



REFLECTIONS

Winter 2018

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR COURT MANAGEMENT

NACM President Encourages **Conference Attendance**

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National Association for Court Management



NACM President Vicky Carlson.

Vicki Carlson is the Court Administrator in Scott County.

MACM Reflections

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Any MACM member may submit an article for the newsletter. If interested, please contact Vanessa at Vanessa.Jeske@courts.state.mn.us for more information.

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From: Carlson, Vicky
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 12:30 PM
To: You
Subject: MACM Newsletter article



National Association for Court Management

Strengthening Court Professionals

As President of NACM, I encourage you to consider attending one of the 2018 conferences. The midyear conference is in Orange County, CA, February 11-13, 2018. The theme is Bridging the Gap: The Power of Strategic Collaboration. If you can't make that conference, consider attending the annual conference in Atlanta, GA July 22-26, 2018. The conference theme will be posted soon. I also encourage you to submit session ideas for these conferences. It's a great way to share with the rest of the country all of the great things happening in Minnesota Courts. If you have never attended a national conference, talk with colleagues that have attended. I assure you they will agree that these conferences are a great way to gain a national perspective. Additionally, because the National Association for Court Management has about 30+ national and international partners, NACM can highlight hot topics that have gained national attention. If you want more information about becoming a member or attending a conference, reach out to me anytime.

Sincerely,

Vicky Carlson
 Scott County Court Administrator
 And NACM President

Live Stream NACM Conference Sessions for free online!

Sessions start Monday, Feb. 12 at 10:30am and conclude Tuesday at 5:00pm (CST).

Check out the schedule at:

nacmconference.org



National Association for Court Management
 Established 1985

MACM President's Update—Winter 2018

By: Aaron Williamson, MACM President



2017 Conference

Congratulations to all who helped plan and pull off another wonderful annual MACM Conference. This year was the biggest ever, and one of the best. Special thanks go to the three committees responsible for planning the conference: Education, Membership Services, and Legislative & Outreach. In addition, the MACM Officers put a lot of work into making it all happen. Their dedication to high-quality work was evident in all aspects of the conference experience.

MACM Strategic Goals

Last Spring, the MACM Board of Directors met and discussed strategies for moving MACM forward into the next phase as an organization.

Did you know the association known as MACM has been meeting since 1907? As you can imagine, the makeup and size of the group, organization of governing structures, and the profession of court management have all undergone drastic changes in the last 110 years. As a result, MACM continues to strive to improve and better meet the changing needs of its members. This Strategic Plan is a result of discussions of where we're headed as an organization:

Strategies	Assigned to
Strategy 1: Advance maturity of the organization. Fit demands of expanded organization size, while promoting work/life balance.	Executive Board
a. Review current committee and organizational structure. b. Refresh branding, logo, and website. (Newsletter site. Submit newsletter ideas easily. Access committee information. Easily update website. Explore SharePoint.) c. Balance Strategic Goals of Branch with Needs of MACM Members - Directions of Branch Impact on our Members/Define Needs/Skills for our Roles	

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MACM Strategic Plan (Continued from Page 3)

<p align="center">Strategy 2: Expand the outreach scope of MACM.</p>	<p align="center">Legislative & Outreach Committee</p>
<p>a. Encourage more consistent outreach to the Legislature.</p> <p>b. Collaborate with partner agencies to provide educational opportunities.</p> <p>c. Develop tools and materials to facilitate outreach and education on the role of the courts and court management.</p> <p>d. Offer educational opportunities to new law students and attorneys about court administration.</p>	
<p align="center">Strategy 3: Take Court Management Education to the next level in order to advance the profession.</p>	<p align="center">Education Committee</p>
<p>a. Provide educational opportunities for members outside of the conferences where time and resources are able.</p> <p>b. Use NACM educational resources and videos to facilitate training opportunities and discussions in MN via WebEx, ect.</p> <p>c. Encourage members to pursue additional education in court administration such as ICM programs and Masters in Court Administration. Offer education on these programs.</p> <p>d. Explore new educational methods at conferences such as Think Tank, Sync Sessions, Active Learning - Facilitator. Create a conference brainstorming group.</p> <p>e. Partner with neighboring states and their organizations. Regional training opportunities. Find new speakers and topics.</p> <p>f. Continue to strengthen online conference materials and apps. Explore new ways to document conference sessions, such as video, webinar.</p>	

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MACM President's Update (Continued from Page 4)

Strategy 4: Adapt and grow with changing membership dynamics.	Membership Services Committee
<p>a. Increase the number of active members.</p> <p>b. Increase applicability for non-operational professionals, such as IT, HR, ect.</p> <p>c. Explore interaction with non-members sharing benefits and collaborate/communicate.</p> <p>d. Help MACM stay relevant with demographic shifts, particularly attracting diversity to the Judicial Branch. Focus on necessary diversity and technical skills.</p> <p>e. Publicize court jobs internally and externally.</p> <p>e. Offer new networking opportunities at conference. Mentor new managers. Buddy program.</p>	

Over the next two years, you will see many of these strategies take form within our organization. Please feel free to contact me or any of the MACM Officers to discuss these strategies. This is a great time to join one of our committees in order to help contribute to these goals. You may contact the committee chair to discuss visiting or joining one of our committees.

Committee	Chair	Meeting time (first Thursday of every month)
Legislative & Outreach	Ann Basta	10:00-11:00am
Education	Monica Tschumper	11:00am-1:00pm
Membership Services	Vanessa Jeske	1:00-2:30pm

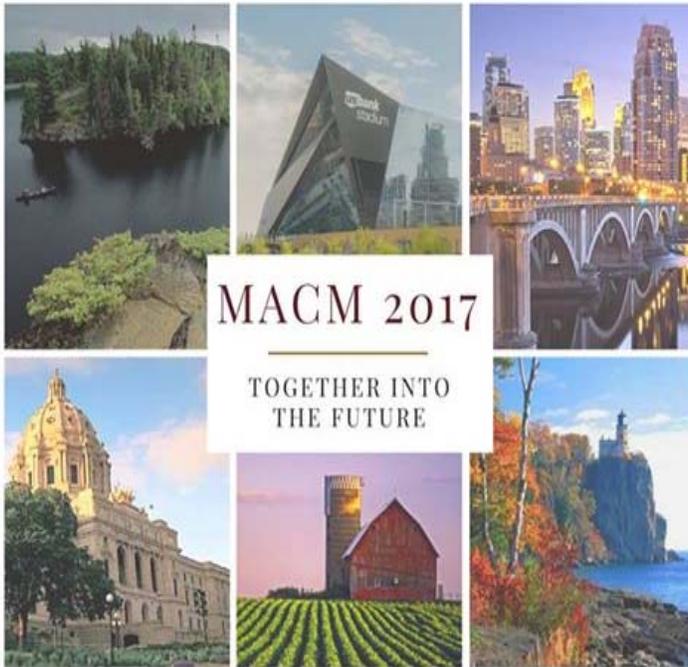
Thanks for being a part of this important organization.

