

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

# Latino American Today

May 2022 Issue 416

[www.latinoamericantoday.com](http://www.latinoamericantoday.com)



*¡Feliz día  
de las  
Madres!*



FELIZ  
**CINCO** DE **MAYO**



DOUBLE THE

## Mother's DAY FUN

Latinos and Mother's Day

By: Fae Savignano

Well, we all know that Mother's Day is very special! It is so special in fact that some moms have the privilege of celebrating Mother's Day twice in one year.

Because of the tremendous value mothers hold in the Hispanic family unit, and since Latinos embrace both their culture's traditions with those of the United States, some moms have the privilege of celebrating Mother's Day twice. Hispanic families are traditionally matriarchal, and so, Mother's Day is regarded as one of the most important holidays for this community. In a Hispanic home, mothers occupy a distinctive place of honor every day of the year, but Mother's Day is a day of extra appreciation! It is the holiday that most connects emotionally with Hispanics.



Many mother's around the U.S. will celebrate Mother's Day on May 8th this year, and many Latina moms will be part of these festivities, but they may also be celebrating a second time this month. Why? The fact is that in Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala, Mother's Day is celebrated on May 10th of every year. This is one of the most important Hispanic holidays. Mother's Day is the largest card-sending occasions for Latinos in the U.S., beating out Christmas and Valentine's Day. This holiday is also Hispanic's largest money-sending occasion of the year. Many Latinos who come to the U.S. will use Mother's Day as a time to send greetings cards and money transfers back to their mom and families back home.



The Saint Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation's mission is to continue to create ways to bring our entire community together to celebrate our city's unique and special history. We have truly loved being able to help produce the West Side Cinco de Mayo events because they are such an important opportunity to celebrate the West Side.

Unfortunately, the challenges created by COVID have continued to force us to have to postpone the event for 2022. It takes many months to plan Cinco de Mayo and with the protocols in place as recent as the beginning of March, there simply wasn't enough time to create a large community celebration.

It is our hope that everyone will take an extra step to enjoy the West Side, to shop at stores and eat and drink at the restaurants from the West Side neighborhood the week of May 1-9, as we look forward to 2023. We will be showcasing many of the local businesses on our social media leading up to May 1st.



SAINT PAUL FESTIVAL & HERITAGE FOUNDATION



On The Cover  
¡Feliz día de las Madres!  
Happy Mother's Day!

Latino American Today

Founded 2013

Member of  
Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium  
National Foundation of Hispanic Owned Newspapers  
Minnesota Newspaper Association

Published by  
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## La Madre del Emigrante.



*Por Saúl Carranza  
Coordinador de Ministerios Hispanos  
Iglesia del Nazareno*

Los funerales sin un cadaver es una de las experiencias más tristes en un sentido y esperanzadoras en otro que realizamos en las iglesias. Cuando hijos o hijas vienen con el corazón destrozado a contarnos que ha fallecido uno de sus padres. La gran mayoría no tienen los recursos o las posibilidades de viajar a su país para sepultar a su padre o a su madrecita. Aunque la tecnología facilita la comunicación y las video conferencias facilitan el vernos a distancia. Nada puede sustituir el abrazo o el beso de la madre adorada. En esos casos ofrecemos el consuelo de la fe y la Palabra de Dios. Pero el dolor de esos hijos es muy grande.

El inmigrante ha dejado el terruño amado y se ha echado auestas una mochila de ilusiones y el sueño de un futuro mejor para él y para la familia que queda atrás. La motivación principal para la inmigración no es como muchos piensan, el buscar riqueza y aventuras. Aunque algunos pocos logran eso, la gran mayoría solo busca huir del hambre, pobreza y desesperación o aún peor, del “si no te vas te mueres”. La gente siempre ha buscado donde hay comida, trabajo, seguridad y oportunidades. A eso se le llama instinto de conservación. Y muy difícilmente vas a detenerte a pensar en las consecuencias cuando la vida está en juego. Aún en la historia de la Biblia leemos de Abraham, Jacob, y el mismo Jesús que tuvieron que dejar su tierra para ir a dónde podían vivir tranquilos.

