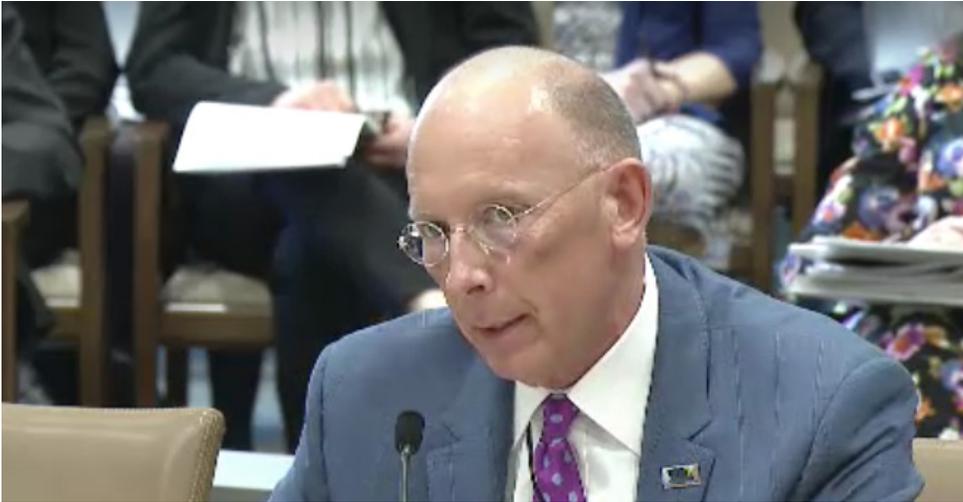


# SECOND CHANCE 5K

VIEWING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
THROUGH THE LENS OF REHABILITATION

PAGE 7

## Legislative Hearing: Advocating for More Corrections Officers



On April 9, MCF-Oak Park Heights Officer Jeff Vars (below right), Sgt. Derek Magle (below left), and DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell (pictured left) testified at the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Hearing.

Corrections Officers and leadership continue to advocate for increased funding and support for additional corrections officers and other important security-related resources.



## Biebl Retires After 29 Years with the State

By Ian Heaslip



Cindy Biebl, an Office and Administrative Specialist in the Records Department at MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake, retired in April after 26 years with the DOC and three years with the DNR.

Cindy spent the majority of her time working with offender records. Cindy recommends that staff be prepared for changes, as that's something that she's experienced throughout her career.

Cindy worked at Moose Lake as it transitioned from a state hospital to a prison and was known for her work organizing the Sunshine Club, various food drives, and assisting with the Employee Events Committee.

Congratulations on a long career and enjoy the upcoming sewing projects and getting rid of the alarm clock, Cindy!

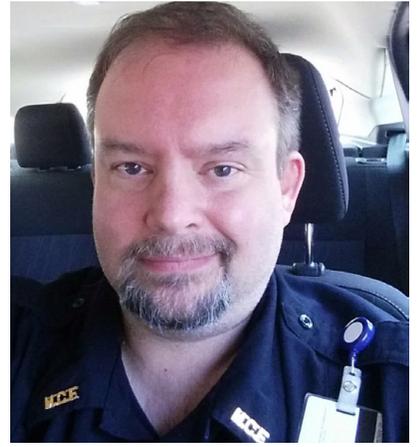
## Officer Gomm Memorial Highway Bill Signed

A section of Hwy. 95 will officially be named the "Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm Memorial Highway."

The section of highway runs from Interstate 94 in Lakeland to Hwy. 36 in Oak Park Heights.

Governor Tim Walz recently signed a bill to rename the stretch of highway. The legislation had passed with unanimous support in the House and Senate.

Signs will be posted along the route when the law takes effect on August 1.



## Knutson Named Assistant Commissioner

Nate Knutson has been named Assistant Commissioner for the Facilities Division.

Prior to his appointment, Nate was the Warden of MCF-Willow River/ Moose Lake. Nate began his DOC career in 1999 as a transitions coordinator. He has held various positions over the years, including caseworker, program director, program manager of the Challenge Incarceration Program, and Associate Warden of Operations.

Congratulations, Nate!



## Titus Named Warden of Oak Park Heights

Jeff Titus is the new Warden of MCF-Oak Park heights.

Prior to coming to Oak Park Heights, Jeff was the Warden of MCF-Rush City.

Jeff began his career as a corrections officer in 1994.

Jeff has held positions in employee development, and served as a lieutenant, caseworker, program director, and property and canteen supervisor, as well as Associate Warden of Operations.

Congratulations, Jeff!



## Barriere Retires After 45 Years with the State

Bob Barriere, Central Services Administrative Specialist–Senior in the mailroom at MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake, retired in early April after working an amazing 45 years with the State of Minnesota!

Bob started his state career as a Grain Inspector in April of 1974 and continued to do so until 2007. He joined the DOC at that time.

Bob was characterized by his dependability and willingness to come into work, even in the Halloween snow storm of 1991.

Thank you for your dedication, Bob!

*(L – R) Assistant Commissioner Nate Knutson Bob Barriere*



## Hagen Retires After 27 Years of State Service



On April 16, Lt. Dean Hagen retired from MCF-Oak Park Heights after 27 years of state service.

Dean served his entire career at Oak Park Heights and was highly respected by facility staff. Staff congratulated Lt. Hagen on his retirement during his final shift briefing over coffee and cake.

*(L – R) Captain Byron Matthews, WOOC Program Director Steve McCarty, WOOC Lt. Stephanie Huppert, Lt. Dean Hagen, Lt. Chad Oye, AWA Sherlinda Wheeler, and Program Director Bronson Austreng.*

## Pugh Named Acting Warden at Rush City

Jesse Pugh has been named acting Warden at MCF-Rush City.

Jesse started his DOC career as a Corrections Officer at MCF-Stillwater in March of 2004. He promoted to Case Manager in the HOF unit at MCF-Faribault in January 2008, and transferred to MCF-St. Cloud as a Case Manager in June 2009.

Jesse promoted to Corrections Program Director in June 2013 at MCF-St. Cloud and transferred to MCF-Lino Lakes in April 2015. He became the Associate Warden of Operations at Rush City in July 2018.

Congratulations, Jesse!



## Vondonop Promoted to Chief Engineer at Stillwater

By Doug Greene

On March 13, Carl Vondonop promoted to Chief Engineer at MCF-Stillwater.

Carl started with the DOC at Stillwater in June of 2007 as a Plant Maintenance Engineer, was promoted to Plant Maintenance Engineer Lead in September of 2015, and now promoted to Chief Engineer.

The Chief Engineer supervises a staff of eight maintenance workers and works closely with all of the plant maintenance staff. Carl is responsible for maintaining the heating and cooling for 1,400,000 sq. ft. of various types of buildings. His duties also include maintenance on a variety of appliances and equipment such as laundry, elevators, refrigeration equipment, and an extensive preventive maintenance program.

Carl has been an asset to the facility and we are looking forward to a long career here with him. Carl is a can-do type person which is an extension of his personal life as a volunteer fire fighter.

Thank you, Carl, for your service!



## Correctional Officer Memorial Flag Ceremony



As part of National Correctional Officers and Employee Recognition Week, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office held its Memorial Flag Ceremony on the front lawn of the Law Enforcement Center in St. Paul on May 6. The annual ceremony thanks Correctional Officers for their service and honors the service and memory of Correctional Officers who have died in the line of duty. Officers Joe Gomm and Joe Parise were both honored for their service and sacrifice at the event.

Sheriff Bob Fletcher said, "I could never do it. The men and women that go into this environment every day to work, they have the toughest job in the entire country. I have the utmost respect for the often invisible work they do." MCF-Stillwater Warden Eddie Miles, and MCF-Oak Park Heights Associate Warden Sherlinda Wheeler also spoke at the ceremony. Ramsey County Sheriff and MN DOC Honor Guards led in the ceremonial raising and lowering of the front lawn flag to half-staff in honor of all Correctional Officers lost this past year.



# Correctional Officer Memorial Flag Ceremony Photos



## CIT Awards Ceremony

By Christen Donley

On April 25, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) annual symposium took place at the Anoka County Sheriff's office. The day included presenters and the award ceremony for the CIT Persons of the Year and the CIT Executive of the Year.

