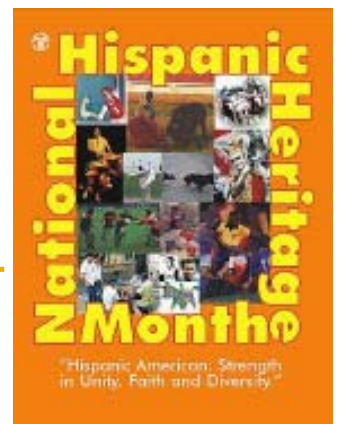


Hotline

September
2008



NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

Commemorate Minnesota's **150 years of statehood** with a new sesquicentennial license plate. The plates are now available at all deputy registrar offices. Cost is \$35 plus an \$8.50 filing fee; \$25 of the cost is a minimum, one-time donation to the Sesquicentennial Commission. License plates and tabs are produced at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Rush City as part of an inmate work program. For more information about the Minnesota Sesquicentennial and planned events, visit www.mn150years.org.

Several Department of Corrections (DOC) canine teams participated in the U.S. Police Canine Association (www.uspcak9.com) certification trials held in July.

In Region 12, MCF-Lino Lakes officers **Rick Jennings** and **Mike Langerman** were part of a team of four officers who took first place in the team event. This is the fourth consecutive year that Jennings and Langerman have taken this honor. Officer Langerman and his canine partner also placed first in obedience and second in suspect search. Officer Jennings and his canine partner finished third overall out of 85 participants.

MCF-Faribault officers **Mark Beckman** and **John Rathai** participated in Region 18 trials. Officer Beckman and his canine partner placed third in the agility test. Officer Rathai and his canine partner, in their first participation in the trials, finished 15th out of a field of 91.

The DOC is engaged in a pilot project to implement **Minnesota Circles of Support and Accountability (MnCoSA)** in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Olmsted Counties. The mission of MnCoSA is to substantially reduce the risk of future sexual victimization by supporting sex offenders as they reenter the community after serving their period of incarceration. MnCoSA circles consist of small groups of volunteers who provide intensive support and accountability to offenders as they face housing, employment, acceptance challenges and other issues. Program volunteers receive extensive training and continuous support. The next training cycle will begin September 20. For more information about MnCoSA and other volunteer opportunities, visit www.doc.state.mn.us/volunteer/default.htm.

The U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime is seeking nominations for its **2009 National Crime Victims' Service Awards** to be presented during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April 2009. For information on award categories and submission deadlines, visit <https://ovcnvrvw.ncjrs.gov/awards/preparation.html>.

DOC staff joined with communities for **National Night Out (NNO)** in August. Staff from the Stillwater and Oak Park Heights prisons demonstrated fingerprinting and handcuffing techniques and answered questions about the department and its facilities. MCF-Lino Lakes staff visited numerous community block parties with two canine teams. NNO strives to bring neighbors together with law enforcement to create safer communities for everyone.

In August, 17 staff from the MCF-Red Wing took part in the **2008 Relay for Life** Mississippi Shuffle and placed first in the 16-hour event with 89 laps. The facility raised over \$2,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Earlier this summer, staff from multiple facilities participated in the **Minnesota Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics**. The MCF-Red Wing had 11 participants, MCF-Lino Lakes had 17, and MCF-St. Cloud had 13. The facilities raised money for Minnesota Special Olympics through donations and t-shirt sales. Visit www.specialolympicsminnesota.org for more information on the Torch Run and other events.

Offenders at the **MCF-Shakopee** are helping to comfort women recovering from breast cancer surgery by sewing pillows for the Minnesota-based company, MoonLight Pillows. The company founder made her first pillow for a friend with cancer. The crescent shape of the pillow lessens chafing and pain after surgery when it is placed under the arm or across the chest. Visit www.moonlightpillows.com for more information about the pillows.