Sincerely,

Aaron

2017 MACM Annual Conference

By: Vanessa Jeske, MACM Membership Committee Chair



This Fall's Conference in Mankato was a wonderful experience!

We had over 220 people in attendance! As you can see from all of the articles about the conference, we had a lot of great content.

We tried a few different things again this year that seemed to work really well; such as having the Awards Ceremony immediately after the conference which enabled most people to attend.

We also had the New Member Mixer the Tuesday night before the conference which gave those new members a time to meet and ask questions of the board members and others in attendance.

This past year our committee awarded 10 Scholarships to MACM Members who applied. So if you are pursuing additional education, please reach out and submit an application. With the next conference already only 9 months away, we are just starting to plan.

If you would like to join the Membership Committee, please reach out to me or anyone on our committee, we are always looking for new faces and ideas.

Vanessa Jeske - MACM Membership Committee Chair
Goodhue County Supervisor





MACM CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 4-6, 2017
MANKATO, MN

COMMITTING TO OUR FUTURE

Welcome, Presentation of Colors, and Pledge of Allegiance:

Aaron Williamson

Aaron warmly welcomed MACM conference attendees by discussing the complexities of society and taking a moment of reflection for the tragedy that occurred in Las Vegas. Aaron highlighted the work we do serving the people of Minnesota. This year's conference offered a new two part break out session discussing the role government has played in providing and denying racial equity to citizens.

Inspired by dynamic plenary speakers Tim Eggebraaten and Greta Grosch, Aaron hoped we would all leave the conference challenged and inspired to do hard work.

State Court Administrator's Address: Jeff Shorba

Jeff's address focused on the statewide reengineering efforts along with the statewide Reengineering Steering Committee and their work on centralization, regionalization, and specialization.

Jeff recognized that recently there had been a lot of feedback from judges and staff about the future of reengineering. Due to this feedback Jeff's presentation focused on the Top 10 Reengineering Myths.

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Jeff Shorba

State Court Administrator's Address (Continued from Page 7)

Due to this feedback Jeff's presentation focused on the Top 10 Reengineering Myths. Those myths are:

1. Everything must be centralized statewide
2. Reengineering will harm customer service
3. No one will want to do specialized work
4. I need to be able to handle everything
5. Reengineering will result in layoffs
6. We need to stop all the changes
7. Judges will be an obstacle to reengineering
8. We need to know the whole plan before we start
9. Greater training can solve any problem
10. This is county or district work; it can't be centralized



Jeff asked those in attendance to share this message when they return to their districts. A handout outlining the Top 10 Myths was provided to all those in attendance and is also available through the MACM app.

Jeff emphasized that the Judicial Branch needs our employees now, more than ever. Secondly, he expressed the need for statewide collaboration to drive smart reengineering. Lastly, Jeff provided the goal of the reengineering efforts that are currently underway. That goal is to make our workers more successful employees, provide better customer service, and have more efficient and effective court operations.

Jeff closed his address by thanking everyone for their leadership and hard work.



MACM Conference Sessions

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: FINDING YOUR RHYTHM OF LIFE

Tim Eggebraaten, a retired Police Officer, has served in many different roles throughout his 24 1/2 years in Law Enforcement. Tim presented our opening plenary session at the 2017 MACM Conference in Mankato. Tim spoke openly about his life, sharing his best and worst life experiences and how he dealt with all of it. The title is appropriate, "Taking it to the Streets: Finding Your Rhythm of Life", something that each and every one of us can relate to in these times of constant change and stressful moments. He gave some great advice, including the fact that we do not always have control of situations, BUT we all have 100% control of our attitudes. We can get our focus back and re-ignite our passion for our careers by networking with each other and reaching out for guidance when we need it. This brought about a song, did I mention that Tim is a great singer? He sang "Stand By Me", which was so appropriate during these challenging times. We all need to come together for OneCourtMN, all will be successful when that happens.



Tim Eggebraaten

He reminded us that we are all part of something bigger, we all need a sense of belonging. Tim told a story about a man he met, Norman, who needed some assistance. After helping Norman, this man looked at Tim and stared. Tim asked if everything was OK. Norman responded, "I want to remember the people who helped me." This is so inspiring. Making a difference can be so rewarding.

Tim gave five tips for Finding Your Rhythm of Life. These are simple and not easy. Making positive thinking a habit today is a great start. If we work to keep the bad out and surround ourselves with positive people, doing so will move us forward. We all need to move and dance, listen to upbeat music. We should count our blessings by thinking at the end of each day, what were three to five positive things that happened today. Tim also shared a coin that he created. I AM, I CAN, I WILL. Great words to live by! He entertained everyone later in the day with more music.

MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Racial Equity in Government- History and Application:

Presenters:

Referee Angela Willms—Hennepin County Juvenile Court

Dana Bartocci—Education and Organizational Development Manager 4th District

Shoreé Ingram—Diversity and Outreach Specialist 4th District

Shoreé opened with the purpose of the session, to define and explore race in a secure learning environment, and work to build awareness of the complete history of race in the U.S.

In order to accomplish this, Shoree urged the attendees to stay engaged, to not let discomfort stop anyone from participating, to be willing to experience discomfort, to speak the truth, and to expect and accept non-closure. Shoree pointed out that this session would not solve all challenges in one session, but it would build awareness and help work toward solutions.



The attendees spoke with each other about their experiences with race. It was pointed out that the issues are more subtle now, and that what we knew as children is different than what we know now. **10 things we should know about race:**

1. Race is a modern idea – Ancient societies did not sort people based on race, they were divided by class and religion.
2. Race has no genetic basis - We all have the same genes.
3. Human subspecies do not exist- We are all genetically similar, we are all human.
4. Skin color is really only skin deep.
5. Most variation is within - Not between races.
6. Slavery pre-dates race - People have been enslaved based on issues such as, debt and religion, not just on race.
7. Race and freedom were born together - Slavery was justified based on the “sub-species” idea.
8. Race justified social inequities as natural.
9. Race isn’t biological, but racism is still real.
10. Color blindness will not end racism - Ignoring racism will not fix it, it makes it worse.

MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Racial Equity in Government- History and Application: (Continued)

What do we know today about race? It's uncomfortable. Things have changed from the 1960s when race inequity was more obvious. Changes were made legislatively in the 1960s, but that does not mean that culture changes imply because the law did.

