

## Welcome Letter

Thank you for registering for the **8<sup>th</sup> National Corrections Conference** on November 7-9<sup>th</sup> in Nashville, Tennessee!

We are so glad you will join us, and we are certain that you will enjoy your time in the Music City. Our goal is that you will take something back in the way of ideas that can be used in the jails and prisons where you carry the message.

**The Inn at Opryland** and the three Marriot overflow hotels all have shoulder dates where you can take advantage of the group rate from Tuesday through the following Thursday (11/4 – 11/13). So, if you want to make a mini vacation out of your trip, you should.

Take a left out of the host hotel and you will see the 2,888-room **Opryland Hotel**. We encourage you to just walk through the many atriums to view their beauty. The Delta atrium features a river running through where you can actually take a boat ride.

On the other side of Opryland Hotel is **Opry Mills Mall** which has many restaurants if you want to dine close to host hotel. And right behind those giant guitars is the **Grand Ole Opry**. We have arranged for up to 60 conference goers to get a **backstage tour of the Opry on Friday, November 7th at 3:00 p.m. (central) for \$35**. See the QR code to reserve your spot.

We must give a grateful shout out to GSO who offered us a hospitality room in Vancouver at the **July International Convention**. It will be fun to see how many new National Corrections Conferences attendees join us in Tennessee because of that weekend. **Grapevine** will supply several cases of the July prison edition to share with visitors who stop by to learn more about the National Corrections Conference.

We know you are all excited to hear about plans for visiting one of the facilities that our local AAs attend. Final details are being worked out for a 50-person bus

tour of Nashville that also includes an AA meeting at our middle Tennessee maximum security prison, **Riverbend** on Thursday afternoon.

Space for **the Saturday night banquet is limited to 320**. If you don't get a banquet ticket, we have another option for you. Just ½ mile from the hotel is **Cock of the Walk** a casual and fun restaurant with genuine local cuisine (that includes lots of delicious fried foods and hearty sides for yall non-Southerners). The restaurant is spacious and can accommodate up to 200. Or for the more adventuresome, there are dozens of dining options and exciting sights in downtown Nashville, a short drive from the hotel. A close favorite of mine is **Darfon's**, just two exits south of the hotel.

We are the **Music City** so you will see many with musical talents who are in the program during the weekend. You just never know who may show up to say hello.

And finally, a heartfelt AA hug to my co-chair, **Morris Ray**. Morris attended the very first AA meeting I went to inside Riverbend Maximum Security Institute in January of 2007. When he was paroled in 2017, I told him to get his paperwork in order as he was going to join Lary L and me in St. Louis for the first National Corrections Conference. We have made all seven of them together and we agreed that Nashville should host one of them. And here we are. A purpose fulfilled.

And kudos to the rest of our host committee. **Lary L, Shannon K, and Randy R**. And to the many subcommittee chairs who are working tirelessly to follow in the footsteps of the many servants and hundreds of volunteers before us who have hosted the seven prior conferences.

So, share the word and get ready to connect with many old friends and make lots of new ones. We offer you a sincere "Howdy", as Minnie Pearl would say.

In Service,

Charlie B  
NCC 2025 Co-Chair