

# MAKE-A-SMILE REPAIRS PARKS IN NORTH CAROLINA

by: Mel Williams



During the first week of October, Make-A-Smile completed another project. This time it was in the small community of Fairmont, North Carolina, where severe flooding had caused a lot of damage and heartache. With great cooperation and compassion from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, especially NC Prison Director Ken Lassiter and Warden Brad Perritt, the County Department of Recreation (Big Rick), and town officials, the project was completed in three days. Warden Bobby Tanner and his crew from Louisiana (not pictured) had to leave the morning before the project was completed. Before they left however, his crew put new roofs on two

picnic shelters, and rebuilt four sets of wooden bleachers, four picnic tables and three benches.

Warden Perritt's facility, Tabor Correctional Facility, came through big time with staff, equipment, and supplies. Even though Director Lassiter was busy with all his responsibilities of running the NC Department of Public Safety, he found time to come work with us shoulder to shoulder, and he insured a great finish by sending many staff volunteers on Wednesday.

Sunday was the set up day, getting people settled at our new home at the Fairmont Methodist Church. The church was a great host and accommodations were great.

At 8 am on Monday, we were on site enjoying breakfast and getting assignments. The Louisiana crew went right to work on the roofs, yellow t-shirts were passed out, and the rest of us got to work around the park. Plans were reviewed, holes were dug, brush was cleared, junk was thrown out, and supplies were garnered.

On Tuesday morning, we were treated to breakfast sausage grilled on site by volunteers from Tabor C.F. This

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Robert Welch



I hope everyone is staying warm and had a wonderful holiday season. It has been unseasonably cold everywhere this year. Even with the cold weather this is an exciting time for NAAWS. We were very busy at the ACA Winter Conference in Orlando, Florida. The NAAWS Business Meeting was well attended. I would like to thank all

the past-presidents, members, and vendors who attended the meeting. Attendance shows your passion for the organization. During the business meeting, ACA Executive Director, Mr. James Gondles announced that NAAWS Past President Pat Caruso will be awarded the prestigious E. R. Cass Award. Ms. Caruso along with ACA Past-President Daron Hall will receive the E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award at the ACA 148th Congress of Correction in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 7, 2018. NAAWS will be at the Award Ceremony to support Ms. Caruso. If you are interested in attending, contact Ms. Gail Hailer for more information.

Additionally, during the ACA Winter Conference, the Warden of the Year and Medal of Valor was chosen. The 2018 Warden of the Year is Kathleen Gerbing, a Superintendent at Otisville Correctional Facility in New York. The Medal of Valor recipients are: Paul Nielson, Correctional Officer, Tennessee Department of Corrections; Jesse Shookley, Correctional Officer, Tennessee Department of Corrections; Lester Ball, Correctional Officer, Tennessee Department of Corrections, and Laticia Zamora Mar-

tinea, Case Manager Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago, Illinois. They will be honored at the ACA 148th Congress of Correction in Minneapolis, Minnesota. More information will be forthcoming.

The NAAWS Training Conference will be held in Tempe, Arizona from April 30, 2018 to May 4, 2018. Cathy Linaweaver and her committee have been working diligently to put together a quality conference. The workshops are relevant to current issues, and subject matter experts will be utilized to present. This conference promises to be another outstanding and exciting event. I look forward to seeing you there.

On a sad note, Pat Keohane will officially retire after the NAAWS Conference in Tempe, Arizona, as the Vendor Coordinator. I know I speak for the membership when I say, we are happy for Pat who has given many years. His dedication to our organization will be missed and the next Vendor Coordinator will have big shoes to fill. While at the NAAWS Conference we will have a celebration for Pat Keohane and Gloria Hultz. Ms. Hultz announced her resignation during the last Grapevine edition: she stated that she will step down as Executive Director at the end of the ACA 148th Congress of Correction in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I encourage all members to come out to show your appreciation for the many years of blood, sweat, and tears they have given to NAAWS.

