



Make-A-Smile

make-a-smile.org

During the first week of October, Make A Smile Volunteers descended on Louisiana. A year and a half before devastating floods had struck a wide path from Baton Rouge throughout the countryside. For Make A Smile it was a ten-year return to Louisiana as they had been there ten years before building and restoring three parks after Katrina. This time there were two communities chosen who needed help.

The first community was Albany, which is a small town east of Baton Rouge. There had never been a town park in Albany until two high school students took it upon themselves to petition the community and then the school board to give them land. They created a website and started to raise money. Then the flood hit and everything stopped. Kay Landry, a local real estate agent, kept the dream alive. Warden Bobby Tanner from Rayburn Correctional Center and his crew of Correctional Officer Staff have been on every Make A Smile project across the country. This time they were less than an hour away and they came in to build a new bathroom building. Make A Smile Volunteers from around the country, Prison Wardens, Supervisors, Line Staff, and Retirees built a new playground and put together equipment that had been previously purchased. The community welcomed Make A Smile with



open arms supplying meals, a place to stay and volunteers. Students from the high school jumped right in. The town maintenance department and the Mayor were very supportive. In two and a half days Albany had a new park!

From Albany, Make A Smile volunteers drove to the town of Clinton, which is less than an hour away. Sheriff Travis, a former Louisiana Warden and a NAAWS member, asked for help on an old park that the flood just made worse. The Mayor, Lori Ann Bell, who lives near the park, welcomed Make A Smile with open arms. Warden Jason

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Robert Welch



What a wonderful American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference we had in New Orleans, LA. As usual, ACA made it a conference to remember not only because of the famous Bourbon Street or trying to figure how to pronounce Tchoupitoulas Street but also because of the exceptional speakers and events ACA is known

world-wide for providing. We thank James and Elizabeth Gondles for always being supportive of NAAWS and for the exceptional job they continue to do for all corrections professionals.

During the NAAWS business meeting we took the opportunity to discuss policies and procedures within the organization with an emphasis on finding ways to ensure that we are operating in an effective and efficient manner that provides a solid foundation and ensures the organization's stability moving forward. The Elected Officers and Board of Directors have continued the process outside of the business meeting and continue to look at various aspects of the NAAWS operating procedures. As a member, we value your input most of all. If you have any suggestions feel free to contact myself, the Executive Director, or any elected officer. The NAAWS Executive Staff continues to work hard in planning this year's annual training conference in Niagara Falls, New York, from June 3 – 6, 2019. An outstanding agenda has been developed and I encourage all to attend. Executive Director Mel Williams, Executive Treasurer Tanisha Matthews, Business Partner Coordinator, Nancy Bolton, and Event Coordinator, Deborah Schuman have worked together to put on a conference

that everyone will enjoy. If you have not registered yet, I recommend you so do quickly. You can go to the NAAWS website, naawsonline.org, for all the details.

Just a few short weeks after the NAAWS conference ACA will host their 149th Congress of Corrections in Boston, MA, from August 1 – 6, 2019, where the Warden of the Year and the Medal of Valor recipients will be honored. The 2019 Warden of the Year is Warden Herrera from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the Medal of Valor recipients are Nicolas Wilson and Adam Williamson from Core Civic.

Executive Director Mel Williams and his team are planning an amazing event and we hope that not only NAAWS members will attend but also anyone who wishes to recognize the amazing work accomplished and bravery shown by those being honored. Information regarding how to purchase tickets for the event will be forth coming.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate Mary Livers, Ph.D. of Louisiana and Dave Donahue of Florida, for receiving this years' "E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement" award. Both awardees are respected leaders and both are members of NAAWS. This speaks to the level of leadership and professional within our organization. We congratulate them and encourage NAAWS members to show up to support them when they receive their awards at ACA.

In closing, my goal is for NAAWS to remain committed to being a strong voice on the national level in the field of corrections. You will see both new and familiar faces within NAAWS but the mission has not and will not change. We are here to support and advocate for Wardens and Superintendents. I look forward to seeing everyone in Niagara Falls and again in Boston.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

Robert Welch

MAKE-A-SMILE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kent from Dixon Correctional Institute was tremendous in that his facility housed, fed, and supported the volunteers. He also spent three days working on site building baseball dugouts for the kids. He was great! Make A Smile



volunteers installed a new playground, restored a small building which houses bathrooms and storage, built new baseball dugouts, restored the baseball diamond, painted fences and equipment, and gave the park a general clean up. Neighborhood adults and kids jumped in to help and could not wait to use their restored park.

With out the support of James LeBlanc, Louisiana Department of Corrections Secretary, and the support from staff we could not have accomplished these two projects. Donations from around the country allowed for the purchase of new equipment for both parks.



