



October 15, 2009

MCA Membership

Dear Members,

Wow! What an honor it is to work with such a dedicated group of leaders who are committed to furthering our organization and our profession. I appreciate all of the teamwork, dedication and labor that went into our 2009 conference. I am proud to be part of this movement.

As you may recall, in 2008 I challenged the Board of Governors and Officers to focus our 2009 conference on Partnerships. Our 2009 theme of "Perfecting Partnerships Across the Big Sky Country" resembled our commitment to our beliefs that effective partnerships create effective organizations. It was exciting to have so many organizations support our organization and participate in our programs. I congratulate all of you for your success!

Now, the "bar" has been set and our work is cut out for us to improve upon our 2010 conference.

Since my past challenge, our world has changed significantly. With the collapse of the banking industry, sky rocketing unemployment, reductions in funding and the demands to continue to meet the expectations of our customers, we all face significant struggles for the next year.

In the past few months, I have also noticed a number of news articles where the citizens of the State of Montana challenge the status quo and become outraged by ineffective leadership or unnecessary spending.

To combat these struggles, all organizations will be demanding more from their employees. To be successful in these times, the resolve of many will be challenged. We will need to draw from our core values of honor, integrity, pride, commitment, dedication and honor to lead us through these struggles.

To meet these struggles, we need to focus on the future and have vision. However, to achieve our vision, we also need to focus on ourselves. Our times demand that we are the best at our professions. We need to focus on public safety, victim's rights, rehabilitation, re-entry and when necessary, a secure facility to house those who pose a risk to our communities. Whether you are working with youths or adults we need to be ever vigilant of our actions to ensure they are consistent with the expectations of our customers.

To continue to flourish, we need to take a close look at ourselves and improve upon our deficiencies. To accomplish this feat, we need to be professionals or what I commonly refer to as being “champions of our professions”.

With this in mind, I challenge the Board of Governors and Officers to focus our 2010 Montana Correctional Association conference on professionalism and self improvement.

I look forward to the many years to come as a member of this great organization!

Sincerely,

Steve Ette  
President, Montana Correctional Association