



Happenings

President's Message

By Mary Dombrowski

Well, it is a new year, and the people have spoken. In some cases, it is out with the old and in with the new. That is the case at MCCA anyway. This is my last President's Message as my tour of duty ended at the end of 2006. Fear not, you are in good hands as Bridget Letnes will be President of MCCA for 2007.

2006 experienced approximately 131,000 juveniles and adults on probation in the State of Minnesota according to the most recent probation survey. Nationwide, 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into the

community this year, and that estimate does not include those being released from incarceration at the county level. No matter how large or small a county or corrections organization that you work for, the impact will certainly continue to be felt.

Hopefully, initiatives such as the Second Chance Act, which would provide grants to states and local governments to provide assistance to offenders during their transition back to the community, will continue to receive consideration as a means of promoting a safe and successful re-entry for offenders,

thereby enhancing public safety.

It has been a positive experience serving as President of MCCA this past year. I hope that you continue to attend the monthly trainings and find additional ways of showing your support for the organization.

How about getting involved in one of the committees such as Marketing, Education and Training or the Crappie Tournament?

Thanks for the hard work that you do everyday and for your commitment to a career in the field of corrections. Keep up the good work!

With Integrity, Courage and Grace: Esther Tomljanovich Lifetime Achievement Award

By Kelley Heifort

Minnesota Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian was awarded the *Esther Tomljanovich Lifetime*

Achievement Award at the Third Annual Conference on Women Offenders held in St. Paul in September 2006.

The award, established by the Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders, and awarded during the conference,

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MCCA Workshops

- **1/26/07: Staying Motivated and Energized in Life, School and Work**
- **2/16/07: Brain Injury Basics: An Introduction**
- **3/23/07: Minnesota Comprehensive Offender Re-entry Plan**

It's a Wrap! Conference on Women Offenders 2006 Conclusions By Kelley Heifort

Thanks for your service, support and attendance...

For over four years, MCCA and The Minnesota Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders have come together to provide an annual professional training on gender-responsive issues for those who work with female offenders. The conference committee, made up of volunteer membership from both MCCA and the Task Force, worked throughout the 2006 year to plan the event and assure that everything ran smoothly. I would like to take a minute to recognize their hard work and dedication: Co-chair, Mickey Kopfmann, and members Freddie Davis-English, Carol Skradski, Deb Feeny, Kim Greer, Roxanne Humenik, and Gwen Lerner.

On behalf of the Conference Committee, I would also like to thank all of the participants, speakers and supporters for the success of the conference. Your commitment to women offenders' issues is

remarkable. I would like to make certain mention to the sponsors of the 2006 Conference. Without them, we would not be able to bring this *top-quality* training to



our community without *top-dollar price tag* for participants to pay! AMICUS, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Hennepin, Ramsey and Dakota County Community Corrections, Esther Tomljanovich, Genesis II for Families, RS Eden, Wilder Foundation, and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota. Thank you for your commitment to training excellence!

Answers to the questions "Why gender matters" and "how do I meet the challenge"...

The conference featured Dr. Marilyn Van Dieten presenting innovative information on Gender-

Responsive Case Management, sharing both evidence-based research and practical applications in working with women offenders. Participants were guided through tools and given insights on women's barriers to help them better assess women's needs, risks and personal strengths in order to create change. Entertainment interludes were provided by Rose McGee showcasing poetry, songs and stories and personal empowerment and self-awareness. The conference evaluations and feedback gave written confirmation of that work. Ms. McGee was "inspiring" and a stimulating break to the rigorous training schedule. Without hesitation, I can say that this year's conference was a huge success!

I would like to make one very important comment before I close this conclusion. One thing that we all must keep in mind when working with people...any people in any kind

Continued on next page

With Integrity, Courage and Grace: continued from page 1

honors the lifelong commitment and advocacy of Retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Esther Tomljanovich on behalf of women in the criminal justice system. The Award, presented by Justice Tomljanovich herself, was given to Commissioner Fabian for four dec-

ades of work with juvenile and adult offenders, at the local and state levels. Throughout her career, Commissioner Fabian has worked to assure that the best services are professionally delivered to those with whom we work and she has done so with "integrity, courage and

grace." Those same words marked the engraving on her award memento. Congratulations, Commissioner Fabian. We appreciate your steadfast commitment!

It's a Wrap! Conference on Women Offenders 2006 Conclusions Continued from page 2

of relationship...without regard to their sex, race, age, etc.

It doesn't matter how clear the assessment is, how many times the instrument has been verified or to whom it should be used on.

Inspirational speaker Joni Eareckson Tada said "No tool, in and of itself has great importance. But placed in the proper hands, it can create a masterpiece." While I'm unsure who her audience was when said, it certainly applies to us all. It's only through our clear communication with offender clients and the quality we invest in those relationships that will truly make the difference. It's more than just writing it on the paper or computerized tool.

