

The Southern Concourse

SPRING 2019



Spotlight on:

- **SSCA Summer Conference Celebrating 50 Years!**
- **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary at Whitworth Women's Facility**
- **Braille Program Changes Lives**





Southern States Correctional Association

SSCA OFFICERS



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SSCA STATE REPRESENTATIVES



ALABAMA

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Retired

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Lafayette District Office

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Kevin Jackson (20)

Mississippi Department of Corrections

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kjackson@mdoc.state.ms.us

FLORIDA

Position vacant

NORTH CAROLINA

Position vacant



GEORGIA

Stacy Rivera (19)

Georgia Department of Corrections

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(706) 580-5308

Stacy.rivera@gdc.ga.gov

OKLAHOMA

Position vacant



KENTUCKY

DeEdra Hart (19)

Kentucky Department of Corrections

PO Box 9300

Central City, KY 42330

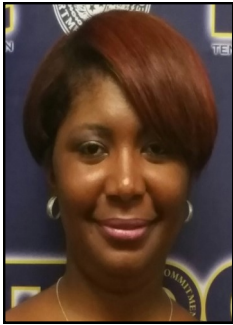
(270) 754-5415

Deedra.hart@ky.gov

SOUTH CAROLINA

Position vacant

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TEXAS

Position vacant

WEST VIRGINIA

Position vacant

The SSCA State Representatives are elected by members of each state to be their spokesperson to the SSCA Executive Board. Please direct questions or suggestions you may have regarding your chapter to the representative of your state.

TDOC Assists Local Law Enforcement with Compliance Checks

An article acquired from the TDOC Connection, submitted by Lorraine Rea



It is our mission to enhance public safety in Tennessee. But we are not the only law enforcement agency in the state with that mission. However, we are the largest. And that means those other agencies, from time to time need our assistance. We proudly partner with our local law enforcement partners throughout the state to ensure that the overall mission – safer communities and a safer overall Tennessee – is achieved.

Recently, seven sex offenders were arrested in Carter County following a two-day countywide sex offender registry compliance check operation.

The suspects were charged with a variety of offenses, including unlawful possession of weapons, Schedule VI drug violations, and violations of sexual offender registration laws. Twelve weapons were seized by law enforcement during the operation.

Several TDOC PPOs' and Apprehension Enforcement Agents assisted in the operation, providing intel and manpower among other resources. Multiple other agencies worked cooperatively on the compliance checks, including TBI, the US Marshals Service, the Elizabethton Police Department, and the Carter County Sheriff's Office.

The Southern Concourse is the official publication of the Southern States Correctional Association and is published quarterly (September, November, February and May). Any material submitted for publishing should reach the editor at least 30 days before the month of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit, change or decline any material submitted for publication.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The clock moves quickly. July will be here before you know it. And it will be time for the annual Summer Conference. Between now and then, though, we have some work to do. Membership work. The current number of members is approximately 1,700. That's great, especially considering it was in the 900s a few years ago.

woot!
woot!

We all deserve a nice pat on the back for the increase, but we're not going to spend a lot of time congratulating ourselves. Not just yet. We're going to hold off until the membership tops 2,000. This isn't some pie-in-the-sky dream; it's a realistic goal. If just 20% of current members bring in a new member, we're there with some room to spare. If 25% recruit a member, we're top the goal by 125 members. When you do the math, you realize just how close we are.

SSCA is such a wonderful organization, and it offers so many opportunities to its members. Networking, collaboration, friendships, and of course, training. If you're a veteran member, think back to your very first training conference. You met a ton of people, shared a lot of stories, and learned so many new things. As a bonus, you were able to savor the hospitality and culture of another slice of the south. Maybe you tossed a mullet in Mississippi or saw greyhounds race in the West Virginia snow or ate huge shrimp in Alabama or spicy gumbo in Louisiana. You might have even seen Al Capone's car or a steaming natural spring in Arkansas. Wherever you went and whatever you did, you still remember it all. Because SSCA and what it provides leaves a lasting impression.

For those of you coming to Hot Springs this summer, rest assured that we're going to pull out all the stops to make everyone feel at home. The training sessions will be top shelf. You'll hear from Larry Brown, whose son went from being an addict lying in a pool of his own blood to a Navy Seal chasing the Taliban. Lt. John Bean will introduce you to CRASE, the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, and how it's teaching civilians how to delay the shooter and prevent casualties. Patty Sims will be there to show you cutting edge technology that links offenders to an online world of jobs, resources, and services.

And that's just a piece of what we're planning. If we do it right, the 2019 Summer Conference will be an epic event. We hope to see everyone there. Bring yourself, your co-workers, and your family. And remember, new members are welcome and highly encouraged.



Call For Candidates

State Representative

The Following States Have Representatives with Terms Expiring or Have Expired in 2019: **Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia.**

Each member state shall select one of its regular members to serve as State Representative on the Executive Board. The term of the elected State Representative shall be three years. Candidate applications shall be received by the Nominating Committee, screened for eligibility by established criteria, and provided for vote to be selected by a caucus of the appropriate state's regular members. A regular member is any person employed in or honorably retired from any area of the criminal justice system within the borders of the member's state. Only regular members are eligible to vote, hold office in, or be a representative of the Association.

To be eligible for State representative you must have:

1. At least two (2) years of continuous active regular membership in SSCA
2. Time available to devote to the Association's business
3. A willingness to work towards the expansion of SSCA
4. Demonstrated knowledge of and working involvement in the Association; i.e. serving on committees, participating in the program, pursuing additional members, developing articles for the Southern Concourse.

To apply for State Representative you must submit the following to the chairman of the SSCA Nominating Committee:

1. A cover letter indicating your intent to be considered, an affirmation/explanation that you meet the eligibility criteria, and why you are seeking the post;
 2. A current resume/Vita;
 3. Letters (one each) of support from your agency/department administrator and your immediate supervisor.
-

Spotlight on SSCA Member Vanessa Kennedy



Kentucky Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner Randy White announced on March 22, 2019 that Vanessa Kennedy has been named warden at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) in Pewee Valley.

“Vanessa Kennedy is a highly skilled corrections professional whose 20-year career has spanned management experience in multiple state correctional institutions,” said White. “She brings many years of unique experience in managing the needs of female felony offenders to her new assignment.”

Kennedy began her career in January 1999 at KCIW, first working at the institution as a transportation officer. She immediately began moving up the ranks, first in security, and then in the programming side of the prison. She has held nearly all the job posts at the institutional level and her service includes managing the prison’s Assessment Center. She is also a certified hostage negotiator and was a member of the KCIW Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT).

In 2010 Kennedy was promoted to deputy warden at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. She assisted that prison during its conversion from a men’s medium-security prison to a female institution. In 2015 she came back to KCIW to serve as deputy warden and held that role until being named warden.

