

MCA FORUM

Volume 45 No. 2

July 2022

Join us in person!

**2022 MCA Annual Training Institute
will be held at Grand View Lodge
October 26-28**

TOGETHER AGAIN IN 2022

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!



Join MCA Today



President's Message

Jane Schmid, 2022 MCA President

As we are entering summer in Minnesota, which typically means weather-wise we skipped the mid-70 degree spring days and just go straight into **HOT** days, we can embrace the idea of summer bringing exciting adventures! We are blessed with so many beautiful lakes, parks, and events in our state, I hope each of you are able to have time to enjoy some of the State's beauty this season! Here is a link to Explore MN's state parks <https://www.exploreminnesota.com/list/21-incredible-minnesota-state-parks-region> for a glimpse into some of what this State offers.

Our MCA committees continue to work hard at helping this organization to be accessible, informative, educational, and supportive of its members. To highlight just a few, our Legislative Committee continues to monitor and address proposed legislation, including collaboration with our Legislative Liaison, Cal Saari, who keeps the connection with legislators in promoting our annual legislative platform to advance sound correctional practice. As many know, MN sits on a 9.25 billion dollar surplus yet it is not looking good for distribution of these funds to be determined within the State's legislation this year. It also does not look good for a special session to occur, despite requests. Our Education & Training Committee has done an excellent job of scheduling monthly free trainings, and are always welcoming of new ideas for future topics. Sponsorship Committee reaches out to organization sponsors who support MCA and assists each training/conference offered. The Silver Line Support Committee is developing resources to provide support and guidance to professionals in the field of corrections, and Student Services Committee provides outreach to students who are interested in a career in corrections. While this does not cover all of MCA's committees, it may shed some light on the amazing work being done within MCA!

The MCA Fall Institute Committee is working diligently again this year, and I am truly excited we are holding our Annual Fall Institute in person this year October 26-28, 2022 at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN! This event provides us with an opportunity to help fill the need for direct connection with others, not only for our mental health but also to continue to important work we do. MCA will remain involved in monitoring the COVID impact and protocols to keep this event as safe as possible. The Fall Institute is the time of year when we highlight the amazing work being done in our field. Please consider nominating someone for our upcoming MCA Award Nominations for 2022. Contact Mark Bliven at mark.bliven@state.mn.us 651-361-7359 for submissions and any questions on nominations.

Each year a number of wonderful people in corrections retire. After just shy of 30 years, Brown County's director retired this past April. MCA offers a retiree membership option. If you're a current active MCA member when you retire, you have the option of renewing your membership at a lifetime membership fee of only \$50! Maintaining your membership keeps you in the know on what's going on in corrections in Minnesota, as well as lifetime members are given discount fall institute fee arrangements and those who are active committee members are given free conference registration!

As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas! MCA thrives on participation from its members and we want to hear from you!

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

---Helen Keller

Jane Schmid
MCA President 2022

Join us in person!

**MCA Annual Training Institute
will be held in 2022 at Grand View Lodge
Registration opening Early July!!**

The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Annual Training Institute Committee is pleased to announce we are returning

Grand View Lodge for the 2022 Annual Training Institute.

Please join us in celebrating 89 years of MCA

Our present chair members include:

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

Tom Redmond/Tom Jungmann – Arrangements

Christine Schweich/Margit Heald– Program

Michelle Johnson/Jean Wipper – Registration

Jason Mereness/Jae Wiese– Resource Fair

Kaitlyn Baden/Adriana DiBella- Hospitality/ Networking



Interested in Joining an MCA Committee?

Have you ever wondered how many MCA Committees there are?

Ever wondered what each of the MCA Committees is all about?

Click here for the description of the MCA Committees!

***Adult Justice/Legislative Committee
Annual Training Institute
Communications Committee
Community Supports Committee
Education & Training Committee
Juvenile Justice Committee
Membership Committee
Safety Committee
Silver Line Support
Sponsorship
Spring Workshop
Student Services
Technology***

Would you like to join an MCA committee or committees?

Click here for a committee volunteer form.

