

# MCA FORUM

Fall/Winter 2021



Volume 44. No 4

## 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.**

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**Join a Committee!**

**Become a Sponsor!**

**Learn more about Getting Involved!**

Feel free to e-mail MCA to get in contact with a committee chair person for more information on a committee, 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)



**GET IN TOUCH!**



# Mark Bliven

## 2021 MCA President



### President's Message - December 14, 2021

The Zoom world was not the way I wanted to serve my term as MCA president but it has still been an honor and great experience to work with you and all the important issues affecting our corrections community. Continuing to learn more and more as I have become familiar with your roles has been the most enriching part of this position.

We still have more to deal with as Covid morphs from Delta to Omicron. I do so hope that it is a less severe variant. The expansion of vaccination to our kids can help to put an end to this health scourge of the last two years. Let's get over the hump in 2022 and fingers crossed we can gather next October in a much less restricted way for our 2022 Fall Institute.

This year some of us were lucky and honored enough to still meet together at the 2021 Fall Institute. The kick-off to the conference with our awards ceremony was truly inspiring. So many wonderful representatives of what individuals with dedication can do for our work community. Socializing at the conference even in a limited way was so needed. The presentations in the break-out sessions and main sessions were once again a representation of the rich knowledge base we share. Kudos to the Fall Institute Committee for knocking it out of the park under so many tough conditions.

The committee work I saw this year was wonderful. So many individuals stepped up to get the work done that at times could get oppressive in our isolated world. I have to say that I am so thankful that Zoom and Teams allowed us to meet in a way that while not in person got us closer to that ideal. Many of us learned much more about the technical aspects of remote meetings than we ever expected. The big lesson I take from this is that we can continue to use these tools to enhance what we do even when returning to more in-person work.

I look forward to working with your new President, Jane Schmid, as she gets the opportunity to lead MCA in its role as an important contributor to Minnesota's public safety and public discourse. I give you all my thanks and respect for this great profession.



NATIONAL  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
APPRECIATION DAY

*Thank You!*

A blue ribbon, a symbol of support for law enforcement, is positioned below the "Thank You!" text.

TO ALL OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
WHO SERVE AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

# It's Time to Renew! Why you say!?

We wanted to take a minute and touch base with you about MCA Memberships. Professional Associations like MCA are critical. Many of the most successful people we know belong to a Professional Association connected to their career. Professional Associations help them with networking, seminars, and research into issues connected with their work. The Professional Association also gives them a chance to earn certifications that will give them professional development credit and acts as a resume booster. Finally, Professional Associations have events and activities where members can communicate in real time with others who share their career path and gain feedback and support about tough issues they face.

MCA continues to be a dynamic organization supporting all corrections professionals. We help strengthen our members' efforts by providing tools and resources to enhance professional development and skill sets in order to meet the challenges ahead.

**MCA Offers Agency Renewal Discounts up to 20% off ! Agencies who pay for their staff memberships now receive a discount on Memberships! Contact Debbie Beltz for those details at [mca-mn@hotmail.com](mailto:mca-mn@hotmail.com)**

We invite you to renew your membership today to continue taking advantage of your membership benefits including:

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** – *MCA sponsors the Annual Fall Institute and various other training opportunities throughout the year, like the monthly workshops which are free for members!*

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES** – *MCA has an active Legislative Committee that partners with our Legislative Liaison to represent MCA at the Capitol and provide members with timely updates on legislative issues that may impact the corrections industry.*

**NEWSLETTER** – *The MCA FORUM is for you and about you - a bi-monthly e-newsletter for current correctional issues of concern to you.*

**NETWORKING** – *MCA provides opportunities to work with other concerned correctional professionals to make a better correctional system for both clients and practitioners.*

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA** – *Our comprehensive website ([www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org)) provides timely information on MCA activities and issues impacting corrections in Minnesota as well as job postings and other resource links including other training opportunities that are corrections related offered by other businesses and organizations outside of MCA.*

**SCHOLARSHIP** - *Student member and dependents of members are eligible to apply for MCA's annual scholarship award.*

**AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP** – MCA is an affiliate member of both APPA and ACA. Additionally, MCA works with all Minnesota state corrections associations and hosts Minnesota's corrections websites on [www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org)

We invite you to renew your membership today. It's fast and it's easy and secure.

Log in to your profile at with your email and password and follow suggested actions on your profile screen. If you haven't logged into the website before, or have forgotten your password, reset it here <http://www.mn-ca.org/Sys/ResetPasswordRequest>

We are looking forward to another great year in MCA, and we sincerely hope to have you as a returning member. If you have any questions, please contact me or the MCA office.



# Registration Open!

## ***MCA Monthly Trainings!***

*These are virtual training events held on the 3rd Friday of the month from 9 a.m.—noon*

**Watch for more training topic as the 2022 calendar is set!**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>:** Volunteers of America/Amicus Services

**February 18<sup>th</sup>:** Ethical Issues and Boundaries in Practitioner-Client Relationships



## ***Corrections Capitol Day!***

*This will also be a virtual event this year.*

**Sponsored by:  
MCA, MACCAC, MACPO**

**January 27, 2022  
8:00 a.m. – Noon**

**\*This event is a free event and for members only of MCA, MACCAC and MACPO**

**\*Not an MCA member yet? [Click here to join](#)**

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet legislators and have them respond to questions about corrections in Minnesota.

We will update our registration announcements as legislators confirm their attendance at this event.

For registration please provide your state representative's name if you know it or your voting address so we can provide information on all your elected representatives. Your voting address will not be retained. It will only be used to confirm and indicate your current state representative.

