrative Specialist Intermediate in the Records department and was promoted to State Program Administrator – Transition in September of 2006. In February of 2017, Laura completed a Corrections Security Caseworker Work out of Class assignment in the Transition department. She transferred to MCF-Stillwater and MCF-Oak Park Heights for a Work out of Class Corrections Transition Program Coordinator assignment in December 2017. Upon her return to MCF-Red Wing in February 2018 she was promoted to Corrections Juvenile Program Coordinator – Reentry. Currently, Laura's primary role is to teach youth Independent Living Skills throughout their incarceration, plan and implement transition program services and work individually on specific transition plans with youth returning to the community.

Throughout her career, Laura has been actively involved in Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA). She is currently serving as the MCA Executive Board Vice President and was re-elected after her 2019 and 2020 term. She also served as the Executive Board Secretary in 2013 and was the Nominating Committee Chair from 2014-2018.

At MCF-Red Wing she is the Public Relations Committee Chair and Account Manager and has been filling this role since 2006. Other committee work has been on the MCF-RW Performance Based Standards (PBS) Committee and also plans the annual Transition Re-Entry Fairs.

In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family, camping, volleyball and playing softball. Her love for softball presented an opportunity from March 2009 to March 2017 to be the City of Red Wing Women's Softball League Director.

Debbie Beltz— Administrative Manager

Debbie began working at MCF-Lino Lakes in 1995 in an emergency-temporary position in the Office Services area which led to a permanent position in 1996. She has been the Warden's Executive Assistant since 2004.

Debbie has been MCA's Administrative Manager since 2012. Her involvement with MCA began in 1998 when she attended her first MCA training event. Seeing what a great training event the Fall Institute was, Debbie began volunteering on the Hospitality & Networking Sub-Committee for the Fall Institute and after several years on that sub-committee, she began co-chairing the Fall Institute Committee.

Debbie is honored to be associated with an organization whose members provide correctional services that promote the rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals; provide safety for the public; and believe in the principles of restorative justice.





Mark Groves, MCA Liaison

Mark is the MCA Liaison. He served as the MCA president in 2018. He is currently a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Minnesota State Services for the Blind. Prior to this position, he was the Division Director of Rehabilitative and Veterans Services for the Volunteers of America MN with overall supervision of 85 employees. He assessed and evaluated program results and strategy for continual outcome improvement for two Residential Reentry Facilities serving 132 Federal Bureau of Prisons and Minnesota Department of Corrections offenders reentering the community. Developed and managed workforce development programs; housing, transportation, family reunification, et al. Directed Amicus programs designed to assist offenders in building new lives, both before and after release including the One-to-One mentoring program, Reconnect reentry program, and Sisters Helping Sisters prerelease program at MCF-Shakopee. Assured compliance with organizational policy, government employment policy and standards for funding sources. Recruited, led, trained and provided recognition to community programs and volunteers engaged in programs.

He worked at the Minnesota Department of Corrections as the Facilities Reentry Coordinator providing oversight to all reentry program elements in Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities; providing support and coordination to varied agencies and community resources involved in offender transitions; providing program direction and supervision of facility-based transition coordinators; planning, implementing and managing reentry programs and initiatives at all DOC correctional facilities;

He has a Master of Education from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota. He is a Minnesota Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADC). Certified Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF). National Institute of Corrections Offender Workforce Development Facilitator (OWDS) Master Trainer. Motivational Interviewing Master Trainer.

Mary Oberstar, Past President

I've been an MCA member for most of my years working in corrections & have served in various capacities with MCA – currently as the past president and chair of the awards committee. I served as MCA's president in 2020, served in various capacities with the fall institute, and as the student services committee chair.

I've worked for the Minnesota Department of Corrections for many years and will be retiring the end of April 2021. I look forward to continuing my involvement with MCA as a retired member!



Shannon Fette is a Ramsey County Community Corrections supervisor working in St. Paul, MN. Ms. Fette started in Ramsey County working with pre-trial services in 1998. She furthered her career when she was employed in Ramsey County Community Corrections in 2001. Ms. Fette joined the Ramsey County Adult Substance Abuse Court in 2009 as a case manager/probation officer. While in this position, the Drug Court team was one of ten mentor courts known for following Best Practices as well as implementing an internal mental health clinic. Ms. Fette was promoted to supervisor in 2014. Ms. Fette continues to enhance her skills with supervision of alternative programs to incarceration including treatment courts.

