Congratulations to the WV DOC Employee’s of the Year!

The Employee of the Year Ceremony honoring the 2009 award recipients from various facilities, was held at the WV Corrections Academy in Glenville, West Virginia on Friday, May 7, 2010. This year, medals and certificates were given to each individual selected as the Employee of the Year from their respective facility, for outstanding work performance in 2009.

Dennis Peters, who serves as the Institutional Training Officer at Pruntytown Correctional Center (PCC), was selected for his remarkable accomplishments in 2009 as the overall Employee of the Year for the WV Division of Corrections. (Pictured below: Dennis accepting his award from Commissioner Jim Rubenstein) Dennis was instrumental in restructuring the curriculum based training for the Corrections Academy and provided leadership in all of the processes for the Phase I and II Basic Training Programs. As a Master Basic Communications Techniques Instructor, he received numerous accolades from students, peers and seniors alike, for his practical presentation of the curriculum. He also worked diligently to achieve ACA Accreditation for Pruntytown Correctional Center.

Congratulations to all the award recipients!
West Virginia
Division of Corrections
Vision and Mission Statements

Vision

The Vision of the West Virginia Division of Corrections is to be recognized as an innovative leader in providing quality correctional services.

Mission

The Mission of the West Virginia Division of Corrections is to enhance public safety by providing safe, secure, humane correctional facilities, operating an effective system of offender re-entry and community supervision, reducing offender recidivism, and assisting victims of crime.

Results are the best measurement of human progress. If our results are less than our potential, then we must strive to become more today than we were the day before. I would like to commend all of the individuals who went above and beyond expectations and were presented awards commending their service to the WV Division of Corrections. These employees have individually earned the respect and recognition of their peers, by their outstanding work performance. Through their efforts, we are reminded and inspired to work together to attain the mission of the agency.

I would also like to take the time and recognize two fellow DOC employees who through their heroic efforts away from the workplace, can motivate and inspire us all to do what we can do to lend a helping hand to those in need.

It was on September 13, 2009, when Pruntytown employees Travis Zimmerman and Dennis Peters were traveling on motorcycles on Highway U.S. 50 near Thornton, WV, and came upon a traffic accident involving a vehicle beginning to be engulfed by flames. Travis and Dennis took immediate action and approached the vehicle and found four people trapped inside. Together, they helped remove the driver of the vehicle, who ultimately survived the accident. Travis proceeded and succeeded in extracting the backseat passengers with the aid of Taylor County Chief Deputy Terring Skinner. Dennis attempted to free the front seat passenger, by cutting the seatbelt. This effort was halted, due to the entire vehicle being engulfed in flames. Even though they were being burned by the flames, both Dennis and Travis continued their rescue attempt, before being extracted by Deputy Skinner. All of these men gallantly risked their lives while attempting to save the lives of the accident victims. For their selfless service and courageous acts, Travis and Dennis were presented the Medal of Valor.

Let us all be reminded, that the greatest rewards are reserved for those who bring great value to themselves and the world around them.

Jim Rubenstein
Commissioner
During 2009, Dennis was recognized as the West Virginia Corrections Academy and the Pruntytown Correctional Center Employee of the Quarter. The Academy underwent major curriculum revisions to its basic training and orientation training program, and Dennis volunteered his expertise and personal time by spending countless hours in restructuring curriculum for computer based training. He also assisted and provided leadership in all of the processes for the Phase I and Phase II Basic Training programs. As a Master Basic Communications Techniques instructor, he received numerous accolades from students, peers, and seniors alike. As Pruntytown Correctional Center was working diligently to achieve ACA Accreditation, he managed training schedules to prevent overtime, and he assisted in a volume of work processes that involved meeting ACA Standards. His accomplishments with the West Virginia Corrections Academy and the Pruntytown Correctional Center have been outstanding.

Dennis is also the recipient of the Medal of Valor, and the Employee of the Year for the WV Division of Corrections for 2009. (See story on page 2)

Jeff has made exceptional commitments to teamwork, duty and the mission of Anthony Correctional Center. He is willing to accommodate job assignments over and above his normal duties and completes them efficiently, while maintaining a positive attitude and completing his essential duties without complaint. His hard work and devotion allows those that he leads to be successful in the daily operations of the facility, and ultimately results in meeting the goal of improved working and living conditions for both staff and offenders.

A volunteer at heart, Phil has demonstrated this spirit throughout the years, giving his time to positively represent the Division of Corrections and his facility at numerous events at the State Capitol. He accepts a variety of assignments and wears many hats; he serves as the Unit Manager, Movement Coordinator, Case Manager, Counselor and Correctional Officer at Beckley Correctional Center. He produces quality work in each position and with an attendance record second to none, he sets a positive example for his co-workers to emulate.

Customer service is the name of the game at Central Office and Rebecca Ferrell has cornered the market. She conducts herself in a professional manner, regardless of the situation or level of conversation. Overcoming a serious automobile accident, she returned to work as soon as possible and resumed her signature, high level of performance. Rebecca delivers consistently and cheerfully and is considered one of the most integral elements of the Central Office team.
WV DOC Employee’s of the Year continued...

