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# Community

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**The National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA)** is the only association solely dedicated to advancing the unique profession of Correctional Industries. For more than half a century, NCIA has operated as an international, non-profit professional organization of individuals, agencies and companies, both public and private, who are committed to:

- Promoting excellence and credibility in the field of Correctional Industries through the professional development of its members
- Increasing public awareness of the benefits of Correctional Industries as work/training programs funded in part or whole by the sale of goods, services and commodities produced by incarcerated individuals
- Supporting innovation in and the development of work programs for incarcerated individuals
- Promoting reentry and reducing recidivism by providing incarcerated individuals with real-world work experience that teaches transferable job skills, life skills and work ethic to prepare them for post-release reentry and employment

#### **NCIA's Mission Statement**

The National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) is an international nonprofit professional association whose mission is to promote excellence in Correctional Industries through professional development and innovative solutions that improve public safety, business operations and successful reentry.

#### **NCIA Members**

NCIA members represent state Correctional Industry agencies, Federal Prison Industries and numerous county jail work programs, as well as private sector companies that work in partnership with Correctional Industries, both as suppliers/vendors and as partners in apprenticeship and work programs.

#### VISIT WWW.NATIONALCIA.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NCIA!



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#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

Our field is unique for its collaborative spirit. Where most organizations within a given industry compete against one another, CI agencies create connections and look to each other for support and the sharing of new ideas. This issue will feature stories about how CI's network with each other on inter-agency consulting, collaborate on projects, and show how great new ideas spring from a discussion at a National or Regional Training Conference, from a survey request or other type of networking platform available to NCIA members. Many of these articles will highlight how CIs have worked together and collaborated during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### From Brenda Chandler, President, NCIA

few months into 2020, our community was presented with an unexpected series of events and challenges! Often during times of crisis organizations either shine or fail — the uncharted waters brought on by the COVID-19 crisis prompted many Correctional Industries throughout the nation to shine and connect in remarkable ways.

It was truly uplifting to witness how 'Our CI Community' did not hesitate to take immediate action to stop the spread of COVID-19. By modifying their industries and manufacturing



processes, CI's responded in record speed, producing critically-needed hand sanitizer and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to supply their Departments of Corrections and their local communities across the United States. I've never been more proud to work for Correctional Industries as we continue to play a major role in the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This summer edition of NCIA News is fitting for the time in which we currently live and work. 'Our CI Community' has always provided support and information for those of us working in Correctional Industries. NCIA is proving to be a major cornerstone for us during this extended crisis. From conference calls and survey reports to creating a database of COVID-19 resources for CI Directors to access at their convenience, NCIA made it possible for CI's thousands of miles away from one another to collaborate, share information, and exchange ideas. Various CIs have been sharing patterns for making masks, face shields, and gowns, as well as processes to make hand sanitizer and work with stakeholders. Be sure to read the stories in our special COVID-19 section on page 8 and the articles from CA, OK, NV, and IN that highlight our CI community work ethic and the numerous collaborations that are ongoing nationwide!

It was so very disappointing for all of us that NCIA's April 2020 Conference in Austin, TX did not come to fruition. A tremendous amount of effort went into the planning for that conference and I would especially like to thank not only the NCIA staff but the wonderful people at TCDJ and TCI for all of their hard work.

As we transition to the 'new norm' that will likely include social distancing, I would like to encourage everyone to stay connected! Our online and digital communication skills have enhanced as we convene virtually rather than in face to face meetings. There will be challenges that still lie ahead, but we will not just survive but thrive, as we have proven time and time again that we are a unified 'Community' of CIs that sustain one another and create new levels of greatness!



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Gina Honeycutt, Executive Director, NCIA

2020 was like any other year, my Executive Director's Update would consist of an information-packed recap of an unforgettable national conference, acknowledging the incredible efforts of our workshop speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and so many other contributors, and recognizing

our national and regional award recipients. The COVID-19 pandemic changed all of that, and while the cancellation of our national conference was extremely disappointing for NCIA and our members for so many reasons, it pales in comparison to the challenges each of you has been facing in your programs and institutions since the onset of the pandemic. NCIA recognizes that this pandemic has impacted every practitioner in our CI world, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you in every way possible!

"A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common," is the definition of Community, but like most words, it has more than just one meaning. Community is also "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals." Our CI community harnesses both meanings, and NCIA is proud to act as the conduit for you, our members, to unite as a community. Believe it or not, the NCIA staff recommended this magazine theme last year, well before the words COVID-19 or Coronavirus were even in our vocabulary. We liked it because when we describe our association and our members to other correctional associations, the first thing we say is how much our members support one another, and what a tight-knit community we are. Little did we know that COVID-19 would bring an even deeper meaning to this theme – that we would see Correctional Industries programs across the country come together and collaborate for the greater good. Leaning on one another during the face of a pandemic, Cls have been sharing formulations for hand sanitizer, designs, patterns, and specs for gowns, masks, and other PPE, and an abundance of important information for DOCs combating this terrible virus. These last few months attest that CI is a strong and vital community that shares information for the greater good, as well as contributing to the overall mission of corrections agencies nationwide in extraordinary times.