The first presenter, Elizabeth Evenson, a licensed psychologist and associate clinic director at Nystrom and Associates, discussed anti-social personality traits. She shared facts about antisocial personality disorder – two that stood out are that 50 - 80 percent of male inmates are antisocial and that it affects 7.6 million people in the U.S. alone. Feedback shared by attendees included “funny and interesting,” “very relevant to my work,” and “very informational and detailed.”

The second presenter, Deneal Trueblood-Lynch, is a former inmate at Shakopee prison, a current student at Metro State University, and recent graduate of MCTC. She shared her experiences inside the facility, positive interactions with officers that assisted her on her journey, and community services that continue to assist her today. Feedback shared by attendees: “Always great to hear a success story,” “happy for her success,” and “greatly appreciate her honesty.”

There are 499 trained CIT staff members and 81 coaches throughout all the DOC facilities. This year, through a JMHCP expansion grant, the DOC added Mental Health De-Escalation Training for Field Services. There are 196 field services staff trained in Mental Health De-Escalation and 17 coaches. They were celebrated alongside the CIT Persons of The year. These individuals step up to keep offenders and peers safe every day within facilities as well as in the community and should all be recognized for their efforts. Thank you all for your hard work and productive interventions in promoting a safer place to work!



The following individuals were named CIT Persons of the Year:

- Blake Temp (MCF-Faribault)
- Matthew Ruter (MCF-Rush City)
- David Gilbert (MCF-Lino Lakes)
- Ryan Martin (MCF-St. Cloud)
- Josh Stanley (MCF-Moose Lake)
- Clair Brazil (MCF-Shakopee)
- Daniel Mommaerts (MCF-Oak Park Heights)
- Nicole Riemenschneider (MCF-Stillwater)
- Jacquelyn Nolt (MCF-Red Wing)
- David Kurth (MCF Togo)
- Bryan Roiger (Field Services)

The CIT Executive of the Year award went to Guy Bosch, AWO from MCF-Shakopee.

Special thank you to Shannon Reimann who stepped in to emcee the event – great job!

## Running for a Second Chance: Stillwater Hosts Second Chance 5K



By Shanique Wright

On April 13, MCF-Stillwater hosted their Second Chance 5K Run sponsored by Prison Fellowship. The event was met with tremendous support with over 200 participants including Commissioner Paul Schnell, Deputy Commissioner Michelle Smith, and Assistant Commissioner Marcus Schmit.

The annual event began early in the morning with the elite runners – many of who were from the facilities' Restorative Justice Program. These men are participating in the process of identifying obligations and solutions with the purpose of promoting accountability, restoration and healing. This aligns with the belief of Commissioner Schnell who stated in a brief statement to reporters before the race, "This run is about solidarity and second chances. It is easy to think about them as offenders however, we need to recognize that 95 percent are coming back into the community. If we can prepare for them then we can be better off and it is easy to drive that message home."

Throughout the race, the men were encouraged by their incarcerated peers who acted as time keepers as well as volunteer DOC staff who counted the 14-lap event.

The Community Second Chance 5K Run was also held the same day at Northwestern University – for the third annual year, endorsed by local organizations and second chance month partners. Clinical Program Therapist at Stillwater, Ashley Nelson described the run as an anticipated experience for the men. "This is meaningful to the participants because they train all winter for this" she declares "they also have family and friends who are running in the community as well." Throughout the event the staff, including Commissioner Schnell, stood alongside the participants in the prison yard displaying respect for each other, and in unanimity promoting the cause.

Stillwater Associate Warden of Administration Victor Wanchena explained the success of the Second Chance 5K Run and how it has positively impacted the men, by viewing restorative justice through the lens of rehabilitation. "Sometimes you do not need a grand gesture, it is the small act that matters."



## Faribault Sergeant Promotions

Robyn Lee promoted to Sergeant at MCF-Faribault on Feb. 20.

Robyn started his DOC career in October 2010 at MCF-Faribault. He has worked Utility, Squad, K4 unit staff, and Maple/Linden Float on various shifts. He has been a member of the ICMS team, a mentor, an FTO trainer, and a union steward.

Congratulations, Robyn!



(L – R) Program Director Martin Dahlen and Sgt. Robyn Lee

On April 3, Benjamin Sutlief promoted to Sergeant at MCF-Faribault.

Benjamin has been a corrections officer at MCF-Faribault since 2010. He is currently a participant in the Special Operations Response Team, SORT Armorer, the facility SORT Armorer, self-defense/control tactics instructor, chemical instructor, A-Team coordinator, FTO instructor, and an Effective Use of Authority instructor.

Congratulations, Benjamin!



(L – R) Lt. Andrea Harris-Ward, Sgt. Benjamin Sutlief, and Lt. Travis Ward

On April 6, Nathan Barthel promoted to Sergeant at MCF-Faribault in Maple Unit 3rd watch.

Nathan started his DOC career at MCF-Faribault on June 6, 2011. He has held many positions on 3rd watch such as K building, Utility, and Master/Squad. Nathan said he really enjoys training and helping others start their career on the right foot, hence his instructor experiences.

Nathan has been a CPR/First Aid Instructor since 2013, firearms instructor since 2014, and recently became an FTO for the facility.

Congratulations, Nathan!



(L – R) Sgt. Nathan Barthel and Lt. Karen Wadzinski

## Rush City Academy

MCF-Rush City's April 2, 2019 graduating class included officers, nurses, an electronic system specialist, information technology staff, cook coordinator, and central services administration specialist. During this academy, staff experience what a modified facility lockdown looks like and how we all work together to help in areas of the facility that are not our assigned work area.



(L – R) Anthony Muellerleile, Nicole Stroschein, Kelly Storck, Amber Jorgesen, Nathan Hahn, Stacey Schultz, Michael Kallberg, Colette Vincent, and Brian Tabolich

## Agents Gather for District Meeting



On April 24, at the Field Services district meeting in North Branch, corrections agents and Dr. Christine Johnson talked about the importance of making sure that people are getting connected to the right treatment and support programs at the proper time to have the most positive impact on their lives.

This is just one of the many ways our supervision agents directly impact positive change and help contribute to safer communities.

## Events Held Across MN for Crime Victims' Rights Week

By Lori Korts

The week of April 7-13 was full of unexpected moments throughout the DOC. There was a flurry of activities, despite the turbulent weather, which were held in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.



*Gabrielle*



*Jon*

Numerous guest speakers presented at different events throughout the agency. Gabrielle shared her "IT" moments when she presented at MCF-Rush City. Jon's story about life and loss as a surviving family member of a victim of drunk driving was heard by a full room at MCF-Faribault. His former speaking partner, Woody was present through the stories that Jon shared and illustrated how impactful one person, one action can be. The unexpected weather caused some flexibility with scheduling and resulted in the rescheduling of multiple presentations. MCF-Stillwater hosted Joy and MCF-Oak Park Heights hosted Chris, a former incarcerated individual who has embraced the opportunities he received during incarceration and has become a beacon for the value of gaining an understanding of the impact each person has on, not only the victim of their crime, but on their family and community as a whole.

The efforts of the Restorative Justice Councils throughout DOC facilities was remarkable and no small undertaking. Thank you to all the speakers that shared their stories, as well as those participants in the events throughout the week. The work must continue, beyond this week. The snowplows worked hard clearing the way for the residents of Minnesota this week, so too must we become the plows making the way safe for victims on their road to becoming a survivor.

## Rush City's Bergstad Retires

On April 2, after serving over 15 years of state services CPT Mary Bergstad retired.

Mary started as CPT 2 promoted to CPT 3, and finally promoted to a CPT4. Mary was a valuable asset at the facility with her commitment to the supportive living services for incarcerated men.

Congratulations on your retirement, Mary!

*(L - R) Warden Jeff Titus and CPT Mary Bergstad*



## Minneapolis Police Chief Speaks at Faribault



Chief Medaria Arradondo and others from the Minneapolis Police Department recently spoke with the incarcerated men at MCF-Faribault. They shared their perspectives on responding to and addressing crime, violence, victimization, and equitable community policing.