The **2008 Facility Reentry Programming Back-grounder** is now available. This publication describes resources for offenders in DOC facilities as they transition to the community. Find the backgrounder at www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/backgrounders/documents/08-08FacilityReentryProgramming.pdf.

DOC STAFF CHANGES

Shakopee Warden **Rick Hillengass** has announced his retirement effective October 1, 2008. Hillengass began his association with the DOC in 1975 as an employee of the University of Minnesota. In 1982, he was assigned to the MCF-Oak Park Heights under contract as the facility's first education director. In 1985, he joined the DOC as a correctional institution education specialist. Hillengass worked at Stillwater in various positions from 1991 to 1996, when he returned to Oak Park Heights as assistant to the warden. In 1997, he joined the staff of the women's facility at Shakopee where he served as associate warden of operations and warden. A retirement party in honor of Warden Hillengass will be held Friday, September 26, beginning at 5 p.m. with a 6:30 p.m. program at Dangerfield's Restaurant in Shakopee. Cost is \$12. RSVP to Doris Gillen at 952/496-4408.

Greg Potvin, corrections field services district supervisor in Detroit Lakes, retired in August after more than 38 years with the department. Previously, Potvin had been Moorhead district supervisor, Detroit Lakes Sentencing to Service regional supervisor, and a corrections agent in Detroit Lakes. He was an agent in the Detroit Lakes contract office for more than 21 years. Potvin also taught corrections at Moorhead Community Technical College for three years. **Shelva Lee Swanson**, Moorhead district supervisor, has succeeded Potvin in Detroit Lakes.

Guy Piras is the new acting chief executive officer for MINNCOR effective August 14, 2008. Piras began his career in corrections in 1983 at the MCF-Oak Park Heights as a corrections industry supervisor. He later served as business development administrator and industry director at Oak Park Heights. In 1996, he became MINNCOR sales and marketing manager in central office. Since September of 2000, Piras has held the position of vice president of MINNCOR operations.

Al Walz has accepted the finance director position for St. Cloud and Lino Lakes correctional facilities effective September 8. Walz has over 30 years experience in accounting and finance with the State of Minnesota.

Dan Hilleren has been appointed warden of the MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake effective August 6, 2008. Hilleren began his career with the DOC as a correctional officer at the MCF-St. Cloud in 1974 after serving four years in the air force. While at St. Cloud, he was promoted in 1977 to sergeant, in 1982 to lieutenant, and in 1988 to program director. He moved to the MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake in 1996 as associate warden of operations. Hilleren has served as acting warden at the facility since December 2007.

Aloha to **Tim Hansen**, restorative justice planner, who is leaving the DOC on October 1 after nearly eight years to begin a new opportunity in Hawaii. A celebration in his honor is planned for September 26 from 5:30-9 p.m. at Hamline University's Law and Graduate Schools Building, room 106, St. Paul. Cost is \$15 per person. RSVP to mnmrsc@mnmrsc.org or P.O. Box 131324, Roseville, MN 55113-0012. For more information, call 651/361-7108. A campus map is available at www.hamline.edu/visitors/PDF/campus_map.pdf.

OPENINGS

911 Dispatcher, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Golden Valley. Full-time, requires working 10-hour shifts, \$37,476-\$55,260 annually. For information on how to apply, visit www.hennepin.jobs, phone 612/348-2163, or email hr.dept@co.hennepin.mn.us. Closing date is September 8, 2008, at 5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Minnesota Association of Women in Criminal Justice Conference** September 17; www.mn.corrections.org/mawcj/pdf/falltrain.pdf.
- **Minnesota Corrections Association Fall Training Institute** October 29-31; www.mn-ca.org/CalendarofEvents/tabid/86/ModuleID/447/ItemID/3/mctl/EventDetails/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/29/2008.
- **Minnesota Conference on Women Offenders** November 12, 2008; <https://forums.doc.state.mn.us/site/fo/default.aspx>.