**[CLICK HERE](#) to register for any of  
these upcoming events!**

# Save the Dates!

## ***MCA Spring Conference***

***Thursday, March 24, 2022***

***This will be a virtual training event from 9 AM to 4 PM***



### ***MANAGING EXPECTATIONS -***

***Finding Balance with Work and Life***



## ***Juvenile Justice Conference***

***Thursday, April 21, 2022***

***This will be a virtual all-day training event***



***MCA Juvenile Justice Conference  
is accepting presenter proposals.***

***[Click here](#) for Presenter Proposal Form***

***Deadline to Submit Proposals  
is January 10, 2022.***



# Save the Date!







# **MCA FALL INSTITUTE 2021**

## **“Distanced but Together”**

October 27th - October 29th, 2021  
we celebrated over 88 years of MCA!  
See our conference highlights in this  
edition of the forum!!





**A HUGE Thank you to all the MCA Committee Members who made this year's event possible, but especially those members who serve on the Fall Institute Committee. MCA is looking forward to this year's event and can't wait to welcome you back to Grand View to celebrate 88 years together!**

## **ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE COMMITTEE**

### **Chairs:**

Amy Moeckel- Ramsey County Corrections  
Dan Raden- Department of Corrections  
Shannon Fette- Ramsey County Corrections

### **Sub Committees:**

#### **Arrangements Co-Chairs:**

Tom Jungmann - Ramsey County Corrections  
Tom Redmond - Ramsey County Corrections

#### **Hospitality/Networking Co-Chairs:**

Adriana Dibella—Blue Earth Co. Comm. Corr.  
Raul Sanchez - Ramsey County Corrections

#### **Members:**

Emmy Seidling — MN DOC  
Bronson Austreng — MN DOC

#### **Program Co-Chairs:**

Christine Schweich —Ramsey Co. Corrections  
Margit Heald — MCF-St. Cloud

#### **Members:**

Tom Beiring — MCF-Rush City  
Stephanie Duhme —Rice County  
Cheri Humphrey — MCF-Moose Lake  
Bryan Milliron — MCF-Stillwater  
Kayla Perkins — MCF-Red Wing  
Melissa Peterson— DHS  
Jolene Rebertus— MN DOC Central Office  
Duane Stanley— Mower County  
Wendy Ortiz— MN DOC  
Kari Boser— MCF-Red Wing

### **Registration Co-Chairs:**

Vicki Lanners—MCF-St. Cloud  
Jean Wipper—MCF-St. Cloud

#### **Members:**

Daniel Carlson— MCF-Faribault  
Artie Cunningham—MCF-Stillwater  
Michelle Johnson—MCF-Faribault  
Mark (Sammy) Ehlenz—Retiree

### **Resource Fair Co-Chairs:**

Jason Mereness—Ramsey County Corrections  
Jae Wiese—Ramsey County Corrections

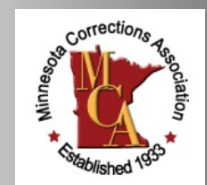
#### **Members:**

Jen Krajniak—Ramsey County Corrections  
Seth Macy—Ramsey County Corrections  
Joe Ventre—MN DOC  
Kaitlyn Baden—Blue Earth County





WELCOME!





# Training Sessions







# RESOURCE FAIR











# Awards Ceremony







# Awards Ceremony





# Awards Ceremony





# Awards Ceremony







Hospitality  
Fun!





# Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Awards Ceremony sponsored by:



## **Corrections Officer of the Year**

This award is given to a uniformed officer who demonstrates extraordinary character; who has gone above and beyond the scope and responsibilities of their position to ensure the safety and security of their colleagues. The recipient of this award is nominated for their standard of professional achievement.



## **CORRECTIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

**Sgt. Jesse Pobuda**

Sgt. Jesse Pobuda started his career with the Department of Corrections at MCF-Faribault in April of 2013. However, his experiences with the DOC began in 2012 when he took a Criminology course through his college as part of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. This course was held at MCF-Lino Lakes and kept his interest in the Correctional System.

Since starting as a Corrections Officer at MCF-FRB, Jesse has worked all areas of the facility. In 2018, he accepted a WOOC Sgt. job in segregation, gaining great experience for his eventual promotion to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Watch K3/K4 Float Sergeant in March of 2021. In July of 2021, he was asked to fill a temporary position as Master Control/Squad Relief Sergeant.

Jesse is heavily involved in CIT, as both a member and a coach. In 2017, he was awarded the CIT Member of the Year. He is also part of the Mentor Program at MCF-FRB.

Since 2015, Jesse has been a Field Training Officer (FTO). He believes that having good training officers is one of the most valuable tools a department can have. He has gone on to become an FTO Coordinator and part of the department-wide FTO Committee.



# Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

## **CORRECTIONS PERSON OF THE YEAR** **Lt. Darryl Goebel**



### **Corrections Person of the Year**

This award is given for outstanding contribution in the field of corrections in Minnesota by an individual in any employment. It could be clergy, judge, legislator, group home parent, etc., as well as a correction's professional

Darryl Goebel started his DOC career at MCF-St. Cloud in September of 1994 as a Corrections Officer, where he worked until December of 1998. While working at MCF-SCL, he completed his bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University.

He transferred to MCF-Lino Lakes as a Corrections Officer and then in December of 1999, transferred to the newly built MCF- Rush City. He promoted to Sergeant in June of 2000 and worked in that capacity until December of 2003, when he was promoted to Lieutenant. In December of 2011, he transferred to MCF-Stillwater/ Oak Park Heights as a Work-Out-of-Class Training Director. In June of 2012, he was promoted to a Corrections Program Director at MCF-Stillwater. He transferred back to Rush City in October of 2016 as a Corrections Program Director. In February 2018, he was promoted to Associate Warden of Administration at MCF-WR/ML. In March of 2021, he decided to voluntarily demote back to the rank of Lieutenant at MCF-Rush City.