My staff and I are honored to work on behalf of all CI professionals and to help aid your progress, even in the slightest way, in furthering your collective mission and goals. NCIA remains strong and we look forward to better times ahead for all of us!

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#### NCIA NEWS SUMMER 2020

# CIS ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER



It was mid-March when an urgent call from CALPIA rang into the NCIA office. Skipping the small talk, the question was straightforward ... how were other CIs adapting their operations for the COVID-19 pandemic? Normally, NCIA would respond to CALPIA's question by surveying CI Directors and publishing the results but in this situation, it was clear that time was of the essence. CI, our country, along with the entire world, was welcomed into the new, uncertain viability of COVID-19.

The reality of this global pandemic meant CIs needed critical information in real-time! And, as is the typical response for our members, CIs were poised to share information with their fellow CIs as they learned it. NCIA hosted the first national conference call (which was one of many) that same day, March 18th, focusing on the immediate need for CI to produce hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE).

While it was widely covered in the press about Corcraft's (NY) re-packaging of hand sanitizer, there were still multiple questions around the actual production, mixing/ blending, and FDA approval, as well as sourcing chemicals and alcohol. Only a few states had begun to examine making utility masks, but most states on the conference call were also being tasked by their governor to begin making masks, gowns, and face shields. "Manufacturing

utility PPE at our facilities seemed like a logical solution," said Gayle Butler, Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) Administrator. "We have knowledgeable staff, talented inmate workers, and the overall ability to be versatile in our operations." Montana's DOC ordered a 3-D printer in March enabling their CI to craft face masks that use the N95 filters.

ngo mers.

Right: Montana's DOC ordered a 3-D printer in March enabling their CI to craft face masks that use the N95 filters.



CI Directors were eager to have subsquent conference calls and share their resources, and NCIA was obliged to be that conduit. In response to the critical and immediate need for this information-sharing, NCIA launched a special COVID-19 page for CI directors on its Member Portal to house the volumes of documents, web-links, designs/patterns/specs, and other resources that were pouring in from directors across the country. Talk about Community!

#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

"When this pandemic started to hit our State, it was extremely helpful having NCIA and all Correctional Industries Directors sharing information and resources," said CALPIA General Manager Scott Walker. "This was new territory for everyone and through conference calls, texts, and emails with other states, we all collaborated and helped each other."

Every formulation, pattern, and web-link submitted by each state was one less task for another state to research—the collaboration and community response of our CI members to unify and help one another's programs was staggering!

"Throughout CIs all over the country, and from every level within, great ideas and positive thinking are generating immeasurable motivation to rise above this COVID challenge," said Oregon Correctional Enterprises (OCE) Administrator Ken Jeske. "These are the days we look back to and remind ourselves that we can overcome anything. By standing together, by speaking up, sharing, and listening to each other, we give each other the confidence that we are on a good path and that others are facing the same obstacles with solutions-based thinking."

NCIA's Member Portal became an immediate resource for all directors across the country to access what was being produced by Cls to battle the COVID-19 pandemic in real-time on a national level. "Our collaborative efforts and resources not only helped Cls ramp up their production of hand sanitizer and PPE, but they also provided operational resources with regards to social distancing in the shop, receiving raw materials, and product liability", Jeske added. "These processes have shown us the new potential for our agency in how we could be at the ready for future events and could create new training opportunities for extremely relevant jobs moving forward."

The last couple of months have been uncharted territory for Correctional Industries, but through it all, the one thing we already knew about our Cl community remained clear and at the forefront—our members are eager to work together as one entity towards a common goal through collaboration and information sharing. Cl will survive this pandemic and emerge stronger than before, and when that occurs we will have each other to thank the most.



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# HOW CIS CAME TOGETHER & COLLABORATED DURING THE PANDEMIC

Whether it was two states sharing a pattern or another association learning from NCIA, here are just a handful of the collaboration stories so far during the COVID-19 pandemic:

#### CALPIA & MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES COLLABORATE ON MASK PRODUCTION

Below: Reusable cloth barrier mask



CALPIA started sewing reusable cloth barrier masks on March 23rd and quickly ramped up production to 10,000 masks per day. CALPIA collaborated with Maryland Correctional Enterprises to develop a washable mask suitable for usage by both facility staff and incarcerated individuals.

#### **QUESTIONS ABOUT HAND SANITIZER?**

At the beginning of the pandemic, many states had questions about hand sanitizer. How to make it ... where to source chemicals and alcohol ... is FDA approval required ... just to start. Immediately CIs in MA, IA, NE, and CA provided materials and documents that answered these questions. With FDA and WHO guidance to formulations and production processed, these resources helped many other states quickly ramp up the production of hand sanitizer.