The attendees watched a film that postulated that race is based on legal and political policies. For example, race identity was determined by the courts. What constituted being African American in Alabama was different in Virginia. These legal and political policies reinforced racial inequality. All racial groups have experienced this. As each new ethnic group came to America, they were feared. While seen as a source of labor, they were feared as being different. Scientific race theories began to develop. Scientific race theory looked at group of society in racial terms and a hierarchy was established, with the Nordic races at the top and then European raced below, followed by Asia and Africa. This theory also postulated that traits such as criminality were inherited based on race, and that one's genetics determined one's destiny.

The concept of America as a "Melting Pot" did not apply to people of color. For example, although African American were granted the right to vote after the Civil War, the Southern states legislature's put laws into effect that made it very difficult for African American to vote (these are known as "Jim Crow" laws). Government polices created unfair policies in favor of whites, creating a wealth gap between whites and people of color.

The history of government and race was initially explicit, for example the law clearly said that if you were a person of color, you could not vote. But eventually, things have become implicit. Political and social policies of race neutrality have created race inequity. Both Federal and state governments are not recognizing their roles in creating racial inequity. The task now it to rectify these inequities.

MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Removed: The Impact of Child Abuse/Neglect on Children

By: Judy Nord

Recorder – Vanessa Jeske

This was a session that talked about the huge impact that abuse and neglect have on children both physical and mentally. Judy talked about how each incident can be a new trauma. For instance, if we label trauma one as when the abuse happens, trauma two can be when the kids are removed, trauma three can be assignment to a foster home and so forth; each is a new traumatic event.

We watched a powerful video of a child experiencing abuse and the trauma she underwent as she was removed and put into two different foster homes all while she was split from her little brother.

Permanency timelines for children in out of home placement was discussed.

Contact Judy to get your hands on the handouts!



MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Making Supervising Easier: Basics & Tips for Leveraging MJB Classification & Compensation Strategies for your Employees.

What is classification? Classification is a broad description of jobs, responsibilities, and nature of work to be performed.

The MJB classification specifications are outdated and there is a long term strategy for updating classification specs to ensure employees are classified properly. The MJB has a variety of classification reviews that can occur, including:

- Class review (“reclassification”)
- Class assessment (“assess all positions within the same classification”), and
- New classification

Classification review will occur, and some potential outcomes of the classification review are:

- more/fewer classifications,
- revised class specs,
- reclassification of positions, and/or
- a combination of the above options.

There are competing interests in a classification and compensation model, including advancement opportunities in the organization. Classification can help deal with the idea that there are few opportunities for advancement within the organization. Classification can be used to create a career path, or assign stretch assignments for employees looking to develop their skill sets.

Compensation is also a way to recruit, retain, and motivate our employees. A number of ways we can reward and retain within our current system are:

- Probation merit pay increase
- Spot and achievement awards
- Unique and unusual pay exceptions
- Job redesign
- Filling in for a leave with a mobility assignment

MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)



Vicarious Trama Presented by: Judge Shawn Floerke

Judge Floerke opened the plenary session by challenging the group to be present. He said that we are often distracted by our devices and other electronics that we are not present in our lives. The presentation began on how, we as humans are wired to connect with those around us. Humans have empathy. "I feel what you feel." Judge Floerke shared some photos to demonstrate that we can empathize with any emotion by simply observing. Vicarious trauma shows that being around other people that are hurt, hurts us.

After discussing some science of the parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous systems, Judge Floerke talked about some of the issues we see in the court today. Domestic violence, guns, human trafficking and other violent crimes are seen in our courts on a daily basis. As court employees, we can often lose sight of why we do the work that we do.

Judge Floerke went around the room asking the following questions and to hear the answers from the group:

"Why do you do this work?"

Wanting to help people that need it, public service, justice, something bigger than yourself, rewarding, and opportunity.

"What causes you stress?"

Technology, stressed out public, culture, policy, volume, change, workflow, and people lying.

"What is the impact on your life?"

Lack of sleep, road rage, weight gain, cynical, cold, forget what's important to you, and lose trust in people.

As court employees, we can't continue on this path. The buildup of stress will cause us to break. Because of our positions, we are always going to have the stress and this buildup. We need to learn to manage it. What do we do?

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MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Vicarious Trama - Judge Shawn Floerke (Continued from Page 15)

First: Struggling this way - is normal. Normal impact of important work.

Second: It's Ok to ask for Help.

Third: Make a Plan

We need to make changes in the four quadrants of our life: Physical, Emotional, Spiritual and Interpersonal. Judge Floerke put an emphasis on eating and sleeping well; tracking both. He talked about saying "no" to things at times and knowing that it is in your best interest. He also talked about physical exercise, starting small and finding something that you like. Simple changes will improve your overall health and make you feel better.

Judge Floerke ended his presentation by discussing building rituals of positive emotion. Sometimes all we see are the problems and the struggles. We should focus on the good and see the difference that we make every day. Laughter and humor can be one of the antidotes to our stressful work.

SCAO - Re-Engineering Steering Committee Update: Heather Kendall, Sonja Kruger and Shelley Ellefson

The Re-Engineering Steering Committee provided an update on the regionalization, centralization, standardization, and specialization that will be needed to keep the Minnesota Court System competitive into the future. They talked about the road we are on, the current challenges we are facing as a Branch, and reasons that we need to re-engineer, such as changing demographics, increased competition for funding, and limited amount of resources.

The goal for the road ahead is a unified statewide approach to doing our work as well as leadership through change. Everyone collectively has to think beyond how we have always done it by focusing on new technology available to us and what our customers and business partners expect from us.

As leaders in the Minnesota Judicial Branch, we are encouraged to exercise courageous leadership to implement transformational change and meet the challenges ahead. Be champions of change and most importantly encourage staff involvement by continuous ongoing engagement, inclusiveness and collaboration.

MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Stress and Work Life Balance

Presented by: Dr. Karl Larson

Dr. Karl Larson's dynamic presentation centered first on what is stress and how it impacts our life and secondly some items to take with us going forward to help improve our situation. Stress is something we all experience and we all have healthy and unhealthy ways of dealing with it. Long term stress can lead to immune system breakdowns. Dr. Larson shared that 80% of medical conditions are created or exacerbated by stress. This demonstrates the importance of managing the stress in our lives in healthy ways.



Stress is created for everyone by how we look a situation (appraisal), how we choose to act (behavior) and our expectations. Something that is stressful for one person may not be for the person sitting next to them. If we feel threatened by a situation we may choose to distance ourselves, avoid, distract or deny the stress at hand. This can have negative effects.

Dr. Larson talked about problem management and emotional regulation has healthy ways of managing stress. With problem management, we change the situation. This works well for changeable stressors or situations that we can change. With emotional regulations, we change the way we think or feel about the stressful situation. This works well for things we cannot change or unchangeable stressors.

