

FORUM

Minnesota Corrections Association



Your Association Newsletter

Volume 30, No. 4 August 2008

President's Corner

Catch up with MCA President, Terryl Arola..

Legislative Affairs

Find out where is Corrections headed in the Legislature.

MCA Awards

Nominate someone you know for a 2008 MCA Award.

Golf Tournament

Get the 411 on this year's MCA Golf Tournament.

Student Services

Check out what the Student Services Committee has been up to.

President's Corner

Terryl Arola, MCA President



I hope you will join us in October at the MCA Annual Training Institute. There will be lots of surprises recognizing our 75 year history. The 75th committee led by Pat Booker has been working diligently to come up with exciting events and details to help us celebrate "Our History, It Becomes Us".

Check out the MCA home page which will be featuring pictures spanning the last 75 years. The pictures will be changed periodically so come back and check it out often. Thank you to Les Schultz who scanned and labeled in excess of 1000 pictures over the past 75 years!

In addition, we have a great line-up of over 20 training sessions, awards & recognition of our corrections professionals, and many resource fair vendors. Deb Beltz and Deb Sjoberg are co-chairs of the Fall Institute and are overseeing all the sub-committees. This is another great bunch of MCA members who have been working hard behind the scenes to get everything together for you.

Our exciting slate of general session keynote speakers includes:

- "The Real Heroes" - Dave Pelzer: Author, counselor, and victim of severe child abuse.
- "Terror on Campus" - Colonel W. Stephen Flaherty: Findings on the Virginia Tech Shootings.
- "Journey Towards Justice" - Dennis Fritz: Found innocent after 11 years served on a life sentence for murder.

Full training and registration information is available online. Check out more new features on our website with an online credit card payment option for you to take advantage of.

MCA members with children in college... please check out our new post-secondary scholarship program. Just having had two sons finish college I know how every dollar helps! You can find further information and a simple application form on our new and always improving website, of course! Shannon Marks, our Student Services Committee Chair will head up the group reviewing scholarship applications.

Continued on Page 3

MCA Website...www.mn-ca.org

Find additional information about the corrections industry, MCA programs and events, employment opportunities, and much more.

2008 MCA Board

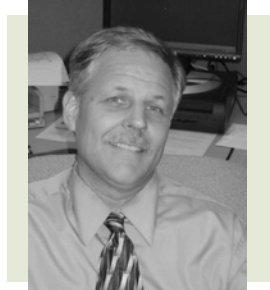
PRESIDENT

Terryl Arola, Pine Co. Probation,
635 Northridge Dr. NW, Pine
City MN 55063,
320-591-1547,
fax 320-591-1555,
taarola@co.pine.mn.us



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ron Solheid, DOC, 1450 Energy
Park Dr., Ste. 200, St. Paul MN
55108, 651-361-7123,
fax 651-632-5065,
ron.solheid@state.mn.us



VICE PRESIDENT

Sue Opsahl, MCF-St. Cloud,
2300 Minnesota Blvd., St. Cloud
MN 56303, 320-240-3033,
suzanne.opsahl@state.mn.us



SECRETARY

Carla Schuster, MCF-Red Wing,
1079 Hwy. 92., Red Wing MN
55066, 651-267-3710,
fax 651-267-3761,
cschuste@rw.doc.state.mn.us



TREASURER

Mary Jo Caldwell, 1450 Energy
Park Dr., Ste. 200, St. Paul MN
55108, 651-361-7117,
fax 651-632-5065,
mary.jo.caldwell@state.mn.us



ADULT JUSTICE Kay Arola, 300 S. 5th Ave., #204, Virginia
MN 55792, 218-742-9572, arolak@co.st-louis.mn.us

ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE Debbie Beltz, MCF-
Lino Lakes, 7525 - 4th Ave., Lino Lakes MN 55014, 651-717-
6112, dbeltz@ll.doc.state.mn.us AND Deb Sjoberg, DOC, 1450
Energy Park Dr., Ste. 200, St. Paul MN 55108, 651-642-0290,
dsjoberg@co.doc.state.mn.us

AWARDS Pat Booker, DOC, 325 Sibley Ave. N., Litchfield
MN 55355, 320-693-4652, fax 320-693-4655,
pbooker@fs.doc.state.mn.us

EDUCATION & TRAINING Terry Fawcett, Arowhead Reg.
Corrections, PO Box 280, Carlton MN 55718, 218-384-9102,
fax 218-384-9111, fawcett@co.st-louis.mn.us

