



MACPOST
#MACPOST

Spring 2026

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From the President

KEVIN, GLASS, ITASCA COUNTY PROBATION

Dear MACPO Members,

"There is nothing permanent except change." — Heraclitus. I find this quote fitting when I think about the field of Probation. Probation services are constantly evolving to provide the best evidence-based practices available at the time to the communities/people we serve. As I am writing this, the biggest probation workload study ever in Minnesota is being conducted across the State. Based on the data, this could impact what caseload sizes look like, what the funding formula looks like in the future, and possibly have a greater consistency when it comes to probation standards across all delivery systems. I am very much looking forward to seeing what the data shows and what is being recommended as a result.

MACPO did request other probation services that are not part of the current funding formula such as Pre-Trial Conditional Release Supervision, Diversion (Adult & Juvenile) for example to be included in the workload study so we could obtain a better understanding on the time and costs associated with those caseloads. Why not look at everything was our thought. These unfortunately are not being included in the study. One of my last goals as your MACPO President is to continue to push for those along with Treatment Courts to be looked at for the possibility of being part of the funding formula. The first step will be to see which counties are providing those services and how extensive they are. The next step will be to obtain legislative support in providing funding for a study to be conducted to see if those services are a benefit to Counties (reduced recidivism, cost savings, etc...). If evidence-based practices shows it makes sense for us to be providing those services, then my question to legislatures and the Commissioner of Corrections is why are we not all providing those services and why are they not part of the funding formula? MACPO will need additional support to help with this effort, so hopefully there will be additional support from MACCAC, DOC, MCA, and AMC. Collaboration will be key.

As I am going into my last month as your MACPO President, it has given me time to reflect on the past two years as your President. I am greatly honored and humbled to have served in this role, and I hope I have represented MACPO to your satisfaction. I want to thank the entire MACPO Board of Directors, as I was able to lean on them for support and rely on their wealth of knowledge and wisdom when making decisions. MACPO is in great hands moving forward with Rhonda VanSchoonhoven taking over as President in July and Terry Fawcett being voted in as President Elect!

We had several MACPO Committees take part in making the MACPO Conference another great success, thank you!!! Thank you to all of you who attended the conference and thank you to all the vendors that showed up to provide your support for MACPO as well!

If you are interested in joining a MACPO Committee, please go to the MACPO website and click on the following tabs "ABOUT", "ORGANIZATION" and then the "BOARD OF DIRECTORS" tab. There you will find the chairs of each committees contact information and they will be able to send you the committee meeting invites, it's that easy. MACPO's committee members are the heart of MACPO, and we have been extremely fortunate to have had great committee members for over the past 50 years, but we always need more to continue this great tradition on!

Thank you

Kevin Glass

MACPO President

For the spring MACPO update, Kevin provided pictures from MACPO to recognize all those who attended and the award winners.

MACPO



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Sincerely your President,

Kevin Glass

Probation Director

Committee Updates

Legislative Committee

Nicole Grams, Steele Waseca Probation

The Legislative Committee is pleased to announce a new pension plan that will take effect January 1, 2027. MACPO worked collaboratively with MCA, MACCAC, DOC and several unions to raise awareness with several testifiers and attendees at many Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) hearings in recent years which prompted the creation of the 2025 Legislative Work Group for 911 Telecommunicators and Probation Officer Pension Plan. This Workgroup put in the hard work to compromise and draft a recommendation. It gained great momentum with three million dollars added to the bill in the final days to temporarily reduce the employee contribution. The new pension plan recognizes the meaningful, yet occupational trauma and stress associated with work as a 911 Telecommunicator and Probation Officer that serve on the public safety continuum. PERA will be drafting an advisory form for employers and employees in the next several months. This process will help clarify who should be certified to move into this new pension plan and provide more details on the new plan. Based on the three-million-dollar allocation, the employee contribution will be a total of 8% (represents a 1.5% increase) for the first 20 months. The increase could raise to a total of 8.82% employee contribution, but this will continue to be reevaluated as PERA estimates it may go down overtime. For all service in the new plan, an employee can draw on their new pension after age 60 without an actuarial reduction. The employee can decide when they plan to draw on their former PERA Coordinated plan to allow them to decide what makes sense for an actuarial reduction if received before age 66. Everyone benefits from the new pension, but the older population benefit less since they will have less years in the new plan. Advocacy will continue to identify the generational inequity to this group and continue to lobby for the creation of a buy-back fund to help offset the cost to bring years of service from the old plan into the new plan. Thank you for all of you that testified, attended hearings, and connected with your Senators and Representatives to support these changes. A special thank you to Senator Nick Frenz (Pension Chair), Nancy Haas, Courtney Jasper, and all that served on the Workgroup for their tireless efforts. Without all your efforts we would not have been able to get this across the finish line. Planning for next year is already started by our committee to continue to represent the needs of the probation field. Enjoy the upcoming summer!

