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JANUARY 2019



# CMAA Awards DAS Deputy Commissioner Pasquale 'Bud' Salemi "Person of the Year"

John McKay



Left to right, Scott Jellison, Event Speaker and CEO of the MDC of Hartford, Bud Salemi, CMAA Person of the Year, Deputy Commissioner DAS/CS, Laura Cruickshank, Event Speaker and UCONN Master Planner, David Barkin, Chief Architect DAS/CS, Jim Redeker, Commissioner of Transportation, CONNDOT, Leslie Becker, President, CMAA, CT, Keville Enterprises Mike Mindek, Vice President CMAA CT, CONNDOT, Rizwan Mumtaz, Awards Chair, A.I. Engineers and Judson Wible, Board of Directors CMAA.

The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) Connecticut Chapter held its 2018 Project Achievement Awards and Scholarship Dinner in early December at the Hartford Club.

Over 200 people attended the event to celebrate Connecticut's construction management industry including featured speakers UCONN Master Planner Laura Cruickshank and Metropolitan District Commission CEO Scott Jellison.

The Mission of CMAA is to promote the profession of Construction Management and the use of qualified Construction Managers on capital projects and programs, and the Vision of CMAA is that all owners will realize capital project and program success by using professionally qualified Construction Managers.

America, Connecticut Chapter Person of the year is DAS' own Deputy Commissioner, Pasquale 'Bud' Salemi.

# 2018 PPAC & DAS Education and Vendor Show

John McKay



The DAS Procurement Team and the Public Purchasing Association of Connecticut (PPAC) co-hosted a two day Education and Vendor Show in October at the Hilton Mystic in Mystic, Connecticut. State Agency Purchasing Officials and Municipal Purchasing Officials made up the 160 attendees.

The event was held right across the street from the world-famous Mystic Aquarium and Olde Mistick Village, and only a short walk from the historic Mystic Seaport, Mystic Museum and charming downtown Mystic, giving attendees the opportunity to see a beautiful part of our great State.

DAS Procurement Director Carol Wilson gave welcoming remarks to the audience, “As government entities with tight budgets and similar operational needs, the towns and State have much in common and we’re excited to be able to pool our efforts through today’s event and allow you the opportunity to network with your public peers to share common issues and solutions, find new contract opportunities, identify ways to save your organization money, and create new efficiencies in your procurement processes.”



Day one consisted of educational workshops for attendees including a course entitled, “Practical Specification Writing Objectives and Intended Outcomes.” Poorly written specifications can lead to lack of competition, purchasing an inappropriate commodity, protests, contract disputes and cost overruns. The course helped the attendees develop problem statements within a specification, build specifications and create strategies to approach specifications for unclear and difficult procurements.

Day two was where DAS Procurement really shined with the Vendor Show and Breakout sessions – some taught by our very own DAS staff. This included sessions on using cooperative agreements, state contracts, and our various procurement programs which are free for municipalities.

Top: Carol Wilson

Above: Meg Yetishefsky

*Continued on next page*



The Vendor Show was where attendees explored the programs, services, products and expertise of more than 40 vendors who specialize in providing services to municipal, educational, non-profit, and state agencies.

Wilson went on to thank DAS staff and PPAC staff who spent time creating the event. She emphasized her appreciation to the National Association of State Procurement Officials, NASPO Procurement University and NASPO ValuePoint who were on hand to share information on procurement educational opportunities and cooperative purchasing opportunities, and who's financial support made the event possible.

*Top Left: Dan Dion*

*Left: Madelyn Colon and Marisol Rivera*

*Left lower: Lori Tarver, Kevin Nodwell, Linda LoSchiavo and Ada Rivera*

*Below: Jean Delgreco*



# OEDM Officials attend a Training Conference

by Communications Staff



When licensed Building Officials and Certified Fire Marshals attend a training conference together, it's usually to learn about technical code and public safety issues that are relevant to both groups, and there is a heavy reliance on PowerPoint presentations. On November 29, however, the 278 code officials who attended the Office of Education and Data Management's (OEDM's) conference at St. Clements Castle in Portland were treated to improved comedy skits, group activities and a tiny dose of PowerPoint to drive home concepts related to Communicating with Impact.

