

MCA TODAY

News from the Michigan Corrections Association
Autumn 2006



MCA EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections will be held this fall for several officer and trustee positions on the MCA Executive Board. This is your chance to help steer MCA in the right direction and shape MCA into an even better association of corrections professionals. We need the best and brightest to help out and make the commitment. If you are an MCA member in good standing for the past two years and are interested please submit a bio and what position you are interested in to richjohnson131@aol.com.



SUMMER TRAINING SEMINAR REFLECTIONS

The summer training seminar, "Staff Division and Conflict Resolution" went very well. About 35 people attended, including MDOC Director Patricia Caruso. The seminar generated 18 new memberships. Evaluations of the seminar were excellent. MCA would like to thank Joe Bouchard and Mike Plourde for delivering the program and providing a great training experience to participants. MCA would also like to recognize Warden Linda Metrish and Warden Geri-Ann Sherry for their assistance with the planning and support of the program.



MCA BY-LAWS

The MCA By-Laws are currently under review. MCA would like to have revisions complete by autumn. If you are interested in participating, would like a copy, or have suggestions regarding changes, please contact MCA President Rich Johnson at 1-800-455-9906 or via e-mail at michcorrassoc@hotmail.com.

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136TH CONGRESS OF CORRECTIONS – SUMMARY

Michelle VanDusen recently returned from the 136th ACA Congress of Corrections “Reaching Out: Overcoming the Barriers to Successful Criminal Justice Programs.” The conference was held August 12th - August 17th in Charlotte, North Carolina. Some of the highlights of the conference included:



- Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole was the Keynote speaker for our opening session on Monday August 14, 2006. He has quite a sense of humor. As the Republican Presidential nominee in 1996, he offered himself to Americans as an honorable leader. His candidacy for the White House cemented his reputation as an honest, respected statesman who will long be considered one of the most powerful senators and brilliant legislators of our times. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom as a tribute to his character and contributions to the nation.
- Excellent training was offered throughout the conference. The Delegate Assembly, held on Wednesday August 16, 2006, was well attended. Many vendor and hospitality receptions were also held. The informal knowledge gained from these events is sometimes as valuable as the training delivered during the conference. The opportunity to network with colleagues from throughout the nation was invaluable. All in attendance have greater knowledge and more professional contacts as a result of attending the conference.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

MCA wants to get more involvement from local and state agencies that support the criminal justice system and corrections. If you know anyone who is interested in corrections, MCA is a great way to get some news and network with people in the business. We have student rates available too. We want to keep growing in strength and numbers, so let's get out of that chair and communicate the benefits of MCA on others.

- It's a joint MCA/ACA membership with all the ACA benefits.
- It's only \$35.00 per year.
- Members receive “Corrections Today” Magazine with current correctional trends and information
- \$10,000 accidental death insurance.
- Discounts on ACA and MCA conferences and seminars.



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“HOW ARE YOU LEADING?”

By John C. Cordell

I would like to preface this article with the statement that I am sometimes painfully honest. And as Joe Bouchard likes to point out, “These are the opinions of the author and not the Michigan Department of Corrections.”

Let’s get started with a quote that some feel may embody our current correctional climate.



"The beatings will continue until morale improves." - Unknown

“Unknown” may have operated in an organizational climate very similar to the Michigan Department of Corrections. To some in the MDOC, five years of leadership training has fallen on deaf ears. The way to get things done is, as it has always been, through intimidation and punishment for thinking outside the box. I like to call it “using the correctional tack hammer.”

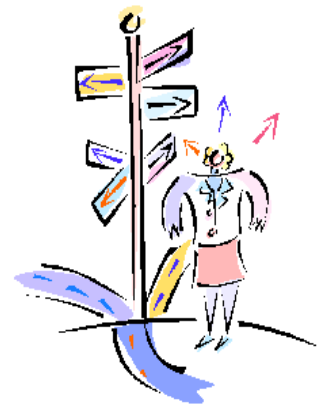
MDOC leadership guru Mike Montgomery hears a disturbing message from Leadership Academy grads. The message he frequently hears is, "I want to lead but....."

But what? They won't let me; I am afraid; I don't want to be punished; It's too hard; too much work; etc. You can find excuses, but you are the future, and until you step up and lead, NOTHING will change. Don't be afraid to do what's right even if you get beat for it. Those who care about you will be there to help you get back up. I pose these questions to you.

- What are you doing to be a leader of change?
- What can you do to make the organization better?
- How are you leading?

Together we must have the fortitude to ascend to the leadership throne and choose to be the leaders for a better correctional climate today and tomorrow. If we look for the good in others, we will find the good in ourselves. And for all of us out there who are leading to make a difference everyday, I say great job and keep up the good fight!!

From the highest administrator to the general office assistant, what matters is what you do, who you impact, and how you lead each day. Leadership is an action, not a philosophy.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



If your membership has recently lapsed, please make sure that you renew to keep your benefits current. ACA and MCA offer discounts on training programs, merchandise, as well as other benefits including accidental death insurance, and *Corrections Today* magazine.

CURRENT MCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Rich Johnson	Trustee:	Joe Bouchard
Vice President:	Mike Curley	Trustee:	John Cordell
Past President:	Michelle VanDusen	Trustee:	Jim McMeekin
Treasurer:	Raymond Ball	Trustee:	Rev. John Niemela
Recording Sec.:	Cheryl Bradshaw	Trustee:	Anthony Owen
Financial Sec.:	Barb Slovisky	Trustee:	Kip Smith
		Trustee:	Jeanine Winger

NOTES:

If you have anything that you would like to see in the *MCA Today*, please e-mail John Cordell at cordeljic@michigan.gov. Thanks to TJB Printing and everyone who assisted with the publication and content of the Autumn 2006 edition.



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