Above: Hand sanitizer

#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

# **QUICKLY** LEARNING TO MAKE PPE

**Below: Sneeze shield pattern** 



Prior to the pandemic, no state made utility masks, gowns or face shields ... now nearly 40 states manufacture some kind of PPE and that number continues to grow. In what was described by one CI director as 6 to 9 months of product development boiled down to a couple of days, states had to figure out how to make the PPE, what materials to use and a host of other questions. To the rescue were CIs such as Oregon Corrections Enterprises, Washington State Correctional Industries, Masscor, Maryland Correctional Enterprises, Virginia **Correctional Enterprises and Utah Correctional** Industries who provided patterns, approval guidelines, material lists and photos of the production process.

#### NATIONAL SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION CALLING

A collaboration between the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) and NCIA came to fruition in Florida with the help of PRIDE Enterprises President Jack Edgemon and Florida Sheriff Association's Executive Director Steve Casey. Once Casey discovered PRIDE's ability to produce critically-needed hand sanitizer and PPE within their home county in Florida, he asked Edgemon about working with Cls on a national level to help county sheriffs nationwide. Edgemon picked up the phone and called NCIA Executive Director Gina Honeycutt, and the collaboration between associations was born. NCIA was happy to share resources including a list of states that produced hand sanitizer and PPE. Not only would this help counties and cities during the pandemic, but hopefully open up future opportunities for CI to provide other products and services.



Above: Sneeze shield

#### NCIA NEWS SUMMER 2020

# CINTRENEWS: CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES



#### YOUR CI COMMUNITY NEWS!

NCIA is excited to show you the new <u>Cl in the News</u> page on the NCIA website! Cl practitioners can use this resource to keep up with what other Cl's are doing and also share your Cl's news stories.

Go there today to see how many CI's are stepping up to make essential materials and PPE for the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted articles also address how CI's are working with their local governments, as well as CI collaborations and shared resources. So stay connected and up to date with CI in the News!

Send your recent CI news stories to Rebecca Burr via email (rburr@nationalcia.org) to get them posted.

#### A STITCH IN TIME SAVES LIVES

The State Emergency Operations Center asked if the Washington Department of Corrections could help provide relief in the current Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shortage due to COVID-19. Coyote Ridge Corrections Center textiles factory to this endeavor on, altered their clothing garment production to producing over 500 protective gowns a day with hopes to reach 2,100 gowns a day.





#### LOUISIANA INMATES ARE USING DONATED SUPPLIES TO MAKE HAND SANITIZER AS CORONAVIRUS SPREADS

In St. Gabriel, at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center which is part of Prison Enterprises division of the Louisiana Department of Corrections, incarcerated individuals are mixing isopropyl alcohol, glycerol, hydrogen peroxide and water in a 700-gallon polyethylene tank to make hand sanitizer. They are using a formula developed by the World Health Organization and ingredients donated by three manufacturers: ExxonMobil, Procter & Gamble and Solvay.

#### WV INMATES MAKING PROTECTIVE MASKS FOR STATE AMID THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

In West Virginia the Lakin Correctional Center and the Denmar Correctional Center have made more than 32,000 protective cloth face coverings amid the coronavirus pandemic. Completing at least 1,000 each day, they were able to provide nearly 8,000 masks to the National Guard. Over 1,000 masks were donated and distributed between two local hospital and Homeland Security and Emergency Management.



# We're In This Together

As we all adjust to a new set of circumstances due to the COVID-19 outbreak, SanMar is here to help. Our new resources page features tools, tips and best practices for you to use and share as you adapt to today's changing world. We're here for you.

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#### **CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES NETWORKING** COLLABORATING WITH JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS & THE NATIONAL GUARD TO BOLSTER OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

#### BY VICTOR MANZO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS-SOUTHERN REGION, ICI TIM MINNICK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS-COMMISSARY & WAREHOUSE, ICI MICHAEL PARKER, JOINT VENTURE MANAGER, INDIANA CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

Described by many as a "bad movie or dream," the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic profoundly impacted and arguably changed every aspect of the way of life in our world, including the world of corrections.

As the fight against the pandemic started, mantras such as "In This Together" and "Alone Together" became 'battle cries' while confronting the virus. Communication and collaboration were cornerstones for implementing actions to address the plethora of challenges COVID-19 was causing. To that end, the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) launched initiatives to assist Cls in addressing the pandemic's impact on correctional facilities. The initiatives included conference calls, sharing COVID-19 information on the NCIA website, and conducting surveys about the types of health items needed and determine what was available (e.g., hand sanitizer, PPE). NCIA's efforts lead Indiana Correctional Industries' (ICI) to discover other Cls that were developing hand sanitizers and resource banks of information.

ICI's communications with California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), Iowa Prison Industries, Corcraft (New York), and other CIs garnered valuable information that paved the way for ICI to produce hand sanitizer. NCIA's leadership and collaboration enabled ICI to begin producing hand sanitizer for the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), taking just over three weeks from the initial concept to daily production.