Our conference speakers focused on relationship building, understanding what makes women who they are, and knowing how to influence them. It was a fantastic experience.

As for 2007...?

As this year draws to an end, our Conference Committee 2007 is already being formed to bring Minnesota the 4th Annual Conference on Women Offenders. The conference committee is chaired by two volunteers, one from the Task Force and one from MCCA (the

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MCCA Member also becomes a Board Member during their co-chair tenure).

The two share the responsibilities of chairing over a staggered, two-year period. Mickey Kopfmann, representing the Task Force, has finished her commitment as chair;

2007 co-chair will be Roxanne Humenik, Ramsey County Probation. I have one year remaining as Conference Co-Chair and MCCA Board Member.

In order to continue MCCA representation as part of this conference, it's imperative that the committee experience is shared with conference volunteers with hopes that one of our MCCA members will carry the torch and represent MCCA in 2008!

After meeting the successful challenge of one national and three state conferences over four years, we've really got our road-map written to give directions on conference planning!

It just requires some energy and coordination on behalf of a few motivated people. I invite all of you who work with women offenders directly or have a supporting position to join the committee and to consider co-chairing in 2008.

As 2007 Arrives, Some thoughts to Ponder

- 1) Remember, the future isn't what it used to be.
- 2) Let nothing dim the light that shines within.
- 3) Be an activity "sparker."
- 4) Follow your dreams — not your fears.
- 5) Wherever you — be there!
- 6) Being defeated is temporary. Giving up is what makes it permanent.
- 7) Do not wish to be anything but what you are. And try to be that perfectly!
- 8) Be on good terms with your conscience.
- 9) Tears are the language of angels.
- 10) The courage to love requires us to care enough to build a bridge — and trust enough to cross over.
- 11) Happiness is a choice!
- 12) Work hard — love someone — have some fun. If you're lucky, you'll keep your health and have someone love you back!

**Peace and Happiness
in the New Year!**

Recognition for Excellence: Robbie Robinson Service Award

It's usually someone else, the high-profile executive, not the small "in the trenches" line staff, who receive the honor and accolades. But there a host of people we work with who are deserving recognition for their significant impact and dedication to community corrections. MCCA has been presenting the Robbie Robinson Excellence Award for more than 20 years. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge excellence and outstanding achievement.

In a world of constantly increasing demands, there are dedicated people who "go the extra mile," formulate the methods necessary to make com-

munity corrections the best it can possibly be, and move a big, lumbering corrections industry forward one client at a time. Take a moment to consider who those people are. You might be one yourself. Unless we take a moment to think about who they are and take the time to acknowledge them, they will continue to silently work their wonders (just as you probably are).

Please take a moment to identify a coworker who deserves recognition for their actions. We know it's a bit early, but we also know how terribly busy you are!

An MCCA Robert H. Robinson Service Award Nomination Form is included with this season's newsletter on page 7. Pull that little "hummer" out, take a gander at it, and begin your consideration. We are hopeful you take the time to recognize someone and submit their name(s) to us by March 1, 2007. One of your coworkers may be considering you right now. Wouldn't that be nice?

Kitchen of Opportunities By Mike Matuszak

On January 8th, RS Eden welcomed the first ten students into its new Food Service Training Program. This 16-week program, which operates out of the *Kitchen of Opportunities* located on 4th Avenue South in Minneapolis, is a carefully designed culinary arts program that will provide the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the food service industry.

This program was designed to empower disadvantaged men and women to achieve self-sufficiency through quality training. Students will receive comprehensive "hands on" training in food production, safety and handling, sanitation, menu preparation, and kitchen management operations, as well as training in basic life skills.

Students will be afforded the opportunity to earn up to \$1500 in stipends over the course of their 16-week training cycle, to assist with transportation and other personal needs

over the course of training.

We are continually working with area employers to develop relationships that will mark our program as the Twin Cities preferred referral source for future food service workers.

**Call Cathy Stevenson
(Training Administrator)
at 612-824-7385 for more
information about this
new program or to
inquire about student
eligibility requirements.**

Upon completion, we will work with our graduates to do our very best to help them prepare for and secure the job that fits their needs; a job that provides a livable wage, benefits, self esteem and an opportunity to advance

and reach individual goals. We will continue to work with students who are placed to ensure long-term success.

This training initiative will provide our Production Department with the human resources needed for quality food production. The kitchen space and staff will provide the "platform" needed to ensure the delivery of a quality culinary training experience.

We believe a comprehensive and holistic approach to food service training will provide area employers with a high volume of certified food service professionals, and our success with mark RS Eden as a quality staffing source for employers.

Call Cathy Stevenson (Training Administrator) at 612-824-7385 for more information about this new program or to inquire about student eligibility requirements.



Minnesota
Community
Corrections
Association

Minnesota Community
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236 Clifton Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55403

We're on the Web!
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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Minnesota Community Corrections Association Mission Statement

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association (MCCA) is a statewide organization of people working in corrections dedicated to the advancement of effective community alternatives to incarceration as a way to build safer communities.

