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JANUARY 2018



# DAS Times

## ***DAS Releases New State of The Art Job Application and Recruitment System- No More CT-HR-12 Forms***

*by Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone and Nicholas Hermes*



Imagine never having to fill out another CT-HR-12 form ever again when applying for a state job! Remember the 11 or 12 pages of that job application form with all the small spaces and tight lines where you had to cram all your information in? Remember having to often apply once for an exam which typically was not connected to any real job opportunity, and then again when an actual job opening occurred, but of course only if you had taken the requisite exam beforehand?! Remember wanting to apply for an actual job opening but weren't on an exam list?

Well on October 30 both the job application form and the old exam process were permanently eliminated and replaced with an entirely new state of the art job application and recruitment process that has been thoroughly modernized when DAS launched its new JobAps software program! With this new system, a job applicant can efficiently search for and then apply for state job openings online twenty-four hours a day, even on their smart phone. An applicant can even receive email updates. You can receive updates about a job you are interested in and the status of every application you have filed. The new Master Application that can be filed in the JobAps system eliminates the need to manually fill out and complete a job application every single time you apply for a job. Applicants can now maintain their master application in their profile and use it again and again to apply for current job openings. This mobile phone friendly software program will let you check the status of any applications you have filed 24/7 from anywhere!

If you are not interested in a current job but might be interested in a job with a particular agency or a job requiring specific subject matter expertise you can fill out "Interest Cards" so that the new system can email or text you messages about future job openings. While there are no limits on the number of Interest Cards you can maintain, Interest Card needs to be updated annually.

*Continued to next page*

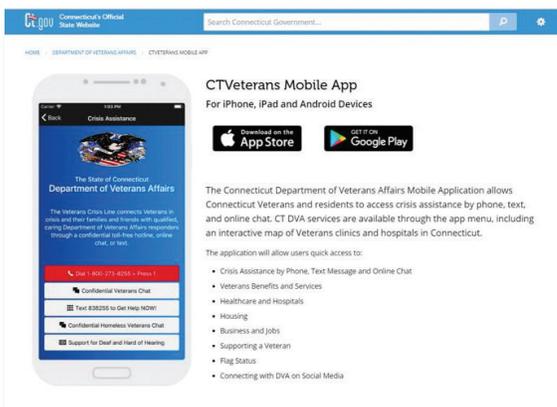
All state jobs are now all online on the OnLine Employment Center at <https://www.jobapscloud.com/ct/>. Jobs can be found and applied for online and the evaluation of the application filed and whether it meets the minimum qualifications of the job will now constitute the examination. Department of Correction and State Police are the only agencies that will continue to offer exams and maintain exam lists for positions, for certain job classes.

DAS Commissioner Melody A. Currey is very pleased with this latest major accomplishment from Statewide Human Resources. She remarked, "We are moving our job application system into 21st Century technology! Who does paper job applications anymore? This new state of the art recruitment and job application system should be familiar to anyone who has ever applied for a job online. It provides easier access to jobs, the applicant has the power to develop a Master Application to highlight their training and expertise, and our HR staff statewide now has a valuable and modern tool to review and keep track of applications coming into the state and to provide applicants with feedback on the status of their applications. No one will ever have to wait and wonder what ever happened to that application they sent in. We are very excited about the future of personnel recruitment for the State of Connecticut!"

This project was led by Statewide Human Resources Director Nick Hermes who said, "This was an all hands on deck project for my office and team; we have worked a long time on this project and we are really proud of the end product! I couldn't be happier to report this is only Phase One; there is more to come!! A huge thank you to my dedicated, hard-working staff and everyone who helped us make this new online job application system possible!"

## Veterans Affairs App - Thanks to DAS BEST

by John McKay



The State of Connecticut unveiled two new digital initiatives to assist the more than 200,000 veterans who live in the state in an effort to better connect veterans with the information on benefits and services that are available, according to a release by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

The two initiatives are a redesigned website for the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and a newly launched smartphone app.

The DVA's new website – located at <http://www.ct.gov/veterans> – greets users with a cleaner interface and presents information in real-time for veterans searching for the services and benefits

offered through the agency.