Make A Smile Volunteers happily finished their week long work then attended the Rodeo at Angola Prison. Eight days after arriving in Louisiana they went home knowing that they had helped children and families from two communities! These volunteers, who selflessly give of their own time and talent, understand that we are successful if we can prevent one child from coming into one of our places.

Make A Smile goes into communities to help restore their parks and playgrounds after a natural disaster. When communities are trying to recover often times parks and playgrounds have to wait. For more information on how you can support Make A Smile or volunteer please go to make-a-smile.org.

NAAWS  

2019
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY
JUNE 3 - 6, 2019

visit naawsonline.org
for more information or to register

from the desk of...

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEL WILLIAMS

As your new Executive Director, I feel very grateful for this opportunity to help manage this excellent association. NAAWS has been the face of Wardens and Superintendents for over 40 years.

I have been using the time since my appointment in August to build a new team and get our finances in order. Nancy Bolton has joined our team as the new Vendor Coordinator. She will facilitate and coordinate our relationships with our Business Partners. Nancy recently retired from Bufford Satellite Systems, where she was a Senior Sales Rep. Bufford Satellite Systems is a long-time supporter of NAAWS and Nancy has been a long-time friend of NAAWS. With her enthusiasm, knowledge, and understanding of our Business Partners she will be a great addition to our team! Information on how to become a NAAWS Business Partner can be found on our website or by contacting Nancy at nbolton1966@gmail.com.

In addition to Nancy, we have another new member of our team, Susan Jones. Susan is a retired Warden out of Colorado and an active writer. She will be our new "In The Trenches Coordinator." We have not updated our new Warden's training manual in quite some time and Susan (with your help) will be putting together "In The Trenches, Volume III." We need your articles. Susan can be reached at sjccanyoncity@gmail.com for more information.

We have been very busy these last few months. We had a great conference at ACA in New Orleans. We supported some great workshops, connected with friends, co-workers, correctional professionals, and our business part-



ners. Our suite was a busy place where a lot of networking took place and new associations were made. We selected Warden Robert Herrera, a longtime correctional facility manager, as Warden of the Year for 2019. He is a Warden from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. In addition, we selected two facility maintenance workers, Nicolas Wilson and Adam Williamson from Core Civic, who came to the rescue of an officer, as Medal of Valor recipients.

Our Annual Training Conference is fast approaching on June 3-6. This year it is being held at Niagara Falls, New York. There will be

great presentations and excellent chances to network with Correctional Managers from across the U.S. and Canada. Anne Kelly, the Commissioner of Correctional Services Canada, will be joining us. Anthony Annucci Acting Commissioner, NYDOCCS, Dave Donahue Senior Vice President of GEO, and Heidi E. Washington Michigan DOC Commissioner, will be joining Commissioner Kelly on a forum on current issues in our field. Chef Jeff, world-renowned chef, speaker, and former inmate will be our guest speaker. More details can be found on our website.

Hope to see you there!

As Wardens, Superintendents, and Correctional Professional representing all facets of corrections we need your help. We need your voice to speak for our field and the issues that you face every day. NAAWS can be the channel for your voice through our strong membership, newsletters, website, training conferences, advocacy, and networking.

THE ANNUAL NAAWS TRAINING CONFERENCE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The Annual NAAWS Training Conference is being held at Niagara Falls, NY this June 3-6. The program features world renown speaker "Chef Jeff," a Commissioners panel with Canadian Commissioner Anne Kelly, GEO VP Dave Donahue, New York Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci, and Michigan Commissioner Heidi Washington. Presentations include Current Issues in the Correction Service of Canada, The Escape from Dannemora, The Crossroads of Vision and Culture, Leading Through a Storm, Synthetic and Controlled Substance Analogs, and The Path to Eliminating Restrictive Housing in Delaware. There will also be many of our business partners to present their latest offerings.

The host hotel, The Doubletree, is a new hotel with spacious rooms, great services, and friendly staff. It is located on the Niagara River where you can walk along the rapids all the way to the Falls in 10 minutes.

There will be golf on Monday, June 3. There will also be a special dinner on Wednesday night on the Canadian side of the Falls at the Skylon Tower overlooking the Falls. Buses provided by MCI will be providing transportation. On Thursday we will go to Attica Correctional Facility for a tour.

For only \$195 early registration you will have a complete registration including meals, breaks, and a great training program!

Hope to see you at NAAWS at Niagara!

