

Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Winter Conference highlights

The MCCA Annual Winter Conference was kicked off by Dr. Bill Wagner speaking about "reality." He proposed some innovative and controversial ideas about future directions in corrections (as Holly Hallmark would say). Bill was followed by a number of workshops focusing on juvenile gangs, sex offender treatment, Asian chemical dependency, and battered women who kill.

he focus on Friday morning was domestic violence and the after session, "How Tight are the Purse Strings?", was a dynamic and lively presentation by Bruce McManus, Mike Cunniff, and Joan Fabian.

Once again, the Not Ready for Crime Time Players presented a double murder mystery, which was so mysterious that no one was able to solve it completely. A good time was had by all!!

Anyone interested in planning the 1992 Winter Conference or participating in the mystery, please contact Lisa Roberg at (612) 227-6291.

MCCA/IARCA to hold pre-ACA Conference

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association, along with the International Association of Residential and Community Alternatives will be co-sponsoring a conference previous to the ACA conference this summer. This conference promises to be vital for all corrections personnel with a focus on

community corrections. The conference will take place on August 2nd, 3rd, & 4th, 1991 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis. The three-day conference will inform and update those working in corrections and other helping professions. The keynote speaker will be J. Bryan Riley, Executive Director of Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. Also presenting will be Mr. George Keiser, N.I.C. and Mr. Norm Carlson, former Director of Bureau of Prisons. Watch for more information on presenters and workshop topics or contact Lisa Roberg at (612) 227-6291.

Dave Mathews receives Robert H. Robinson award



Dave Mathews

At the MCCA Winter Conference, David Mathews was presented our Robert H. Robinson Service Award for line staff excellence. Dave has been employed for the past four years as a counselor in the Wilder Community Assistance Program (CAP) in St. Paul. He has been responsible for

coordinating their Men's Parenting Program, the Children's Domestic Abuse Program, was liaison supervisor and program coordinator for a newly established domestic abuse program for the Northwest Branch Child Guidance Clinic and a program in Anoka County for fathers who refused to pay child support. At present, Dave is coordinating the Men's Domestic Abuse Program at CAP. In addition, he was the key person involved in assisting actress and producer, Lee Grant, in filming the documentary, "BATTERed" which received national recognition as one of the best documentaries of 1989.

Tom Kane and Steve Rancour of Alpha House were runners-up in an extensive field of excellent and deserving candidates. Tom and Steve have worked as a team at Alpha for a total of 29 years. They have provided the stable core of excellence that has characterized the program for years. They are both known to many of us as dedicated sex offender therapists who have survived over the years with a well-known sense of humor. Tom and Steve continue to approach their jobs with energy and enthusiasm and treat their clients with a rare combination of accountability, respect and humanity.

Congratulations to Dave, Tom, and Steve. They continue the tradition of excellence that has given our members a national reputation and provide all of us with the example of how to do the job during good times and bad.

People and Programs

Wilder's CAP

The Wilder Foundation's Community Assistance Program (CAP), at 650 Marshall Avenue in St. Paul, offers a smorgasbord of counseling groups for perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse, also for children who have witnessed violence between other family members, through their Domestic Abuse Program.

According to Counseling Supervisor, Joe Zdon, CAP is currently running 13 counseling groups for male perpetrators, each with an average of ten members, most of whom are referred by Ramsey County Community Corrections. Groups meet once each week for 16 weeks, usually in the evening, but are also available during the day for men who work on the second shift.

Participants are closely monitored by both CAP staff and Ramsey County Probation, which houses four probation officers who "specialize" in domestic abuse cases just a few feet down the hall from CAP's offices. Because of this unique relationship, there is no lag time involved between a client's failure to show up for a scheduled group and his probation officer becoming aware of his dereliction. Following completion of the 16-week program, graduates are given the opportunity to attend aftercare in the form of a weekly support group.

