



# Behind The Steele Star

**Steele County Sheriff's Office**  
**Lon Thiele, Sheriff**

**Scott Hanson, Chief Deputy**      **Karen Meier, Administrative Asst**

November 16, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 15

*We have featured our three new deputies in this issue. They have written their own bios for you and I thank them for their cooperation in doing so. Photos from their swearing-in ceremony are featured on page three.*

## **NICHOLAS DONAHUE**

I was born and raised in Faribault, MN. I graduated from Bethlehem Academy High School in 2004. After graduating from high school, I attended Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) in Marshall. In May, 2008 I graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Justice Administration and Political Science. I then successfully completed the Law Enforcement Skills Program at Alexandria Technical College.



From 2006 through early 2009, I volunteered and worked as a Police Reserve Officer for the Faribault Police Dept. In December, 2008 I was hired by the Lyon County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff, where I worked three years. In addition, I worked for the Minnesota Police Dept. as a part-time Police Officer.

My specialized training includes PPCT Defensive Tactics/Use of Force Instructor, Safariland Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Projectors Instructor, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Pharmaceutical Drug Investigations and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE). I greatly enjoy proactively working at removing impaired individuals from Minnesota roadways.

I am very grateful and humbled by the opportunity to join a very well-trained and dedicated group of individuals at the Steele County Sheriff's Office. I look forward to using my past training and experience to provide the best possible law enforcement services to the citizens of Steele County in an empathetic, personable and professional manner. In my leisure time, I enjoy fishing, hunting, other shooting sports and watching NFL Football.



*Our boss has an additional boss ...  
Joining Ms. Savannah Grace Thiele in  
Running the Thiele home is:  
Jasmine Adele Thiele  
Born Saturday, November 12th  
To Lon & Brooke Thiele  
CONGRATULATIONS !!*

### Sergeants

Brian Bennett with  
K-9 Partner Chaos  
Todd Schwanke  
Bill Youngquist

### Investigators

Troy Matejcek  
Gary Okins

### Deputies

Milo Dahlin  
Nicholas Donahue  
Chad Forystek  
Aaron Guzman  
Darrin Helget  
Jim Holton  
Kari Kalow  
Scott Kochendorfer  
Tony Padilla  
Greg Skillestad  
Mary Ulrich  
Brady Wolhart

### Civil Process

Tony David  
Jeanne Willmott

### Law Enforcement

Center Records Staff  
Barbara Rupprecht,  
Lead  
Renee' Babcock  
Dianne Johnson  
Sidni Larson

### Questions/Comments

Contact The Steele  
County Sheriff's Office  
at 507-444-3800 or  
204 East Pearl  
Owatonna, MN 55060

lon.thiele@  
co.steele.mn.us

scott.hanson@  
co.steele.mn.us

karen.meier@  
co.steele.mn.us

County Website:  
**CLICK HERE**

[www.co.steele.mn.us](http://www.co.steele.mn.us)

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## Detention Center

507-446-7000  
2500 Alexander St.  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
Dan.Schember@  
co.steele.mn.us

## Administrator

Dan Schember

## Assistant Admin.

Pam Otto

## Programs

Jennifer Pfeifer, Coor.  
Cindy Fowler  
Jessica Meyer

## Business Manager

Debra Lesmeister

## Sergeants

Ron Hammann  
Justin Hebel  
Richelle Olson  
Paul Prissel  
Dick Wandrey

## Corporals

Anthony Buttera  
Randy Hanson  
Joyce Prusha  
Troy Stockwell

## Corrections Officers

Travis Ardolf  
Travis Avelar  
Mark Barrie  
Drew Bartelt  
Nathan Boysen  
Crystal Chappuis  
Steve Clark  
Elisha Degregio  
Chad Fisher  
Kristin Freese  
Steven Gjerard  
Dawn Grunklee  
Matthew Gwin  
Alicyn Hinze  
Luis Irizarry  
Shannon Jes  
Jason Krohn  
Al Kubat  
Adil Lebgue  
Jed Loftus  
Shari Luedtke  
Roderick Rees  
Richard Smith  
Shelley Thom  
Carl Wheeler

## Nursing

Joyce Drake  
Leah Kent

## Records Staff

Nancy Gjerard, Lead  
Erin Edwards



## KARI KALOW

In the spring of 2009 I graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato with a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement. At the beginning of my college education I also completed the Part Time Peace Officer course through South Central College. While completing my bachelor degree I worked as a Community Service Officer for the Lakeville Police Dept. and a Water Patrol Deputy for the Rice County Sheriff's Office. My last employer was the Waseca Police Department as a police officer and Crime Free Multi-housing coordinator.

I plan on providing proactive patrol and assistance for the residents of Steele County. In my off time I enjoy spending time outdoors with friends and family. I strive to be a positive role model in the lives of young women and children and hope to get involved in volunteering for youth activities.

I chose to apply for employment with the Steele County Sheriff's Office because they have a reputation of being professional and hard working. I have lived in the Steele County and Rice County area all my life so this opportunity also gave me the ability to stay close to my family. I am proud to say that I have attained my goal of becoming a Sheriff's Deputy like my grandfather.

## SCOTT KOCHENDORFER

I grew up in Hastings, MN and graduated from Hastings High School in 2005. I attended Minnesota State University Mankato and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement in May of 2009. I graduated from the Hibbing Law Enforcement Skills program in June of 2009.

Previous Law Enforcement experience includes 2 1/2 years with Dakota County Sheriff's Office as a Park Ranger, 1 1/2 years with Cleveland, MN Police Dept. as a Police Officer and 1 year with the Lonsdale Police Dept. as a Police Officer.



I chose to apply with the Steele County Sheriff's Office to once again work for a Sheriff's Office. I had done some previous ride-alongs with Steele County personnel and liked the department. I have no ties to the area, but I would like to eventually move to the area with my fiancé and raise our family here.

I intend to provide the residents of Steele County with fair and impartial policing and to serve every community and it's members within the county equally. I look forward to getting to know the residents of the county and hearing their concerns.

Activities outside of work include spending time with my fiancé Anna, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, swimming, snowmobiling, golfing and pretty much anything that involves being outdoors.

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PHOTOS FROM THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AND THE RECEPTION THAT FOLLOWED

Thanks To Our Resident Photographer, Gary Okins, For Providing Many Of The Photos You See In Our Newsletters.

