

# *The Southern Concourse*

SUMMER 2018



## **Spotlight on:**

- **SSCA Newly Elected President**
- **SSCA Summer Conference**
- **MDOC Harvests 20,000 Pounds of Blueberries**







# Southern States Correctional Association

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Position vacant

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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 any questions or suggestions you may have regarding your chapter to the representative of your state.

## SSCA Secretary—Jane Lovell



Jane is working on her 22<sup>nd</sup> year of employment with the State of Tennessee. In that time, she has worked for various agencies including Department of Revenue, Commerce and Insurance – Real Estate Commission, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Homeland Security, Correction, TRICOR and Tennessee Board of Regents. The majority of her employment time with the State of Tennessee has been with The Department of Correction working in various positions – Inmate Job Coordinator, Accounting Manager, Health Services Administrator and Fiscal Director, which her current position.

Jane's day-to-day duties include management over the following areas of the institution – Fiscal/Business Office, Food Service, Laundry, Warehouse, Commissary, Maintenance and outside landscaping. She also tries to counsel with staff to improve staff retention, when possible.

She has earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville with a major in Accounting and minor in Psychology. She has recently reached the halfway mark on earning her Master's degree from Tennessee State University in Nashville.

She has two grown children and seven grandchildren, with whom she spends as much time as possible.

**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 stories are usually about race horses. Someone buys a gangly colt for a song because the experts say it will never outrun a three-legged turtle. Even if the turtle also has the flu and a migraine. Of course, everyone laughs at the buyer because they're convinced he's been had. But lo and behold, when the horse hits two and starts racing, he wins race after race after race. And the talk starts to grow that he just might be the next Secretariat. He probably won't be, but people like to talk. Anyway, as the story goes, the buyer is heralded as an incredible visionary with powers to see potential where no one else could.

It would be really cool to be the visionary in a story like that. Not one about racehorses, but about something in my career in corrections. I already know it won't happen while I'm president of SSCA. That's because this association isn't an underdog that needs someone to see past the shortcomings and focus on its potential. SSCA is a thriving regional association that boasts more than 1,100 members. Its conferences and training are topnotch. And its members are eager and excited about belonging.

The credit for SSCA's stability and continuing potential belongs to all the people who've come before me...the presidents and board members who led the charge for growth, progress and refinement. The state representatives who work hard recruiting new members while holding on to the existing ones. The committee chairmen who worked to see that the association's finances, constitution and bylaws, resolutions, awards and nominations, the Concourse, and conferences were in order and on time. And of course, the members who could have joined any old association but chose this one.

All of these people have laid the foundation for an association that is now poised to move into the coming years with confidence and a legacy of service. But there's still work to do. Because as wonderful as SSCA is, it can be even better. We can be bigger, stronger and more dynamic. But reaching where we want to go will take more members. That's why I'm challenging everyone to bring at least one new member during the next 11 months. Just one. But if you can recruit more, that would be even better.

If you think about it, there's no reason we can't top 2,000 members by the 2019 Summer Conference. I promise to do my part, and I know you will, too. I am excited by the possibilities and honored beyond words to serve as your president.



# Call For Candidates

## State Representative

The Following States Have Representatives with Terms Expiring or Have Expired in 2019: **Florida, North 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.
-



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## 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 Bard 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: John Webre at [JWebre@corrections.state.la.us](mailto:JWebre@corrections.state.la.us).

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

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## SSCA Line Staff of the Year Recipients



**SGT. ZACHERY RACHAL**

**LT. PHILLIP STAMPER**

**SGT. DAKOTA NALITT**

### Louisiana

On July 27, 2017, an alert went out over the David Wade Correctional Center radio that a trusty had driven away from the institution's housing area in an unauthorized vehicle. Per protocol, Chase Team members and DWCC staff began rapidly responding and found the empty wrecked vehicle a short distance west of the prison property indicating that the offender was now apparently on foot. As Chase Team members were descending on the vehicle crash site with tracking dogs it became apparent, the escape was not his only criminal act that day.

An inspection of staff housing revealed evidence of foul play at an Assistant Warden's home. The Assistant Warden's 18-year-old stepdaughter and her vehicle were missing. During this time DWCC staff, who were dropping off chase post

officers, located her vehicle crashed in the woods a short distance north-east of DWCC. As staff and local law enforcement searched the area for the 18-year-old, the Chase Team intensified their efforts to locate the offender. Several teams were dispatched to the staff trailer park since it was suspected to be in the offender's line of travel.

