From April 21 through 25, more than 900 jail professionals representing 40 States and 3 countries converged at the Sacramento Convention Center in California for AJA’s 37th Annual Conference & Jail Expo. Two hundred new AJA members joined fellow corrections officers, jail administrators, sheriffs, and dozens of first-time attendees for five days of education, networking, and partnerships.

During the conference, AJA offered more than 70 workshops led by the top minds and innovators in the field of corrections. Sessions focused on such topics as Medical and Mental Health, Data Mining and Cyber Security, Leadership, PREA, Direct Supervision, and Operations and Security.

On Sunday night, April 22, a large crowd waited with excitement as new AJA President Ronaldo Myers, President-Elect Elias Diggins, and Chief Deputy Jennifer Freeman cut the ribbon to open AJA’s 37th Jail Expo. During the Grand Opening, attendees entered the Jail Expo for the first time to examine the latest technology and products for correctional facilities, and to meet with approximately 200 vendors to discuss the needs of their agencies. The Jail Expo was open on Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To learn more about AJA’s conference, Jail Expo, and all the events, keep turning the pages. Perhaps you will see your picture or recognize someone you know!
Honoring the Best of the Best

AJA is committed to the professional growth of our Nation’s jails. There are dedicated people in every agency who work long and hard to ensure their organizations continue to grow professionally.

The 2018 Award recipients were nominated by their agencies for their exceptional dedication and service. Presented at AJA’s Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday night, these people were recognized by their peers for their outstanding dedication and service. This year’s conference marks the beginning of the Ray Coleman Correctional Administrator of the Year Award in honor of AJA’s first President.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Schwartz acknowledged the more than 400 people who attended for their efforts “in the trenches.” She said, “We cannot overstate your importance. If you impact one person, you impact a generation potentially.”

Ms. Schwartz, author of the bestselling book, Dreams from the Monster Factory: A Tale of Prison, Redemption, and One Woman’s Fight to Restore Justice to All, spoke of her time working in the San Francisco County Jail, where she started the Resolve to Stop the Violence Project (RSVP)—bringing together victims, offenders, and the community in an effort to heal the hurt caused by violent crimes. She is also the founder of the Five Keys Charter School, the first-of-its-kind charter school in a county jail. Both RSVP and Five Keys won the prestigious “Innovations in America Government Award,” sponsored by Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and the Ash Institute.

She said her first jail experience left her “disgusted” and “troubled,” and that she saw too much idle downtime and anti-social behavior among inmates. About a decade later, she approached the sheriff with an idea for “changing the climate and fabric of how you incarcerate people.”

One of the changes required that the jail turn off its TVs during the day and place inmates in classes where they could learn to read, develop parenting skills, and be educated on how to combat substance abuse and violent tendencies. The inmates not only responded positively to the programs, said Ms. Schwartz, but some also asked if more could be added. “When they succeed, we all succeed,” she said. “If that happens, we just don’t change jails, we change the face of our communities and our society.”

Ms. Schwartz said she became interested in restorative justice after attending a Minnesota conference in 1995. After realizing that “crime hurts everyone,” she felt an obligation to take on violent offenders. “Were we making an impact on people’s lives?” she asked. “Their lives, our lives, their families’ lives? What about the victims?”

Restorative justice focuses on three principles—offender accountability, victim voice and service, and community involvement. Through RSVP, strides have been made in San Francisco County. And Ms. Schwartz believes similar success can be enjoyed elsewhere. “We all want justice—righteousness, fair play, even-handedness,” she said. “Justice for us, justice for them, justice for our communities.”

W ith 35 years of experience in corrections, Sunny Schwartz is no stranger to the challenges that our Nation’s jails confront every day. The nationally recognized expert in criminal justice was the keynote speaker for the Monday Morning Plenary Session at AJA’s 37th Annual Conference & Jail Expo in Sacramento, California.

**Volunteer of the Year**

**John Spurgeon**
Chaplain
Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Sponsor:**
Achieving a Lifetime of Service

In recognition of her career-long commitments to the professional advancement of local corrections, the American Jail Association was proud to award the Francis R. “Dick” Ford Distinguished Service Award to Susan W. McCampbell, CJM.