FORUM Joyce Wong, Stearns Cty. Comm. Corrections, 705
Courthouse Sq, Rm. 445, St. Cloud MN 56303, 320-656-6170,
fax 320-656-6161, joyce.wong@co.stearns.mn.us

JUVENILE JUSTICE Shelley McBride, DFO Comm.
Corrs., 151 - 4th St. SE, Rochester MN 55904, 507-269-7966,
fax 507-328-7952, mcbride.shelley@co.olmsted.mn.us

LEGISLATIVE Cal Saari, 308 - 3rd St., Nashwauk MN
55769, 218-885-1375, SISUwithSAARI@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP Dan Kempf, Hpn. Cty. Comm. Corrections,
2600 E. 25th St., Suite A, Minneapolis MN 55406, 612-596-
0489, fax 612-728-2678, dan.kempf@co.hennepin.mn.us

NOMINATING Michelle Smith, MCF-Stillwater, 970 Pickett
Ave. N., Stillwater MN 55003, 612-779-2763,
michelle.smith@state.mn.us

STUDENT SERVICES Shannon Marks, DOC, 633 Upland
Ave., Ste. H, Elk River MN 55330, 763-241-8780, fax 763-241-
1118, shannon.k.marks@state.mn.us

TECHNOLOGY Brad Larson, DOC - Fairmont, PO Box 52,
Fairmont MN 56031, 507-235-3663, fax 507-235-5603,
bjlarson@fs.doc.state.mn.us

MCA Forum is published six times a year by the Min-
nesota Corrections Association, a non-profit profes-
sional association incorporated in Minnesota.



Legislative Affairs

Cal Saari, Legislative Chair and Liaison

As we enter the middle of our summer season, we hope that everyone has an opportunity to enjoy at least some of the "Minnesota summer splendor" we have come to expect this time of the year. Your legislative committee has continued to have a lot of activity as we now turn our sights toward the Fall Institute, and work to prepare a new legislative agenda for the next session beginning in January.

This year at the Fall Institute, we will be presenting two sessions on Thursday. First in the morning, as session on "Legislation 101" will be presented to give our members a bird's eye view of how the legislature works and how an idea can be translated into a legislative proposal and the actual process a bill goes through in order to become law. We have asked John Tuma, a highly recognized lobbyist and former state legislator, to present this interesting insight into the legislative process. Then in the afternoon of that day, we will have a Legislative Update session where we will review the results of the last session, comment on what we might expect in the next session and a review of our new legislative agenda and position papers for your consideration. The legislative committee, together with the enthusiastic participation of both the Juvenile Justice and Adult Justice committees, are working together to present an agenda that is directed toward assuring public safety and will strengthen Minnesota's position as a leader in sound correctional policies and practices. Discussion at the Fall Institute will provide our membership to add your input into that final document which we will carry to our legislators at the start of the 2009 Legislative Session.

With the current economic climate, it is really difficult to project what may happen next year, but it is a new legislative biennium, and past practice tells us we can anticipate a 15 -20 % turnover in new legislators, which brings on a new and exciting challenge for us as we meet with them to advocate for our issues and needs. We sincerely hope our membership

will participate in this process so that we can continue to provide our elected officials with the vast expertise we have in our membership in their deliberations on public safety and correctional concerns.

We continue to welcome our membership to serve an active role on this committee so if you have any interest at all the the legislative process, why not join us? We continue to meet on the second Wednesdays of each month at the DOC offices in St Paul from 10:00 to noon. Hope to see you at the Fall Institute, and enjoy the rest of the summer!

President's Column Continued

Please make sure that you submit nominations for our MCA annual awards. We never get enough nominations to reflect the number of dedicated corrections folks doing wonderful work out there. It's important to recognize excellence in our field. Your nominations will be reviewed by the last five MCA presidents who will chose our final award winners.

Lastly, don't forget to vote for your next MCA officers. Michelle Smith and her nominating committee came up with a wonderful slate of candidates. These individuals will be a vital part of your MCA in the next couple years.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Duluth. You won't want to miss it!

2008 Annual Fall Institute

Debbie Beltz, Deb Sjoberg, Co-Chairs

The MCA Annual Fall Training Institute is excited to celebrate MCA's 75th Anniversary in Duluth this year. Our theme is "Our History, It Becomes Us."

If you haven't attended the MCA Fall Training Institute before, this is the year to do it! Come check out the 75 years of MCA history and enjoy great training sessions, awards and recognition of corrections professionals, resource fair vendors, and hospitality and entertainment events.

