



Minnesota  
Community  
Corrections  
Association

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

# Happenings

## President's Message

By Mary Dombrovski

This is my first message to you as President of MCCA. I have served on the Board of Directors for MCCA since 2002 in a variety of capacities and am looking forward to the continued success of the association.

MCCA continues to provide high quality, low cost training to individuals working in the field of corrections. In addition to the main focus of providing training, the organization has also involved itself in co-sponsorship roles for

special events and hosts an annual crappie tournament for corrections employees and their friends and families, as well as a golf tournament targeted to the same audience.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual MCCA crappie tournament was held on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Rush lake. Tickets were sold in advance for raffle prizes and there were many door prizes given away. Competitive prizes went to the first through tenth largest crappie caught by an individual fisherperson

and an agency or group registering the "Best Catch" was awarded a traveling trophy. The weather wasn't bad and we all had a fun day and a good opportunity to relax and network with our peers.

The Fourth Annual MCCA golf tournament will be held on July 21, 2006 at the The Ponds at Battle Creek in Maplewood. Competitive prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive for men and women, four

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## MCCA Website

We are pleased to announce that our MCCA website is "up and running." Our web host had a major meltdown in December 2005. Unfortunately [for us] our website got caught in the "crosshairs;" it "crashed and burned." We lost everything. Ever-

rything! We had to rebuild the website from scratch.

When I became the communications director a couple of years ago, I didn't have a clue how to manage a website. Steve Bisch, Ryan Walicke and myself learned through

trial and error. I still do not know what I'm doing, but I know just enough to be considered dangerous.

We think you'll be pleased with our new website. Please visit us often at:

[www.mnmcca.com](http://www.mnmcca.com)

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### MCCA 2006 "Fun on the Fairway" 4-Person Scramble Golf Tournament

July 21, 2006

The Ponds at Battle Creek

Shotgun Start @ 9:00 A.M.

Visit our website at [www.mnmcca.com](http://www.mnmcca.com) for more information and to register.

## President's Message, continued

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person team scramble and longest putt will be awarded. The winning team will receive \$100 in prize money and trophies. The event will offer a nice mid-summer

break and the opportunity for some wannabe's to strut their stuff.

MCCA has served as co-sponsor for the adult female offender conference since its inception in November, 2003. The conference continues to be an excellent resource for professionals working with adult female offenders. This year's conference will be held on Tuesday, September 26,

2006 at the U of M Continuing Education Center in St. Paul.

The conference is entitled "Practical Applications of Gender Specific Case Management". The speaker will be Dr. Marilyn Van Dieten. The cost is yet to be determined, but it is estimated to be approximately \$40 for the full day training, lunch and refreshments.

Membership in MCCA is currently at 208. An on-going goal of the association is to increase that number, so please spread the word to your colleagues and encourage them to join,

because as you now, the membership fees offer a great bang for the buck.

I look forward to my time as President of MCCA and the challenges that the association faces in regard to continuing to provide timely, high quality, low cost training to corrections professionals. If you have any comments or suggestions on what the association can do to improve our service to members, I encourage you to contact me or one of the Board members. Enjoy the change of seasons and consider participating in one of the fun events that have been scheduled.

## 2006 MCCA Crappie Tournament By Kurt Wosmek

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Hi, all. I just want to get you the results of this year's crappie tournament. It was a cold start to the day. We had 89 people that pre-registered and 37 that registered the day of the tournament for a total of 126 participants. The numbers were down a little this year; the weather could have played a factor.

Overall, the tournament went well [with just a few complaints]. We had some great door prizes thanks to discounts and donations. I would like to thank Ben and Jake

Nowack, Bob Dustin and Joel Wosmek for all of their help throughout the tournament. I'd also like to thank Gary Biedler for taking pictures during weigh-in. There is absolutely no way I could have put this tournament together without their help.

This year's winners are:

*The Traveling Trophy went to MCF-LL*

*1st Place:* Ken Rutten, MCF-OPH

*2nd Place:* Rick Todd, MCF, RC

*3rd Place:* Darby Bunnell, MCF-LL

*4th Place:* Daniel Kruse, MCF-OPH

*5th Place:* Honey Ly, MCF-OPH

*6th Place:* Rodney Rivard, MCF-OPH

*7th Place:* David Paulson, MCF-OPH

*8th Place:* Ashley Berts, MCF-OPH

*9th Place:* Rod Zacharias, Henn. County

*10th Place:* Debbis Wakem, MCF-LL

## Twin Cities RISE! By Peggy Yusten

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Well over ten years ago, Twin Cities RISE! came into existence with the intent of solving a social problem with a business solution. In the mind of TCR!'s founder, Steve Rothschild, the issue of poverty could be addressed if under- and unemployed adults could receive skills training leading to living wage jobs.