“Every position I have held throughout my career has prepared me for this opportunity,” said Kennedy. “I am ready to lead our staff into the future and I am excited to make KCIW a leader in safety, programming, and reentry efforts for our justice-involved population.”

Kennedy has been recognized for outstanding service several times during her career. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where she received her bachelor’s degree in corrections and juvenile services. She also attended Sullivan University where she received her master’s degree, cum laude, in conflict management.

A native of Louisville, Kennedy is a member of KCCD (Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency), the Southern States Correctional Association and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

Congratulations

Call For Candidates

SSCA Secretary

Each year an individual is selected to serve as Secretary for SSCA. The Secretary is a member of the Executive Board and is responsible for recording the minutes of the Association and Board meetings. The Secretary must be able to attend all meetings and have the commitment required to perform the duties and responsibility of their position.

Persons interested in applying for these positions should send the required information to: Cookie Crews at SSCAJoin@aol.com.

Visit www.sscaweb.org and click on “Constitution/By Laws/SOP” to read more about SSCA Executive Board positions and duties.



2018 Taxes have been filed.

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Welcome **NEW MEMBERS**

Arkansas

Alice Abson
Martha Adams
Jasmine Ames
Blake Barnes
Stacie Battles
David Bayless
Ebony Beach
Allison Beard
Cember Bellomy
Aisha Bennett
Kameron Blevins
Hunter Boles
Bryce Boroughs
Syrna Bowers
Dexter Brady
Heather Bridges
Marsha Budnik
Fernando Burgos
Whitley Cates
Michael Chambers
Corey Charles
Natasha Charles
Vennie Clark
Donna Cobb
Warren Collier
Kenya Collins
Connie Cook
Courtney Cooper
Rebecca Coster
Paula Cox
Nickie Crockhon
Lori Culpepper
Casey Davidson
Elizabeth Davis

Lynn Delaney
Michael Diehl
Devon Ditto
Gerald Dodd
Lindsey Efir
Antwon Emsweller
Michael Fletcher
Shentericia Fletcher
Kimberly Frierson
Derreese Gaines
Tasha Gatewood
Jamie Gillum
Akquilla Golatt
Maurice Golatt
Lachar Gassett
Brian Gould
Carla Griswold
LaTonya Hall
Tracy Hall
John Hamilton
Cody Harlow
Cora Harris
Joel Harper
Pamela Wright Hayes
Joshua Craig Henley
Sara Hight
Jessica Hollingsheed
Kevin Holt
Kris Honey
David Honeycutt
Derrick Hopper
Becky Hutchinson
Chad Huff
Cynthis Hunter
Janetta Jackson
Tiffany Jackson

William James
Santrice Jefferson
John Jenkins
Doug Johnson
Gerald Johnson
Kizzy Johnson
Steven Johnson
Eric Keener
Christina Lambert
Jimmy Lamon
Cornelia Lasher
Kami Leger
Emily Lessie
Cody Lewis
Ashlie Linville
Terry Mapes
Lesia Marshall
Laken Martinez
Charles Maxwell
Tyshique Meadows
Robert Mcghee
Chambliss McKendree
Tyshique Meadows
Carl Miner
Keith Ming
Lanette Missman
Catherine Mize
Edward Moore
Layla Nelson
Mike Parker
Jessica Persons
Ashley Phillips
Wendi Phillips
Sidra Porchia
Justin Preacher
Dyleone Rancifer

Welcome **NEW MEMBERS**

Arkansas

Chris Ramey
Stephanie Redus
Emily Rhea
Marcus Rhineheart
Tonya Robinson
Terri Rogers
Tammy Rowland
Debra Ruff
Brittany Rutherford

Adam Ryan
Cameron Sailor
Darryel Sanders
Douglas Sell
Deandra Shepard
Asia Simons
Timothy Sivils
Hope Smith
Tracy Strain
Matthew Swift
Stormi Tabor
Marsheana Toney
Dixie Trowbridge
Linda White
Samuel White
Lois White
Abbudion Willroth
Christine Walker
Dalton Wallace
Sean Wallace
Lanita Wasson
Kevin Watson
Torri Weatherspoon
Cora West

Tomekia Williamson
Kendra Wold
Michele Metott-Works
Karen Yancy

Georgia

Thomas Boylan
LaTasha Browder
Phillip Burke
Anthony Cone
Heather Crowe
Machille Cunningham
Jose Rivera-Garcia
Laura Scott-Gist
Artigas Gregory
Angela Hill
Britney Hinson
Roshika Irving
Kiara Ivory
Christopher Smith
Nathan Ware
Dawn Young

Louisiana

Richard Berger
Beth Broussard
Nicloe Harrison
Bobby Lee Jr.
Michael Prejean II
Kylie Sands
Jessica Sharp
Lauren Skiles Outalet

Mississippi

Charles Powell
Daisy Rames
Lorn Richey

Tennessee

Brittany Anderson
Dillion Oster

thanks for
joining us!



We invite you to join us for Georgia Night in your best ROARING 20's attire as we focus our sights on the 2020 conference in beautiful Savannah Georgia



Monday, July 21st
@ 5:00 pm



Arlington Resort
Hotel & Spa – Hot
Springs Arkansas

GEORGIA 2020: Perfecting The Vision



Winter
Conference
February 6 - 9

Summer
Conference
July 17 - 22

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2020
CONFERENCE
IN GEORGIA



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\$130.00

Georgia Department of Corrections Offers Narcan Training Program to Officers

Working Together to Help Communities by Lori Benoit, Georgia Department of Corrections

The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) has taken a proactive approach and identified the need for training Correctional Officers and the Office of Professional Standards Criminal Investigation Division in the administration of emergency Narcan resuscitation.

Reports have indicated a nationwide rise in unintentional opioid related deaths, which prompted GDC officials to take proactive steps in supplying law enforcement personnel with Narcan to protect themselves, and any community members that may need our assistance.

“The GDC is committed to supporting efforts to reduce opioid related overdoses in the communities in which we serve,” Interim Commissioner, Timothy C. Ward said. “Our law enforcement personnel are eager to be trained and to assist in this vital role of first responder.”

These law enforcement personnel have been trained by the Department of Public Health to administer Narcan to a person suspected of experiencing an opiate related overdose.

Additionally, as required by HB96 and an amended OCGA 31-11-55.1, GDC has notified Emergency Medical Services throughout Georgia that GDC Officers are now equipped with the opioid antagonist –Narcan and may act as “first responders.”



Approximately 375 law enforcement personnel have completed the mandatory training and will be supplied with a multi-dose Narcan emergency kit.

About the Author: Lori Benoit graduated from North Georgia College and State University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She began her career with the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) in 2007 as an Activity Therapist at Lee Arrendale State Prison (LASP). During her tenure at LASP she served as a Behavioral Health Counselor, Chief Counselor and Program Development Consultant. In 2016, she was promoted to the GDC Education Unit, as the Charter School Programs Manager, and in 2018 she was promoted to Public Affairs Manager, where she currently serves.

