

President's Message

MASCA just completed another very productive business year. We had a great one day conference in the fall, made a lot of new friends throughout the year, said good-bye to some old friends, and had an excellent 72nd Annual Conference in Atlantic City.

Our one day conference in Newtown Pennsylvania was attended by nearly 100 people (a sell-out!) and marked the kick-off of our membership drive that continued right up to the annual conference. We had 135 new members join during this year, not counting new MASCA members who attended the conference itself.

Our work on the Strategic Plan continues as we set plans in place for organizational strength and stability for the coming years. Some of the parts of the plan have already been implemented. For example, we wanted a better way to communicate quickly with members and friends. To meet this need, we started a Facebook page and are able to post announcements and news quickly. If you haven't checked us out yet, please look at the Facebook page and join us there.

We had a great conference in Atlantic City. The weather was beautiful, the food was great, and the training presented by the speakers and workshop presenters was second to none. We passed a significant change to the by-laws (more about that in a minute) and elected a new Vice President. Perhaps most significant, however, was the spirit of the conference. Everyone was open, friendly, upbeat, and displayed the true spirit of team in action.

I previously spoke about saying good-bye to old friends and a change in the by-laws. At the general membership meeting a change in the by-laws was approved that removes the state of Vermont from MASCA. Unfortunately, Vermont had been inactive in MASCA for the past 4 years, had no representation on the Board and at present only 1 general member. We wish our friends and colleagues in Vermont well and invite them to join MASCA and attend future conferences. Vermont will not, however, be entitled to seats on the Board of Trustees.

As many of you know, MASCA past president and current Vice President Dennis Martin passed away in April. We had already selected Dennis as the recipient of the MASCA Founders Award and made that award posthumously. Dennis had served as the chairman of the MASCA Scholarship Committee for many years and we also named our scholarship awards in his honor. MASCA and all of us in the criminal justice profession lost a true friend with Dennis' passing. He will be missed and remembered by all who knew him. On the positive side, the membership elected Marigold Henderson (Washington, DC) to fill the remainder of the vice president's term. She is a dedicated MASCA Board member and we are happy to see her step up into a leadership position in our organization.

There will be much more about this later as the year goes on, but the 2011 MASCA Conference will be held in Albany, New York, from June 5 through 8, 2011. We had a great time in Albany on 2004 and it will be great to hold our conference there again. Put the dates on your calendar and make plans now to attend.

Finally I want to remind every one about Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week, July 18 to 24, 2010. This year's theme for the week is "Support for a

Second Chance.” There are many times where the many successes of community supervision agents, officers, and agencies are largely overlooked as we work with the people who are being given a “second chance” to be productive members of the community. However, a single failure can be in the news for weeks or months. MASCA salutes all of the parole, probation, pre-trial, home detention, and juvenile services professionals who are in their communities every day, making a difference in the lives of the residents.

Have a great summer. The MASCA “work year” begins again in September.
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