

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction

P.R.I.D.E.



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

SLP-15 A Long Commitment to Commencement



For the dozen members of the Fifteenth Class of the Supervisory Leadership Program at Tunxis Community College, the road to completing their studies was long and had more than a few bumps along the way. But finally on December 10, 2004, with Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz, family, friends and Department of Correction colleagues looking on, they received their certificates of completion.

Continued on Page 3, *Commitment*

From the Commissioner



The time of year and the wonderful family gathering at our departmental holiday party at Maloney CTSD last week should serve to place us all in the seasonal mood for reflection, deep satisfaction and above all thanksgiving for what we have accomplished individually and professionally as an agency over the course of the past year. At the top of my list of heartfelt gratitude is the daily appreciation I have for being so truly fortunate as Commissioner to have the superb quality of staff that makes my job so successful and satisfying. My fellow state commissioners often rank my position as one of the most difficult in state service. That

is my cue to brag about you, the best correctional professionals in the country.

Continued on Page 2, *From the Commissioner*

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Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

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About and for
correctional
professionals

December 5 -
18, 2004

2004 DOC Holiday Party

DOC staff family and friends gathered on Friday December 10th for the Department of Correction Annual Holiday Party which was held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. A great time was had by all.



Tammy Hodges (L), Representative from EAP, poses with Commissioner Theresa Lantz (Center) and Director Mary Johnson (R) at the Holiday Party.

Continued on Page 4, *Holiday*

Commissioner, Cont'd

I can ask little more of Santa Claus than institutions that are a model of correctional operation. We together continue to tackle some of the biggest challenges that confront us, medical and mental health consolidations, improved reintegration, and suicide to name a few. In all of these categories we are far above other states which are just beginning the journey we initiated long ago. This is above all a time to appreciate our family and loved ones. We all come to realize that they are the bedrock foundation that supports and nourishes our everyday success in life. Within the Department of Correction, family applies not only to those we are related to but also to those whom we rely upon daily for our own safety and well being. I am constantly moved by the many quiet and unpublicized efforts that staff undertake to reach out and assist others in need. When you spend as much time together as we do, our co-workers are as close as family. When they are suffering, we do all we can to ease their pain. There are few other professions I know of in our world today where this uncommon level of care and compassion are common attributes of staff. When you join the Connecticut Department of Correction, despite life's darkest hours, you will never be alone. No where is that more evident than in our continued support as an agency for our colleagues who continue to courageously fight in defense of our great country in the continuing war on terrorism. It is difficult to imagine what being in a war zone, away from family at this time of year must be like. Many of the troops are additionally being told that their activation is now being extended. Please continue to remember these brave men and women in your thoughts and prayers and continue to support their loved ones until their return. In closing, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do and please enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Pride. *AT* Work

for
December 5 - 18,
2004

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York CI Puppy Program Meet and Greet

Pride at Work, December 5 - 18 p.3

The holidays are times when family and friends get together to reminisce about people, places and things. Some old friends came to visit this past week as the Puppy Program Meet and Greet took place at the York CI.

Assistance dogs, trained by inmates at the facility, returned to their old stomping grounds to show off their old talents and new friends. Appreciative owners made their way to the podium with assistance of walkers and wheelchairs with their new companions shadowing every movement. Each spoke of how the dogs have given them confidence and independence. The dogs provide assistance in specialized areas tailored to their owners needs. The York program has produced 37 assistance dogs and average 7 or 8 dogs in the program at any one time. They perform duties such as turning on switches and getting the phone, but their most important function is companionship.



Sheila O'Brien, Executive Director of The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS), spoke highly of the Prison Pup Partnership Program. She said that since beginning the program at York in 2000, the facility has become the largest producer of assistance dogs. Due to the turnout, she said the waiting list for dogs has been reduced from four to two years. This has been accomplished by cutting the training time in half at York.

The Meet and Greet concluded with a Holiday Fair featuring handcrafted and other items for dogs of all shapes and sizes had many visitors some with two legs, some with four. But, whoever paid, the cause was a worthy one. All the proceeds from the fair are used to support the continued training of these lifelong friends.