CAP also provides counseling support groups for women who have been involved in abusive relationships. These groups help women to acknowledge their feelings, to assess the effects of abuse on themselves and their children, to develop protection plans, and to rebuild their lives.

Because children growing up in violent environments must deal with still different issues, CAP also offers counseling groups for children who have witnessed or experienced physical abuse. The younger groups, for children ages 3 to 11, focus on providing emotional support, on helping children understand that they did not cause or deserve the abuse, and on helping the children work through separation and custodial issue.

The older groups, for adolescents ages 12 to 17, provide group and individual counseling to help teenagers learn positive methods of problem-solving. Appropriate referrals include teenagers raised in violent families, adolescents involved in abusive dating relationships, and teenagers who are developing abusive behavior toward family members or friends.

CAP also runs a parenting group for correctional clients who are experiencing difficulty in performing their parenting roles because of prior family violence, family disorganization, chemical dependency, or similar disruptions. The group offers these men an opportunity to share their concerns with others who are experiencing similar problems, to explore family-of-origin issues, and to learn constructive problem-solving methods, temper control, and positive means of discipline.

Referrals to programs can be made by calling 221-0048. The receptionist will direct your call to the appropriate intake person.

•Ronnie Bouma

Wilder Day Reporting Center

One innovative response to workhouse overcrowding that has recently come to Ramsey County is a Day Reporting Program at the Wilder Day Reporting Center located in Suite 219 of Spruce Tree Centre at Snelling and University Avenues.

Developed by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in cooperation with the Ramsey County Community Corrections Department, the Day Reporting Program supports probation supervision in the community, while providing an alternative to incarceration for selected men and women.

Offering a highly structured blend of supervision, sanctions and support services, the program uses a system of progressively less restrictive phases through which clients progress, while receiving case management, educational, job, and group counseling.

A community reintegration contract is developed by each participant which states the goals the participant plans to accomplish while in the program. The program also provides close monitoring through a check-in system, written daily and weekly itineraries, strict attendance requirements and random drug testing. Each participant is required to perform 12 hours of community service work, as well as to attend work and/or school, with their performance closely supervised by Center staff. It takes between six to eight weeks to complete the program.

The Ramsey County Community Corrections Department has decided to initially use the Day Reporting Program for two corrections populations, a halfway back option for probation violators and an early release option from the local workhouses through Phase Two of a Home Confinement Program that is run by their department.

Since January 1991, the program has begun to accept referrals from both these sources.

Other services provided at the Wilder Day Reporting Center for Ramsey County probationers include a Women Offenders and Men's Property Offenders Program, Employment/Vocational/Resource Program and Education Program.

For additional information about the services offered at the Wilder Day Reporting Center, please contact Claudia Wasserman at 659-9035.

•Ronnie Bouma

EXCEL

Among the new opportunities being offered to correctional clients are those provided by the EXCEL program, a collaborative venture between the Wilder Foundation and Reentry Services, Suite 219 at the Spruce Tree Centre. Developed to reduce recidivism by both male and female offenders, EXCEL was launched as a collaborative effort in July of 1990.

Funded by the Minnesota Department of Corrections to serve DOC clients, EXCEL provides services

EXCEL continued page 3

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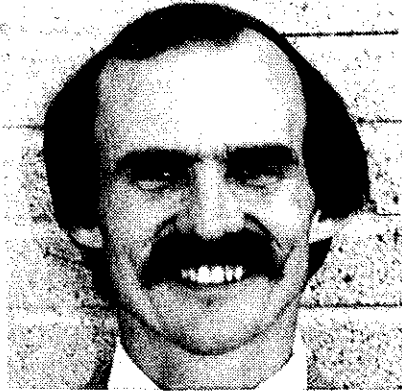
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We want you to know...