Lieutenant Phillip Stamper, Sergeant Dakota Nalitt, and Sergeant Zachery Rachal began the search with the first trailer, which belonged to Lieutenant Stamper. Lieutenant Stamper immediately noticed that his front door had been tampered with and was unsecured. The officers entered Lieutenant Stamper's home and observed various guns laying in the back room of the home. Upon inspection, the guns were loaded and Lieutenant Stamper noticed that his pistol was missing from the group. Knowing that a handgun was missing, the team immediately took action to clear the rest of the home with Sergeant Rachal on point and Sergeant Nalitt in rear. As Sergeant Rachal was about to breach an open doorway, he came face to face with the offender who started raising the handgun towards the team. There was an exchange of gunfire with the offender falling into a darkened room. At this point, the team backed away, subsequently, the State Police Tactical Team attempted several measures to get the

offender to respond and surrender. The State Police finally breached the home and found that the offender had succumbed to his injuries in the initial volley of fire.

An after action review revealed that the offender had in his possession a fully loaded pistol with an extra loaded magazine in addition to other weapons that were also loaded with extra ammunition nearby. The offender also staged cords and other weapons in the home in addition to hiding a knife block under the kitchen counter. Due to Lieutenant Stamper and Sergeants Nalitt and Rachal's quick response to the threat, the offender was prevented from harming anyone else.

The officer's dedication and motivation to continually train for situations prepared them for this threat. After State Police took control of the scene, Lieutenant Stamper and Sergeants Nalitt and Rachal directed their attention to trying to locate the young woman. Their professionalism in the face of significant danger and concern for public safety warrants recognition even though they humbly said, "We are just doing our job, that's what we train for." Tragically, after hours of searching, the victim was found dead approximately one-mile north of the prison.





From Left: Jennifer Bray & Jeff Dillman

## JENNIFER BRAY, VA

### Administrative Staff Asst.

Jennifer is a high-performer that exemplifies leadership, creativity, and teamwork in her job duties with the Virginia Department of Corrections. She has a demonstrated history of providing support to not only those she reports to, but also anyone asking for help or requiring an extra set of hands. Her organizational skills, attention to detail, welcoming nature, combined with her hard work ethic are evident in her continued rise within the agency.

Jennifer started her VADOC career in 2011 as the secretary to the Chief of Security of the Powhatan Correctional Center (PCC), promoting to Executive Secretary to Warden of PCC and the State Farm Correctional Complex (SFCC) in April 2013. While employed at PCC, Jennifer was responsible for ensuring the smooth administrative transition from that facility to the (SFCC) as closings were implemented at the site in 2014 affecting hundreds of employees. This was an awesome responsibility as staff members, missions, and resources were realigned

over the following two years. Jennifer was instrumental with the implementation of a "We Are One" approach to the realignment at the new complex.

In January 2017, Jennifer promoted to the position of Executive Assistant to the Director of Human Resources for the VADOC. During her tenure in that position, she not only provided support to her supervisor, but assisted employees in navigating time computation, benefits, and compensation issues. Additionally, she participated in the planning for employee engagement activities for hundreds of agency staff.

In April 2018, she promoted to Administrative Staff Assistant to the Chief of Corrections Operations, providing support and administrative services to both the COO and the Office of the Director.

Jennifer's exemplary work habits and performance stretch beyond her job duties with the VADOC to her volunteer work with SSCA. Jennifer coordinates the Virginia SSCA Annual Golf Tournament, our biggest fundraiser, and has recently taken on the responsibility of editing *The Southern Concourse*.

Her creativity, innovation, and attention to detail have greatly enhanced the quality of the magazine. The *Southern Concourse* is the face of the association and Jennifer's contributions ensure that we continue to represent professionalism to members of the public. Jennifer's time management skills are

often tested as the deadline for the magazine gets closer; but she continues to perform her job duties along with her SSCA volunteer work at a high performance level. The association is grateful to have a volunteer like Jennifer being willing to jump in and assist with important projects.