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Grams, Legislative Committee Chair

Communication Committee

JOANNIE GONTAREK (CHAIR), OTTER TAIL COUNTY PROBATION

Please see the [Resources](#) section for information to assist you in your work as a correctional practitioner.

We enjoyed all those who attended the 2026 MACPO Conference. Please see below all of the conference updates and award winners.

As we move into 2026, there are significant changes in our field. We are committed to keeping members informed and connected as the year ends. Be sure to follow MACPO on Facebook for updates, reminders, and timely information.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee just spent the spring getting ready for the support staff conference and MACPO spring conference. Attended the Juvenile Justice conference. Will work with incoming president on ideas for conference next year and possible regional trainings.

Training and Education Committee

There is no update at this time.

Safety Committee

AMY HERTZOG, WRIGHT COUNTY COURT SERVICES (CHAIR)

RACHEL DECK, CASS COUNTY PROBATION (VICE CHAIR)

CPO Director's Committee

JON SCHIRO, WASECA COUNTY COURT SERVICES

The Directors Group was pleased to meet during the 2024 MACPO Spring Conference at Breezy Point, where members also had the opportunity to participate in a strong lineup of evidence-based practices training. The conference once again highlighted the value of statewide collaboration and the shared commitment to advancing high quality community supervision in Minnesota.

The Directors Group continues to work closely across the state on several key initiatives. This includes ongoing involvement with the Community Supervision Advisory Committee as it develops and refines statewide policies, as well as active participation in juvenile justice efforts. Members also contribute to a variety of committees and workgroups focused on strengthening outcomes, improving consistency, and supporting innovation in community supervision.

As we move into the rest of the year, the Directors Group remains committed to supporting MACPO's mission and ensuring that Minnesota's community supervision system continues to evolve in ways that are effective, equitable, and responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.

MACPO Spotlight



MACPO '26



MACPO '26



MACPO '26



MACPO '26



MACPO '26



MACPO '26



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MACPO '26



We would like to thank all the above speakers who came to present at MACPO 2026.

- “Compassionate Accountability: Restoring Resilience & Responsibility in County Probation.” Thad Shunkwiler
- “Case Planning” Debra Schmitt & Andrea Emery
- “It Matters” Cory Greenwood
- “How to Identify the Drivers of Criminogenic At-Risk Behaviors” Allen Godfrey
- “Module I: Domestic Violence–Offender Typology & Module II: Types of Domestic Violence” Anita Burke
- “What’s the Buzz about CCP: Core Correctional Practices in Minnesota” Bridget Letnes & Rachel Miller
- “Gun Laws 101” Joe VanTomme
- “Module III: Probation & Parole Supervision of Domestic Violence Caseload” Anita Burke
- “Drug Trends, Identification, and Probation / Law Enforcement Collaboration” Mike Germain & Nick Chiono
- “Decision Points” Debra Schmitt & Sean McMonagle
- “Safety 101” Aric Walsh & Keri Powell
- “CSTS: 2026 Updates & Initiatives” Carrie Stumne
- “Emerging trends– The Normalization and Glamorization of Sex & Drugs through social media.” Dave Gomez

MACPO Award Winners

Kevin Glass - Al Reker Distinguished Service Award





Devin Petersen – Superior Service Award



Jill Chair Award



Laura Geffert – Rookie Agent of the Year



Mindy Sachs – EBP Champion Award



Amber Chase – MACPO Committee Supervision Safety Excellence



Hope Yoder – Outstanding Performance Award



**Medallion Winners: Emily Ostlund Goodhue County (not pictured) and Eric Frey
with Crow Wing**

We'll See everyone next year at the 2027 MACPO Conference!

Pension Bill Update

As of May 15th, 2026, the Minnesota Senate passed [House File 4074](#), this year's omnibus Pensions and Retirement Policy package – authored by **Senator Nick Frentz** (DFL-North Mankato), Co-chair of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

After passage, **Senator Frentz** released the following statement:

“This pension bill takes care of the hardworking Minnesotans who keep us safe and help educate Minnesota’s students, and it protects the promises made to them. I’ve been proud to serve as a co-chair of the Commission on Pensions and Retirement, and I’m thankful for the bipartisan collaboration that went into this legislation. These employees have earned these benefits through years of public service, and on behalf of the state, I thank them for their hard work.”

