



*From Jim's Desk*

## Nashville 2021 Re-imagined

**A**s I write this, plans are in motion for the ACA to convene in August for the 151<sup>st</sup> Congress of Correction. While we did not have the opportunity to celebrate 150 years of our existence in our birth city of Cincinnati, we consider 2021 as our 151<sup>st</sup> Congress of Correction. In our past during some war years, the ACA was not present, so we are following precedent in naming this year, our 151<sup>st</sup> Congress.

We are planning a virtual Congress for those individuals who are unable to travel yet due to travel restrictions, individuals not feeling comfortable to travel, and/or Tennessee having limitations in place in August. Of course, I want to reiterate that future planning is still cloudy with regards to meetings, travel safety and our limitations.

With that said, one thing I know for sure is that ACA members and attendees are anxious to see one another in-person. For too long we have visited over the phone, met through electronic means,

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corresponded via email and text. It's time for "people to be people" again ... even with continued mask wearing, social distancing and vaccinations. By the way, I hope that each of you are taking advantage of getting your Covid-19 vaccine! Betty and I have been vaccinated and virtually every ACA employee has been vaccinated or in line to be. If you haven't done so, please protect

yourself, your friends and family and get vaccinated!

Another possible change for the Nashville Conference are our dates and scheduled meeting order. For example, we are planning to have a General Session Friday afternoon for ACA members, Correctional Leaders Association (CLA) members, Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA) members, and others to attend. By the time you read this, those changes will be announced and visible on the ACA website homepage.

While change is hard to accept at times, it is sometimes necessary. I want to encourage all of us to remain positive and do our best to embrace it. I look forward to seeing you in-person or virtually at the Nashville Conference.

In the meantime, please stay safe!

James A. Gondles Jr., CAE  
ACA Executive Director