



## President's Message

~ Rhonda Meacham

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Greetings IL-ATSA members and colleagues!! I hope this message finds everyone in good spirits and prepared for the upcoming cold, snowy months!!! It is with gratitude that I am writing my final message as IL-ATSA's Board President. It has been an honor to serve in the position and I am grateful for the hard work and time that has been dedicated by my

fellow board members. I look forward to continuing my work with the board under the guidance of our incoming President, Jeff Reynolds. I would also like to congratulate our newly elected executive officer, Tracy Tholin, who will be serving as our Vice President. Mike Kleppin and Michelle Evans continue their terms as our Treasurer and Secretary; Guy Groot

continues as our SOMB representative, and Jennifer Block is a newly elected board member. Thank you to all of you and welcome aboard Jennifer! I hope all of you enjoy the newsletter, take time to browse our revamped [website](#), and are able to [register](#) for our upcoming [conference](#) this spring.

### IL-ATSA BOARD

PRESIDENT  
RHONDA MEACHAM

PAST PRESIDENT & SOMB REP  
GUY GROOT

VICE-PRESIDENT  
JEFF REYNOLDS

SECRETARY  
MICHELLE EVANS

TREASURER  
MICHAEL KLEPPIN

NEWSLETTER  
TRACY THOLIN

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER!**

**JENNIFER BLOCK**

## Illinois-ATSA Announces Spring 2017 Conference: Building Foundations

The Illinois-ATSA Board is pleased to announce our Spring 2017 Conference: **Building Foundations**. We chose this theme to both reflect our journey as a board, and the vision we have for our field in the state of Illinois. The past several years, the board has laid a foundation to become a recognized resource in the state – this began with filling all our officer positions, re-establishing our non-profit status, continuing our representation on the Sex Offender Management Board, providing webinars

for our members, collaborating with entities such as the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and SOMB to provide education and training surrounding sex offense specific topics, and continuing our efforts to connect all our members, through email blasts and this newsletter. All of these building blocks have culminated in this next step – a conference where we can gather, exchange ideas, and hear the latest research and development in the treatment and management of persons

who have sexually offended. To achieve our ultimate goal of being a premier, recognized group of professionals who provide the best practices in research and management, we challenge you to join us, in this next step. Help us build a strong foundation for excellence.

**Register for the conference [here](#).**

**Early registration deadline: January 15!**



ILATSA

## Spring Conference Keynote Speakers Announced For Thursday March 16: Caldwell & Wilson



**Michael F. Caldwell, Psy. D.** received his Doctorate in Psychology from the University of Denver in 1987. He is a Lecturer in

Psychology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and a Senior Staff Psychologist at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center, and he has a private practice in juvenile forensic psychology. He is the President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (WI – ATSA). He is a Co – Investigator with

the Mind Research Network at the University of New Mexico, and a Consultant with the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. His current area of research focuses on the assessment of risk in juvenile sexual offenders and treatment of aggressive juvenile delinquents. Among his recent publications are: *Sex offender registration*

*and recidivism risk in juvenile sexual offenders; Evidence of Treatment Progress and Therapeutic Outcomes among Adolescents with Psychopathic Features; Accuracy of Sexually Violent Person Assessments of Juveniles Adjudicated for Sexual Offenses and Quantifying the Decline in Juvenile Sexual Recidivism Rates.*



**Robin J. Wilson, Ph.D., ABPP** is a

researcher, educator, and board certified clinical psychologist who has worked with sexual and other offenders in hospital, correctional, and private practice settings for more than 30 years. He presently maintains an international practice in consulting psychology based in Sarasota, Florida, and is an

Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct) of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Robin's current interests are focused on collaborative models of risk management and restoration as persons of risk are transitioned from institutional to community

settings. He has published and presented internationally on the diagnosis and treatment of social and sexual psychopathology, in addition to being a member of the editorial boards of ***Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research & Treatment***, the ***Journal of Sexual Aggression***, and the ***Howard Journal of Criminal Justice***.

ATSA members can access articles by Dr. Caldwell through: ***Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research & Treatment***. Members must log in and select the "Membership" tab and scroll down and select "member's page." Journals may be accessed through the link on the right hand side of the page.

Check out our new website at:  
<http://www.ilatsa.org/>



## ATSA Conference in Review: Networking and Strengthening Our ATSA Family

~ Mark S. Carich, Ph.D

Over the last 25-30 years, I have been heavily involved in the field working with clients who have sexually abused others, as well as a student of psychotherapy (since 1979). I attended my first ATSA conference in Boston in 1993. Bill Pithers (one of the original RP guys), took time and introduced me around the conference. That year 900 attended, which was more than double the previous year. I was really impressed meeting many of the stars of that era. Since 1993, I have only missed 3 conferences that I can remember. It is one that I try not to miss. To me ATSA is like extended family.