Charleston Work Release Center
Kem Hudson

Kem displays selfless dedication in his many duties at the Charleston Work Release Center. Serving on the Unit Behavior Team and Reclassification Committee, he always produces quality work. He is instrumental in keeping the Kanawha Valley Chapter of the WV Landlords’ Association aware of policy changes that affect inmate housing needs, as well as traveling personally to South Central Regional Jail, to ensure home plans are successfully submitted. His efforts contribute greatly to the efficient operation of the Charleston Work Release Center.

Denmar Correctional Center
Eva Moore

Truly a role model for staff and inmates alike, Eva consistently exhibits a positive attitude and has the ability to communicate with all people regardless of race, creed, religion, or incarceration status. She is instrumental in curbing the flow of contraband into the facility, through her tireless efforts as the Post Office Supervisor. Her non-threatening professional approach has calmed a lot of storms over the years and she has earned the respect of everyone she encounters, both within the division and in the local community.

Huntington Work Release Center
Jennifer Henderson-Hutchinson

Jennifer was presented with Employee of the Fourth Quarter for 2009. She is the Institutional Training Coordinator, the Institutional Parole Officer and assumes many other duties, without complaint. Her pleasant attitude helps to maintain a positive morale among all staff. She is an excellent team player and is very dedicated to her duties. Jennifer is very reliable and her work performance reflects an exceptional high standard. She is motivated and is a great asset to the Huntington Work Release Center family.

Huttonsville Correctional Center
Adam Smith

As Case Manager at Huttonsville, Adams’ contribution and dedication to duty is superlative. His willingness to accept change, his positive attitude, and his commitment to duty has set a positive example for his fellow employees. He also performs several collateral duties with diligence. Adam consistently took the initiative in volunteering to complete additional Case Management work, which resulted in a more efficient operation of the facility. He excels in making decisions and acting at the lowest appropriate level to solve problems while keeping his seniors well informed. When assigned a task, he can be counted on to be factual and informative. Adam is an extremely dependable and valuable member of the Huttonsville Correctional Center team.
Correctional Industries  
Shirley Burge

Shirley has excelled greatly in the Correctional Industries Department of the WV Division of Corrections. As a cost conscious Supervisor, she keeps a close eye on the bottom line, ensuring all purchases and invoices are reviewed thoroughly. However, organization is her greatest attribute and as a result of her attention to detail and organizational skills, work flow at the Print Shop is streamlined and efficient. She demonstrates tremendous pride in the quality and accuracy of her work. Industries values her commitment and the ability to do it all, with a smile on her face.

Lakin Correctional Center  
Rodney Plants

Rodney has proven to be a great asset to Lakin Correctional Center. Assigned various shifts and posts during his tenure, he has always accepted his duties without hesitation. He exhibits consistency in his positive attitude, personality and character. Time has shown him to be dependable and his integrity is tremendous. Lakin Correctional Center considers it a pleasure to have him as a member of their team.

Mt. Olive Correctional Complex  
Bobby Berry

Bobby Berry’s contribution and dedication to duty is superlative. His willingness to accept change, his positive attitude, and his commitment to duty has set a positive example for his fellow employees. He is OIC of the Transportation Unit and his professionalism and leadership have resulted in accolades from several judges throughout the state on his department’s performance. He also performs several collateral duties, to include, Honor Guard, Special Operations/CERT and Marksman/Observer, recently chosen as Gold Team Leader for statewide Special Operations. Bobby consistently took the initiative in recommending changes to several procedures which resulted in a more efficient operation of the facility. He excels in making decisions and acting at the lowest appropriate level to solve problems while keeping his seniors well informed. When given assignments, he can be counted on to be factual and informative. He is an extremely dependable and valuable member of the Mount Olive Correctional Complex team.

Martinsburg Correctional Center  
Jack Via

An employee that is unafraid to tackle the seemingly insurmountable task, Jack Via continues to amaze and inspire his co-workers and supervisors alike. Martinsburg Correctional Center found itself committed to an ACA accreditation contract and suddenly without a coordinator, enter Jack Via. He took over the vacated position and calmly and steadily ensured Martinsburg’s place among accredited facilities. He also volunteered to take the additional duties of the vacated Fire Safety Officer position, assuring its’ compliance with ACA standards. Although his demeanor made it look as though these tasks were easy, it required the selfless dedication and devotion Martinsburg Correctional Center has come to expect from Jack.
As the Institutional Parole Officer and Movement Coordinator, Brandy takes a wide variety of tasks upon herself willingly and performs them without hesitation. Working closely with community and victim services, she is able to plan and provide resources for these groups. She is active in community functions, and maintains a friendly and willing attitude in her daily interactions, both professionally and personally. She is truly a team player.

**Ohio County Correctional Center**

**Paul Clark**

Paul has quickly become one of Ohio County Correctional facilities key components. He has performed his duties in an outstanding manner as the Lead Firearms Instructor, C.I.D.S. Instructor, Armory Officer, CSC Supervisor, Shift Trainer and Shift Commander. He volunteered to have his own days off adjusted, to save facility overtime. He utilizes his off duty time honing his on duty skills, as he conducts Martial arts and Concealed Weapons classes, all while making time for his most important duty to his family. Paul is a great asset to the Ohio County Correctional Center and to the WVDOC.