La madre del Emigrante es el nombre dado a una estatua ubicada en Gijón, España. Es la figura de una mujer madura que mira al mar y extiende su mano, despidiendo a sus hijos. También es el nombre de dos poemas del mismo tema. El poema de Cándido Posada Sánchez cuenta la historia de la madre.

Era una viuda pobre...muy pobre que tuvo un hijo,  
y apenas éste se halló con fuerzas para luchar,  
cruzó los mares con la esperanza de hacerse rico,  
después que dijo que a su viejita no iba a olvidar.

Y el poema de Leom Kolmnela Cuenta la historia del hijo que dejo el hogar con lágrimas y con esperanza.

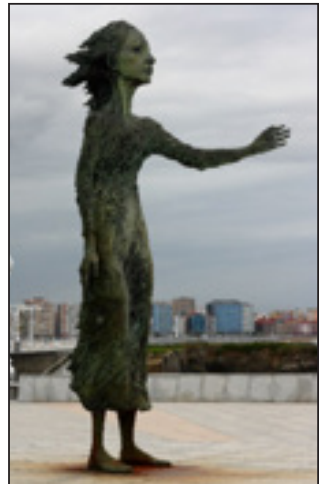
Pues aun siendo un hombre que nació para ser así,  
con gran coraje y al mismo tiempo cobarde.  
Llorando como un hombre mirando hacia ti,  
hacia ti mirando, mi estimada madre.

Un poema cuenta el dolor de la madre que sufre al no tener noticias del hijo amado y el otro el dolor del hijo que, aunque quiere no puede ir a ver a su madre. En uno se escucha el llanto de la madre que implora por una noticia. “Yo todavía gano el sustento con mi trabajo, yo no te pido que me mandes un capital. Háblame solo de tus victorias o tus fracasos”. Y en el otro el hijo cuenta de las humillaciones y maltratos que sufre lejos de la tierra amada.

Los dos poemas terminan con un sueño. En uno la madre en un postrer delirio sueña dar besos al hijo amado y en ese momento “le abrió las puertas la eternidad” En el otro el hijo se propone al menos un momento ir a ver a la madre “aunque sea en sueños”. Que tristeza. Esos son los funerales que mas duelen, el de los hijos que piden una oración por la madre que ya no vieron o la que olvidaron y solamente ante la noticia de su partida recordaron ese amor primero, el amor de la madre.

Pero, esa no tiene que ser la historia de todos los emigrantes, la madre amada, por muy lejos que se encuentre, no está mas lejos de una llamada telefónica, una video llamada o una carta, quizás a distancia de una visita. Pero si tienes la bendición de una madre que vive todavía, no esperes a que muera para enviarle flores, para contarle de tu vida, para decirle que la amas. La distancia nos separa, pero el amor une. Busca de todas las formas posibles hacerle saber a tu viejita que la amas y que piensas en ella. Y si ya no la tienes en este mundo eleva una oración a Dios agradeciéndole por ella.

Se acerca el día de la madre. No todas ellas son perfectas.  
Pero quién lo es en esta tierra. Dedicar no solo ese día,  
sino siempre que puedas un momento para agradecerle  
por darte la vida y por todo lo bueno que te haya dado.  
Y dile. ¡Feliz día de la madre mamá!



## The Mother of the Emigrant.

*By Saúl Carranza  
Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries Church of the Nazarene*

Funerals without a body are one of the saddest experiences in one sense and hopeful in another and it is something that we need to do in churches. When sons or daughters come with a broken heart to tell us that one of their parents has died, the vast majority do not have the resources or the possibilities to travel to their country to bury their father or mother. Although technology facilitates communication and video conferences make it easier to see each other from a distance. Nothing can replace the hug or kiss of the adored mother. In those cases, we offer the comfort of faith and the Word of God. But the pain of those children is very great.