Shannon Fette, Annual Training Institute



Amy has a lengthy history in corrections beginning in 1996 with Hennepin County. She worked in Scott County Community Corrections and landed her career in 2001 in Ramsey County Community Corrections. Her experience overlaps with juveniles as well as adult services and now is in the Predatory Offender Unit. Amy has been an active volunteer with MCA since 1999. She has volunteered in various capacities of the MCA Fall Institute and has been co-chair of the Fall Conference Committee and a Board Member since 2013.

Amy Moeckel, Annual Training Institute

A 58-year-old sales assistant at office supplies store who enjoys Rubix cube, extreme ironing and vandalizing bus stops. He is brave and smart, but can also be sadistic and a bit unstable.

He is addicted to shopping. The problem intensified in 1980. Dan has lost four jobs as a result of his addiction, specifically: local activist, health center receptionist, scientific researcher and junior manager.

Dan is slightly overweight but otherwise in good shape. He is tall with fair skin, mouse hair and green eyes. He grew up in a middle class neighborhood but has never been able to live up to the expectations set forth by the group of silver back gorillas that raised him.

For those of you that know Dan, he is a jokester and this bio is all in fun. He just doesn't want us to know what great things he has done throughout his career and all the years he has volunteered with MCA! Dan remains deeply indebted to Amy and Shannon for letting him continue to play along...

**Dan Raden,
Annual Training Institute**

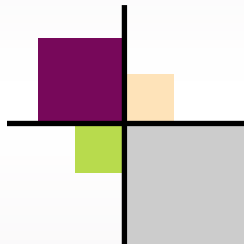




Tara Rathman is a 2002 graduate of Minnesota State University – Mankato, with a bachelor's degree in Corrections, and a 2006 graduate of Concordia University with a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She has worked in corrections since 2002 and held various positions within the Department. As an agent, she supervised youthful offenders, maintained a group supervision caseload, an enhanced sex offender caseload and spent over four years as an ISR/CIP agent in the Mankato DOC Office. She spent a short time at MCF-Lino Lakes as a Case Manager before assuming her position as a Hearing Officer in 2013, with a promotion to Senior Hearing Officer in February of 2015. She is currently the primary policy manager for that unit. During her time in corrections, she has been actively involved in several projects, committees and trainings. In 2016, Tara became chair of the Communications Committee for MCA and has been active in that capacity ever since. She enjoys her work with the Department of Corrections and is grateful for the opportunity to chair this committee and participate in board-related meetings and activities.

Tara Rathman—

Communications Committee



Kari Boser, Juvenile Justice

Kari Boser is a Corrections Security Caseworker Career at the MN Correctional Facility-Red Wing. She has been with the DOC since 2013, and has also worked in the capacity of Corrections Officer, and Clinical Program Therapist-Chemical Dependency. Kari has been working in the juvenile justice and chemical dependency fields in a variety of capacities since 2004. She has a passion for working with at risk youth, especially those who struggle with substance use. Kari joined the MCA Juvenile Justice Committee in 2015. Kari describes her involvement with MCA and the Juvenile Justice Committee as one of the most rewarding decisions she has made in her career. Kari says she enjoys the opportunity to be involved with the criminal justice system in a larger capacity and has gained invaluable knowledge and resources as a result.





Call Saari,

Legislative Liaison

Cal was born in Butte, Montana, but raised in Hibbing from an early age and was a boyhood friend of Bob Zimmerman (Bob Dylan) and graduated from Hibbing High School. He has spent his entire life there except for college years in Duluth. He served an active role in the National Student Association and spent time at Ohio State University in Columbus and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, all while continuing his studies in Sociology and Psychology at Duluth. He was one of the first two students to be accepted for a field internship at the University and was assigned to the Department of Corrections office in Duluth. He completed his undergraduate work at UMD in March, 1964, receiving a BA degree, and just a few days after finishing his classwork, he was solicited for a position as Probation Officer in St. Louis County in his home town. It was an offer too good to turn down so he returned to Hibbing and started as a Juvenile Probation Officer on March 29, 1964, and remained with this same agency until his retirement in September, 2003, ending a 39 1/2 year career. His last twenty years were spent as a Court and Field Supervisor on the Iron Range (Camp Swampy, as he fondly calls it!)

