



BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS – 2023

MCA PRESIDENT—MARK GROVES

MCA President 2023 Annual Report

1. Met with Curtis Shanklin throughout the year to discuss:
 - MCA/MACCAC/MACPO Corrections Capitol Day, February 8, 8:30 – noon. Virtual.
 - 90th MCA anniversary, Annual Training Institute at DECC, October 24-27, 2023.
 - Star Tribune juvenile justice series, Sandra Feist, MN Rep. New Brighton.
 - MCA/MACPO Juvenile Justice Conference, April 2023.
 - Telephone call with Katrinna Dexter at DOC to discuss collaboration with MCA.
 - MCA Community Support Conference, May 2023, Willmar.
 - Reinstating the Safety Training Initiative, Wayne Niles, MCA, MACCAC, MACPO.
 - Developed a collaboration with DOC/DEED for drivers at SSB.
 - Developing a collaboration with MINNCOR/SSB to develop a commissary for MSOP. Meeting with Doug Latuseck at MSOP.
 - Active with Al Godfrey and the SUD Responsivity Committee developing a Webex training for SUD providers on what our purpose and role of supervision and how it is tied into our initial goal on providing information at referral and why. Large committee: Godfrey, Chuck Hilger at MARRCH, lots of corrections folks.
2. Attended and met with MCA Committees and Chairs.
3. Attended bi-monthly Community Services Advisory Committee meetings.
4. I've been meeting with DOC, MACPO, MACCAC, MARRCH leadership to strengthen our collaboration, partnership.
5. Met with Al Godfrey and DAANES administrators Angela McNeil-Olson and Rick Moldenhauer, at ADAD to discuss evaluation components of the SUD Responsivity Workgroup initiative.
6. Continued to attend monthly MARRCH annual and spring conference committee. I'm a member of their E & T committee.
7. Continued to attend monthly Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) Annual Conference Committee meetings. I am a member of their E & T committee.

8. Presented a 3-hour ethics/boundaries workshop for MCA on February 17, 2023.
9. Robyn Wood, Jamie Rigling and I conducted a 2-hour workshop on March 16, 2023, at the Annual MSSA conference at the Minneapolis Hilton. Our workshop title: *An Introduction to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, United States Federal Probation & Federal Bureau of Prisons.*
10. Attended our MCA/MACCAC/MACPO Corrections Capitol Day, February 8, 2023.
11. Presented a 3-hour Ethics and Professional Boundaries workshop for MCA on February 17, 2023.
12. Hosted a Rule of 90 initiative Zoom meeting on February 27. Carter Diers, Jonathan Schiro, Cal Saari, Tami Jo Lieberg, etc. I advise MCA and Jonathan Schiro from MACPO take the lead moving forward and develop concrete “action plans.” I also advise MCA provide funds to contract with Nancy Haas to develop the proposal.
13. Met with Representative Feist, Kari Boser and MCA Juvenile Justice Committee via Zoom on February 28, 2023.
14. Attended monthly Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center Advisory Committee meetings. I’m a member of that committee.
15. Hosted a telephone conference between ARC and FreedomWorks to discuss referrals from the criminal justice system.
16. Met with the DOC Transition Staff and presented the Offender Reentry Game. I had lunch with Kelly Mitchell, new Assistant Commissioner of Community Services & Reentry.
17. Hosted a meet & greet with Representative Jeff Witte and the MACCAC, MACPO leadership.
18. My workshop proposal at the St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference, *From Cell to Street: What Offenders Need When They Return to the Community* was accepted. Present on October 12, 2023.
19. Visited Damascus Way and met with their leadership.
20. Continued meetings with Brian Zerbes, new Executive Director with MARRCH.
21. I invited the MACCAC, MACPO and MARRCH presidents, executive directors, to provide a brief introduction of themselves and their respective associations, during my MCA president kick-off presentation on October 25.
22. Participated in the Pension Stakeholder Meetings with GRS (Actuary Firm).
23. Met with Commissioner Schnell to discuss collaboration between MCA and DOC.