Ms. McCampbell is a force in corrections. She is President of the Center for Innovative Public Policies, Inc., a nonprofit company that specializes in public policy consulting. She has developed curriculum to effectively manage a multi-generational workforce, established leadership core competencies, written resource guides for newly appointed wardens, and developed curriculum and delivered training for the National Jail Leadership Command Academy. She worked as Assistant Sheriff for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Sheriff’s Office for 11 years; as a Program Director for The Police Executive Research Forum in Washington, D.C.; and spent seven years as a regional criminal justice planner in North Virginia. She is also a life member of AJA.

In her acceptance speech, she encouraged corrections professionals to find a loving critic and mentor and to thank them for their contributions to the profession. She encouraged emerging leaders to be inquisitive, challenge the status quo, maintain their ethics, provide a vision, work tirelessly, and value their staff.

Thank you, Susan, for your service and contributions to AJA and the corrections profession.

“

This is my fifth conference with the American Jail Association. This conference has really shown me how to better myself in being an excellent corrections professional. The workshops are phenomenal—they are very informative, the speakers are dynamic. I would challenge anyone and everyone to attend at least one American Jail Association conference.

— CAPTAIN REESE WALKER, CJM, SHELBY COUNTY (TENNESSEE) DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS

Civilian Employee of the Year

Frank Mazza
Director, Community Reintegration Program
Hudson County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Kearny, New Jersey

Sponsor: American Military University

Correctional Officer of the Year

Jonathan Hutcheson
Deputy Sheriff
Johnson County Sheriff’s Office
New Century, Kansas

Sponsor:
On Sunday, April 22, more than 600 people attended AJA’s Luncheon & Business Meeting during the 37th Annual Conference & Jail Expo. Held in the Sacramento Convention Center, the attendees listened to President John Johnson, CJM, discuss AJA’s accomplishments in the past year, watched the installation of the new Board Members, and heard remarks from new AJA President, Ronaldo Myers, CJM, CCT.

AJA Executive Director Robert Kasabian began the meeting by introducing the Executive Board and welcoming Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones and California State Sheriff’s Association President Steve Moore. “We were here 10 years ago,” he said, “And we are glad to be back. Thank you for being here.” Chaplain James Martin then offered the invocation before lunch was served.

After the meal, Mr. Kasabian highlighted some of the association’s successes over the past year, including the development of the AJA Mobile App, which allows users to “have AJA in your pocket all year round.” He also introduced several new offerings at this year’s conference: the iConnect Live discussion area, where corrections professionals gathered to informally discuss topics such as small jail challenges, opioid crisis, and multigenerations in the workplace; the Share Your Success poster display, where agencies highlighted innovative solutions and creative approaches to daily challenges in their facilities; and on-site Certified Jail Manager testing, which was offered to more than a dozen pre-approved candidates. Mr. Kasabian then called on Immediate Past President Wayne Dicky, CJM, to share the story of how AJA members helped those in the professional community in 2017.

In late August, the most powerful hurricane to hit the United States in a decade made landfall on the Texas coast. Hurricane Harvey came ashore in Aransas County with winds in excess of 130 mph. Rockport, the county seat and home to the Aransas County Detention Center, took a direct hit from the storm’s eyewall.

Correctional officers worked through the hurricane that left the county of 26,000 residents with more than $35 million in cleanup costs. Thirteen officers spent five weeks working at the Brazos County Detention Center, nearly 200 miles away, where inmates from Aransas County were transferred as a result of the storm.
Mr. Dicky shared that AJA took 100% of new membership dues and 50% of renewal dues for a period of time and donated the money to Aransas County officers. “We were able to give a $300 check to every detention officer in Aransas County,” he said. “One of the officers said to me, ‘I never thought anybody would do something like this for me.’”

After Mr. Kasabian gave the treasurer’s report, the meeting turned to the topic of a change in the Bylaws regarding how members can vote in the Board election process. The recommended change allows a member to cast a single vote for whomever he or she chooses instead of being forced to vote for a minimum num-

(continues on page 34)
President Johnson then recognized members of the Jail Manager Certification Commission and Chair Shane Dotson, CJM. This conference marked Mr. Dotson’s last official duties as a member of the commission after five years of service.

Mr. Dotson reported that as of March 30, AJA had 455 active Certified Jail Officers, 360 active Certified Jail Managers, and 46 active liaisons for CJO and CJM candidates. He also announced that the CJM application and testing process is moving online in summer 2018. “Candidates,” he said, “may upload their applications for JMCC review, take the Certified Jail Manager examination, and receive their tests results immediately, thereby eliminating the need to drive to a testing site, have the exam physically proctored, and wait three to four weeks for the result.”