The immigrant has left their beloved homeland and has shouldered a backpack of illusions and the dream of a better future for him and for the family that remains behind. The main motivation for immigration is not, as some may think, the search for wealth and adventure. Although a few achieve this, the vast majority only seek to flee from hunger, poverty and desperation or even worse, from “if you don’t leave you will die”. People have always looked where there is food, work, security and opportunity. This is called self-preservation instinct. And you will hardly stop to think about the consequences when life is at stake. Even in the history of the Bible we read of Abraham, Jacob, and Jesus himself who had to leave their land to go where they could live in peace.

The mother of the Emigrant is the name given to a statue located in Gijon, Spain. It is the figure of a older looking woman who stares at the sea and extends her hand, saying goodbye to her children. It is also the name of two poems on the same subject. Candido Posada Sánchez’s poem tells the story:

She was a poor widow...very poor who had a son,  
and as soon as he found himself with the strength to fight,  
crossed the seas hoping to get rich,  
after he said that he was not going to forget his old lady.

And Leom Kolmnela’s poem Tells the story of the son who left home with tears and with hope.

Well, even being a man who was born to be like that,  
with great courage and at the same time cowardly.  
Crying like a man looking at you,  
looking at you, my dear mother.

One poem recounts the pain of the mother who suffers from not having news of her beloved son and the other the pain of the son who, although he wants to, cannot go to see his mother. In one you can hear the crying of the mother who begs for news. “I still earn a living with my work, I don’t ask you to send me capital. Tell me only about your victories or your failures.” And in the other, the son recounts the humiliation and mistreatment he suffers far from his beloved land.

Both poems end with a dream. In one the mother in a last delirium dreams of giving kisses to her beloved son and at that moment “eternity opened the doors for him” In the other the son proposes at least one moment to go see the mother “even if it is in dreams”. How sad. Those are the funerals that hurt the most, that of the children who ask for a prayer for the mother they no longer saw or the one they forgot and only at the news of her departure did they remember that first love, the mother’s love.

But, that does not have to be the story of all emigrants, the beloved mother, no matter how far away she is, is not farther than a phone call, a video call or a letter, perhaps a visit away. But if you have the blessing of a mother who is still alive, don’t wait for her to die to send her flowers, to tell her about your life, to tell her that you love her. Distance separates us, but love unites. Try in every possible way to let your old lady know that you love her and that you think of her. And if you no longer have it in this world, raise a prayer to God thanking him for it.

Mother’s Day is approaching. Not all of them are perfect. But who is it on this earth. Dedicate not only that day, but whenever you can a moment to thank him for giving you life and for all the good things he has given you. And tell him. Happy Mother’s Day mom!



## Honoring Mothers – Happy Mother's Day



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

**The resume of a mother:** Hotel manager offering cooking, laundry, cleaning, and event planning services. Healthcare provider offering quick fixes to “boo-boos” for little and big accidents at home. Professional driver providing private deliveries, pick ups and drop offs for little people. Teacher assistant providing after school care, understanding and explaining teacher’s homework assignments, and assisting with creative art and science projects. Central station providing lots of hugs, kisses, and abundant love to children of all ages. Salary: pro-bono. All these services are provided for free because that’s what moms do!

In addition, many moms these days work a part-time or full-time job to help provide for their families. What’s more, many moms are the sole provider for their homes. Wow! Only by God’s grace women can do this monumental task of raising children while also holding a job. The cost of childcare is also monumental these days. Therefore, grandparents are stepping in to help. In some countries, many children are raised by their grandmothers because both parents are either absent, gone all day to work and can’t afford childcare, and in some cases, parents may have died of a disease.

In my case, I am a full-time working grandma. And while my children were growing up, I was a full-time working mom. In our new season in life, my husband and I are fortunate to both work from home in our business. Since the Pandemic started, we decided to help our daughter by watching our grandson one day a week. Two years later, we now have a second grandson and now we watch them both one day a week. It’s the best day of our week and a true blessing to be able to spend quality time with our grandchildren.