Darryl has been involved with Special Operations Response Teams (SORT) at St. Cloud, Lino Lakes, and Rush City. He is a member of the DOC's Security Audit Team, Corrections Program Checklist (CPC) Audit Team, Advanced Leadership Development Program (ALDP) and is an active member of the DOC's Incident Management Team (IMT). At the facility level, he has overseen Incident Command System (ICS), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), American Correctional Association (ACA) and has been a Policy Chairperson for DOC Offender Discipline. In his 28 years in corrections, Darryl has been involved with Employee Development and always willing to lend a helping hand when needed.

Outside of work, Darryl has been an active member in his community. He was elected and served on the School Board in North Branch, MN from January 2017 to May 2020. He also served on the North Branch Rural Education Planning Committee to help establish strategic goals for the school district. Additional service included being a member of the Trinity Christian School Board, and church council. He spent 15 years as a Co-Coordinator for New Pathways, Path to Home, homeless program. He also spent several years coaching his daughter's basketball and soccer teams.

Darryl and Teri, his wife of over 25 years, have two beautiful daughters Chloe and Sophie. In his spare time, Darryl loves wood working and spending time with family and friends.

# Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

## **Professional Achievement Awards**

This award is given to two correctional staff (field services and correctional facilities) who have demonstrated achievement over a period of time; but shall not exclude professionals new to the field who have displayed outstanding achievement.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT – FIELD SERVICES**

#### **Thomas Redmond & Jennifer Sweeney**



**About Tom:** Tom was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. He graduated from St. Paul Central and later from Metropolitan State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. He began working for Ramsey County at Boys Totem Town in early 2000. A few years later, Tom moved to the Ramsey County DWI Unit - Adult Division as a case aid and was later promoted to a probation officer position and remains in the DWI Unit today. He joined the Minnesota Corrections Association in 2002 as a committee member and a few years later became the Chair of the Arrangements Committee. He is currently Co-Chair of this same committee with Tom Jungmann and through the years we became known as "The Toms" by the MCA vendors and members.

His time with Ramsey County has been very fulfilling. He's been able work with nearly 800 clients through the years while also being involved with several committees and special projects. One such project involved bringing the *Driving with Care* Program to Ramsey County with prior DWI Unit Supervisor Kevin McConnon. He became a trainer for the program and soon they had several agents in Ramsey County facilitating this cognitive based DWI education program in-house to low-income offenders. From June 2006 through February 2018, probation agents assisted 492 clients to successfully complete this program free of charge.

In 2019, under the direction of the current DWI Unit Supervisor Deb Ranthum, they discovered a new program called *Prime for Life* which is an excellent cognitive based education program that meets the *Best Practices* requirements for programming. Co-worker Jennifer Sweeney and Tom took the initial training just as the pandemic hit the United States. After the first session, the training was nearly canceled due to COVID fears, but they were allowed to complete the in-person portion of the program and given several online projects, and a tape, to complete at their leisure. Despite several pandemic related delays and the ongoing planning sessions, they were certified as facilitators approximately one year later and the program is now in session.

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**Thomas Redmond & Jennifer Sweeney**



**About Jennifer:** Jennifer received her Bachelor of Human Service degree from Metropolitan State University in 2013. She has been with Ramsey County Community Corrections for about 8 years. She started her career as an Assistant Probation Officer working with juveniles at Boys Totem Town and the Juvenile Detention Center. The past 5 years have been spent working as a Probation Officer in the DWI Unit. Jennifer is also a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and worked in that field for 7 years.

Working with individuals on probation for DWI offenses often means working with individuals who have substance use problems. Jennifer is very passionate about working with this population of individuals and helping them to be successful with probation and with making positive changes in their life. One of the biggest barriers to these individuals being successful is their financial ability to access needed treatment or education programs. Over the past year and a half, she's been involved

in helping to bring a DWI education program for low-income individuals back to Ramsey County. She obtained certification to instruct a program called *Prime For Life*, a program that will be offered free to individuals on probation who meet income guidelines.

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### **PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT - CORRECTIONS FACILITY**

#### **Mindy O'Brien**



Mindy O'Brien is the Superintendent of Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center (NMJC) in Bemidji, Minnesota. Prior to her time at NMJC, Mindy worked as a probation agent in Koochiching, Aitkin and Itasca Counties. In 2009, after earning her Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Leadership, Mindy left probation to work for North Homes Children & Family Services where she assisted in developing community based residential programs for adolescent males, working as their Director of DOC Licensed Programs. In 2016 she was hired into her current position of Superintendent and has served as President of Minnesota Juvenile Detention Association since 2019. Spring 2022 she will add Adjunct Professor at Bemidji State University to her resume.

Since her time at NMJC, Mindy has worked diligently to meet programming needs for each individual youth. She and staff have collaboratively worked with multiple agencies in order to increase the availability of resources offered in-house, implemented incentive-based programming through all housing units, participated in suicide prevention pilot project with MN

Department of Health, were awarded a \$20,000 cultural arts grant, completely eliminated disciplinary room time (DRT) in non-secure programs and significantly decreased DRT in the secure unit, created on-site space for outdoor activities including; vegetable gardens, RC car racetracks, tent pads for camping, pavilion for family visits, sweat lodge, and a sport court to include softball, volleyball, soccer and the future site of a basketball/pickle-ball court.

Additionally, in August 2021, took complete control over their food service program in order to provide higher quality meals and snacks to youth they serve.

Mindy and her husband Gary have two children, daughter Berkley, age 9, and son Bowen, age 6. In her spare time she enjoys running, grouse/pheasant hunting, snowshoeing and traveling with friends and family.



# Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

## **President's Award**

This award is given to programs, resources or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice that demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness, and innovation.