As a young Probation Officer, he had very close ties to the law enforcement community. He served as President of the Arrowhead Police and Peace Officers Association on two different occasions, has spent years as a POST board instructor and has taught classes at Hibbing Community College. He became a well-known public speaker and toastmaster which continues today.

When he opted to retire in the Fall of 2003, he had free time for only a few weeks. He established his own consulting business on government relations when he was recruited by in-coming MCA President Chuck Ness, to join the MCA team in its legislative effort. The rest is history. Within a short time frame, he was placed under contract to lead the legislative affairs for MCA at the Legislature. As he began this effort, he committed to the MCA Board of Directors that he would do everything he could to enhance the image of MCA in legislative circles showing government leaders that this organization has a wealth of expertise and leadership which can be most useful as we strive for best practices in the criminal justice system.

Currently Cal is as busy as ever serving clients such as MCA, several Corrections organizations around the state and several local units of government. He is also a current elected official serving as a District Supervisor for the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation Board, currently serving as the Board Treasurer. He is also serving as the Lt. Governor for the Kiwanis International Mn-Dak District.

Mary has a BA in Criminal Justice & Psychology from St. Cloud State University and MA in Human Development from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. She started her formal corrections involvement as a member of the Ramsey County Community Corrections Advisory Board and over her nearly 40-year career has worked as a Pre-trial Services Counselor at Project Remand, Inc., Adult Probation/Parole Agent for Dakota County Community Corrections and Clinical Program Therapist & Release Planner in DOC's SOTP program in addition to other related mental health and volunteer experiences. She was a member of the MCA Legislative Committee during her time as an Agent primarily working with the legislature on Community Notification, Predatory Offender Registration and caseload reduction issues. She retired from the DOC in 2019 and returned to involvement with the Legislative Committee and presently serves as a member of the DHS Special Review Board reviewing cases civilly committed as MI&D, SDP & SPP.

Mary Cardinal, Legislative Committee

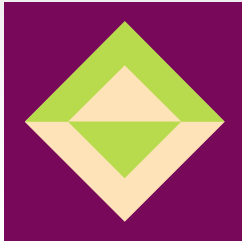




Co-Chair of Education and Training Committee and Member for the MCA Fall Conference Training Committee. With almost 29 years working in Corrections Cheri is currently a Case manager at MCF Moose Lake. Prior to working at MCF Moose Lake she was a caseworker at CIP in Willow River, ISR/CIP Agent for DOC, and an Agent/Probation Officer for the DOC- Mora/Pine City offices as well as Pine and Anoka Counties.

She has enjoyed the ability to work in the various delivery systems and roles throughout her career. She is looking forward to retirement in the near future, yet notes it has been great getting to meet and know so many great and awesome staff within Corrections.

Cheri Humphrey—Education & Training Committee



My name is Pat Gerbozy co-chair of the MCA education committee. I have a 37 year career with the State of MN in various education settings. The last 13 have been with the DOC-Faribault as an administrative assistant in the education office. I have been a MCA member for three years and on the MCA education committee for two.

I love to tent camp wherever my car takes me and working in my flower gardens.

I look forward to working with other committees and members of MCA.



Pat Gerbozy, Education & Training Committee

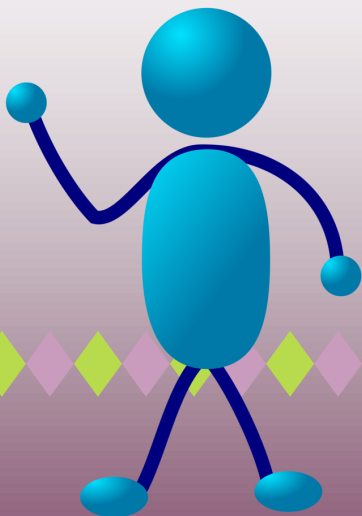


Wayne Niles has worked in the Environmental, Safety and Health industry for 25 years and moved to the Department of Corrections 6 years ago. Currently, he's the Director of Safety. Wayne graduated from Columbia Southern University with his Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Safety Management. He also holds his Masters in Environmental, Safety and Health from CSU. He was a paid on-call firefighter from 1989 to 2010. He has also served as a behavior-based safety specialist.