Dr. Larson also acknowledged that some stress cannot be managed by either problem management or emotional regulation. Other things we can do to manage our stress include: physical activity (2 – 15 minute or 3 – 10 minute periods), eat well and sleep 7 to 9 hours a day, especially if you are over 50. We also need to take time to appraise our situation. Stop, think, ask questions, find information and focus on the benefit of what we are doing.

Dr. Larson discussed some in the moment exercises that we can do in our offices to help manage stress; breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, visualization, move/stretch, color/mandalas and visual rest were all mentioned.

MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Are You Prepared for a Courthouse Disaster?

Presenters:

Robin Hoesley, Steele County Court Administrator

Carla Heyl, Director SCAO Legal Counsel Division

Charlie Snader, Network Specialist Supervisor 1st & 3rd District

Robin, Carla & Charlie went over things that most of us wouldn't think of ahead of time. Their presentation gave everyone some very important and crucial things to think about to be prepared for this or any similar disaster in your courthouse. They covered areas ranging from files, staff, technical concerns, getting back to normal, and even potential legal issues on who would be responsible. Their lessons learned can become a benefit to the rest of the Judicial Branch.

Tips & Tricks

- ◆ Communicate early & **often** and let Court Information Office handle media inquiries
- ◆ Ensure everyone's safety
- ◆ Salvage whatever you can ASAP
- ◆ Hire movers to expedite process
- ◆ Have IT update notices to reflect temporary address
- ◆ Everyone needs to be patient and adapt
- ◆ Have daily debriefing on what is/isn't working

Getting Back to Normal

- ◆ See about your county hiring a project manager
- ◆ Be involved in all matters
- ◆ Keep documentation
- ◆ Business Continuity Plan

Legal Responsibilities

- ◆ Get an Emergency Relocation Court Order
 - 484.35 Temporary Courthouses
 - 484.77 Facilities
- ◆ Insurance – who pays for what



MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Compliance Alignment

Ourselves and Our Staff

Presented by: Lynn Wagner and
Jeri Boetcher

In the Compliance Alignment breakout Lynn Wagner and Jeri Boetcher reviewed the new Education Policy 400(a) requirements. The reason this policy was established was to address an increase in non-compliance by branch employees. When this issue was identified, a workgroup was formed, which worked for nearly a year to establish this policy. There was discussion regarding the importance of education compliance, and how it relates to public access and branch accountability.



Lynn and Jeri presented that our goal is for staff to realize that 'compliance' is a good thing, and that they want to do it. An essential piece of reaching this objective is to recognize that compliance is a partnership. They identified our roles as managers/supervisors to be: 1) Become familiar with Supervisory Gateway; 2) Ensure all employees comply with the policy; 3) Self review; 4) Tracking; 5) Allowing staff the time to attend/view trainings; and 6) facilitate quarterly refreshers (required beginning 1/1/18).

Attendees met in small groups to talk about how the policy can be implemented, different ways of encouraging staff involvement, and to identify any challenges managers and supervisors might encounter. Ideas were shared with the large group to help facilitate the implementation of policy 400(a).

MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Making Meetings Work Presented by: **Suzanne Mateffy**

Suzanne is an Instructional Design Program Specialist with the branch and presented on meaningful meetings and what is required to help make that happen. The statement "Knowin ain't doin" is what can come from a non-productive meeting. Good meetings will have something learned, decisions made, or collaboration to make things better. Bad meetings will not be meaningful and may lose focus with lack of organization or control.

Making meetings work will start by asking three questions. Is there an understanding of need for the meeting and does it need to be in person or Lync or will an email suffice? Next, is there a goal to achieve in having the meeting? Third is to define the meeting, will it be information sharing, decision making or brainstorming? Once these things are established, preparation is very key. An agenda with what, who, how long and subject matter are important factors. When the meeting occurs, you need to "work it". This means to conduct with staying on track, having some ground rules and welcoming attendees by engaging them with the meeting purpose and goals. Finally, "finish strong" by concluding with a summary and doing any follow up that may be needed.

Meetings are important, especially now with all of the changes and information that is constantly coming our way. Time is also a limited resource for everyone. We need to communicate in the best way that we can, so knowing and understanding how to "make meetings work" can be very helpful to all of us in our day to day work and activities.



MACM Conference Sessions (Continued)

Closing Plenary: “Yes. And . . .”

Presented by: Greta Grosch

Greta Grosch, motivational speaker, corporate trainer, and script-writer entertained, challenged, and motivated MACM conference attendees at the closing plenary. Her session “Yes. And” demonstrated how these two powerful words can move people forward. She focused on incorporating “Yes. And” in 4 areas: Innovation, Leadership, Communication, and Conflict resolution. As an example, with innovation, Greta spoke about the power of “yes” thinking and transforming negative with positive. With Leadership, she talked about creating an environment of YES! where ideas are cultivated and continuously being nourished and developed.

Greta used mini lectures, storytelling, group exercises, demonstrations, and discussion to explore new skills. Conference attendees learned how these simple 2 words can reframe a conversation, change attitudes, and discourage negativity. She empowered people to walk away inspired by what they learned and excited to implement the knowledge into their daily lives, both professional and personal.

“Yes. And . . .”

2017 MACM Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement Award - LuAnn Blegen

The Lifetime Achievement award honors a MACM member who is recognized for their many contributions to the court management profession and for their years of service to the Court. They have earned a high professional regard and the respect of other members in the profession. They demonstrate diplomacy, advocacy, and a consistent professionalism when faced with challenges. They demonstrate outstanding leadership and give selflessly of their time and talent.

The recipient of the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award is: **Lu Ann Blegen** the Court Administrator for Pine County in the 10th Judicial District. Lu Ann has been with the Minnesota Judicial Branch since 1980, that's 37 years folks!

In the words of the person who nominated her: "Lu Ann has a work ethic, contribution and commitment to the Courts that is almost hard to believe". Her understanding of public service is only outweighed by her understanding of the neutral role required in Court Administration. She is a progressive thinker. She is energized, engaged and always willing to take on a challenge. She was asked to take on the role of Court Administrator in Pine County at a time when the building was old and needing replacement, the Court Administration office, and records were in crisis. She rose to the challenge despite the multitude of potential landmines and liabilities. It was hard work and the end result is that few people could have done the exemplary job that she did with that transition.

Her knowledge and expertise are well known and she is a valuable statewide resource. She is routinely suggested for different cross functional committees due to her broad range of knowledge and for her poise, and professionalism.

Lu Ann was nominated by Sharon Schubert, Kanabec County Court Administrator. Congratulations to Lu Ann as the 2017 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award!!