For many years I networked extensively, building relationships. In fact, I interviewed 40+ leaders over the last 15 or so years. Occasionally, these interviews would pop up in newsletters. As a side note, we (Bruce Cameron & Scott Smith) self published them in a book called

[“Conversations with the Leaders in the Field of Sex Offender Assessment, Treatment, Research, & Management”](#) with *Creative Space*. It is interesting to note all the different changes over the years as reflected in various conference themes. For me networking at multiple levels is a key aspect of the conference. I emphasize to my grad students the importance of networking. It is much more than just attending sessions. I emphasize different levels of networking including:

- Blowing off sessions perhaps in favor of “retail therapy”
- Attending sessions
- Attending sessions & talking to fellow professionals attending the session
- Talking to session presenters
- Talking to exhibitors
- Talking to the leaders in the field

The leaders in this field are a fairly friendly bunch.

Over the last 18-20 yrs., I have the week mapped

out. Typically, I fly in Tuesday and fly out Sunday. Each day is planned out. I room with the program auditor from Minnesota, whom is a close friend, thus usually hang out with Minnesota, Colorado & Texas people throughout the week. Usually, after the day’s sessions, I go to the ATSA hospitality suite and hangout with a variety of people from everywhere. A lot of ideas are exchanged, as well as socializing. Years ago, on Thursday nights the Illinois people would have dinner, however, as things changed now the Abel Party is a highlight. Fridays roll around; the highlights include the speaker dinner followed by the hospitality suite. Saturday, after the conference, site seeing, souvenir hunting,... dinner with friends from Colorado, Minnesota, Texas, and Canada. Sundays might include lunch, depending upon my flight schedules. Within this schedule, includes: exchange of ideas,

discussions with the leaders in the field, trying to set up consulting, training, article ideas and book deals. As time goes on I have become close to the above groups of people. This year, I was able to introduce some Illinois Metro-East colleagues (including a former student) around the conference, so they can put faces to the individuals they read in the professional literature. Sadly, as time goes on things change. We have lost several colleagues over the last few years. Several more have retired or retiring. I really miss seeing Bill Marshall (reports he is retired). Gene Abel has now retired his clinical practice. D.R. Laws says he only has a few years left. I will miss talking to these guys. They are with the group that really formed the field. In summary, next year the conference is in Kansas City, which is relatively close to Illinois and not as expensive. I strongly encourage professionals to attend & engage in the conference.

**The Illinois-ATSA board would like to wish our colleagues a happy, healthy, and restful winter season. We hope to see you at our conference in the new year!**



## **Conference Sessions At-A-Glance**

**THURSDAY MARCH 16**

### **S99R Coding Rules and Implications for Practice and Use with Other Tools**

**Presenter:** Robin Wilson, Ph.D, ABPP

### **Humanizing the Victimized Sex Offender: The Experience of Identity Development**

**Presenter:** Toni Crocilla, Psy.D.

### **Effective Use of Polygraph: Pre-Test Preparation and Processing**

**Presenter:** Rhonda Meacham, LCSW

### **Good Groups Promote Good Lives: Using Group-Centered Techniques to Actualize GLM Primary Goods**

**Presenters:** Shan Jumper, Ph.D., Jerry Jennings, Ph.D.

### **Pharmacological Treatment of Paraphilic Disorders**

**Presenter:** Abdi Tinwalla, M.D

### **Adolescent Sexual Risk Assessment**

**Presenter:** Michael F. Caldwell, Psy.D.

### **Project Off the Record: Sex Offender Registration Termination**

**Presenter:** Teretha Lewis, LCSW



**FRIDAY MARCH 17**

### **Clouded Boundaries: Analyzing the Impact of Culture on Sexuality and Sex Offending**

**Presenter:** Michelle Evans, DSW, LCSW, CADC

### **A New Group Treatment Approach Towards Sex Offenders on the Autism Spectrum**

**Presenters:** Harmony Goorley, MA, LCPC, Jennifer Block, Psy.D., Marisa Quinones, Psy.D.

### **The Implementation of Shame Resilience and Wholehearted Living Curriculum with Sexual Offenders**

**Presenter:** Brook Seume, LMFT

### **Meta-Change Maintenance: Applying it Effectively**

**Presenters:** Mark Carich Ph.D., Robert Cooper, MA

### **Treating Adolescents with Sexual Behavior Problems: Helping Families Heal**

**Presenters:** Liza Simon Roper MSSW, Jill Novacek MSW

### **Motivational Interviewing in the Treatment and Management of Sexual Offenders**

**Presenter:** Leslie Barfknecht

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