Wayne love to golf and play softball in his free time.

Wayne Niles, Safety Committee

Joe Ventre, Technology Committee



MCA Tech Committee Chair since 2020. Tech Committee member since 2016. Senior DOC ISR/CIP agent in Hennepin/Dakota county, agent since 2018. Worked for the DOC since April 2009. Current instructor for DOC Field Services Agent Safety. Former instructor for Control Tactics/Self Defense and Firearms at the MCF-Faribault. Current committee member of the Community Services Safety Advisory Committee. Former committee member of the following: DOC Strategic Planning Workgroup on Employee Safety, and MCF-Faribault Workforce Development. Master's Degree in Public Safety and Law Enforcement Leadership from University of St. Thomas.

Landyn Prescott-Miles, MS, LPCC started her state service in 2007. She has worked at the Department of Human Services as Behavioral Analyst, the Department of Corrections as a Mental Health Program Therapist and as a Corrections Case Manager. She currently works for Minnesota Management and Budget as an Organizational Health Consultant as a member of the Health Solutions Team. In her years of state service, she has served on numerous committees such as Workforce Development, DOC Staff Professionalism Committee, and served as the co-chair for Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. For seven years she served as a steward in MAPE. Landyn is a member of the Minnesota Corrections Association and co-chairs MCA's Silver Line Support Committee. She is an active member of the Midwest (Chicago) chapter of Association for Threat Assessment Professionals.

Landyn earned her Bachelor's Degree at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and her Master's Degree at St. Cloud State University. She is currently working towards her doctorate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. She considers herself a lifelong learner and continues to develop her knowledge base as she advocates for a safe, collaborative Minnesota Workforce.



Landyn Prescott-Miles

Silver Line Support Committee

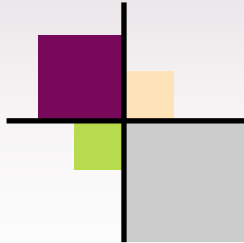


Lori is the Director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services for Family Pathways. Family Pathways domestic violence sexual assault services serves Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Carlton Counties. Lori is currently a doctoral candidate studying criminal and social justice at Liberty University with a completion date of 2023. Lori has a Master of Arts degree in Addiction Studies, and Bachelor of Science Degree in Police Science. Lori is married with 6 children and 4 grandchildren, along with her husband John, she enjoys traveling, sports, and spending time with family.



JoAnn M. Brown has worked directly in corrections for over 13 years coordinating employment services for individual releasing back into the community across the state of Minnesota. She been a member of MCA for the same amount of time. In 2018, she was asked to serve as the Sponsorship Committee Chair and still works in this capacity. JoAnn enjoys motivating and helping people to realize their fullest potential

JoAnn Brown, Sponsorship Committee



Melissa is a member of the Minnesota Corrections Association Board of Directors, working as the Student Services chair. She has been involved with MCA for several years. She is a Corrections Security Caseworker Career at the MN Department of Corrections and has worked for the department since 2004. She is actively involved in recruitment within the department, which seamlessly connects to her involvement in the Student Services Committee. She has a passion for recruitment, teaching, and reaching students to get them connected with the field of corrections.

Melissa has been involved in department strategic planning on recruitment and retention, is currently a DOC recruiter and recruitment coordinator at MCF-Red Wing. She also supervises the internship program at MCF-Red Wing.

Melissa graduated from Hamline University in 2003 with BA degree in Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Psychology. She returned to college to attend Metropolitan State University for alcohol and drug counseling and been a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor through the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy since 2008.



Melissa McCann

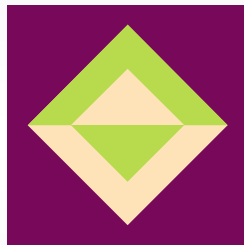
Student Services Committee



Hello! My name is Katie Campbell, and I co-chair the MCA Spring Workshop committee. I have been an MCA member since 2014, and a Corrections Agent with the Minnesota Department of Corrections since 2010. I work in the Faribault County Court Services office in Blue Earth supervising adult Gross Misdemeanor/ Misdemeanor and juvenile cases. My favorite activities include spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, sports, camping, and being on the lake!