Annette Fritz, LuAnn Blegen, Monica Tschumper

2017 MACM Award Winners (Continued)

Distinguished Service Award - Karen Messner

The Distinguished Service award honors a MACM member who has distinguished themselves through a record of service to the profession, outstanding service to the community and courts and demonstrates leadership by improving the administration of justice and delivery of public service through the application of modern management techniques.

The recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award is: **Karen Messner** the Court Administrator for McLeod and Sibley Counties.

In the words of those who nominated her: "Karen is a very influential leader and court administrator". Karen has worked in the Minnesota Judicial Branch for over 25 years, serving as a court administrator for the last 19 years. She has been elected by her peers to serve as the court administrator representative on the Minnesota Judicial Council, twice. She is presently in her second term on the Council and actively strives to be the voice of court administrators and staff across the courts. She works hard and takes this responsibility very seriously.

Over the years, Karen has been on many state, district, and county committees and workgroups. To name a few, she is a member of the National Association for Management, is a Certified Court Executive and teaches a Court Management Program course. Additionally, she has been involved at the district level with many important committees, including serving on the First District Executive Committee.

One of Karen's biggest strengths is her proactive approach to advancing the justice system. She has consistently been a leader among her peers in this area. She frequently offers to be a pilot on technology projects and represents the interests of small and medium counties whenever possible. She has served as a role model, mentor, and friend to many in court administration over the years. She genuinely cares about the branch and the public we serve. She supports a positive work and learning environment, often times encouraging staff to attend training to assist with their advancement within the branch.



Vanessa Jeske and Karen Messner

(Continued on Page 23)

2017 MACM Award Winners (Continued)

Distinguished Service Award - Karen Messner (Continued from Page 22)

Beyond the courts, Karen is extremely active in her community and serves in leadership roles in the Rotary, Boy Scouts, local schools, coaching youth sports, and being involved with her church.

Karen has earned a high professional regard and respect from judges, district and court administrators, court staff, justice partners, and others associated with our court system. Karen has distinguished herself in this profession and has proven to be a dedicated leader.

Karen was nominated by Brian Jones and Carol Renn on behalf of the First District Judges and Staff, as well as the public who have been positively impacted by Karen's leadership and distinguished service.

Congratulations Karen Messner as the 2017 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award!!

Champion of Change - Sara Gonsalves

A champion of change is a person who fosters collaboration to promote innovation by embracing opportunities to utilize technology and other resources to increase efficiencies and productivity in the work place.

The recipient of the 2017 champion of change award is **Sara Gonsalves**, the Self Represented Litigant Program Manager for State Court Administration, Court Services Division.

Sara has been contributing to improvements to self-represented litigant services in many ways. She works on large scale changes to our systems, tests new technology and has increased services.



Aaron Williamson and Sara Gonsalves

(Continued on Page 24)

2017 MACM Award Winners (Continued)

Champion of Change - Sara Gonsalves (Continued from Page 23)

Sara leverages all available technology that can benefit customers while ensuring ease of use for them and staff. There are also countless ways in which she has fulfilled the need to better serve court customers and in the process has increased all court employees' awareness of the need for more services, better communication, and simpler processes.

She has worked with the Fourth District Family Court Bench to establish a valuable model for reviewing self-represented litigant filings. She keeps the needs of staff and customers a priority in every decision yet has a progressive view that challenges the status quo. She is patient yet persistent and a professional representative of the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

Sara has played a key role in implementing electronic tools for self-represented litigants across the state. Sara has been effective in recognizing and addressing the concerns of both internal staff and external users and she understands the need for her staff to be present in the local courts where new tools are piloted. Sara leads her team well and ensure that each pilot implementation proceeds as smoothly as possible.

Over the last year, Sara she has increased the awareness of the assistance that the statewide self-help center staff provides to self-represented litigants and she has offered her own and her staff's expertise on self-represented litigant matters to court administrators statewide.

Sara was nominated by: Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer and Karen Mareck from 4th District and SCAO.

Congratulations Sara Gonsalves as the 2017 recipient of the Champion of Change award!!

2017 MACM Award Winners (Continued)

Coach/Mentor of the Year - Nancy Winger

A coach or mentor is a person who fosters trust while encouraging others to achieve their goals without thought of reciprocation. They share their skills and knowledge with others and provide excellent coaching in the ongoing development and enrichment of others.

The recipient of the 2017 Coach/Mentor of the Year is **Nancy Winger** the Deputy District Administrator in the Ninth Judicial District.

In the words of those who nominated her: Nancy embodies the ideals of a coach and mentor. She is someone who truly cares about people and will do whatever she can to help them succeed. According to Strengths Finder, Nancy is a WOO and she has leveraged this to develop strong relationships with those she supervises, works with, and even comes into contact with for brief periods of time.

She spends much of her day connecting with people. She takes the time to talk to everyone, giving them feedback, and helping them to develop. The most impressive testament to Nancy's mentorship is that people she regularly connects with are often heard to say that they admire her and that she is an inspiration to them.

Nancy is extremely approachable and is a great listener. As a mentor, she builds people up, and sets a good example by sharing her optimism. Nancy is truly invested in people and wants to share her knowledge and support. Individuals at all levels of the organization, including judges, seek her counsel and know that she is genuinely interested in them and their concerns. Nancy tends to put people at ease and they feel comfortable going to her knowing that they have a trusted resource.



Jamie Majerus and Nancy Winger

(Continued on Page 26)

2017 MACM Award Winners (Continued)

Coach/Mentor of the Year - Nancy Winger (Continued from Page 25)

Nancy is very humble and goes about her work as a coach and mentor quietly and tries to deflect attention away from herself. She has distinguished herself throughout her career as a court leader who cares about people, takes the time to listen and advise, and has pride from afar when she sees them succeed.

Nancy also spends a considerable amount of time mentoring community members who are struggling with health issues. It is well known that she has given people good information and a sense of peace as they face what's perhaps the most difficult time of their lives. For this alone, she is greatly respected.

Nancy Winger is a well-deserved recipient of the MACM Coach/Mentor of the Year Award. She was nominated by the Ninth Judicial District managers.

Congratulations Nancy Winger as the 2017 recipient of the Coach/Mentor of the year award!!



**BEST
OF THE
BEST**

Congratulations Award Winners:

Sara Gonsalves, Lu Ann Blegen, Karen Messner and Nancy Winger

The New Normal?