Bruce Clendenen, MCCA President

Welcome to a new MCCA year! As most of you know, the MCCA Board of Directors are elected and take office at the time of our annual conference. I would like to welcome newly elected board members Rickie Tufte from Ramsey County Corrections, Dave Loftness from Carver County Corrections, and Kristin Tuenge from Washington County Corrections. Newly appointed members include Kay Pranis from the Citizens Council and Kris Clendenen from EXCEL. Incumbents returning to the board after election or appointment are Pete Batterman, Denis Doege, Anne McDiarmid, Laura Sissala, Raeone Buckman, Jerry Soma, and Ray ward. We are excited about working

with new blood and the old die hards in the upcoming year! Many thanks to retiring board member Rod Johnson for his tireless decades of service to MCCA.

The MCCA Board recently met for a day-long planning session to welcome new board members, elect officers, and to set a course for the coming year. Officers for the year include myself as President, Lisa Roberg from Reentry as Vice-President, Dave Conde from Ramsey County as Secretary, and Ray Ward from deNovo as Treasurer. We have established the following items as key goals and objectives for the year: 1) Continue quality monthly training sessions; 2) Publish Happenings six to seven times; 3) Run a successful fund raising event: "The Crappie Tournament"; 4) Maintain a key role in the statewide Public Education effort sponsored by the Minnesota Corrections Consortium; 5) Sponsor the annual MCCA Conference in February 1992 at Wilder Forest; 6) Co-sponsor a national Pre-ACA Conference with IARCA August 2 - 3; 7) Participate in the August 1991 ACA Conference; 8) continue to offer quality membership services; 9) Operate the organization in a fiscally sound manner.

Please let us know if you have any more ideas or suggestions for MCCA.

EXCEL continued from page 2

to the pre-release and work release populations at MCF-Lino Lakes and MCF-Shakopee, as well as to supervised releasees in the community.

EXCEL has two phases: mandatory classroom meetings for incarcerated offenders, and individual follow-up sessions subsequent to release, for those who desire them. Offenders who have not participated in the institutional phase may also be referred by their parole officers for community-based services.

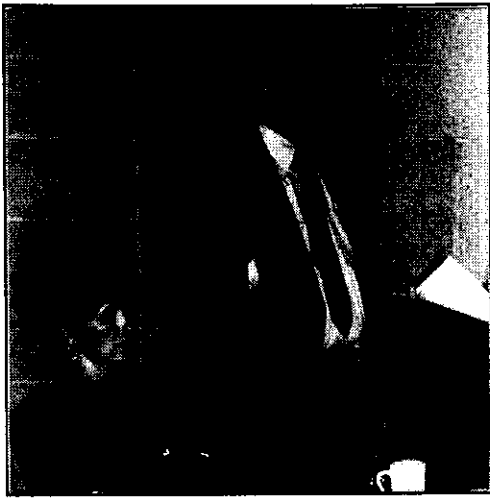
The assistance offered by EXCEL's counselors covers a wide range of problem areas: employment seeking (including job searches, lead-finding, interviewing techniques, and writing resumes); job retention (resolving conflicts, maintaining good work habits,

and learning job survival skills); career development and life planning; educational and vocational training (including information on financial aid, choosing a program, and setting goals); housing; money management; and using community resources.

By providing clients with the training they need to accomplish their goals, EXCEL encourages independence. Participants experience the satisfaction of making the system work for them in a legitimate fashion, and are reinforced for their efforts.

Referrals should be directed to Ms. Kristin Clendenen, Director at EXCEL, Suite 219, Spruce Tree Centre, 1600 Snelling Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104, phone: (612) 659-9166.

•Ronnie Bouma



Joan Fabian and Mike Cuniff



How much you wanna bet this picture ends up in the Happenings?



The 1991 Super Slueth Team



Congratulations to Dale Fisher, the 1991 Board of Directors Award recipient



Tommy and Karole Williams celebrated their anniversary at this year's Conference.



Gosh, I hope I didn't overdress



Setting the fashion tone for the 1991 Conference!