The CTVeterans smartphone app is available for both Apple and Android mobile devices. Directed toward veterans, those who are currently servicing, their families, and supporters of veterans, the app provides a directory of services the state provides for veterans, as well as access to the Veterans Crisis hotline, and information on how to support veterans in the state. It can be downloaded free from the iTunes Store and Google Play Store by searching the keyword "CTVeterans," according to the release.

DVA Acting Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi said the digital advances will connect the more than 200,000 Connecticut veterans who call this state home with the services and benefits they have earned.

"We couldn't have done this without the help of our sister agency, the Department of Administrative Services' Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology, the folks at Connecticut Interactive, and our great team at the Department of Veterans Affairs," Saadi said in the release.

# Affirmative Action Plan Is Approved

By Alicia Nuñez

DAS is pleased to announce that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities approved the 2017 DAS Affirmative Action Plan at its November 8, 2017 meeting.

A hard copy of the plan is available for your review in the Human Resources Office, Commissioner's Office and/or by contacting the agency's Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Alicia Nuñez. Also for review are the current DAS Affirmative Action Policy Statement, Summary of Objectives and the Discrimination Complaint Process.

The Affirmative Action Plan is a comprehensive look at DAS and its employment processes and opportunities. The plan illustrates the Department's workforce diversity, hiring and promotion procedures, and career mobility services offered by DAS.

Alicia expresses her thanks to the SmART Team; State-wide Human Resources; Supplier Diversity, the Business Office and Communications for their time and contributions to the plan.

"It's an incredibly informative document and it takes many hands from throughout DAS to put it together. Thank you again for your time and efforts in assembling another successful Affirmative Action plan," said Nuñez.

All employees and managers are encouraged to review the plan and submit any comments, suggestions, or questions to Alicia Nuñez, Equal Employment Opportunity Director at (860) 713-5317 or [alicia.nunez@ct.gov](mailto:alicia.nunez@ct.gov).



## 2017 Turkey Drive Putting the "Thanks" in Thanksgiving

by John McKay

We are pleased to report that the 450 Columbus Boulevard Turkey Drive donated 123 turkeys and over \$3,600 to FoodShare this year.

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated or volunteered for the event. We really have the opportunity to make a difference here at 450, and we're always working to do better than last year.

If you are interested in helping out next year, please contact Mike Felix at 860-713-5137.

Thank you again for all your support.



# CT Digital Government Summit

by John McKay

On October 19, State of Connecticut CIO Mark Raymond gave the opening remarks at the first ever CT Digital Government Summit at the Marriot Hotel in Hartford.

“This summit will provide a unique opportunity for government leaders in Connecticut to discuss our common challenges, hear from those that are solving similar challenges and learn about industry innovation,” said Raymond.

“Technology is rapidly changing the way we provide services and engage with our employees, agencies, citizens and businesses.”

The conference held concurrent meetings on topics such as: cloud computing, cyber security, technological agility, best practices and more.

The keynote speaker was National Geographic photographer Steve Uzzell, who gave an inspirational lecture on having an open mind in problem solving, developing your curiosity and asking the right questions. He also covered the topic of self-awareness and everyday life.

A number of DAS staff was in attendance including the IT purchasing team from DAS Procurement and a number of employees from DAS/BEST all interested in learning more about the technology future of the state as well as networking with customers and vendors alike.



*Top: Jason Cohen, Director Technical Systems, Department of Consumer Protection; Karen Perham-Lippman, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Consumer Protection; Mark Raymond, CIO, DAS BEST  
Above: (left to right) Doug Casey (Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology), Easha Canada and Angela Taetz*

# CCSU Recreation Center Groundbreaking

by Nina Ritson

The Groundbreaking Ceremony in the New CJ Huang Recreation Center on Wednesday, October 25 was the very last and very first event in the giant air dome at Central Connecticut State University.

This new complex will enhance the educational, athletic, recreational, wellness and social needs for approximately 12,000 CCSU students, as well as faculty and staff. The new 61,050 square foot recreation center will feature three multipurpose activity courts – basketball, tennis and volleyball – an elevated wellness track, exercise and fitness area, studio space, offices and bathrooms and storage. This project will have a two level entry linking the new recreation center and Kaiser Hall with a VIP Lounge for the Dietrich Gymnasium.

President Zulma R. Toro praised C.J. Huang stating that it was his generosity that will benefit generations of the CCSU students.

Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Peter F. Troiano said, “I developed a fondness for the bubble and will be sad to see it go but I am thrilled to move forward with this phase. In the spring of 2017 this center received 3,200 visits and was available for athletes of 23 intercollegiate sports. This center is for the development of all students in body, mind and spirit.”

Mark Ojakian, President of the CSCU System shared, “I want to acknowledge Governor Malloy who made available the bond funds necessary for the improvements needed to this college and the 17 state colleges in the system. I may not look like it but I am an avid spinner and I would love to come back here to be part of this experience when the ribbon is cut in 18 months.”

DAS Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi praised the DAS team headed by Peter Simmons and Emilio Pizzoferrato and recognized the architects and contractors who will build this new center. Sasaki Associates, Inc. of Watertown, MA is the architect and the contractor is Downes Construction of New Britain. The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$25,385,809.

With that shovels were staked into the dirt and construction officially was underway.



*Top: Shovels hit the dirt for the new CCSU Recreation Center  
Above: Keith Epstein, VP BOR; Peter Simmons Project Manager, DAS/CS, Emilio Pizzoferrato, ADPM DAS/CS, Bud Salemi, Deputy Commissioner, DAS/CS and Sal Cinterino, CCSU Facilities Staff*

# Naugatuck Valley Community College Ribbon Cutting

by Nina Ritson

A large crowd gathered on Friday, October 13 in Waterbury at Founders Hall for the ribbon cutting of the



new home of Naugatuck Valley Community College's (NVCC) Nursing and Health Sciences programs. The \$44 million project entails 85,000 square feet of renovations and additions to the former NVCC engineering building. This building now houses the programs of Nursing, Emergency Medical Technician, Diagnostic Imaging, Physical Therapy, Surgical Tech, Respiratory Therapy, and Home Care. NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D. kicked off this ceremony by saying, "You all deserve applause for this accomplishment. But Governor Malloy, I wish to thank you for supporting this project from the beginning – you facilitated the gear up grant. Mayor of Waterbury Neil O'Leary and Mark Ojakian were very supportive, as well as Commissioner Currey of DAS. This week we learned we were awarded over \$5.3 million in grants over the next five years and we are the only community college to be given three Fulbright Scholars. We recruit some of the poorest Hispanic students and we have been named in the top 25 colleges for advancement of low income students." Mark Ojakian, President, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, addressed the very large gathering on an unusually warm autumn day, "Community colleges embrace their communities. We must make the best path for students to move forward. Our governor has invested many dollars into our campuses so that everyone has a second chance." With that he introduced his friend and mentor, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, who continued this sentiment by saying, "It is an investment in the people in these buildings who will drive the economic community for 30 to 40 years. Brighter days are coming to Connecticut because of the investments you have made."



Top: The official ribbon is cut on the new Founders Hall.

Above: Governor Malloy shares a moment with Mark Ojakian.

Following a brief statement by Waterbury Mayor O'Leary, Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi spoke on behalf of Commissioner Currey, "I am very proud to have been a part of this. From the granite base, to the brick 'pants' which are actually seismic brace frames holding the building in place in the event of an earthquake. These buildings are not only attractive but they will be easy to maintain. They also were designed to save money with complete LED lighting which earned a rebate from Eversource of over \$123,000. And here is the best part – it was completed UNDER budget and six months early – they were actually able to use the building for the spring 2017 semester! We know they are certified Leed Silver, but we are trying for Leed Gold." With that he thanked the many contractors and subcontractors, A/E Designer, Moser, Pilon, Nelson and the Contractor, Morganti, Inc. and especially DAS Project Manager Joel Baronowski for an excellent job well done.

Emily Verdosci, President of the NVCC Student Government Association closed the ceremony by presenting Governor Malloy, Mark Ojakian, Mayor O'Leary and Deputy Commissioner Salemi with a beautifully illustrated coffee table book celebrating the 50th Anniversary of NVCC.

# DAS OEDM Hosts Presentation at the Aqua Turf

by Bonnie Becker



On November 3, 2017, approximately 200 building and fire code officials gathered at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville to attend a training conference hosted by DAS's Office of Education and Data Management (OEDM). The purpose of the event was two-fold: in addition to providing the officials with the latest Connecticut building and fire code information, the conference was intended to encourage communication, appreciation and understanding between the two groups.