***E-mail your form to MCA Administrative Manager, Debbie Beltz
at mca-mn@hotmail.com***

Leadership Opportunity for the MCA Fall Conference Committee

MCA like other organizations is looking at succession planning as key members of our committees may be looking at retiring in the near future, one of those committees is the Annual Training Institute/Fall Conference Committee.

We are seeking volunteers for the Fall Conference committee. We are looking for new energetic volunteers to begin learning the fall conference planning process and to continue involvement for leadership opportunities in 2023 at the conference in Duluth, MN.

The Fall Conference Committee currently has (3) co-chairs and is joined by the following sub-committees: Arrangements, Hospitality & Networking, Program, Registration, and Resource Fair.

**Please contact Amy at amy.moeckel@co.ramsey.mn.us or
Shannon at shannon.fette@co.ramsey.mn.us
for information or questions you may have about the Fall Institute Committee**

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2022 MCA Awards

Submission Deadline August 12th

Mark Bliven, Past President / 2022 Awards Committee Chair

Please Consider Your Nominations for 2022 MCA Awards

The pandemic really does appear to be falling behind us. Now is the time to recognize those who have stepped up and demonstrated leadership and innovation during these trying times. A committee made up of past presidents of MCA will review and recommend your 2022 nominations to the MCA Board for presentation at the Fall Institute this October at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa. This annual awards tradition recognizes not only individuals and programs but the whole community of those working within the correctional field in Minnesota.

A few of the awards are specifically designated for positions either at a correctional facility or within the field services area. Other awards cover the broadest area of corrections within MCA. Please think about and consider your nominations for making significant contributions to the field of corrections. We will have the nomination forms available by the end of May for submission by the end of July. Please feel free to submit a nomination regardless of where you feel it might fit within the awards categories. The committee will determine the appropriate category. You just need to provide information and background on why you think this person, group of people, or program should be recognized for their contributions to our vital work.

While these awards single out individuals and groups we should keep in mind that at a more important level they represent what so many of you do every day within your profession. These awards belong to and represent all of you.

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

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me as chair of the awards committee with any questions or submissions. As members you will all receive an email from MCA at the end of May with the nomination form and a reminder to get your nominations submitted by August 12th though sooner is always appreciated.

mark.bliven@state.mn.us 651-361-7359

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Vaccine-preventable
diseases are still a threat.

Vaccination is the best

protection.



National Immunization
Awareness Month

Congratulations to Jenna Wood MCA High School Scholarship Winner!

Melissa McCann, Student Services Chair



The 2022 High School MCA Scholarship award winner is Jenna Wood. Jenna's mother is Brenda Wood, probation officer for Hennepin County.

Jenna is a 2022 graduate of Rosemount High School. During high school she was involved in DECA, On Stage, C.O.V.A., National Honor Society, President of the Spanish National Honor Society, and TRI-M Society. She also was student of the month for AP Statistics, played soccer, and participated in volunteer events in the community. In addition to her extensive involvement in high school activities, Jenna also worked part time at Target and maintained a 3.96 GPA. Jenna plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and major in Business Management. When asked about the impact she hopes to have on her future work, she stated; "I always want others to feel respected and heard, and by being a leader in the world of business I hope to encourage growth and brainstorming to create successful ideas and plans." Congratulations on being the 2022 recipient of the MCA Scholarship and we wish you the best on your college journey Jenna!



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MACPO 2022

Madden's on Gull Lake - May 18th through May 20th



President Jane Schmid and Vice President Laura Anderson –
Day one Resource Fair (May 18)



MCA Liaison and President Elect Mark Groves

Mark attended MACPO and hosted the MCA booth with Laura and Jane.

Groves met with the current and former MACPO presidents including Jason Anderson, Mike Schommer, Jon Schiro to discuss our continued collaboration and involvement with each other.

Groves plans to continue developing the relationship with a lunch meeting scheduled in July as Groves plans ahead to MCA presidency in 2023.