Chief Arradondo shared his vision for how the department is actively working to rebuild trust with communities most impacted by crime.

## Instructor Profile: Dominic Casalenda, Oak Park Heights

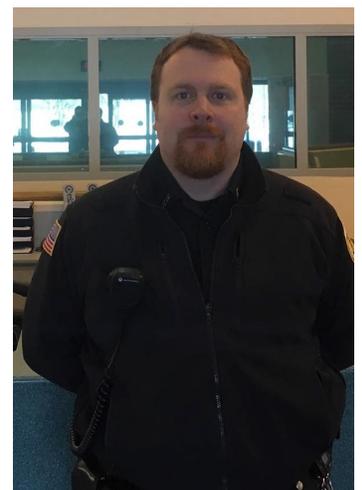
Officer Dominic Casalenda has been with the DOC since 2011. He has worked as a Utility Officer and A-Team Officer. In 2013, he started teaching Control Tactics and Self-Defense courses. In 2014, he became a Lead Instructor in these topics and started to teach academy-level students. In addition, he is a member of CIT, an FTO, and trained in Warrants.

He became a member of SORT in 2013 and a Team Leader in 2017 assisting Team Commanders in the development and implementation of scenario-based training.

According to Lt. Dan Meyer, Officer Casalenda “can be counted on to handle difficult incidents and situations in the prison. Officer Casalenda is a problem solver and a leader and he is well respected by the people he works with.”

Dominic believes that “the most rewarding thing about instructing is when the student has that “aha moment” after they have properly demonstrated a skill or technique.”

In his off-time, Dominic helps raise money for Special Olympic events.



*Dominic Casalenda*

## Trauma Training for Field Services Staff

By Marc Bloomquist,  
District Supervisor

On April 10, Bemidji Field Services District 1 and 2, along with ISR North and several other districts had the great opportunity to bring Trauma training to our area.

Over 80 staff participated in this training which helps staff process stress and trauma in healthy ways and helps to build pro-social and positive outlets. The presenter of this program was Brent Richter, M.A., who brought real life experience to this training.



In early 2018, Brent began to wind-down his Maple Grove-based clinical practice as he expands his educational, support, and critical incident/traumatic event (CI/TE) response and consulting offerings to an ever-increasing geographical area. He continues to serve organizations that are interested in developing agency-based employee wellness programs, peer support programs, as well as groups looking for CI/TE education, support, or response.

Brent (Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and Consultant) retired from the Minnesota State Patrol (MSP) in 2009 with just over twenty years of service. Over the course of his career, he served as a trooper, field training officer, crash re-constructionist and taught at the MSP Training Academy from 1990-2007.

In 1997, Brent was promoted to Technical Sergeant and served as a member of the Vehicle Crimes Task Force. After transferring to the Metro Crash Reconstruction Team in 2004 Brent finished his career as the Coordinator of the Statewide Crash Reconstruction Program.

Injuries sustained in a series of on-duty motor vehicle crashes that spanned his career necessitated Brent's retirement and he chose to continue providing community service by changing the focus of his work from helping to safeguard people's physical well-being to that of attending to their psychological and emotional needs.

With a Master of Arts degree in Counseling and Psychological Services from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, coupled with a deep desire to continue working with those who operate in public service, Brent's 30 years of public safety experience allows him an unequalled opportunity to better understand the stressors, challenges, and uncertainties faced by emergency responders. He is an Army Veteran, worked 5 years as an EMT-I with a local ambulance service, volunteered 13 years as a paid-on-call firefighter, fire captain, and district fire chief, and has been a Minnesota licensed police officer since 1981.

**Hotline is produced by the DOC Communications Office:** Sarah J. Fitzgerald (Communications Director), Aaron Swanum (Information Officer), and Michael Ojibway (Principal Marketing & Multimedia Strategist)

## Flag Changing Ceremony Held at Red Wing



Members of MCF-Red Wing's Honor Guard team participated in a changing of the flags ceremony.

The American Flag and the Minnesota State Flag that fly on the flag pole outside of the MCF-Red Wing Administration Building were faded and frayed at the ends, and were ready to be replaced.

Red Wing's Honor Guard Commander Tony Swancutt led Honor Guard team members Sgt. Kevin Vandestouwe and Officer Kayla Perkins in the ceremony. The old flags were lowered from the flag pole, removed, and later taken to the local VFW to be properly disposed. The new American Flag and Minnesota State Flag now fly proudly in front of MCF-Red Wing.

# Shakopee Transitions Fair



On April 16, media attended the incarcerated women’s transition resource event at Shakopee, where over 60 of our community partners connected women to employment, housing and treatment resources.

Thanks to our staff, community partners and the incarcerated women for committing to successful futures.



# First Lady Walz Attends Faribault Education Event

On April 19, First Lady Gwen Walz spoke at an education event for incarcerated men at MCF-Faribault. She shared how she has high expectations for the men, and how she sees them as part of the solution to improving Minnesota’s education system for all students.

Gwen Walz also spoke of seeing them as part of the Governor Tim Walz's Administration’s “One Minnesota,” and told them she believes in their abilities, and their capacity to choose positive paths when faced with difficult choices upon release.



## Olson Earns 2nd Nationally Certified Instructor Credential

Jay Olson, a Training and Development Specialist-Security, has received the designation of “Nationally Certified Instructor” through the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

“In addition to being a personal goal, the certification is a testament to my formal education, life experiences, and training,” said Olson. “It puts me in a peer-group of well qualified public safety instructors. The certification establishes a certain level of professional credibility that is a positive reflection on the Department of Corrections and agency leadership.”

Those receiving the designation display the “best practices” in training delivery by satisfying an in-depth application process. Designees must maintain their training acumen by completing continuing professional education and instructor coursework.

“I love working in Employee Development and with the stakeholder groups allied with security training,” said Olson. “I truly enjoy the collective nature in which we all strive to develop and deliver the best training product possible and to make the MN DOC second to none.”

In January 2018, Jay received the “Certified Correctional Trainer” designation from the America Jail Association. Jay is the only DOC training specialist to ever hold a nationally recognized instructor certificate.



Jay Olson

## Oak Park Heights Sergeant Promotions

**Matt Stanley** promoted to Sergeant in Complex 6 on 3rd watch. Matt has worked for the department as a correctional officer since 2012. He has worked all watches in multiple capacities. His knowledge and experience will certainly be an asset to our 3rd watch team. Please congratulate him when you see him.

His official start date was April 17 and he was pinned at the beginning of 3rd watch briefing.

Congratulations, Matt!

*(L – R) Captain Byron Matthews, WOOO Lt. Stephanie Huppert, Sgt. Matt Stanley, Lt. Dan Meyer, Lt. Tyler Grandstrand and Lt. Jason Hills.*



On April 3, Oak Park Heights Corrections Officer **Joshua Meineke** promoted to 3rd Watch Sergeant.

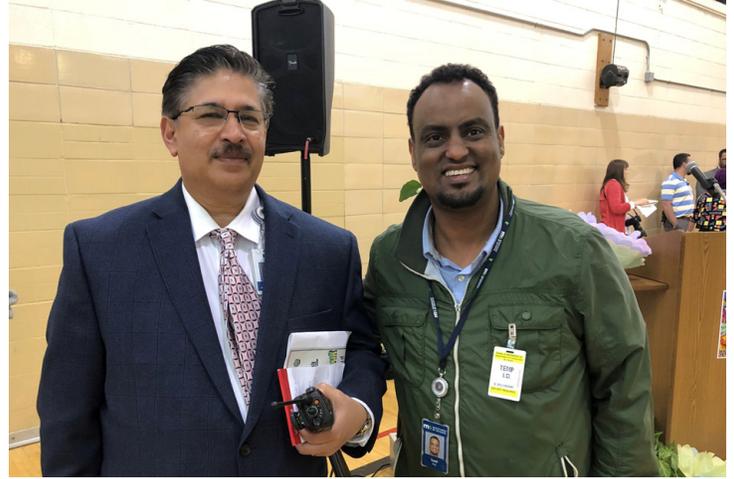
Joshua started his DOC career in January 2011. He is a Crisis Intervention Team member and Field Training Officer. He has also been an instructor for Maintaining Boundaries and Transitioning from Prison to Community.