The presentation, Mechanical Systems for Fire Life Safety and Building Ventilation, was taught by Mark Mastropasqua, Training Coordinator and Jeremy Zeedyk, Business Representative, from the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local #40 in Wallingford. A live demonstration of duct components was included in the seminar, which focused on the proper installation, inspection and maintenance of ventilation systems – which are critical to the public's health and safety.

DAS Deputy Commissioner Pasquale "Bud" Salemi gave welcoming remarks, along with State Building Inspector Joseph Cassidy and State Fire Marshal William Abbott. Peter Zvingilas, President of the Connecticut Building Officials Association and Roger Martin, Vice President of the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, also addressed the group.



Top: Many gathered for the training conference offered by DAS Office of Education and Data Management (OEDM).

Above: OEDM's Lisa Rochester and Maria Baez wait for lunch.

# Veterans Day Presentation

by John McKay



In honor of Veterans Day, the Division of Construction Services arranged for Colonel Armen Beermann to give a lecture on his military service. And what a story he told the group.

Colonel Beermann led the interrogation of Saddam Hussein at the end of the Gulf War and was involved in the operations regarding Osama Bin Laden. He was there when Saddam Hussein was found in a small hole in the ground on a farm outside of the city of Mosul. "I cannot stress enough how many people were involved in his capture. Hundreds maybe even thousands of people...remove one person from the process, and his capture may not have happened on that day," said Colonel Beermann.



Colonel Beermann had possession of Saddam Hussein for close to 30 days for questioning and to probe what Hussein knew, gathering as much information from Saddam as possible, before turning him over to the FBI and CIA to be transferred to the judicial system in Iraq. With an impressive list of military credentials, training and abilities, both in language and Middle Eastern culture, Colonel Beermann, born in Egypt, came to the United States decades ago to become an important U.S. asset. Colonel Beermann went into extensive detail about the process of how Saddam was tracked, locating other high level members of the Saddam regime, and

the tracking of Saddam's sons. He named numerous units and divisions within the military and the roles they played during the Gulf War, and was involved with all of them.

Colonel Beermann was also on the ground right after the 9/11 attacks to gather information. He was amongst the first U.S. soldiers to parachute into Afghanistan working with the Northern Alliance, tracking Osama Bin Laden as early as October of 2001.



*(L) Colonel Beerman (R) David Barken, Architect*

Being fluent in the regions languages including Arabic, Farsi and even Swahili, he and his team were able to quickly gather information and start to put together the pieces of the puzzle on how to find Osama Bin Laden.

“Yes, I’m Egyptian born, but I will always tell people first that I am an American,” said Colonel Beerman. “One of the proudest days of my life was when I joined the military and had ‘U.S. Army’ on my uniform. I knew I belonged.”

Colonel Beermann went into detail about the final day of life for Saddam’s two sons, Uday and Qusay, and their capture thanks to a brave four-legged trained soldier who lost his life in service that day. “Yes he

was a dog - but he was a brave soldier.”

So what is the connection to the DAS Division of Construction Services? Colonel Beermann is a Registered Architect and planner within the Connecticut State University System and has worked on projects with DAS’ own DCS staff. Before 9/11 he was the Director of Facilities for the State Technical Colleges.

Additionally, ROTC members from UConn were in the audience and took a noticeable interest in Colonel Beerman’s candid and informative presentation.

# Groundbreaking Kicks Off Two Projects at State Veterans Cemetery

John McKay/ From a Press Release

## Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Receives VA National Cemetery Administration Grants for Expansion and Appearance Upgrades; DAS Construction Services Oversees the Project



*From Left to Right: Dan Neagle of Lawrence Brunoli, Inc., DCS' Project Manager Sarah Tierney and DAS Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi, DVA Acting Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, Middletown Mayor Dan Drew, Cemetery Grants Program Director George D. Eisenbach.*

Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Acting Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Director of Veterans Cemetery Grants Program George Eisenbach, and other state officials gathered at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown in December to break ground for two projects; one to expand and one for the appearance of the cemetery. The two projects combined total more than \$8.6 million and are 100 percent federally-reimbursed.

The expansion grant will add 2,000 preplaced crypts, a new roadway, updates to the cemetery entrance, and repair the existing irrigation system. The appearance grant will raise, realign, and clean more than 7,000 existing headstones and improve turf throughout cemetery grounds.