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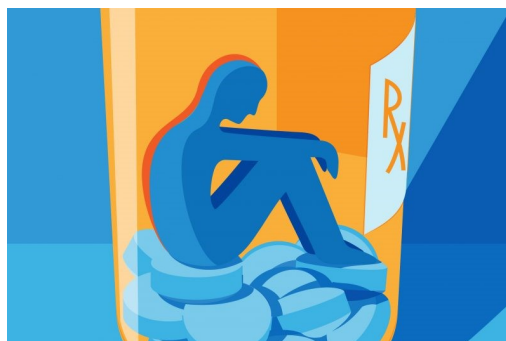
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Submitted by Arkansas Department of Corrections

With the opioid crisis raging across the county, more and more correctional agencies are adding some form of Medication Assisted Treatment, or MAT, which has been called the gold standard of addiction care. In Arkansas, MAT is available to the offender population of the state's community correction centers. Their treatment begins prior to release and continues while the offender is on community supervision.

MAT combines evidence-based therapy with anti-craving medications that have been approved by the FDA. Taking the addiction medication is similar to taking medicine for other chronic diseases or conditions. The research on MAT is clear; it works. In fact, various studies have shown that medication assisted treatment can cut the mortality rate of addiction in half. The Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the National Institute on Drug Abuse have acknowledged the medical value of MAT.

Arkansas Community Correction uses injections of naltrexone, which blocks the opioid receptors



in the brain. Naltrexone, more commonly known by the brand name Vivitrol, can be provided to center residents with severe opioid use disorder who voluntarily consent to participate in the treatment program. Residents are identified through the use of the Rapid Opioid Drug Dependence Screen that detects a potential need for Medication Assisted Treatment.

If dependence is indicated, the center residents are referred to a MAT counselor. The counselor educates the offenders about Vivitrol medication and explains the treatment program. If the residents voluntarily agree to participate in the program, they are referred to medical staff for further assessment. The subject matter expert nurse and doctor assess the residents for appropriateness for the medication.

After receiving medical approval, the residents receive 1-2 injections in the center, depending on the length of time remaining until their release. The program requires the

injections to be continued every 28 days along with substance abuse counseling for a minimum of six months after being paroled. For continuity of care and proper supervision, ACC officers and counselors and community providers are notified of an offender's participation prior to release on parole.

Since the program began July 1, 2018, more than 200 center residents have consented and requested to participate in the program from only the 3 pilot Centers. ACC has partnered with 14 community providers to assist with providing services to the MAT program participants. One of the participants is Brandi Duncan, a heroin addict who is still sober five months after release. Duncan has a full-time job and is living at a transitional house

"If I can successfully get off drugs and make a good way, then anyone can," said Duncan. She now has a full-time job and is attending four support group meetings a week.



Arkansas P&P Officers Cut the Cord

Submitted by Arkansas Department of Corrections

For the past year, Parole/Probation Officers with Arkansas Community Correction have been able to cut the cord that used to tie them to the agency's electronic offender data base. That's because officers are now using MAPPS, a mobile app designed to assist officers with offender supervision outside the confines of the office.



The MAPPS app allows officers to download caseload information to their phones at any time for easy access, regardless of whether they are at court, performing home visits on offenders in the field, or even answering phone calls from local law enforcement after hours.

Officers were able to put the app to use right away, "I had the opportunity to use it the first evening when I was contacted by a sheriff's department. The app was a life saver and saved me having to drive 10 plus miles back to the office to contact an offender. With the app, I was able to look up his phone numbers and make contact with him to determine that the guy they were filing a missing person report on was not my offender."

Another veteran officer said MAPPS makes the job much easier, "Using MAPPS, I can chrono the home visits as we make them. There are days that we may make a lot of home visits. Prior to MAPPS, I would have to return to the office to chrono what took place during these visits, and I had to take notes while in the field. This was very time consuming."

With the app's "Fastest Route" option, officers are able to organize and map out home visit lists in a matter of seconds, which saves valuable time by streamlining a formerly time-consuming, manual process.

Because the data is stored locally on the phone, it is accessible regardless of cell signal. This means officers in rural areas with poor cell service are still able to access vital caseload information remotely and quickly.





*Celebrating 50 Years
of Success
2019*



SUMMER CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, July 19, 2019:

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner – Exhibit Center 2nd Floor

Saturday, July 20, 2019:

9:00 a.m. Finance – Board Room - 1st Floor
Program – Hickory Meeting Room – 3rd Floor

10:00 a.m. SSCA Board Meeting – Crystal Ballroom – 2nd Floor
(Open to membership. Committee Chairs are expected to be present for Committee reports.)

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch – Exhibit Center 2nd Floor

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Executive Officer's Meeting – Board Room - 1st Floor

2:00 p.m. Host Committee - Crystal Ballroom – 2nd Floor
Time & Place – Maple Meeting Room – 4th Floor

3:00 p.m. Long Range Planning - Hickory Meeting Room – 3rd Floor
Resolution – Maple Meeting Room – 4th Floor

4:00 p.m. Vendor – Hickory Meeting Room – 3rd Floor
Nominating – Maple Meeting Room – 4th Floor

3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Early Conference Registration Open

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner – Exhibit Center 2nd Floor

Sunday, July 21, 2019:

6:45 a.m. Bus departs for Golf Tournament – Valet area

7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast – Exhibit Center 2nd Floor

7:30 a.m. Golf Registration Opens

9:00 a.m. David H. Williams – Hickory Meeting Room – 3rd Floor
Line Staff Awards - Maple Meeting Room – 4th Floor

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Conference Registration Open

10:00 a.m. Concourse – Hickory Meeting Room – 3rd Floor
Constitution & By-Laws – Maple Meeting Room – 4th Floor

11:00 a.m. P.C. Shields Award - Hickory Meeting Room – 3rd Floor

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Kenneth Law Scholarship – Maple Meeting Room – 4 th Floor
1:00 p.m.	Lunch – Exhibit Center 2nd Floor
	Catastrophic Weather Fund – Cypress Meeting Room – 2 nd Floor
	Research & Grant – Hickory Meeting Room – 3 rd Floor
2:00 p.m.	Membership - Hickory Meeting Room – 3 rd Floor
2:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Silent Auction Open – Cypress Meeting Room – 2 nd Floor
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	President's Reception in Exhibit Area

Monday, July 22, 2019:

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast - Exhibit Center 2nd Floor
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Conference Registration Open
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Training
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Silent Auction Open – Cypress Meeting Room – 2 nd Floor
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Director/Warden/Administrator Tour of Exhibit Area
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Vendor Exhibit Expo
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - Exhibit Center 2nd Floor
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Training
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Silent Auction Open – Cypress Meeting Room – 2 nd Floor
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Vendor Exhibit Expo
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Training
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Georgia Night
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Arkansas Night

Tuesday, July 23, 2019:

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast - Exhibit Center 2nd Floor
8:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Training
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Open & Closes - Cypress Meeting Room – 2 nd Floor
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - Exhibit Center 2nd Floor
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Training
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	SSCA Awards Banquet

Wednesday, July 24, 2019:

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast - Exhibit Center 2nd Floor
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Training
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	AAPPA Business Meeting – Board Room
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	SSCA Business Meeting – Crystal Ballroom

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Program at Whitworth Women's Facility

By Lori Benoit, Georgia Department of Corrections

The Georgia Department of Corrections and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) Leavell College Extension Center at Whitworth Women's Facility (WWF) held an open house on Wednesday, April 10 in Hartwell, Georgia. The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Leavell College Extension Center at WWF offers offenders a two-year, 76 semester hour Associate's degree in Christian Ministry and will be expanding to a four-year, 126 semester hour Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Ministry.