MCA Liaison Mark Groves, President Jane Schmid and Vice President Laura Anderson – Day two Resource Fair (May 19)

Resource Fair

MACPO 2022 - Continued

Madden's on Gull Lake - May 18th through May 20th



As we start to reveal ourselves again from the COVID 19 pandemic, Resource Fairs are a fantastic platform to do so!

Our executive board representatives at MACPO made an impact on the connections we made, discussed membership benefits, educated attendees on the trainings and opportunities we have available as a member of MCA.

The MACPO Resource Fair was an excellent opportunity to network with great vendors and conference attendees like these two gentlemen.



Resource Fair

BCA Suspense Records Nearly Double



Percent of records in suspense nearly doubles due to COVID-19 criminal justice process changes

All criminal justice entities, including Minnesota probation agencies, made adjustments during the pandemic to keep people moving through the criminal justice process. This effort created some new process efficiencies still in place today, but it also created some issues including a significant rise in suspense records.

Suspense records occur when a court record sent to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) cannot be matched to a criminal history because there are no means to link the records. It may be that fingerprints were not collected and submitted as required by Minn. Stat. §299C.10, or that linking identifiers (i.e. name, DOB, Controlling Agency, and Controlling Agency Case Number) do not match. A record in suspense is not available for background checks, gun checks, checks conducted by law enforcement agencies for facility security, or by the courts for sentencing.

How records end up in suspense

Changes implemented across the entirety of the criminal justice process are contributing to this issue. Changes at law enforcement agencies have resulted in fewer subjects being fingerprinted at the time of booking. The move to virtual court hearings makes gathering fingerprints a more challenging process which, in some cases, is not happening prior to acceptance of a plea.

When the BCA does not receive fingerprints for offenses, court dispositions for those cases will go into suspense. This has led to a near doubling in the percent of cases in suspense, up from 7.8% in 2019 to 13.7% today (see [suspense rates by-county](#)).

Take steps now to prevent and resolve suspense

Probation agencies can check the "Suspense Prevention" category in the BCA's Criminal History System (CHS) for notifications that a court case has been initiated for which fingerprints have not been received by the BCA.

- Ensure subjects in custody have been fingerprinted for offenses required by statute.
- Respond to requests from law enforcement agencies and the courts, ensuring clients are fingerprinted when requests are made.

Contact BCA Biometrics and Criminal History Analyst Wendy Gray at wendy.gray@state.mn.us or 651-793-2435 if you have any questions about a record or steps you can take to prevent or remedy suspense records. You can also sign up to attend one of the BCA's bi-weekly Suspense Talk Coffee Break WebEx sessions, held every other Thursday at 9 a.m. Send email inquiries to BCA.SuspenseTalk@state.mn.us.



Behind every number is a person and a story.
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MACPO Golf Tournament

Madden's on Gull Lake - May 18th through May 20th

MN Corrections Association sponsored a golf hole at the Vendor Sponsored Golf Tournament at MACPO on Wednesday, May 18th.



MCA at MACPO

MCA Vice President Laura Anderson and her golf team pictured above.

MCA President Jane Schmid and her golf team pictured below.





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- Student membership \$10.

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Join MCA!



Legislative Affairs

Calvin Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison

I was really hoping to have some concrete news to report in this edition of the forum as we've all been waiting for a special session announcement from governor Walz, but that has not happened.

In the last several days the governor has been pushing a rebate program that would send \$ 1,000 rebate to each taxpayer using a good portion of the budget surplus. However, the republican senate is not buying it and wants nothing to do with a special session even though they keep reporting that a top priority is to return the budget surplus to the taxpayers.

The reason for the republican position is that they feel their agenda is most popular with Minnesotans. As a result, they will win most elections this fall and they look forward to being the majority in both the house and senate, as well as taking over the governorship. All of this and with a great budget surplus that they can totally control. It's politics at its best and forget about what is in the best interests of the people of Minnesota!

The end result is that we will need to accept the results of a dismal legislative session in 2022 that accomplished nothing of significance. There was a good public safety and criminal justice package that had been developed, good pieces in both the house and the senate, even though they used a different priority, that could have been a good step forward for corrections that will now fall by the wayside.