From the beginning TCR! has been market-driven. Employers needs are integral in

the development of all curriculum and other services provided to the participants. The employers are seen as the customers. Twin Cities RISE! partners with over 40 local employers to identify skills needed and to offer employment opportunities to participants.

In 1998, nineteen newly identified applicants started the Twin Cities RISE! program. Today, over 600 individuals start

each year. The program operates out of two sites, one in the Minneapolis warehouse district and one near Lexington and University in St. Paul.

The mission of Twin Cities RISE! is to provide employers with skilled workers - primarily men from communities of color in the Twin Cities - by training

**Continued on next page**

## Twin Cities RISE! Continued.

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under- and unemployed adults for skilled jobs that pay a living wage of at least \$20,000 annually with benefits. However, as the program has grown so has the diversity of the program's participants. Twin Cities RISE! does not discriminate when admitting participants for any of our training programs.

Twin Cities RISE! is committed to the growth of the participants' marketable work skills. Development focuses on basic academic skills, occupational skills and on personal development and "soft skills." The personal development is called "empowerment" and has come to be seen by both staff and participants as the most valuable part of the training, in terms of both work life and personal life.

They describe the empowerment training in different ways: *"Life on life's terms, no short cuts, no easy outs, no blaming something or someone else, that's what empowerment is."*

"I will learn to take responsibility for the choices I make, but I will also be learning to make better choices. I learned how to make and accept the bad choices, now I

will learn to make better ones."

*"Empowerment has shown me that I need to let go of the past and push toward the future... I feel empowerment has helped me in my communication skills with my children. I stop and think before I react. Now my children stop, think, and organize their thoughts before they speak, so they're learning empowerment too."*

In addition to the skill building classes, participants in the Twin Cities RISE! program are assigned a personal work skills coach. The coach assists in the selection of a career path, identifying issues and finding needed resources to overcome these, and in goal setting.

The TCR! philosophy is based on a participant's personal accountability and responsibility.

To be eligible for the full TCR! program, individuals need to be at least 18 years of age, living in poverty, have a high school diploma or GED or be enrolled in a GED program, willing and able to work full time, demonstrate English fluency and basic literacy, have 90 days of sobriety and 90 days release time.

*Twin Cities RISE! is committed to the growth of the participants' marketable work skills.*

The program requires a time commitment of 12 to 15 hours per week for classes. Classes are offered both during the day and at night to accommodate various schedules and sessions begin every ten weeks. Participants are also expected to work at least part time while in the program.

Twin Cities RISE! has proven over time to be very valuable to its graduates. On average, they increase their income by over 200% from the day they start until they enter a final placement position. The one year job retention rate is 84% at one year and 75% at two years. The graduates are on their way to successful careers.

New to Twin Cities RISE! is programming targeted at offenders both while incarcerated and after release. TCR! is also designing a new transitions program which will be available to those who are unable to participate fully in the current programming. By the end of this year, the transitions program will be fully operational.

For more information, go to [www.twincitiesrise.org](http://www.twincitiesrise.org) or call 612-338-0295 in Minneapolis or 651-603-8520 in St. Paul.

## Robbie Robinson Line Staff Excellence Award: Tamara Persaud Board of Directors Service Award: Mark Groves

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### ROBBIE ROBINSON LINE STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

We are pleased to announce that Tamara Persaud was awarded this year's *Robbie Robinson Line Staff Excellence Award*. Tamara has a dual role within the Ramsey County Probation unit. While a lot of her clients know her as "my P.O.," other clients and professionals know her wearing two hats. One hat as a

probation case manager that is creative, caring and resilient in working with her caseload. The other hat is as a Coordinator with the *Girls Resiliency Mentoring Program*, which matches girls with mentors in the community and also has a girls' group twice a week.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SERVICE AWARD

We are also pleased to announce that Mark Groves was awarded this year's *MCCA Board of Director's Award*. Mark has done an outstanding job with all the areas of MCCA he has been involved with: the newsletter, website, training, membership, finance. He has improved the quality of MCCA as an organization.

# MCCA Board of Directors

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236 Clifton Avenue South

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.mnmcca.com](http://www.mnmcca.com)

**The MCCA *Happenings* newsletter  
is prepared by Mark Groves.**

The statements contained in *Happenings* are the personal views of the authors and do not constitute MCCA policy or endorsement by the Association or its Board of Directors, unless so indicated. MCCA does not assume responsibility for the contents of the *Happenings* articles as submitted by contributors.

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## MCCA Education & Training Events

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The MCCA Education & Training Committee is putting the final touches on our next round of workshops.

Here's what we have planned:

**July:** Gangs

**August:** Housing for Offenders

**September:** MCF-Redwing Tour

**October:** Topic TBA, Location in Wright County

**Watch for details, soon. Please visit [www.mnmcca.com](http://www.mnmcca.com) for information on how to register for workshops.**