"These partnerships offer offenders an opportunity to gain new skills and tools that will assist them with making positive changes in their lives," said commissioner Timothy C. Ward of the Georgia Department of Corrections. "By working together for a common purpose, we allow offenders an opportunity to enter their communities as positive leaders."



Warden, Jodi Ford speaking to the inaugural class of students as they begin their studies.

At the ceremony, words of encouragement were provided by Board of Corrections Chairman, Alton Russell and former Governor Nathan Deal. Funding for the program is provided by the Heartbound Ministries. These fully accredited college degrees are designed to provide a broad foundation for ministry within the prison system and are based upon eight core competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Heritage, Servant Leadership, Interpersonal Relationships, Spiritual and Character Formation, Disciple Making, Worship Leadership and Life Skills.

In April 2007, NOBTS began offering classes at Phillips State Prison and has seen 56 graduates since its inception. In addition to earning a degree, the offenders minister within the Georgia prison system under the direction of a Chaplain and return to their communities as prepared leaders ready to evangelize and disciple their peers in the Christian faith and to minister to their peer's spiritual and temporal needs.



HeartBound

MINISTRIES

Lee Arrendale Hosts Equine Auction

GDC Partners with Dept. of Agriculture

By Lori Benoit, Georgia Department of Corrections

On March 16, the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Agriculture (DOA), hosted an Equine Auction at the Lee Arrendale State Prison (LASP) Equine Center in Alto, Ga., as part of a partnership to rescue and rehabilitate abused or neglected horses. More than \$2,000 was raised during the auction, and will be used to aid in the rehabilitation of horses which have been taken in by Georgia DOA.

“We appreciate our partnership with the Georgia Department of Agriculture on a program that not only gives the horses a second chance, but also our offenders,” Commissioner Timothy C. Ward said. “The horses benefit from the care they receive in this program, and the offenders are able to obtain hands-on experience to begin building a resume which will assist them with employment upon release.”

In 2008, the GDC and Georgia DOA entered into a partnership to begin the Equine Rescue program at LASP, after the Georgia DOA expressed a need for space for neglected and abused horses. The Georgia DOA rescues the horses and transports them to LASP for care and treatment.



The Georgia Equine Rescue League assists both organizations by providing supplies the horses may need to be successfully rehabilitated once they arrive to the facility. The horses are worked with on a daily basis by offenders in the program and once rehabilitated, are sold at auctions.

“This is a win-win situation for everyone involved,” Mat Thompson, Equine Health Manager for the Georgia DOA said.

“The inmates work hard to give these horses a second chance at a head start which also gives the inmates a head-start on their second chance.” The LASP Equine Program Participants receive valuable job skills and certificates from Central Georgia Technical College in Veterinary Assistance and Animal Healthcare, which they can use to obtain employment when they return to society.



Join us for a fun 4-Man Scramble!

During your visit to scenic Hot Springs for the SSCA Summer Conference,
put together a 4-man team of your favorite golfers and
let's play in the annual

Lefty Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament

When:	Sunday, July 21
Starting Time:	8 a.m.
Cost:	\$60 per person
Where:	Diamondhead Golf & Country Club 245 Independence Dr Hot Springs, AR 71913



Includes green
fees, cart,
snacks, lunch ...
and of course,
prizes!

Outside food and
drinks cannot be taken
into the facility.

For more information contact: Corliss Johnson, c/o ACC,
105 W. Capitol, 3rd Floor, Little Rock, AR 72201
corliss.johnson@arkansas.gov
501-682-9566





Lefty Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament



Registration

Name: _____ Email: _____ State: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ State: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ State: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ State: _____

Team Captain is _____

Registration and payments need to be made in person or
by mail to:

Corliss Johnson
c/o Arkansas Community Correction
105 W. Capitol, 3rd Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201

Makes checks/money order payable to SSCA

For additional information, contact Corliss Johnson at:
corliss.johnson@arkansas.gov
501-682-9566

**Deadline to enter and
pay fees is July 1, 2019**

Join us on July 21

Snacks and lunch will be provided
and ...
and of course, there will be prizes!

When: Sunday, July 21, 2019
8 a.m.

Where: Diamondhead Golf & Country Club
Hot Springs, AR

Fee: \$60 per person

Format: 4-Man Scramble



Braille Program Changes Lives

Braille Expo at Central State Prison Helps Students

By Kasandra Ortiz, Georgia Department of Corrections

On March 21, 2019 Central State Prison (SP) held its Annual Braille Expo. The program teaches offenders to transcribe textbooks for visually impaired students in grades K-12 across the United States. During the expo, offenders were able to demonstrate how to transcribe words into braille, how the pages are produced and even how they transcribe graphics and illustrations for the students.

“Every year the event gives the offenders a chance to show others how the program is helping them give back,” said Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections. “Not only is the program giving them a sense of purpose, but it providing them a skill that they can use to find a job when they are released.”

The Braille program started in Georgia in 2003 and moved to Central SP in 2011. The Georgia Braille Transcriber Program at Central SP is one of 23 prison braille programs in the U.S. and is the only one in Georgia. In 2018, GDC offenders translated a total of 700 books and more than 5,000 graphics. That totaled to more than 76,000 pages translated.

In attendance were media outlets, former offenders who have started Braille transla-

tion businesses based on the skills they learned while in the program, and Georgia Superintendent Richard Woods. He says the translations are helping more than 3,000 students in Georgia alone.

“I’ve been impressed by what I’ve seen. Foreign languages, music and even illustrations are being translated,” says Woods. “I want the offenders to know their work is having an impact on our students everyday.”

Currently, there are 25 Central SP offenders helping translate and none of the offenders who have graduated from the Braille program have returned to prison.