Katie Campbell

Spring Workshop Committee



Ryan Busch—Spring Workshop Committee

Hi! I am Ryan Busch, co-chair of the MCA Spring Workshop committee. Thank you so much for attending the recent 2021 Spring Workshop "Criminal Minds-Working with offenders with various mental health needs" I currently work at Wright County Court Services as the Domestic Violence Intensive Supervision Agent and co-facilitate the Batterer's Intervention Program. I have been with Wright County for 16 years and also started my career at MCF-Lino Lakes. I enjoy outdoor activities like hunting and fishing, sports, and spending time with family and friends. Have a great summer everyone!





Sunday, May 9th

2nd May 2019

Happy Mother's Day!
from your friends at the
MN Corrections Association

MCA Awards

By: Mary Oberstar, Past President/Awards Committee Chair

2021 MCA Awards Nominations!

Who of the many phenomenal people doing exemplary work in the field of corrections or those who partner with corrections will you nominate for a 2021 MCA Award?

Awards are given for the following categories:

- Corrections Person of the Year
- Corrections Officer of the Year
- Professional Achievement Award—Correctional Facility
- Professional Achievement Award—Field Services
- Technology Award
- President's Award
- Board of Director's Award

Keep your eyes out for an eblast soon with the criteria, nomination form, and email address to submit your nomination!

MCA Membership Opportunities

While our opportunities to network and provide training were put to a halt in 2020, **MCA Training Events have returned.**

MCA is also here, working for you through continued reviews and research on best practices, following & reporting on legislative action, and through other means.

Membership opportunities...

- **Individual Annual Membership: \$35**
- **Retiree \$50 lifetime Membership ~** For a limited time, MCA is waiving the requirement for individuals who are Corrections Retirees to become an individual member before applying for a Retiree lifetime membership. (That saves retirees \$35).
Contact the MCA Office to join! mca-mn@hotmail.com
- **Student Membership: \$10. Must meet student membership criteria.**
- **MACCAC/MACPO/MSSA/MARRCH members ~** You can get an MCA Individual membership for \$25* (That's a \$10 savings off your first year).
Contact the MCA Office to join! mca-mn@hotmail.com
*Applies to new MCA memberships.



Distanced ~ But Together

October 27th - 29th

The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Annual Training Institute Committee is pleased to announce we are returning in person to Grandview Lodge for the 2021 Annual Training Institute.

PRESENTER PROPOSALS BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL MAY 28th.
[Click here for Presenter Proposal form](#)

Conference chair members include:

Dan Raden/Amy Moeckel/Shannon Fette – Co-Chair

Tom Redmond/Tom Jungman – Arrangements

Christine Schweich/Margit Heald– Program

Vicki Lanners/Jean Wipper – Registration

Jason Mereness/Jae Wiese– Resource Fair

Raul Sanchez/Adriana Dibella- Hospitality/Networking

Stay tuned for updates on the MCA website at www.mn-ca.org !

Fall Institute Speaker Highlights Already Include:

Kelly Swanson is an award-winning storyteller, comedian, motivational speaker, Huffington Post Contributor, and cast member of *The Fashion Hero* television show airing on Amazon Prime. She is also author of *Who Hijacked My Fairy Tale*, *The Land of If Only*, *The Story Formula*, and *The Gutsy Girls Pocket Guide to Public Speaking*. She was a featured entertainer for Holland America Cruise Lines, keynote speaker for the International Toastmasters Convention, and has keynoted major conferences and corporate events from coast to coast.

Kelly's wacky wit and powerful stories have charmed hearts and tickled funny bones for over 15 years. In addition to her role as a funny motivational speaker, Kelly teaches people how she does it by sharing what she has learned about connecting and engaging to have more influence in business, through the use of one tool – strategic storytelling. Sharing her own powerful journey through story and the formula she discovered, you come to that magical place where the art of story meets the business of persuasion.

Kay Frances: Known as “America’s Funniest Stressbuster,” Kay Frances has shared her message to “lighten up, stress less and take care of ourselves” in 38 states and Canada for over 25 years. She holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration, a degree in Physical Education and a 4th degree black belt in karate. She was also a family caregiver for 7 years.