She was a key player in the 2017 Winter and Summer SSCA Conference and her contributions were invaluable. Her attention to detail to ensure everything was perfect for our Southern States family should not go unnoticed. With her positive attitude and high energy, it is an absolute pleasure to be in her company. Jennifer is one of the first members to raise her hand to volunteer for any position or job needed to be completed. This ranges from helping with golf tournaments to being the co-chair of hospitality, to assisting other chairs with their planning and duties as she is asked and able to do. Jennifer's performance on the job and for SSCA benefits the corrections field overall.



...LINE STAFF WINNERS from previous page



**BRANDON BELL,**

### **Coordinating Chief, GA**

It is with great pleasure that I submit this nomination for Chief Brandon Bell for the Southern States Correctional Association Humanitarian of the Year award. Chief Bell is employed with the Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS) as the Coordinating Chief of the Conasauga Judicial Circuit. He is a 2001 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a 2015 graduate of the University of the Cumberland's Master of Justice Administration program.

Chief Bell began his career in law enforcement in 2001, serving with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Chattanooga Police Department. He has been working in community corrections since 2005 having served the State of Georgia as a Parole Officer, Field Training Officer, Assistant Chief, and currently Coordinating Chief Community Supervision Officer. He leads a circuit of 39 staff members and approximately 4000 offenders. Chief Bell is a leader in both his professional and his personal life. There are an array of activities in which he and his circuit are involved. Chief Bell delivers frequent

presentations to elementary, middle, and high schools in the area as well as to Dalton State College. He has led efforts in collecting books for the Cherokee Estates Boys Home (Sheriffs Youth Home) and has been involved with the Pin-Wheels for Prevention Campaign. This campaign is a child abuse prevention initiative with the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. Chief Bell has also set up a Barnabas Room in his circuit for the collection of donated jackets, blankets, clothing, sleeping bags, and tents to be given to homeless offenders. He leads extensive collaboration and cooperative efforts with the local area sheriff's offices in Murray and Whitfield Counties, as well as with Dalton City Police, Tunnel Hill Police, Cohutta Police, Varnell Police, Motor Carrier Compliance, and Immigration, DEA, ATF.

Chief Bell has led his team and served different communities of Georgia in several ways. When Hurricane Irma hit Georgia, there was a call for assistance. Chief Bell answered that call. He was sent to Bibb County and was placed in charge of standing up and maintaining shelter security, which was highly successful. When the call for assistance in Dalton, GA went out due to an active shooter at a local high school, Chief Bell led the DCS response and coordinated with local law enforcement.

Chief Bell has done extensive work as a part of several focus groups aimed at improving the Department of Community Supervision. Those focus groups include Policy Review and Revision, Fentanyl, High Profile cases, Vehicle Accident

Review Panel policy, SB 174 Implementation, Field Representative for SCRIBE access analysis, and Community Service Tracking. He has not only worked on these focus groups but has written several policies for the department as well.

On a personal level, Chief Bell has served his community for many years. He has served on the Criminal Justice Advisory Board for Dalton State College since 2011 and is on the Advisory Board for Catoosa County Public Schools skills program. He is a presenter in the Leadership Dalton Program, which is designed for up-and-coming leaders in government, education and private industry. Chief Bell is an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Dalton State College and serves as a teacher for Girl Scouts teaching First Aid for their badges. He has been an adjunct instructor certified by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council in Georgia for many years and has been recognized for his contributions as an Adjunct Instructor for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

Chief Bell is an exemplary leader and humanitarian. Everything he does, he does for the good of the department and for those he serves. Such effort on his part is certainly beyond Chief Bell's assigned responsibilities and is worthy of recognition. Chief Bell embodies all the principals and ideals of this agency and of this association. His actions not only make a difference within this agency; it impacts the community.





**ROBERT KETTERMAN**

**Training Officer, GA**

**R**obert Ketterman is a training officer with the Georgia Department of Community Supervision. It is his calling and his passion. One of his primary jobs is to teach new recruits how to shoot. Ketterman's knowledge of firearms, combat techniques, and expert hand-gunning all lend themselves to providing an excellent education to officers, whether they're coming to the agency as experienced shooters or novices. He has a way of reaching students, truly getting them to grasp the concepts needed to not just qualify with a handgun, but use a handgun to defend themselves and the public in an emergency.