VICE PRESIDENT – LAURA ANDERSON

Report

Key issues and activities:

As I reflect on my term as Vice President this year, one word really comes to mind: SUPPORTIVE. Throughout the year I had a variety of miscellaneous projects that supported the executive board, full board and the Communications Committee, including the FORUM newsletter.

I worked on getting articles from retired corrections professionals, supporting a new Communications chair, Laura Thielen, worked on the MCA Operating Manual updates and supported/helped with whatever gaps were identified.

Throughout this year I created a timeline for Committee Chairs to work on their Operating Manual updates and changes. I'm still gathering information as I write this report. As I close out this year, I will be providing MCA with all the updates from 2023.

One of my primary responsibilities is to track any motions/requests to change the bylaws. *During 2023, there were **NO** Motions or Requests to change the by-laws.*

This concludes the Vice President 2023 report.



TREASURER – ROBYN WOOD

Report:

We have remained consistent with our funds and investments. Last year RBC met with the Board and committees and diversified some funds into other investments to have a higher yield.

Currently we have \$338,618.11 in our RBC account. We will have payments for the Fall Conference coming out but should remain steady with our account.

We stay in good communication with our accountant and Lisa Baker (RBC) to keep MCA stable with funding.



ADULT JUSTICE/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2023 MCA ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:

As you all are aware, this was a very different legislative year! The MCA Board approved the Legislative Agenda as proposed by the Legislative Committee in December 2022, and I then began the work of getting a copy of the full agenda to Public Safety Committee members of the House and Senate, as well as copies to members of Civil Law and the Division of Children and Families, which was a newly devised Committee put together by the DFL majority leadership. This Committee is chaired by Rep. Dave Pinto, a DFL'er with many years of legislative experience.

As you know, the House Public Safety Committee is chaired by Rep. Kelly Moller, and she was closely assisted by Rep. Sandra Feist, who played a leadership role in introducing new legislation and assisting in moving these bills through the Committee process. The Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Division is again chaired by Senator Ron Latz.

The DFL leadership moved quickly to move things forward and by the end of the second week of the Session, more than 200 bills had been introduced and referred to Committee. The high volume of bill introductions continued throughout the Session and by the time of adjournment on May 22nd, we knew that in all probability a new record of bills had been introduced. Committee hearings moved just as fast with limited time to respond for the most part, and quick action taken by the DFL majority. Republicans assigned to these Committees quickly became frustrated and were vocal about not being able to respond often on proposed legislation. Then fairly early in the Session, our State was hit with terrible weather conditions and at one point more than 30 Committee hearings were cancelled, backlogging the process of moving bills forward.

On February 8th, we conducted our 2023 Corrections Capitol Day event which was totally a Zoom session. We had eight Legislators participate in this event and had an excellent dialogue with Corrections participants. At that point in the Session, there still was this enormous budget surplus exceeding \$ 17 billion, so there was lots of conversation on how that surplus would be used by our elected officials. By early April, when the Legislature took it's Easter break to return to their home areas to deal with constituents, the policy provision endorsed by the DFL were pretty much in place and ready to be incorporated into the Division's Omnibus bills. This too, became very interesting and confusing to most because of it's enormous size. The leadership then also did their own thing by not following legislative rules by adding most of the financial aspects of their proposals into one large bill, so they ended up with a Public Safety Omnibus bill that exceeded 350 pages, which of course was passed and signed by the Governor, and left to all of us to describe what was contained in the legislation.

The result was that we saw more legislation from our legislative agenda become law than we could have ever expected!

Briefly, some of most talked about actions included RESTORE THE VOTE!, Sentence review for Juveniles Certified as Adults to Life Sentences, The Minnesota Rehabilitation and

Reinvestment Act, A supervised Release/Parole Board, a private prison ban, expansion of the Challenge Incarceration Program, emphasis on Mental Health issues and monies for pilot programs, a Family Support unit within the DOC, and much more. There simply was so much for us to be grateful for, but there is still work to be done. A new 2024 MCA Legislative Agenda is now being prepared for presentation at the Fall Institute.