By: Annette Fritz, Washington County Court Administrator

Have you ever heard the phrase, “that’s not normal” or “normally we do it this way”? I have come to the conclusion that there is no normal anymore, there are many differences and as a result, normal is no longer a relevant description... or is it. The new normal is that things are different. While the world seems to be dealing with recognizing and respecting differences and yet being the same, our court system is undertaking an effort to be consistent. We are working toward standard administrative processes so that our customers can expect a consistent experience regardless of the court location. Clerks hired from county A to county B sometimes question “why do you do it like this, we did not do it that way in county A.” Customers that access our courts in multiple locations sometimes question “why do you do it different in your county, county A does not do it like this”. Are we really different or just not the same? What’s the difference? The purpose and responsibility of courts includes “individual justice on individual cases” nonetheless with consistent processes. We are on a journey. The journey is the reward... I hope so. Eventually, it may be normal to be the same.

The following is from the NACM Purposes and Responsibilities of Court, Curriculum Guidelines Summary Why Courts Exist:

Court processes must reflect established court purposes such as individual justice in individual cases, the appearance of individual justice in individual cases, provision of a forum for the resolution of disputes, the protection of individuals against the arbitrary use of governmental power, and the making of a record of legal status. Individual cases must receive individual attention. The law must be correctly applied to the facts. Regardless of economic or other status, there must be equal access. Everyone who comes to and before the court must be treated respectfully, fairly, and equally. Case processing and the application of the law to the facts in individual cases must be consistent and predictable.

In closing, I share a saying that was shared with me from Gena Jones: “3 C’s in life, you have to find the **Courage** to take the **Chance** to make a **Change**”.
(Author Unknown)



Minnesota ICM Fellow Graduates!

By: Vicki Carlson, Scott County Court Administrator

Congratulations to **Shannon Meyer** (Scott County Supervisor), **Aaron Williamson** (MACM President and Criminal Division Projects Manager, Hennepin County), and **Karen Mareck** (Deputy Director, Court Services Division, SCAO) who graduated May 5, 2017 from the National Center for State Court's Court Executive Development Program and became fellows of the Institute for Court Management!

As part of the program, individuals are required to conduct research and turn that into a master's level research paper. Most often, this involves weekends and evenings researching, reading and writing. Shannon's paper was titled the Initiatives for Accurate and Timely Criminal History Records in three Minnesota Counties. Aaron completed his research on Electronic Court Reminders. Karen's paper was written on Document Security Classification: Considering the Court Administrative Process. The formal commencement ceremony was held at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C. after a presentation of their research papers. The ceremony is rich with history and formality fitting of the tremendous amount of work that's involved. The research is often used by other court managers around the country when they are working through court issues and

MN FELLOWS

[Click here](#) for a full list of Fellows from Minnesota, with their research paper topics. Papers are posted on the [NCSC ICM website!](#)



MINNESOTA STATE COURT NEWS FROM THE LAND OF 10,000 LAKES



First Judicial District

New Court Room, Conference Room and Front Entrance Screening

By: Vanessa Jeske, Court Operations Supervisor in Goodhue County

Goodhue County recently finished construction on a new 4th court room, conference room and front entrance screening.

This plaque was given to the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners in recognition of the county's substantial contribution to the redesign of the Judicial Center and the continuous efforts to ensure safe and secure court facilities in Goodhue County. Justice Margaret Chutich from the MN Supreme Court and our Chief Judge from the 1st District, Judge Kathryn Meserich presented the plaque to the board.



Scott County Gets A New Supervisor

Tiffany Simrell was promoted to supervisor on October 4, 2017. She has worked in the Minnesota Judicial branch for the last 10 years. Tiffany started as a Senior Court Clerk in McLeod County, working in the traffic division. She later transferred to Scott County where she worked as a Senior Court Clerk in the Criminal, Juvenile, and CHIPS divisions. From there she was promoted to Lead Worker for that division. Tiffany supervises the Minor Criminal, Juvenile, CHIPs, Probate, and Jury Divisions. Prior to coming to the judicial branch, Tiffany worked as a Legal Assistant in the Wright County Attorney's office. She has a Legal Administrative Associates Degree from Ridgewater College and is currently participating in the Court Management Program from the National Center for State Courts, working towards becoming a Certified Court Manager. Welcome Tiffany!



Tiffany Simrell and Family

Fourth Judicial District

Getting To Know Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer - The District Court Administrator in the Fourth District

Sarah's Career with the Courts:

Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer is the judicial district administrator for the Fourth Judicial District serving Hennepin County. Sarah's responsibilities include directing full range support of district court operations to the bench and representing the district county; state- and nation-wide.

Sarah previously served as the Deputy Administrator for the operations side of Administration, senior manager of Family, Juvenile, Domestic Abuse Service Center and Centralized Services. Before joining the Fourth District, she was the acting Deputy Court Administrator in Anoka County. Prior work experience includes managing the Assignment Office and Juvenile Division in Anoka, and the Criminal Division in Washington County.

What do you like best about working for the MN

Judicial Branch?

One of the best things about working for the MN judicial branch is the people that I get to work with every day. It is so nice to work with such talented and unique professionals.

I also really identify personally with the integrity and ethics that are part of our core values. The MN Judicial Branch is a leader in the criminal justice system. The MN Judicial Branch is a leader in many ways across the United States and we have a lot to be proud of. The fact that we keep integrity and ethics at the forefront of what we do is part of why I feel so proud to work here.

I also like being a part of finding creative solutions. We have the opportunity to really get creative with new innovations, such as treatment courts, and trying different paths to resolve issues that come our way.



Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer

(Continued on Page 32)

4th District Updates— Sarah Lindahl Pfieffer Continued from Page 31

What would people never guess you do in your role?

I think people may be surprised to hear how many people we swear in each year in HCDC. Administering the Oath of Office is an important step in the onboarding process of new employees. I enjoy meeting the new employees and welcoming them. Hennepin typically has about 150-200 new employees each year!

Do you have a motto or personal mantra?

I don't have a motto or personal mantra necessarily, as it changes depending on the situation. When I get home from work I say to myself, "Do not sit down." I know this is silly, but if I sit down I won't get anything done! I have to keep my momentum going and get through my to-do list for the evening or it's all over. Another thing that is important to me is to always be looking at ways to add value. I like to think about what I am doing and make sure that I am doing things that add value.

There have been many things that have changed in the MN Judicial Branch over the years. Tell us something you remember that has changed significantly:

I started back when the courts were still funded by the County. I saw the County to State transition which has allowed for a much better branch statewide. The technology has also changed a lot over the years. I remember logging into TCIS and there was just a blank screen. If you didn't know the codes you only had a blank screen to look at. It was much different from MNCIS where you log-in and have choices. Education within the branch has also changed over the years. The opportunities for leadership and development have definitely increased and improved over the years.

What kind of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

I try to make fitness a priority because it helps me with stress management. Spending time with my family and my sisters is also very important to me. I spend the rest of my free time on kid activities 5-7 days a week.

