

Balancing the Scales

New Name, New Look



Inside this issue:

NEW NAME NEW LOOK	1
MAC's Mission	
DAY ON THE HILL Thursday 03/06/2008 10:00 AM	2
Silent Auction	
Community Highlights	
MEET THE BOARD OFFICERS	3
MAC Exists to Help!	4

We have had quite a few changes at the Alliance recently- first being our name change. After much consideration and discussion, the board decided to change the name of the Minnesota General Crime Victim Coalition to the Minnesota Alliance on Crime. We feel this name better suits the direction we want to take the organization. By aligning ourselves with programs, prosecutors, law enforcement, legislative leaders, advocates, and other leaders in the community, we feel we can further promote the cause for better crime victim services in all facets of the criminal justice system and beyond.

Minnesota Alliance on Crime's Mission

To provide a statewide alliance for crime victim programs while promoting the advancement of services in Minnesota through education, resources, and legislation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ACTION DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** FEBRUARY 27, 2008, STATE CAPITOL, NOON
- **MAC DAY ON THE HILL** MARCH 6, 2008 STATE CAPITOL, 10:00AM

[We're On the Web!]
www.mgcvc.com

Minnesota Alliance on Crime

Day On The Hill Thursday, March 6, 2008

Last year, funding for general crime victim services increased and monies were authorized so people victimized by auto theft can seek reimbursement for related costs. These are just two success stories from the 2007 legislative session. Come to the 2008 Day On The Hill on March 6th to continue our momentum. The format this year will consist of a legislative advocacy training in the morning and the opportunity to meet with your legislators in the afternoon. Attendees will not only be briefed on relevant legislative issues. They will also learn how to communicate effectively and partner with elected officials to support crime victim services and crime prevention.

Check your inboxes (postal and email) in the coming weeks for more information and registration forms. If you have any questions about the event please contact Leah Sweet at ed@mgcvc.com or 612-940-8090.

If you live in greater Minnesota and need transportation assistance to the event please let us know!



Attention ALL MEMBERS!

The MAC board members have a special request, we want our Silent Auction to be bigger and better this year so we are asking all of you to forward us approx. 10 names and addresses of different businesses (restaurants, golf courses, casino's, stores, etc.) in your local area, with whom you think may donate to our cause. Our goal is to have many more choices to bid on throughout the state, so that everyone can find something in their area to enjoy. Please e-mail your lists to: Brenda.skogman@co.isanti.mn.us

Thanks so much for your support!



Speakers from 2007 Day on the Hill

Community Highlights

They Will Always Be Remembered

On December 6th - POMC held their 6th annual "Angel of Hope Candlelight Memorial" at the Angel of Hope Statue at the Maple Grove Arboretum. It was a beautiful chilly evening as Homicide Survivor Families came together to light a candle and remember a loved one taken too early in life.

On December 9th - Survivor Resources (formerly VIPI) held their 13th annual Remembrance Service at the Minneapolis Radisson Hotel. Nearly 300 Homicide Survivor Family members from about 100 different families were in attendance to light candles and remember a loved one.

On December 11th - MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driver) About 30 people gathered on Tuesday, December 11th at the MADD Minnesota State Office to remember those killed or injured by drunk drivers. Candles were lit, names were spoken, memories shared. It is our hope that those who attended found the strength and support they needed to get through the holiday season and will continue to reach out if they are in need of any assistance, now and in the future.

Meet the MAC Board Officers

Sharon M. Dicke, President

I work in Meeker County Victim Services-located in the County Attorney's Office. I developed the program and started the Victim Services for Meeker County in 1991. I serve general crime and all domestic and sexual assault victims.

Lisa Seifert, Co-President

Lisa Seifert has worked for the County Attorney's office for over 11 years as the Victim / Witness Coordinator. She took over this adult program in the office in 2001 with the retirement of Judy Vosbeek. The Blue Earth County Attorney has Victim/Witness Program Coordinators in the Adult Criminal Division and Juvenile Delinquency areas. The Coordinators are available to answer questions about case status, hearing dates, and victim rights. They notify witnesses when they need to appear in court. They ensure that the Blue Earth County Attorney's Office is in compliance with sexual assault and domestic abuse polices and state statutes regarding victim rights.

Brenda Skogman, Secretary

My name is Brenda Skogman and I have lived in Isanti County most of my life. I am the Victim Services Coordinator as well as the Site Coordinator for the Isanti County Sexual Assault Interagency Council. My life consists of work, children, work, and children. I have been married for 17 years to my husband Kevin and we have two children, Dustin (14) and Nicole (9). I have been in the County Attorney's Office for 12 years now - loooooong time!! In 2005 I was named Employee of the Year by the Law Enforcement Association in Isanti County. That was a great honor!!!

Jennifer Nodes, Treasurer (Interim)

Jennifer Nodes was the MAC Executive Director until May, 2007. She remains committed to our mission and vision as a volunteer and Interim Board Treasurer. She works as an attorney in Stillwater.



Director's Corner

Leah Sweet, Executive Director

My name is Leah Sweet and I am honored and delighted to join MAC on January 2nd as Executive Director. I started out as a victim advocate 12 years ago in rural Colorado and I am excited to work with and on behalf of MAC members to advance general crime victim serves through education, resources, and policy in my home state of Minnesota. I live in Minneapolis with my husband Todd, and new baby Dylan (3 months).

I am eager to partner with our member programs to build on our success and continue our strong commitment to crime victim services in Minnesota. Please feel free to send me an email or give me a call to tell me more about your program. I look forward to working with you!

Minnesota Alliance on Crime

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Email: ed@mgcvc.com

We want to share your program information with other members! Please email any upcoming trainings, program changes, successes, or stories you want to share so we can include it in future newsletters. Contact us at ed@mgcvc.com or visit us on the web at www.mgcvc.com

DO YOU HAVE UNUSED RESOURCES??

MAC is looking to expand our resource library, and asks that members forward on any unused resources or duplicates they may have lying around.

These resources may be of great value to our membership!

MAC EXISTS TO HELP!

In the early 1990's, several crime victim service providers around the state began meeting informally for the purpose of providing support and to share knowledge and resources with each other. This group of dedicated individuals identified the need to become more organized in their efforts. Out of this need, the Minnesota General Crime Victim Coalition was born and was incorporated in 1993. For the first years, MGCVC operated only with volunteer help, then in 1998 an Executive Director was hired. In 2007 the MGCVC changed it's name to Minnesota Alliance on Crime or MAC. Today's membership includes around 70 members from all areas of victim services: community-based programs, law enforcement, prosecution, and probation agencies. We are working together by "joining hands across Minnesota" to better assist victims and further their rights statewide.

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