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

#### **Minnesota Department of Corrections Spiritual Care Team**



**About William Dornbush:** Chaplain Bill Dornbush (MCF-SCL), affectionately known as 'Chap/Chappy', started at St. Cloud Correctional Facility Feb. 15, 2012. He plans to retire in March 2022 with 30 years of pastoral ministry, including 10 years as a Prison Chaplain.

As a Pastor, Bill served 7 different local churches in 3 different states, planting the first church of his denomination in Lexington, Kentucky. His passion for people of different cultures has taken him on a variety of Mission trips around the world. He served on a Mission team to rural Guatemala where they replaced fire pits with new stoves in the huts of the local people. He traveled to South Korea on two occasions, visiting the seven largest churches in the world, and also had opportunity to preach. He later traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to observe and learn about Compassion International Ministry, and as a result currently supports three children in the countries of Kenya, Bolivia and Mexico.

At one point in his life, deeply affected by systemic chemical addiction and the effects of that trauma, he faced 5-10 years in prison for dealing drugs, which fed his own personal drug addiction. This experience along with the deep commitment of his own pastor who refused to give up on him, fueled his passion for the men he currently works with. His journey out of addiction gave him an entrance to speak from experience to the incarcerated population. This has also allowed him to work closely with the Chemical Dependency programs, challenging them to live free of addiction and speaking hope to them for their future.

One of the best things he is privileged to do with his men is the '*5th Step*'-taking a personal account of your offenses toward God and man. One of the greatest joys in ministry for him is to see people set free in that process. He has also worked closely with the Prison Fellowship Academy at Lino Lakes prison by sending men to the program and periodically speaking to the men in that program.

Today he celebrates 46 years of sobriety from drug/alcohol addiction and 40 years of ministry. His previous life experiences prepared him well for his 10 years as chaplain at St. Cloud Correctional Facility.

He likes to say, "*I belong in prison*", which speaks of the love for his job and ministry to the incarcerated population. All of this, while also enjoying the great support and comradery from his DOC chaplain cohort, as well as the staff he works with at St. Cloud has made ministry for "Chappy" rich and fulfilling.

Receiving this President's Award as a Chaplain group is truly an honor and is the icing on the cake toward retirement.



# Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

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## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** **Minnesota Department of Corrections** **Spiritual Care Team**

**About Paul Dosunmu:** Paul is currently the Chaplain and Volunteer Coordinator at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Oak Park Heights. He also works at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, located in Stillwater, as a Chaplain. He was born in Africa, in Nigeria to be precise and that in the western part of the country, which is predominantly Yoruba. He attended college in the

former Communist Bulgaria, where he obtained a Master of Science degree in Agronomy and Crop Science. He taught briefly as a university assistant lecturer in Nigeria, from which he resigned to attend the Adventist Seminary of West Africa (now Babcock University), an extension campus of the Andrews University, located in Berrien Springs, Michigan in the United States of America, where he did a Master of Art in Religion. He served as an Evangelist and a church planter in the city of Lokoja, the capital of the state called Kogi, in Nigeria. He then worked as a Chaplain at the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital and the school of nursing located on the campus of the hospital. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 2001, after which he became a district pastor of five churches in what then known as the West Nigeria Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He moved to the United States of America in 2002 to further his education on the main campus of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, located within the campus of the Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he completed a doctorate degree in Religion. He specialized in World Mission and Ministry. He participated in the Clinical Pastoral education, under the tutelage of Dr. Yoke Lye Kwon, in the city of Kokomo, Indiana, where he completed 5 units of CPE.

Chaplain Dosunmu is married and has five adult children and two teenagers. He is passionate about caring and helping people spiritually and emotionally, as he seeks to address their identified needs including inmates, in the milieu of corrections, working for the transformation of lives which have been affected by crimes. He is also an author and has published several books, including his autobiography, entitled, "Dare to Be a Shadrach in a Communist Land." His most recent publication is a book published in 2016, "Amazing Grace, the Essence of Our Proclamation: A Missiological Perspective on Soteriology." These books are available on Amazon and on the other book retailers such as Barnes and Noble. This award is greatly appreciated.

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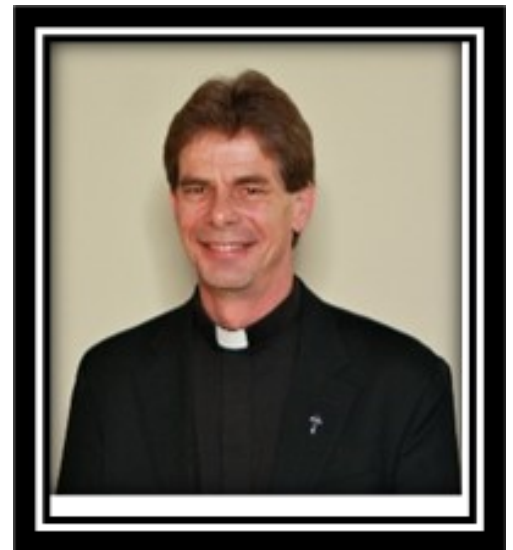
## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

### **Minnesota Department of Corrections Spiritual Care Team**



**About Elise Goebel:** Elise Goebel has worked for the Minnesota Department of Corrections for 19 years. She began her career as a Recreational Therapist at the Correctional Facility in Red Wing where she later transitioned into her current role as a Volunteer Coordinator. She oversees all volunteer programs and activities in addition to handling all religious, cultural, and spiritual needs of the facility. MCF-Red Wing is unique in that it is the only facility in the department of corrections that cares for both juvenile and adult populations.

