



From Jim's Desk

Our “new normal”

No doubt, 2020 has changed terminology of our language as much as have computer and electronic advancements. A “mouse” used to be a pest we didn’t want to put up with, but today a

“mouse” is vital to many of us. A “cloud” was a sight to see above us, and today “the cloud” is an invisible storage system for many of us.

And so, it is with our “new normal,” whatever that is. “Normal”

used to be everyday, ho-hum happening, but today it is new, and no one quite knows what it means. Whatever it is, someone in a higher pay grade than I will tell us what the “new normal” is, which leads me to the point of this writing: virtual and hybrid.

As of this writing, ACA is planning a Winter Conference in 2021 that is both virtual and hybrid. Hybrid used to mean a combination, and guess what? It still does! Our hybrid conference (if it happens) will be a combination of face-to-face meetings and electronic meetings over the iPhone, iPad, computer, or other screen of some type. Virtual, on the other hand, is not really “virtual.” Virtual is defined as “almost or nearly as described, but not completely or according to



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strict definition.” To see someone on a screen a few hundred or even thousands of miles away is not nearly as described. Seeing the president of the United States on television is not like seeing the president in person. But who’s to argue these terminologies? Not me, that’s for sure.

Whether I’m hybrid or whether I’m virtual, I’ll be at the ACA 2021 Winter Conference, maybe even in Orlando. I hope each of you attend in any virtual way possible. Virtually hybrid, or virtually virtual, I’ll see you there.

There is good news on the horizon as some frontline health care workers have received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine. Experts tell us that the general public may

have vaccine availability by late March or early April. While the dates are not good for our Winter Conference, it looks better for a “normal” Congress of Correction in Nashville, Tennessee, in August.

In a past column, I urged ACA members to vote in both the ACA elections and in the national elections. I’m happy to say both of those elections are behind us and we have a new ACA President-Elect, Denise Robinson, who we congratulate. We also thank Doug Dretke for running a spirited campaign too.

We’d also like to congratulate our re-elected Vice President-elect Tony Wilkes, our new treasurer-elect, Dr. Harbans Deol, and our Board of Governors, Delegate Assembly

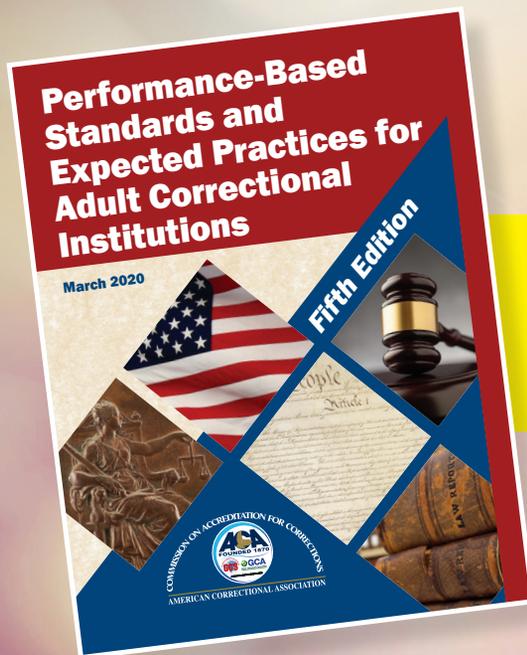
and Commission on Accreditation members who were elected. We also welcome Tony Parker as our incoming president, who will be starting his term this year.

In my next column, I want to write about our outgoing ACA President, Gary Mohr. Suffice it to say, he has been a rock to me and to our association. I’ll have more to say about that later.

Stay safe, stay strong and Happy Holidays, including goodbye 2020, and Hip Hip Hooray for 2021!!



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ACA Executive Director



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