**Parole Services**

**Charles “Chuck” Rose**

Chuck has been with Parole Services for more than 21 years. He always keeps security as the number one goal; his experience makes him a valuable asset to the Wheeling Office as well as throughout the Northwest Region where he serves as an Enhancement Officer. His outstanding communication skills have been proven to be most effective in resolving many issues within the inmate population. Chuck performs outstandingly in his regular duties and he is always complete and accurate with any special assignment. His reliability, initiative, dedication, and positive attitude set the example for all to emulate.

**Pruntytown Correctional Center**

**Steven Buzzard**

Dedication to a goal and “nose to the grindstone” was the commitment for Steve, as he led the Pruntytown Correctional Center thru a successful journey to ACA accreditation. His hard work and assistance resulted in many long days and weeks without a day off to complete the task. His outstanding perseverance was proven during the resolution of many issues beyond his control, sometimes even resulting in criticism of his efforts. His reliability, initiative, dedication, and positive attitude set the example for all to emulate.

**St. Mary’s Correctional Center**

**Perry Thorne**

WV DOC Employee’s of the Year continued...
Perry is assigned to C Group, where he works in Security Division, Inner Perimeter of St. Mary’s Correctional Center. Perry’s positive attitude helps to maintain excellent morale among all staff. He is an excellent team player and is very dedicated to his duties. His reliability and work performance reflect an exceptional high standard he has set for himself. Perry is motivated and is a great asset to the St. Mary’s Correctional Center family.

**Distinguished Service Medal**

Spencer Hill

Spencer Hill received the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding performance of duty while assigned as Institutional Training Officer and Special Operations Training Coordinator during 2008 and 2009. During this time, the agency had determined the need to replace its handguns. Spencer was assigned the task of researching the best quality handgun through a myriad of vendors and other law enforcement and corrections agencies. He spent countless hours researching and arranging vendor visits, and also implemented and coordinated testing procedures for the new handgun. Spencer worked diligently with employees, vendors, and the Director of Security to assess and ensure the purchase of the most effective firearm for the division. Additionally, he instituted a new Operational Procedure for the firearms training and personally conducted the transition training. In 2009, he coordinated and assisted in the Correctional Emergency Response Team training events, and was instrumental in the team’s 1st place finish in competition at the NCLETTC Mock Riot in Moundsville, WV, subsequently earning him the Corrections Commendation Medal. Spencer trained and developed two new Academy Trainers and willingly accepted the responsibilities as Training Officer for seven facilities. In this role, he provided the existing Training Coordinators with guidance and direct support from the Training Academy. His initiative, perseverance, and distinguished dedication to duty reflect great credit upon yourself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the West Virginia Corrections Academy and the West Virginia Division of Corrections.

**Livesaving Medal**

Travis Barker
Jerry Carter

Travis Barker and Jerry Carter, from Anthony Correctional Center, received Lifesaving Medals from the WV DOC for outstanding, heroic acts performed in the spring of 2009. During this time, an 11 year old autistic boy wandered off in the woods near his home and had been missing for several hours. Travis and Jerry immediately joined the search and rescue efforts with the use of their ATV’s. After an extensive search over miles of land and marsh, Travis and Jerry found the boy. They drove the boy out of the woods and handed him safely over into the arms of his family members and friends.

**Lifesaving Medal**

Denise Richards

Denise Richards, from Lakin Correctional Center, received the WV DOC Lifesaving Medal for her exceptional performance of duty on June 23, 2009. While working in the Main Dining Room, an inmate appeared to be in distress and was holding her neck. Officer Richards immediately asked the inmate if she was choking and the inmate shook her head yes. Officer Richards then administered the Heimlich Maneuver on the inmate and successfully dislodged an obstruction in her throat. However, after the inmate began to talk, she appeared to start choking again, so Officer Richards again performed the Heimlich Maneuver, dislodging the object, and saving the inmate’s life.

**Other Awards**

**Certificate of Commendation**

Robin Wilson, ACC
Eric Brown, CWRC
Paul Parry, MOCC
Steve Snider, MOCC
Michael Wayne Kincaid, MOCC
Larry Propst, MOCC
Laura Angel, MOCC
Andrea Taylor, MOCC
Mikki Scott, MOCC
Janet Higginbotham, MOCC
Abbie Hart, MOCC
Kenny Bowles, MOCC
Brian DeBoard, MOCC
Judy Fitzgerald, Parole Services
Belinda Smith, PCC
Garrison Grogg, PCC

**Corrections Commendation Medal**

Curtis Murray, DCC
Corrections Connection

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Other Awards Continued...

