

MAPSA MATTERS

JUNE 2007 EDITOR: KELLY KALLA

Presidents Letter

Greetings from your MAPSA President.

I am very pleased to report that our annual MAPSA Conference at the Historic Landmark Center in St. Paul on April 11th was a huge success. We set an all time attendance record with over 110 registered participants. Feedback from the evaluations indicates that the large crowd was not disappointed in the quality of the training.

I am sad to inform you that this is my last letter as the President of MAPSA. The past two years have gone by very quickly. I have chosen not to seek a second term, as a lateral transfer has moved me out of the Pretrial area into a more traditional probation role as the supervisor the Hennepin County Adult Probation Seward Neighborhood Office. The work performed by the agents in my new office is domestic assault and traditional felony level supervision.

I leave MAPSA and Pretrial work with very mixed emotions. This work has been a passion of mine for the past fifteen years. It is a segment of the criminal justice field that frequently is misunderstood, unappreciated and even worse, unknown to many. Having said that, I feel very comfortable that I am leaving the MAPSA Organization in very capable hands. Your new President, Tim Gothmann, is an individual of honesty and integrity. He and the rest of the MAPSA Board will continue to keep up the fine tradition we have established in Minnesota of providing the highest quality Pretrial work in every corner of the State.

I will close this letter with a poem give to me by a very dear friend. The author is unknown:

Some people come into our lives
And quickly go
Some people stay for awhile
And move our souls to dance
They awaken us to a new understanding
Leave footprints in our hearts
And we are never the same

Respectfully,
Michael Gephart
MAPSA President



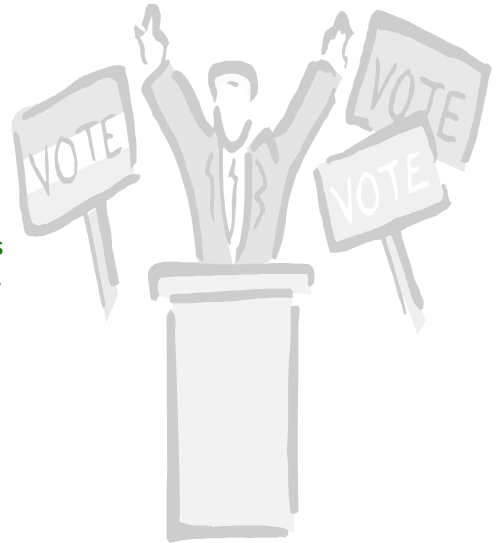
ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

Congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected board members!

Timothy Gothmann was elected as your new MAPSA president. Tim is the Director of Programs for Operation de Novo's Juvenile and Adult Diversion Programs. He has been with the organization for 10 years. Tim has been MAPSA's treasurer for the past 2 years and was the recipient of the Board of Directors Award for 2005. We look forward to having Tim as our new fearless leader!

We also have a brand new addition to the board. James Bolden comes to us from Project Remand in Ramsey County where he has been working in conditional release since 1995. James completes bail evaluations, makes release recommendations and attends court for a defendant's first appearance. He also monitors them throughout the court process. James was elected as the new Region VI representative. We look forward to the new ideas and fresh insight we are sure to gain while working with James.

While we are very excited with the new additions to our Board, past President Mike Gephart and Region VI Representative Heidi Chamberlin-George will be greatly missed. They have assured us they will stay involved with the organization and we look forward to their continued support.



A message from your new President

Greetings!

I am both excited and a little bit intimidated to begin my term as MAPSA's new President. As my first official act I'd like to thank Mike Gephart not only for his efforts and leadership during his two years as President, but all his hard work as a member and Board Member of MAPSA. He's a tough act to follow, but I promise you all that I will do my best.

It's often said that an Association like MAPSA is only as good as it's members. Well, I plan to start contacting many of you to consider increasing your involvement with MAPSA, whether to serve on the Board, attend meetings or to be part of a committee. I'll sign off now because you'll be hearing enough from me over the next couple years. Don't be surprised to hear from me or somebody else from MAPSA's Board.

Tim Gothmann



2007 MAPSA Conference Highlights

The conference began with opening remarks from MAPSA President Mike Gephart. The first speaker was Timothy J. Murray, Executive Director of the National Pretrial Resource Center in Washington D.C. He gave an engaging presentation titled "The Challenges and Opportunities of Evidence-Based Practices in Pretrial Services". He discussed the current and past trends in Pretrial Services as well as speculation of future developments.

The morning workshops consisted of Webjunk with Kelly Kalla from Operation De Novo and Evaluation and Validation of the Hennepin Bail Evaluation Tool with a Marcy Podkopacz from the Research Department of the Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota. Both presenters offered insights into their respective topics and provided much food for thought.

We broke for lunch in historic downtown St Paul around noon and returned for the annual business meeting and election nominations. The afternoon workshops were presented by a panel from the Hennepin County Domestic Fatality Review

Team and the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI).

The Fatality Committee panel discussed the process for reviewing a case and the reasons why it is important to do so. They stressed that the process is not about assigning blame but about finding ways to prevent domestic violence in the future.

The JDAI panel discussed their goals and what is currently being done in the Dakota, Ramsey and Hennepin Counties. The panel is looking at ways to reallocate funds in order to provide alternatives to juvenile detention.

The final session of the day was given by Major John Morris, Chaplain from Minnesota's Army National Guard. He led a poignant and moving discussion on the challenges veterans face when returning from war. He discussed physical and mental health concerns as well as struggles many face trying to reintegrate into society, their own families and work environments.



Timothy J. Murray
Executive Director of the
National Pretrial
Resources Center,
Washington D.C.



Mary Ann Won of Rice County was the recipient of the 2006 Board of Directors Award for her work in Pretrial Services.

Congratulations Award Winners!

The 2006 Board of Directors Award was presented before the final session of the day. The board decided on two very deserving recipients this year. MaryAnn Won from Rice County was recognized for her work in Pretrial Services and Thomas Schroeder from Operation de Novo was recognized for his work in Adult and Juvenile Diversion. Congratulations to both of you!



Ramsey County Probation Officer Killed

Howard Porter, 58 was found beaten, bloodied and without ID in a Minneapolis alley on May 19, 2007 a day after he went missing. He left his house on Friday May 18 around 9pm and was found the next day around 5:30am. He was taken to a local hospital where he later died on May 26, 2007.

Porter was a star Villanova basketball player and led his team to the 1971 NCAA championship game. His Villanova jersey was retired in 1997. Porter had some struggles after basketball but turned his life around and became a probation officer for Ramsey County in 1995.

Police are not saying if Porter's death could be related to his job. Two people have been arrested and released but police are confident they are on the right track. A \$20,000 reward is being offered by Villanova in conjunction with 3 other NBA groups for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for Porters death. Police are asking anyone with information to please call 612-692-8477 or 651-291-1111. We will continue to follow this case.

Information gathered from www.wcco.com



Howard Porter, 58 a Ramsey County probation officer died on May 26, 2007.

2007 MAPSA BOARD

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|----------------|---------------------------------------|
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| Vice President | Diana Wilkie - Hennepin County |
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| Region VI | James Bolden - Project Remand |
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THANK YOU!

This years conference was another big success! There were conference favors and snacks, excellent presenters and good conversation, and even some after conference networking at a local bar! The board looks forward to the challenge of trying to put together an even better conference next year. We welcome any input and help from MAPSA members. We encourage you to contact your representative to become involved with one of our committees. Thank you to all who attended and for those who could not, we look forward to seeing you next year!

The historic Landmark Center in downtown St Paul. This was the site of the 11th Annual MAPSA Conference held on April 12, 2007.

