

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction



Support Our Troops

P.R.I.D.E.

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

AT WORK



Sutherland Appointed to Warden

After spending her entire correctional career at the Osborn Correctional Institution, Major Robin Sutherland is going to have to get used to a new route to work. Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz has promoted the 16-year veteran of the Connecticut Department of Correction to the Warden of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution, where she will follow in the footsteps of Warden Giovanni Gomez who has announced his retirement as of March first.



Commissioner Theresa Lantz congratulates Warden Robin Sutherland

Continued on Page 2, See
Sutherland Appointed

From the Commissioner

I am extremely pleased to be able to report an accomplishment that the Connecticut Department of Correction has not been able to achieve in at least the past 20 years. After more than a decade and a half of continual growth in our inmate population, and the crowded conditions it brought to our facilities, we have now experienced our third consecutive year of decline in our incarcerated offender count. As you may know, this trend began in 2003 when we led the nation with a 4.2 percent reduction. In 2004 we saw another 1.8 percent reduction, one of only 11 states to experience a decline and we sustained the decrease in 2005. This is wonderful news for our staff and for our agency, which again puts us far ahead of other states, which are still struggling with growing offender populations. The main reason for the decline is our emphasis on our Re-Entry Model, which places appropriate offenders in the community under supervision, at the end of their sentence, to support their successful and law abiding return to society. A large part of our success, in addition to the re-entry preparation being carried out at our level two facilities, is due to the dedicated men and women of our Parole and Community Services Unit.



Continued on Page 3, See *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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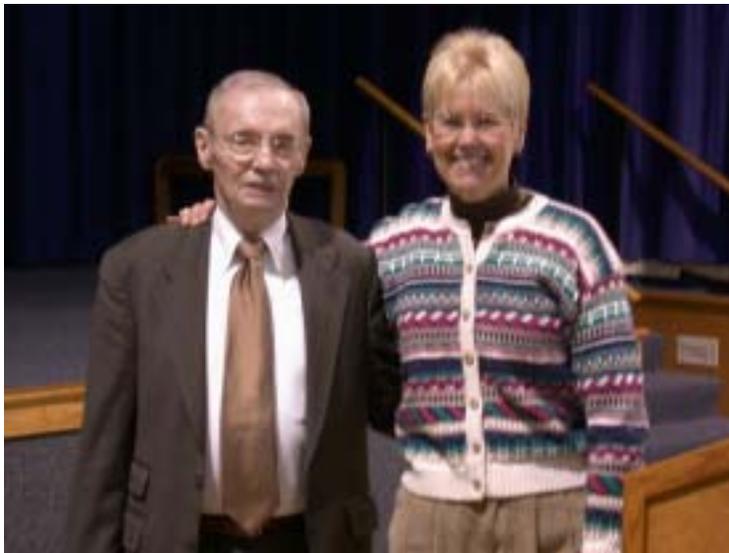
About and for
correctional
professionals

January 29, 2006
- February 11,
2006

DOC Salutes Legal Legend

With a standing ovation, and the recitation of the Irish Blessing, the top managers of the Connecticut Department of Correction praised the dedication of Steven O'Neill, the agency's long time Assistant Attorney General on his retirement. With the team of Assistant Attorney Generals' who have replaced him, including his own son Terry looking on, Mr. O'Neill reflected on 42 years of state service under all six of the Department's Commissioners. "Much of what we take for granted on a daily basis, in carrying out our correctional duties is the result of Steve's long record of successful litigation of the legal issues involved," said Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz who presented Mr. O'Neill

with a plaque commemorating his accomplishments. Mr. O'Neill is credited with securing the agency's ability to carrying out telephone monitoring, determining appropriate facility population levels without court oversight and went to the United States Supreme Court to successfully defend the proposition that offenders do not have a liberty right to parole. With a touch of the humor that he is known for, Mr. O'Neill responded to the praise for his legal legacy by explaining that on his first day on the job, as the Commissioner waited for him, he had gone to the wrong court in the wrong city. The Connecticut Department of Correction extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. O'Neill for his considerable contributions to our success and we wish him all the best in his retirement.



Commissioner Theresa Lantz congratulates Attorney Steve O'Neill on his retirement from the agency.