New Employees

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Promotions

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<tr>
<td>Marvin Plumley</td>
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Corrections Achievement Medal

Joshua Crane, ACC
Dalton Pritt, ACC
Troy Wooding, ACC
Pamela Baldwin, CWRC
Danny Gillespie, CWRC
Kem Hudson, CWRC
William Prue, CWRC
Erik Thomas, CWRC
Doug Whittington, CWRC
Jason Collins, MOCC
Robert Rhodes, MOCC
Steven Caudill, MOCC
Jarrod Wilson, MOCC
Russell Matheny, MOCC
Carl Cox, MOCC
Dale White, MOCC
Kristopher Perkins, MOCC
Robert Forren, MOCC
Adam Cayton, MOCC
James Swartz, MOCC
George Stoneking, OCCC
Linda Rubenstein, PCC
Dennis Peters, PCC
John George, PCC
Michael Forinash, PCC
Paul Pyles, PCC

**NOTE**

Huttonsville Correctional Center employee, OAIII Karen Channel’s name was inadvertently omitted in the last newsletter, recognizing employees with 20 or more years of service.

Thank you Karen... for 26 years of service!
ADOPT A HIGHWAY

On March 20, 2010, Parole Officers Bryan Ware and Jeff Carter continued the Adopt-A-Highway project that was started in the Clarksburg Parole Office as a sanction of community service for parole violators.

This early spring clean-up was a great success and netted 39 bags of trash and tires from the Columbia Blvd. Industrial Park in Clarksburg, WV. This 2 mile stretch of roadway is used by many citizens as an exercise route for walking/running/biking. Officers Ware and Carter were both approached by citizens and praised for the project.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The Fraternal Order of Police Black Diamond Lodge #81 held a banquet on Friday, April 23, 2010, honoring law enforcement officers throughout the Raleigh/Fayette/Mercer County areas. The honorable Nick Joe Rahall was the keynote speaker.

Congratulations to Parole Officer Joe Hall for being selected as the Parole Services 2009 Distinguished Officer and receiving the Distinguished Service Award. Joe has been a Parole Officer for 11 1/2 years and is currently a Probation/Parole Officer II for the Southeastern Region.

WARRANT ROUND-UPS

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week 2010 was April 18-24, 2010. The theme of this year’s observance was *Crime Victims’ Rights: Fairness, Dignity and Respect*. The United States Marshals Service (USMS) was asked to participate in this initiative, since their core mission is fugitive apprehension.

The USMS – Southern District of West Virginia and the Cops United Felony Fugitive Enforcement Division (C.U.F.F.E.D.) Fugitive Task Force held warrant round-ups throughout southern West Virginia. They worked with other local, state and county officers, performing numerous warrants for Domestic Battery, Violation of Domestic Violence Petitions and Failure to Pay Child Support and any crime that involved a victim.

USMS Task Force Officers Judy Fitzgerald, Dave Toler and Doug Workman worked throughout the week on these numerous roundups and by the end of the week over 150 warrants were executed.
On Friday, April 9, 2010, Lakin Correctional Center (LCC) participated in a Law Enforcement Job Fair held at West Virginia University of Parkersburg. Staff attending the event included, Human Resources Manager Cheryl Kaylor, Captain Kevin Dugan, CO II Pamela Patterson, and Warden Lori Nohe.

The Drama Club from Hanna High School presented the play “Alice in Wonderland” at LCC on March 30, 2010. Approximately 130 inmates were in attendance for the play which lasted 2 hours. This is the second play that Donna Duke, Drama Teacher from Hanna High, has presented to the female inmates at LCC, the first was in 2007, “Of Mice and Men”.

Recently the playground in the KIDS Unit at LCC was completed. The playground was funded through Head Start located in Mason County, WV. LCC currently has three inmates that are pregnant and two inmates with their children living on the unit. The program began July 1, 2009, and the first inmate was discharged from the program/prison on February 23, 2010. She currently has an apartment, a job, and is attending college and her child is attending Head Start in the Huntington area.

A Staff Appreciation Lunch/Dinner was held at Lakin Correctional Center on Thursday, May 6th for B and D Shifts, Administrative and Contractual Staff, and again on Monday, May 10th for A and C Shifts. AWS Joe Wood and Sgt. Tom Weiner cooked barbecued ribs and chicken on the grill. The menu also included baked potatoes, baked beans and macaroni salad that were prepared and served by the Administrative Staff.

The lunch/dinner was held in appreciation of DOC and Contractual Staff for all their hard work and dedication to the Division of Corrections and Lakin Correctional Center.

Lakin recently celebrated another Kairos Weekend on April 29th – May 2nd. This was Kairos Weekend #14. Kairos is an interdenominational Christian ministry that takes approximately 42 inmates on a spiritual weekend retreat/journey. Twenty eight Kairos Volunteers/women came from all over the state of WV, left their homes and families and stayed at a local motel for the weekend to be able to minister to the women inmates at Lakin. One Kairos Volunteer who recently moved to Myrtle Beach, S.C., drove all the way from Myrtle Beach just to be a part of this special event. The Kairos Volunteers worked from 8:00am until 8:00pm on Friday & Saturday (and most of the day on Sunday) feeding the bodies and souls of 42 inmates.

