



Volume 37 • No. 5 • December 2014

In this issue:

- **President's Message**
- **Legislative Affairs**
- **Techie Talk**
- **2014 MCA Award Winners**

MCA Platinum Sponsors



President's Message Monique Drier 2014 MCA President

Looking back at 2014 as President of this wonderful association has left me in awe. Little did I know that when I was elected as President in 2013 the incredible experiences I would be honored to have throughout the year. This association and its' members have truly had a year of growth in many areas. I want to thank each and every one of you that have had a role in making this year so successful. Associations like MCA depend heavily on our volunteers. This year is no exception to that rule.

In January 2015, Debbie Beltz will be starting her fourth year as our Administrative Manager. Debbie is truly the "glue" that helps MCA run so smoothly. Thank you for all that you have done in the past year and continue to do on a daily basis. Debbie has worked closely with the Board of Director's throughout the year to make changes and improvements. An example of this work would be when we look at the increased membership. With the work of our Membership Chair, Dan Kempf and Debbie our membership has increased by 18% this past year and 56% since 2012. Many associations or businesses would dream of a continued increase each year in membership.

In the latter part of 2013, MCA was honored to be selected to be the fiscal agent for a grant funded through the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC). The idea behind the grant was to increase capacity with respect to Juvenile Justice issues and look at areas to reform and reevaluate where improvements can be made. The points of contact for this were Karen Evans and Mark Haase. Over 10 forums were held statewide and a final report is in the process of being completed to detail the findings. Thank you Mark for traveling throughout Minnesota and the work that you did to make this project so successful. Many thanks to all that participated in the individual forums.

In March, I was able to attend Corrections Capitol Day in St. Paul. We had a very nice turnout for the event and we would be remiss in not acknowledging the work of Cal Saari and Mark Bliven to make this event so successful. Mark and Cal have helped to teach me many things about the Legislative process which highlights the necessity of having them serve in their respective positions with the MCA Board and at the State Capital.

2014 MCA Board of Directors

President

Monique Drier
mdrier@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

President Elect

Michelle Smith, Chair
michelle.smith@state.mn.us

Vice President

Steve King
stevek@co.mower.mn.us

Secretary

Lynn Rohlf
rohlf@stlouiscountymn.gov

Treasurer

Dayna Burmeister
dayna.burmeister@state.mn.us

Past President/Awards Committee

Karen Evans
karen.evans@co.wright.mn.us

Education & Training Committee

Sarah Eischens, Co-Chair
sarah.eischens@state.mn.us
Nancy Johnson, Co-Chair
nancy.johnson@state.mn.us

Fall Institute Committee

Shannon Fette, Co-Chair
shannon.fette@co.ramsey.mn.us
Amy Moeckel, Co-Chair
amy.moeckel@co.ramsey.mn.us

Juvenile Justice Committee

Richard Gardell, Chair
richard@180degrees.org

Legislative/Adult Justice Committee

Mark Bliven, Chair
mark.bliven@state.mn.us

Legislative Liaison

Calvin Saari
SISUwithSAARI@aol.com

Membership Committee

Dan Kempf, Co-Chair
dan.kempf@co.hennepin.mn.us

Nomination Committee

Laura Anderson
laura.a.anderson@state.mn.us

Student Services Committee

Lori Korts, Chair
lori.korts@state.mn.us

Technology Committee

David Heath, Chair
heathd@stlouiscountymn.gov

Administrative Manager

Debbie Beltz
mca-mn@hotmail.com

In March, I was also able to attend and see the work that goes into planning and executing the spring training for MCA. Nancy, Sarah and their whole committee were very welcoming and patient as they explained the process. The speakers presented very timely information with the topic of Opiate & Heroin Addiction; helping the packed venue to understand more about this addiction. Many thanks to the vendors that were able to attend this event.

In October, the long awaited fall institute was held at Grand View Lodge. I would like to thank the Fall Institute Chairs – Amy Moeckel and Shannon Fette and their committees for the fantastic job they did of planning the institute this year. For those of you that were able to attend the institute it offered a new venue, great training and necessary time to connect with other corrections professionals. This is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends that we have made over the years and make new friends from across the state. Commissioner Tom Roy was in attendance and his unending support of this association goes without saying. As a state we are very fortunate to have such an incredible leader and friend among us. He was able to present his dear friend and peer – Deputy Commissioner John King with the Corrections Person of the year award. This presentation is one that we will not quickly forget – there was not a “dry eye” in the audience after this presentation. That evening an awards ceremony sponsored by 180 Degrees was held to honor all award recipients. Many thanks to 180 Degrees for their generosity. In December 2014, the Board approved the Legislative agenda for the year. We look forward to the work that will be done this next year in the legislative process.