Sutherland Appointed Cont'd

"Major Sutherland has demonstrated the leadership skills that have made her a stand out choice for advancement to warden," said Commissioner Lantz. Warden Sutherland has progressed through the treatment ranks of our agency which will serve her well at Brooklyn CI which provides extensive programming for many of the state's incarcerated sex offenders. "I am deeply grateful, that the Commissioner and her executive team have expressed such confidence in my abilities," said Warden Sutherland. She will have to learn the route to Brooklyn in quick fashion. Her appointment came on Wednesday and she is to report to her new facility on Monday to begin the transition.

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Teacher of the Year

William B. Barber, Superintendent of Schools for the Unified School District #1 has announced the selection committee's choice for the 2006 Teacher of the Year. This year's recipient is Mr. Doug Scheirey, a State School Teacher from Enfield CI. Mr. Scheirey earned his Bachelor of



USD#1 2006 Teacher of the Year SST
Doug Scheirey of Enfield CI

Science and Masters degrees from the University of Connecticut. He has been employed by the Department and teaching at Enfield for the past ten years. He is described by Principal Ed Korza as an "integral and highly valued educator at Enfield CI who has consistent positive interactions with students, education department staff and facility staff."

While employed with the USD #1, Mr. Scheirey has conducted academic classes, parenting programs, serves as editor of the facility newspaper, oversees the "Going Home/Life Skills" program, and has conducted workshops for the school district as well as the Enfield school. In addition to his employment, Mr. Scheirey is a member of the 103rd Fighter Wing of the Connecticut National Guard. In November of 2005, he was honored at the Bushnell Auditorium in a Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony for being selected as the 2006 USD#1 Teacher of the Year.

Commissioner Cont'd

In little more than a year, they have been able to successfully complete a very challenging merger of former parole staff and the Department's former Community Enforcement Unit. New regulations have been written and updated remand procedures crafted. The result has been a highly efficient and very well run community supervision team, which has been able to support a 16 percent increase in our community population over the past three years. This is not to say that there were not bumps in the road of this process. Any merger of this magnitude, which consolidated staff and instituted guidelines, philosophy and the new addition of staff, resources and equipment is not going to be easy. But the results have been worth the wait. To our Parole and Community Services staff, I say thank you. Our ongoing success in carrying out our Re-Entry Model has greatly benefitted from your commitment. Soon 15 new Parole Officers will be added to the ranks in our State's cities. They will join the team that has shown once again that Connecticut leads the way in modern corrections.

Pride at Work, January 29, 2006 -
February 11, 2006 p.3

Around the Cell Block



Utah- The parole hearing that released a 99-year-old inmate took twice as long as usual because he is hard of hearing and everything had to be repeated.

Australia- An inmate who went on a crash diet and escaped after squeezing through a hole has been recaptured after three days on the run.

Rhode Island- The ACLU has taken up the case of an inmate preacher whom the warden has banned from leading prayer services.

China- Twelve inmates from Beijing's only women's prison were allowed conjugal visits with their husbands to celebrate the Chinese New Year holiday.

Congrats



Warden Michael Lajoie and the staff at Corrigan-Radgowski CC congratulate Counselor Karen Danis and her husband Ray on the birth of twin boys Nicholas Ryan (5lbs. 1oz) and Owen Joseph (5lbs. 8oz) on January 10th.

Garner CI Staff

On December 13th staff from the Garner Correctional Institution visited The Children's Home in Cromwell to present a monetary donation. The money was used to host holiday activities for the children, since funding for these types of activities is almost non-existent. The Children's Home staff and residents are grateful for the generosity shown by the staff of Garner CI. A tour was conducted of the Home in which they learned about the organization. The Children's Home is a residential treatment facility that also offers community services. They have 71 boys and 5 girls between the ages of 8 and 18. Services are also provided for twenty-in-day programs and thirty families that receive counseling. Staff was so impressed by the needs that plans are being made to help with a Valentine's Day celebration. In a follow-up letter from John Powers, Director of Communications, he stated, "The gift from the staff at Garner CI helped bring joy to our youngsters, it also taught them that there are people out there who care."

Pride at Work, January 29, 2006 -
February 11, 2006 p.4



Garner CI staff presenting their donation to an employee from The Children's Home.

Union Donates Computers to State Veterans

As part of its continuing commitment to assist state war veterans, Council 4 donated two laptop computers and accompanying printers to the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. Ray Soucy of Local 387 of Council 4 presented the computer equipment to residents and staff during a brief ceremony at the hospital. "It's an honor for our union to help Connecticut veterans and improve their quality of life," Soucy said. "We will continue to do everything we can to make a difference."