Committment Cont'd

The class had first met in September of 2002. But only two short months later, the program was put on hold by state budget cutbacks, and did not resume until August of 2003. Along the way there were also lay-offs which affected members of the class. Another suffered a heart attack but thankfully he has fully recovered and was on hand to receive his certificate. In his Student Address, Captain Daniel Murphy thanked Commissioner Lantz, "...for restoring class to the agency." The selection of the Visionary Leadership Award resulted in a tie between two projects. Captain Denise Walker and Lt. Abdul Shaheed were recognized for their effort titled, "Gateway to Succession Planning, a Professional Development Pathway." First place was also awarded to Lt. Patricia Freeman, Captain Murphy and David Schepis, a sergeant with the Watertown Police Department who combined their efforts on, "Leader Development, A Systematic and Progressive Training Process to Strengthen Core Skills." The graduates were Gregory Barnette, Thomas Calvello, Patricia Freeman, Kenneth Kuhr, Andrew Langlais, Daniel Murphy, Ronald Pittman, Reginald Pope, David Schepis, Abdul Shaheed,, Armando Valeriano , and Denise Walker.

Holiday Party, Cont'd

The Center was beautifully decorated and set the tone for what lay ahead. There were many fun activities for the partygoers to participate in. From photos with Santa to face painting with Mrs. Claus. The lines kept moving



as children of all ages joined in the fun. Children delighted at seeing the professionally drawn caricatures of themselves. All the hustle and bustle didn't seem to bother those who wanted to sit back and watch the cartoons. Several times during the evening you overheard a parent calling after a child who had become entranced by the winter-themed light show and tried to follow the figures as they danced around the walls. The Food Services staff delighted the guests with culinary treats that pleased all. The buffet included a carving station with roast



beef, fried dough, pasta dishes, mozzarella sticks, and many other goodies, like snow-cones, cotton candy, the sundae bar and the dessert table that had elaborately decorated gingerbread

houses as the centerpiece. Laughter and Good Cheer were evident through out the night. The party planners and all of Santa's helpers ensured that the 2004 DOC Annual Holiday Party was a huge success.



Program for Veterans Introduced at Bergin CI

Pride at Work, December 5 - 18, p.5

The United States Marine Corp has as its motto “Semper Fidelus” which loosely translated means “Always Faithful.” A group of veterans at Bergin CI learned recently that those two words carry real meaning when representatives of the Veteran’s Administration and Department of Labor teamed up to explain the opportunities that are available to them both during incarceration and after they are eventually released. “ I believe this pilot program is the first of its kind in the country,” says George Skiles, Veterans Service Officer. “There may be others that quickly copy this formula, but the process is evolving,” said Skiles.



Representatives of the Veteran’s Administration and Department of Labor talk to the inmates at Bergin CI

Continued on Page 7, *Veterans*

Did you know?

Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives.



This week’s issue was submitted by Mark Rashaw who can be reached at 860-692-7558.

Did you Know A good quality paintbrush will make a world of difference in your painting project.

As I noted in my earlier article, “ use the right tool for the right job;” always consider your supplies before beginning a job. No matter how experienced you may think you are in painting, without the right brush, you might not get the finish you’re looking for once the paint dries.

There are many different types of paints on the store shelves these days. The most common are oil base and latex (water base). Each has properties that are different from one another. One is thicker, the other dries quicker, one smells more than the other and the list goes on. There are paintbrushes that can be used with both oil and latex. My opinion is that natural-bristle brushes are better with oil based paints and the synthetic-bristle brushes are better suited for latex.

Continued on Page 6, *Did you know?*

Around the cell block

Maine- Another release is planned for a convicted kidnapper who on previous releases smashed a television in the release center and escaped from a halfway house for a beer.

Canada- Inmates are getting around a smoking ban by soaking nicotine gum and mixing the liquid with tea.

England- As a reward for good behavior, 50 inmates at one prison have earned cable television in their cells with 30 channels including QVC (the home shopping station).

Cleveland- After serving 47-years for murder a 67-year old former inmate managed only 14 months of freedom before being returned to prison on weapons charges.

Northern CI staff host holiday meal



On Monday December 13th the Quality of Work Life Committee at Northern CI held a holiday themed meal for all staff. The meal featured Roast Beef or Turkey with all the fixings including dessert.

Calendar



January 15 - A Retirement Party for Michael "Mikey" Cahill of Carl Robinson CI will be held at the American Legion (Rt. 5) from 7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. The \$20.00 donation will include food, raffle, music and fun. For information call the CRCI Lieutenant's Office.



EAP Employee Assistance Program
Incorporated A Confidential Counseling Service
888-EAP-8900

Did you know?, Cont'd

With the many brushes that you can find at the hardware store, I'll narrow it down to a couple that I use. For my oil painting and polyurethane projects I use a White China bristle brush. This brush not only holds the paint or material better, but distributes it evenly without imperfections. The Black China bristle brush I use more as a general-purpose type brush. The white bristle brush is softer, which will give you a smoother finish.