There will be discussion on the MRRA and how can we best address the directives of that legislation, and what is it's impact, work on Offender Reentry, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, The critical need for much needed community based treatment programming and a critical discussion is needed on staffing levels in both institutions and field services, and needed funding for job skill development in the institutions, and much more to come.

So yes, this was a very good legislative year but there is still much work to be done, which will be our objective to assure that Legislators are informed of these needs and why their support is of most importance to us. We will continue to work within the Legislature to see that your concerns are a priority for action. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to work on your behalf and I thank for your support!

Adult Justice Chair/Co-Chairs: Mark Bliven and Mary Cardinal Peterson

Committee Members: Dan Cain, Nathan Delgado, Steve Dornbach, Tim Dorway, Kevin Dotson, Andrea Emery, Tom Feddema, Darryl Goebel, Tim Haug, Paul Mickelson, Miranda Neuwirth, Theresa Rardin, Jamie Rigling, Latonya Reeves, Cal Saari, Jane Schmid,

Report:

Capitol Day was again held via Zoom on February 8, 2023. We had 92 people attend the session plus guests DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell, Representatives Paul Novtny, Walter Hudson, Sandra Feist, Kelly Moller, Dave Pinto and Jeff Witte and Senators Warren Limmer and Ron Latz attending. It was a great morning of discussions and amount of support expressed by many legislators in support of our work.

The 2023 legislative session could be described as proceeding fast and furious, which left little opportunity for testimonies as many items were put into the Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety appropriations bill (SR 2909) directly from the committee hearings, resulting in a 529-page bill. Various committee members were involved in some bill aspects and Cal stated busy communicating our interests to the legislators as he was able.

In January the Full Circle Advisory Group work-group recruited people that had served a minimum of five years in prison (state or federal) and have successfully integrated back into the community for at least five years for to be the inaugural group members to be involved in determining focus and parameters of the group. 15 men applied for the group, three did not meet the minimum requirements, 13 were invited for interviews and six completed the interviews and were accepted. Dan Cain and Paul Mikelson have served as the group facilitator and have been meeting twice a month on Zoom since June.

Staffing issues across the corrections system became a topic of discussion. During the months of June, July, and August a small group of legislative committee members (including a few new recruits) met to discuss staffing issues (recruiting, training, retention, working conditions, culture, and morale). Discussion summaries were brought back to the full committee and will be a priority issue for the 2024 legislative session.

ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE COMMITTEE

Chair/Co-Chairs:

Dan Besser, Becki Erickson

Committee Members:

Arrangements Chairs: Tom Jungmann, Tom Redmond, Teresa Knies

Resource Fair Chairs: Kayla Grimm, Jennifer Krajniak, Jennifer Gast

Members: Shannon Fette

Hospitality/Networking Chairs: Adriana Anderson, Kaitlyn Baden

Members: Molly Trieschman, Laura Vukelich, Steven Fisher, Frank Rutt, Jennifer Gast

Registration Chairs: Jean Wipper

Members: Dan Carlson, Arti Cunningham

Program Chairs: ME Heald, Chris Schweich

Members: Tom Beiring, Stephanie Duhme, Duane Stanley, Kari Boser, Matt Seeger

Report:

The Annual Training Institute is being held at Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth, MN on October 25th, 2023 through October 27th, 2023. An awards ceremony and social hour will take place on the evening of October 24th.

There are approximately 357 registered attendees to date. A virtual platform was not offered this year and a vaccination was not required.

The program committee has put together a diverse program covering a wide range of training opportunities with 3 general keynote sessions and 36 breakout sessions. Cvent was again utilized as the conference app.

The Resource Fair is anticipating hosting around 47 exhibitors. Wednesday evening's event will include a hospitality night sponsored by exhibitors at The Garden. Thursday evening networking event will take place at 310 Pub with games, and a 50/50 raffle.

The 2024, Annual Training Institute will be held in Mankato, MN. In 2025, the Annual Training Institute will be in Grand View Lodge.