According to OEDM Director Bonnie Becker, it's essential that code officials know the respective building and fire codes, but as in all occupations, there are soft skills that are an important component to success in the workplace. When Becker saw that training survey responses indicated the officials wanted communication training, she knew immediately who to call. "There was no doubt in my mind that Cindy Maher and Jamie Guite from Leading Edge Coaching and Development in West Hartford were the duo that was going to blow this conference wide open," Becker said. "After years of hosting technical lectures, I had to get this group laughing and learning, becoming somewhat introspective and understanding that interpersonal skills drive their effectiveness on the job."



In his welcoming remarks, State Building Inspector Joseph Cassidy told the group, "Communication skills are exactly the kind of proficiencies our enforcement officials need to raise the level of professionalism in our field."

The seven-hour day included four sessions – Your Buzz (what people say about you), Trust and Connection, Convey Credibility and Dealing with the Difficult – as well as a sit down lunch at St. Clements Castle, whose architectural design began with the 16th century castles of Europe and is situated on the Connecticut River. Survey results are still being collected, but Becker says that she's never before received so many unsolicited positive comments about a training event, adding that the uniqueness of the facility contributed to the distinctiveness of the presentations.



DAS Deputy Commissioner Pasquale "Bud" Salemi also gave welcoming remarks, along with State Fire Marshal William Abbott. Dennis Milanovich, President of the Connecticut Building Officials Association and Joseph Lombardi, President of the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, also addressed the group.

# NASCIO Honors Mark Raymond of Connecticut

by John McKay

In October the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) recognized Mark Raymond, past NASCIO President and Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the State of Connecticut, with the association's Meritorious Service Award. Raymond was honored during a special ceremony at the NASCIO Annual Conference in San Diego.



To spotlight outstanding service, NASCIO created the Meritorious Service Award, honoring leadership in state government and dedication to the advancement of NASCIO's mission. NASCIO's achievements have largely been the product of the enthusiasm, focus and service of its members; this commitment to excellence has served as a catalyst to redefine the role of technology at the federal, state and local levels.

"In the nomination for the award, Mark was described as a 'special leader who understands how to move an organization forward,' and I couldn't agree more," stated Bo Reese, NASCIO president and

chief information officer for the State of Oklahoma. "I've worked with Mark as a peer and as a leader on the NASCIO Executive Committee, and he has been a standout in terms of strategic thinking and moving both NASCIO and his state forward. Mark has led the state of Connecticut for the last seven years as an advocate for enterprise-wide thinking and approaches to IT investments and projects. He's been instrumental in the formation of the Information Technology Capital Investment Program, which invests in and creates interoperable systems. He also led the development of the state's first cybersecurity plan and has been a leader in cybersecurity planning and execution not only for the state, but also for NASCIO having chaired the Cybersecurity Committee for three years. Mark was also instrumental in building a partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to utilize their data center facilities for Connecticut's disaster recovery needs, the efforts of which were recognized by NASCIO with a 2016 State IT Recognition award."

"When our administration began eight years ago, we were handed an information technology infrastructure that was severely behind the curve and in dire need of critical updates, which is why we made modernization of our systems a key priority. I couldn't have selected someone better than Mark Raymond to head this task," said Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy. "Over the last eight years, he has played an essential role in upgrading Connecticut's information technology systems. Operating obsolete information technology systems creates inefficiencies that cost taxpayers money, result in delays and inefficiencies, and in some cases the inability to allow agencies to share information is downright dangerous. Overseeing such a critical upgrade is no easy task. I have the highest regard for Mark. His decades of experience in this field have proven himself worthy of the recognition he is receiving today. And we are so very grateful for everything that he has helped us accomplish."

Currently serving as Past President, Raymond has been a member of NASCIO's Executive Committee for four years. He was President in 2016-2017 and, prior to that, served in the role of Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. In addition to the Cybersecurity Committee, Raymond has also chaired NASCIO's Programs Committee, Audit Committee, Nominations Committee and Awards Committee, and has represented NASCIO with testimony on the federal level and as a speaker and panelist at regional and national conferences.

# Job Fair for Persons with Disabilities

by Jennifer Taplin



On October 19, the 6th Annual Resource Fair was held at the New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Center in Hartford in recognition of Disability Employment Awareness month.

This was a celebration of the contributions of workers with disabilities. Over sixty resources that are available to persons with disabilities and employers in the State of Connecticut, including DAS EEO Specialist 2, Jennifer Taplin, participated in the event sharing their knowledge of various resources that are available to people with disabilities. Over 162 individuals attended the event and Ms. Taplin spoke with several individuals regarding the possibilities and benefits of working for the State of Connecticut. She informed them about how to search and apply for state positions using JobAps, and how to sign up for interest cards so they are updated when a position opens they are interested in.