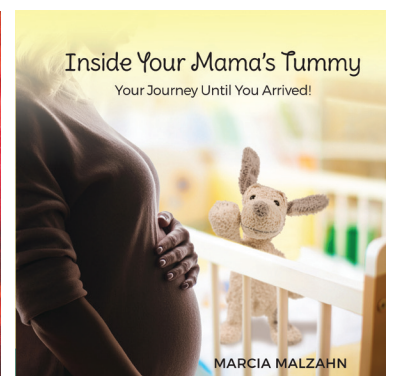
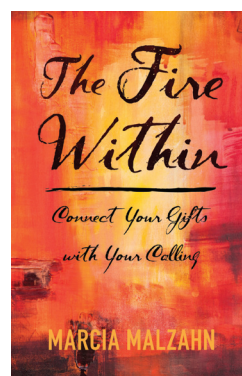
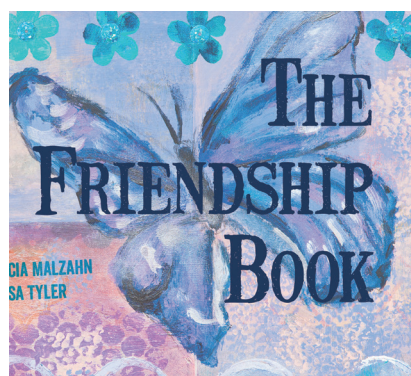
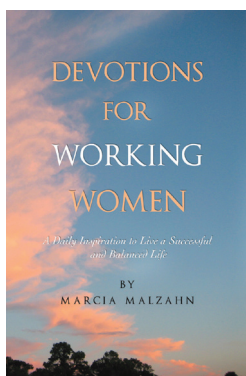
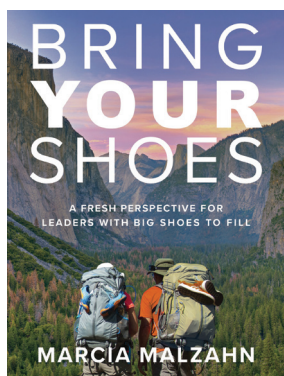
As I shared in the November publication, “Thankful for Grandchildren... Our Crowning Glory!” I just published my fifth book. After six months of waiting at the printing company, the book has arrived and is now available! ***Inside Your Mama’s Tummy: Your Journey Until You Arrived*** is an educational and inspirational book, and it includes Bible scriptures with promises about how uniquely and wonderfully made each human being is. The book ends when the baby arrives and includes a space for you to write the baby’s name, birthdate, and a photo.



If you are a grandparent, an expectant mother, or have friends who are grandmas, **this is the perfect Mother’s Day gift** for them and for you. All proceeds of the book go to two nonprofits: HOPE International and Purposely Chosen. HOPE International provides micro loans and savings to their clients in 16 poor countries around the world. Most of their clients are women and often single moms or grandmothers. Purposely Chosen provides help to young single moms so they can keep and raise their babies.

You can purchase the book directly from Malzahn Publishing Store or Amazon!

**Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms and grandmas in the world. This month we celebrate YOU!**



**Marcia is an inspirational keynote speaker and published author of five books: A daily devotional – *Devotions for Working Women*, *The Fire Within* – to help you find your purpose, friendship poems in *The Friendship Book*, also in Spanish *El Libro de la Amistad* (poemas de Amistad), and *Bring YOUR Shoes* to help emerging leaders with tools on how to lead. In her latest grandma baby book, *Inside Your Mama’s Tummy*, Marcia inspires grandparents to form a bond with their grandchildren.**

**You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at <https://crowning-achievements.com/> or email her at [mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com](mailto:mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com). Marcia Malzahn is also president and founder of Malzahn Strategic management consulting firm for community financial institutions.**





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Pastor Mario Alexander Castro



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Please contact Catherine, [catherine@iesusa.org](mailto:catherine@iesusa.org).