**About Martin Shanahan:** Martin (Marty) Shanahan was ordained a priest on Jan 19, 2008 and is the founding pastor of Spirit of Hope Catholic Community in Sunfish Lake, MN. He was consecrated as the second Bishop of the Holy Cross Old Catholic Diocese of the Midwest on October 29, 2016. He graduated from the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas in 1987 with a Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts concentrations in Dogmatic and Moral Theology. Marty served four years in the United States Air Force Reserve as Chaplain and 14 years as Chaplain with the St. Paul Police Department. He has served in numerous ministerial positions throughout the Twin Cities and has served the last 10 years as a Chaplain with the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Marty enjoys, building, remodeling, carpentry, mechanics, electrical and plumbing projects. He also enjoys reading, writing and thinking deeply about the Divine in our lives.



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### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

**Minnesota Department of Corrections  
Spiritual Care Team**



**About Lynda Lee:** Lynda is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and currently serves as Spiritual Care Chaplain/ Religious Coordinator for MCF-Lino Lakes.

Before beginning her work in 2016 for MN DOC, she completed a year of clinical residency, specializing in trauma-related care at St. Cloud VA Health Center where she served as Chaplain to the PTSD Residential Treatment program. She designed, wrote curriculum, curated materials for and facilitated a special topics group titled "Inner Conflict" and worked closely with clinical staff to co-facilitate "Self-Acceptance," "Anger Management" and "Imagery Rehearsal Therapy" (Nightmare Management) groups. After her VA residency, she was Chaplain at Northfield Hospital and Clinics in Northfield, MN, where her primary work was with Long Term Care Center residents. She also worked with Northfield Hospice, the Hospital's Wellness Committee and other departments, presenting "Care for Caregivers" to departmental staff.

At MCF-Lino Lakes, in addition to coordinating Religious Services, Lynda supports TRIAD and SOTP treatment programs by offering Grief and Loss classes each quarter, teaching methods of self-regulation, awareness of self-talk, and ways to realize self-compassion. She uses a variety of spiritual care resources, and "holds space" for individuals to connect to the Divine. This past year she has enjoyed the challenges of serving MN DOC in a Person-Centered Care workgroup and Servant Leadership Training.

Lynda continues to lead healing art workshops in various settings such as group therapy sessions, cancer support groups, Community Education, with Spiritual Care providers, and Hospice and Palliative care workers. She has been a returning presenter for United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and recently for Wisdom Ways. In 2014 at the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, she hosted and moderated a discussion on theological reflection with contemporary film and broadcast media.

Lynda offers weekly "Relaxation/Meditation" for staff in the MCF-LL chapel, where tables are set with supplies for contemplative writing, "doodling" or reflective process in creating artwork. Yoga mats and cushions are available, as well as aromatherapy and soothing music in low-light visual space all designed to re-set body, mind and spirit for self-care and wellbeing.

She describes herself as an incurable networker/connector. "I love to read. I have a very eclectic music collection. I love the arts, theatre, and sharing meals and good conversation with friends. And I love having my toes in the water and a book in my hands." She and her husband Jim have two adult children who live in the metro area and are engaged in the work of both creating housing and eliminating homelessness. Lynda and Jim will also tell you they are grandparents to "three-soon-to-be-four genius grandchildren." The Lee Family Band is a staple when they gather.

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**Minnesota Department of Corrections  
Spiritual Care Team**



**About Michael Nimesheim:** Mike grew up in a small town south of St. Louis, Missouri, graduating from High School in 1976. Just prior to High School graduation, Mike was arrested for stealing from the railroad. He appealed to the court to drop charges so he could enter the United States Air Force. Since this was his only recorded offence, the court agreed to drop charges and Mike entered the USAF the very next week. After Tech School where he was trained to be an aircraft welder, the Air Force sent him to Germany for his first duty assignment. Shortly after arriving in Germany, Mike agreed to attend a church service with a co-worker. On September 17, 1977, Mike gave his heart to his Creator and shortly afterward believed he was being led into full-time ministry.

After being honorably discharged, Mike attended and graduated from Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Florida in 1985. While still in college, he served as a volunteer prison chaplain at the Florida State Penitentiary being assigned to work lock-up and death row. After graduating from college, he served again as a volunteer prison chaplain in Missouri before joining the staff of a missionary agency in 1991. In 2001, Mike and his family moved to Germany to work with fellow missionaries near Ramstein Air Base. While serving as a missionary, Mike worked on his master's degree and graduated the second-time from Trinity Baptist College in 2014.

While praying and waiting for an answer about his future, Mike again felt led to continue his education with Clinical Pastoral Education training in residence at the Landstuhl Army Hospital. After completing 4 Units of CPE, Mike received endorsement from the Association Conservative Christian Chaplains to pursue chaplaincy opportunities. After sixteen years in Germany, Mike and his wife Meri moved to Minnesota where he whole-heartedly believes his opportunity to serve at Rush City is a Divine appointment.

Mike and his wife Meri have 4 children and five grandchildren. When he is not working, Mike loves the outdoors, especially spending time with his Llewellyn setter chasing pheasants, chukar and grouse. He loves, coffee, ice cream, chocolate, hunting, fishing, writing and people . . . probably in that order. He's spoken at more than 150 different churches over the years where he participated in missionary conferences and revivals. Mike's motto for life is, "Be a forever student. Never stop learning."



## **President's Award**

This award is given to programs, resources or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice that demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness, and innovation.



**About Nicholas Porter:** Nick Porter started with the DOC in 2005. Nick has been a Lieutenant for three years. One of the duties includes spiritual care in which he works with all types of Incarcerated People in the CIP program. Nick enjoys learning about all the different faiths and cultures and helping the incarcerated people practice their faith or culture.

## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

### **Minnesota Department of Corrections Spiritual Care Team**

**About Edward Stone:** Employed at MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake since December 2013. I have been married to my wife Pamela for 29 years. I was ordained by the Minnesota-Iowa Baptist Conference of Converge-Worldwide (formerly Baptist General Conference, formerly Swedish Baptist Convention). I first entered the Stillwater facility (known at the time as the Minnesota State Prison - MSP) in the fall of 1965 as a 17-year-old college freshman. My interest in prisons and working with inmates has grown from that introduction.

Edward's formal education includes: BA – History, from Bethel University in St Paul, MN; MDiv – Pastoral Care, from Bethel University in St Paul, MN; Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) – 8 units at locations ranging from Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center, the County Home School, and the Hennepin County Workhouse, to a locked unit in a nursing home, to cardiac care unit in Mercy/Unity Hospital in Coon Rapids, MN., and to geriatric and traumatic brain injury medicine units in Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul, MN.

Edward's life experiences include: US Air Force – 4 years, supporting weather observation and forecasting; Steel Foundry – 6 years as a lab technician; Computer Programmer/Analyst – 20 years, at places as varied as Burlington-Northern Railroad, Norwest/Wells Fargo Bank; Certificates from National Institute of Business and Industrial Chaplains.

Edward has attending various training seminars: Psychological First Aid through Allina Clinics and also Carlton County; Seminar on Traumatic Brain Injury and Veterans through the Red Cross; Coping with PTSD, also through the Red Cross; Seminar on Suicide prevention and Screening through the VA [always remember 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)]; Minnesota Tribal and State Relations Training through UM-Duluth; Breaking Generational Poverty through Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches; Grief Support seminar offered while at Mercy Hospital Coon Rapids, MN.

According to the Gallup Strengths Finder my major life themes are life-long learner, empathy, and harmony. Actively interested in restorative justice and all that topic entails.



## **President's Award**

This award is given to programs, resources or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice that demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness, and innovation.

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** **Minnesota Department of Corrections** **Spiritual Care Team**

**About David Swagger:** David L. Swagger serves as chaplain at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Faribault, Minnesota. He formerly worked as a Counselor with mental health and sex offenders for Olmsted County Corrections at the Many Rivers Regional Center in Rochester, Minnesota. David's past correctional experience also includes working as a Corrections Officer at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Red Wing, Minnesota. Chaplain Swagger's ministry at the Faribault Facility includes counseling, preaching and teaching, as well as facilitating an Offender Grief/Loss Group, directing the Offender Joyful Noise Choir, and assisting with the Minnesota Department of Corrections Employee Training. David is a member of the State of Minnesota Department of Corrections Critical Incident Stress Management Team, speaks at various reentry ministry programs, and has provided Religious Practices teaching at jail conferences here in Minnesota. Chaplain Swagger has also been an instructor for national chaplain conferences in Arizona and Missouri on working with Sex Offenders. David is endorsed and ordained with the Assemblies of God. He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and graduated from North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He met his wife Sherri, of 40 years, there at the university. David is also blessed with five children, and five grandchildren.



**About Matthew Voytek (MJ):** MJ Voytek (they/them) is the Chaplain at MCF-Shakopee. A lifelong Presbyterian, Chaplain Voytek holds degrees from Macalester College and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. They experienced Clinical Pastoral Education at Mercy and Unity Hospitals in the Allina System, as well as at the Saint Cloud VA Medical Center. At the St. Cloud VA, Chaplain Voytek worked with physical rehabilitation, geriatric mental health, and PTSD treatment teams. Chaplain Voytek also brought experience working with people with serious and persistent mental health challenges, traumatic brain injuries, and intellectual disabilities with them when they joined the DOC team. MJ deeply appreciates the power of telling one's story and having it heard, and deeply appreciates the way that the MCA has heard the word of the great work all their chaplain colleagues across the DOC have been doing!



# Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

## **Technology Award**

This award is given to individuals, programs, resources or facilities working with technology in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice, which demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness, and innovation.

## **TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

### **David Korte**



David began his career with the Minnesota Department of Corrections in 1976 at Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater. During those early wild, dangerous days, he had to learn a lot and quickly! Staff were close and many are still friends 45 years later. He was promoted to sergeant in 1979. In 1982 he transferred to the new Minnesota Corrections Facility-Oak Park Heights, and proudly joined the exceptional team that opened the facility. Those were heady days in a new, world-class facility, developing all the policies and procedures as well as the informal discipline rules and regulations. That same year he was promoted to corrections counselor supervisor and then lieutenant.

During his 24 years at OPH, David worked closely with his staff, helped develop a popular staff recognition program, and was delighted to be given the nod by the captain to be the unofficial photographer of the times.

David retired as a lieutenant from Oak Park Heights in 2005. He is proud of his career in corrections and is beyond thankful for the opportunity to retire early so he could have the joy of caring for his grandkids.

Grateful for his many deep friendships with his corrections family, he developed a Minnesota Corrections Family Facebook site (and then an email list for those not on Facebook), with over 800 followers. Current and retired staff share joys and timely information, such as social gatherings and retirement celebrations, and are kept up-to-date with "family" news. They also send thoughts of healing to those in need and condolences to those who have lost a loved one.

Now, during the pandemic, David's favorite role is chauffeuring his grandchildren and their friends home from school. Oh, what a learning that is!

# Awards Ceremony

## **Board of Director's Award**

This award recognizes exemplary service to MCA members through participation in association activities.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD**

**JoAnn Brown & Shannon Olean**  
**MCA Sponsorship Committee**

**About JoAnn:** JoAnn Brown, a native of Saint Paul, MN, started her career in corrections in 2007 when she joined the DOC MINNCOR Industries team as a Workforce Development Specialist for the EMPLOY Program. While in this capacity, she assisted qualified industry workers with job search techniques pre and post release. JoAnn developed and implemented a job search training curriculum to program participants and facilitated the curriculum within the Minnesota Correctional Facilities.