Every firearms instructor hopes certain skills never have to be used outside of a gun range. Luckily for one student, Mr. Ketterman brought crisis-management and emergency response experience to bear; a student was shot while drawing his firearm. This resulted in a series of wounds to the student's leg. Officer Ketterman immediately began to render first aid while simultaneously phoning medics.

While waiting on medical personnel to arrive, Officer Ketterman managed to stop the bleeding by applying a tourniquet. This kept the victim from potentially bleeding to death, and it allowed him to remain conscious, alert, and awake. Thanks to Officer

Ketterman's quick thinking, the injured student was taken through a series of breathing exercises and distraction techniques while emergency trauma aid was rendered to the severe wounds. In the ten long minutes it took professional medical personnel to arrive, Officer Ketterman stabilized the gunshot victim, kept him alert and responsive, and provided assurance that all would be well. In the aftermath of the shooting, both the victim and medical personnel have credited Officer Ketterman with actions that resulted in potentially saving a life that day.

While this incident provides an example of Officer Ketterman's abilities in a crisis, it should be noted that he brings a wealth of experience, professionalism, and skill to the officers he trains. He has had a direct hand in shaping the curriculum used in our 2100-person agency as it relates to training new officers in handgun skills. Every new recruit must attend a program that Ketterman himself helped create, from the classroom to the live-fire range.

Officer Ketterman is more than a great firearms instructor, though. His broad knowledge of policy, procedure, and case law are often called upon by officers and supervisors across the state. His classes are dynamic, engaging, and range in topics spanning across all aspects of Public Safety. As a case manager, he provided excellent service to the public as well as our service population; often, returning citizens would comment to supervisors on Officer Ketterman's fairness and ability to communicate across cultural barriers.

The professionalism that Ketterman exhibited as a Parole/Probation officer continues even more prominently now as a trainer. He is constantly in the spotlight, and students

have spoken for themselves when it comes to Officer Ketterman: he often receives glowing compliments on his knowledge, skills, and abilities through our class feedback system.

Officer Ketterman also benefits the agency through his innovation and creativity. From system design to practical application, his input in creation of training programs for 1500 officers has been invaluable. He has a strong work ethic and is an excellent leader, and officers of every rank gravitate to his lectures and respond well to his teaching methods.

Mr. Ketterman's job status speaks for itself when it comes to his accomplishments. Within two years of becoming a Probation Officer with the Georgia Department of Corrections, he was appointed to the lead instructor role with their Basic Training Program. Mr. Ketterman drew on his prior years of experience as a Parole Officer, and now he lends his expertise to the newly-formed Georgia Department of Community Supervision. When Mr. Ketterman himself is asked what he feels his biggest professional accomplishment is, he simply states, "I help keep people alive." Several of his students have been involved in deadly force encounters, and they've commented on how they remembered their training. One such officer actually stated that they specifically remember things that Ketterman said, and they were able to mentally reference his material mid-combat.

Mr. Ketterman does indeed "Help keep people alive," and in a fantastic display of ability in a crisis, he literally did just that.

## Kenneth Law Scholarship Recipients

SSCA awarded 5 Kenneth Law Scholarships this year. The winners were....

### KATELYN BRAY

She is attending Longwood University in Farmville, VA where she earned a spot in their Nursing Program. Upon graduation with her BSN in Nursing, she will continue her education to receive her Master's in Nursing to become a Licensed Nurse Practitioner.

### JAMAL HOLMES-GRIFFIN

He is attending Delta State University in Mississippi where he will major in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and a minor in Exercise Science. He received his Associates Degree from Hinds Community College in May of 2018.



### CARSON HUTCHISON

She is attending University of Arkansas-Fayetteville where she will major in Pre-Dental. Upon graduation, she plans to continue her education in dental school.



### ALEXIS KING

She is attending Roanoke College where she will major in Pre-Pharmacy. Upon graduation, she plans to continue her education at Pharmacy School.

### MARIAN WEBRE

She is attending Louisiana State University where she will major in Criminology and minor in accounting. Upon graduation, she plans to find work in the field of criminology.

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# SSCA Summer Conference Highlights







## Inmates preparing for release attend fair connecting them with resources at Mississippi Prisons

*Submitted by Kevin Jackson, Mississippi State Representative*

Inmates preparing for release from the Mississippi Prisons won't have to wait until they are on the outside to learn about resources they can use in transitioning back to their communities.