Tell us something that people would be surprised to know about you:

People may be surprised to know that I used to drive a Harley. Even though I haven't driven a Harley for 15 years, it used to be my main mode of transportation in graduate school. Otherwise I doubt that there is much that is too surprising!

4th District Updates— Continued

Sara Gonsalves Promoted to Deputy District Administrator over Operations in the Fourth Judicial District

Sara Gonsalves J.D. joined the Minnesota Judicial Branch in 2011. She started with the State Court Administrator's Office as the Sexual and Domestic Violence Case Analyst. In 2014, she became the Manager of the Self-Represented Litigant (SRL) Program, overseeing the Statewide Self Help Center and two walk-in Self Help Centers located in the Fourth Judicial District. In 2017, she became the Deputy District Administrator over Operations in the Fourth Judicial District. Previous to joining the Judicial Branch, Sara worked for Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. She is a graduate of Mitchell Hamline School of Law and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Sara is a published author and accomplished public speaker. She has extensive experience with large scale projects, SRL e-filing, and business practices across many lines of business. Her knowledge and experience will be very valuable in her new position.



Sara Gonsalves

Sara was recently awarded the Minnesota Association of Court Management "Champion of Change" award. A champion of change is a person who fosters collaboration to promote innovation by embracing opportunities to utilize technology and other resources to increase efficiencies and productivity in the work place. The Fourth District is excited to have a "Champion of Change" like Sara join our leadership team.



For the last year Hennepin County District Court has been planning and preparing for Super Bowl LII in February 2018. The Super Bowl will be taking place at US Bank Stadium on February 4th 2018. The NFL will have many events and activities throughout the metro area in the week leading up to the big game.

These events are estimated to draw in over 100,000 people per day to downtown. With US Bank Stadium and many of the activities occurring in downtown Minneapolis it is anticipated that traffic and parking will be difficult not only for staff but also for our customers. The Court has been working closely with our justice partners and other county agencies to limit court calendars and redistribute hearings the weeks prior and following the Super Bowl to ensure timelines will continue to be

met on cases. While all court locations will remain open during regular business hours, hearings will be limited to in custody and mandatory hearing types only. More information on the Super Bowl can be found at <http://www.mnsuperbowl.com>

Ninth Judicial District

Itasca County Wellness Court earns Local Government Innovation Award

By: Abby Kuschel, Treatment Court Supervisor, Itasca County



For immediate release

Grand Rapids, Minn. (December 4, 2017) –

The Itasca County Wellness Court – a joint effort of Itasca County, Minnesota’s Ninth Judicial District, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to reduce drug crime and abuse – has been named one of the most innovative local government projects in the state.

On November 15, the Itasca County Wellness Court was one of 25 programs to be recognized by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota as recipients of its 11th annual Local Government Innovation Awards. All 25 awardees will be formally recognized at an [awards ceremony and reception](#) December 7 at 5 p.m. at the Humphrey School.

The Itasca County Wellness Court is a multi-jurisdictional court which targets chronic alcohol and drug offenders. The court combines treatment, sobriety testing, and court monitoring to break the cycle of addiction for offenders. Law enforcement, probation, treatment professionals, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and court officials provide a team approach of guidance and direction to assist individuals in overcoming their addiction and becoming law-abiding citizens. The goals of the Itasca County Wellness Court are to reduce costs associated with chemical use and criminal behavior, reduce criminal behavior and recidivism, enhance public safety, and enhance the well-being of participants.

Ninth Judicial District Court Judge Korey Wahwassuck and Leech Lake Tribal Court Judge Megan Treuer preside jointly over Wellness Court hearings. The Itasca County Wellness Court has served as a model for other states and court systems implementing joint-jurisdiction courts around the country.

“This award is a great honor for our community, and reflects the strong partnership we have formed between Itasca County and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe,” said Judge Wahwassuck. “Presiding over the Itasca County Wellness Court, I have had the great opportunity to see this program help those struggling with addiction transform their lives and become productive members of our community. Not only is this program resulting in better outcomes in our criminal justice system, it is helping to make our community safer and reducing costs for taxpayers.”

(Continued on Page 35)

District Updates—Itasca County Wellness Court (Continued from Page 34)

The Humphrey School recognized the Itasca County Wellness Court under its “Native Nations” award category. The Itasca County Wellness Court was chosen out of more than 100 projects that applied for the Local Government Innovation Awards.

More information about the Itasca County Wellness Court

The Itasca County Wellness Court was established in 2007, and serves both tribal members and non-Indians residing in Itasca County and the Leech Lake Reservation. The Court has also been the recipient of the Harvard Honoring Nations Award (Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University), the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Cultural Proficiency Courage Award, the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award, Minnesota Corrections Association President’s Award, Association of Minnesota Counties Achievement Award, and was nominated for a United Nations Public Service Award.

The program targets adults who have been charged with felony possession of a controlled substance, or a gross misdemeanor or felony DWI, and who are non-violent and chemically dependent. The program lasts a minimum of 18 months, and the goal is to have participants leave the program sober, law-abiding, employed, and with stable housing.

The program has undergone extensive study and evaluation to ensure its effectiveness. A 2017 evaluation found:

- ◆ Graduates exit the program with an average of 724 days of sobriety.
- ◆ At exit, 85 percent or more of graduating clients had stable housing, were either employed or attending school full-time and had a valid driver’s license.
- ◆ Program participants report great satisfaction with the program, saying they feel staff authentically care about them, believe they can succeed, and are focused on helping them become successful, rather than on their past mistakes.

The 2017 evaluation estimated that the program provides a return of at least \$1.58 for every dollar the community invests in the program.



District Updates Continued

Roseau County Treatment Court**By: Maria Pahlen, Roseau County Treatment Coordinator**

In April of 2008, Judge Donna Dixon and staff pursued and implemented a DWI Court, funded through the Office of Traffic Safety. The Judge and staff, recognized that traditional forms of incarceration without treatment had not worked for addicts in the criminal justice system of Roseau County. Community stakeholders in Roseau County also detected problems not only with alcohol addicts, but a larger number of illegal substance use addicts were on the rise. Since the problem was obviously getting larger, Roseau County felt it was important to apply for an Implementation grant to fund the Drug Court. On October 1st, 2016 Roseau County was awarded a \$305,000 three year U.S. Department of Justice/ Office of Justice Programs Implementation grant to fund a Drug Court. Receiving the grant has made it possible to staff a Department of Corrections Agent who will supervise Drug Court participants and for other program costs to include: testing supplies; training and travel for staff members; office supplies and cell phone for the agent.

Roseau County is providing funding for a full-time Treatment Court Coordinator who oversees both the DWI and Drug Courts. Roseau County officially opened the Drug Court doors on April 11th, 2017 and began with 4 participants. As of December 1st, 2017, there are 17 current participants working on their sobriety. Staff members include the Judge, DOC Agent, Coordinator, Treatment Provider, Chemical Assessor, Law Enforcement officer, Assistant County Attorney, City Attorney and an Evaluator among many other community members.