In 2011, JoAnn was promoted to Supervisor of the EMPLOY Program. Under her leadership, the program increased its eligibility criteria to include education, food services, Prison Fellowship Academy, and Institution Community Work Crew programs to reach additional interested candidates. The program maintained a post rerelease employment rate of 70-75% or better on a quarterly basis and provided services to over 6,000 participants during the operation of the program.

In 2020, JoAnn transitioned into the DOC Community Reentry Unit as the Employment Services Supervisor. Currently, she is directing services for the "Employment Matters!" grant in Saint Cloud, Shakopee, and Faribault and is the DOC liaison for two community partner programs that were awarded DOL Pathway Home Funding which offers support for job search, training for obtaining industry recognized credentials, and employer connection to eligible participants pre and post release. Furthermore, JoAnn is participating in the implementation of Person Center focus within the DOC and was co-chair of the Transformative Program workgroup. JoAnn presently leads DOC efforts in developing employer relationships and challenging employers to redefine hiring practices when considering justice involved individuals to fulfill workforce needs.

In 2018, JoAnn was selected to chair the MCA Sponsorship Committee. The Sponsorship Committee is a small and mighty team of two, Shannon Olean and JoAnn. This dynamic duo works hard to secure continued sponsorship from existing MCA partners and to develop new relationships with organizations offering services and products for the criminal justice industry. Through multiple emails and phone calls, enthusiasm and excitement are fostered with sponsors while securing financial support for the annual Spring Workshop, Juvenile Justice Conference, and Fall Conferences. Building and nurturing relationships with sponsors is a top priority as is assisting MCA colleagues in all spaces of this work.

JoAnn is the proud mother of four adult children and two rambunctious grandsons, Aayden and Brayden. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Winona State University, is a certified Offender Workforce Development Specialist Lead Instructor, a CPC Assessor, and previously was certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator. In her spare time, JoAnn is evolving her small business, *Ever-Lasting Floral Designs by JoAnn*, creating a variety of floral arrangements for all occasions.



# Awards Ceremony

## **Board of Director's Award**

This award recognizes exemplary service to MCA members through participation in association activities.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD**

**JoAnn Brown & Shannon Olean**  
**MCA Sponsorship Committee**

**About Shannon:** Shannon is the Evidence-Based Practices Coordinator at Dakota County Corrections. Her focus is cognitive behavioral interventions as she supports her department by facilitating training and coaching everything cognitive.

She has been working in the corrections field for 22-years, a majority of that time as a high-risk probation and supervised release agent. She has also worked in a juvenile corrections institution and in a juvenile residential treatment center.

She has facilitated cognitive skills programming for both adults and juveniles for the past 13-years and is a cognitive skills program, Motivational Interviewing and COVE coaching training.

Shannon is the Minnesota Cognitive Behavioral Network Co-Chair and is passionate about using cognitive interventions as a way to target adaptive change goals to sustain long-lasting pro-social change.

She has been a member of MCA for many years and currently works together with JoAnn Brown on the Sponsorship Committee.



# Congratulations

*To all our 2021 MCA Award Recipients!!*

As we prepare this update report for the December issue of the MCA FORUM, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of my wife and I, to wish each and everyone of you A JOYOUS AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON! With all the turmoil and confusion of the past couple of years it is easy to forget how important those family relationships are to our well being. Hopefully all of you working folks will find the time to make this another memorable holiday.

Even though the Holiday Season is upon us, we have plenty of work to accomplish before the start of the 2022 Legislative Session which begins on January 31st. The MCA Board of Directors formally approved the 2022 Legislative Agenda at its November meeting, so I am now working on getting those documents to as many Legislators as possible and particularly to all the members of the Senate Judiciary Division and the House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee. We want these documents in their hands prior to the start of the Session. Current COVID rules really prohibit the ability to meet personally with most elected officials as we like to do, but we can be almost as effective in our personal conversations with them without meeting person-to-person. I have found that almost all Legislators are just as frustrated as all of us having to deal with the restrictions and most are still hopeful that the policies may be modified somewhat early in the Session.

Talking about the upcoming of the Biennium which is non-bonding bill, but even that is felt that the significant bond-suffice, while others feel similar to the last one is really requests are already in the generous legislature might be that amount. Added to the tionment which is required in likely end up in the Courts past. This must be in place season begins, and this is issue. These two items added to the numerous major issues left unresolved from last year will certainly mean it's going to be another extremely busy term.



Session, this is the second year mally dedicated to achieving a controversial at this point. Some ing bill approved last Fall should strongly that another bonding bill needed now. As usual, bonding range of several billion \$\$\$ and a able to pass only about a third of bonding debate is the Reappor-early 2022 and which will most again as has been the case in the this Spring before the election ways a most controversial is-

Talking about Reapportionment, an interesting government study recently revealed that the number of Legislators who give up their seats or lose their seats due to redistricting, is extremely high. We normally see about 18 - 25 new legislators in an election year, and there is speculation that those numbers may run to as high as 40 in next Fall's election.

We are also working on developing the 2022 Corrections Capitol Day, working on planning for the event during the last week of January, just a few days prior to the start of the Session. MACPO and MACCAC have again agreed to collaborate with MCA as the primary sponsors of this program. We have already agreed that current circumstances make it essential that we conduct this session electronically as we did successfully last year. Watch for further announcements on specifics in upcoming weeks.