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Independent small businesses are the backbone of our communities. But today, more than ever, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses are hurting. The time for talking and offering short-term gestures is over. We're putting our words into real, long-term, sustainable action through the creation of Comcast RISE. We know that Comcast alone can't remedy complex, systemic issues. But we are deeply committed to playing an integral role in driving lasting change.

Comcast RISE stands for Representation, Investment, Strength and Empowerment. The initiative combined the talent and resources of two business units with expertise in the small business space— Effectv, the ad sales division of Comcast Cable, and Comcast Business – to sustain, support and rebuild BIPOC-owned small businesses within their combine footprints. The current program is geared towards the BIPOC-owned business community. As Comcast RISE is a multi-year initiative, the future complimentary services will be open to other underrepresented groups.

**Selected businesses could receive one or more of the following business services :**



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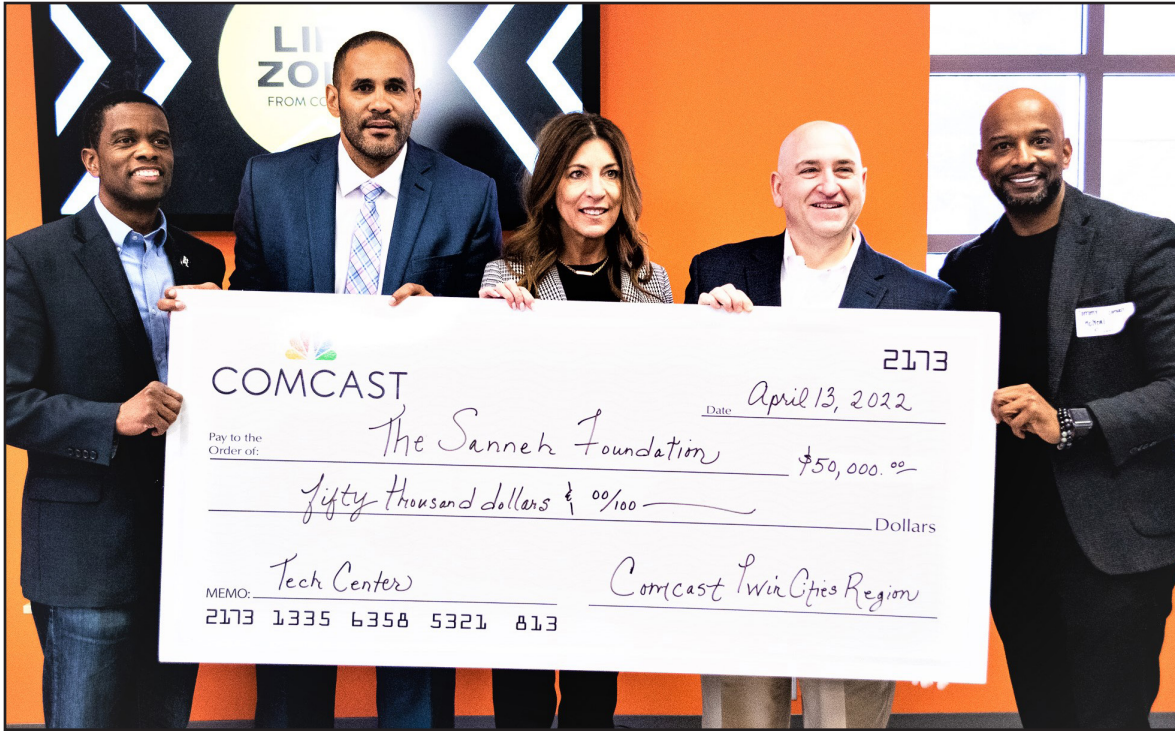
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## Sanneh Foundation Opens Conway Tech Center in St. Paul



L to R Melvin Carter, Mayor, St. Paul, Tony Sanneh, Chair, Sanneh Foundation, Kalyn Hove, Comcast Regional Senior Vice President of Twin Cities Region, Ron Orlando, Comcast Regional Vice President of External Affairs, Twin Cities Region and Tommy McNeal, Comcast Cable, Sr. Director, Customer Experience.