HF 4074 includes the following provisions and appropriations:

1. \$3.4 million to the Saint Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association (SPTRFA) to reduce employee contribution rates from 9% of pay to 8% of pay.
2. \$8 million to the Public Employee Retirement Association Police and Fire Plan (PERA P&F) to further decrease the waiting period before PERA P&F retirees begin to receive COLA – from 24 months to 12 months.
3. Creation of a Duty-Disability Continued Health Insurance Working Group – to analyze the current policy of limiting PERA P&F partial duty disability recipients to five years of health insurance coverage.
4. Creation of two new public safety subplans for probation officers and 911 telecommunicators within local units of government, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the Metropolitan Council.

In the House, the bill passed on a vote of 129-5. Today, the Senate passed the legislation 57-9, and it now heads to the Governor’s desk.

Additional Information on the Pension Bill: Proposed Legislation 2026 from: [Proposed 2026 Legislation | PERA](#)

April 14, 2026

Minnesota’s 2026 legislative session began Tuesday, February 17 and is scheduled to end Monday, May 18. PERA has proposed changes to statutes related to the Correctional Plan and to salary eligibility for authorized leaves.

Correctional Plan Rates and Post-Retirement Maximum

In 2024 legislation, Correctional Plan contribution rates were increased on pay issued on or after July 1, 2025, to support an increase to the plan's benefit multiplier. Each year we monitor the plan's funding status and contribution levels. The most recent valuation shows that the Correctional Plan is 105% funded and has strong sufficiency.

The proposed changes are to decrease the contribution rates and to increase the post-retirement maximum. With the proposed changes, the Correctional Plan is anticipated to remain fully funded with a sufficiency.

The decreased rates proposed in the current legislation are still higher than the rates that were in effect July 1, 1999, to June 30, 2025. But the proposed rates would be a decrease from the rates that have been in effect since July 1, 2025.

Correctional Plan Contribution Rate History

- For pay issued July 1, 1999, to June 30, 2025, the rates were 5.83% for members and 8.75% for employers.
- For pay issued July 1, 2025, to current, the rates have been 6.83% for members and 10.25% for employers.
- For pay issued on or after January 1, 2027, PERA is proposing rates of 6% for members and 9% for employers.

Higher Post-Retirement Maximum

- The proposed increase of the post-retirement maximum from 2.5% to 3% would go into effect on January 1, 2027

Salary Eligibility for Authorized Leaves

PERA is proposing legislative changes that affect two types of pay that an employee may receive during an authorized leave. The first change confirms that Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) payments are ineligible salary. The second change is proposed to eliminate thresholds that supplemental pay must meet to be eligible for PERA contributions.

PFML Payments are Ineligible Salary

According to statute, disability insurance payments and workers' compensation payments are ineligible salary, and because PFML payments are similar, employers must consider PFML payments as ineligible salary since January 1, 2026.

The proposed legislation would confirm PFML payments are ineligible salary in statute.

Supplemental Pay During Authorized Leaves

- When an employee does not use all their available PTO during a non-workers' compensation leave, their pay must meet a certain percentage of their regular average salary for any supplemental pay to be eligible for PERA contributions.
 - The thresholds are 50% or more during a medical leave and 100% during a non-medical leave.
- The proposed legislation would eliminate the thresholds for pay during an authorized leave and would make supplemental pay during an authorized leave eligible for PERA contributions, as long as that pay is not greater than the employee's regular average salary.
 - PERA is proposing that this change would start on July 1, 2026.

Do not change your processes until/unless legislation is approved. Currently, apply the thresholds to pay during an authorized leave to determine if supplemental pay is eligible for PERA contributions.

What to Look Forward to this Summer?

- MCA/MACPO Safety Summit

- August 26 & 27, 2026
- Camp Ripley



Water Ski Days Lake City, MN June 25-28th

SUNDAY June 28th
9am-12pm
 Paul Bunyan Breakfast at Red River
10am
 Ecumenical Worship at Paul's Patio
1am
 Grand Parade - Sponsored by Akeley Lions Club
 Line up at 11:30am on Riverbank Ave.
AFTER PARADE
 Ice Cream & Pie Social - Live music by Franky Country
 (9a-14 - Ice Cream \$1)
2am
 Parade Awards & Button Prize Drawings

SAWDUST PIT
 Kids age 9 & under
FREE
 Saturday 11am-6pm
 Sunday 10am-12:30pm
 1:30pm-3pm
 Come dig for treasure!