For Questions or to Register

www.naawsonline.org

Mel Williams, NAAWS Executive Director

mwilliams@naaws.net

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WE'VE GOT A LOT MORE STEPS TO TAKE IN CORRECTIONS

by: Percy Pitzer, Creative Corrections Education Foundation, Former Warden, Federal Bureau of Prisons

With the recent passage of the First Step Act by Congress we finally have some attention being paid to the massive federal prison system, but the step is a small one and needs to be done to fix our country's overreliance on incarceration. I've spent over 45 years in corrections, working my way up from a Correctional Officer to a Warden, and watched as the federal prison system grew from fewer than 40,000 prisoners to over 200,000, with many of the state prison populations following suit. The First Step Act is a positive move, but it will reduce the federal prison population by less than 8% and will have no impact at all on the other two million state prisoners and two million people under correctional supervision of some form.

Modifying sentencing laws, improving good time incentives for program completions, and investing in reentry programs are all very positive steps, but the effects will be marginal. We need major steps that address current and future prison populations and that deal with moving away from incarceration as the default response to community problems.

We need to completely relook at the basis for prison sentences. No business would make costly decisions without understanding the costs associated with those decisions and examining whether those costs are likely to produce the desired payoff. But that is what happens in most prison systems, where sentencing laws are based

more on political agendas or emotional responses. We need a researched-based business model to calculate the benefits compared to costs for different sentencing laws. For example, if a 10 year sentence for drug distribution has the desired effects, then why should we give a 15 year sentence for that offense? Those extra five years means that we just added nearly \$200,000 in incarceration costs for that one inmate without significant benefit and imposed untold human costs as well. Even though law enforcement is a public safety decision at its core, it is also a fiscal one.

We need to completely relook at inmate employment during incarceration. Preparing prisoners for reentry through evidence-based programming is a good thing, until returning offenders face the reluctance of employers to hire them, the low paying opportunities presented to them, and the difficulties in finding housing and essential services such as follow-up mental health and drug treatment.

Decades of overcrowding in our prisons means that much of the inmate population works only a few hours a day and much of this is make-work. Prisons industries are the closest thing to "real world" work, but opportunities here are highly limited. We need broader employment during incarceration, in jobs that mirror those in the community and that provide inmates a sense of self-

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ACA
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149th Congress of Correction
Boston, MA | August 1-6, 2019

VISIT WWW.ACA.ORG/REGISTER FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

WE'VE GOT A LOT MORE STEPS TO TAKE IN CORRECTIONS *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6*

worth and better transition upon return. The solution is public private partnerships (with eyes wide open to the 19th century abuses of prison labor), that allow private sector companies inside. Prison employment would be better served by a for-profit mentality that will actively seek markets that do not impact US workers, create a more realistic work environment for prisoners, and be driven to be productive and employ as many inmates as practicable. To enhance the realism of the work experience, we should consider paying prisoners community wage rates to work and require that they pay for their lodging in addition to child support, court ordered fines, and restitution and save for their return back home.

Most importantly we need make community investments to attack some of the underlying issues that contribute to incarceration rates – particularly drug addiction and mental illness. Police departments and the criminal justice system are not the ideal solutions to these issues, and prison is certainly not the ideal environment for treating the high incidence of mental ill-

ness and addiction in our prison populations. We need to invest in community treatment up front to head off the root causes of some incarceration instead of continuing to spend billions of dollars a year annually in back-end incarceration costs. We also need to invest in the 1.7 million children who have one or more parents who are incarcerated. Research indicates that these children are five times more likely to end up in prison than their peers. There is a great concern that we will have long term inter-generational incarceration. Small investments in these children will pay human and financial dividends for decades. This is why I founded the Creative Corrections Education Foundation (www.creativecorrectionaleducationfoundation.org) that provides scholarship money directly to vocational schools, community colleges, and universities where children of incarcerated parents attend.

I'm sure there are many other steps that need to be taken. The key is to keep the momentum going from the First Step Act.

The Correctional Management Institute of Texas in partnership with NAAWS



October 7 – 11, 2019 • Huntsville, Texas

Contact Ashley Koonce at koonce@shsu.edu or 936-294-1706
apply at www.cmitonline.org

NAAWS BOARD MEETING MINUTESJanuary 14, 2019

1. WELCOME

Meeting called to order by President Welch and members introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM August 7, 2018.

Minutes approved and published in The Grapevine.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT- Tanisha Matthews.

- Checking account opened with \$100.00
- Ms. Matthews acknowledged some donations during the conference
- Questions about CD account from the past
- Acknowledgement that Ms. Matthews and Mr. Williams have yet to be paid
- Jewell Freeman is sharing the internal audit that she conducted, she expressed how to implement new practices and policies going forward to increase fiscal liability
- Questions about actual account balances by Ed Banks were answered by Mr. Williams

4. NEW BUSINESS

- Questions about sponsorship by Charles Albino were answered by Mr. Williams, expressing most of the current vendors are still donating and there are new vendors that are interested
- Ms. Gudwin addressed methods to increase the membership. Responses from Mr. Williams and Ms. Matthews
- Ms. Gerbing addressed better record keeping

5. 2019 CONFERENCE UPDATE

Mr. Williams expressed his gratitude to the Board and his vision to see the organization moving forward in a positive direction.

