

## President's Message

- “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Meade

If you were in Annapolis for the 2009 MASCA Conference, you heard the above quote from Margaret Meade multiple times. Two of the plenary speakers used it and it surfaced in several workshops as well. Why was this quote so popular this year? In part it was to recognize the commitment of the people in attendance, who came despite the economy and the resulting inability of many agencies to financially support their employees who wanted to attend. There are far bigger reasons as well.

While many of us work in large agencies in our state or county, we are small in number compared to the total population in our region. We work hard at what we do. The old saying, “If it was easy, everybody would do it” certainly applies to corrections and community supervision. And most importantly, we do change the world. One person, one family, one community at a time. The energy, dedication, and commitment of the professionals in our field are really second to none. We deal with the people who most of our neighbors would prefer to ignore. We work to find successes in the lives of people that the world considers failures. We find work for the unemployable, treatment for the untreatable, and make the most irresponsible people take responsibility for their actions. We are truly a small group of committed citizens who are a force for positive change in our worlds. Margaret would have been proud!

The MASCA Board will take a break from regular business for the summer and pick things up again in September. That doesn't mean MASCA has closed up shop for the summer. Planning is already under way for the 2010 conference in Atlantic City. Mark your calendars now for June 6 to June 9, 2010. The Strategic Plan will continue to be reviewed as well.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for your support and the confidence you have shown in electing me to a second term as MASCA President. It is a privilege and honor to serve in this position. Another theme from the conference was that sometimes being good at something prevents you from becoming great. MASCA is already good at what we do, but we want to be great. I hope all MASCA members will help the officers and Board of Trustees move MASCA from good to great in the upcoming months and years.

Please have a safe, healthy, and relaxing summer.

Henry