To accomplish this we:

- Offer high quality, affordable education and training events.
- Partner with other organizations and the community in a shared response to crime.
- Advocate and educate on the need to give priority to prevention of crime in the allocation of public resources.
- Communicate with our members on issues affecting community corrections.
- Provide a stakeholders forum for innovations that enhance and create new community corrections options.
- Heighten awareness of restorative justice within the community and the legislature.

2006 Conference on Women Offenders



***MCCA Nomination for
Robert H. Robinson Service Award: Line Staff Excellence***

The MCCA Board of Directors requests nominations for the Robert H. Robinson Service Award. It will be presented at our March 23, 2007 Education & Training event. This award is designed for a line staff worker who has demonstrated excellence, creativity and commitment to community corrections. We need your help in identifying an individual for this award. Please take a moment to nominate someone deserving of recognition.

Please submit nominations by March 1, 2007

Mail or fax your nomination to:

MCCA Robert H. Robinson Service Award

Attn: Bridget Letnes

180 Degrees

236 Clifton Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55403

Fax: 612-813-5039

e-mail: bridget@180degrees.org

Name of nominee:		
Program/Agency:		
Address and phone #:		
Job title:		
Previous jobs in the field:		
Years spent working in the field:		
Reason for nomination (please write about a 75 word summary including any examples of nominee's work and accomplishments)		
Nominated by	Agency	Phone

Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

- Light travels faster than sound. That is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
- Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
- The 50-50-90 rule: Any time you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
- If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time—on a hill.
- In the fog.
- If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
- The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
- Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will sit in a boat all day, drinking beer.
- Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
- The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
- A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

New Year's Resolutions

10. Read Less.
9. I want to gain weight. Put on at least 30 pounds.
8. Stop exercising. Waste of time.
7. Watch more TV. I've been missing some good stuff.
6. Procrastinate more.
5. Drink. Drink. Drink some more.
4. Spend more time at work.
3. Start being superstitious.
2. Stop bringing lunch from home: I should eat out more.
And last, but not least . . .
1. Take up a new habit: maybe smoking!

A Prisoner with Skills

Several years ago, Andy was sentenced to prison. During his stay, he got along well with the guards and all his fellow inmates. The warden saw that deep down, Andy was a good person and made arrangements for Andy to learn a trade while doing his time. After three years, Andy was recognized as one of the best carpenters in the state. Often he would be given a weekend pass to do odd jobs for citizens of the community . . . And he always reported back to prison before Sunday night was over.

The warden was thinking of remodeling his kitchen and in fact had done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the job for him.

But alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I'd really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place."

Education & Training Events

Staying Motivated & Energized in Life, School & Work

Presented by **Jermaine M. Davis**

Jermaine M. Davis is a highly requested speaker who works with colleges, corporations, governmental and social service agencies across the United States. Mr. Davis had been recognized as an excellent college instructor when he was presenting with the prestigious *Quality Instructor* award by Student Support Services from a college within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities School system. He has also authored several books including: "Leading with Greatness" and "Get Up off Your Butt and Do It NOW! Staying Motivated Even When You Don't Feel Like It", "Taking What Is Yours: The Psychology of Achieving Your Goals." He volunteers for women's shelters and men's programs in the Twin Cities, offering workshops on communication, assertiveness motivation, self-esteem and emotional control and anger management.

Date: Friday, January 26, 2007

Time: 9:00am - Noon

Location: DOC Central Office- (Itasca Room downstairs)

Registration should be e-mailed to Mark Groves at: mgroves@rseden.org

Brain Injury Basics: An Introduction

Presented by: **Janis Cary Wack**

Janis Carey Wack has over 20 years of experience working within the field of rehabilitation notably case coordination, vocational evaluation and employment related services while serving individuals with brain injury and a variety of other disabilities. Janis is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) and has a BA in Social Work. She is an experienced presenter on the topic of brain injury.

Date: Friday, February 16th, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Department of Corrections (Pung Rooms 1, 2 and 3)

Registration should be e-mailed to Mark Groves at: mgroves@rseden.org

Minnesota Comprehensive Offender Re-entry Plan

Minnesota, like many other states, is experience dramatic growth in the number of offenders entering prison. Successfully preparing offenders for reentry is an investment in public safety and the social and economic health of families and communities throughout the state. In February 2005, DOC created the Minnesota Comprehensive Offender Reentry Plan (**MCORP**), a strategic initiative between invested state agencies, the courts, and the community to plan and oversee the statewide offender reentry approach. A pilot project is currently underway, targeting the counties of Hennepin, Ramsey and Olmstead.

Date: Friday, March 23, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Department of Corrections (Pung Rooms 1, 2 and 3)

Registration should be e-mailed to Mark Groves at: mgroves@rseden.org