

# Minnesota Triad



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"Seniors, Law Enforcement  
and Community Groups  
working together for Senior  
Safety....  
*throughout the State!*"

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*A great place to  
share senior safety information  
from throughout the state.*



## **WELCOME ....**

To YOUR newsletter!  
Current safety information,  
Information from TRIAD Members  
For TRIAD Members  
and all interested in  
SENIOR safety issues!

*We want to hear from you!*

Please forward any ideas, concerns,  
current fraud schemes, along with  
what you are doing in your Triad programs  
(including pictures) to us so we can  
share throughout the state.

We like to "meet" Triad members  
throughout the state in our Featured Members  
column. We also like to  
share recipes from Triad members  
throughout the state.

Any information you would  
like to share can be sent to  
[mntriad@outlook.com](mailto:mntriad@outlook.com)

## **Featured Member**

### **Itasca County TRIAD Linette Welshinger**

Hello! My name is Linette Welshinger and I serve as a Records Deputy with the Itasca County Sheriff's Office. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Office, I worked for American Bank as an account representative and finished my twelve years in the business banking department. Some of you may remember me from the TRIAD conference last year. I was the one running around like a chicken with its...well, you get the point. Thankfully, Pauline and crew were there to help keep things on track. We truly couldn't have done it without her guidance, the dedication of our TRIAD group, and the incredible support from the TRIAD board. We are looking forward to the next conference this September in Kandiyohi County.

I grew up in St. Louis County in the township of Cherry, just east of Hibbing about 15 minutes East as the crow flies. The youngest of five, it was a wonderful childhood filled with fresh air, family dinners, and a beautiful home built by our parents. Many weekends were spent camping and fishing on Lake Winnibigoshish. Little did I know that the quaint town we drove through during those camping trips would one day become the place I would settle and raise a family.

My husband, Scott, and I have been married for 32 years and have lived in Grand Rapids for most of that time. Together we raised two great children, a daughter and a son—who are now grown and out on their own. Our household also includes one very spoiled mini-Dachshund named Winnie. In my free time, I enjoy crafting, volunteering,

sewing and spending time outdoors working in my flower gardens. I also enjoy working out, watching true crime mysteries (go figure), and spending time at the lake with friends and family.

I became involved with TRIAD during my second year at the Sheriff's Office. Before that, I had volunteered for several years on the Community Café board as Treasurer, but I was looking for something different. My husband and I had often talked about wanting to volunteer with seniors, so I am grateful that the opportunity presented itself through TRIAD. With the encouragement of our current sheriff, Joe Dasovich, I stepped into a leadership role helping direct our local TRIAD group.

In the last couple of years, I have joined forces with the Grand Rapids PD, Itasca County Adult Protection, Itasca Counties Information Technology Director and Sheriff Office Investigators to collaborate and bring fraud awareness into our communities. Together we have had several speaking engagements, which have been very well received and appreciated by the community. TRIAD isn't just about fraud. It's about connections. It's about sharing and learning from one another and bringing that knowledge back to your community to then share again.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with the seniors in our community and building relationships within the TRIAD group. They are truly a wonderful group of people, and I feel fortunate to be part of something that helps bring connection, safety, and support to our local seniors. Thank you for all you do to make that happen~ Linette

## **It's All About Safety**

### **AI and Deepfake**

What do you think of when you hear AI? Are you amazed that AI (Artificial Intelligence) allows machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence? Or do you cringe because you can no longer tell if what you're reading and/or seeing is true?

As AI continues to evolve, so do the tactics of scammers who exploit this technology to deceive and defraud consumers. Criminals may pose as loved ones, government officials, law enforcement personnel or even celebrities, often using fear and urgency to convince victims to send money or share sensitive information. A growing portion of fraud reports are stemming from deepfake scams. *Many of you may remember Jay from AARP showing us at one of our conferences how deepfake can be used to take our photo and put it in compromising and often illegal situations.*

So how do we protect ourselves from deepfake scams? The best way is to stay informed and share what you learn with friends and family, so they can spot deepfakes before they do any harm.

