

## NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

The **Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA)** announced its 2005 awards at the Annual Fall Training Institute held October 26-28 in Duluth.

**Jerry Soma** was named *Corrections Person of the Year* for outstanding contributions in the field of corrections. Soma started as one of four probation officers in Anoka County in 1966. Nearly 40 years later, he is Human Services Division Manager, responsible for a \$103 million budget and over 1,000 staff.

Soma is credited with many accomplishments in Anoka County, including establishing the Juvenile Center and serving as its first superintendent; establishing the County Workhouse; developing the model Two-Day DWI Program; establishing the County Probation Service Center and implementing a creative group reporting concept; and assisting in establishment of the Multi-County Regional Juvenile Center. Soma has also served the community through his involvement with numerous organizations, including Alexandra House Battered Women's Shelter (board member); Mediation Services for Anoka County (board member); United Way (volunteer auditor); and Coon Rapids Peace Lutheran Church (president and church council member). He was selected by Governor Pawlenty in 2004 to serve on the Sex Offender Policy Commission, reviewing current laws and practices to make recommendations to better protect the public from sex offenders.

Soma was recognized as being a strong leader in corrections, serving on various professional organizations and working well with legislative members. MCA called Soma a true corrections professional whose efforts over the years have greatly enhanced the safety of Anoka County and Minnesota citizens.

The *MCA Professional Achievement Award* is given to a federal, state, county, or community corrections employee whose skills, knowledge, judgment, and communications have made a positive impact on offenders, fellow staff, the agency, and the community. This year's correctional facility recipient is **Tony Mustazza**, Religious Coordinator/Chaplain at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Faribault for over 13 years. Mustazza was recognized for his work on the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) Religious Practices Committee; initiating and coordinating a Charis spiritual retreat for offenders; developing an active religious volunteer program with over 140 trained vol-

**UPN 29 is scheduled to air a segment on women wardens as part of the 10 p.m. news broadcast on November 16.**

unteers; and his careful attention to include security when planning religious functions to ensure a positive experience for volunteers and offenders. MCA called him thoughtful and thorough, one who has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

This year's community services recipient is **Bill Moe**, a DOC Career Corrections Agent with a juvenile intensive supervision caseload. Moe was cited for his extensive community involvement, serving on many committees and advisory boards. He has strong connections to Winona County, where he served as a court services officer and a member of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class and organizer of their Law & Justice Day; the Restorative Justice Advisory Board; the Big Brother/Big Sister Board; Cultural Diversity Task Force; and City Council Youth Task Force. He currently presents to many local groups; volunteers as an educational mentor; implemented and chairs the Winona Juvenile Services Committee; and is very involved with the Winona County Restorative Justice and Independent Living Programs. He was recognized by MCA for his knowledge, expertise, and work ethic, serving as a role model for other employees and clients.

The *MCA President's Award* is presented to programs, resources, or facilities in corrections and the criminal justice system that have documented creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness, and innovation. Two recipients were chosen this year.

**Men as Peacemakers**, of Duluth, was created in 1996 in response to a series of murders and assaults in the area and the lack of involvement by men in the community's efforts to stop violence. Programming currently includes: Mentoring Works! with over 400 mentors and reading partners; Alternatives: Teaching Young Men and Women to Stop Violence, focusing on students and student athletes; The Storytelling Project, sharing stories with elementary school children about strong women, caring men, and how to make peace; and Restorative Justice, helping adolescent offenders by creating peacekeeping circles and a reintegration program for high-risk juveniles in out-of-home placement.

**Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA), Inc.**, of Minneapolis, engages low-level offenders with the community to resolve incidents of livability crime at the neighborhood level. Through facilitated, face-to-face meetings called community conferences, local community members and screened, nonviolent offenders discuss the impact of crime on the community and work out agreements to repair the harm. RJCA started in 1997 and now serves 11 neighborhoods with over 67,000 residents.