Congratulations, Joshua!

*(L – R) Sgt. Josh Meineke and Lt. Nicholas Witter*



## St. Cloud Holds Transitions Fair



On May 1, MCF-St. Cloud hosted a Transitions Fair. Community partners joined our transitions staff in helping the soon-to-be-released incarcerated men connect to resources, which will help them successfully rejoin our communities!



## Rush City Celebrates National Crime Victims' Rights Week

With gratitude, the Rush City Restorative Justice committee welcomed Guest Speaker, Ms. Alison Feigh.

Alison Feigh is the Director of the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, a program of the Zero Abuse Project. She is a subject matter expert on child and teen safety and works with students, parents, youth workers, faith leaders, law enforcement and the media to help prevent childhood abuse and abductions. Alison's work includes writing materials for organizations serving young people regarding online challenges and advocating for families with missing children.



*(L – R) Associate Warden of Administration Deneen Clemons, Alison Feigh (from the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center), Case Manager Theresa Wohlhaefer, Corrections Program Director Rebecca Fratzke, Case Manager-Career Marie Enninga, Officer Brigette Olson, Case Manager Cortney Gay, Corrections Program Director Ashlee Berts, Lieutenant Tracee Scherer, and Warden Jeff Titus*

Alison was a classmate of Jacob Wetterling and learned early on the importance of protecting children and young people from abuse and exploitation. She is uniquely able to speak on how the organization has been able to continue its mission while mourning and getting used to the “new normal” in light of realizing the fate of one of Minnesota's most notable crime victims. She continues to share Jacob's message of hope for a fair and just world where all children know they are special and deserve to be safe.

## St. Cloud's Dahlen Completes Lieutenant Practicum

Sgt. Shawn Dahlen recently completed MCF-St. Cloud's Lieutenant Practicum.

The curriculum covered observations of Watch Commanders of all 3 watches and of Unit Lieutenants. He even performed some of their functions under their supervision. He learned the fact-gathering stages of investigation, the importance of preserving evidence, and the submission of comprehensive investigative reports. The 40-hour program also covers the fundamentals of unit management, coaching and mentoring employees and an understanding of the evolving trends of Restrictive Housing Units.

Shawn learned the vital importance of interacting with the Captain, Officer of the Day, Behavior and Medical professionals, and OSI, in making sound correctional decisions. His Supervisor Lt. Jessica Hinnenkamp, said: “Sgt. Dahlen asked questions for clarification. He completed extra hours in the Discipline area to better understand the process, showing ambition and good work ethic.”

Shawn started his DOC career at St. Cloud in 2005 and promoted to Sergeant in 2016. He has been involved in the FTO Program; CIT, and has been a Master Instructor for the Foundation for Leadership Program. He is the Visiting Unit Sergeant, where he is aware of the value of incarcerated men maintaining positive community relations with their families and loved ones while incarcerated, and positive outcomes associated with reduced recidivism. Shawn reflected: “This experience gives me a valuable insight of what goes on behind the scenes of a Lieutenant's responsibilities and what it takes to put a shift together.” Congratulations, Shawn, on completion of the Lieutenant Practicum!



*Lt. Jessica Hinnenkamp, Sgt. Shawn Dahlen, Lt. Keith Kowalczyk and Captain Dean Weis.*

## Moose Lake Dog Training Program



On April 18, the Pine Journal newspaper visited the rescue dog program at MCF-Moose Lake, where incarcerated men give back to the community by giving dogs basic obedience training to make them more adoptable in the community.



## Larson Completes Student Teaching in a MCF

By **Matt Hosmer**, *Education Direction at MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake*

Kayla Larson, a Corrections Teaching Assistant at MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake, has worked out of class as a teacher before, but never like this. Kayla has blazed a trail as the first person to do student teaching in Adult Basic Education (ABE) within a correctional facility in the state of Minnesota.

Kayla is completing her teacher licensure coursework through Bethel University and started her student teaching practicum in February. She researched the policies and requirements, carefully laying out a plan to the decision makers, regarding allowing this unprecedented event. Kayla was patient and persistent in getting the teachers union, Minnesota Department of Education, Bethel University staff and DOC supervisors all on board. As this is a brand new experience, there have been a few obstacles that Kayla has had to navigate, but she has proven to be adaptable.

Kayla has done an excellent job of balancing teaching and learning. She is continuously communicating and problem solving with both the facility and Bethel University. Students have commented on how much they appreciate Kayla's teaching style, her fantastic lessons, and how relevant her methods are to their lives.

This is a great opportunity, and we are hoping this breakthrough will lead to increased partnerships with colleges and teaching programs. These expanding partnerships will allow future teachers the experience of student teaching in a correctional facility, create an interest in our Minnesota Career Education Center, and help strengthen the education application pool. MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake is proud of Kayla Larson's accomplishments.



*Kayla Larson*

## Control Tactics/Self-Defense Instructor Basic Course



Assistant Commissioner Marcus Schmit (L), OSI Director John Melvin (R), and Training Manager Charles Dively (RF) with the graduates.

Seventeen officers completed the 72-hour Control Tactics/Self-Defense Instructor - Basic Course that was conducted by Master and Lead Instructors at Central Office during the weeks of March 18 and March 25.

According to Training & Development Specialist Jay S. Olson, "this training program is uniquely designed specific to the needs of the DOC. It combines Controlled F.O.R.C.E., S.P.E.A.R. and other defensive techniques."

Students also received instruction on department policy, instructor duties, coaching methodologies, and training safety. Office of Special Investigations Assistant Director Mark Koderick and Deputy Director Jeff Dansky provided information on the post Use of Force investigation processes, crime scene preservation, and documentation requirements.

Graduates included; Isaac Antilla (MCF-Oak Park Heights), Todd Bestgen (MCF-Oak Park Heights), Sydney Brekke (MCF-Faribault), Dustin Bruender (MCF-Lino Lakes), Matthew Crumb (MCF-Lino Lakes), Joe Dunham (MCF-Lino Lakes), Sean Goedtel (MCF-Faribault), Fergus Gavin (MCF-Faribault), Andrew Hathaway (MCF-Stillwater), MacKenzie Heuton (MCF-Faribault), Miranda Krenske (MCF-Faribault), Joshua Kubiszewski (MCF-Lino Lakes), Nicholas Minetto (MCF-Oak Park Heights), John Morrissey (MCF-Oak Park Heights), Brent Peterson (MCF-Stillwater), Angela Schiefelbein (MCF-Lino Lakes), and Justin Steinberg (MCF-Oak Park Heights)



Lead Instructor Heather Hansen (MCF-Togo) observes as students demonstrate a technique.



Master Instructor Jason Koski (MCF-Moose Lake) provides guidance as students practice a technique.

## Shakopee Hosts Large Scale ICS Drill

By Lt. Joshua Sterling

On March 26, MCF-Shakopee conducted a large-scale drill where Incident Command System (ICS) principles were used during a four-stage training throughout the day.

The drill started off with the activation of ICS. An emergency count was conducted in the facility and a CATS staff verification check was completed. Once staff had checked in with the staging area manager they received a colored card dividing them into one of four teams. AWO Guy Bosch welcomed the group and explained our goals for the day. The four teams would attend training at four different stations and rotate through all of them by the end of the day. The stations were:

- **Offender Death Investigation:** This training was led by Special Investigator Diana MaGaard. Investigator MaGaard explained the process OSI goes through to investigate a crime scene, evidence handling, and what happens after they complete their processes.
- **Safe Search Practices:** This training was led by Lt. Tom Vavra. Tom and a team of security staff instructed the teams on how to search safely and thoroughly, how to process evidence at Shakopee, and what to do with excess property. Fifty items of “contraband” were hidden throughout the search area. The members of the Purple Team earned bragging rights that day by finding 47 out of the 50 items.
- **C-FLOP Command Post:** This training was led by Sgt. Bill Schmidt. During this session, teams were introduced to the Command Post process and positions included writing an Incident Action Plan for a major weather event.
- **SORT Demonstration:** This training was led by Lt. Joshua Sterling. During this training teams were given a brief history of SORT, how the Tactical Command Post and Mobile Command Unit functions, and viewed a live demonstration of the Shakopee SORT conducting a building entry and apprehension of two individuals who had barricaded themselves into a room. Teams were also able to be hands-on with some tactical equipment.