A couple of the Kairos Volunteers along with nine inmates (who volunteered to help) spent the entire weekend in the Culinary Arts kitchen, cooking special meals for the inmates and the volunteers. Each time they come, they bring hundreds of home baked cookies. One time I heard an inmate say: “I came looking for God and he came walking in with a bag of cookies”! It surely is a ministry of love!

It is a weekend filled with lots of food, lots of fun, lots of prayer, lots of counseling and lots of the love of Jesus. It is an experience that the women never
Lakin Correctional Center Continued...

forgot and for some their life is transformed and they are never the same when they decide to make a commitment of their life to Jesus Christ. Kairos is a special part of the ministry here at Lakin Correctional Center.

Submitted by:  
Mark Morrow, Chaplain  
Lakin Correctional Center

The Cornwell Twins, Blaine & Boyd Cornwell, from Joplin, Missouri, provided a Gospel Concert at Lakin on Monday evening, May 17th, with lots of fun and laughter. The Cornwell Twins have a unique method and style of sharing the gospel message. They take many of the well known “oldies” and rewrite the lyrics with a Christian message. The well known tunes are easy to listen to and easy to learn. They use an interactive approach and get the audience to sing selected parts of the songs. Over 100 inmates came out for an evening of fun and laughter.

The Cornwell Twins have recorded a few CD’s. They are also professional golf caddies. As they attend professional golf tours across the country they also sing in churches and a variety of places. The Cornwell Twins had a special guest with them, C. Michael Christianson, a poet. He is also a medical missionary to Mexico. Together they provided an inspirational evening with lots of variety and enjoyment.

Cpl. Tracy Chattin, from Lakin Correctional Center, lost his house and most of his possessions in a fire in March, 2010. AWP Craig Roberts and Warden Lori Nohe presented Cpl. Chattin with a monetary donation on March 26, 2010. The donations were received from the RSAT Committee members who attended the bi-annual meeting at Chief Logan State Park in March 2010; and donations were all received from LCC staff members who participated in fundraisers.

WV CPOF Representative Ray Wagoner also presented a check to Cpl. Chattin from the Correctional Peace Officers Association.

Left to Right: AWP Craig Roberts, Cpl Tracy Chattin, and Warden Lori Nohe.

A panel of five Charleston Work Release Inmates were recently invited to attend a *Introduction to Addictive Behavior* class session at WV State University, in Institute, West Virginia.

Professor Pernell McCoy had asked that the inmates who attended, be alcohol and substance abuse offenders. Upon arriving to the classroom, the inmates were greeted warmly by the students, but the inmate panel seemed somewhat surprised when some of the students admitted to also serving time in the criminal justice system. Many had done drugs and/or alcohol in the past and had felt powerless in their attempt to overcome these obstacles.

Each of the inmates gave a brief background about themselves and outlined the poor choices they made, to get them where they are today. The class responded diligently with questions and ended by thanking the inmates for their time.

Some of the class members informed me that seeing and hearing the inmates, inspired them to be better counselors. They hoped that when the inmates were released from the system, that they were able to work with them and make a difference in their lives.

Submitted by:
D.B. Clark, COII
Charleston Work Release Center

**Mt. Olive Cor. Complex Recycles**

April 2010 marked the beginning of a new recycling program at MOCC. MOCC in partnership with Correctional Industries has undertaken a major recycling venture. Paper, cardboard, plastic and metal is now being collected and recycled. A plan is in the works to also recycle food waste and textiles. This green initiative is progressing very well, and we look forward to reporting our successes. We are proud of both staff and inmate efforts to assist in reducing our environmental impact.

**Deputy Warden Plumley MOCC**

Congratulations to Marvin Plumley who was selected to fill the Deputy Warden position at MOCC beginning July 1, 2010. Marvin is currently the Deputy Warden at Lakin Correctional Center where he has served in that position since June 2008. Prior to his current Deputy Warden status, Marvin held the positions of Associate Warden of Security/Programs, Corporal, Lieutenant and Correctional Counselor II at Anthony Center.

**Warden Vest Beckley Correctional Center**

Congratulations to Bill Vest, for being appointed Warden of Beckley Correctional Center, effective May 16, 2010. Beckley Correctional Center is currently undergoing a construction/renovation project which will expand its population to 150 inmates when completed. Bill has done an outstanding job as Acting Administrator at Beckley and has taken a very progressive approach in forming a solid team at this facility.

**HCC Inmates Donate to Mining Disaster Fund**

The inmates at Huttonsville Correctional Center bought pizza’s and raised $815.00 for the Montcoal Mining Disaster Fund, sponsored by the WV Council of Churches. This fundraiser was conducted during the month of April, after the mining disaster that killed 25 WV coal miners.
The WV Division of Corrections Canine Training Center graduated 3 officers and their canines on April 1, 2010. These men and their partners began training on January 4, 2010, and continued until April. Congratulations to Jeff Ball and Madison of Huttonsville Correctional Center, Rick Feathers and Charlie from Prunytown Correctional Center, and Mark Taylor and Tikka of Mount Olive Correctional Center.