About the Author: *Kasandra N. Ortiz started with the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) as the Communications Specialist III in November 2017. As a Communications Specialist, Ortiz writes press releases, media advisories, GDC Impact magazine articles, answers media inquiries, coordinates media events, manages GDC social media accounts, and develops video projects. The agency’s responsibility is to protect the public by supervising more than 50,000 state offenders through the operation of secure and safe facilities, while reducing recidivism through effective programming, education, and healthcare. Ortiz holds a bachelor’s degree in Communication & Spanish from the University of North Florida. She is a native of Camden, New Jersey & resides in Macon, GA.*

Reentry Awareness Week in Arkansas

Submitted by Arkansas Department of Corrections

On March 19, 2019, Governor Asa Hutchinson designated April as “Second Chance Month” in Arkansas. The proclamation reads: “Every Person is endowed with human dignity and value, and redemption is an American value; an estimated 650,000 individuals complete prison sentences and rejoin society each year; and Individuals with a criminal record often struggle to adjust upon their reentry into society, and are often rearrested within the first three years of their release”

On April 1, 2019, Governor Asa Hutchinson also proclaimed April 22-27, 2019, as Reentry Awareness Week in Arkansas.

Arkansas Community Correction is mission-focused. In collaboration with community partners, the agency strives “to enhance public safety by enforcing state laws and court mandates through community partnerships and evidence-based programs that are cost efficient and hold offenders accountable while engaging them in opportunities to become law-abiding, productive citizens”.

Reentry is not a specific program, but rather a process that starts when an individual is initially incarcerated and ends when he or she has been successfully reintegrated in the community as a law-abiding citizen.

During Reentry Awareness Week, more than 100 events were held across the state. Events included job and resource fairs, mental health awareness, health fairs, legal seminars, community breakfasts, and activities that involved offender families. The events were aimed at ACC’s entire offender population, which includes probationers, parolees and residents of the agency’s six community correction centers.

At the community correction centers in Texarkana and Little Rock, one of the week’s guest speakers



was Kevin Hunt, who is a published author, a Community Philanthropy Fellow of the Clinton School of Public Service, a former assistant to former Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe, and a former inmate who spent years in prison. He survived a gunshot wound and incarceration to later earn a GED and graduate with honors from a master’s program.

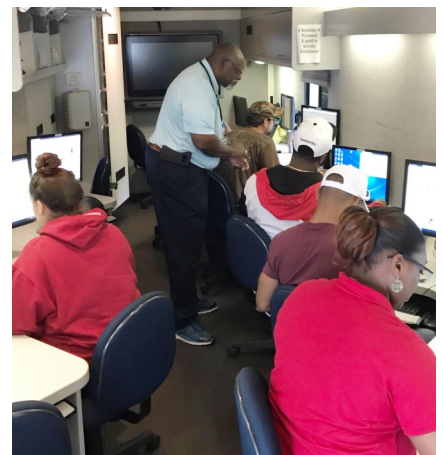
In Jonesboro, which is in northeast corner of the state, ACC Director and SSCA President Kevin Murphy addressed 150 community leaders,



service providers, and other stakeholders about the agency’s efforts and why reentry is so important to everyone. ACC is building community coalitions that work with the agency to overcome barriers to successful reentry through local resources and services. Jonesboro is in the planning stages of its coalition.

In all, Arkansas Reentry Awareness Week was a huge success. The events were well-attended in all areas with great participation by ACC staff, community stakeholders, service providers, and state and local agencies. With a total of 5,112 people in attendance at the events, the 2019 Reentry Week set a record for the number of people reached.

#reentrymatters



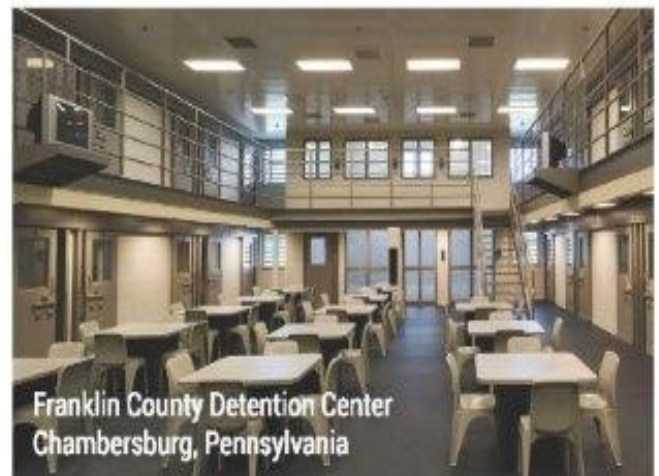
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www.CGLcompanies.com



Franklin County Detention Center
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

In NY, NC, & MD architectural services are provided through RicciGreene Architects PC.