Fifty-seven inmates who are six months to a year of release talked one-on-one with representatives of various groups, including a trainer with Families First for Mississippi, an outreach coordinator with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, a job placement counselor with the Prosperity Center of Greater Jackson, and a transition specialist with the Rankin County School District.

"This has been a blessing because when I came in, I was a kid," said inmate Juanita Berry. "I didn't know anything."

Berry was 18 when she began serving 20 years for two violent crimes in 1998. She turns 38 in July. While her tentative discharge date is in September, another inmate, Arnika Nichols, 35, was granted paroled as of July 1.

"This has been just the kind of info I need," said Nichols, who has been serving three drug convictions since 2011. "I won't get out and then wonder which way to go or who to turn to answer these things."

Holding up a fist full of pamphlets, Nichols said, "I got Medicaid questions answered, and I know how to get in touch with the right people. And, I got housing and a job lined up. The job is with my mom and some others. I have my cosmetology li-

cence. Not a certificate. I have a license."

The resource fair is among the activities planned in observance of June as statewide re-entry month. Similar events have already been held at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) and South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI).



"We are holding these fairs to help prepare inmates for the day they will return to their communities," Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. "Our ultimate goal is to give them a leg up so that they are better prepared to be successful and not return to prison."

In addition to resource fairs, the department also hosted a re-entry symposium on Thursday, June 21, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to talk about best practices in re-entry. The event was held at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, MS.

"As the commissioner said, it's not just about incarceration," said Viscia Pointer, Pre-Release director at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF). "It's also about rehabilitation. This resource fair doesn't give just hope; it's helping these inmates

make a better way for themselves once they're released."

The resource fair lasted three hours. Overall, in addition to the MDOC, there were 10 organizations represented: the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Families First for Mississippi, the Medicaid Division, the Prosperity Center, the Rankin County School District, the ASC Housing Consortium, Grace House, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, Hinds Behavioral Health, and Catholic Charities.

Rankin County Schools Transition Specialist Andrew Strehlow said he participated to help and encourage inmates to see beyond a GED.

"A GED is a good start," Strehlow said, "but now you need more." "I want to encourage them to further their education, and I am here to help them get *more*."

Some of the same state agencies also participated in the second Pre-Release Resource Fair at SMCI. About 100 offenders and representatives from 15 various agencies attended. A resource fair was also held at Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) on June 28.





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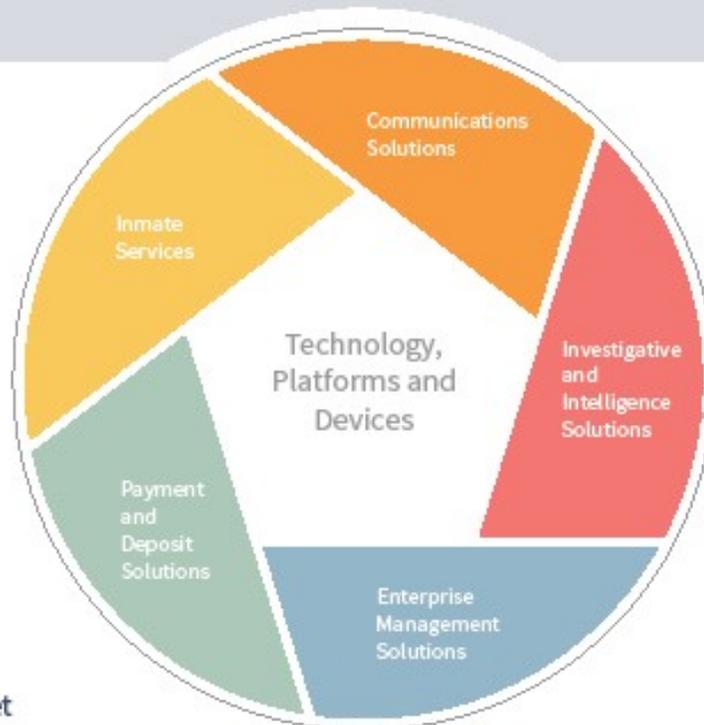
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# SSCA Committee Assignments