Hey, got a problem with the outfit?



Hats were definitely "in" this year!



Did you see the outfits those people were wearing?

Sentencing to Service

The Sentencing to Service program was developed to provide a sentencing alternative to incarceration for the adult court system. The program is designed for the low risk, non-violent property offender. The offender must have a 30-day maximum sentence to serve and the program is strictly voluntary. Sentencing to Service utilizes the "work crew" concept, meaning the offenders work 8-hour days on community service projects instead of or in conjunction with incarceration. The crew leaders are contracted through Reentry Services, Inc., and are responsible for providing direct supervision to the offenders.

Sentencing to Service goals and objectives are: To provide an alternative sentencing option to the court for the low-risk offender who would otherwise be sentenced to short-term incarceration of up to 30 days; To help alleviate institution overcrowding, which would allow space for the more serious offender; To reduce incarceration costs; To provide appropriate consequences for the offender while he/she makes reparation to the community by being involved in community service projects; To increase the offender's employability by developing good work habits. The program provides a public service to the community and savings to the tax payers by the completion of previously unfunded Natural Resources, local government and nonprofit agency projects.

Ramsey County Community Corrections began this program on February 4, 1991. Ms. Marge Jambor, Sentencing to Service Coordinator, states that she received the first referral on February 15, 1991 and that person was also the first to complete the program. Since the beginning of the program, there have been no women referred to the program, but Ms. Jambor states that the work projects are appropriate for both men and women.

Ms. Jambor states that the people in the community have been very responsive to the Sentencing to Service program. It appears that many people in the community feel the offender needs

some kind of consequence for their actions, but the most appropriate and cost-effective consequence may not be confinement.

•Beth Crook

Training anyone?



MCCA holds interesting, monthly training sessions

Are you aware that the MCCA training committee offers monthly training sessions?

On January 16th, our workshop was entitled "Women Offenders: What Happens Inside the Institution?" Presenters were: Nan Herman (Unit Director of the Independent Living Center), and Terrie Green (Unit Director of the Roosevelt Unit) from MCF-Shakopee. They discussed their progressive programs dealing with incarcerated female offenders.

The infamous MCCA Winter Conference was held on February 14th & 15th at Wilder Forest.

On March 20th, we offered "Help Lines: A Wealth of Resources & Information." Presenters were Susan Jackson-Smith (First Call for Help), Sue Hoyt (Emergency Social Services), and Sonny Haas (YES/Neon). Many valuable resources were identified and shared.

Our next training will be "Ramsey County Action Strategies to End Family Violence" on April 17th from 10:00 am to noon at 650 Marshall Avenue. We will have panel members from PHASE, St. Paul P.D. Sexual Assault Services, Men's Treatment Program, and Ramsey County Family Violence Initiative. To register, contact Lisa Robert at 227-6291. See you in April!

•Mark Wilson

From the training committee

The 1991 MCCA Training Committee has a larger budget and more members. At the March meeting of the MCCA Board, a budget of \$2,500 was approved for this year's training events. This is an increase of \$1,000 over last year's budget. In order to help us provide you with the most relevant and needed training, please contact any committee member with suggestions. The 1991 Committee members are: Joe Adderly, Dawn Brodmarkle, Denis Doege, Bob Elkins, Greg Kraft, Jeff Martin, Michel Plantz, Mark Wilson, and Co-Chairs Lisa Roberg and Sharen Southard. The goals for the training committee this year are to provide at least eleven training sessions, co-sponsor training when appropriate, and investigate accreditation for our training. The committee welcomes your ideas and suggestions.

•Sharen Southard

Other training available...

May 15 - 17, 1991: The 4th Annual Crime Victims Conference, "From Conflict to Collaboration". Cragins Conference Center.

