

NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

About 30 **Sentencing to Service** (STS) offenders fired up chain saws at Camp Ripley on February 27-March 3 to cut firewood for families of deployed soldiers. The partnership combined community support, volunteerism, and needed clearing of land at the Camp. Most of the equipment for the project was provided by Camp Ripley, with STS crew members transported to the work site each day from their respective facilities in Aitkin, Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena Counties. The split firewood will be stored at Camp Ripley. Military families desiring wood should contact their Family Readiness Group or the Camp's Family Assistance Center (320/632-7027).

STS was created in 1986 as a sentencing alternative for courts throughout Minnesota. Carefully selected, nonviolent offenders are put to work on community improvement projects. Judges can sentence offenders to STS rather than jail or fines, in combination with jail time, or as a probation sanction. In addition to contributing to a better Minnesota, the STS program reduces jail crowding and provides offenders with a positive way to repay the community for their offenses. STS crews frequently work on river cleanup, trail development, and public senior citizen housing projects. The DNR, local counties, and other agencies identify work activities and supply equipment. ■

Pat Booker has been appointed District Supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Corrections' (DOC) newly-created Litchfield Field Services Office, effective March 22, 2006. Booker will be responsible for oversight of supervised release and probation services for Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Pope, Renville, Redwood, Stevens, and Traverse Counties, as well as supervision of STS crew leaders in Meeker and Redwood Counties.

Booker comes to the position after nearly 21 years in corrections, serving as an agent in various capacities including intensive supervision, enhanced sex offender supervision, and adult probation. She was named *DOC Agent of the Year* in 2004. Booker has also been active in numerous projects such as Closing the Gap, enhanced sex offender supervision stan-

dards, and evidence-based best practices. Booker will be officed at Meeker County Courthouse, 325 Sibley Avenue North, Litchfield, Minnesota 55355 (phone 320/693-5260). ■

The **Minnesota Corrections Association** recognizes individuals and programs for their contributions to the field of corrections in Minnesota and is soliciting nominations for 2006. This is an opportunity for corrections professionals to acknowledge programs and co-workers who demonstrate excellence in the performance of their duties. Nominations can be submitted in the following categories:

- *Professional Achievement Award, Correctional Facility Employee*: Given to a correctional facility employee in a federal, state, county, or community-based correctional facility whose skills, knowledge, judgment, and communications have made a positive impact on offenders, fellow staff, the agency, and the community. Achievement recognized exceeds that which is routinely part of a person's employment.
- *Professional Achievement Award, Field Services Employee*: Given to a correctional employee in a federal, state, county, or community-based agency whose skills, knowledge, judgment, and communications have made a positive impact on offenders, fellow staff, the agency, and the community. Achievement recognized exceeds that which is routinely part of a person's employment.
- *President's Award*: Given to programs, resources, or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice that demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness, and innovation.
- *Corrections Person of the Year*: Given for outstanding contribution to the field of corrections in Minnesota by an individual in any employment.

Awards will be presented at the MCA Fall Training Institute to be held October 25-27, 2006, in Duluth. Nomination letters should be submitted by August 15 to Chuck Ness, Box 278, Pipestone, Minnesota 56164 (phone 507/825-6890). ■

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) is accepting applications for the **Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship** (undergraduate scholarship \$1,000; graduate scholarship \$1,500). Students must be the son or daughter of a corrections employee (current, retired, or deceased) within an ASCA-member department of corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons; must be enrolled full-time in an accredited two- or four-year undergraduate college or university, or an accredited graduate program; incoming first-time freshman must have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5; enrolled full-time students must have a minimum college GPA of 2.5; and graduate students' field of study must be corrections/criminal justice. For additional information and an application form, visit www.asca.net. Applications must be submitted and postmarked no later than April 21, 2006. ■

The DOC's central office recently participated in a Polar Bear Plunge fundraising event for **Special Olympics Minnesota** (SOMN). Staff purchased snacks and other items from Haley's Popsicles Plunge Team who also took a dip in Lac Lavon in Burnsville. The team's multiple efforts resulted in a donation of nearly \$2,500 to SOMN. Visit www.somn.org for additional information. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

The A&E Network recently filmed a Minnesota victim/offender dialogue at the **Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault** as one of two cases in a pilot show on restorative justice (RJ) and victim offender dialogues in crimes of severe violence. Tim Hansen, Minnesota Department of Corrections RJ Planner, and Sheryl Wilson, University of Minnesota Center for RJ & Peacemaking, facilitated the Minnesota case. *Confrontation* is scheduled to air March 16 at 9 p.m., March 17 at 1 a.m., and March 18 at 5 p.m. Visit www.aetv.com/listings/episode_details.do?episodeid=158016 for more information. ■

The **15th Annual Law Enforcement Career Fair** will be held April 6, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. The fair will provide an opportunity for attendees to meet representatives from law enforcement, corrections, and higher education to learn about career opportunities in these professions as well as required training and education. Exhibitors include city, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; corrections; and colleges and universities who offer law enforcement degrees. Admission is free. For additional information about attending, sponsoring, or exhibiting, visit www.laweo.org. ■

Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity is the theme of this year's **National Crime Victims' Rights Week** (NCVRW) to be held April 23-29, 2006. Local and national events will pay tribute to crime victims and survivors and promote victims' rights and services. Offenders and staff in Minnesota's correctional facilities annually plan and participate in NCVRW activities through the department's restorative justice programming. For additional information on the department's efforts, visit www.doc.state.mn.us/rj/default.htm. For additional information on NCVRW, visit www.ovc.gov/ncvrw/welcome.html. ■

Fore! The Minnesota Correctional Education Foundation (MCEF) will hold its second annual **Golf Open - Best Ball Scramble** on August 18, 2006, at Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake, Minnesota. MCEF's mission is to provide eligible offenders with appropriate academic and vocational opportunities to prepare them for release as productive and contributing citizens. MCEF is seeking golfers, sponsors, and volunteers to staff the tournament. Contact Liz Evensen at 651/642-0285 or liz.evensen@state.mn.us for more tournament information or to learn how to support MCEF in other ways. ■

OPENINGS

Deputy Director of Adult Division (unclassified), Ramsey County Community Corrections. Salary: \$32.98-\$49.05 per hour. Provides direction and leadership to the Adult Services Division; responsible for all fiscal, program services, outcomes, and other activities associated with probation, supervised release, and domestic relations areas; and performs related duties as assigned. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in criminology, social or behavioral science, or closely-related field, plus eight years experience in corrections-related field with at least five years in a supervisory capacity or at least five years in a corrections-related field in a managerial capacity. Desirable qualifications: Attainment of an advanced degree and implementation of evidence-based best practice procedures or have worked in this environment. Resumes will be accepted until a sufficient number of qualified applicants have applied. An initial screening of resumes will occur on or around March 29, 2006. Submit resume along with an Applicant Tracking Form (available at www.co.ramsey.mn.us) to Ramsey County Human Resources, Attention Mitch Cooper, 50 West Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 430, Government Center West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102. Additional information about this position can be found online. Questions should be directed to 651/266-2700. ■