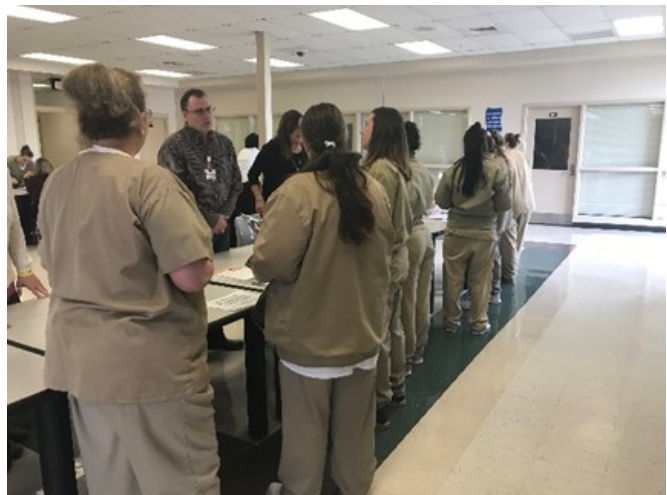
A WORLD OF SOLUTIONS

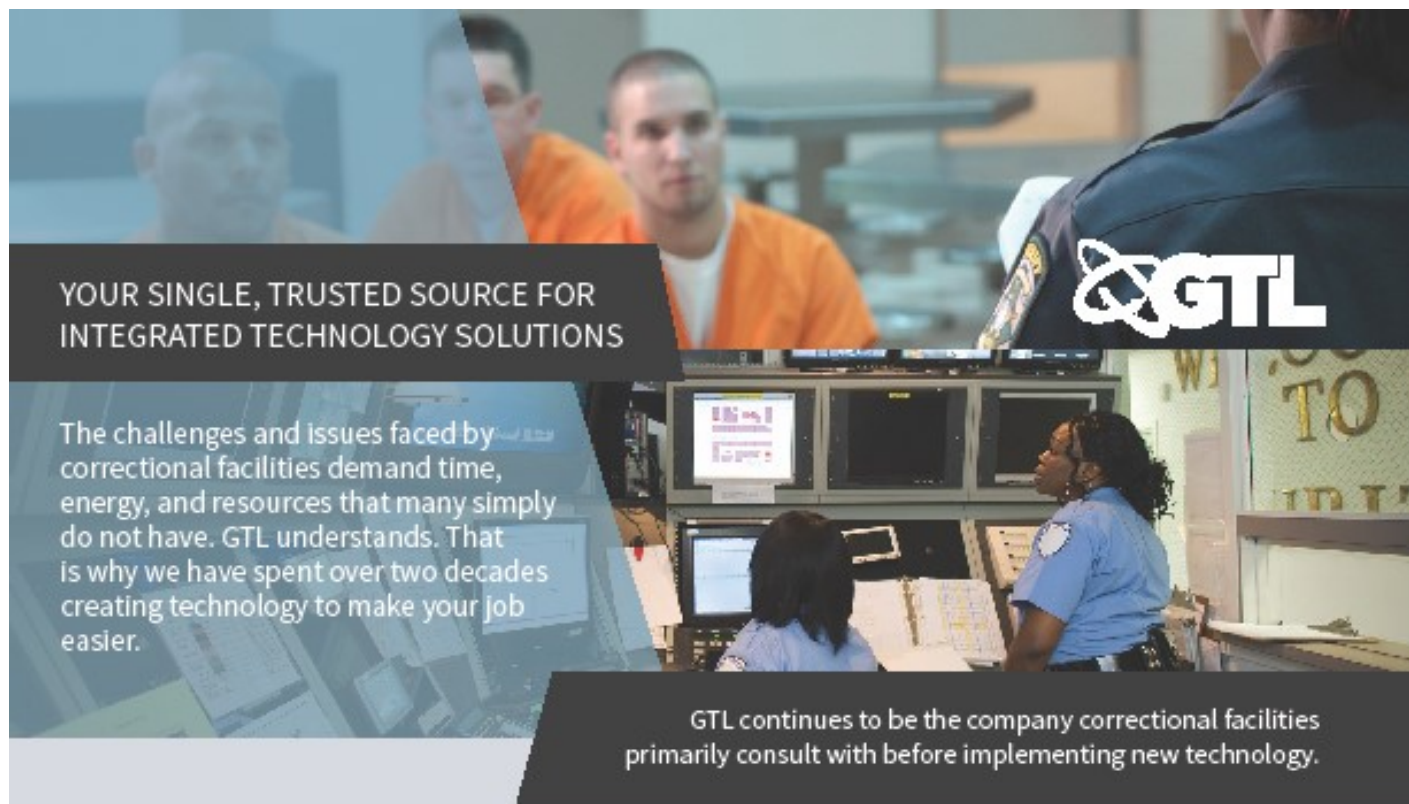
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Kentucky DOC Reentry Expo

Submitted by Amanda Dees, Kentucky Department of Corrections

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019 the Kentucky Department of Corrections Division of Reentry Services and staff from the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women worked together to hold the first Reentry Expo at the institution. There were 24 different community partners in attendance to provide information to 216 women preparing for their release. Some of the women had the opportunity to highlight skills they have acquired while incarcerated, by community partners seeing the Braille Transcription Program, as well as a presentation from inmate trainers for the Paws with Purpose program.





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SSCA Committee Assignments

FROM SSCA BY-LAWS

SECTION XIV: COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and/or By-Laws, committees and their chairperson, standing or special (ad hoc), shall be appointed by the President as deemed necessary to carry on the business/work of the Association. All committees shall be made up of **regular members in good standing**. The actions of all committees are subject to review and approval by the Executive Board. The Chairperson and members of each committee shall serve until their successors are appointed; however, any Chairperson or member may be replaced at anytime by the President.

Catastrophic Weather Fund

Lisa Free - AR, Chair
Linda Hill - AR, Co-Chair
Rene DeLouche - LA, Co-Chair
Andrew Ruh - AR
Lloyd Hill - AR
Lynn Bennett - AR
Shaun Conrad - AR
Shelli Hamilton - AR
Sherry Conrad - AR
Rebecca Barker - KY
Rebecca Denham - KY
Sharon Johnson - KY
Susan Wilhoit-Oliver - KY
Vanessa Kennedy - KY
Ann Marks - LA
Elliot Berrios - LA
Aungelia Williams - MS
Barbara Dattulo - TN
Cindy Dunning - TN

Concourse

Cookie Crews - KY, Chair
Dina Tyler - AR
Jenna Smith - AR
Amanda Dees - KY
Shannon Butrum - KY
Vanessa Kennedy - KY
Marsha Booker - LA

Tanya Bruce - LA
Ursula Lorenz - LA
Cathy Mansell - MS
Pat Sanders-Ford - MS
Petrice Adams - MS
Lorraine M. Rea - TN
Jennifer Bray - VA
Lois Fegan - VA

David H. Williams

Jeffrey Dillman - VA, Chair
Carol Gilcrease - LA, Co-Chair
Mitzi Kellum - GA
Tom McElhenney - GA
Rene DeLouche - LA
Constitution & By-Laws:
Karen Stapleton - VA, Chair
Kevin Jackson - MS, Co-Chair
Sonia Wallace - AR
Jessie Bellamy - LA
Sabrina Lawson - MS
Cile Crowder - TN
Stacy Emery - TN
Adrianne Pruitt - TN
Cleatrice Campbell McTorry - TN

Finance

Kevin Murphy - AR, Chair
James Sweatt - KY, Co-Chair
Carrie Williams - AR
Dexter Payne - AR
Stacy Williams - AR
Stuart Holt - GA
Amanda Dees - KY
Cookie Crews - KY
Kimberly Huddleston - KY
Carol Gilcrease - LA
Pete Fremin - LA
Tony Simon - LA
Dell Lemley - MS
Jane Lovell - TN
Lesley Gilmore - TN

Host

Sonia Wallace - AR, Chair
Andrew Ruh - AR
Becca Hines - AR
Carrie Williams - AR
Chastity Hull - AR
Christa Glover - AR

Cindy Richardson - AR
Daisha Holcomb - AR
Dana Gentry - AR
Dexter Payne - AR
Heather Schmidt - AR
Jada Lawrence - AR
Jarrod Self - AR
Jenna Smith - AR
Jessica Dunn - AR
Jessica Leija - AR
Larry Cyr - AR
Linda Hill - AR
Lisa Free - AR
Lloyd Hill - AR
Lynn Bennett - AR
Lynn McCallister - AR
Mark Warner - AR
Phillip Glover - AR
Ray Weatherford - AR
Roy Agee - AR
Scott Dunn - AR
Shaun Conrad - AR
Shelli Hamilton - AR
Shelly Lawrence - AR
Sherry Conrad - AR
Stacy Lenderman - AR
Stacy Williams - AR
Tiffanye Compton - AR
Tommy James - AR
Toni Bradley - AR
Tracey Lawrence - AR
TyJunia Clark - AR
Adrianne Pruitt - TN
Angela Moore - TN
Caroline Sloan - TN
Lesley Gilmore - TN