On April 13, several members of the Comcast Twin Cities Region team were on hand when Tony Sanneh and his team held a ribbon cutting for the new Tech and Equity centers in St. Paul. The community will now have access to a state-of-the-art dome – the largest of its kind in Minnesota. The Tech Center is a Comcast Lift Zone and includes several devices and activity pods to introduce more kids to careers in STEM. In addition to providing the commercial grade wi-fi for the site, Comcast made a \$50,000 donation specifically for the Tech Center.



State-of-the-art dome – largest of its kind in Minnesota!



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## U.S. Bank Reopens Flagship Branch Location On E. Lake Street!

By: Claud Santiago

Top executives from U.S. Bank along with community and business leaders gathered on April, 21 for the reopening of the newest branch bank on E. Lake street in Minneapolis. The 6,000 square-foot bank is consider a “flagship” location because of its larger size and high customer traffic.

Andy Cecere, CEO of U.S. Bank, paid tribute to the branch’s manager, Rene Madrid and his staff for their efforts to help customers during the many months before the branch was built. The branch, is one of the last banks to be restored on E. Lake Street after being damaged in the riots in May 2020. Branch manager, Rene Madrid, pointed out the many new features such as a community room that can be used for neighborhood groups meetings, a wealth management team and mortgage and business bankers on-site. Madrid, who is a long-time U.S. Bank employee was overjoyed to see customers reactions to the modern fixtures and lighting and the murals inside the building. Congratulations, to U.S. Bank for their belief and support of the efforts to restore the business community on this South Minneapolis corridor.



*U.S. Bank Branch across from Midtown Global Market*



*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*



*L to R Rene Madrid and Rick Aguilar*



*L to R Rene Madrid and Andy Cecere, U.S. Bank CEO*



*L to R Rene with Guille Garza, NAHREP Twin Cities and Henry Jimenez, LEDC*



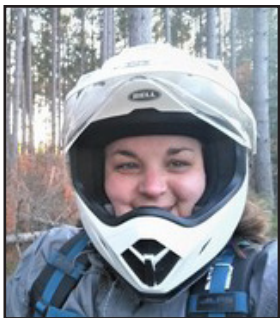


## Employee Profiles

PAT recently hired three new off-highway vehicle (OHV) regional Acquisition and Development (A&D) Specialists. The specialists are based in Regions 1, 2 and 3, with a Region 4 Specialist to be hired over the winter.

These positions will help connect DNR with clubs and local government units to advance the OHV program and the mission of the DNR. Karen Cladas is the OHV A&D in Region 1 and is based in Bemidji. Karen started in October, and previously worked with the Division of Forestry. Karine Finken is the OHV A&D in Region 2, and is based in Grand Rapids. Karine started in December, and worked previously in the private sector in North Dakota. Ali Crofts is the OHV A&D in Region 3 and is based in St. Paul. Ali started in September, and previously worked in Lands and Minerals and as an assistant state parks supervisor.

Karen, Karine and Ali answered questions in a Q&A format. Each emphasized the importance of strong relationships between the DNR and state trail associations.



### Karen Cladas, Region 1

#### Why do you think you were hired?

I was asked: Why do you want this position? I explained how I have a small motorcycle and when I put my helmet on after a long workday and go for a ride, I'm smiling the entire time. I figure sharing that excitement through the OHV program is an opportunity I didn't want to miss.