Mr. Dotson also welcomed new Commissioner Jared Schechter, CJM, from the Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office in Wichita, Kansas, and introduced the new chair, Tiffany Mass, CJM.

President Johnson noted that in addition to the CJOs and CJMs, there are 25 active Certified Correctional Trainers through AJA. He also recognized the association’s various leadership initiatives and programs, including the National Jail Leadership Command Academy that recently graduated its 30th class session, which includes the 27th NJLCA class and the three academies that were provided for the Bureau of Indian Affairs participants.

After remarks from Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones and President of the California State Sheriffs’ Association Steve Moore, President Johnson offered some final words as his tenure ended. He closed his farewell address by asking his fellow Board Members to stand, one by one.

“It was truly a joy to lead this group of people,” he said, pointing out the diversity among them. “I feel it is a reflection of what we need as a Nation.”
Mr. Johnson completed his final duty as President, installing the 2018–2019 Officers and Board of Directors, including his successor Ronaldo D. Myers. Turn to pages 40 and 41 to meet the 2018–2019 Officers and Board of Directors.

After being sworn in and receiving the president’s gavel, new AJA President Myers addressed the audience. He emphasized that AJA is innovative, saying that “we always move forward.” He also addressed the impact of mental illness on jails, asking members to “continue to sound the horn.”

“Where are we now with mental health?” he asked. “That’s what I am going to work on, and I ask you for your help. We owe it to ourselves to stop the revolving door.”

The 2018 Luncheon & Business Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

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Please join us in welcoming AJA’s new Life Members from the 37th Annual Conference & Jail Expo. We thank them not only for their support of AJA, but, more importantly, for their support of the corrections profession and their peers.

**George Wilson**  
CORT Developer  
Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office

**Sonia Muniz**  
Sergeant  
San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office

**Jody Eberhart**  
Police Officer  
Ebensburg Police Department

If you are interested in becoming an AJA Life Member, visit aja.org or send an e-mail to membership@aja.org.
Mental illness. Cybersecurity. Opioid addiction. These are just a few of the challenges that face our Nation’s jails and those who work within those walls. Through more than 70 workshops held over five days, attendees at AJA’s 37th Annual Conference & Jail Expo learned from experts in the field of corrections on how to address myriad issues and ways to overcome the obstacles they confront every day. Attendees of the conference could choose workshops from 13 different categories including Direct Supervision, Leadership, Medical and Mental Health, Operations/Security, PREA, and Training Personnel. There was a workshop for every attendee.

In “Building the Next Generation of Jails,” Sergio Romero of the Imperial County Sheriff’s Office took attendees on a virtual tour of his agency’s 6-unit, 270-bed facility that is set to open this summer.

Through the use of 3-D models, architects create digital prototypes of entire facilities. This allows jail administrators to quickly grasp the facility—detecting problems early and avoiding costly change orders during construction.

Andrew Freeman of Vanir Construction Management offered suggestions for how to control costs during the design phase, as well as during and after construction. “Be proactive,” he said. “Resolve issues. Don’t let them fester.” He also encouraged attendees to test-run a new facility while the contractor is still onsite. “Operate as if the facility was already turned over,” he said. “It will save you money that you would spend to bring the contractor back after you discover something that needs addressed.” Lean construction, ADA requirements, LEED systems, and computer-aided design were also discussed during this workshop.
In “De-Escalation & Verbal Resolution Training (DeVRT),” members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department shared their experiences in working with the country’s largest inmate psychiatric population. They outlined the topics covered in DeVRT, including signs and symptoms of mental illness, communication skills, crisis interviewing, and de-escalation techniques. “There will be times when you do everything right and things still go sideways,” said Kimberly Telesh, an industry/organizational consultant for the department. “It’s jail. That’s going to happen.”

Sergeant Thomas Bryant reminded attendees that when training “you have to be patient with your people.” He also said that you need to take each inmate request seriously and respond in a timely manner to avoid upsetting them. “The small things in custody are huge,” he said, “because it’s all they have—even if it’s only a pair of shoes.”