We will be having further conversations with our partners sharing our legislative agendas and hope to develop a priority list that we can agree to emphasize in our conversations with key Legislators. All of your suggestions are solicited and welcome. Finally, I want to again express my appreciation to all the members of MCA and your Board of Directors for your past and future support of this important work. I am just as enthused to do this work now as I was seventeen years ago when I came on board. We have had to learn different ways of doing things in order to accomplish our goals but we continue to be successful and I am also grateful for the support of so many Legislators who understand the work you do and fully support our mission. Hope to visit with you all during the Session!



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# COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS

## The COVID-19 vaccine is free.

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### 2-DOSE VACCINE



### 1-DOSE VACCINE



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[mn.gov/vaccine](https://mn.gov/vaccine)

Minnesota Department of Health | [health.mn.gov](https://health.mn.gov) | 651-201-5000 | 625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
Contact [health.communications@state.mn.us](mailto:health.communications@state.mn.us) to request an alternate format. | 02/24/2021

# Social Distancing at Work



**Attend meetings virtually if possible.**

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**Allow for 6 feet of space per person.**

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**Maintain sufficient spacing  
in conference rooms.**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HEALTH.MN.GOV](https://www.health.mn.gov).  
COVID-19 HOTLINE: **1-833-431-2053**

**m** MINNESOTA | **STAY SAFE MN**

Minnesota Department of Health  
3/24/2021





**Behind every number is a person and a story.  
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For more than 50 years, Amicus has been a healing force in our community, helping justice-involved people find a safe home, jobs to begin building anew, and the comforting fellowship of community belonging.



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Volunteers of America  
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[voamnwi.org/amicus](http://voamnwi.org/amicus)



## BCA Adding DNA Indicators to Criminal History System

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) is adding three new indicators to the Criminal History System (CHS) to make it more convenient for criminal justice agencies to determine whether DNA must still be collected for a convicted individual as required by Minn. Stat. §§ [299C.105](#) and [609.117](#). These indicators will be visible to authorized CHS users who perform person queries in the system with search purpose C or Q.

The first indicator, DNA Available, appears on appropriate criminal history records now. Look for the indicators near the top of a person record as indicated below.


- **DNA Available** signals that a DNA sample has been collected and submitted to the BCA where it was processed and a profile entered into the Convicted Offender DNA (CODNA) database. No action is needed when this indicator is present.

The absence of a DNA indicator may mean that DNA has not been matched to a CHS person record. Agencies can determine whether a sample has been taken by logging in to CODNA.



Two additional indicators will be added to CHS by early November.

- **DNA Required** will mean that a DNA collection-qualifying conviction exists for this person and DNA collection may be required. Agency personnel should check the CODNA system to determine whether a sample has been or must still be collected. If it must be collected, scroll down the record to the court case cycle marked *DNA Qualifying Event to obtain the case information to provide along with the sample*.

 DNA Required (609.117)

- **DNA Potentially Required** signals that a DNA qualifying event may exist, but the system could not confirm it programmatically. In this case, users should scroll down to view court case cycles marked *Potential DNA Qualifying Event* to make a determination about whether DNA should be collected.

 DNA Potentially Required (609.117)

### Example of Qualifying Event Shown at the Cycle Level



Once all of the indicators are available, the absence of a DNA indicator will mean that no DNA is required.



### **CODNA record backlog**

About 50,000 older sample records in CODNA do not match to a criminal history record by first and last name, date of birth, and SID and/or court file number. The BCA will analyze these records in the future to match them to criminal history records. A record with a ***DNA Required*** indicator may also indicate that it is part of this backlog.

If you have any questions about the new indicators, please contact the BCA Service Desk at [bca.servicedesk@state.mn.us](mailto:bca.servicedesk@state.mn.us), 651-793-2500 or 888-234-1119.

### **Specific kit required**

Please remember that DNA collected for these purposes requires the CODNA collection kit and access to the CODNA Prelog database.

- Kits may be obtained by contacting the BCA at [bca.lab.vault@state.mn.us](mailto:bca.lab.vault@state.mn.us).
- Contact Debbie Peterson at [debbie.peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:debbie.peterson@state.mn.us) to request a CODNA Prelog database account and remember to designate a primary contact for your agency. The primary contact authorizes users from your agency.

We hope that, once fully implemented, you find these indicators to be helpful and convenient reminders about when a DNA submission is required on an individual.



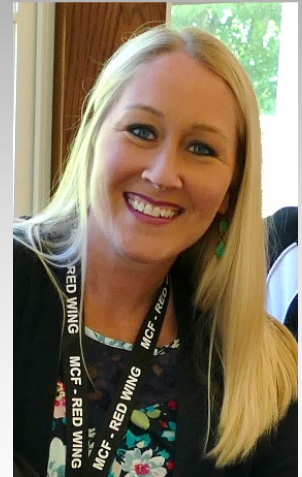
## ***Meet Your 2022 MCA Executive Board***



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Jane Schmid  
Brown County  
Probation***



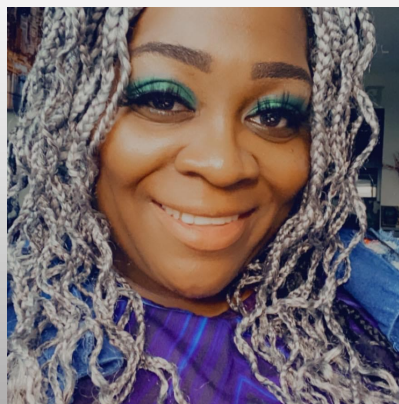
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The Fall Institute information/program will be digital again this year.

Please go to the app store on your mobile device and download the attendify app.

Conference registrants will receive more information on access to Fall Conference information!

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## 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.



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## 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.

MCA is always looking for articles that are informative on topics of interest to the MCA membership at large.

### 2021 MCA Committees and Chairs

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Technology: Contact Mark Bliven

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