DVA Acting Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi said, "As we break ground at our Middletown State Veterans Cemetery, I extend my sincere appreciation for the collaboration between the DVA, the U.S. Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration, Veterans Cemetery Grants Program and our local Veteran Service Organizations, and the families and visitors of Veterans interred in Middletown. These two projects are critical to our mission of 'Serving Those Who Served' and increases the capacity and longevity of the cemetery; allowing more Connecticut Veterans the opportunity to choose the State Veterans Cemetery as their dignified place of rest."

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman said, "We are thankful to our federal partners for their support of this project. This is truly a sacred place—the men and women buried here are heroes who made tremendous sacrifices to serve Connecticut and the nation. These improvements are part of our overall commitment to our veterans and their families. Their service and sacrifices will never be forgotten."

DAS Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi said, "The Department of Administrative Services Division of Construction Services is honored and proud to be a part of the cemetery expansion project and grounds improvement process. While we cannot thank our veterans enough for their service and sacrifice, every veteran deserves a dignified and honorable burial and DAS and the State of Connecticut are here to ensure they receive the honors in death that their service in life has merited."

USDVA, National Cemetery Administration, Veterans Cemetery Grants Program Director George D. Eisenbach said, "We are proud of our program to honor the sacrifices of our Nation's Veterans and are privileged to support our Nation's State and Tribal Cemeteries with a grant program that delivers critical resources to them. We look forward to our continued partnership with the state of Connecticut."

# Frank and Marisol Rivera Head a Fundraiser for Hurricane Relief in Puerto Rico

by John McKay



From left to right: Franky Rivera, daughters Amanda and Analiese Rivera, House Deputy Majority Leader Minnie Gonzalez and Marisol Rivera.

Many people in Connecticut have a personal connection to Puerto Rico, and when the hurricane devastated the island on September 20 many relief organizations began organizing to raise donations for the area. DAS was no exception. Procurement's Marisol Rivera and her husband DAS' Franky Rivera have friends and family on the island and wanted to help.

"I knew I could count on state employees, and I knew I wasn't alone with other employees having family in Puerto Rico," said Marisol. "Time and time again when there is an effort to help, state employees are the best."

Over two weeks (October 17-31) Marisol was able to raise \$800 in cash for a Hurricane Relief program sponsored by House Deputy Majority Leader Minnie Gonzalez.

Gonzalez had a goal of \$100,000. When Marisol met her to drop off collections, she had raised \$86,000.

Special thanks to DAS' Nicola Murray and Madeline Vargas, as well as support from Commissioner Currey, Alicia Nunez, Carlos Velez, Meg Yetishefsky and Franky Rivera.

## People are talking..... by Cindy Rusczyk

Linda Shackett-Blue sent the following message of praise to thank everyone who participated in the success of the DAS/DRS/SDE/DECD/DCP/CHRO Flu clinic held on October 5, 2017. "We had a huge turnout and I want to thank everyone for the exceptional combined efforts to make this event a success. A special thank you to the following individuals for all of their outstanding customer service and assistance: **John McKay** for sending out notifications and providing the link to the websites in order to register for an appointment and consent forms needed for this process, Kim Times from DRS for going the extra mile to obtain information on the flu clinic and providing me with the contact names of the nurses who attended today's event, and Deb Paradis from SDE for reaching out to inquire about the flu clinic and sending the information out to her agency. Thank you to Konover's Brian Nicknair and employee Dave for assisting with the setup for the clinic, and **Doug Moore** for the quick response to my request for Konover employees Dave and Joe to provide the cleanup after the event. Again, excellent job. Thank you all very much for your help making this process go smoothly."

Debra Paradis from the State Department of Education commended **Linda Shackett-Blue** and stated "you really went above and beyond to make this flu clinic a success. I know you had a lot of glitches along the way, but it went off without a hitch and your efforts were greatly appreciated."

IT Analyst Ed Boyce from the Office of Early Childhood applauded employees at BEST sending **Leonard Welch** the following message: "I want to second Alexey's praise of **Jessica Gioia's** incredible level of assistance last week with OEC's SCCM installation and configuration. **David Ruiz, Michael Trego, Doug Belli** and others behind the scenes also helped tremendously by providing resources and configuration changes throughout the week on very short notice. That responsiveness was critical for the successful completion of the technical tasks during the limited time we had Alexey on site. All major goals were accomplished. Best regards."

