Dear NACRJ Members,

I have been an Assistant State’s Attorney with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office for almost 24 years. I am currently assigned to the Office’s Community Justice Center on Chicago’s south side. This assignment is a continuation of Restorative Justice education work that began for me when I was head of the Juvenile Justice Bureau.

At that time, I was introduced to RJ thanks to the efforts and influence of Cheryl Graves and Ora Schub of the Community Justice for Youth Institute and other Restorative Justice champions in the Chicago area. I am now a trained peacemaking circle keeper and committed advocate.

As a community based prosecutor I have had the opportunity to use RJ for prevention, intervention and community engagement. One of the things I have learned along the way is that community engagement and responsibility for the advancement of RJ Philosophy is an essential component to developing and sustaining a thriving practice that is effective in dealing with local problems and meaningful for members of the community. Working diligently over the past four years we have exposed diverse segments of the community to RJ, many community members are now trained and looking for ways to use their RJ training in schools and neighborhoods.

I am grateful to the Officers and Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve as Interim Vice President and look forward to meeting each of you at the 2015 National Conference on Community and Restorative Justice. Peace.

Kathy Bankhead, J. D.
Interim Vice President
The 5th National Conference (June 1-3, 2015)

The planning for the 5th National Conference on Community and Restorative Justice is really starting to take shape. The Organizing Committee, led by Dr. Mara Schiff has defined the conference theme as:

“The Future of Restorative Community Justice: Building Sustainable Communities”.

The team is now focused on lining up the featured keynote speakers. They will be announced once we are certain whom they will be.

The call for papers and presentations will come out in September 2014 with a due date in mid-to-late November 2014. Start thinking now about a paper or presentation you would like to make at the conference.

Save the dates – 5th National Conference, June 1-3, 2015 in Ft. Lauderdale on the Beach

ProQuest Access Lapsed

When the NACRJ was first organized we were able to offer access to the ProQuest search engine for research literature in the social sciences for a small user fee of $20. This is one of the primary sites where recent published research literature on restorative justice, community justice and many related topics practices can be found. Our initial contract was for 6 months. At the end of that period we did not have sufficient membership usage to warrant renewal of the contract ($5,000 for 2014). However, ProQuest has agreed to keep our contract on record for possible renewal at some time in the future.

Membership News

• NACRJ – 1st Anniversary on June 21, 2014

On June 21, 2013 the NACRJ was fully and legally formed as a non-profit professional and academic association with a mission to advance the practice, study and evaluation of non-traditional justice in the U. S. It has been a year of rapid growth and development. Every member has contributed, in their own way, as we build a meaningful and effective association that represents and supports the interests of the field.

Take a moment on June 21, 2014 to celebrate the 1st Anniversary of your National Association of Community and Restorative Justice.

• NACRJ Approaching 300 members in its First Year

In the last two – three months membership has continued to grow despite nearing the of our first membership year. We now have 280 members. They are composed of 238 regular
members, 7 life members, 13 institutional members, 19 student members, and 3 sustaining member. On June 21, 2014 we celebrate our 1st Anniversary as a national association.

- **On-Line Membership Directory: Our Key Networking Tool**

Thanks to everyone who provided their Membership Directory Information and Consent Forms. We are very close now to reaching our threshold number before the directory goes live on the website ([www.nacrj.org](http://www.nacrj.org)). We can only list those individuals and organizations who provide both consent and the specific information they want published on the directory.

Creating an on-line directory has not been a simple task. It required clarification of what might be provided, determining what information should or should not be publicly accessible, obtaining software needed to create a functional on-line directory, obtaining member information and permission to post that information in a directory and several other steps. The good news is that the software needed has been installed on the website and we are starting to enter test information to ensure it works the way we want it to work. We hope that the directory will be functional in the next month.

- **Membership Renewals for 2014-2015 - Due in June**

The current membership year lapses at the end of May and membership renewals are due by the end of June for all membership categories except Life Members.

The NACRJ is nearing the end of our first full year of service to the field. In that time we have accomplished many things:

- Growing to nearly 300 members,
- Establishing a functional and active association leadership structure,
- Planning the 5th National Conference (June 1-3, 2015);
- Expressing of our collective voice on a policy issue before the U. S. Sentencing Commission and American Bar Association;
- Creating a website with that provides resources to support members and non-members (check the new page under Resources for “Training-Conferences”).
- Publishing the NACRJ News at least once a quarter;
- Creating an on-line directory as a networking tool for members that should “go-live” in the next month;
- Establishing formal relationships with other organizations within the field; and,
- Many other things.

We hope that you find value in these efforts and will renew your membership for the 2014-2015 membership year.
Website Update

Recently the Home Page at www.nacrj.org has been updated:

- The Now Showing feature on the home page has a new video “Restorative Justice - Louisville”.
- A new “Training-Conference” page (found under “Public Resources”) with listings links to upcoming training and conferences that might be of interest to you.
- Minutes from business meetings have posted for member access. You must login to the website. Once logged-in the minutes for business meetings may be found at:
  - About NACRJ → Administration → Association Business.
- A photo of the Dr. Fania Davis and Mr. Eric Butler, Recipients of the 2013 Dennis Maloney Award is now posted on the page for the award. The award was in recognition of their work with Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY).

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Draft changes to the Constitution and Bylaws are being considered by the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Proposed changes to the constitution must be approved by an electronic vote of the membership.

Together we are building an association that advances the field and speaks to important policy issues to fulfill our motto “Shaping Justice for the 21st Century”.

Michael J. Gilbert, Ph. D.
Executive Director