## 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.

#### Host

*Sonia Wallace - AR, Chair*  
 Roy Agee - AR  
 Lynn Bennett - AR  
 Toni Bradley - AR  
 TyJunia Clark - AR  
 Shaun Conrad - AR  
 Sherry Conrad - AR  
 Larry Cyr - AR  
 Jessica Dunn - AR  
 Scott Dunn - AR  
 Lisa Free - AR  
 Dana Gentry - AR  
 Christa Glover - AR  
 Phillip Glover - AR  
 Shelli Hamilton - AR  
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 Lloyd Hill - AR  
 Becca Hines - AR  
 Daisha Holcomb - AR  
 Chastity Hull - AR  
 Tommy James - AR  
 Jada Lawrence - AR  
 Shelly Lawrence - AR  
 Tracey Lawrence - AR  
 Stacy Lenderman - AR  
 Lynn McCallister - AR  
 Dexter Payne - AR  
 Cindy Richardson - AR

Andrew Ruh - AR  
 Heather Schmidt - AR  
 Jarrod Self - AR  
 Jenna Smith - AR  
 Mark Warner - AR  
 Ray Weatherford - AR  
 Carrie Williams - AR  
 Stacy Williams - AR  
 Jessica Leija - AR  
 Lesley Gilmore - TN  
 Adrienne Pruitt - TN  
 Caroline Sloan - TN  
 Angela Moore - TN  
 Tiffanye Compton - AR

#### Catastrophic Weather Fund:

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

#### Concourse:

Cookie Crews - KY, Chair  
 Jenna Smith - AR  
 Shannon Butrum - KY  
 Amanda Dees - KY  
 Vanessa Kennedy - KY  
 Lorraine M. Rea - TN  
 Tanya Bruce - LA  
 Pat Sanders-Ford - MS  
 Petrice Adams - MS  
 Lois Fegan - VA  
 Ursula Lorenz - LA  
 Cathy Mansell - MS  
 Dina Tyler - AR

#### Constitution & By-Laws:

*Karen Stapleton - VA, Chair*  
*Kevin Jackson - MS, Co-Chair*  
 Cleatrice Campbell McTorry - TN  
 Adrienne Pruitt - TN  
 Sonia Wallace - AR  
 Sabrina Lawson - MS  
 Cile Crowder - TN  
 Stacy Emery - TN

#### Line Staff Awards:

*Dexter Payne - AR, Chair*  
*Candace Whisman - TN, Co-Chair*  
*Renee Delouche - LA, Co-Chair*  
 Ann Marks - LA  
 Daisha Holcomb - AR  
 Tommy James - AR  
 Jenna Smith - AR  
 Rebecca Barker - KY  
 Rebecca Denham - KY  
 Kristin Harrod - KY  
 Vanessa Kennedy - KY  
 Heather Hensley-Meredith - KY  
 Susan Wilhoit-Oliver - KY  
 Cindy Dunning - TN  
 Caroline Sloan - TN  
 Karen Stapleton - VA

#### Long Range Planning:

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

#### Nominating:

Cookie Crews - KY  
 Larry Norris - AR  
 Ralph Moulder  
 Cathy Mansell - MS  
 John Weber - LA

**...COMMITTEES from previous page**

**Resolutions:**

Lori Benoit - GA, Chair  
Pam Wilson - MS  
Jo Washington - MS

**Finance:**

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

**Membership:**

Jeff Dillman - VA, Chair  
Tom McElhenney - GA  
Cookie Crews - KY  
Mark Bruton - AL  
Sonia Wallace - AR  
Stacy Rivera - GA  
DeEdra Hart - KY  
Renee DeLouche - LA  
Kevin Jackson - MS  
Kent Peck - OK  
George Dodkin - SC  
Adrienne Pruitt - TN  
Lois Fegan - VA  
Ronnie Williams - WV  
Leslie Wilworth - VA  
Johnathon Hall - KY

**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  
Richard Caston - MS  
Marshal Turner - MS  
John Weber - LA  
Pete Fremin - LA

**Kenneth Law Scholarship:**

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

**Research & Grants:**

Tiffanye Compton - AR, Chair  
Dana Gentry - AR  
Elliot Berrios - LA  
John Cox - LA  
Renee DeLouche - LA  
Kathy Jones - MS  
Jacqueline Brunson - MS  
Stacy Emery - TN

