

# Minnesota Association of Jail Programs & Services



May 2004

Spring Issue



This issue will be a bit smaller than what you have been seeing recently. A couple reasons for that are: this is my first attempt at publishing; and we as a board felt it necessary to try and get an issue together as soon as possible after the Spring Conference.

For future issues, if you have anything of interest that you would like to see in the newsletter, please forward it to me, either by email or regular mail. This is your newsletter, and we want to represent all of you.

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Publication dates for the rest of this year are:

July 15 and November 15.



"The one without dreams is the one without wings."

Muhammad Ali

## From the Desk of the President

Another Spring MAJPS Conference is behind us. Members of the Executive board enjoyed putting the conference together and we hope everyone learned as much as we felt we did.

The membership elected a new member to the executive board. His name is Dave Keike and he is the Recreation Coordinator of Benton County. His position on the board will be Resource Coordinator. Resource Coordinator "serves as a member of the Executive Board; coordinates Fall Training Conference and resources; provides technical assistance to new and existing jail program; assists with development of jail program training curriculum."

Matt Bechel, Programs Manager of Goodhue County and Lance Woltman, Program Coordinator of Rice County were re-elected to the board. Lance will remain as Secretary/Treasurer and Matt switched with Tom Busch of Scott County who became Vice-President and Matt moved to Member at Large. Loren Hanson, Recreation Coordinator of Dakota County Jail is the new Publication Officer and Jennifer Pfiefer, Jail Program Director of Steele County is the Training Coordinator.

We've started planning for the Fall and Spring Conferences. If anyone is interested in helping plan or participate in either, please let me know and we will include you for the planning committee. Tentative dates for both are printed later in the newsletter. Have a great Spring!

*Phil.*

### From the outgoing Training Coordinator

I would like to take some space and thank the rest of the Executive Board members for all of their help with the Spring Conference. Planning an event like that can be overwhelming, but we have a very cohesive group, and everyone pitched in to help.

A special *Thank You* to Jack Considine of Blue Earth County for all of your help in coordinating and obtaining speakers for the conference. The location was great and the Holiday Inn did a fabulous job. Thanks Jack!

### Future Events

Dates and places to put on your calendar:

2004 Fall Conference:  
Wednesday October 13  
0900 – 1200  
Stearns County

2005 Spring Conference:  
Thursday – Friday April 14-15  
Becker County (Detroit Lakes)

Please note the change from Wednesday/Thursday to Thursday/Friday. These days are tentative. It was suggested at the Mankato Conference that we try going to Thursday and Friday. These dates are not set in stone. We will determine the dates and days by feedback that we get from you.

More information on both events will be in the July issue.

### Mankato 2004

To all of you who attended the Spring Conference, thank you for the great feedback. We heard some very nice comments on how things went. We also had suggestions on what to change and hopefully improve on for next year.

We feel that this year was a great success, and that all of you who were there are a big reason for that.

One of the hardest parts of planning an event like this, as I found out, is trying to find speakers who not only have topics of interest to our group, but who can find the

time to schedule it. With budgets the way they are, it is increasingly difficult to do. But we feel we had a good mix and have already set our sites on next year. Several speakers who could not attend this year have indicated that they can be in Detroit Lakes in 2005.

If anyone has any topics that they would like to see on the agenda for 2005, please let us know right away. I will post all of the board members and contact information later in this publication.

Again, thanks to all of you for making Mankato a great success!

### Kay Siebrass Award

Congratulations to this year's Kay Siebrass Award: Goodhue County's Crookbook. The program facilitator for the project was Gloria Boldt, who is a Correctional Deputy in the detention center. Program Coordinators are Matt Bechel and Candace Koehn.

The entire Crookbook is comprised of favorite food recipes from detainees, correctional staff, volunteers, and Goodhue County employees. The three main goals of this project was to portray the Adult Detention Center and Detainees in a positive light, breaking any stereotypes the public may have; generating income for the programs and services budget; and develop teamwork among the detainees, staff and volunteers to complete a project of this size on a deadline.

The project received unexpected media coverage as WCCO and the Star Tribune wanted interviews with staff and detainees. The Associated Press then reprinted the story in countless newspapers across the country. Feedback from the community has been amazing. The project met its goals by bringing corrections to the public's attention in a meaningful and positive way.

Other programs that were nominated and received consideration from the following organizations:

Blue Earth County –  
Restorative Justice Program  
Jack Considine – Program  
Coordinator

This program consisted of a waste clean-up project, helping with a corn sales project with an Exchange Club in

Mankato, an Inmate Quilting Program making baby quilts for at risk families, and a project for VINE Faith in Action, which is an interfaith volunteer care giving organization.

Stearns County – Library Program and Bingo Program  
Program Coordinator – Jeff Pollries  
Program Facilitators – Jo, Karissa and Nancy

The library program uses volunteers to organize the library books that are donated to the facility. A computer program was developed that helps keep track of what books are out, how many times they have been checked out and much more information that is helpful.

The bingo program is a behavior incentive program. Inmates who have been discipline free are eligible to play. Prizes include popcorn, pencils hygiene items, crossword and word find books. It has become a very popular program for inmates and the staff likes it as well, since it promotes good behavior.

Kandiyohi County – Search for Significance  
Program Coordinator – Linda Berghuis  
Program Facilitators – Jim Butterfield and Gary Bonnama

This is a religious based program that takes biblical stories and transfers the information into ways inmates can use in today's real life situations. The program has had e some real impact when the inmates use this information with other programs in the facility.

Again, congratulations to those programs that were nominated. We have a lot of creative people out there working hard to make a difference.

2005

As we look ahead to the 2005 Spring Conference, we are again asking for volunteers to help with the planning. If you are

interested, please contact Jennifer Pfeifer, this year's coordinator, and let her know.

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Another change that we hope will be good for everyone is that we are going to try emailing the newsletter. If your registration information was correct and updated, you will receive this by email. If not, we will continue to send a hard copy to those whom we don't have information for. If you have email, and we do not have your address, please send that information to either Lance Woltman or myself.

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As we look to the future, we want to try and get as many Minnesota counties to join MAJPS as possible. If you know of a neighboring county that is not a member, please invite them to the Fall Conference so they can see what we are all about. With the changes in the website, they will have access to more information than has ever been available. We are really excited about the discussion board. It should be a very valuable tool for everyone to use.

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"It's always worthwhile to make others aware of their worth."  
Malcolm Forbes

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### Keeping It In The Family

A purse-snatcher was arrested in Bari, Italy after he chose the wrong person as his victim. The man, who was suspected of a string of handbag robberies, sped past his last victim on his motorcycle and deftly lifted her purse without slowing down. As he turned around to see the surprise on his victim's face, he realized he had made a relatively stupid mistake – the woman was his own mother. She immediately reported the incident to police and said she believed her son was stealing to finance his drug habit. The next time mother and son were reunited it was in a courtroom.



From left to right: Lance, Tom, Phil Matt, Loren, Dave and Jennifer

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