This year's general session keynote speakers include: Dave Pelzer, best selling author of *A Child Called It* Colonel W. Stephen Flaherty, Superintendent-Virginia State Police *Operation Prevail: The Findings of the Virginia Tech Shootings* Dennis Fritz, subject of John Grisham's, *The Innocent Man*, and Author of *Journey Toward Justice*.

Also new this year, by popular request, the Fall Institute will be offering tickets to non-MCA members to attend the general session speaking events only. The Fall Institute is offering pre-registration only for these sessions (limited number of seating available).

Evening entertainment will include a conference kick-off at the Dubh Linn Pub on October 28th with a special appearance by "Foxy." Hospitality Night at the Holiday Inn on October 29th and a full night of entertainment with a concert by The Dweebs at Grandma's on October 30th.

This is the year you don't want to miss!! Hope to see you there. Full training information and registration is available online or by calling 612-220-9049.

Check out our new website at www.mn-ca.org. Online credit card payments also now accepted.



Dave Pelzer

As the author of the best selling trilogy of books "[A Child Called IT](#)", "[The Lost Boy](#)" and "[A Man Named Dave](#)", Dave Pelzer chronicles his unforgettable story of the many abuses he suffered at the hands of his alcoholic mother and the averted eyes of his neglectful father. Someone with no one to turn to, his dreams barely kept him alive until his rescue by the hands

of the foster care system. This compelling story will awaken you to the horrifying truth about child abuse -- and the ability we have to make a difference. In a word, Dave Pelzer embodies ESPIRIT: Spirit, Humor and Wit. As a child, his resilience enabled him to overcome extreme life-threatening ob-

stacles. As an adult, for over 20 years, Dave's inspirational work has encouraged countless organizations and millions of individuals to recommit their efforts and remain steadfast to their personal convictions. He is the first to have four #1 International Best Sellers, and to have four books simultaneously on the New York Times Best Sellers list.



Col. Stephen W. Flaherty

Virginia State Police Superintendent

Operation Prevail – Virginia Tech: A Look Back... Within minutes, local, state and federal law enforcement from around Virginia

were responding to the worst mass-killing on a college campus in our nation's history. Join Colonel Steve Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent, for a detailed discussion on lessons learned and the strategies put forth to respond and investigate the mass tragedy of April 16, 2007. Colonel Flaherty will explore the partnering of multi-agency resources, the critical decision-making that ultimately saved lives, and the impact of conducting a high-profile investigation under intense, international media pressure.



Dennis Fritz

"Journey Toward Justice": Author Dennis Fritz tells his side of the story of his unwarranted prosecution and wrongful conviction, that changed his life and a small community forever. Dennis Fritz was tried and convicted on non-existent evidence, the false testimony of jailhouse snitches, faulty forensics work and suppressed evidence. Chronicled in

John Grisham's 2006 best selling novel "The Innocent Man", Dennis Fritz and co-defendant Ron Williamson were tried and convicted of the 1987 rape and murder of Debra Sue Carter in Ada, Oklahoma. Williamson was sentenced to death, Fritz to life imprisonment. After ten desperate years he discovered the Innocence Project, a non-profit legal organization devoted to exonerate the wrongfully convicted through post-conviction DNA testing. With the aid of Barry Scheck and irrefutable DNA evidence, Dennis and Ron Williamson were exonerated. The real killer, who turned out to be one of the prosecution's key witnesses, was finally brought to justice. On April 15, 1999, after twelve years of wrongful imprisonment Dennis and Ron were free men. Their long journey toward justice was finally over.



Student Services Committee

Shannon Marks, Chair

The MCA Student Services Committee provides a variety of opportunities to students seeking future careers in the field of corrections. Throughout the year we offer a career fair and scholarships to the Annual Fall Training Institute. Committee members are also willing to speak at colleges and universities to discuss corrections careers and issues. This year MCA will be providing two \$500 college scholarships to dependents of MCA members and the Student Services Committee set up the criteria. Please see the MCA website at www.mn-ca.org for more information. As a committee we are also working to update the new and improved MCA website by providing information for students seeking employment and internships in corrections.

The Eighth Annual Criminal Justice Career/Internship Fair was held on March 26, 2008 at St. Cloud State University. This was a joint venture between the MCA Student Services Committee and the Criminal Justice Association of St. Cloud State University. Over 200 students from twenty different colleges and universities attended the career fair and had the chance to meet with 36 vendors from all areas of corrections. The participating vendors included state, federal and private agencies. The attendance far exceeded last years' attendance of 130 students from seven colleges. The Student Services Committee also gave away five \$20 Super America gas cards and two \$50 Target gift cards to students who filled out a survey.