During the business meeting, NAAWS transition was discussed and I have decided to host a "State of NAAWS" Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2018, while in Tempe, Arizona. Exact time and location will be sent via email. During this meeting, the following topics will be discussed: current membership levels and strategies to improve, NAAWS Leadership, and building for the future. I encourage all past-presidents, members, and vendors to attend. Additionally, the Search Committee and Executive Board will be in attendance to answer questions regarding the Executive Director selection process.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

I would also like to remind you to remember Make-A-Smile. They are always in need of your help, by donating and/or volunteering to work. Let's help return smiles to the faces of the children of correctional professionals who have faced devastating tragedies.

In closing, I left the Orlando ACA Conference encouraged and focused on the future of NAAWS. The NAAWS suite had a steady flow of members willing to commit to take the organization to the next level. I have received positive comments from ACA Executive Director, James Gondles who pledged his support during this transitional period. As always, I end my article with this. We must remain diligent about recruiting new members; however, we must also ensure that we have a strong foundation in order for us to continue to share our mission and vision with others. New members are the life line to the future of corrections and I want NAAWS' voice to continue to be a strong voice that is sought after and heard when it comes to corrections issues.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to be the president of this great organization. I look forward to seeing you in Tempe, Arizona for the NAAWS Conference.

*The Correctional Management Institute of Texas in partnership with NAAWS*



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From the desk of...

*The Executive Director* 

Gloria Hultz

Well, we certainly had a very cool time in Orlando. So much was accomplished, and I think we are well on our way for growth and retention of members. I have asked Peter Grande, Charles Albino, Todd Thomas, and Mel Williams to look at our by-laws and give them the structure most by-laws fall under and follow Robert's Rule of Order. I really want to leave NAAWS as solid as it can be. We are one of the most dynamic associations ACA has and we are the leaders of tomorrow, so continue to work as an association and not for one's gain up the ladder. Together we can make a difference; alone you can do nothing!

Cathy Linaweaver is doing a great job with the Tempe, Arizona conference. She not only has great sessions, but great evening entertainment for us. The Host Committee has been outstanding.

Kathleen Gerbing from New York State Department of Correction and Community Supervision has been selected as our Warden of the Year. She is an active member in NAAWS. Our Medal of Valor winners are Laticia Zamora Martinez, Case Manager at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago, Illinois. CO Paul Nielson, CO Jesse Shookley, and CO Lester Ball from the Tennessee Department of Corrections. All nominations were outstanding and NAAWS was pleased with the amount of states participating.

Thank you for all of your support. In addition, we have future programs we are working on to enhance and draw new members in. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

## NAAWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2018

### 1. Welcome

Meeting called to order by President Welch and members introduced themselves

### 2. Approval of August 21, 2017 Minutes

Minutes from this meeting were published in the The Grapevine. Gail Heller, Executive Treasurer introduced a change needed to the amount approved to be donated to CAYSA from \$600 to \$1500.

*Motion: To approve the minutes as published in the Grapevine with a change to the amount to be donated to CAYSA from \$600 to \$1500 (Matthews, Lineaweaver)*

*MOTION APPROVED*

### 3. E.R. Cass Recipient Announcement

ACA Executive Director Jim Gondles, on behalf of himself, Dr. Betty Gondles and ACA President Lannette Linthicum (all in attendance) announced that NAAWS Past President Pat Caruso would be a recipient of the 2018 E.R Cass Award. President Welch, on behalf of NAAWS, and all members in attendance congratulated Ms. Caruso on her achievement. Ms. Caruso expressed her gratitude to NAAWS and spoke about NAAWS being an integral part of her growth as a warden.

### 4. Executive Treasurer's Report

All meeting participants received a copy of the financial report from August 15, 2017 to December 31, 2017, which was reviewed in detail by Executive Treasurer, Gail Heller. The association continues to do well financially and has a current balance in all accounts of \$46,013.07.