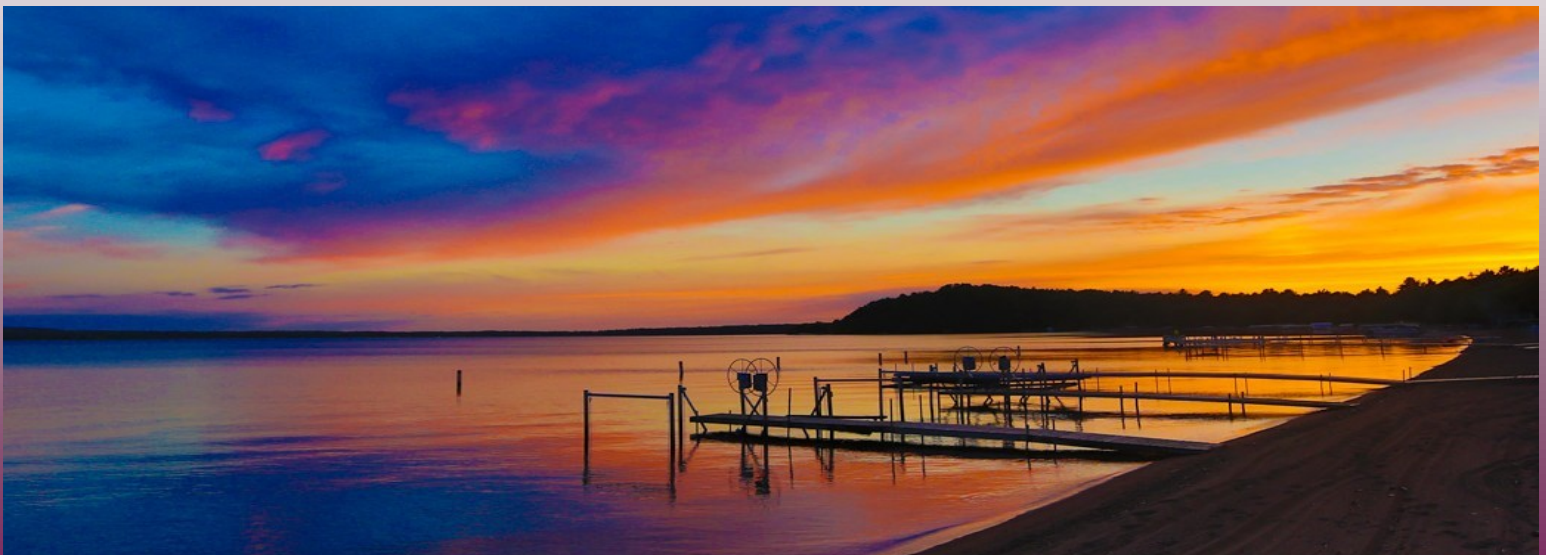
Kay is the author of *The Funny Thing about Stress; A Seriously Humorous Guide to a Happier Life*.

When it comes to humor, Kay is the “real deal” having performed as a professional standup comedian for many years and appearing on a number of national television and radio programs including Lifetime Cable’s *Girls Night Out* and NBC’s *America’s Funniest People*. She also lived and performed in New York City where she appeared at the nation’s top comedy clubs such as “The Improvisation” and “Catch a Rising Star.”

When it comes to managing stress, Kay learned the hard way by engaging in every unhealthy habit known to man before making her way back to good health and sanity. It was a long, winding, hilarious road!

James Robilotta: James is an author, professional speaker, personal coach, and trained improv comedian. After nearly 15 years of building, training, supervising, and evaluating teams, James followed an entrepreneurial dream and built two successful businesses. One is an organization that incorporates freestyle rapping into improv comedy (a story for another day). The other is his speaking and coaching business (a story for today).

With years of research (and a few too many real-life case studies within his work), James learned everything he could about authenticity in the workplace and uses this insight to host conversations about communication, rapport building, engagement, feedback, retention, promoting memorability, life balance, increased productivity, and more. James has been speaking professionally to willing and unwilling audiences for years and has found that quality humor is the secret to hosting powerful conversations that make a genuine impact. His attendees leave feeling recharged, introspective, and ready to get out of their own way.



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

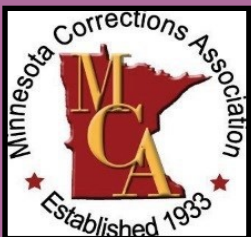
OUR MISSION:

**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

www.mn-ca.org



GET IN TOUCH!

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