Eighty-Five scholarships are offered for college students who want to attend the Annual MCA Fall Conference. Attending the conference provides students a wonderful chance to network with all the great people in the corrections field and attend relevant corrections training. There are also two breakout sessions for students during the conference, an orientation to the conference and "Breaking into Corrections" which is a round table discussion group with professionals in the field.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the current members of the MCA Student Services Committee: Amy Waibel, Chuck Ness, and Rachel Miller of the Minnesota Department of Corrections; Tessa MacDonald, Mellissa Holthaus and Nathan Miller of Wright County Court Services; Joe Seminari and Brent Schmidt of Sherburne County Court Services and I would like to welcome new members Jennifer Pierskalla and Sarah Miller of Blue Earth County Community Corrections. The Student Services Committee is also seeking new members who have an interest in working with college students and other professionals in the field. Our meeting times and locations vary throughout the year. If you are interested in joining or seeking more information contact Chairperson Shannon Marks at 763-241-8780 or shannon.k.marks@state.mn.us

2008 MCA Awards

The Minnesota Corrections Association recognizes individuals and programs for their contribution to the field of corrections in Minnesota. This is an opportunity for Corrections Professionals to acknowledge co-workers and programs that demonstrate excellence in the performance of their duties. 2008 is a special year for MCA, as we are also celebrating our 75th anniversary! We have several additional activities and events planned to honor this occasion.

Would you please share with your agency staff that MCA is seeking nominations for the following awards for the October 2008 Awards Ceremony in Duluth, Minnesota. The deadline for award nominations is August 1, 2008. Award nomina-

tion forms can be downloaded from the MCA Home page www.mn-ca.org Announcements – Award Nominations.

Professional Achievement Award Correctional Facility Employee

This award is given to a correctional facility employee in a federal, state, county or community-based correctional facility, whose skills, knowledge, judgment and communications have made a positive impact on offenders, fellow staff, the agency and the community. Achievement recognized exceeds that which is routinely part of a person's employment.

Professional Achievement Award Field Services Employee

This award is given to a correctional employee in a federal, state, county or community-based agency, whose skills, knowledge, judgment and communications have made a positive impact on offenders, fellow staff, the agency and the community. Achievement recognized exceeds that which is routinely part of a person's employment.

President's Award

This award goes to programs, resources or facilities working in the board field of corrections and criminal justice, which demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness and innovation.

Corrections Person of the Year

This award is given for outstanding contribution to the field of corrections in Minnesota by an individual in any employment.

Board of Director's Award

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



'08 Fall Institute

Enjoy a full night of
entertainment with a concert
by **The Dweebs** at **Grandma's**
on **October 30th.**
See you in **Dulu**

The 18th Annual Minnesota Corrections Association Golf Tournament is set for Monday, September 15th, 2008, at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker, Minnesota. This event is a four person scramble, with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. Tournament fee is tentatively set at \$60.00 per person, which includes green fees, cart, lunch, awards, and prizes. Trophies will be awarded for the foursome with the lowest gross. Prizes will also be awarded to men and women in the following categories: longest putt, longest drive, and closest to the pin in regulation.

Registration forms can be accessed after July 7th, 2008, at www.mn-ca.org/ under the Events link. Registration deadline is September 10th, 2008, and teams must be reserved and paid in advance. The tournament is limited to 144 players, so get your registrations in early.

Please contact Chris Jahnke, Wright County Court Services, at 763-682-7862 or e-mail christopher.jahnke@co.wright.mn.us with any questions. If any vendors are interested in providing prizes for the tournament please contact Todd Gau (Wright County Court Services, at 763-682-7723 or e-mail todd.gau@co.wright.mn.us) by Sept. 10th, 2008 so that arrangements can be made prior to the tournament.



*Many of our colleagues
have been deployed under
Global War Terrorism.
We wish to acknowl-
edge them and their families for
their service and great sacrifice
on behalf of our nation.
We ask that you keep them in
your thoughts and prayers until
they are safely returned to us.*

2008 Proposed Bylaw Change

ARTICLE I. Membership

F. Lifetime memberships will be available **to individuals** upon retirement **from employment in the field of corrections** of active member. The one time fee will be recommended by the Board of Directors to membership. The membership will determine the fee by majority vote. Lifetime members shall enjoy full membership privileges with the following modifications:

- 1) Lifetime members will be given the same Institute fee arrangements as students. ~~Meals and~~ Entertainment will be at an extra cost. ~~Meals and~~ Entertainment will be at an extra cost.
- 2) Lifetime members who are active committee members will be permitted free conference registration. ~~Meals and~~ Entertainment will be at extra cost.