*Each issue we publish letters of praise that we have received about DAS employees going above and beyond. If you have received great service or would like to write about a DAS employee going the extra mile, email [Cindy.Rusczyk@ct.gov](mailto:Cindy.Rusczyk@ct.gov) Don't be shy - good work deserves a good word- DAS employees are the best!*

Diane Fraiter, IT Analyst 3 from the Department of Public Health wrote to **Len Smith** at DAS BEST for the successful Production Go Live for YNH PCC Pediatric General Clinic.

"To everyone at BEST, **Emma Gohar, Barbara McCabe, Donald Heft, Matt Shea, and Lori D'Amico**: Thanks for all your support and tireless efforts in helping DPH IT make this a reality. We would have never gotten here without you!!!

We can't thank you enough for working with us to get this function and appreciate your willingness to help us make this a reality!"

Alicia Nunez would like to extend her "appreciation" to the **DAS Business Office**. "It is a matter of great satisfaction and pleasure to have an approved DAS Affirmative Action Plan. I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks and kudos to **Tracie Knapsack** towards all her help in this endeavor. Without her active guidance, help, cooperation and encouragement, I would not have made headway in the SBE MBE portion (an important factor for the success of this immense project). Again, my sincere thanks for your invaluable assistance!"

# Chairman Josh Scollins Puts a Full Court Press on the Campaign for Charitable Giving

Josh Scollins, this year's Chairperson of the State Employees Campaign for Charitable Giving, reported that DAS processed \$7,861 in donations from DAS employees. He said, "we won't have the final numbers until May when the reporting year ends."

GREAT JOB, JOSH!



# It's That Time of Year Again

*Casa Mia*  
AT THE *Hawthorne*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017





















Xiomara Pagan



*Melissa Reynolds*



Michelle Belval



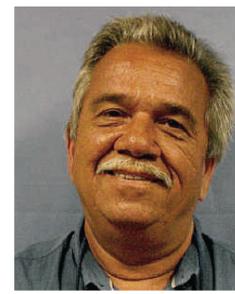
Antoinette Webster



Rosamond White



Erika Carcano



Kenneth Garrity

## COMINGS *and* GOINGS

### RETIREMENTS

**Erika Carcano** –

Properties & Facilities Mgmt – December

**Kenneth Garrity** –

DCS Bureau of Elevators – January

### NEW EMPLOYEES

**Xiomara Pagan** –

Collection Services - October

**Melissa Reynolds** –

Collection Services - October

**Michelle Belval** –

Business Office – October

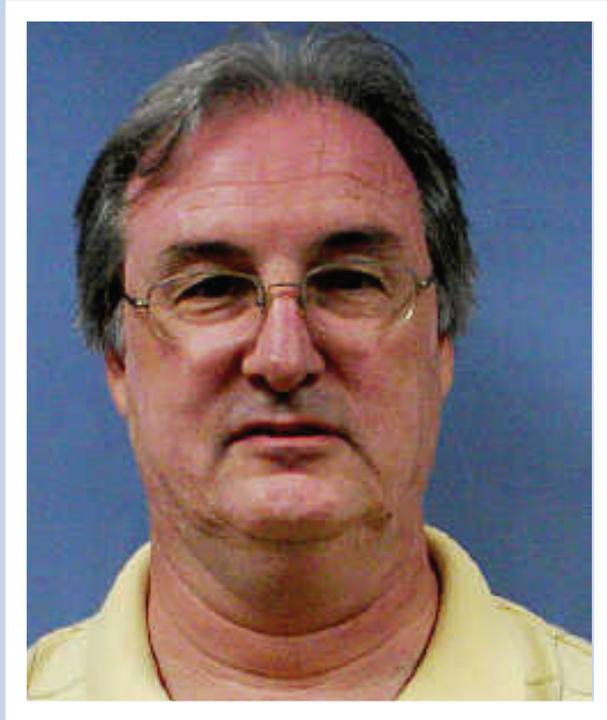
**Antoinette Webster** –

Procurement – November

**Rosamond White** –

Communications Office - November

## *In Memoriam*



*Terry Brouwer  
Office of the State Fire Marshal  
November 25, 2017*