- Acknowledge ACA and Executive Director Gondles assisting with 2019 conference accommodations
- He is seeking new members to assist with training, conference planning and vendor recruitment
- Seeking to network with ASCA and having a great conference in Niagara Falls
- President Welch expressed having the awards presentation at the annual conference in lieu of the ACA conference
- Registration is now open for the Niagara conference
- Conference date is June 3rd to June 6th, 2019
- Ms. Schumann explained the Double Tree in Niagara Falls is the host Hotel for the conference
- Daily rates are \$94.00
- Block of 80 rooms
- Comp room for every 40 rooms booked
- At least 64 rooms must be booked

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NAAWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

January 14, 2019

6. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

- President Welch acknowledged the process to be nominated and elected for Warden and Medal of Valor.
- Incorporate more members to be a part of the process
- Getting the word out to get more nominees
- Nominate someone for the President’s award
- President Welch expressed that there are no discussions to change by laws

All attendees expressed their opinions on methods to increase membership.

Mr. Russell Washburn expressed scheduling the Hospitality Suite at different times and days during the ACA conference.

President Welch expressed implementing more social media

Motion to move Vehock to membership chair by Ms. Matthews, second by Todd Thomas
Motion passed.

7. GRAPEVINE/WEBSITE UPDATES

- Mr. Dretke expressed increasing the use of The Grapevine and having a newsletter.
- Mr. Albino discussed other ways to implement The Grapevine

Mr. Williams made motion to have the 2020 conference in Texas, targeting San Antonio

Motion passed

Meeting Adjourned at 5 PM

Mr. Williams stated the Make A Smile project in Baton Rouge, La. was fulfilling, grateful and continuous to do. Ms. Gerbing agrees.

Burl Cain will be on the board of directors.

Ms. Banks was approved to be the Sergeant of Arms.

Ms. Gerbing expressed her gratitude for being the past Warden of the year, stated it was very rewarding. She also expressed better use of the budget.

Mr. Thomas expressed the cause and effect of the decreasing membership.

PATRICK KEOHANE'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

If Pat Keohane is in a room with a thousand people, wardens are well-represented; even if he is the only warden in the room. If one is searching for a person of true impact, you need look no further than Pat Keohane. Anyone who ever worked for him, still calls him "Boss" or "Warden." Anyone who was ever around him for any time at all, calls him "Friend." And often, those are the same people.

In a surprise party coordinated by Ann and his children, Pat Keohane recently celebrated his 75th Birthday with family and friends at his home in Nixa, MO, the "Show Me" state. And "Show Me" he has; to countless numbers of corrections folk around the Country. As warden, NAAWS leader, ACA Auditor, and as mentor and friend, Paddy has left his indelible mark on the profession. Wardens who want to be thought of as good wardens must, out of necessity, compare themselves to Warden Keohane, or they have not passed muster.

Paddy is a gentle and kind human being. He inspires people. He encourages everyone. And when necessary, he has scared some folks. It seems he has a meaningful story for every problem and every situation. But he always has a sympathetic ear for anyone in need. Always.

His Birthday Celebration was classic. His corrections and NAAWS friends were represented; some were there, others called or sent messages. There was a tremendous

outpouring of thanks for everything he has done for, and meant to, so many. His family put together a moving slideshow of pictures and memories, all set to Paddy's favorite music, displaying his handsome face and beautiful family through the generations. It was a perfect illustration of the happiest of emotions and memories.



As highly as most of us have regarded Paddy over the years for what he does for corrections and wardens, it seems to pale in comparison to how he has nurtured and raised his wonderful family. It was amazing to witness how they interacted with their beloved Pat. His family greets him with hugs and kisses, like he was the best thing that ever happened to them. He is "Grandpa" to all of his grandkids and anyone they happen to show up at his home with. The emotions and love displayed by this family during his Birthday Celebration was extremely touching. He is truly loved, and he truly knows how to love. It is really difficult to fathom just how lucky we are to have him in

our fellowship.

When Pat had the floor on his day, he had only a few words. He wanted to thank the people around him for making his life so special. No doubt he believes that with all his heart; but we all know the truth: our lives are more special because he is in them.

Happy Birthday, Paddy! And many, many more to come!

NAAWS
Correctional Management Institute of Texas
George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, TX 77341-2296



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