#### **ICI SHIFTS GEARS**

ICI had an integral role in the State of Indiana's response to the pandemic, especially for the 29,000 incarcerated individuals that comprise Indiana's correctional system. ICI expeditiously shifted garment production at its Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) garment operation to manufacture face masks and protective gowns. Production quickly reached 4,000 masks and 200 gowns per day. Unfortunately, the urgency to provide these



Above: ICI produced and distributed 25,000 bottles of Viroclean Hand Sanitizer to IDOC facilities and other State agencies.

critical supplies quickly surpassed ICI's production capacity, even after adding extra shifts.

ICI adopted the mindset that "failure is not an option" in order to meet the growing demand for masks, gowns, and other supplies. When faced with MCF's capacity challenge, ICI approached one of its Joint Venture (JV) partners, Raine, Inc., at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility with an inquiry to increase sewing capacity. Raine, Inc. is a private sector sewing company specializing in manufacturing nylon military field gear, police duty gear, and other products. Raine, Inc. immediately offered shop space, sewing machines, and technical assistance. ICI then recruited volunteers from IDOC's Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) dorm to use Raine's equipment. This new team began producing an additional 1,000 face masks per day within 10 days of commencing.

#### Continued on page 16



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#### NCIA NEWS SUMMER 2020

#### Continued from page 14

Raine, Inc. again stepped up and helped when they discovered there was a bottleneck cutting material at Miami Correctional Facility (MCF). Raine, Inc. cut excess material and sent it to MCF for final sewing to remove the gridlock. ICI and its partners then were able to manufacture more than 100,000 face masks, 6,000 protective gowns, 12,000 face shields, and 25,000 bottles of hand sanitizer. ICI distributed these supplies to IDOC and the Indiana State Department of Health.



#### INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD SAVES THE DAY

COVID-19 infections restricted the movement of incarcerated individuals and prevented the processing of their commissary, a coveted privilege and influencing factor in maintaining facility safety and security. Disruption of commissary delivery can cause profound stress and anxiety within the incarcerated individual population. ICI fulfills commissary for all 23 IDOC facilities and picks, packs, and ships more than 3,000 orders a day at the ICI Central Warehouse inside the Plainfield Correctional Facility. The commissary operation requires the work of approximately 150 incarcerated workers per day. Despite extraordinary efforts to prevent the virus from spreading inside the facility, it was not long before commissary operations stopped due to the facility's suspension of incarcerated individuals' movement and quarantine.



Above: Indiana National Guard received assignments and training during daily briefings.

IDOC and ICI addressed the commissary shutdown by collaborating with the Indiana National Guard. Within days of meeting and developing an action plan, the Guard came to the rescue and provided over 130 Guardsmen to maintain ICI warehouse operations. Commissary delivery was maintained and ICI trucks continued to roll.

#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

#### **HEROES EVERYDAY**

Recognizing staff for their important work and commitment is critical to success. Without these men and women coming to work every day, Cl's and correctional facilities would not be able to operate. During the midst of the pandemic, IDOC expanded its community outreach efforts. Indiana Correctional Industries created 4-by-8 foot signs stating "Heroes Work Here". The signs were placed near the entrances of all IDOC facilities.

While the total return to pre-COVID "normal life' may be unpredictable, the dedication and commitment of those who work in the field of corrections remain unwavering. Maybe a silver lining to the pandemic is the increased display of appreciation and recognition of all of the "essential personnel" in corrections who persevere to give us another day of being safe, healthy, and secure.





#### **CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES** CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES

#### BY DELANA POWELL, REENTRY COORDINATOR, GEORGIA CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

In February 2019, Georgia Correctional Industries (GCI) decided to follow the lead of Utah Correctional Industries (UCI) with their effort to provide much needed backpacks for school-age children in their state. GCI learned of UCI's program because it was featured in the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) E-brief. The article resonated with GCI's executive management as a way for GCI to not only help fill a void for individuals in the community, but as a way to support GCI's mission of "developing offenders' job skills needed for successful reentry into society." This project would also enhance the soft and hard skills of the incarcerated individuals assigned to work in this operation, as well as help develop the skills needed to work as a team to accomplish a project of this type and scope from conception to completion. This project was far outside of their normal daily tasks and would promote personal and professional growth. At first, a small group of GCI staff was tasked with looking into the possibility of GCI providing a similar product within the state of Georgia. What started out as a small group, with great ideas, turned into a much larger group with grand ideas, well-defined plans, and innovative ways to achieve the group's goals.

With the full support of Georgia Department of Correction (GDC) and through a combined effort involving staff at GCI's Administrative Office, as well as staff and offenders at GCI manufacturing plants located at Montgomery, Hancock, and Pulaski State Prisons, GCI realized their goal of delivering a total of 500 backpacks to Georgia's Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Preliminary conversations with DFCS staff validated the need for backpacks for children falling under their care. While they had partners able to donate school supplies, finding partners who could provide the backpacks was a more difficult task. GCI was able to fill a void and allowed DFCS, working with other community partners, to fill each backpack with school supplies before for distribution. The filled backpacks were then distributed to school-age children in Georgia's foster care program at several back-to-school events in the Metro Atlanta areas of Fulton and DeKalb counties in time for the 2019 – 2020 school year. These areas were identified by DFCS to be the greatest in need having more than 900 children in their program.