Deputy Desiree Johnson emphasized good decision-making when determining whether to enter an inmate’s cell. “Ask yourself, ‘What is the urgency to go in there?’ Are you creating the urgency or is the inmate?” she said. “It’s important to know the difference.”
The workshop “Breaking Boundaries: A Collaborative Approach to Addressing Mental Illness in Jails” focused on partnerships between criminal justice and mental health providers. Lisa Gentz, Program Administrator with Washtenaw County Community Mental Health told the attendees, “If you don’t have a close relationship with your community health provider, go home and establish one. It will make your job incredibly easier.”

She also stressed having shared goals and priorities, and knowing how to benefit from one another’s strengths. “Know this is what we bring to the table, this is our piece of the puzzle,” she said, “And know how those pieces fit together.”

Renee Wilson, Director of Community Corrections, Correctional and Reentry Services for the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office, noted that those with behavioral health disorders stay in jail longer and return more frequently than those inmates without such disorders. “Our profession has changed. The environment we are working in is different,” she said, “We have to be part of the change to move forward.”

Hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods also pose serious challenges to jail administrators and staff. In the workshop “When Disaster Strikes: Lessons Learned from Florida and Texas,” presenters shared their stories of Hurricanes Irma and Harvey. “You always think you are prepared, but there’s always twists and turns,” said Michael Gaugher, Chief Deputy of the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, whose facility housed more than 400 evacuated inmates from Monroe County during Hurricane Irma.

He stressed early preparation: consulting courts on inmate release, augmenting staff schedules for 12-hour shifts, stocking power and fuel supplies, checking emergency equipment, and preparing food and medical supplies, vehicles, and the buildings and grounds. “Don’t wait until the last minute. You can get caught right in the middle of a serious storm,” Chief Deputy Gaugher said.

Chief John Johnson of Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation Department encouraged attendees to “assess, assess, and assess again.” He emphasized, “You might think that you have a good plan, but you’ll find that it can be improved,” he said.

Chief Johnson also pointed to the security issues that can arise when officers are working long hours during a natural disaster. “If they are tired and they are thinking about their homes and their loved ones, how safe are you? Think about that.”

This highlights just a few of the 70+ workshops available to attendees at the conference. Attendees can access the handouts and presentations of the workshops through the AJA Conference Mobile App.
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38th Annual
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& JAIL EXPO 2019
MAY 18–22, 2019 | LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
REGISTRATION AND HOUSING OPENS NOVEMBER 2018.
Congratulations to the American Jail Association’s 2018–2019 Officers and Board of Directors, who were sworn in at our 37th Annual Conference & Jail Expo in Sacramento, California in April. We thank them for their service to AJA and to local corrections. For their contact information, please turn to page 67.
The American Jail Association’s Certification members had a strong presence at AJA’s 37th Annual Conference & Jail Expo in Sacramento, California.

On the second day of the conference, Shane Dotson, CJM was honored at the Sunday Luncheon & Business Meeting for his service of five years on the Jail Manager Certification Commission (JMCC). In his report to AJA members, he announced that AJA currently had 455 active CJOS, 360 active CJMs, and 46 active liaisons for CJO and CJM candidates. AJA also has 25 active CCTs. He introduced new Commissioner Jared Schechter, CJM and new chair, Tiffany Mass, CJM.

The next day, the JMCC and members of the Correctional Trainer Certification Commission (CTCC) held a special Q&A in the iConnect Live area and chatted with attendees interested in the certification process. On Tuesday, the “How to Get a Leg Up: The Benefits of Certification and How It Is the Pathway to Promotion and Accreditation” workshop, hosted by the JMCC and CTCC, explained the value of certification and how it is a personal and professional investment for jail officers, jail managers, and trainers. This workshop explained all three certifications and the method of applying and taking the exams. The Commissioners took additional questions from interested parties.

On Wednesday morning, AJA held Certified Jail Manager testing, where 17 pre-registered jail managers and administrators took a pencil-and-paper examination in one of the meeting rooms. A Commissioner on the JMCC graded each exam, and candidates received their test results before they left the conference.

In addition, the AJA certification department announced that, just like the CJO application and examination protocol, the CJM application and examination process will also be available exclusively online in summer 2018! The new testing service will expedite the process and candidates will have their results immediately upon completion of taking the CJM online exam. The exact launching date is to be announced.

This year also marked a new addition to the AJA store: certification polo shirts with the CJO and CJM emblems. These polo shirts will be available for purchase in AJA’s online store this summer.

For questions about certification, e-mail kendrat@aja.org.