*MOTION: To accept the financial report as presented (Linaweaver, Caruso)*

*MOTION APPROVED*

### 5. Executive Director's Report

a. Warden of Year Recipient - Kathy Gerbing, NY

b. Four Medal of Valor Recipients – Pat Keohane, Chair, presented information on each

i. Latisha Zamora Martinez, Metro Federal Bureau of Prisons – Held hostage by inmate

ii. Paul Nelson, TN DOC – Stabbed in line of duty

iii. Jessie Shoply, TN DOC – Stabbed in line of duty

iv. Lester Ball, TN DOC – Stabbed in line of duty

c. Executive Director Hultz stated that the requests for nominations went out by email and that she received many responses from the emails. The email requests are working.

### 6. Membership Report

a. Report given by Mike Graziano, Chair

b. Total Membership is at 941 with 188 past due 1.5 years, 113 past due by one year, 122 past due by six months, 90 members past due as of first of this year. Recently deleted approximately 70 members off the rolls who were past due greater than two years. Flyers, emails, and post card reminders are being sent. Email reminders seem to work best if email addresses are current.

c. Conversation regarding membership being down across many organizations and the need to reach out to directors and new wardens. The possibility of recurring automatic payments being allowed through PayPal was discussed. Deleting members off the rolls sooner was also discussed.




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**MINUTES** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

d. President Welch stated he'd been in touch with Southern States Correctional Association (SSCA) about going to their conference in July to help recruit members and that he would be going to the Ohio Wardens Superintendents Association (OWSA) conference to assist in recruiting/retaining NAAWS Ohio members.

e. Past-President Todd Thomas stated that he has received confirmation that Hawaii will be coming to Tempe, Arizona for the conference.

*MOTION: To accept the membership report as presented (Thomas, Shumann)*

*MOTION APPROVED*

## 7. Conference Update

a. Report given by Cathy Linaweaver, Chair

b. Seven people from Arizona serving as the host committee and doing a great job. Cathy thanked Todd and Kevin for their assistance.

c. Brochures for conference including the topics and presenters were located in the NAAWS Hospitality Suite and information has been placed on the website.

d. The agenda is full, however there were many additional requests received from presenters. There are several presenters who are back logged and who may be able to present at the 2019 conference. Will work to put an application process in place for 2019 where those who wish to present can submit requests online.

e. Received great responses from directors who agreed to be on the Director's Panel.

f. Ms. Linaweaver announced that she spoke at the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) Business Meeting, where she thanked those in attendance for sending in nominations for Warden of the Year and Medal of Valor and also for their

participation in being presenters and speakers for

the NAAWS conferences and for supporting the participation of their staff who will be presenters. Believes there is a heightened awareness of the conference this year.

g. Top Golf will be the off-site event at the conference. A vendor has agreed to sponsor the majority of the cost with members only paying \$20 to attend. There will also be a musical act on Tuesday night.

h. Vendor Coordinator Pat Keohane stated that he has good interest from vendors in participating and is looking forward to a good turnout.

i. Conference Coordinator Deb Schuman stated that members need to book their hotel room by March. Links to all the conference information is on the website.

j. Past-President Todd Thomas stated that the hotel does have a shuttle from the airport and if needed he can help arrange transportation for conference attendees.

## 8. Grapevine/Website update

Mel Williams stated that the Grapevine is available on-line now and that articles for the next edition are needed and should be sent to him.

## 9. Make-a-Smile

Don Dease stated that the next projects would be in Louisiana in the cities of Albany and Clinton. Make-a-Smile is looking at going back to New Orleans for the 10th anniversary of the park completed there after the widespread destruction of Hurricane Katrina. A final date for the projects will be set at the Tempe conference.

## 10. New Business

a. Cathy Linaweaver introduced the idea of doing

**MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

podcast in partnership with Sam Houston University to get younger members interested in NAAWS. Creating an app was also discussed.

b. President Welch stated that letters would be sent to all members regarding a "State of NAAWS" Meeting at the Tempe conference where succession planning and bringing in new members would be discussed. He also stated that he would set up a by-laws committee to complete a review of the organizations by-laws. It was discussed, and Peter Grande volunteered to do this. President Welch will appoint members to assist him.

c. Discussion was had regarding the appointment of new officers. President Welch stated this would also be discussed at the "State of NAAWS" Meeting at the conference in Tempe, Arizona.