April 22 & 23, 1991: Relapse Prevention with Addictive Behavior, A Cognitive-Behavioral Approach. Holiday Inn, St. Cloud. Sponsored by The Center for Continuing Studies, St. Cloud University. Call Karen Schafer (612) 255-3082.

America's bulging prisons reflect bad social policy judgments

Editor's Note: The following editorial appeared earlier this year in The St. Paul Pioneer Press and is reprinted here as it provides a national perspective on an issue that is of concern to us locally. William Rasberry's article is based on the 1991 annual report of The Sentencing Project, a Washington-based nonprofit research organization that promotes sentencing reforms and alternatives. A copy of the report can be obtained for five dollars by calling (202) 628-0871. Marc Mauer, assistant director of The Sentencing Project, who wrote the report, was quoted in the Chicago Tribune (1/16/91), as saying that "the same policies that have helped make us a world leader in incarceration have clearly failed to make us a safer nation." He pointed out that since 1980, the overall U.S. crime rate has fallen by 3.5 percent, while the population of all U.S. prisons has doubled. The report concluded that in this time of chronic budget crunches, tax dollars are being misspent. It cited a 1989 Delaware study that found the annual cost of imprisoning a criminal was \$17,761, as compared to the cost of \$569 a year to supervise the same person on probation.

Ten years ago, America's incarceration rate was third in the world, lower only than that of the Soviet Union and South Africa. Today we can say what football players shout into the panning TV camera: We're No. 1!

Of every 100,000 Americans today 426 are behind bars. Comparable figures: South Africa, 333; the Soviet Union, 268; Great Britain, 97; Spain, 76; Italy, 60; the Netherlands, 40.

For black men, the numbers are even more appalling: 3,109 per 100,000, compared to the South African rate of 729 per 100,000. One black American male in four is either behind bars, on probation or on parole.

The statistics are from the latest report of the Sentencing Project, a Washington-based nonprofit agency committed to sentencing reform. But more interesting than the numbers, which by now have lost their shock value, are the policy implications.

The temptation is to believe that our increasing incarceration rates are merely a reflection of increasing criminality. But as the report's author, Marc Mauer, points out, it's not that simple.

"While there is little question that the United States has a high rate of crime," he says, "there is much evidence that the increase in the the number of people behind bars in recent years is a consequence of harsher criminal-justice policies of the past decade, rather than a direct consequence of rising crime..."

"The growth of the prison populations in the past decade, for example, shows incarceration rates do not rise or fall directly with crime rates. Although the crime rate has dropped by 3.5 percent since 1980, the prison population has doubled in that period."

The reasons include an increasingly punitive public attitude that manifests itself in mandatory incarceration laws (now in effect in 46 states), tougher federal sentencing guidelines and harsher drug laws. In other words, a greater percentage of offenders are being sentenced to prison than was the case a decade ago.

This is particularly true with regard to the "war on drugs," probably the biggest single factor behind both the overall increase in incarceration rates and the disproportionate rise in black male incarceration.

"While drug arrests and prosecutions have increased each year since 1980," Mauer notes, "the number of African-Americans arrested for drug offenses has increased at an even more rapid rate than has the arrest rate for the population as a whole." Not only has the black inner city been the chief battlefield of the "war on drugs," but other aspects of the anti-drug effort have had race-specific outcome, inadvertent or not.

For instance, a Minnesota state law (recently held unconstitutional by a state district judge) provides for a four-year sentence for first-time users of crack cocaine, but only probation for first-time users of cocaine in its powdered form. Ninety-two percent of those arrested on charges of possession of crack in 1988 were black, while 85 percent of those arrested on charges of possessing

powdered cocaine were white.

But the burden of Mauer's paper is that our alarming incarceration rates reflect inappropriate — even counterproductive — policy choices.

At the beginning of the 1980s, America's urban areas were marked not merely by crime but also by a declining manufacturing base, low-wage service jobs, school dropout rates of 40 percent or more, and an increasingly inadequate supply of low-income housing.