Accomplishments:

- Surpassed our goals of 300 attendees and 40 exhibitors.
- Many well-rounded committees
- Received generous donations from organizations for our various raffles
- Brought on multiple new sponsors
- Revamped marketing image and consistency across the board (signs, app, fliers)
- Utilizing reusable frames and ordered recyclable paper signs for the conference sessions posters this year. In addition to being more environmentally friendly, it resulted in a significant savings in printing costs.

Setbacks:

- Some Fall Institute Planning Committee Members have begun quitting the committees they serve on due to their agency not allowing them to attend the conference.
- Many organizations no longer had funds to provide donations this late in the year.

Looking ahead:

- Will start requesting donations at the beginning of the year
- It was great to have Communication on social media to start promoting the event more
- Would be nice to have a Fall Conference specific credit card so we can just take care of all our purchases
- Will be requesting more support from the Technology Committee next year

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair/Co-Chairs: Laura Thielen

Committee Members:

Laura Anderson
Kristine O’Connell
Melissa Paquette
Roger Baburam
Matt Zehoski
Tara Rathman – Forum Editor

Report:

I, Laura Thielen, took over as chair in the summer of 2023. I connected with the committee members, ensured their want to remain on the committee and established a current list of members. I created a Facebook page, accessed the existing Instagram page, accessed the existing Twitter page, created a LinkedIn profile and became a “super user” for the MCA LinkedIn page. I began creating posts on all four sites and have been sharing about the upcoming conference.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS COMMITTEE

Chair/Co-Chairs: Ron Solheid, Chair / Holly VanPelt, Co-chair

Committee Members:

- Ron Solheid R3
- Daniel Schaeppi MNTC
- Latonya Reeves Hennepin County
- Frank Jackson DOC
- Kristine Meech DOC
- Tara Rathman DOC
- Holly VanPelt DOC
- Lindsay Meyer Salvation Army
- Eric Logan Salvation Army
- Mark Schultz DOC
- Amy Stephan NuWay
- Crystal Caruso NuWay
- Jake Lewis NuWay
- John Henderson RAIN Homes
- Jesse Kaplan MNTC

Report:

The Community Supports Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month via zoom. We initially focused on planning for a spring MCA workshop to be held in Willmar Mn this spring and secured a location and developed an agenda for this training. Committee members provided great input and energy into this effort, however, due to the lack of registrations the decision was made to cancel this event. It seems that in the wake of Covid and budgetary restrictions agencies were experiencing holding this event was not feasible at this time.

The Committee continues to meet and has shifted focus to other areas. At present the committee has reached out to DOC staff involved with updates and revisions to policies that impact community organizations that provide supports to persons under supervision or leaving incarceration. The policies are (300.020 Access to Correctional Facilities and Other Department Locations by Non-DOC Persons and 300.040 Volunteer Services Program). These policies impact community-based organizations and their staff and members of the committee would like to provide input to the DOC on any proposed changes to these policies. The committee is also focused on providing input to the DOC with the development of MNRRA policies related to early release from incarceration and community supervision. The community-based organizations want to play a role in rehabilitation and re-investment with the DOC as it moves forward with planning in this effort.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Pat Gerbozy

Committee Members: None

Report: The Education Training Committee had a very successful year. The monthly presentations were well attended and well received.

This year, in addition to a monthly speaker or group presentation, I offered our sponsors a chance to do a brief presentation on their organization. The sponsors were more than willing to do this to get their product or services out to a variety of organizations.

This year I chose not to book presenters more than three months in advance. I found if I booked too far in advance, speakers or organizations “forgot” they were doing a presentation.

