

To Whom It May Concern:

As Administrator of La Crosse County Emergency Services, I hired Al Blencoe in 1984 for the position of Telecommunicator. He rapidly demonstrated that he would excel in this environment. As the department expanded and opportunities for advancement became available, Al was promoted to Telecommunicator Supervisor in 1989.

While in this position, he was responsible for his assigned shift including the staff, evaluations, and operations. He always was looking for ways to improve these and the relationships with other public safety agencies. Often his ideas and suggestions were related to technology. When the County automated Land Records, Al pursued access to that information for the communications center. His relationship with the IT department, along with his willingness to assist, was the beginning of automation for the Center. After more than two decades, Al's involvement with the Public Safety automation projects has greatly benefited the department. The department grew from virtually having no computers, to systems that integrate or interface with multiple agencies in and outside of the County including being a pilot site for a statewide data sharing project for Law Enforcement.

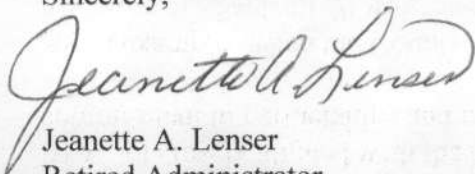
Al also represented the department on various committees and participated in discussions that helped to resolve problems and improve relationships. He was always willing to serve and pursue relationships for better outcomes. He was often invited to participate in discussions that were not closely aligned with the mission of the communications center, but that reflected his commitment to partnerships and improving relationships.

As an example, when the County was having great difficulty implementing a Records Management System, Al was asked to become the department's Technology Coordinator and dedicate his efforts to evaluating the system and determine if a new vendor was needed, or if the present system was able to be salvaged. Al worked closely with the system's vendor and was successful in resolving several of the problems. All user agencies benefited from his leadership and the County benefited financially by not having to replace the system.

Al seldom invested emotional ownership in ideas or projects. This allowed him to express his, sometimes, radical (in my mind) ideas and yet be accepting when his ideas were not supported. Throughout the years there were times when I would approve pursuing one of Al's ideas whether I fully understood it or not, because I was confident in his advice and ideas.

I believe that Al would be a valued partner in a business relationship as well as a valued asset to any employer.

Sincerely,



Jeanette A. Lenser
Retired Administrator
La Crosse County Emergency Services