Some key signs of deepfake media include:

- Blurry or distorted facial features
- Unnatural blinking or facial movements
- Audio-video mismatches
- Flat or robotic voice tones
- Odd lighting or shadows

# Upcoming Conferences And Meetings

## 2026 MN TRIAD Spring Meeting

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
10:00 – 11:30 AM

Kandiyohi County  
Sheriff's Office EOC  
2201 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NE  
Willmar, MN

## 2026 MN TRIAD Conference Hosted By Kandiyohi County September 15-16

Location TBD

## 2027 MN TRIAD Conference Hosted By Grant County

Dates/Location TBD

## Quick Safety Tip ...and the why!

**Always lock your doors immediately upon entering your vehicle**

This is a crucial security measure to prevent carjackings, robberies and theft of personal items by opportunistic criminals.

Some tips to stay safe:

- **Stop and think** before responding to urgent or emotional requests.
- **Verify identities** using trusted sources and reverse search tools.
- **Create codewords** with loved ones to confirm authenticity.
- **Limit your digital footprint** to reduce exposure.
- **Report scams** to the law enforcement.

Artificial Intelligence has many pros, including:

- Convenience and Efficiency – like turning on lights or adjusting thermostats.
- Improved Healthcare – like analyzing health data, providing more accurate diagnoses and even assisting in surgeries.
- Accessibility for People with Disabilities – by improving quality of life through virtual assistants through voice commands and making technology more accessible.
- Workplace Safety – by performing dangerous tasks and monitoring compliance.

Some cons include:

- Job Displacement – may cause some jobs to be replaced by machines.
- Privacy Risks – facial recognition technologies can pose privacy risks for surveillance without individuals' knowledge or consent and unauthorized access to personal footage.
- Bias and Discrimination – may be less accurate in some instances.
- **Disinformation and Manipulation – can be used to create and spread disinformation, making it difficult to distinguish between facts and falsehoods. Can be used to manipulate public opinion.**

While AI offers numerous benefits that can enhance various aspects of life, it also has significant challenges that need to be addressed. A good rule of thumb is to not take anything at face value. As with other frauds and scams, stop before responding (or believing) and check it out.

Some information taken from  
ABA Foundation and FBI article and Bing article

## MN TRIAD Meeting

Our Spring MN TRIAD Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM at the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at 2201 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NE in Willmar, MN.

Please join us in supporting Kandiyohi County as our 2026 MN TRIAD Conference Hosts in September!

We received a question about Record Retention for TRIAD records and will be adding this to the agenda. Do you have a record retention schedule that you follow for your TRIAD records? If so, will you bring a copy to share?

If you have any questions, items that should be addressed or that you'd like to share with our Triad members throughout the state, please contact our MN Triad Board Members or send an e-mail message to [mntriad@outlook.com](mailto:mntriad@outlook.com).

**All are welcome and encouraged to attend these State Triad meetings.**

## Recipe

### Apple – Celery Salad

1 pkg small box cherry jello	1 c. hot water
¼ c. cinnamon candies	½ c. boiling water
1 c. chopped peeled apples	1 c. chopped celery
½ c. chopped walnuts	

Dissolve jello in 1 cup hot water. Add cinnamon candies to ½ cup boiling water until all melted. When melted, add more water to make a cup. Add this to jello. Cool until partially set. Then add remaining ingredients. Stir well and refrigerate until serve to guests.

Submitted by Mickey Kimmes  
Thank you!

## Congratulations Grant County Sheriff Jenn Vipond!



The Honorable Judge Doll had the privilege of swearing in Chief Deputy Jennifer Vipond as Sheriff as she was appointed to finish out the term. We are grateful to Judge Doll for presiding over this meaningful moment and extend our heartfelt congratulations to Sheriff Vipond as she steps into this role with a continued commitment to serving and protecting our community with integrity, dedication, and care.



*"I am committed to leading with integrity, transparency, and compassion. Our community continues to deserve a Sheriff who values trust, supports our deputies, and prioritizes public safety through professionalism and accountability. I will faithfully uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Minnesota.*

*My commitment to Grant County goes far beyond my profession. I am deeply rooted in our communities and believe in being present, engaged, and involved. I encourage every citizen to take an active role in strengthening the place we call home—because strong communities are built when neighbors support one another, step up to serve, and invest in the next generation. I believe strong communities are built when we show up for one another—on the field, in our schools, in our churches, and in times of need."*

Sheriff Jenn Vipond