Overall this has been a fabulous year for the association. I am truly honored to have been the President this year. Looking back to my first meeting where I questioned myself about “Robert’s Rules of Order” to present. It has been an absolute pleasure to be surrounded by such incredible people with a passion for corrections and the communities that each of you serves daily. As many of you know I traveled to Liberia Africa in January, 2014 to present a community policing training as part of a sister city relationship. This trip was life changing and a very powerful experience in many ways. As a reminder of this trip and the journey that I have been fortunate enough to have been asked to take I leave you with this parting quote from the late Maya Angelou - “We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.” Never be afraid to be that change agent in whatever it is that you decide to do.

Warm regards –
Monique



Report on Legislative Affairs:

As I prepare this report to you in the December issue of the Forum, we are all also in the mist of the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season. I take this opportunity to send best wishes to all our members and partner organizations. May your Christmas season be filled with joy, peace, and best wishes for the New Year!

As you all know, the Minnesota Legislature opens its 2015-16 biennium on January 6th with a little different political culture as a result of the elections this past November. We'll have a Democratic Governor, a Democratic Senate majority, and a Republican majority running the House, which will make for some interesting dynamics at play. We will see a clearly different structure in the House as the Republican majority has made significant changes to the Committee structure. The new Committee assignments for all legislators was just released yesterday and it appears there will be a lot of new faces sitting on the Committees, all under new leadership. As I began my review of the Committee structure last night, I observed that many of the DFL House members, who played significant roles in the last Session, are no longer even members of the Public Safety Policy and Finance Committees. That will create another new learning curve and lots of work for us in the next couple of months as we get to know these new members and get the chance to review our legislative agendas with them.

At this point, we're being told that everything and anything is on the table for consideration, and that the Republican leadership will be looking toward bipartisanship as they address the many issues to come before them. The depth of that collaboration will show itself within the first several weeks of Committee work.

Complicating the legislative effort this year will be the turmoil surrounding the restoration and remodeling of our State Capitol. Meeting sites are very difficult to find, as well as where each Legislator will find space to have an office. The Governor's office and staff have already been moved out of the Capitol and it is expected that both the House and Senate may have to hold hearings at different sites from time to time. Parking will also be a major complication during this Session. But even with all these obstacles, our elected officials are ready to govern and everyone is hopeful for a productive Session.

We will again be following the work of the House Public Safety Committee and the Senate Judiciary Division where almost all Corrections concerns would be initiated and heard. Chairman Tony Cornish has indicated that the single funding stream for Corrections and suggestions on how to address the state's sex offender population in view of recent Court decisions will be high on the priority lists, but at least at this time, without any specific suggestions on how these issues can and

should be addressed. We are hoping that the Committee work will begin to present some specific suggestions early in the process so that they could become topics for discussion at our Corrections Capitol Day at the Legislature which is scheduled for Monday, February 9th at the Kelly Inn beginning with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast. Mark this date on your calendar now, and we will be sharing a specific meeting agenda with you in mid-January. We would expect to have appearances by all of the Committee chairs and the leadership of both parties present for these discussions.

We'll again be presenting a "Legislative Bill Tracker" to our membership as bills are introduced and move through the Committee process. With on the MCA website and watch for the "tracker" report starting in mid-January.

I expect this Session to be an extremely busy period for all of us as we try to work around the physical obstacles we'll find at the Legislature this year. Thank you so much to all of you for your support and kind words on our work to represent MCA at the Legislature. Please let me know of your interests and concerns at any time.

Calvin Saari
Legislative Liaison
Minnesota Corrections Association
sisuwithsaari@aol.com

Techie Talk



Security Drones and Contraband Drones

By David Heath - Technical Committee Chair

The advancement of more sophisticated drones and how they will be regulated and used in our future world is a new technological challenge. Currently, drones cannot be used for commercial use and the projected date for commercial use is September 2015. At least the FAA has been given this deadline from Congress, to provide national rules to legalize drones for commercial use. Most states are trying to pass their own laws on how civilian drones can be used, and eleven states currently have regulations on civilian drone use.