At the end of the fourth session the teams gathered back at our visiting room to discuss the event. Staff really liked being engaged throughout the day, and the drill was a big success.



*Lt. Josh Sterling teaches SORT Class*

## Wilkins Promoted to Management Analyst 2

By Marc Bloomquist, *District Supervisor*

Genevieve Wilkins was recently promoted to Management Analyst 2 in the Field Services Office located in Park Rapids.

Genevieve’s prior service with the DOC includes serving as an Office and Administrative Specialist Senior from 2015-2019 and Management Analyst 1 from 2018 to 2019.

She came to the DOC with an extensive work history portfolio. She began her career as a Corrections Officer, and was an Instructor/Faculty at Minnesota State Community and Technical College for 5 years, where she taught courses in Information Technology and Business Management Programming. She also served as Business Systems Analyst/Business Report Analyst for nine years.



This past work history coupled with her extensive educational background, which includes degrees in Criminology, Networking and Database Management, a certificate in business analytics, and near completion of a bachelor’s degree in Science and Computing Information Systems, make her an incredible asset for the department. In her free time she has received her Federal Aviation Administration licensed pilot credentials. Congratulations Genevieve!

## Rush City Excited for Tele Psychiatry Room

By Dr. Michelle Saari

On March 25, the Rush City Behavioral Health Department held an open house to celebrate the completion of their tele psychiatry remodel.

Previously, the department had one room used for tele psychiatry appointments, face-to-face appointments, and therapy meetings. The space was always full, and required in-person security. The splitting of the conference

room into two separate, yet secure, rooms allows staff to see double the number of incarcerated men. It also moved the entry point for incarcerated men so they no longer needed to enter through staff-occupied areas. This has increased overall productivity allowing for an increase in the delivery of clinical services for the facility.

Staff are thankful that this project was completed, and it has had a significant positive impact on both those who are incarcerated and staff.



(L – R) Associate Director of Behavior Health Katie Shinnick, Behavioral Health Services Director Steve Huot, then-Warden Jeff Titus, Tele Psychiatry Provider, Dr. Tanuia Reddy, and Psychological Services Director Dr. Michelle Saari.

## Meyer Joins Stillwater as Building Maintenance Supervisor

By Doug Greene, Physical Plant Director

MCF-Stillwater welcomes Nick Meyer to the plant operations department as the new Building Maintenance Supervisor.

Nick comes to us from MCF-Red Wing where he worked as an Institutional Maintenance Leadworker for three years. Nick started his DOC career in 2014, as a General Repair Worker. Nick has an extensive background in construction. He graduated from Minnesota State College Southeast, and immediately started as a carpenter where he worked with the same company as a supervisor for 10 years.

As the Building Maintenance Supervisor, he will be overseeing several areas within the Plant Operations department, supervising 11 staff who take care of the grounds, janitorial, construction, painting, lock and door repair, and masonry, as well as overseeing outside contractors working on large projects.

As Physical Plant Director, I would like to thank Nick for giving us the opportunity to work with him.



## St. Cloud Hosts National Crime Victims' Rights Week Events

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is recognized each year in April. In honor of NCVRW 2019, MCF-St. Cloud hosted a variety of events including a presentation that explored the impact and responses to harm from the perspective of a sexual assault survivor, a donation of quilts and money from the Whole Heart Project to Anna Marie's Alliance, and a bake sale.

Anna Marie's Alliance is a private, non-profit corporation that provides safe shelter and support to battered women and their children.



(L – R) Deputy Commissioner Sarah Walker, Victim Advocate Karla, Case Manager Sarah Gibbison, RJ Coordinator Alicia Nichols, Corrections Officer Eric Lindmeier, and Case Manager Lisa Jorgenson

Participants from the Rivers and Reshape Chemical Dependency Programs and the MCF-St. Cloud Art Program also created artwork around this year's NCVRW theme, "Honoring Our Past, Creating Hope for the Future."

## Chautauqua Returns to Shakopee

By **Andrea Smith**, *Librarian*

The 5th annual Chautauqua was scheduled during March 24-30 at MCF-Shakopee.

Chautauqua (sha-TAW-kwa) describes an adult education movement in the United States that dates back to the late 19th Century. Communities would gather together for a week or two in the summer and enjoy education, entertainment, and fellowship. President Theodore Roosevelt once call Chautauqua "the most American thing in America." Why? Because it is an opportunity to dedicate leisure time toward engagement, discovery, and self-improvement! Chautauqua offers liberal – as in wide-ranging – education for adults, regardless of background, that champions the themes of "humanistic education, religious tolerance, and faith in social progress".



(L – R) Rick Frye, Crystal McDonnell, AnDee Flohr, Sandy Hand, Andrea Smith

On March 22, all 254 registered participants were scheduled to attend the mandatory information session and packet pick-up event. Nearly all were in attendance (236) to hear about the history of Chautauqua nationwide and here at Shakopee, learn about the goals and expectations for the week, and pick-up their packets. This year's Chautauqua included 47 different workshops led by over 60 volunteer presenters. More than 89 hours of programming were offered with the help of 16 DOC staff who provided workshop supervision. Topics ranged from healthy relationships to family history to early literacy to TED Talks to writing poetry to Shakespeare to board games. There was something for everyone!

Since 2015, more than 200 women have taken part each year in the annual Chautauqua and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. So many women are excited and thankful for the opportunity to try something new, think about their lives differently, and interact with the women around them in a positive atmosphere.

## Corrections Peace Officer Foundation

By **Connie Hartwig**

The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) now has the honor of being a life-time sponsor of Corrections Peace Officer Foundation (CPOF).

Although this amazing foundation was established in 1984, it first came to MCA's attention in August of 2018, during the American Corrections Association Conference when Corrections Officer Joe Gomm's photo was displayed at their exhibit. The CPOF Honor Guard came out to help and support the families and staff after the deaths of Officers Joe Gomm and Joe Parise.

After learning of this foundation and the benefits available to our corrections' family, MCA forged the beginning of a great relationship and bond with CPOF staff.

Since last August, numerous DOC staff received benefits as a result of experiencing a catastrophic event. In June of 2019, CPOF will hold its annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Joe Gomm and Joe

Parise and their families will be honored at the event. Additionally, Sgt. Chuck Weyer from MCF-Oak Park Heights and Lt. Chris Milliron from MCF-Stillwater will also be honored. Both staff were severely injured in the line of duty. We are trying to spread the word and the work of CPOF. DOC staff please visit their website at [CPOF.org](http://CPOF.org) and consider joining this foundation and attending their conference in June. If you know of someone who may benefit from CPOF, please feel free to reach out to me and I can help you through the process. [Connie.hartwig@state.mn.us](mailto:Connie.hartwig@state.mn.us).

About CPOF

The CPOF is a national, non-profit charitable organization created in 1984. Its primary function is to preserve and support the surviving families of Correctional Officers who lose their lives in pursuit of their chosen profession of protecting the public from those remanded to correctional custody and supervision in the nation's prisons and jails.

To learn more about the CPOF, visit: <http://cpof.org/>

## Volunteer Banquet at St. Cloud

By **Chaplain William Dornbush**, *MCF-St. Cloud*

MCF-St. Cloud holds an annual volunteer banquet during 'Volunteer Week' to honor the 270-plus volunteers who come for programming throughout the year. On April 9, we hosted 95-plus volunteers in our gymnasium for a dinner, program, refresher training, and a tour of the facility. Our theme this year was: "You cannot Love without Giving."

The Chaplain opened by welcoming the volunteers to the evening and then introduced Warden Shannon Reimann, who thanked the volunteers for their willingness to give their time and energy through the approximately 45 programs held at St. Cloud. This was followed by two incarcerated men who each gave inspiring talks of how they have been impacted by the volunteers' love and sacrifice for them.

