



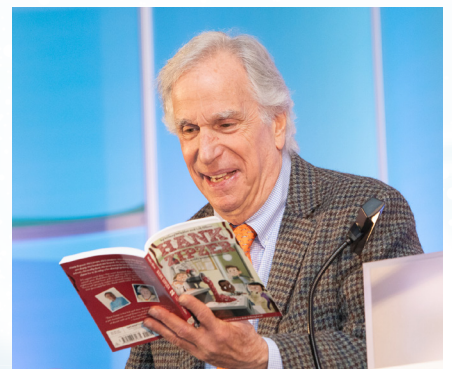
Florida sun shines bright over 2023 ACA Winter Conference

Thousands of correctional professionals from all over the country and all over the world descended on Orlando, Florida from January 26th to January 31st for the American Correctional Association's Winter Conference.

Despite the bright sunshine outside, conference goers still packed the Orlando World Center Marriott's many ballrooms and conference rooms for a rousing general session, informative plenaries and a host of workshops and accreditation panel hearings.

The Performance-Based Standards Committee were the first in town on Thursday to start the working schedule of the conference.

For the rest of the conference goers, the proceedings kicked off with the Health Care Network Reception held on Friday night.





Conference participants got down to business early on Saturday with accreditation hearings and committee meetings opening as early as 6 a.m. The early hours didn't preclude a full house from attending, at 8 a.m. on Saturday, the Staff Wellness Plenary (see pg. 53) while certification exams were given all morning long.

A busy morning meant many conference goers were ready for lunch on Saturday and hopefully they were able to snag a table at the sold-out Health Care Luncheon and Special Session. Amid the lunch fare, participants were treated to a talk by Dr. Brendan Salonder, Ph.D., on medication treatment for opioid use disorders in jails and prisons. (See pg. 48)

Saturday afternoon saw a full slate of informative workshops which continued through the end of the day.

Sunday morning started early for many conference goers as accreditation hearings began bright and early. Other conference participants flocked

to the many workshops given from early in the morning to the early afternoon when the exhibit hall opened. Corrections professionals were able to mingle, talk with and learn from the over 200 exhibitors who filled the Cypress Ballroom to capacity.

Monday morning saw the gathered correctional professionals assemble in the Canary Ballroom for the highlight of the 2023 Winter Conference: The General Session.

Noted actor, producer and author Henry Winkler was the star attraction and he charmed and delighted the room (See pg. 51.)

Denise M. Robinson was then sworn in as the 108th President of the American Correctional Association by her predecessor Tony Parker along with new members of the Board of Governors and the Delegate Assembly. President Robinson gave a moving and well-received inaugural address.

Participants then moved among more workshops, the accreditation luncheon and the exhibit hall. Performance-based auditor training took up a good chunk of the afternoon as well.

The final day found Accreditation Manager training starting early in the day and a full slate of workshops were offered through mid-day. The Delegate Assembly concluded its business after lunch and brought another successful Winter Conference to a close.

It was a spectacular success and only left the gathered correctional professionals hungry for more in Philadelphia in August and the 153rd Congress of Correction.

BY KIRK RAYMOND