For now, only the Government agencies can use military type drones which are larger with higher payloads and can stay in the air much longer than Civilian drones. However, innovative criminals are starting to use civilian drones for illegal activities. One activity is smuggling contraband into Correctional Facilities and is happening worldwide. Drugs and cell phones seem to be the contraband of choice so far. I have provided a web link which talks about recent drone breaches of prison walls.

<http://www.nationofchange.org/prisoners-using-drones-smuggle-contraband-1408374489>

Two Correctional Facilities in Ohio are currently testing three types of Security Drones to be used as eyes in the sky, hoping to handle future external security threats. Starting in November 2014, they are testing three different types of drones. A tethered balloon type drone, a helicopter hovering drone, and a fixed wing drone. This is believed to be the first testing of Correctional Security Drones in the country.

Starting in November, the prisons will test a series of different drones, sensors and cameras at the Lebanon and Warren facilities in collaboration with the Ohio/Indiana UAS Center. The testing is expected to last at least 120 days.

The tethered balloon, also called an aerostat, has been launched for a cost of \$170,000.00 and was paid for by the Department of Transportation. They believe there could be statewide interest in a product of this nature. The aerostat testing will also determine if the technology can watch both the Lebanon and Warren facilities at once, and how far off prison grounds the device is capable of seeing. Once the testing is done, they plan on doing a cost analysis to determine what type of security they want to use. See the link below to read the full article on this test:
<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/local/prisons-to-test-aerial-security-system/nhY5j/>

Someday, we might see armed security drones shooting down contraband drones. Anything is possible in this market, and it might be necessary as Commercial drones evolve along with more serious security threats than contraband smuggling. Security drones that can disable and disarm incoming drone threats are a future possibility. Or maybe future prison guard towers will have increased defense capabilities. The legalization of Commercial Drones will usher in a new industry in America.

Proposed Drone Commercial uses range across the board from pizza and beer delivery to just about everything in between. Agriculture sees a big future in drones and last spring the FAA shut down a local company delivering beer to ice fisherman in Minnesota with a drone. An impressive video and delivery concept on the link below:
<http://techcrunch.com/2014/02/04/the-faa-shuts-down-beer-delivery-drone/>

The one given with any drone use is that there will be groups that oppose them for privacy purposes. The Warren-Lebanon Security Drone test is already under the scrutiny of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, who are concerned about the line of sight and what these devices are capable of seeing and recording. Here is a link on commercial drones and some of the FAA rules:
<http://www.breitbart.com/Breitbart-California/2014/10/17/FAA-to-Approve-Commercial-Drone-Use-Next-Year>

Once commercial drones are allowed, they will be more sophisticated and capable of carrying much higher payloads. This will be a future concern for security and terrorist experts when considering a commercial drone's greater capabilities in the wrong hands. How they will be regulated and controlled remains to be seen. Issues will range from traffic control to air space to falling payloads to illegal transports to privacy and much, much, more. In retrospect, the drone beer delivery idea on the Minnesota Lake seems so convenient and simple on the surface..... Hopefully, ensuring public safety and legalizing drone flights in a manner that really makes the world a better place will always be a top consideration in what is or isn't allowed in the future market.

Congratulations to our 2014 MCA Award Winners!

Corrections Person of the Year
John R. King, Assistant Commissioner Facilities Division
Department of Corrections

Professional Achievement-Institution
Kent Grandlienard, Warden
DOC MCF-Oak Park Heights

Professional Achievement-Field Services
Brian Stoll, Agent
Wright County Court Services

President's Award
Yellow Medicine Restorative Justice Department
Yellow Medicine County

Technology Award
Jennifer Gabrielli, IT4
Department of Corrections

Board of Director's Award
Chuck Ness - Department of Corrections
MCA Nominating Committee Member

Thank you to the following organizations for their special sponsorship at the Annual Fall Training

Program Printing – Moose Lake Print Production Class

Registration Bags – MN Adult & Teen Challenge

Registration Lanyards – MINNCOR Industries

Wednesday Afternoon Break – Prairie Lakes

Past President's Breakfast & Awards Ceremony Social Hour – 180 Degrees



About the MCA *FORUM*

FORUM is published six times a year by the Minnesota Corrections Association, a nonprofit professional association incorporated in Minnesota. Articles submitted by our membership do not express the views of MCA or the board of directors.

Articles may be submitted to the 2015 *FORUM* editor **Marc Bloomquist** at marc.bloomquist@state.mn.us 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.

Minnesota Corrections Association
PO Box 261 • Wyoming, MN 55092-0261
651-462-8320 • mca-mn@hotmail.com • www.mn-ca.org