**Program:**

Tracey Lawrence - AR, Chair  
Larry Cyr - AR, Co-Chair  
TyJunia Clark - AR, Co-Chair  
Tom McElhenney - GA  
Dana Gentry - AR  
Shelli Hamilton - AR  
Daisha Holcomb - AR  
Chastity Hull - AR  
Lynn McCallister - AR  
Jenna Smith - AR  
Sara Carmena - LA  
Robert McKee - TN  
Barbara Dattulo - TN

Lorraine M. Rea - TN  
Linda Minor - MS  
Michelle Ford - VA  
Bill Stapleton - VA  
Karen Stapleton - VA  
Darryll Campbell - LA  
Amanda Pasley - AR  
Elizabeth Traylor - LA

**Vendor:**

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

**Time & Place:**

Abby McIntire - KY, Chair  
Michael Caudill - KY  
Ruth Stapleton - KY  
Stacy Lenderman - AR

**David H. Williams:**

Jeffrey Dillman - VA, Chair  
Carol Gilcrease - LA, Co-Chair  
Tom McElhenney - GA  
Rene DeLouche - LA  
Mitzi Kellum - GA

## 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.

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# 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](http://www.sscaweb.org).

## Silent Auction



# Arkansas Night



## P.C. Shields Member Recognition Award

### Renee Delouche

**R**enee became a SSCA member in 2001 and attended her first conference in Mobile, Alabama that same year.

Renee Delouche was born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, that is where she completed her formal education. After high school Renee attended University of Southwestern Louisiana, where she received a Bachelor's of Science in Liberal Arts.

During her senior year of college, she interned with the Lafayette District of Probation and Parole. After the internship and graduating from college, Renee was hired as an Agent 1 in Lafayette on 7/31/2000. Moving up from Agent I, II, and III, she was promoted to Specialist on 9/2/2011. On 8/8/2017, she was promoted to Supervisor, where she remains in that position today. During this time, she has had numerous collateral duties, including being a High Risk Warrant Team Member, assigned to the US Marshal's Task Force, Offender Management Systems Trainer, Inmate welfare coordi-

nator, sobriety court officer for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Renee takes pride in training new officers in all aspects of Probation and Parole work.

Since attending her first SSCA conference in Mobile, Alabama, Renee has been a very active member serving on many committees every year since she joined. This year's conference is the second she has helped host. She has served on the Vendor Committee and Program Committee. She has served as Hospitality Chair and has chaired the Catastrophic Weather Fund for the past eight years.

Away from work, Renee is involved in community activities, and also other honorable programs. She participates in the Medal of Honor Host Program volunteer, Christmas in April, Rebuilding Together Acadiana, and is a Thanksgiving and Christmas volunteer food server. She has played and been involved with beach/sand volleyball since 1989. Renee also is an avid outdoors woman. She enjoys all outdoor sports, such as fishing, hunting,

hiking. But most of all. You can find her at all of ULL football/basketball and baseball games tailgating and cheering on her beloved Ragin Cajuns. When not being involved in sports or community activities, Renee enjoys spending down time with family and friends.

Renee Delouche has been a true asset to Louisiana Probation and Parole, has served her community honorably and with commitment, and has been a loyal and committed SSCA member since day one. For all of these reasons, it is with Honor that Renee Delouche has been chosen to receive the P. C. Shields award.



*From Left: Renee Delouche and Roy Agee*



## Mississippi Department of Corrections harvests 20,000 pounds of blueberries and passes audit to sell to outside markets

*Submitted by Kevin Jackson, Mississippi State Representative*

The Mississippi Department of Corrections has harvested 20,000 pounds of blueberries and recently received certification to sell to outside markets, including schools, retail stores, and farmers markets.

The blueberry farm at South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) in Leakesville passed an audit by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on June 8.

“Although being GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certified is not mandatory, most buyers will not accept any type of produce, if a farm is not certified,” said Roger Davis, director of Food Services and Agriculture Enterprises for the MDOC. “Being certified gives the USDA an avenue to trace where each produce item that is sold to the public came from, down to the time, day, and field it was harvested and processed. This helps with any recalls on fresh produce.”



The blueberry orchard was started at SMCI in 2006 as a way to address inmate idleness and to teach inmates a trade skill in the blueberry industry. The blueberries help reduce food cost and serve as a healthier menu option. They also can be a cash crop, but not without GAP certification.