Lakin Correctional Center recently underwent their second ACA Audit on May 18-20, 2010. During this period of time the Audit Team led by Chairman, Joe Rion (Kentucky), along with members, James Curington (Florida) and Ray Tamminga (Michigan) conducted an entrance interview, toured the facility, reviewed over 500 files, and other documentation, for standards compliance. During their time at Lakin they also met with staff and inmates.

At the conclusion of the audit, Lakin was found to be 100% compliant with the mandatory standards and 99.77% on the non-mandatory standards.

I want to thank Assistant Commissioner, Jan Chamberlain and his audit team for all their assistance they have given us over the last several months and a special thanks to Shelby Searls, Lakin’s Accreditation Manager.

A special thank you to all of Lakin’s DOC and Contractual Staff, who through teamwork, diligence and efforts have achieved this excellent accomplishment for their facility and the WV Division of Corrections.

Submitted by:
Lori Nohe, Warden
Lakin Correctional Center
SPECIAL OLYMPICS RUN

For the 12th consecutive year, St. Mary’s Correctional Center (SMCC) employees joined forces with WV State Police, Wood County Sheriff’s Department, Parkersburg Police Department and Huttonsville Correctional Center for the West Virginia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. The runners traveled 9.5 miles through Parkersburg, raising public awareness for Special Olympics. The runners were cheered on by Special Olympics athletes and supporters throughout the course.

Pictured above, left to right are:

FRONT ROW: Deputy Leslie Severe (California); COII Brandon Leasure (SMCC); COII David Jeffers (SMCC); COII Barry Wren (SMCC); Cpl. Brian Moler (SMCC); Officer Matt Eichhorn (PCPD); Josh Benson (PCPD), Cpl. Garrett Cooper (HCC), Cpl. Shawn Keller (HCC) Sgt. Travis Bennett (HCC) and Deputy Warden Tony Lemasters (SMCC).

BACK ROW: COII Sean Barnhart (SMCC), Lt. Aaron Simonton (SMCC), Case Manager Amanda Anderson (SMCC), COII Andy Nething (SMCC), COII Tim Matthews (SMCC), COII Chris Huggins (SMCC), Program Specialist, Russell Maston, Capt. John Anderson (SMCC), COII Adam McLeish (SMCC) and COII Mark Webster (SMCC).

EDUCATION NEWS

Beginning January 1, 2010, SMCC’s Education Department implemented a new post secondary Career Path coordinated between the WV Department of Education at SMCC, West Virginia Division of Corrections, St. Mary’s Correctional Center and West Virginia University at Parkersburg. The Career Path incorporates current academic, transitional and vocational courses to allow students the opportunity to complete the following Technical Studies Certificates: Business Technology, Computer Technology, Microsoft (MS) Office and HVAC & Electrical. The credits earned will fold into a Board of Governors A.A.S. Degree when supplemented with additional general educational credits.

The Career Path allows a student to chart an educational path that best suits their individual preferences and skills. These skills will aide students as they prepare for life and transition into the workforce.

At the Annual CTE/ABE Community Resource Meeting held on-site March 23, 2010, the Career Path was officially presented and signed. Before the official signing took place, WVU-P Assistant Dean/Director of Non-Traditional Programs, Dr. Paul Milhoan offered comments in regard to the success of individuals who have obtained a college degree while incarcerated. The signing was initiated by Dr. Milhoan and participants included: WVU-Parkersburg President Marie Gnage, SMCC Warden William Fox, OIEP Superintendent, Fran Warsing and Principal of the SMCC Education Department, Judy Burkle.

Student representatives that were on hand to witness this educational milestone, praised all participating parties for working tirelessly to provide higher education opportunities. At present date, there are several students working to meet the requirements of the Technical Studies Certificates. These students are on pace to receive certificates during the upcoming Student Graduation Ceremony scheduled for June 2010.

As a result of implementing the Career Path, student enthusiasm for Post Secondary programming has been evident through sign-ups which are substantially higher since the program was initiated. In addition to partnerships, the implementation of the Career Path would not be successful, if not for the Post Secondary instructors who work non-stop to ensure that the quality of each student’s education remains high. By adopting the Career Path, the SMCC Education Department is continuing to ensure lives will be transformed through education.
The 2nd annual Correctional Peace Officer Foundation (CPOF) / WV Golf Tournament was held on May 5, 2010, at the Moundsville Country Club in Moundsville, WV. Registration began at 10:30 AM and by tee off time at 1:30 PM ninety golfers, equipped with welcome bags and complimentary blue polo shirts, anxiously awaited the shotgun start. This year's tournament was dedicated to the memory of Teresa Waid, Warden at Huttonsville Correctional Center until she succumbed to cancer last August. Teresa's daughter, Caitlin Blankenship, attended the tournament and provided a memorial table in honor of her mother.