Hospital residents welcomed the donation. "I just signed up for computer classes, so this will be great," said Air Force veteran Joseph Middletown. Council 4 paid for the computer equipment, which cost in excess of \$3,800, through its special Veterans' Fund, which since 2004 has subsidized the union's annual Memorial Day Picnic for Veterans.

Thanks to the donations of union members, local businesses and state agencies such as the Department of Correction, Council 4 in the last two years has done the following:

*Completely refurbished the exercise room at the Veterans Home and Hospital, providing high impact rubber flooring, cardiovascular exercise machines and weight machines.

Calendar



February 24 -
Retirement Reception in honor of Dr. Matthew Conway, Jr., Ed.D at La

Notte Restaurant on Thompson Road in East Windsor, CT . The reception begins at 6pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and include Buffet, DJ and Gift. Tickets will only be on sale until February 17th. For info call: Carole Hutchins 860.263.6841, Mariela Salinas at 860.263.6843, Neal Kearney at 860.763.7391, Karen McTeague at 860.292.4255, David Brown at 860.627.2284, Christine Murphy at 860.692.7545 or Laurie Viscomi at 860.692.7487

Continued on Page 6, See *Donation to Vets*

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. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This article was written by Correctional HVAC Technician Stephen Salvatore and he can be reached at 860.691.6393 if you have any questions.



A Guide to Making Energy-Smart Purchases

Do you feel that energy bills are taking a big chunk of change out of your pocket? You are not alone. Americans spend more than \$115 billion each year on fuel and electricity for their homes. On the average, heating and cooling (space conditioning) accounts for about 45% of the energy a home uses. Water heating consumes about 14%, and appliances and other sources consume about 41%. Though energy use varies among homes, there are many ways to lower your energy bills.

Caulking and Weather-stripping

Caulking and weather-stripping are the easiest and least expensive weatherization measures and can save more than 10% on energy bills. They are usually do-it-yourself projects. Choose your supplies carefully and follow instructions closely. High-quality materials and proper installation ensure that you receive maximum performance from your investment.

Installing Insulation

Insulation is probably the most important consideration in improving the energy efficiency of a home. The type and amount of insulation you choose will directly affect energy costs. Factors to weigh in when making a decision about insulation material include insulation value, cost, flammability, toxicity, durability, and availability.

Improving or Replacing Windows

Single pane windows are the most inefficient ones, but it is possible to increase their efficiency. You can install storm windows to add insulating value and reduce air leaks. The simplest type of storm window is to tape a plastic film to the inside of the window frame. It is usually available in prepackaged kits. It can be installed and removed easily.

Energy-Efficient Appliances

The energy efficiency of similar appliances can vary significantly. It is usually more cost effective to purchase appliances with high efficiencies. Determining and comparing the energy efficiency of different models is usually easy because federal regulations requires many types of appliances to display an Energy-Guide. You can also maximize the efficiency of appliances you already own through regular maintenance and tune-ups and system upgrades. Examples of some things that you can do are:

Pride at Work, January 29, 2006 -
February 11, 2006 p.5

Farewell



The following is an excerpt written by Warden Christine Whidden to the staff of Robinson CI....

“I share the following with you as a reflection of what we have done and may be inspired to do..

Success is more than riches, fame and things that we possess...Material things can be enjoyed, but don't buy happiness.

Success is reaching for a goal and giving it OUR best! Sometimes it isn't what we gain, but how much we invest.

Success is how we see ourselves, and how we VALUE life. It's finding beauty, friendship, love and overcoming hard times.

Success is looking for the good in each and every day.

Success is giving hope, support and care through what we do and say.

Success takes a lot of WORK and isn't easily won.

It's worth the Honor, Pride and Joy achieved when we are done.

Thank you for all of the great moments that we have shared both professionally and personally. I wish you all continued **SUCCESS** as we move forward to new challenges and opportunities.

With much admiration and gratitude, Warden Christine Whidden”

Continued on Page 7, See *Did You Know*

Donation to Vets Cont'd

Pride at Work, January 29, 2006 -
February 11, 2006 p.6



Correctional Industries Supervisor Ray Soucy (2nd from Right) poses with Staff and Residents of the State Veteran's Home in Rocky Hill

*Purchased six 52" flat screen color televisions for the Veterans Home and Hospital.

*Donated \$3,000 to Homes for the Brave, a vocational and rehabilitation center in Bridgeport.