Kenneth Law Scholarship

Carol Gilcrease - LA, Chair
Buck Rogers - VA, Co-Chair
Dexter Payne - AR
Shelly Lawrence - AR
Tiffanye Compton - AR
Adrianne Pruitt - TN
Candance Whisman - TN

Research & Grants

Tiffanye Compton - AR, Chair
Dana Gentry - AR
Elliot Berrios - LA

COMMITTEES on next page

...COMMITTEES from previous page

John Cox - LA
Renee DeLouche - LA
Jacqueline Brunson - MS
Kathy Jones - MS
Stacy Emery - TN
Line Staff Awards:
Dexter Payne - AR, Chair
Candace Whisman - TN, Co-Chair
Renee DeLouche - LA, Co-Chair
Daisha Holcomb - AR
Jenna Smith - AR
Tommy James - AR
Heather Hensley Meredith - KY
Kristin Harrod - KY
Rebecca Barker - KY
Rebecca Denham - KY
Susan Wilhoit-Oliver - KY
Vanessa Kennedy - KY
Ann Marks - LA
Cindy Dunning - TN
Caroline Sloan - TN
Karen Stapleton - VA

Long Range Planning

Abby McIntire - KY, Chair
Lois Fegan - VA, Co-Chair
Jenna Smith - AR
Tom McElhenney - GA
Stuart Holt - GA
Kathy Jones - MS
Angela Moore - TN
Candace Whisman - TN
Cindy Dunning - TN
Jeff Dillman - VA

Nominating

Cookie Crews - KY
Larry Norris - AR
Ralph Moulder
Mitzi Kellum - GA
John Weber - LA

Resolutions

Lori Benoit - GA, Chair

Jo Washington - MS
Pam Wilson - MS

Membership:

Karen Stapleton - VA, Chair
Mark Bruton - AL
Sonia Wallace - AR
Stacy Rivera - GA
Tom McElhenney - GA
Cookie Crews - KY
DeEdra Hart - KY
Rene DeLouche - LA
Kevin Jackson - MS
Adrianne Pruitt - TN
Lois Fegan - VA

P.C. Shields Award

Jerry Gassaway - AR, Chair
Roy Agee - AR, Co-Chair
Jarrod Self - AR
Mark Warner - AR
Ray Weatherford - AR
Elliot Berrios - LA
John Weber - LA
Pete Fremin - LA
Marshal Turner - MS
Richard Caston - MS

Time & Place

Abby McIntire - KY, Chair
Cookie Crews-KY
Kathy Bingham-KY
James Sweatt-KY
Michael Caudill - KY
Ruth Stapleton - KY
Stacy Lenderman - AR
George Dodkin - SC

Program

Larry Cyr - AR, Co-Chair
TyJunia Clark - AR, Co-Chair
Amanda Pasley - AR
Becky Clark-AR
Chastity Hull - AR

Daisha Holcomb - AR
Dana Gentry - AR
Jason Price-AR
Jenna Smith - AR
Kim Knoll-AR
Lynn McCallister - AR
Shelli Hamilton - AR
Tracey Lawrence - AR
Tom McElhenney - GA
Darryl Campbell - LA
Elizabeth Traylor - LA
Sara Carmena - LA
Ursula Lorenez-LA
Linda Minor - MS
Barbara Dattulo - TN
Lorraine M. Rea - TN
Robert McKee - TN
Bill Stapleton - VA
Karen Stapleton - VA
Michelle Ford - VA

Vendor

Toni Bradley - AR, Chair
Mitzi Kellum - GA, Co-Chair
Carrie Williams - AR
Demetrick Warren-AR
Greg Murray-AR
Heather Schmidt - AR
Jada Lawrence - AR
Jessica Leija - AR
Linda Hill - AR
Lynn Bennett - AR
Mark Warner - AR
Shelly Lawrence - AR
Stacy Lenderman - AR
Stacy Williams - AR
Kimberly Huddleston - KY
Ruth Staples - KY
Elliot Berrios - LA
Sara Carmena - LA
Tony Simon - LA
Dell Lemley - MS
Cleatrice Campbell McTorry - TN

SOUTHERN CONCOURSE ARTICLES

In accordance with requirements of the SSCA Constitution and By-Laws, and as directed by the Association's Executive Board, the Concourse Committee is soliciting your articles for publication in the Southern Concourse. Per SOP-108, Duties and Responsibilities: #4, it is the duty of the State Representatives to secure articles and advertisements for the Southern Concourse, however articles may be submitted by any SSCA member. Your participation would be appreciated.

SSCA Catastrophic Weather Fund



A silent auction is held at every July SSCA conference to support the Catastrophic Weather Fund, please bring any items you wish to donate to the auction with you to the summer conference, or contact Cookie Crews, Executive Secretary, for shipping information. Also, be reminded that the fund is in place to provide needed assistance to SSCA members who have maintained their SSCA Membership for a minimum of one (1) year, and have sustained a recent loss due to a catastrophic weather event.

A catastrophic weather event is defined as a hurricane, tornado or flood that has been labeled as such by the National Weather Service. Once a catastrophic event has been declared by the National Weather Service, members of SSCA may apply, in writing, to their State Representative for assistance. The State Representative will then forward the request, with an attached explanation of the nature and circumstances of the loss, to the Chairperson of the Catastrophic Weather Fund Committee. The committee will consider requests on a “first come first served basis,” until the fund is depleted. The State Representatives’ names and contact information are found in the Concourse, or on our website at www.sscaweb.org.

Silent Auction



When it comes to innovative ideas in correctional health care, we've taken the shackles off.



Wexford Health is stretching the boundaries of innovation to bring you more efficient, safer, and smarter health care. Our 340-B pharmacy, re-entry, and Medicaid reimbursement programs are at the forefront of the industry. And with our telehealth services and electronic medical records, we can speed up care, improve outcomes, and save you money. For ideas that break out of the box, but don't break the bank, visit wexfordhealth.com.



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SOUTHERN STATES CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION LINE STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARD

The purpose of the SSCA Line Staff Award is to recognize four individuals from within the membership who exemplify career professionalism. Through this award SSCA clearly appreciates and recognizes the important role these staff play in the success of the correctional process and the service these individuals provide.

NOMINEE _____
(Print name as it should appear on the award)

Award Category (Check only one)	Probation/Parole ____	Correctional Officer ____	Corrections Support ____
	Officer ____	Juvenile Residential ____	Service Person ____
	Youth Worker ____	Worker ____	Humanitarian ____

Job title: _____ Telephone # _____

Work Address: _____

Nominator's Name _____ Telephone # _____
(Please Print)

Nominator's Signature _____ Date _____

Please limit your typewritten comments to two pages. Comments must include: Why should this individual be selected? Comments should address professionalism, job knowledge, performance, personal characteristics, leadership, innovation/creativity and accomplishments.