The generous help of many staff who volunteered made the success of this banquet possible. Staff also escorted the 95 volunteers throughout the facility. For most, this was the highlight of their night. Less than a handful of volunteers had ever toured the facility. Many expressed gratefulness for the opportunity to see the facility. It was worth all the time and effort to see our volunteers blessed, as we have been by their service to us.



Warden Shannon Reimann addressing the recent Volunteer Banquet at MCF-St. Cloud.

## Shakopee Celebrates Employee Recognitions

A number of employees were recognized for their contributions this past month at MCF-Shakopee. Each of the following received Employee Recognition Nominations as a recognition from their peers for a job well done. This month's nominees included:

**Sgt. Korey Dobmeier** was nominated for an employee recognition award in the category of Leadership. Korey is a perfect example of what it takes to be a Sergeant. He has been the 1st Watch Squad Sergeant for almost 7 years, and throughout his time he has mentored new staff and molded said staff into excellent Corrections Officers. He has patience with new officers, and takes valuable time out of his day to not only show them the ropes but also to get to know them on a personal level. He sets a great example for new staff by going above and beyond in his day to day duties.

**Sgt. Eric Retzinger** was nominated for an employee recognition award in the category of Leadership. Eric has been instrumental in overhauling the R&O process at MCF-Shakopee.

As a unit sergeant, he has championed many improvements in his unit that have been applied facility-wide.

*Pictured: Sgt. Eric Retzinger and CPD Kim Evans*



*Sgt. Dobmeier and Captain Mike Hennen*



**Sandy Hand** was nominated for an employee recognition award in the category of Leadership. Nominated for developing a presentation on Transition From Prison to Community for the America Corrections Association conference held this past year in Minnesota. She worked with Alicia Lacina to develop a workshop that highlighted MCF-Shakopee's TPC efforts.

*(L – R) Warden Tracy Beltz, Case Manager Sandy Hand, and Program Director Karley Jorgensen*



**Karley Jorgensen** was nominated for an employee recognition award in the category of Leadership. Karley Jorgensen and case manager Dori Maddox presented at this year's ACA Congress of Corrections Conference. The workshop: "Women are from Venus: Gender Responsive Programming within a Female Correctional Facility," provided attendees an overview of the principles of effective intervention, and how the DOC is increasing its focus on training and implementing what works in corrections.

*Pictured: Warden Tracy Beltz and Program Director Karley Jorgensen*



## Shakopee Celebrates Employee Recognitions

**Sgt. Brenna Knights** was nominated for an employee recognition award in the category of Volunteer. Brenna volunteered to coordinate weekend sporting tournaments for the women at Shakopee. Sgt. Knights took it upon her shoulders to coordinate tournaments every few months. The women are extremely grateful. Coincidentally, the number of incident reports tends to drop considerably over these “event” weekends.

*Pictured: Sgt. Brenna Knights and Lt. Brady Hartmann*



**Officer Eric Miller** was nominated for an employee recognition award in the category of Outstanding Individual Performance. The MCF-Shakopee informal sanction process was in need of a major overhaul and Eric Miller was instrumental in the development and implementation of our new log. The form is versatile, efficient and very user friendly and will greatly reduce the inefficiencies of paper files.

*Pictured: Lt. Shawn Follmer and Officer Eric Miller*



## Laying the Foundation

**By John R. Williams Jr., Associated Warden of Administration**

According to the Cambridge English Dictionary, the definition of Instructor is: a person whose job is to teach people a practical skill. To say that Control Tactics/Self-Defense inside any facility is a practical skill is quite an understatement.

In our agency, the individuals who often sign up to be an instructor are those that have a desire to lay the correct foundation for all of the staff in our facilities. In order to be an instructor you must be willing to adapt to the needs of the staff you are serving. I had the distinct pleasure and honor to have five amazing professional staff graduate as Control Tactics/Self-Defense Instructors. The Lino Lakes family is so proud of these individuals for stepping up and taking on being instructors in such a complex subject matter.



*(L – R) Dustin Bruender, Matt Crumb, Angela Scheifelbein, Josh Kubiszewski and Joe Dunham*

## Red Wing Holds Years of Service Event

On April 19, the MCF-Red hosted the Annual Employee Recognition Event to recognize those staff who have completed career milestones.

Congratulations on your commitment and dedication to MCF-Red Wing and the DOC.

**30 years:** Ruth Kuehni

**25 years:** Lawrence Thoeny

**20 years**

Erik Meier

Brian Bolduan

Curtis Eng

David Nelson

Mark Sandstrom

**15 Years**

Adam Cavanaugh

Sean Streich

Courtney Celt

**10 Years**

Christian Stoltenow

Adam Blaschko

Megan Franklin

Jim Schaffer

Jamie Swenning

Daniel Collett

**5 Years**

Alexandra Holmin

Kayla Perkins

Gregory Bandt

David Kohrs

Nicholas Lankford

Sarah Weiss

Shawn Emslander

Kari Boser

Benjamin Smith

## Officers Visit Joe Jr.

A group of Corrections Officers recently spent time with Andrea Parise and Joe Jr.



## Follow DOC on Social Media

The department's social media accounts recognize the excellent work of our staff and help us recruit new employees. The DOC has over 6,300 likes on [Facebook](#)! Also, follow the department on Twitter: [@MinnCorrections](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).



## Hotline Story Submissions

Do you have an idea for a Hotline story? Working with your supervisor, contact your facility or Field Services media liaison.

Your contributions helps us illustrate everyone's excellent work.

## Years of Service Awards

Bemidji Field Services staff in Districts 1 and 2 recently received years of service awards.

These two districts are filled with many dedicated employees that have worked many years helping clients navigate the criminal justice system. During the awards presentation, how these staff have helped facilitate client change throughout their careers was highlighted.

Many of the award recipients have been in this field for more than 20 years, which speaks to their dedication and commitment to this field and client change. Job well done all!

Each staff who received an award was pictured with Field Services Director Al Godfrey. Peggy Stark, a Corrections Agent, received 5 Year Service Award but wasn't able to attend.



*Jeremy Rychlock, Career Agent  
20 Years of Service*



*Mary Gerardy, Career Agent  
20 Years of Service*



*Wayne Nomeland, Career Agent  
20 Years of Service*



*Cheri Pula, OAS Senior  
20 Years of Service*



*Pam Kaseman, OASI  
20 Years of Service*



*Ben Johnson, Senior Agent  
5 Years of Service*

## Integrated Conflict Management System Symposium

By Sue Stacey

Staff morale, wellness, and self-care are high priorities these days so the 2019 Integrated Conflict Management System (ICMS) Symposium on April 16 provided rich resources to ICMS team members for both their personal use and in working with staff experiencing workplace conflict.

Commissioner Paul Schnell opened the Symposium with frank words about his focus as commissioner, and a very moving account related to how much good we can do by working to create positive outcomes for others.

Donna L. Minter, PhD, LP, presented a workshop on Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience for Individual and Workplace Self-Care that integrated neurobiology, trauma healing and resilience, restorative justice, and nonviolent conflict transformation information and concrete practices. In

their evaluations, participants said they appreciated her wisdom, energy, and group discussions.

Lisa Sorensen, MA, LP, delivered a workshop on Emotional Intelligence that incorporated self-assessment and reflection activities giving participants insights to how and why they and other people act in certain ways. Participant evaluations praised her practical applications and use of humor.

Another highlight of the event was keynote speaker Joe Schmit, the KSTP sports broadcaster who recently won his 18th Emmy from the National Television Academy. He continued the event's focus by speaking on Silent Impact: Lead a Life of Significance. His inspirational stories, sad and humorous, emphasized how our small daily actions can have tremendous effects on the people around us. He stressed the importance of purpose, persistence, passion and positivity.

## Prison Fellowship Academy Graduation at Shakopee

By Pamela Page

March 21st marked a first for the graduates of the Prison Fellowship Academy in Shakopee as news cameras from KSTP-TV Channel 5 and WCCO Channel 4 and local newspaper reporters covered the event.