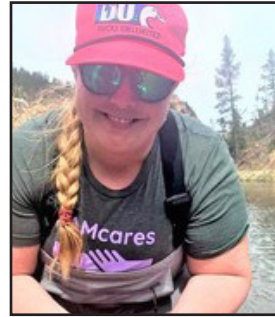
I was asked to share if I could do what's needed to accomplish job tasks, like driving a trailer, using equipment, etc. I shared a previous day I had. At the time, I was an assistant Forestry supervisor. The day started out slow, answering emails, approving timecards, getting paperwork completed. By late afternoon a lightning strike fire was spotted by our detection plane. One other forester and I were on scene first with our trucks and trailer. We drove a four-wheeler far into the swamp and went on foot the rest of the way to the latitude/longitude identified by the plane. We ordered a dozer, and helicopter and moved back as trees began to fall around us. The dozer arrived and placed a firebreak around the fire. I worked with the helicopter for a fuel cycle to cool hot areas, while a fire-tracked vehicle dumped water as well. Once the helicopter was released, I drove the tracked vehicle out to the road. Only with a team effort did we contain the fire for the night. I don't know exactly why I was hired for the position, you'll have to ask them, but I think sharing that day reinforced that I could find a way to accomplish any task needed for the position.

#### What challenges do you foresee with your new position?

I am unsure how well the OHV Program is understood throughout the state. I believe off highway vehicles are seen as a means to destroy, or damage roads and trails. This is not the reality of the activity, and I think educating and spreading the passion may be difficult in some areas.

#### How will you handle the conflict that is certain to rise?

In my mind, all constituents have valid interests. I don't see why compromise between groups can't happen. Once you sit down and explain basic information and objectives, compromise is possible. I am confident in our team's ability to handle any conflict that arises.



### Karine Finken, Region 2

#### How would you summarize your job?

We will help with maintaining and promoting the DNR parks and trails system. One of my main projects will be the Border to Border Touring Route that will go from western to eastern Minnesota, and will primarily use dirt roads and forest roads. Right now we're working on a management plan for that.

The route will be finalized this summer. The route will be rough with some campgrounds nearby. The idea for the route is based on similar routes located in the southern U.S.

#### How often do you get out on the trails?

I use an ATV, and have since 2008 when I met my husband. We go to the Hill City area near Grand Rapids with my in-laws. And we have an annual ATV family event. ATVs are great for exploring trails. I like to stop and look at plants and wild flowers and the orchids. ATV use is a way of getting outside in addition to hunting, fishing and other ways to enjoy the outdoors. You'll see wildlife – I've seen bear, deer and birds.

#### What is your background?

I started here on December 13. Before that I worked for a private engineering consulting company in Mandan, North Dakota. We worked with pipeline companies, electrical co-ops, and I did the lead on field work and environmental permitting. I was there for 9 years and yes, it was quite a contrast to this job.



### Alexandra (Ali) Crofts, Region 3

#### How do you make the public happy?

That depends on who you speak to; my personal opinion is that it's complicated. Sometimes the same answer will make some users happy and some other users unhappy, it all depends on the user's preferences. Developing more trails isn't always the right answer, even when it is requested or proposed. Our role is to preserve what is already in place in our state and protect Minnesota's natural resources. We want the users to enjoy a natural habitat and in the Central Region, we might improve the trails that

already exist or will choose to reroute them for more sustainable trail use in the future. So far, the response from the public to the new hires for these roles has been overwhelmingly positive. They're happy to have DNR employees who will focus on these OHV trails.

#### Have you met with members of the trail advocate groups?

DNR and Minnesota OHV association (Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association, ATV MN, and Minnesota 4Wheel Drive Association) members are invited to meet seasonally and discuss trail project updates. I've sat on two rounds of these meetings so far in October and January. This allows the DNR to connect with the users of these groups and keep everyone on the same page. We also get to learn about their events and what the local clubs are planning for the upcoming riding season, and sometimes we get an invitation to go on a trail with them, too. We have an amazing volunteer program in place for our OHV trails. Our trail ambassadors are liaisons between the local user groups and the DNR. When something happens that leads to a trail closure, like major erosion or a wash out, we commonly hear about it first from our trail ambassadors. We explain the DNR process and reach a common understanding that it can't be fixed overnight. I like it when users tell us everything that is wrong and how to make improvements. We are here to serve the public, so I let them share their feelings and thoughts on how to make things better. You never know where the next good idea may come from.



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