CRITERIA

Candidate:

1. Must be employed on a full-time paid basis as a non-supervisory Probation/Parole Officer, Correctional Officer or Corrections Support Service Person (or an equivalent job function). The exception is any full-time employee is eligible for the Humanitarian of the Year. Part-time, consultants, and interns are excluded from consideration, as are self nominations. Nominee will be considered in one category only.
2. Employing agency may be Federal, State, County, City or Private Sector entity.
3. Candidate must be employed in one of the 14 SSCA member states.
4. Membership in SSCA is not a prerequisite for consideration.

Nominator:

1. Nominator must be a current Southern States Correctional Association Member.
2. Must submit a completed and signed nomination form to the Nominee's State Representative.

Completed form must be sent to your state representative and must be received by April 1, 2020.
--

SOUTHERN STATES CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

P.C. SHIELDS MEMBER RECOGNITION

CALL FOR NOMINEES

The P.C. Shields Member Recognition Award was named in honor of SSCA's oldest and most loyal member. The award was established to recognize annually, at the summer training conference, a member who has made significant contributions to the Southern States Correctional Association, furthering its professional purpose, philosophy and recognition as a professional association.

A committee receives nominations and selects the recipient. Any member in good standing may submit a

nomination. Completed applications must be received by April 1, 2019. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

The Award recipient will be recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet in July. In addition, the recipient will receive transportation to the conference, conference registration, hotel room for three nights, and any meals during the conference not covered by the conference registration.

The nomination letter should include the nominee's name, state, and rea-

sons for nominating the individual. Please be as specific as possible with your comments, which should address the contributions your nominee has made to SSCA. Our Association has many members who are worthy of this recognition. Please take the time to nominate a deserving member.



Criteria:

1. Nominee must have been an active member in good standing for a minimum of five years.
2. Nominee must not be on the current Executive Board.
3. Nominee must not be a past-president.
4. Nominee must not be a past recipient of the David H. Williams Award.

NOMINEE _____ State _____

(Please print name as it should appear on the Award)

The above member should receive the P.C. Shield Membership Recognition Award for the reasons stated on the attached sheet.

Nominator's Name _____ Telephone # _____

Work Address _____

Nominator's Signature _____ Date _____

Applications should be sent to:

Roy Agee
6803 Oxford Dr.
Pine Bluff, AR 71602
roy.agee@arkansas.gov
(870) 267-6428



For those struggling to break the cycle of crime, for those who believe they will never overcome their past, for those who want a fresh start... we believe change is possible.



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Kenneth Law Scholarship

PURPOSE:

The SSCA is a 14-state regional organization of correctional practitioners representing the operational and administrative areas of jails, probation, prisons, and parole. It is the intent of this scholarship award to financially assist individuals preparing to or already participating in an accredited college or university program of study.

PROCESS:

Each year individuals will be selected to receive the SSCA Scholarship Award. The process begins at the state level with applicants submitting application packages (form and attachments) to their respective SSCA State Representative no later than **April 1, 2019**. These applications will be screened by a State-level screening committee and one primary and one alternate application will be forwarded to the SSCA Scholarship Award Committee for consideration. The Award Committee will select recipients and award scholarships in an amount and number to be determined by the Executive Board. Applicants will receive written notification of their selection or rejection. Awards will be announced at the annual training conference in **July 2019**.

AMOUNT: The Association will designate a maximum of \$5,000 per year for the scholarship program. Additional contributions may increase the amount of funds available each year. The Executive Board will determine the amount and number of scholarships to be awarded each year to individuals who are Regular members of SSCA, their spouse or dependent children and are pursuing either part-time or full-time formal education at the college or graduate school level. The funds will be deposited with an accredited college or university to apply toward the student's tuition and related academic expenses.

ELIGIBILITY:

- (1) Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen
- (2) Applicant must be an active regular or lifetime SSCA member or a spouse or dependent child of a member.
- (3) Applicant must be pursuing a bachelor or graduate degree in a program of study applicable to the field of criminal justice, rehabilitation, social services or a related field.
- (4) Applicant must be entering his/her freshman, sophomore, junior, senior year or graduate school. Freshman or first year graduate students must be officially accepted in the college or university.
- (5) Applicant must complete the application form, provide all required attachments, and submit the entire package to their State Representative prior to **April 1, 2019**. The scholarship will be awarded for the next fall term. Incomplete application packages will not be accepted for consideration.

ATTACHMENT TO APPLICATION:

- (1) Beginning freshman will submit two (2) letters from high school instructors under whom the student has studied, stating why they support the applicant's receipt of the scholarship award.
- (2) Sophomores, juniors, seniors, and entering graduate students must submit two (2) letters of recommendation from professors under whom the applicant has studied, stating why they support the applicant's receipt of the scholarship award.
- (3) Beginning freshman must submit a certified transcript of their high school grades to date.
- (4) Sophomores, juniors, seniors, and entering graduate students must submit a certified transcript of their college courses and grades to date.
- (5) Graduate students already matriculating in a graduate program must submit a certified transcript of graduate courses and grades to date.
- (6) Beginning freshman and entering graduate students must submit a copy of their official letter accepting them into the college/university.
- (7) On a separate sheet(s) of paper provide a written narrative supporting/justifying his/her need for this scholarship.

COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Recipient will only be eligible to receive this scholarship one time.
 - (2) Scholarship recipients must forward to the appropriate State Representative a copy of their transcript for the time period the recipient has received the award.
 - (3) Failure to satisfactorily complete the semester may result in the recipient being required to repay SSCA the full amount awarded. Satisfactory completion means an overall grade point average of "C" or 2.0 on 4.0 scale for each semester a scholarship was received.
-

KENNETH LAW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advertise in The Southern Concourse

The Southern States Correctional Association is a “family” of professionals from 14 states representing virtually every type of corrections agency – youth and adult services, probation and parole, counselors, teachers, administrators and volunteers. The membership also includes law enforcement officers and others interested in corrections.

The Southern Concourse is published quarterly by the SSCA and reaches approximately 1,000 members.

Subscriptions are included in the \$25.00 annual membership dues.

We appreciate your support of the SSCA by advertising in The Southern Concourse.

SSCA Advertising Form

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

____ One issue half page ad \$100

____ Four issues half page ad \$225

____ One issue full page ad \$150

____ Four issues full page ad \$400

Please send:

Vector image ad to SSCAJoin@aol.com and your check made payable to SSCA to the following address:

SSCA – The Southern Concourse
PO Box 928
Crestwood, KY 40014



CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions Committee needs YOUR assistance in recognizing deserving members and SSCA supporters. Each committee member has been assigned a SSCA state representative to work with to complete the SSCA information form needed to prepare the Resolutions.

Please e-mail your recommendations to the Resolutions Committee Chairperson

Lori Benoit: Lori.Benoit@gdc.ga.gov

or to any committee member.

**SOUTHERN STATES
CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION INC.**



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