"The choice for policy-makers in responding to our high national crime rate, therefore, was very stark. The first option was to continue to build new prisons and jails at a cost of \$50,000 a cell or more, and to spend \$20,000 a year to house each prisoner. The second option was to spend these same tax dollars on prevention policies and services — programs designed to generate employment and to provide quality education, health care and housing, along with alternatives to incarceration rather than new prison cells..."

"Overwhelmingly, the punitive policies of the first option were the ones selected at both a national and local level. Had the punitive policies resulted in dramatically reduced crime rates, one could argue that their great expense was partially justified by the results. But as the 1990s begin, we are faced with the same problems as in 1980, only greater in degree."

Mauer calls for a "national commission on crime to explore why American incarceration rates are so high and to recommend programs to reduce the number of prisoners without affecting public safety."

But we know enough already to take the first steps to saner policy. We need to repeal the mandatory sentencing laws, begin treating drug abuse as a health problem rather than a criminal justice problem, and get serious about saving black males: not out of sympathy for criminals, but out of concern for the social and economic costs of our present approach.

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Grab your fishin' gear...It's tourney time!!

MCCA will once again sponsor the 8th Annual MN Correctionas Crappie Tournament. The event will be held on May 3rd on West Rush Lake at Lakeview Resort. **NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!** (Signs directing you in will be posted that day.)

There will be fantastic prizes, as well as trophies, for the largest crappies caught between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Again, all of the entry fee monies will go into the tournament and prizes will be given at a drawing at the tournament.

MCCA is also sponsoring a raffle with the drawing being done the day of the tournament. A 17-foot canoe will be the Grand Prize and a VCR will be the 2nd prize. One need not be present to win the raffle prizes. All proceeds from the raffle will be designated for MCCA training events this coming year.

See the insert in the issues of Happenings for more details. For raffle tickets to sell, or for more information, call Jerry Soma at 421-4760 or Barb Emer at 870-7227.

•Barb Emer



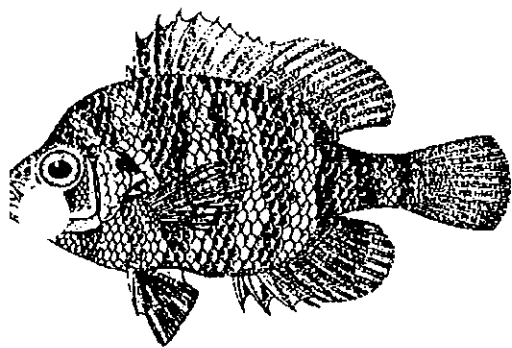
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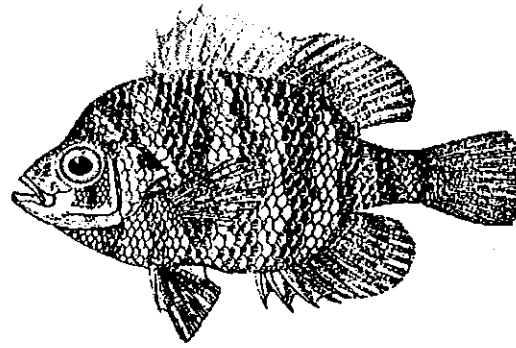
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8th Annual Minnesota Corrections Crappie Tournament



Sponsored by
Minnesota Community Corrections Association

- Where?** **New Location!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** Lakeview Resort on West Rush Lake (See map on back)
- When?** Friday, May 3, 1991. Registration and Sign In will be from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Weigh In will be from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.
- Who?** This is a private tournament for corrections staff (county, state, federal, and community) and their families and friends.
- Entry Fee:** \$5.00 per person for pre-registration (no refunds: We fish rain, shine, and ???), \$8.00 for those registering on the day of the tournament. **Pre-registration is due by 4/26/91** and is strongly encouraged — the more pre-registered people, the more prizes we can buy. However, if you don't pre-register, please feel free to come anyway.
- Prizes!!!** The number of entrants will determine the type and quantity of prizes. There will be prizes for the first through tenth largest crappies. We will give away tackle boxes, rods and reels, tackle, money, etc.
- Trophy!!!** The agency or group with the "best catch of the day" (as determined by the tournament judges) will receive the traveling trophy. The trophy currently is in the possession of Anoka County Corrections.