The *MCA Board of Directors Award* was presented to **Monique Drier** for exemplary service to MCA members through participation in association activities. Drier has chaired the Fall Institute Committee five times, putting together a committed team of volunteers to organize and conduct one of the nation's largest statewide corrections conferences. She was cited for her sustained leadership, dedication, and hard work on behalf of MCA. ■

Two correctional officers from the MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake, along with their K-9 partners, were awarded **first place in the National Field Trials** held in Evansville, Indiana, on September 24. In conjunction with the trials, the teams were certified with the United States Police Canine Association. The teams were scored and certified based on their skills in the areas of ability, obedience, searching, and criminal apprehension and recall.

The Minnesota officers and their K-9 partners who were part of the championship team scored a combined 2674.66 out of 2800 points. Team members are Jamin Leuzzo and Al Nettifee - MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake; Sgt. Brigham Strolle - Lakeville Police Department; and Jason Bade - Wabasha County Sheriff's Department. In addition, Officer Leuzzo and his K-9 partner took 5th place overall with a score of 678.33 out of 700. Officer Bade and his K-9 partner took 2nd place overall with a score of 683.17 out of 700. ■

**John King** has been named Associate Warden of Operations (acting) at the MCF-Stillwater. King joined the DOC in 1982 as a correctional officer at Oak Park Heights. From 1986 to 1999, he held several financial services positions, including finance director at Oak Park Heights, Lino Lakes, and Stillwater. In 1999, he was promoted to Associate Warden of Administration at the soon-to-be-opened Rush City facility and later transferred to Oak Park Heights. King also served as the department's chief financial officer in an acting capacity for 18 months.

**Kent Grandlienard** succeeds King as Associate Warden of Administration (acting) at Oak Park Heights. Grandlienard began his corrections career in 1981 as an officer at Stillwater. He was promoted to caseworker in 1986, serving at Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. In 1994 he accepted the position of Deputy Compact Administrator for Interstate Probation & Parole. In 1997, Grandlienard was asked to manage the department's central records

and data practices functions. In 2000, he was named Director of Inmate Transfers, Transportation & Classification. In 2002, Grandlienard was asked to serve as Employee Development Director in a temporary capacity. He was appointed to his current position in 2003 as Center City District Supervisor in the department's Community Services Division. ■

**Shelva Lee Swanson** has been appointed Moorhead District Supervisor for the Community Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Swanson started with the department in 1980 as a corrections officer at the now closed MCF-Sauk Centre. In 1982 she joined the St. Cloud facility staff as a case manager. In 1986, Swanson became a probation agent in the St. Cloud area. She later served as a work release agent, returning to the field in 1991 as a career agent. She was selected to be a Sentencing to Service Supervisor in 1994. Swanson also served as project manager for the statewide implementation of LSI-R. She succeeds **Greg Potvin** who transferred to the Detroit Lakes District Supervisor position vacancy caused by the retirement of **Bruce Besse**. ■

Each year state agencies participate in the **Combined Charities Campaign** to raise needed donations for 37 different charities. The staff at the MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake was particularly creative this year, designing "theme baskets" for employees to buy through a sealed bid process. Themes included book lovers, movie night, soup and bread, fall is in the air, family game night, Italian dinner, hunter's basket, and many more. Coordinated by Anne Tollefson and Jean Rudebeck, the baskets brought in nearly \$1,400 for the campaign. Another \$188 was raised selling desserts, for a total contribution of \$1,570. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Minnesota Departments of Corrections and Human Services, along with the Minnesota Community Corrections Association, are sponsoring a training workshop on December 6, 2005, for juvenile probation officers, county attorneys, and public defenders. ***Me? A Mental Health Worker? Bridging Juvenile Probation and Mental Health in Minnesota*** will be held at St. John's University in Collegeville. The program includes a general session on trauma and its impact, discussion of current screening and case management tools, and workshops on five specific disorders prevalent in delinquent offenders currently under supervision. Workshops will focus on helpful case management practices in servicing delinquents experiencing mental health and/or disruptive behavior issues. Registration fee is \$25 with limited space and registration required by November 23, 2005. To register, contact Bridget Letnes, 236 Clifton Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403, phone 612/813-5017, fax 612/813-5039, or [bridget@180degrees.org](mailto:bridget@180degrees.org). ■