A warm spring day with abundant sunshine and blue skies provided for an afternoon of exceptional shots, loads of laughter and camaraderie. It was a pleasure to have Anthony Cheng, a Correctional Officer from Hong Kong Correctional Center, participate in our tournament. Anthony's golf skills, never-ending smile, and ability to speak English fluently, enabled everyone to enjoy his company. Following the game, golfers and supporters enjoyed an evening buffet. Guests included Larry Corby, National Director and Secretary of the CPOF and Capt. Steve Dizmon, CPOF National Honor Guard Commander, along with Jim Rubenstein, Commission of Corrections; Dale Humphreys, Director, Division of Juvenile Services; and Terry L. Miller, Executive Director, WV Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority.

During the buffet, awards and ribbons were given to the winners, and plaques were presented to our many generous sponsors. CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO ALL!

I want to say “Thank You” to everyone who helped to make our second annual golf tournament a success. Special thanks to Robbie Farquhar, Wendy Baur, and Susan Satterlee of our CPOF family; Terry Rusin, President and CEO of PSIMED; and the following volunteers: Anne Thomas, Jennifer Ballard, Tim Harper, Mike Wagoner, Wilson Shank, Amanda Anderson, Jodi Keller, Terry Snyder, Karen Salvino, Ryan Blake, Bill Davidson, Sue Davidson, and Nancy Bryant.

I would also like to thank Lori Nohe, Warden at Lakin Correctional Complex; Evelyn Seifert, Warden at Northern Correctional Facility; Adrian Hoke, Warden at Huttonsville Correctional Center; Bill Fox, Warden at St. Mary’s Correctional Center, and Pat Mirandy, Associate Warden of Programs at St. Mary’s Correctional Center. Special contributions were also made by Prison Industries at the following facilities: Lakin, St. Mary’s, Northern, Huttonsville, and Mt. Olive Correctional Centers.

Submitted by:
Ray Wagoner, CPOF
WV Field Representative
This year, on Monday, April 19, 2010, Mt. Olive Correctional Complex (MOCC) held the 10th annual victims fair titled Operation Reach Out. Our first fair consisted of booths set up in the Charleston Town Center, where people could collect information regarding victim services offered throughout the state. The second year, the fair was again held at the Town Center and added the FBI child’s fingerprinting/photograph card, to assist parents with documentation in the event their child becomes missing. The third year, it was held at Haddock Park and included games, snow cones, cotton candy, etc… The last 6 or 7 years, the fair was held on the grounds of the WV State Capitol Complex and each year additions are made that will better serve our intended target audience---children.

Approximately 3 years ago, the committee decided to put together workshops and invite children from middle schools throughout the state. Our workshops were approved by the WV Board of Education and consisted of the following: Internet Safety, Gang Prevention, Personal Safety, Domestic Violence Prevention Education, Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Bullying and Date Rape, to name a few. Approximately 800 students have been bused in to attend the fair each year. This year we secured the “Choice Bus” from the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation. The Choice Bus gave students a first-hand experience of the consequences of choosing to drop out of school, which often leads to a life of crime and prison.

In addition to the workshops, exhibits are set up that include but are not limited to: rock climbing wall, Jupiter Jump, games, fire safety, WVSP Batmobile, K-9 Demonstrations (WVDOC), face painting and more.

MOCC has formed a unique partnership with Family Counseling Connections (FCC). Throughout the year, MOCC holds fund-raisers and forwards all proceeds to FCC. Due to MOCC contributions, FCC has been able to fund Operation Reach Out Victim Fair for the last 3 years, to include the funds required to have the Choice Bus with us this year. In addition to the fair, the Choice Bus was parked at Capitol High School, where at risk students were given the opportunity to view the presentation in an effort to deter students from traveling down the path, which usually results in prison/jail.

MOCC is also tasked with escorting all the middle school children throughout the day. Approximately 25 employees attend and/or provide services during the fair. Mt. Olive is committed to the rehabilitation of offenders, but also to helping victims heal from the trauma of violent crime.

The Operation Reach Out Committee Members consists of representatives from the following disciplines: Division of Corrections, FBI, US Attorney's Office, Victims Compensation FCC/REACH, Domestic Violence Coalition, Kanawha County Sheriff’s Department, Charleston Police Department, Prosecuting Attorney’s Institute, Division of Justice Criminal Services, Regional Community Policing Institute, Mothers Against Drug Driving, and Mt. Olive Correctional Complex

Mr. Brian Greenwood, Corrections Hearing Officer at MOCC, is a veteran participant of this annual event and witnessed a profound moment when a certain young man attended the Choice Bus presentation: “The boy almost cried… he had no idea what was behind the curtain… he had been in a juvenile facility for two years prior.” “He stated he never wanted to go back there again, and that he appreciated the bus because he needed to be woken up.”

Ms. Arietta King, Office Assistant 2 at MOCC assisted with Operation Reach Out for the first time this year. She really enjoyed “watching the children wear the glasses that show how alcohol can affect you”. Ms. King believes all children would benefit from attending the event. “It has a good impact and opened up their minds to many things they did not really think about.”

Submitted By:
Cheryl Chandler, Executive Assistant
Teresa Gregory, CPS Senior
In 2008, it was estimated that 182,460 women in the US was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and 40,480 women died from the disease. When breast cancer is found early, the chance of survival is the greatest.

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activist fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures.