This year’s crop, harvested using 30 inmates and three staffers, is the most in several years, be-



cause of available staff and inmates. Last year, 15,300 pounds were harvested.

The blueberries are just one of the crops from the Agriculture Enterprise,

which is one of 11 legislatively approved programs at the MDOC. The program, which includes farming and leasing, uses no general fund dollars. In calendar year 2017, soybeans, vegetables, pecans, and blueberries generated about \$1.1 million, and \$1.8 million came from land leases.

“Farming is still very much a part of Mississippi’s makeup, especially in the Delta,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “Therefore, we are helping inmates obtain transferrable skills. At the same time, we are growing healthy food products and generating funds from sales.”

Davis said he envisions increasing the number of pounds of blueberries, but the orchard first must undergo major pruning in August and, therefore, will produce fewer pounds during the 2019 harvest season. “But we should rebound with an increase in weight going forward,” he said.



# New President & Officers Taking the Oath of Office



**Past SSCA  
Presidents**

# David H. Williams Recognition Award

## James B. Sweatt, II

James Sweatt embodies the characteristics of an exceptional leader and is hereby being nominated for the David H. Williams Excellence of Service Award. He has risen up through the ranks since his humble beginning in state service as a Correctional Officer in 1975 at the Kentucky State Reformatory, which at the time was still segregated.

Mr. Sweatt has held positions at all 3 La Grange male facilities over the years, including serving as the Warden of Roederer Correctional Complex for 9 years. Not only has Mr. Sweatt mentored a countless number of employees, several who now serve as Wardens for the Department of Corrections, he has stressed the importance of respecting and supporting line staff to supervisors under his direction and how this act directly affects the employees' ability and desire to fulfill the Department's mission statement.

In addition, Mr. Sweatt emphasized the Re-Entry concept to his staff by realizing the need to assist offenders into their transition back to society. Despite being recently retired, it is not

uncommon for Mr. Sweatt to stop by a local halfway house to let transitioning offenders know that they may see him from time to time to check in on them or give them the encouragement they need to make responsible choices. While Mr. Sweatt retired November 1, 2016 after 41 years of state service, he maintained his level of integrity by working hard, each day, to ensure that he was doing all that he could to move the Department of Corrections forward during this very difficult time of staffing crises, overcrowding, and shifts in population.

Mr. Sweatt's commitment to the success of the Department of Corrections, he is very active in his church, the Newburg Church of Christ, a Hall of Fame inductee at his alma mater, Southwestern Christian College, and professional organizations such as the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency (KCCD) and our very own Southern States Correctional Association (SSCA.) He has served in several leadership capacities in these organizations to include State President of KCCD and has been

honored as a recipient of the Mary Frances Cooper Award-in appreciation of his commitment to the Kentucky Criminal Justice system, PC Shields Award and President's Award for SSCA. He has also been a community liaison-offering inmate work crews in the local community when assistance was requested and partnering with the Oldham County History Center for an upcoming exhibit on the history of criminal justice/impact of the Kentucky State Reformatory on the local community.

James Sweatt has continued to be an advocate for SSCA throughout a career that has spanned 41 years by rarely missing a conference and always being an active committee member and chairperson.



*From Left: James Sweatt and Tom McElhenney*

# Thank You Vendors!! You made our conference a great success!



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](http://wexfordhealth.com).



## 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)

<b>Award Category</b>	Probation/Parole ___	Correctional Officer ___	Corrections Support ___
(Check only one)	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, 2019.**

# 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



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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.
-



# Southern States Correctional Association

## KENNETH LAW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

### Applicant Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address Apartment/Unit #  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
City State ZIP Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
City State ZIP Code

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Current High School or College: \_\_\_\_\_

### Current Class Status

**High School**

**College**

Junior  Senior  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior  Graduate

### Class Status for Fall Term

**College**

Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior  Graduate

Are you a citizen of the United States? YES  NO  If no, do you possess a student visa? YES  NO

### Disclaimer and Signature

*I certify that my answers are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.*

*By signing below, I authorize SSCA Executive Board/Scholarship Selection Committee to verify the information contained in this application package.*

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](mailto: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

**Lorraine Rea: [Lorraine.Rea@tn.gov](mailto:Lorraine.Rea@tn.gov)**

or to any committee member.



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