2023 MCA Education Committee Presentations and Spotlight sponsors

January – Lifer Panel

(Dan Cain cain41648@gmail.com)

Sponsor Spotlight – 180 Degrees

February – Boundaries/Ethics

(Mark Groves mark.groves@state.mn.us)

Sponsor Spotlight – West Central Regional Juvenile Center

Dustin Berg Dustin.Berg@claycounymn.gov

March – RJ Overview

Liz Richards Liz.richards@state.mn.us

Sponsor Spotlight – R.A.I.N. Homes

John Henderson Hende309@umn.edu

April – EMPLOY

(JoAnn Brown) joann.brown@state.mn.us

Sponsor Spotlight – Al’MAA’UNN

Tyrush Hayes tyrush@almaauun.org

May – Trio Educational Opportunity Centers

Tou Lee tou.lee@minneapolis.edu

Sponsor Spotlight – NuWay

Crystal Caruso crystal.caruso@nuway.org

June – Substance Abuse Trends and Patterns

Richard Moldenhauer Richard.Moldenhauer@state.mn.us

Sponsor Spotlight – Partners Behavioral Health care

Ellie Ohrlein ellieo@pirmn.com

July – MN Peer Support

Megan Mattice megan.mattice@state.mn.us

Sean McIntyre sean.mcIntyre@state.mn.us

Sponsor Spotlight – Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance

Char Wilson char.wilson@midwestmonitoring.com

August – Legislative Re-Cap

Mark Bliven, Mary Cardinal, Cal Saari

Sponsor Spotlight – None needed

September – Hearing and Release

Rebecca Holmes Larson Holmes rebecca.holmeslarson@state.mn.us

Sponsor Spotlight – Northwest MN Juvenile Center

Mindy O'brien MObrien@nmjconline.org

October – Veteran's Services

Judd Citrowske, judd.citrowske@state.mn.us

John Moore John.Moore3@va.gov

Jamie Rigling Jamie_Rigling@mnp.uscourts.gov

Sponsor Spotlight – Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance

Char Wilson char.wilson@midwestmonitoring.com

November 17th – Park Avenue Center

Mark Casagrande mcasagrande@parktx.com

Sponsor Spotlight – 180 Degrees

Tony Hunter tony.hunter@180degrees.org

December 15th – The Redemption Project

Dwight Tostenson – dtostenson@the-redemption-project.org

Sponsor Spotlight – Crotega Safety Solutions

Mike Kleber MikeKleber@crotega.com

2024 speakers and sponsors are being scheduled.

Goals for 2024:

- * Recruiting more committee members.
- * Offering official CEU credits for the monthly presentations. This is currently being discussed.
- * Finding more topic areas that MCA members are interested in.

I would like to thank Gail Moerke, who stepped down from this committee in May, the sponsorship committee for their support in providing me with a list of current sponsors and the MCA Board for their willingness to help me throughout the year to find speakers or topic areas, and Ms. Beltz for helping me with the monthly presentations.

I look forward to another successful year.



JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Kari Boser

Committee Members: Edward Anderson, Dustin Berg, Kristin Diercks, Julie Duff, Tim Haug, Shery Johnson, Mike McGrath, Laraine Mickelson, Elisabeth Payne, Devin Peterson, Jane Schmid, Duane Stanley, Shon Thieren

Mission: The Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) has set out to be a collaborative voice for justice involved juveniles in all delivery systems throughout the state. We strive to promote transformation in the system and focus on being a rejuvenating and positive force within this environment.

Report: On April 20, 2023, the JJC in conjunction with MACPO hosted the 4th Annual Juvenile Justice Conference. This year's conference offered the following presentations:

- MN Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (MN JDAI)
- Olmsted County's Family Violence Response Team
- Washington County's Juvenile Probation Intake Process
- MCF-Red Wing's Programming and Services

In addition to planning and hosting the annual conference, other highlights of 2023 include:

- Met with legislative representatives to discuss our positions on proposed legislation impacting juveniles.
- Collaborated with MCA's legislative committee on juvenile related legislative priorities for 2024.
- Met with representative from the workgroup on juvenile competency.
- Sought out juvenile related proposals for the MCA Fall Training Institute.
- Met with representative from the DOC regarding changes to Disciplinary Room Time (DRT) statewide.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Marlin Meszaros and Jamie Rigling

Honorary Committee Members: Anyone who recruits members to join MCA.