Tenth Judicial District

Anoka County Welcomes Two New Supervisors

Karol Bennett

Current Position: Court Operations Supervisor, Family Division.

Please tell us about your family? I have been married to my husband Todd for 23 years and we have two children. Ty is 22 and is attending Dunwoody for welding and fabrication and Wyatt is 14 years old and is an 8th grader at SW Jr. High in Forest Lake.

Background/Education/Work History: My background is varied. I was born and raised in South Minneapolis. I attended Roosevelt High School in South Minneapolis and Hennepin Technical College for my Clerk Typist Certificate. I have worked as a Pharmacy Technician and as an Office Assistant prior to starting my public service career. I started my public service career working for the Hennepin County Attorney's office in August of 1992. I worked for the Hennepin County Attorney's Office for 4 years and then transferred to the Criminal Division of District Court on April 1, 1996. From the Criminal Division I transferred to the Civil Division for a while. I was then hired to be a Judicial Clerk for Judge John Q. McShane. I was then promoted to a Leadworker position in 1999 in the Juvenile Court division in Hennepin prior to transferring to Anoka County. I started in Anoka on October 7, 2007 and worked in Anoka as a Sr. Court Clerk and was promoted to Leadworker for the Civil Division on November 1, 2014. I was on the Minnesota Probate Registrar Board for a year. On August 29, 2017 I was promoted to the Court Operations Supervisor position.

Professional Goal: - I want to be one of the good ones. To be a supervisor that staff can talk to and trust that I will find answers to things that they may have questions about, or put them in the direction to find the correct answer.

What have you found rewarding since accepting this position? Being able to recognize people for their accomplishments that they make. I like them to know that they truly are appreciated for what they do every day.

What is your most Memorable/Proud event in your career this far? - Being promoted through the ranks of the Judicial Branch.



Karol Bennett

Two New Supervisors - Continued from Page 37

Heidi Dupont

Current Position: Court Operations Supervisor, Administrative Division. Supervising Accounting, Restitution, Administrative Services, Facilities and Records

Please tell us about your family? I have been married to John Dupont for 22 years and we have two wonderful children Christian, a senior, and Mackenzie a sophomore both attended Anoka High School. We live in Nowthen, MN.

Background/ Education/ Work History: I have my Bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University in Business Administration/ Marketing Communications. I started my management career with Video Update many years ago. I moved into the banking industry with TCF Bank where I held many positions from 1996-2003; Assistant Branch Manager, Assistant Vice President Branch Manager, In-Store Promotions Manager, Assistant Vice President Consumer Events and Programs Manager. I continued in the banking/insurance industry with other companies learning consumer loan underwriting, corporate insurance, and project management work.



Heidi Dupont

Professional Goal - My professional goal was to get back into management and bring what I have learned over the years to train and support a great team. I didn't know where it would lead me and truly it has lead me to one of the most challenging jobs I have ever accepted. I truly enjoy what each and every day brings. There is constant learning in management and each scenario you deal with is different. I enjoy learning as much as I can.

What have you found rewarding since accepting this position? I have found that I work with a great staff that is willing to help in any way possible. This is truly rewarding to me as my knowledge of the courts is very limited.

What have you found most challenging? What I have found is most challenging is learning all the different lingo everyone uses. The abbreviations, court documents, document security, MNCIS etc. All of this is new.

What is your most Memorable /Proud of event in your career thus far? There are many memories that I am proud of over the years. I truly was never a runner, but decided to take up running as a way to relax and make some time for myself. I have complete many 5k races, ran the Medtronic Twin Cities 10 mile 3 times, and completed a ½ Marathon. Another memorable event is managing all of the cashiering stations in the Merchandise Tent at the 2002 PGA Tournament. What a great opportunity to work with the PGA. Another proud event was being a Top Sales Producer and winning a trip to Anchorage, Alaska. Lots of hard work that paid off in the end.

This Just In

Legislative and Outreach Committee Update from Ann Basta:

The 2017 Annual MACM Fall Conference in Mankato was another wonderful conference. The Legislative and Outreach Committee provided MACM members with the opportunity to contribute this year to the Reach Youth Drop-in Center in a number of ways.

The Reach is a safe and supportive environment for teens and youth adults experiencing homelessness. They offer a number of services, including:

- Basic necessities (e.g., food, showers, clothing)
- Housing and Shelter Options
- Support and Education
- Job Search Assistance

MACM members were able to donate to the Reach in a number of ways of this year: including monetary donations, purchasing items through the charity's Amazon Wish List, and by bringing physical items to donate (such much needed toiletries such as toothpaste, soap, and shampoo).

The committee sends its sincere thanks to the many MACM members who donated. We were able to raise \$650 to this very worthy charitable organization!

A special shout out also goes to Monica Tschumper, the MACM Education Committee chair, as she donated a large basket of hand knit scarves and hats which she and her mother had knitted. The representatives from the Reach were especially delighted with the thoughtfulness of these handmade items and expressed that the kids will really love them and ask about who made them for them.



Ann Basta

This Just In (Continued)

Education Committee Update from Monica Tschumper

The annual 2017 MACM Conference was held October 4-6 in Mankato. We had a great experience at the Mankato Civic Center where 222 attendees experienced 2 ½ days of sessions on a wide variety of topics. Survey results were very favorable and gave us some great feedback that we can apply to future conferences. We always appreciate members taking the time to provide their feedback.

At the business meeting during the conference, we discussed the location for next year's conference. If we continue on our current rotation schedule, we would be in the metro area. Education committee members visited three locations in the Bloomington area and were able to select the top contender from the three (based on an adequate number of hotel rooms and ample conference space). We were in conversation with that location about costs and were concerned with the numbers we were receiving, especially the high audio/visual costs. We focused on the Eastern part of the cities so we wouldn't overlap with other Branch sessions that were looking at potential locations in the West side of the metro; we are open to looking at other metro locations so the education committee will re-engage in those discussions in at their December meeting.

The committee also began checking out options in the central part of the state as an alternative to being in the metro area. We are trying to balance being fiscally responsible with the realization that overall costs to the Branch vary depending on the location site. Outstate sites are often less expensive for the conference facility and lodging costs, however, that can impact mileage reimbursements and lodging. After much discussion and consideration we located a facility in the metro area that we are in discussion with, so our Fall conference will be in the metro area. More to come! We will send a save the date notice as soon the location details are firmed up.



Monica Tschumper

Wishing you all a safe and healthy winter!
Monica Tschumper
MACM Education Committee Chair
Wright County Court Administrator

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