Rules:

1. All Minnesota conservation laws will apply.
2. Fish must be entered and weighed by 4:30 pm to qualify for prizes.
3. You must be present to win door prizes.
4. Ties will be settled by the flip of a coin.
5. You must sign in with the tournament officials prior to fishing to be eligible for prizes.
6. The decision of the judges will be final.
7. Good sportsmanship and conduct.

(See reverse side for other information and pre-registration)

Mail this entry form along with \$5.00 per person to:

MCCA
P.O. Box 702
Anoka, MN 55303

Name: _____ Phone: _____

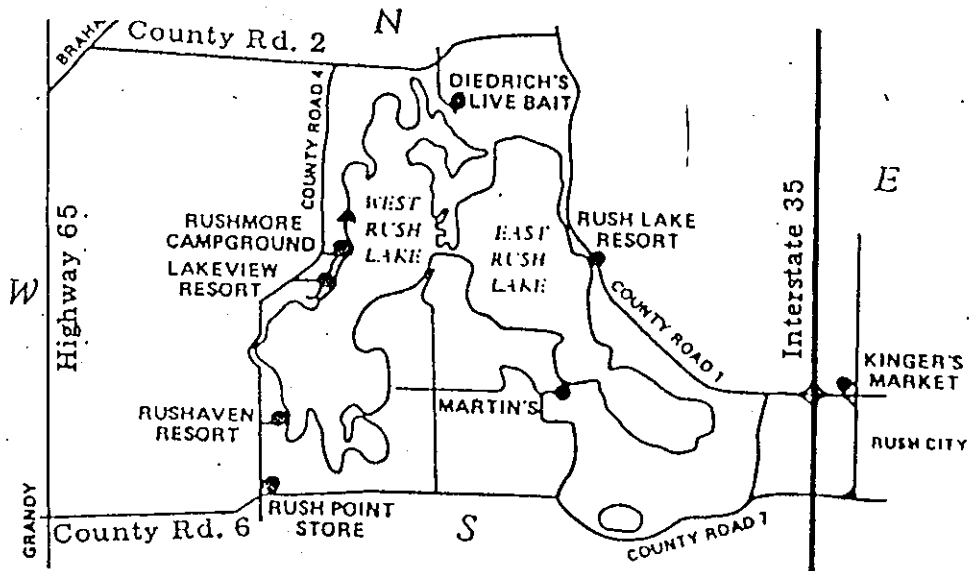
Agency: _____

General Information

- Boat Launching:** You can launch your boat at the resort for \$1.00
- Bait:** We will have crappie minnows available at nominal cost
- Camping:** If you want to camp at the resort either night, call Lakeview for reservation at (612) 396-2465
- Party!!!** Lakeview has grilled food available, burgers, fries, etc. They also provide set-ups.
- Questions?** If you need more information, call:

Jerry Soma at 421-4760 ext. 1639
Barb Emer at 870-7227
Bruce Anderson at 422-0955

Lakeview Resort: 2 miles North of Rush Point Store on #4. Public Access Available just North of Rushmore Campground.



If you did not attend the Winter Conference, your membership fee is due.
Please take a moment to renew and mail with your check to:

**Minnesota Community Corrections Association
650 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104**

By renewing, you will continue to receive the Happenings and be eligible to
attend monthly training sessions at no cost.

Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Program: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Individual Membership: \$15.00 _____

Program Membership: \$120.00 _____

Student/Volunteer: \$10.00 _____

Make checks payable to MCCA