d. Chuck Kehoe stated that in the fall the Interna-

tional Corrections and Prisons Association would be having their conference in Montreal, Canada and that it may be a good idea for NAAWS to have a presence at the conference. He also suggested a workshop that NAAWS could propose on the differences and similarities of being a Warden/Superintendent of a juvenile facility versus an adult facility.

e. Cathy Linaweaver stated that the deadline for submission for ACA workshops is March 1, 2018 and discussion was had regarding NAAWS putting together a proposal for a workshop on this topic.

f. President Welch opened the floor to Past-Presidents to give comments. No comments were made.

**11. Adjournment**

*Motion: To adjourn (Caruso, Matthews)*

*MOTION APPROVED*

**MAKE A SMILE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

was one of the many wonderful meals that we received while we were there, not only from Tabor, but from the people of Fairmont also. We worked hard and were fed great Carolina BBQ! Mike Hynes dealt directly with Play Time, the playground company. Volunteers cleaned out the restroom building and then attacked it with brushes and paint. The concrete on the basketball court was repaired. Once the play set arrived everyone jumped in.

On Wednesday, many volunteers arrived from the North Carolina Department of Corrections and worked hard all day. There was a large paint crew created who painted the entire fence around the baseball field. A crew also went to the second park to put in a concrete floor for a picnic shelter and install a horseshoe court.

Of course the heart of our projects is always our dedicated volunteers. They come from all over the country giving their blood, sweat, tears, and finances to help a community in need.

A special thanks goes out to some of our generous sponsors including NAAWS, Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Core Civic, American Correctional Association, Louisiana Department of Corrections, Jenny Nakamoto, Pat Caruso, Louisiana Wardens Association, Wisconsin Correctional Association, inmates at Rayburn C.F., and the wonderful individual donors from around the country.

Make-A-Smile is a part of NAAWS, and NAAWS members should feel good in knowing that they helped a small community, struck by severe flooding, in restoring two parks and helping to provide a safe, fun place for their children and families!



**MAKE A  
SMILE**

[www.make-a-smile.org](http://www.make-a-smile.org)




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## **THE TOPICS.....THE PRESENTERS.....THE SPECIAL EVENTS..... WHO WOULD WANT TO MISS THE 2018 NAAWS CONFERENCE?!**

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That's right! The 2018 NAAWS Conference, April 30-May 4, 2018, in Tempe, Arizona, will be covering some of the most relevant topics currently trending in today's corrections. The topics will include medically assisted treatment for opiate addiction, managing the legal challenges of the ACLU, the increasing challenge of managing inappropriate inmate sexual behavior, and much, much more!

Due to popular demand, we are bringing back the Director's Panel. Seven leaders from across the country – federal, state, county, and private corrections will all be represented by their top leadership to discuss the most prevalent issues and demands their agencies are currently facing. These presenters will offer their ideas and suggestions for moving forward. No other time, will such a group of amazing leaders ever sit on a stage together to share their wealth of knowledge and insight into the future. You will not want to miss this!

If that's not enough to peak your interest in this year's conference, how about one night of exquisite in-

house dining that also includes entertainment from a local country music and recording artist, followed by a second night of three hours of non-stop fun and entertainment at Top Golf in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona. The Top Golf revolution has taken the country over like wild fire, and it's all ours for the taking on Wednesday night of the conference. What would normally be over an \$80 event, which includes a full buffet, is available to those conference attendees who sign-up in advance for the nominal cost of only \$20 per person. This is an amazing opportunity no one will want to pass up!

Register now for the 2018 NAAWS conference by going to [www.naawsonline.org](http://www.naawsonline.org) or by contacting Gail Heller at [gheller214@columbus.rr.com](mailto:gheller214@columbus.rr.com) or by phone at 614-736-9676. If you have questions about any of the workshops or presenters, please refer to the website or contact Cathy Linaweaver, Program Coordinator at [clinaweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:clinaweaver@yahoo.com) or by calling 816-213-3784.

See You There!

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# Membership Application

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