Utah Correctional Industries and its staff proved invaluable with their support. By providing a copy of their pattern, bill of material (BOM), and information on the vendor they used, UCI saved GCI significant time during their development process. Utah Correctional Industries even provided a sample backpack which gave the staff and incarcerated individuals working on this project something tangible to build from. The project showed that the collaboration, networking, and information sharing between GCI and UCI helped build and strengthen each agency not only individually but collectively as well. This is just one more example of the benefits of networking and communicating information across all of Correctional Industries.

Incarcerated individuals assigned to the GCI Garment Plants at both Pulaski and Hancock State Prison who wanted to work on the project had to complete a voluntary participation waiver, as participation in the project was completely voluntary. While less than 40 incarcerated individuals would ultimately work on this project, all incarcerated individuals assigned at either plant completed the waiver and requested to work on the project. They wanted to be part of something that would allow them to give back to Georgia communities. This demonstrates the positive impact working within a CI has on incarcerated individuals, allowing them to develop a stronger work ethic, moral compass, as well as a desire to give back to the communities they came from and will one day go back to.

#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

The project logistics began to develop quickly when UCI's model backpack, along with its pattern, measurement and bill of material, was sent to the GCI Garment Plant at Pulaski State Prison. The process would involve three GCI plants, GCI transportation unit and staff from their administrative offices, and required numerous discussions and collaborations from various areas within GCI. In addition to internal communication, GCI worked closely with GA DFCS to ensure that the finished backpacks would meet the needs of the children who would receive them.

From there, GCI was able to develop a pattern for the backpacks they wanted to create. This process included not only GCI staff, but also the incarcerated individuals working in the plant. Between 15 and 20 incarcerated individuals at the GCI Garment Plant worked on the backpack project and were involved in the development of a line system to ensure they would be able to create quality backpacks in a relatively short period of time. Having the sample, design, and production information of what was already validated

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Above: Judy Caulder, Pulaski Garment Plant Supervisor II, conducts quality control inspections as part of her role in the project.



as a successful product gave GCI staff and incarcerated individuals at the various manufacturing operations the opportunity to modify the design. Many of the staff and incarcerated individuals working on this project have school-aged children of their own which gave them an insight as to the features that could be tweaked to provide better performance in the school environment. For example, increasing the loop size would allow the packs to not only be hung on classroom hooks, but act as a handled to carry them by in addition to the shoulder straps. Adding a variety of different colors for the flaps and stitching would help the children and parents to more easily identify their pack among many others. GCI management requested that everyone involved in the process consider possible changes to the current design for the future. Throughout the production process additional changes were suggested by both staff and incarcerated individuals. These suggestions have been documented and will be included in the design for future use. Encouraging both staff and incarcerated individuals to contribute their ideas and concepts builds self-esteem and confidence; this makes for more engaged and productive individuals in the daily operations of GCI.

#### **MAKING THE BACKPACKS**

The process began with tracing the patterns onto the various fabrics and then cutting them out with a power saw. Working with surplus fabric from the GCI Upholstery Plant at Montgomery State Prison, as well as GCI vendor donations, the colorful backpack flap pieces were sewn together with straps attached and shipped to the GCI Embroidery Plant at Hancock State Prison where the GCI logo and the phrase "Excellence Drives Success" was embroidered.

Once the embroidery was completed and the flaps were returned to GCI Garment Plant at Pulaski State Prison, the front and back straps were sewn on and the top



Above: Each backpack is embroidered with the GCI logo and the belief that "Excellence Drives Success"

stitch was added to complete the bottom part of the bag. Next, the flap was sewn together with the bottom part of the bag and then the draw string was added on. Lastly, the insides of the bags were checked for any loose hanging threads that needed to be clipped and then the backpacks were packaged (eighteen to a box), put on a pallet, and loaded up for shipping.

Everything came together beautifully at the hands of staff and incarcerated individuals at the GCI Garment Plant at Pulaski State Prison, who usually spend their days creating garments for GCI. But they said the force behind this effort, to give back with GCI and GDC, made the project extra special because they were helping children in their own communities from inside the prison. From the first cut of the patterned fabric to the final snip of errant thread, and at every step in the process in between, it was evident from the finished goods that everyone put in their best effort.

"They jumped into doing it because the majority of them have children," said GCI Garment Plant Supervisor II, Judy Caulder. "The children are going to benefit because children are always in need of something. I think backpacks are a good start for what we can do for them."

Many of the incarcerated individuals who worked on the project are also mothers. They say this assignment was special to them because it was their chance to make a positive difference for others. One incarcerated individual who worked on the project said "My kids said they were proud of me when I told them what I was working on."

"It is interesting because a lot of the moms in here ... their children are in DFCS or group homes or foster homes. So, it's exciting for them to potentially be helping their child out," explained another worker from the GCI Garment Plant. "It helps them to be able to go through the healing process to be able to help someone's child, even if it's not their own."