With a new biennium beginning in January 2023, everything will be new, so there is no carry-over of legislative proposals. There will be almost a record number of new legislators in the 2023 session which will change the dynamics of the legislature regardless of which party is in the majority after the fall elections.

On a positive note, all of these new faces at the legislature is a reason for optimism as we have a great opportunity to share our legislative agenda and solicit support from a good portion of the legislature that has not been there before. Over the past number of years, I have always felt we have had tremendous success in advocating for corrections, particularly with new legislators who come into their positions without a lot of political partisanship and who are receptive to the need for good governance and what is good for Minnesotans.

The result is I am excited about the elections this fall and optimistic that we can pursue a great legislative agenda again next year that embraces best practices and moves us forward in securing funding and support for our needs in corrections. I ask that everyone do their share by getting to know your local legislators and encourage their support of MCA and all we represent.

I thank you all for your support and for the wonderful work of the MCA legislative committee and chair Mary Cardinal Peterson. I look forward with enthusiasm to continuing this work on behalf of our membership.

Have a great summer!

Calvin Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison

sisuwithsaari@aol.com

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RS EDEN Supportive Housing plays an active role in the development and operation of affordable, safe, and supportive housing throughout the Twin Cities. We oversee nine distinct projects serving youth, singles, and families.

RSI LABORATORIES specializes in drugs of abuse testing for corrections, chemical dependency, and human service agencies. Our lab is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (C.A.P.) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (C.L.I.A.).

RS EDEN Recovery Services has a reputation of working successfully with people who have substance use disorders. We offer inpatient and outpatient programs, specializing in serving culturally diverse, poly-drug addicted adult males and females.

Since 1971, RS EDEN has been a leader in delivering effective community human services in Minnesota. Our mission is to provide a spectrum of care—recovery and support services—to facilitate self-sufficiency for individuals, families, and communities. We believe that with structure, stability, and accountability people can and do change.

Learn more about available career opportunities at rseden.org.

2022 MCA Monthly Trainings

FREE FOR
MEMBERS!

July 15

Domestic Abuse

August 19

Educational Opportunity Center

September 16

Three Delivery Systems/DOC overview

October 21

Victim Services/Restorative Justice Overview

November 18

Silver Line Support

December 16

Juvenile Justice

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What day is it?

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July 12th: National Pecan Pie Day
July 13th: Gruntled Workers Day
July 14th: National Tape Measure Day
July 15th: National Gummi Worm Day
July 16th: National Woodie Wagon Day
July 17th: World Emoji Day
July 19th: Stick Out Your Tongue Day
July 20th: National Hot Dog Day
July 22nd: National Hammock Day
July 24th: National Cousin Day
July 25th: National Wine and Cheese Day
July 26th: National Bagelfest Day
July 28th: National Chili Dog Day
July 29th: National Chicken Wing Day
July 31st: National Mutt Day



**Go have
yourself
a day!**

August 1st: Play Ball Day
August 2nd: National Night Out
August 3rd: National Watermelon Day
August 5th: International Beer Day
August 7th: National Sisters Day
August 8th: International Cat Day
August 10th: World Lion Day
August 11th: Ingersoll Day
August 13th: National Filet Mignon Day
August 15th: Discovery Day
August 16th: National Roller Coaster Day
August 18th: National Fajita Day
August 21st: National Sr. Citizens Day
August 23rd: Cheap Flight Day
August 26th: National Dog Day
August 30th: Frankenstein Day



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About the MCA *FORUM*

The **FORUM** is published six times a year (in the odd months) by the Minnesota Corrections Association, a nonprofit, professional association incorporated in Minnesota. Articles submitted by our membership may 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

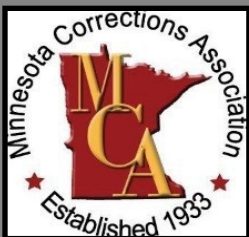
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AND TO PROMOTE ETHICAL AND JUST
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To contact MCA, join a committee, sponsor us or to get involved, please contact:

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GET IN TOUCH!

Contact Us

For more information, please contact us!

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