



MAPSA MATTERS

Winter
2016

Letter from the MAPSA President

Greetings MAPSA Members-

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and you were able to spend some quiet time at home.

Your MAPSA board has been busy this past year. As your President, I have been involved in a Minnesota Pretrial Release Initiative Workgroup with the State Court Administrators Office and stakeholders across the state. This group is studying pretrial release decisions and collaborating to review the processes around the state. A more detailed report will be available this summer.

Our new website was launched in December 2015 headed by board members Jeremy Gallagher and Dan Muggli. The website will be a valuable resource for upcoming trainings and current pretrial topics. If you have not already done, so please visit the new website at www.mapsamn.us. It looks fantastic! Our new email address is mapsa@mapsamn.us or you can simply fill out the contact form on the website!

The board has been planning the 2016 MAPSA Conference and we are excited for what the conference will have to offer. The conference will be on Wednesday, May 4th at The Mystic Lake Casino Hotel. There will be many interesting speakers throughout the day with a wide variety of topics. Please save the date and look for registration information soon.

Also, please consider joining the MAPSA Board. The board meets monthly and we are always looking for new members who want to be involved. During the 2016 conference we will be accepting nominations for the following positions: Vice President, Secretary and Regions I, III, V and VII. MAPSA will also be presenting the MAPSA Board of Director's Award at the conference. Please contact a MAPSA board member if you have a nomination. You can also email mapsa@mapsamn.us with your nominations. A nomination form is also included with this newsletter.

Conference brochures and registration will be coming soon. Take care and I hope to see you at the conference.

Amy Olson
MAPSA President

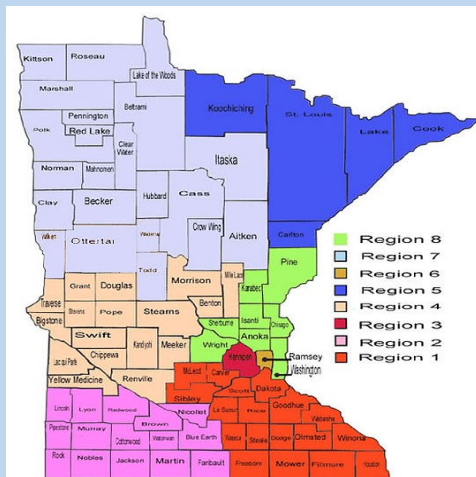
SAVE THE DATE



2016 MAPSA Conference Mystic Lake Casino Hotel May 4, 2016

Check out our new website!

www.mapsamn.us



Nominations will be accepted for open board positions at the 2016 MAPSA Conference:
Vice President, Secretary, Regions I, III, V, and VII.

Nominations sought for 2016 MAPSA Board of Directors Award

The Minnesota Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (MAPSA) is accepting nominations for its 2016 Board of Directors Award. This award will be given to a person or program who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and professionalism in the field of diversion, pretrial screening and/or pretrial services. The award will be presented at the MAPSA Conference on May 4, 2016 at the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel.

An email will be coming soon and you will also find the nomination form with this newsletter. Nominations can be sent to any board member or emailed to us at mapsa@mapsamn.us

Minn. Commerce Department seeks to clean up bail bond industry with new settlement—J. Patrick Coolican, Star Tribune

State regulators reached an agreement with the bail bond industry requiring it to end unseemly practices such as kickbacks to jail inmates for delivering customers, Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman announced at a Wednesday news conference.

The agreement with 21 insurance companies that provide surety bonds to the state's bail bond companies follows a three-year investigation in which company agents were found to be pressuring defendants and their families in courthouses and jails; paying kickbacks to unlicensed agents, including jail inmates; offering illegal rebates to customers, and creating a disruptive atmosphere in courthouses and jail administration areas.

Defendants must post bail to be released while awaiting trial, which is a way for the court to ensure they will appear at the trial date. If they are unable to put up the cash, they will often hire a bail bond company to post a bond, which is a form of insurance that the defendant will appear in court when required. The defendant usually has to pay about 10 percent of the bail amount to the company for the service.

Dakota County Sheriff Tim Leslie recalled a swearing-in ceremony for officers at the building that houses the county jail and sheriff administration. Families arrived to watch loved ones earn the badge, only to have bail bond agents mistakenly assume they were families of defendants and solicit them for business. "Too many people in the bail bond industry thought they were in the Wild West and the rules didn't apply to them," Rothman said. The Commerce Department oversees regulation of the industry because it's a form of insurance.

In one instance, a female bonding agent was said to have dressed provocatively to attract clients.

Companies offered discounts, which don't comply with the state's regulated rate schedule. The fierce competition led to screaming matches between bail agents and other disruptions.

A Commerce Department spokesman said the investigation did not turn up police or other authorities accepting kickbacks for steering business to favored bail bond companies.

In the new agreement, called a consent decree, companies must charge the approved rates and follow strict procedures for documenting and handling the payments and collateral from customers.

The insurance companies and bail bond companies are prohibited from soliciting business on court or jail property; paying a kickback to a jailer, police officer, judge or public employee, or paying a kickback to an inmate or other unlicensed person for bringing in customers.

The insurance companies will also have to audit their contracted bail bond companies and agents for compliance, audits that will then be released to the Commerce Department.



**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL
SERVICE AGENCIES**

WWW.MAPSAMN.US

Minnesota Association of Pretrial Services Agencies

2016 Board of Directors Award

Nomination Form

This award is to be decided upon by the Board and will be presented at the 2016 annual MAPSA conference to be held on May 4, 2016 at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in Prior Lake, MN. This award will be given to a person or program who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and professionalism in the field of diversion, pretrial screening or pretrial services.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS April 5, 2016. Please email your nominations with the following information included to mapsa@mapsamn.us.

NOMINEE: _____

AGENCY: _____

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____

AGENCY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NARRATIVE: Please attach a narrative describing in detail why you believe this person or program should be considered for the Board of Directors Award. Please include how this person or program has made a significant contribution in the field of diversion, pretrial screening or pretrial supervision.