"We plan to grow this particular effort on an annual basis" says Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director of GCI, "and to develop other community outreach projects. The benefits go far beyond what we are able to provide to those in Georgia communities." Pataluna goes on to explain. "This is just one more way that we are striving to meet our vision of Positively Impacting the Lives of all Georgians."

#### National Correctional Industries Association

#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

#### MICHAEL J. MOORE RETIRES

After 27 years with Louisiana Prison Enterprises, Michael J. Moore retired on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Moore was named Director of Louisiana Prison Enterprises (LPE) in 2009 and had served in multiple management positions since 1993. During his tenure with LPE, Moore faced many challenges including several natural disasters that required moving shops to maintain production levels and he also oversaw the major undertaking of moving LPE's headquarters in 2019. Moore's other major accomplishments include the start-up of a Canteen Package Program, implementation of Certified Treatment and Rehabilitation Program (CTRP) credits for incarcerated individuals working in skilled trades, and the creation of an apprenticeship program.

An active NCIA member, Moore served as NCIA Treasurer from 2017-2018 during which time he improved NCIA's investment performance and enhanced the

association's financial growth and stability. Prior to his tenure as NCIA Treasurer, Moore was the Regional Appointee for the South Central Region and also served on the NCIA Best Practices, Program Development, Awards, and Audit Committees. His dedication to Correctional Industries and all of his accomplishments as LPE Director resulted in Moore receiving the esteemed NCIA Rodli Award in 2019. A great friend, colleague, and mentor to so many— Michael Moore has given and contributed MORE than NCIA could have ever asked for!

NCIA thanks Michael for his contributions to CI, and we wish him the best in his retirement!

# NCIA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

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#### NCIA NEWS SUMMER 2020

# **NCIA WELCOMES** NEW DIRECTORS!



#### COLIN HOLTHAUS, DIRECTOR, KANSAS CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES (KCI)

Colin Holthaus was appointed Director of KCI on March 16, 2020. Holthaus has an Associate in Arts from Dodge City Community College (2002) and a Bachelor of Science in Technology degree from Pittsburg State University (2004). In 2009, Holthaus earned a Master's in Business Administration from Friends University, which ultimately led to him to Washburn University School of Law, culminating with a Juris Doctorate (2013).

Holthaus has a unique background having worked on numerous warehouse and production floors. His career started in 2013 at BNSF Railway working in strategic sourcing and supply. He then branched out working for Frito Lay and the National Association of Trailer Manufacturers. Holthaus quickly developed a passion for manufacturing goods, helping businesses grow, and improving a part of the overall justice system. Currently residing in the Kansas City Metro Area, he is most excited about working with the staff and their private industry partners in Kansas, especially at Lansing Correctional Facility.



#### **ROBERT LEON, DIRECTOR, NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS INDUSTRIES (NMCI)**

Robert Leon was appointed Director of NMCI on March 2, 2020. Leon's professional carrier began at a private-sector printing business holding a variety of production and managerial positions. It was in March of 1993 when Leon began working in corrections for North Carolina Correction Enterprises (NCCE). Leon was appointed as the Director of NCCE in August 2018 and has a total of 27 years of service to NCCE, retiring in February 2020. He values moments working in corrections where he can help incarcerated individuals acquire skills that will aid in a successful transition back to their communities.

Leon is a graduate of the NIC/NCIA Correctional Industries Leadership Training and was the 2012 NCIA Staff Award Recipient for the Southeast Region. He is most excited about the opportunity to aid in the growth of New Mexico Corrections Industries through the creation of more work and training opportunities for the incarcerated population in New Mexico. He now resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife, Vivian, and their two grown children, Jonathan and Emily.

#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

#### MARIA PETERSON, DIRECTOR, UTAH CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES (UCI)

Maria Peterson was appointed Director of UCI in February 2020. Peterson started her career in television news, working for small market television stations in Oregon and Alaska. In 2007, she moved to Washington state and worked as a communications consultant for the Washington Department of Corrections (WADOC). Peterson worked at WADOC for 9 years, focusing on employee engagement and communications, providing her opportunities to share the story of CI with partners. In 2016, she moved to Utah to serve as the DOC's communications director and then moved to UCI as the Deputy Director in 2018.

Peterson believes Correctional Industries, more than any other single corrections division, has the ability to influence an individual's life in a direct way, reducing idleness and giving a sense of purpose. She is most excited to work with the outstanding team of professionals at Utah who take pride in their work and believe in UCI's mission to change lives through career development. Peterson is a single mom with two daughters, ages 6 and 8 years old, and resides in Lehi, Utah with her mother, for whom she also cares for. She is a certified High Fitness HIIT instructor and teaches classes to corrections staff and at a local gym during her free time.



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# NEVADA'S SILVER STATE INDUSTRIES TAKES LEAD ROLE IN PPE FOR STATE

BY TERI VANCE, MARKETING COORDINATOR, SILVER STATE INDUSTRIES

When much of the world shut down in response to the outbreak of the coronavirus, Silver State Industries – the industrial arm of the Nevada Department of Corrections – sprang into action, ultimately creating a statewide partnership to fill the void in essential protective items.