Commissioner Paul Schnell, Deputy Commissioner Michelle Smith, Warden Tracy Beltz and Academy Directors Dwayne Gibbs and Pamela Page addressed the group. Musicians sang and graduates delivered inspiring speeches as family members and friends applauded their accomplishment of 12 months of intense coursework through the Academy.



*PFA Program Director Pamela Page*

"I am very proud," Beltz said. "The Academy is not an easy program. There is a lot of accountability. You have to kind of face some demons."

The Academy, formerly known as IFI (Innerchange Freedom Initiative), launched in 2007 at MCF Shakopee as Prison Fellowship's first intensive, long-term program for women in the Nation. Academies take incarcerated men and women through a an evidence-based, holistic, life transformation program where they are mentored by Prison Fellowship staff and volunteers to lead lives of purpose and productivity inside and outside of prison. The Academy specifically targets criminal thinking and behavior, life skills, addictions, victim impact, and pro-social culture change, with the goal of developing prisoners who have leadership potential to serve as positive peer mentors and supporters of constructive prison culture throughout prison systems.

## Conference Addresses Mental Illness Issues

By Mark Bliven

On April 26, I participated in a conference at Hamline University addressing the concept of criminalization of mental illness. The keynote was presented by Alisa Roth, a reporter with Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) who has written the book “Insane: America’s Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness.”

In her book Alisa Roth relates her encounters with those who have been caught up in the disorganized and dysfunctional reaction to mental illness in our criminal justice system. It is not just about those suffering from mental illness but also about those who are ill-equipped to handle these situations but have primary responsibility for dealing with these situations. Staff at jail and prison correctional facilities are too often, and unfortunately understandably inadequately trained or prepared for the amazingly complicated medical needs of this population that is inextricably linked with security concerns. Incarceration and demands for compliance are the worst responses to the needs of those suffering from mental illness whether of a persistent or episodic nature.

Roth highlights the idea that when Ken Kesey wrote his 1962 book, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”, subsequently made into the 1975 film of the same name, that things did change. Wholesale closing of large institutional mental health “warehouses” eliminated many of these shocking situations contained in Kesey’s book. The problem though is that the result was not a better solution in so many ways. The problems with many of these institutions was not due to the concept of institutions but rather a number of factors such as new pressures on resources and staff during the 1930’s, 40’s, and 50’s. Roth also provides a brief overview of US history in regard to the evolving, yet not evolving, approach to mental illness.

We have now reached the point where Roth and many others are pointing out that in addition to those who were not traditionally institutionalized, this previously warehoused population has also been moved into the community without adequate supportive resources. This has continued the inappropriate and unprepared criminal justice intervention with issues of mental illness. Our jails and prisons have turned into the largest mental health facilities with Hennepin County Jail leading the way in Minnesota. Roth notes that the blame for this growth is actually just a small part

based on deinstitutionalization. The move to mass incarceration in the last few decades has instead swept up many of those without resources and in need of mental health services.

Our jails are the first line of dealing with mental health issues but even our prisons are taking on an inappropriate level of mental health treatment. Some level of mental health services though is absolutely necessary in our correctional facilities. Approximately 30% of adult males and 60% of adult females in our Minnesota prisons utilize ongoing mental health services. While only about 5.7% of this prison population is considered severe and persistent in their mental health needs it can be questioned whether prison is an appropriate setting for dealing with those needs.

Creating an effective mental health system within our jails and prisons to deal with those with mental illness is how we are adjusting. Perhaps a better way though is to intercept many in this population prior to incarceration and deal with them in a more appropriate community based system or residential care institutions when necessary.

While most of the stories related by Roth in her book happen in states with larger and more critical institutional problems, Minnesota is still plagued by these same conflicts between health and security demands. Both areas in Minnesota suffer from lack of resources and staffing. The inherent conflicts were addressed in the structure at the Hamline conference. Starting at the policing level, then the courts, then the jails and prisons and related community corrections the real goal is to avoid, whenever possible, incarceration for those suffering primarily from mental health issues.

The Yellow Line Project jail diversion program in Blue Earth is addressing this issue in a limited, yet effective way by allowing at least those with low-level, nonviolent crimes to avoid jail time. This is a start that recognizes that investments in health strategies can prevent unnecessary incarceration as stated by Blue Earth County assistant human resources director, Angela Youngerberg in her testimony to a Minnesota Senate committee earlier this year.

## National Correctional Industries Association Conference

Correctional industries professionals from across the United States gathered in Minneapolis in mid-April for the National Correctional Industries Association's annual conference. There were numerous workshops and roundtable discussions throughout the week. Attendee also toured MINNCOR operations at DOC facilities.



On April 17, four past EMPLOY participants were invited to be a part of panel of speakers for the session, "What has Working In Correctional Industries Done for Me? Real Stories of Success from Release CI Participants."

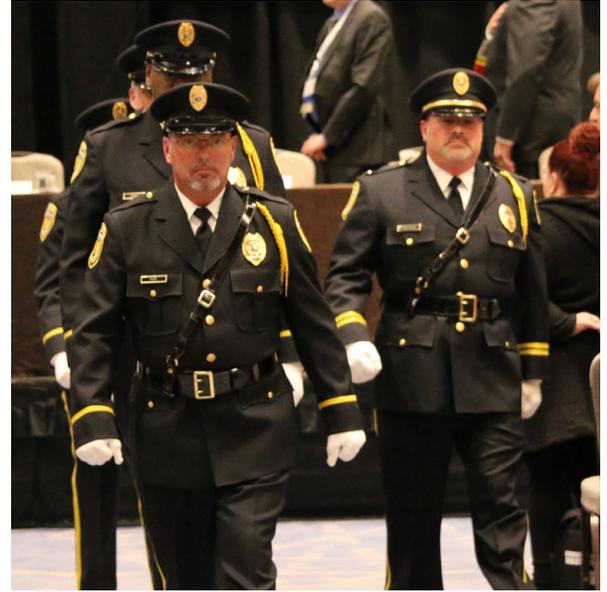
Jenifer shared her story of how being formerly incarcerated has taught her to be responsible and accountable. She thanked MINNCOR for the opportunity to learn heavy equipment and explained how this had prepared her for seeking employment after release. "I had \$20 in my pocket and no help from my family" she explains "the EMPLOY Program was able to give me the support that I needed to get my life back on track".

Brad previously held a role at a financial firm before he was incarcerated. Although he spent four months in general population, he explained that engaging with the different programs offered by the facility allowed him to gain hope and shape-shift into a different person. He has been a part of the Power of People Group, Emerge, Work Release and the EMPLOY program which have all prepared him for his transition back into the community. During Work Release, he was offered the job of resident director for the Salvation Army. Recently, he started working for Bridging, based in the Twin Cities and credits his success to being vulnerable and open for assistance. "It's okay to ask for help" Richter declares "so ask for help."

Eric said the support he received from MINNCOR Industries and the EMPLOY Program was what helped him to, 'turn his life around'. He explains how his enrollment in the Prison Fellowship Academy (PFA) and the Power of People helped him to frame a positive perspective despite his criminal history. Eventually, he received a certificate in C-tech which qualified him for the EMPLOY Program and the resources that would help him to gain and retain employment. He is currently a Union Truck Driver as well as the founder of the group 'King's Men' where he mentors incarcerated men participating in the Minnesota Federal Re-entry Court. He explains that this work has allowed him to offer support and an environment for the men who are currently incarcerated, similar to the support that his workforce development specialist and the EMPLOY program has provided him with. During his testimony, he proclaims that helping an individual who is struggling is the ultimate 'good deed'.

Lilian was incarcerated for 27 years. While incarcerated, she gained several managerial and marketing skills which prepared her for the opportunities that followed her release in 2015. She shared how the EMPLOY program has been a constant source of support during the job search process. Her decision to decline an entry-level position with the Salvation Army led to a full-time position as call-room supervisor for the same company. Even when she was faced with problems due to her past conviction, the EMPLOY program assisted her during the appeal process years after completing the program. MINNCOR and the EMPLOY Program taught hard and soft skills that were helpful to gain employment. In closing Lilian said, "the public does not understand that once we are released we become your neighbors and you want us to be educated and employable rather than going back to our old habits."