Report: Initiatives began in January of 2023 with Debbie Beltz guiding the two new co-chairs to lapsed membership rosters, current membership rosters, recruitment, and retainment of members.

In March of 2023, President Mark Groves and Co-Chair Rigling presented at the Minnesota Social Services Association (MSSA) Conference.

In July of 2023 Co-Chair Meszaros and Co-Chair Rigling met with President Groves at Damascus Way to discuss initiatives to meet the goal.

Co-Chair Rigling assisted MCA’s Education Committee with preparation of Veterans Resources presentation for October 20, 2023, to expand on practitioners who work with justice involved individuals.

Co-Chair Meszaros and Co-Chair Rigling had increased discussions with staff from DEED who will be implementing the PROWD Grant in all four of the Minnesota federal Bureau of Prisons to include Duluth, Sandstone, and Rochester.

Future Recruitment Efforts:

Ongoing, for all committee members.

Co-Chair Meszaros and Co-Chair Rigling will attend Coalition meetings and other stakeholder meetings to recruit and retain members.

Co-Chair Rigling and President Groves will attend and present at the MAARCH Conference on October 31, 2023.

- October 11, 2023, there were 966 active members.
- May 9, 2023, there were 624 active members.
- January 11, 2023, there were 558 active members.



SILVER LINE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chair/Co-Chairs: Lori Quist

Committee Members: Currently looking for committee members

Report: The Silver Line Committee worked this year to identify committee members and organizations willing to provide services to corrections employees. This committee exists as a representative of the previous victim services committee dedicated to employees experiencing victimization. The Silver Line Committee replaced the victim services committee with the hopes of developing a resource rich network for employees to utilize at no cost that is easily accessible.

2024 shall see a resource portal where statewide correctional employees can access resources through the Minnesota Correctional Association website. These resources could include mental health, chemical health, legal aid, trauma informed services, and educational services.



STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chair/Co-Chairs: Melissa McCann, Chair

Committee Members:

Amanda Anthony MN DOC
Darryl Goebel MN DOC
Mark Groves DEED
Bryan Harris Cass Co.
Melissa Holthaus Wright Co.
Jenny McNeill MN DOC
Nathan Miller Wright Co.
Vicki Janssen MND OC

Report:

MCA Scholarships:

- We continued our two MCA academic scholarship plan in 2023 in the amount of \$500 each. This high school scholarship to be awarded in the Spring of the academic senior year and the college level scholarship to be awarded in Fall/Winter of the academic year.
 - The MCA Scholarship for high school students was awarded to one student in May 2023. Committee membership was actively involved in selection of the 2022 high school scholarship winner. A FORUM article announcing the winner was made in the summer of 2023. A committee member was able to award this scholarship in person at the high school awards ceremony. This was a great step towards additional community engagement for MCA.
 - The MCA Scholarship for college level closed in September 2023 and currently is in selection process. A winner will be announced soon.
 - It was voted to increase our scholarship amount during the next plan year to \$1000 to align ourselves with other organization scholarship plans.
- Meetings have been held via email communication since 2020. We continue to collaborate as a committee through this communication in lieu of formalized meetings. We are continuing to look for membership and those interested can contact melissa.mccann@state.mn.us for more information.
- There continues to also be ongoing outreach with various colleges and universities. This remains ongoing and in progress. In 2023, some email communication and speaking engagements highlighting the benefits of MCA were completed. This is an area in which we would like to increase our connection and growth.

- Discussion continued regarding a project involving MCA and hiring in the field of corrections in 2023. We are currently looking for current staff working in the field who previously had internships at various agencies. Thus far we have met with some staff who currently work in the DOC who have previously interned. We are looking at upcoming articles and information to share on this topic and its connection to the continual need for hiring across the field. If you are interested in being part of this project, please contact melissa.mccann@state.mn.us.
- MCA Student Services Committee sponsors Fall Institute scholarships for students who are interested in attending. We have encountered less student interest scholarships than expected and will continue to share this message of availability with our membership to increase student attendance as we move forward. These awards are limited and are selected via application. They cover both lodging and conference for student members.