"We are uniquely poised to respond to the changing needs of our community," said William Quenga, Deputy Director of Prison Industries for the Nevada Department of Corrections. "We have a nimble workforce that was able to pivot to meet the specific demands presented by a global crisis."

In response to the national shortage of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other personal protective equipment items, Silver State Industries staff began researching ways to produce them for essential workers in the state.

Matt Brown, the supervisor of the Silver State Industries metal, mattress, and wood shops, took the lead in coordinating operations across the state in producing hand sanitizer, face masks, face shields, and gowns. "When this idea was first brought to me by Deputy Director Quenga, we dropped it into high gear, created a plan, and responded with urgency," said Brown. "When you see the pandemic and shortages of goods for our first responders, it makes us all want to take part in helping."

Quenga and his staff collaborated with Correctional Industries across the country in a conference call where employees shared recipes for sanitizer, patterns for gowns and masks, as well as tips for navigating the creation of new industries with few resources and an approaching deadline.

"It took us starting a whole new production line for hand sanitizers and revamping current structure in our sewing operations," Brown said. "We started providing to those in need within a week of sewing and two weeks of tooling up and procuring raw materials on the hand sanitizer." Once production was in full swing, the department entered into a partnership with the Nevada Division of Emergency Management to provide the life-saving equipment to the workers who needed it the most. As of the end of April, the department has produced 63,395 masks, 12,500 gowns, 1,240 gallons of hand sanitizer, and 1,482 face shields. Brown said, "it took a concerted effort of prison industry workers to make it happen."

"The buy-in from all of our offender workers was great!" he said. "Without their buy into the plan of action, we would not have been able to hit the ground running as we did. The workers were getting letters from their families who heard about what we are doing and the positive feedback made them feel even better about putting in the time and effort to help."

The incarcerated individuals said they were happy to help in a time of need. "It's the most rewarding thing I've done in prison," said Arnold Bertnick, an incarcerated individual working for Silver State Industries. "Knowing that I've done something that could help protect the community, my family and my friends is a good feeling."

#### NCIA CONGRATULATES AND WISHES A FOND FAREWELL TO BECKY WARFIELD

NCIA congratulates Becky Warfield on the birth of her third child! Becky has been the administrative backbone for the NCIA National Office for the past five years and has decided not to return to work after her maternity leave. Becky will be greatly missed but we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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#### NCIA NEWS SUMMER 2020

ENTRANCE

# AN ODOC AND OCI COLLABORATION

**BETTER TOGETHER** 

#### BY LANCE WEST, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

It's a partnership born of a desire to give hope. The Oklahoma Department of Corrections had an untapped, institutionalized workforce and Oklahoma Correctional Industries (OCI) had a vision.

OCI was established in its current form in the mid-1970s with a three-pronged mission. The goal was to provide marketable job skills to thousands of incarcerated individuals in Oklahoma, reduce idleness, and to build quality products at a reasonable price.

"These guys take such pride in their work." OCI Coordinator Joey Barnes said. "The inmates take it above and beyond what someone in the real world does because it has their stamp on it."

OCI is directly under the umbrella of the Department of Corrections. But until recently, much of their life-altering work went unnoticed by the general public. "There was a time when it was said that Oklahoma Correctional Industries was the best-kept secret in Oklahoma. With the help of ODOC Communications, we are bringing forth like never before the benefits OCI can bring to the state of Oklahoma," said OCI Acting Director Alex Lunn.

Perhaps OCI's most valuable commodity is producing well trained, exceptionally motivated incarcerated individuals. Many are poised to become productive citizens after incarceration.

"OCI has helped me a lot," Clifford Webb, an incarcerated individual said. "Before I got here I had very few marketable skills. I couldn't even type. Now I help with IT, specializing in data mining and website development."

OCI provides products and services to customers throughout the state of Oklahoma. This year, OCI

#### Continued on page 28

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#### NCIA NEWS SUMMER 2020

#### Continued from page 26

completed two massive projects. Incarcerated individuals helped build, upholster, and assemble office furniture for other state agencies. OCI created a <u>video</u><sup>1</sup> that highlighted this collaborative effort. OCI has completed and finished many major projects to be proud of, including the collaborative effort highlighted in the video, amongst others with links to visuals throughout the article. arsenal of tools at Dick Conner Correctional Center (DCCC) where incarcerated individuals receive cutting edge training.

OCI administrators are always looking for new ways to serve the agency's needs while saving money for Oklahoma taxpayers. This was evident last year when OCI re-purposed an old trailer, helping it find new life by

transforming it into a usable kitchen for ODOC, as featured in a <u>video.</u><sup>3</sup>

And in times of crisis, the collaboration between ODOC and OCI is potentially life-saving. When COVID-19 began to sweep across the nation, there was real concern the virus might infiltrate our facilities.

OCI employees began producing face masks, disinfectants, and hand sanitizer for staff and incarcerated individuals. Not only did the swift action offer a layer of protection inside our prisons, but it also provided a level of assurance to the public, as shown in a video.<sup>4</sup>

Most citizens had no idea of what goes on behind the wire before OCI's budding

relationship with the DOC. This coalition showcases the rich source of revenue and training provided in Correctional Industries.