# National Correctional Industries Association Conference



## Shakopee Hosts Second Chance 5K Run

By Jeannine Hale

On April 14, one hundred forty-five offenders at Shakopee took part in the 4th Annual Second Chance 5K.

Each year Prison Fellowship takes the opportunity during April "Second Chance" month to raise awareness of the statistic that 1 in 4 American adults, or 65 million men and women, have a criminal record and that while many people find hope behind prison walls, they face barriers to education, employment, housing and other things necessary for a full and productive life upon release.

The run at Shakopee was coordinated by Prison Fellowship staff Jeannine Hale and DOC staff Sgt. Troy Hedtke but is part of a much larger initiative throughout Minnesota. As the women were running here at Shakopee, runs took place at Faribault, Lino Lakes, and Stillwater, with the large community 5k being hosted at the University of Northwestern in St. Paul.



*Sgt. Troy Hedtke and Jeannine Hale*

Here at Shakopee, the women were running this year's race in memory of Sgt. Jim Church who passed away in September of last year. Sgt. Church was a huge part of the Shakopee community, both staff and offenders, as well as the co-chair of the Second Chance 5k for the prior three years. "Though it was so sad to not have Sgt. Church with us today, it was great honoring him. I thought about him the whole time", said one offender. And from another, "Mr. Church was a big encouragement to me and to many others in the facility. He was always a part of the 5k and I miss him." Many women expressed the desire to finish something difficult or be a part of something meaningful. Whatever their reasons, for a brief time on Sunday morning the women of Shakopee came together to run, cheer, laugh and hope for the future.

## Maple Syrup Production at Togo

MCF-Togo has been tapping maple trees for years. The facility started collecting syrup with the juveniles during science education class. The tradition continued with the women's CIP program, and now the current men's CIP program.



Up until this year, MCF-Togo's record was three gallons of finished product. That record was surpassed this year with almost five gallons of syrup. With guidance from staff, the incarcerated men tap and collect sap from approximately 50 trees. They bring it to the wood fired cook stove where they cook it down to near completion. It then it goes to the kitchen to be finished off on a more consistent heat source.

The finished syrup is used at the facility. The incarcerated men learn the syrup process from beginning to end. Many say they will take what they have learned and do it after they graduate from the CIP program.

## Chemical Instructor - Basic Course



*Officer Zindler demonstrates handcuffing techniques after receiving a direct exposure*

Ten Officers graduated from the 16-hour Chemical Instructor - Basic Course conducted at MCF-Lino Lakes at the end of April.

Course instruction included; Instructor role & responsibilities, course preparation, delivery, documentation, the proper use of training aids, understanding the capabilities and limitations of chemical irritants, history, terms, and operational capabilities, functionality, and deployment methods. Students must satisfy all learning objectives, which included; skills demonstrations, in-direct and direct exposure, and a written examination.



*Graduates: William Newman (MCF-Lino Lakes), Tyrone Orde (MCF-Lino Lakes), Sean Goedtel (MCF-Faribault), Tom Jensen (MCF-Moose Lake), Ryan Arnsdorf (MCF-Oak Park Heights), Chris Roth (MCF-Oak Park Heights), Allison Zindler (MCF-Oak Park Heights), Justin Heidelberg (MCF-Shakopee), Brette Greene (MCF-Willow River), and Dan Lipa (Employee Development).*

## Crime Victims' Rights Week Events at Shakopee



*Gabrielle speaks to the women at MCF-Shakopee.*

On April 12, Gabrielle from You Have the Power, spoke with the women at MCF-Shakopee about being a survivor of sexual harm and domestic violence. She discussed how every person responds differently to harm and victimization and over time these responses may change.

On April 17, Karla came to Shakopee and spoke about her experiences with being a sexual assault survivor. She shared her feelings on being victimized, the legal system, and what she goes through on a daily basis. She promotes victim advocacy for both male and female survivors of sexual assault.

## MnATSA Conference

**By Al Listiak**

The 23rd Annual Conference of the Minnesota Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers was held in Minneapolis on April 10-12.

The conference covered issues involved in working with adolescents and adults who have sexually abused such as assessment, treatment, and supervision. It is a great gathering of psychologists, social workers, corrections agents, mental health providers, judges, attorneys, sex crimes investigators, polygraph examiners, dispositional advisors, victim advocates, correctional staff, and others who work in these or related fields.

The first day of the conference was devoted to pre-conference seminars. Three full-day seminars dealt with psychopathy and offending, training in risk assessment, and a review of dialectical behavior therapy. Twelve half-day seminars, covered a variety of topics, including using the polygraph in treatment and probation, risk assessment, responding to sex trafficking, impact of victimization, circles of support and accountability, and self-care.

I got into the act with Mervyn Davies, MA, by presenting an afternoon pre-conference seminar entitled, "Assessing Unhealthy Sexuality with Plethysmographic (PPG) and Viewing Time (VT) Technologies." The seminar reviewed the two major technologies for objectively measuring unhealthy sexuality or "sexual deviance" and then discussed several case studies. Mr. Davies is a co-founder of The LOOK Assessment, a viewing time technology, and has served on Colorado's Sex Offender Management Board as Vice Chair, and the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board as Chair.

On Thursday morning there were two keynotes. The first was presented by Jan Looman, Ph.D., and entitled, "Sexual Deviance: What Is It and How Do We Measure It?" Dr. Looman, from Forensic Behavior Services in Kingston, Ontario, noted that sexual deviance is one of the major predictors of sexual reoffense. Dr. Looman discussed the difficulties in diagnosing and assessing this complex concept. He argued that while it is important to focus on sexually deviant behavior, it is the thoughts and fantasies underlying the behavior that are the most meaningful and useful for diagnosis and treatment.

The second keynote was by Al Vernacchio, MEd, who discussed "Helping Young People Develop Healthy Sexuality: A Toolkit for Professionals." Vernacchio presented a lively discussion of the misinformation bombarding youth today, and how to engage them in a responsible, value-informed, and deliberate manner. He then defined healthy sexuality and

offered practical strategies they can practice to develop the skills necessary to achieve it.

The first set of workshops covered a various topics, including, sexual consent, overcoming shame, professional boundaries, parental rights, gender dysphoria. I attended a workshop presented by Greg Giles from the Sandridge Secure Treatment Center in Wisconsin. He presented an overview of the important etiological factors that can lead to sexual offending with special attention to the role of "toxic" masculinity in the offense process and how to address it in treatment. Giles discussed how social and technological changes have interfered with treatment goals and created an unwelcoming community environment that makes reentry very difficult.

I also attended a panel discussion examining the sex offender treatment field and its future development. The panel was composed of professionals who have been in the treatment field for many years, including Robin Goldman, MA, Stephen Huot, MEq, Gerald Kaplan, MA, Katy LeBarron, MA, and Michael Miner, Ph.D. The discussion covered the history of treatment in Minnesota, key incidents that shaped the current economic and political context, and the possibilities for continued development of more effective treatment in the face of media coverage, community attitudes, financial barriers, and legislative initiatives.

MnATSA President Elizabeth Griffin stepped-in on Friday to provide an update on cybersex offending and the Internet. She reviewed some of the most recent research on the characteristics of those who (1) use child sexual exploitation materials, and (2) communicate with and attempt to meet children and young teenagers for sexual purposes. Cybersex and cybersex offenders continues to be a growing dimension in treatment and supervision and has somewhat different characteristics and demands from those who engage in contact sexual abuse.

Following the keynote, the two sets of workshops covered a wide range of topics. I attended the scientific support for the effectiveness of sex offender treatment by Gene Abel, MD, and racial and minority issues in the treatment field by Kimberleigh Wilhelmy, MA, from Alpha Human Services. Dr. Abel presented the features of effective programs versus ineffective programs. He described different types of offenders and the need to tailor programming to their specific needs. Wilhelmy's workshop was entitled, "Maintaining the Racial Order." She presented a narrative dealing with racial and minority issues in the treatment field. Her review of institutional racism and its impact was insightful and generated a lot of discussion by the participants.