For latex or water based paints, I use a nylon or polyester bristle brush. There are pros and cons with both these brushes. The nylon brush costs a bit more and is softer than the polyester, yet the polyester brush may last longer. Both these brushes can be used with oil base paints but because these are stiffer than both the China bristle brushes they will tend to leave brush marks behind. The China bristle brushes are on the expensive side compared to the synthetic-bristle brushes.

Let's talk about the different size brushes. They typically range in widths from 1" to 4", with a straight or angled cut on the bristle ends and some with longer handles than others. Everyone has his or her own preference for the brush they feel comfortable with depending on what 's being painted.

I prefer the following: I use brushes 2 1/2" and larger for exterior painting because these are normally larger areas to be painted (siding, doors, wide window & door trim, etc...). A 2" brush is what I use for interior trim work (cutting in ceilings, corners and around trim). I use a 1 1/2" to 2" brush, sometime called a sash brush, which has an angle cut bristle end, on windows and window trim, both on the interior and exterior. I have a couple of 1" brushes on hand for some of the small detail work where a larger brush would be too awkward. I also have a couple of brushes that I cut the handles down on, I've come across several projects that the long handles were cumbersome in painting some areas.

I also have a stock of cheap throwaway brushes in the various widths; which I use on smaller "Quickie" type jobs. Be careful using these because the finished product is not the same as if you had used a good brush and these cheap brushes do leave hairs behind.

From the Heart of CRCI

Despite the torrential downpours on this wet and cool Monday afternoon, more than 500 dollars worth of toys made their way into the arms of some courageous kids at the Connecticut Children's Hospital in Hartford. The toys were purchased with funds raised throughout the year by staff at the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution.

Major Jose Feliciano made the presentation to Robert Nolan, Corporate Relations Officer for the Hospital on behalf of staff at the Enfield



facility. Recreation Director William Schmidt played a vital role in making someone's holiday a little brighter. The Toys will be distributed based on age appropriateness, but most are destined for patients in the Pediatric Oncology Unit

MVP's:

Abruzzi, David	Rec Supv	WCB
Angeles, Jose	Lt	HCC
Baldassario, Michael	CFSS II	GCI
Barber, Earl	CO	CRCI
Barone, Thomas	CS	WCB
Bates, Stephen	Capt	GCI
Beaton, Michael	CO	CRCC
Breault, Lisa	CN	HCC
Capone, Michael	CO	MYI
Colby, Susan	CFSS II	GCI
Connor, Richard	CO	GCI
Danis, Karen	CC	GCI
De Los Reyes, Cesar	CFSS II	GCI
Eley, Andre	CO	CRCC
Funai, Seiji	CO	CRCC
Greene, Barry	CO	GCI
Hamel, Robert	Lt	GCI
Hamilton, Laurie	CC	GCI
Harris, James	CO	GCI
Henry, Sonia	CN	HCC
Hoenig, Michael	CO	GCI
Howard, Raymond	CO	HCC
Hubert, Etienne	CO	HCC
Hughes, Timothy	CFSS III	MYI
Kulp, Garrett	CFSS II	GCI
Golas, Tracy	CO	GCI
Greene, Barry	CO	GCI
Lopes, Ilda	CO	GCI
Matuszczak, Rafal	CO	CRCC
Murphy, Michael	Capt	BCI
Murray, Melissa	Capt	BCI
Newton, Timothy	Lt	BCI
Nowosad, James	CO	CRCC
O'Farrill, Natanael	CO	CRCC
O'Keffe, Michelle	CO	HCC
Perry, Jeffrey	CO	GCI
Rivera, Luz	CO	CRCC
Salisbury, Tracy	CO	GCI
Senick, Barbara	CO	GCI
Sherrill, Patricia	CC	GCI
Simpson, Delores	CN	HCC
Tyler, Gregg	CO	CRCC
Waido, Edward	Lt	GCI
Wilkins, James	Lt	HCC
Wilson, Othar	CO	GCI

Veterans Cont'd

Counselor Francis Eckles coordinated the program for the facility and believes that over time the program will bear fruit. He says the Vets may have an advantage over other inmates because they have had jobs, structure and discipline, they just need to rediscover that part of themselves.

Throughout the past year, Corrections and the VA have established a relationship of mutual assistance. Their involvement increases the likelihood of successful reintegration into their communities and a renewed sense of PRIDE in acknowledging their service to country.

Rich Alexander and Andy James, representatives from the Department of Labor lay the cards on the table. They say that they want to be realistic about the advantages and disadvantages that await the ex-offender. Inmates at the program revealed service records that extend from Vietnam to Gulf War Veterans.