"It's encouraging to see that so many incarcerated individuals can help contribute back to society and specifically many of our state agencies while learning a valuable skill that they can take with them when they leave," Wolf said.

These agencies, together are building hope for thousands of incarcerated men and women. And that's good news that deserves sharing. "As Oklahoma Correctional Industries moves forward, the partnership



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"The partnership between ODOC and OCI allows us to provide training and skill-sets to our inmates in a way that is mutually beneficial. Profits over people, who says you have to choose," said ODOC Communications Manager Justin Wolf.

While the OCI program is broad, it costs our taxpayers absolutely nothing. OCI is entirely self-sufficient. Salaries are paid with money earned through sales and services rather than state funds.

Even the state-of-the-art equipment and materials are purchased through these revenue streams. As a <u>video<sup>2</sup></u> shows, OCI recently added a new laser cutter to its

#### OUR CI COMMUNITY



# CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES WORK TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

#### BY **MICHELE KANE**, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CALPIA **STEPHANIE ERES**, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CALPIA

When the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, began hitting correctional systems nationwide, many Correctional Industries immediately stepped in to provide solutions helping stop the spread of the virus.

As the pandemic rapidly began to spread across the country, CI directors, managers, and staff were faced with a situation none had seen before, with many questions needing quick answers. How could staff and the incarcerated population stay safe and healthy?

What type of emergency supplies were needed? How could CI remain sustainable? As the list kept growing, CI joined forces and shared ideas on how to come to the aid of others during this emergency.

"I have an overwhelming amount of admiration for how folks came together and found viable solutions in this time of crisis," said Scott Walker, General Manager of California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA). "CALPIA continues to benefit by learning from each other and

Below: Assistant Branch Manager Nicole Collins displays CALPIA's masks and hand sanitizer.



#### OUR CI COMMUNITY

creating those best practices that can be used now and in the future."

With the assistance of the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA), CALPIA along with other State Correctional Industries held conference calls, exchanged emails, and collaborated on strategies to produce emergency supplies.

"There is a need in California, just like everywhere, for masks and hand sanitizer," said CALPIA's Assistant Branch Manager, Nicole Collins. "It was amazing how other states jumped in and shared their specifications and designs. I would get phone calls at all hours from other states who were trying to help or needed our assistance and guidance producing emergency supplies."

CALPIA developed cloth barrier masks and hand sanitizer to be utilized by all staff and the incarcerated population within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"Just like private and public industries, we had to pivot some of our existing programs to help produce these masks and hand sanitizer, so we could contribute to the response against COVID-19," added Walker.

CALPIA started producing the masks at Mule Creek State Prison (MCSP) on March 23, 2020, with production expanding to CALPIA's other Fabric Enterprises. In addition to MCSP, the masks are now being produced at the California Institution for Women, California Men's Colony, Sierra Conservation Center, Correctional Training Facility, California Correctional Institution, and Centinela State Prison.

Incarcerated individuals in the program say they have a sense of pride while creating the masks. "What I do could possibly save a life and that feels great during this time," said Danielle Johnson who works at the CALPIA Fabric Enterprise at the California Institution for Women. "It feels amazing to help as much as possible and it truly makes you feel like you are helping society."



The masks are made of 100 percent cotton twill and elastic and have two layers. CALPIA collaborated with Maryland Correctional Enterprises and Allina Health to develop a suitable mask. By mid-April, CALPIA was producing just over 20,000 masks daily.

The barrier masks are washable. In addition to CALPIA laundering, the masks follow the California Code of Regulations – Title 22 standards for laundry and hospital linens, and include instructions on how to properly wash them individually.

In addition to masks, CALPIA also started providing hand sanitizer. Several CI's, including CALPIA, shared

Continued on page 32

information, and best practices on how to start this production. CALPIA's team worked with the California Department of Public Health to acquire the necessary licensing for relabeling, repackaging, and mixing.

"We passed the audit with flying colors, not one problem," added Walker. "From start to finish this process took two weeks to deliver which is remarkable considering it could take many months."

The hand sanitizer is being made available to both staff and incarcerated individuals at CDCR and CCHCS facilities and locations. If CALPIA's inventory exceeds the needs of those two departments, CALPIA will make the product available to other state agencies.

CALPIA delivered the initial batch of hand sanitizer to CD CR locations on March 28, 2020. Additional deliveries are taking place weekly.

Production of the materials is occurring at CALPIA's Chemical Enterprise located at the California State Prison, Los Angeles County.

"Whether it is our Chemical, Fabric, Healthcare Facilities Maintenance, Laundry, Transportation, Food Industries or other mission-critical enterprises, CALPIA staff, and the offender workers are responding big time and I am in awe of their willingness to help during this crisis," added Walker. "We are definitely in this together!"

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# 2021 National Training Conference April 12-15, 2021 Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle's Eastside Seattle, WA



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