The WV Affiliate of Komen for the Cure was chartered in 2000, to fight breast cancer at home, and it’s one of the 120 Komen Affiliates in the United States. In 10 years, WV has raised and contributed over 1 million dollars to WV Breast Health Programs.

With proceeds from Race for the Cure®, the Komen for the Cure® West Virginia Affiliate will be able to award grants to be used to support breast cancer awareness, screening, treatment and education programs throughout the state.

The 2010 event was held on Saturday, May 1, 2010, in front of the WV State Capitol. Thanks to everyone who took the time to come together and participate in this event.

For more information on breast health and/or cancer, call the Komen Helpline at 1-877-GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Internet users can access the website at: www.komen.org

Healthy Lifestyles

In April, staff from WV-DOC’s Central Office gathered for a luncheon in support of Terri VanFossen, OAIII in the Records Department, who has been battling breast cancer. Terri’s never ending smile has brightened the day for many fellow employees and we all wish her the best!
Over the winter months, the basement of the Assistant Commissioner’s Office in Moundsville, WV, has undergone major improvements. Although the area had previously been used for training purposes, it was not utilized to its fullest potential, due to the need for renovation. With funding from the Central Office and many long hours of hard work from an OCCh inmate, the entire basement has been cleaned, the rooms and floors painted, and the bathroom area upgraded with a new sink and faucet.

Upon completion of the renovation work, tables and chairs previously utilized by the West Virginia Corrections Academy while at Parchment Valley were obtained and the area made ready for use by any DOC employee in need of a meeting/training location in Moundsville. This room will accommodate 12-14 individuals.

Please contact John Drake at (304)-843-4145 or Venetta South at (304)-843-4142 should you want to reserve this area.

Submitted by:
Venetta South, Secretary II
Assistant Commissioner’s Office

It was with great pleasure that on behalf of Director of Security, Mike Coleman and myself, that I presented a plaque to Chief Hearings Officer, John Drake for our appreciation of his enthusiasm and creative thinking to renovate the basement of the Assistant Commissioner’s Office into a very nice classroom. The plaque reads, “Drake Criminal Justice Training Center.” Even though it was lightheartedly presented, his creative thinking was appreciated. Also, we’d be remiss for not thanking Venetta South for her ingenious, interior decorating!

Randy Perdue, Director of Training
WV Corrections Academy
The Corrections Connection is a newsletter published quarterly by the WV Division of Corrections Office of Research & Planning

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William Haines, Deputy Commissioner
Brad Douglas, Director
Rebecca Hildebrand, Research Analyst
Karen Nichols, Research Assistant
Stephanie Boyd, Office Assistant

We welcome all employees to submit articles, letters, pictures, and/or ideas to be included in future issues of the Corrections Connection.

Please send submissions by the 3rd of the month, to Rebecca Hildebrand via email (Rebecca.L.Hildebrand@wv.gov) in Microsoft Word format.

Pictures need to be saved as a bitmap (.bmp) or jpeg image and attached in a separate file.

All information received will be subject to editing.

RETIREMENTS

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It is with a great deal of happiness and with some sadness that I announce the retirement of two of our esteemed employees at Northern Correctional Center: Associate Warden of Programs Vic Butler and Unit Manager Bill Koloski. Both Vic and Bill started in corrections at the old West Virginia Penitentiary, “The Walls”. Vic started his career on November 26, 1984 and Bill’s career started on February 15, 1983.

On Thursday, April 15, 2010, staff got together to celebrate Vic and Bill’s retirement. They will be truly missed.

Sincerely,

Warden Evelyn Seifert
Northern Correctional Center

Top Photo: AWP Vic Butler, Director of Security, Mike Coleman and NCC Warden Evelyn Seifert

Bottom Photo: Unit Manager, Bill Koloski Director of Security, Mike Coleman and NCC Warden Evelyn Seifert.

THANK YOU.... to the following individuals for contributing to this month’s newsletter:


Special Thanks to Drew Moody for providing the photo’s taken at the WV DOC Awards Ceremony.
Years ago Denmar Correctional Center purchased a “Gator”. Last year we purchased a “Rhino”. This year we received, albeit unex-
pectantly, a “Buffalo”. On Friday, May 14, 2010, our newest team member made his appearance onto the property of the Denmar Cor-
rectional Center. Since we have no K-9 here, and in an attempt to “buff-up” security without incurring overtime, we have determined
that our newest member is qualified to be Denmar’s “K-Buf”!

After witnessing the effective patrolling technique of “K-Buf” security was sucessfull in recruiting some of the “Buf’s” closest
friends.

Actually all of the Buffalo pictured were just visiting Denmar from the Animal Farm that is located adjacent to DCC property. The
animals were returned home by the owner of the farm.

Dave Cox, AWS
Denmar Correctional Center
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Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space lies our freedom and power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and freedom.

~Viktor E. Frankl

I shall not pass this way again. Then let me now relieve some pain, remove some barrier from the road, or brighten someone’s heavy load.

~Eva Rose Park

Always hold your head up---but be careful to keep your nose at a friendly level.

~Max L. Forman