NO PETS ALLOWED
 (service pets only)

SPONSORSHIPS:

PAUL BUNYAN Sponsors (\$200+)

EMCO
 Akeley Township
 ABC
 BAS Excavating

LUCETTE Sponsors (\$400)

Hansen's Electric Inc.
 Sunshine Lawn & Landscape
 Arvig

BABE Sponsors (\$200)

First National Bank North
 Lindor Plumbing Inc.
 T&H Express
 Up North Networks
 AVCO

NORTHWOODS Sponsors (\$200)

Lakes Community Cooperative
 H&B
 Northwoods Bank of MN
 ZBORG's Cafe

LUMBERJACK Sponsors (\$100)

House Heating Inc.
 Bank Events
 Akeley Fire Dept. & Neelco

If you are interested in being a sponsor for next year's event, please contact the Paul Bunyan Days Committee at info@paulbunyandays.com

77th Annual PAUL BUNYAN DAYS



Akeley, MN

June 26, 27, 28, 2026

SCHEDULE of events

SCAVENGER HUNT

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
 Get your list at the Information Station

FRIDAY June 26th

6:30pm-7:30pm

* ESHR FRY - at Paul's Patio - \$15 all you can eat

Sponsored by Akeley Lion's Club

* Live music by "The Pats"

5pm-7am

Akeley's Purple Plaid SK pre-registration & pit pickup

At the purple tent - \$20 (today) - \$20 (18 & under)

Price increase of \$5 on race day.

5pm-6pm

Water testing by Paul's Patio - bring 1/2 of water

6:30pm

Kiddie Parade down main street sidewalk.

- Line up at 6pm at Akeley Post Office

7pm-10pm

Bingo at Methodist Church

7pm-11am

Live music on Main stage "Hole's Fish" (live)

9am-11am

Teen/Youth Dance - DJ by Sunset Entertainment

Prize giveaways (free)

Purchase Paul Bunyan Days Buttons
 for a chance to win great prizes.
 \$2 at area businesses

SATURDAY June 27th

7:30am-8:30am

Akeley's Purple Plaid registration

9am

Akeley's Purple Plaid SK begins

Paul Bunyan Breakfast at Red River

9am-12pm

Blondy Mary & Mimosa Bar at Paul's Patio

10am-2am

Classic Car Show - across from Paul Bunyan statue

10:30am

Treasure Hunt - maps at Paul's Patio

\$5 - 1 map per person

11:30am

Horseshoe Tournament at Red River - \$5

(teams draws at 12pm)

12:30pm

* Cake Walk at Paul's Patio - 50 cents per walk!

2pm-3:30pm

Kids Fishing Contest at Akeley pier (FREE)

- Registration 2pm-3:30pm

- Contest 2:30pm-3:30pm

Kids MUST be with an adult and wear a life jacket.

Best will be provided. (Kids 12 & under)

2pm-4pm

Low Pie Poker by the water tower (it's a longhorn)

100% UNPAID & SILENT AUCTIONS.

Sponsored by Akeley Lions Club

**INFLATABLES
ALL WEEKEND
FREE**

2:30pm-3:30pm
 Cornhole Tournament registration across from the Paul Bunyan statue. Teams of 2. \$20 per team.
 4pm Cornhole Tournament begins

LIVE MUSIC

3pm-6pm

"In Stereo" on Paul's Patio

6pm-9pm

"Spitfire" on Muni Stage

9pm-midnight

"JUNK FM"

On Paul's Main Stage

**Vendors
Food Trucks
"Beverage" Garden
ALL WEEKEND!**

Stop by the Information Station to find out how you could send a "Paul Bunyan" button

Paul Bunyan Days

Akeley, MN

- Hot Dog Night



Hot Dog Night
Luverne, MN
July 9th



Sinclair Lewis Days
Sauk Centre, MN
July 15-19th



**Rendezvous Days
Celebration Pow
Wow**

**Grand Portage,
MN**

August 7th-8th



**Potato Days
Barnesville, MN**

Dates: TBD

Thank You to Our Platinum Sponsors

Nexus – [CLICK HERE](#)

We provide short- and long-term treatment programs at our residential facilities for kids who need intensive support and care. Specialize in behavioral and mental health issues like: depression, anxiety, trauma, oppositional behavior, ADHD, borderline personality, bi-polar conditions relational problems, attachment issues, parenting support, family conflict, sexually problematic behaviors, and emotional/physical/sexual abuse.

LifeSafer - [CLICK HERE](#)
[Enroll Here](#)

Ignition Interlock Device - LifeSafer provides accurate, timely, and reliable services to help you successfully complete your ignition interlock program. Our [car breathalyzer costs](#) are some of the most affordable on the market.

Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center- [CLICK HERE](#)
(218) 751-3196

Licensed through the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center incorporates three distinct units (non-secure detention unit, residential treatment unit, and secure detention) within the building, as well as community-based satellite (foster) homes. The Center offers 35 day evaluations, community service and restitution work programs, 30/60/90 day programs, and detention services.

Prairie Lakes Youth Programs - [CLICK HERE](#)
320-231-1729

Prairie Lakes Youth Programs is a children's residential facility located in Willmar, Minnesota. Through our non-secure, group home, and secure environments, we provide individualized, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant care and treatment including: substance use disorder addiction recovery, pet therapy, individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, truancy support, CHIPS support, and so much more.

Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance - [CLICK HERE](#)
(952) 435-9310

Serving criminal justice and human service partners by specializing in electronic monitoring, supervision, and alcohol & drug testing. Fully understand the needs of agents and agencies in correctional environments because it is owned and managed by experienced law enforcement and correctional professionals.

RSI Laboratories - [CLICK HERE](#)
612-287-1660

RSI LABORATORIES is a division of [RS EDEN](#). Based in Minneapolis, MN, RS EDEN is a non-profit organization providing recovery, accountability and support services to facilitate individual, family and community movement from non-productive behavior to responsible, self-sufficient lifestyles. Offer K2/Spice Instant test, Oral Testing, EtG Alcohol Instant Cup, and drug screens.

Teamsters Local 320 - [CLICK HERE](#)

612-378-8700

Teamsters Local 320's mission is to provide the benefit of unionism to all workers, and to protect and preserve the benefits obtained for members of this organization. We shall safeguard, advance, and promote the principles of free collective bargaining, citizen organizing, workers' rights, and the security and welfare of all people through political action, education, and other community activities.

Village Ranch - [CLICK HERE](#)

(320) 286-2922

Residential care with Minnesota locations in Annandale (female residents between the ages of 12-18), Cokato (male residents struggling with a range of mental health and behavior issues), Hutchinson (male residents between the ages of 15 & 19), and Rochester (group home for male residents between the ages of 15 & 19).

West Central Regional Juvenile Center - [CLICK HERE](#)

(218) 299-5150

Providing residential services for juveniles with behavioral, protection, dependency, and delinquency issues. Programming includes secure detention, secure residential, non-secure detention/social service emergency placement, 30 day evaluations, sexual therapy, and community living independent programming and skills.

Boys Town - [CLICK HERE](#)

800-217-3700

Boys Town offers a broad spectrum of [child and family services](#), [community programs](#), and [crisis services](#). We also provide [health and medical care through Boys Town National Research Hospital](#) and other resources; conduct cutting-edge [research](#) on child behavior issues; and provide services for children with severe behavioral problems through our Outpatient Behavioral Health programs and [residential care programs](#).

PORT Group Homes- [CLICK HERE](#)

218-829-2123

PORT offers programming for both boys and girls ages 12-18 located in the Brainerd area. PORT partners with Brainerd Public schools for educational needs. Additionally, PORT offers a 30 day evaluation, transitional services, 72-hour hold, group therapy, independent living program, and chemical dependency services.

Intoxalock - [CLICK HERE](#)

(844) 899-6211

Serves multiple locations throughout Minnesota for ignition interlock devices. They make it affordable, easy to use, and convenient to customers while also offering 24/7 customer support.

Nationwide Interlock Minnesota- [CLICK HERE](#)

866-694-6099

Ignition interlock device is the most commonly used technology to prevent drunk driving. A nationwide interlock customer service representative is ready to answer your questions and walk you through the process step by step.

MACPO would like to give a huge thank you to all our sponsors.

Please watch our website and future newsletters for new advertising for our sponsors. Logos and links to all our vendors can be found on our website, www.macpo.net.

MACPO 2025-2026 Elected Officers

Contact MACPO Secretary, Devin Petersen, Pine County Probation, for the location and time of MACPO Board meetings.

Executive Board

President

Kevin Glass, Itasca County Probation
kevin.glass@co.itasca.mn.us

President – Elect

Rhonda VanSchoonhoven, Goodhue County Court Services
rhonda.vanschoonhoven@co.goodhue.mn.us

President – Past

Jonathan Schiro, Waseca County Court Services
jonathan.schiro@wasecacounty.gov

Treasurer

Tammi Solarz, Wright County Court Services
tammi.solarz@co.wright.mn.us

Secretary

Devin Petersen, Pine County Probation
devin.petersen@co.pine.mn.us

Member at Large

Steve King, Mower County Probation
stevek@co.mower.mn.us

Member at Large

Traci Green, Wabasha County Probation
tgreen@co.wabasha.mn.us