"Council 4 has been a tremendous help to us," said James McKinnon, Director of Residential and Rehabilitation Services for the Department of Veteran Affairs, "they've truly adopted us and made a generous commitment to our veterans." This year, Council 4's Memorial Day Picnic for Veterans will take place Saturday, May 27, 2006 on the grounds of the Veterans Home. Proceeds will be used to create or upgrade athletic fields. "We really appreciate what Council 4 is doing for us," said Army veteran Theo Wright. "I can't wait to use the laptops. I already use the new gym three times a week, sometimes more."

Parent's PRIDE

Warden Michael Lajoie of Corrigan-Radgowski CC would like to announce that Brittany Jaskiewicz, daughter of Captain Idette Thompson has once again been accepted to participate as a People to People Student Ambassador. She will travel to France, Spain, and Italy next summer due to her academic excellence. This 20-day exchange consists of meetings with government officials, interaction with other students, educational activities, and home stays with host families. As an Ambassador Brittany will earn high school and college credit. To familiarize yourself with the program, please log on to www.studentambassadors.org. The website offers extensive information about the program. If interested in sponsoring Brittany, please contact Captain Idette Thompson at 860.848.5702 or via email.

Think Golf

It seems that winter is in its last throes, so take heart. Spring will officially greet us March 21st. To that end, the Joe Bongiorno DOC Golf League will have an organizational meeting for both last year's members and anyone interested in joining this year. Optimal membership is 32 (16 - two person teams). The meeting will be held on March 7th (Snow date is March 14th) at JoAnne's restaurant on Route 190 in Somersville at 4:30 p.m. For more details, call Ed Korza or Larry Soine at 860.763.6391.

Condolences



Warden David Strange and the staff at Osborn CI are saddened to report the passing of Robert Boyd, Jr., father of Major Robin Sutherland.

Warden Michael Lajoie and the staff at Corrigan-Radgowski CC are saddened to report the passing of John Shamsideen, father of Captain Idette Thompson and father-in-law of Lt. Daniel Thompson of the MCTSD

Warden Giovanni Gomez and the staff at Brooklyn CI are saddened to report the passing of Beverly Berube, mother of Correction Officer Michael Shabenas and mother-in-law of Secretary Gloria Shabenas.

Praise for Community Services Unit

Pride at Work, January 29, 2006 - February 11, 2006 p.7

Staff from the Residential Services Division of the Parole and Community Services Unit recently visited the Open Hearth in Hartford to

conduct behavioral interventions and a modified shake-down. The morning following the visit, Parole Supervisor Sondra Montesi received a call from the Open Hearth Program Director, Joy Chance who stated, "The program has been under pressure recently and the officers who visited our facility did an excellent job conducting themselves in a professional manner and I was very pleased with the overall outcome of the visit." On behalf of Executive Director Ron Turek and the entire staff of Open



Parole Officers Scott Tetreault & David Skarzynski, and Correction Officers Frank Mangual & Kevin Skulczyk.

Hearth she wanted to give special recognition of the visit and the officers for their demeanor and efficiency. She also added, "Everything was handled great and the officers are to be commended on a job well done."

Did You Know Cont'd

*Check air filters in heating and cooling systems monthly during the seasons they are in use and clean and replace them as necessary.

*Clean air vents, baseboards and radiators regularly and keep them unrestricted by furniture, carpets and drapes.

*Release trapped air from hot water radiators once or twice a season by opening the valve until nothing but water comes out.

*Follow prescribed maintenance (e.g., maintaining certain water levels in steam heat systems).

*Install an insulating jacket on your hot water heater, insulate hot

water pipes, and lower the water heater temperature.

*Clean refrigerator coils yearly and maintain internal temperatures between 36 degrees F (22 degrees C) and 38 degrees F (33 degrees C) for the refrigerator compartment and between 0 degrees F (17.8 degrees C) and 5 degrees F (15.0 degrees C) for the freezer compartment.

*Move the refrigerator if it is currently located near the stove or dishwasher.

*Regularly defrost refrigerators that do not have a completely automatic defrost capability to eliminate ice build-up on interior coils.

*Clean dryer filters after each use or as necessary.

To find out more information, log on to the following website:

<http://www.acunit.com/energy-smart-purchases.html>

Apology

Over the past few months computer gremlins have caused some problems with the timely publication of the PRIDE at Work Newsletter. With the patient assistance of the MIS Unit, we hope that we now have these issues resolved and publication of the newsletter back on track. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have created and we appreciate your patience during this time.