# DAS Participates in CSEC Power to Pink Fundraiser

by John McKay



Front: Ada Rivera, Lori Raposo, Cathy McGuire, Veronica Coty, Jennifer Blum, Crystal Bryant, Lisa Annis

Back L-R: Cathy Phelps, Marie House, Kerry Dimatteo, Terrence Tulloch-Reid, John McKay, Linda LoSchiavo, Julie Bernosky, Shane Hubeny, Tony Santos, Mitch Foreman, Phyllis Garris.

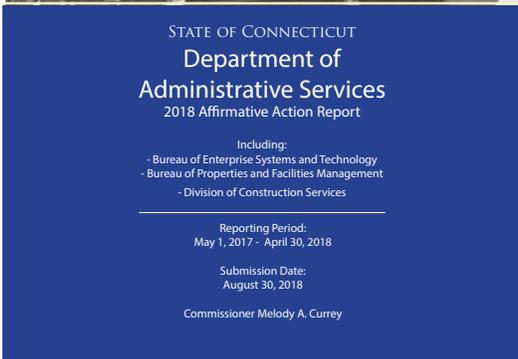
Every October the State Employee Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSEC) raises money and awareness of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, also referred to in America as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. The campaign also offers information and support to those affected by breast cancer.

Employees were encouraged to wear pink on October 23 and posed for a picture. Pink is not just for girls anymore! For more information go to: [www.breastcancer-research.org](http://www.breastcancer-research.org).

# DAS Affirmative Action Plan Approved

by Alicia Nuñez



DAS is pleased to announce that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities approved the 2018 DAS Affirmative Action Plan at its November 14, 2018 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 and illustrates the Department's workforce diversity, hiring and promotion procedures, and career mobility services.

Alicia expresses her thanks to the SmART Team, Statewide 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 Opportunity Director at (860) 713-5317 or [alicia.nunez@ct.gov](mailto:alicia.nunez@ct.gov).

# Honoring Our Veterans

**We Thank You For Your Service**



*(Left to right) Warren J. Packer, Petty Officer 2nd Class, US Navy; Peter Simmons, Lieutenant US Navy Reserve; Richard May, Staff Sergeant, US Air Force; Ron Wilfinger, Machinist Mate Second (2nd) Class/Submarine Service Qualified, US Navy; Peter McClure, Lieutenant Junior Grade, US Navy; Carlton Grodotzke, Chief Petty Officer, US Navy; Kermit D. Thompson, Captain, US Navy; Francisco Rivera, Specialist, US Army; Robin Dawkins, Specialist 5th Class, US Army; Linda LoSchiavo, Specialist (E-4) US Army; Jim Hawthorne, Hull Technician Petty Officer Second Class, US Navy; Scott Benson Sergeant (E-5) US Army; Mitchell D. Foreman, Sergeant, Military Police Corp., US Army; Nick Hermes, Captain, US Army; Daniel Robertson, Lance Corporal, USMC; Phillip Nassetta, Master Sergeant, US Air Force (Active/Guard/Reserve); Michael Ose, Nuclear Power Reactor Electrician, USS Carl Vinson, US Navy.*

# Meet Steve McGirr, Director of Fleet Operations

by Nina Ritson and Steve McGirr

October 26, 2018 was the first day for the new director of State Fleet Operations, Stephen McGirr. "I was hired at DAS in May of 2006 as a Qualified Craft Worker (Automotive) working 2nd shift at the Wethersfield Fleet Garage. Within six months, I moved over to a 1st shift position at the Pond Lily Garage in New Haven. In August of 2014, I was promoted to Maintenance Supervisor 1, and moved back to the Wethersfield Fleet Garage." Steve described his journey to the chief position at Fleet and the opportunity he was given to know all aspects of this agency and gather information along the way.



"We really need to promote Fleet Operations and the service we can provide! A continuing theme for all staff is how to save money, and how can we operate better. The goal of an outside company is to make money – our goal is to save money."

Steve went on to commend his staff - whom have been his coworkers along the way too, "Jim Palmer and Amanda Nattinger are incredible at their jobs and have been invaluable to this transition!" Additionally, he states working alongside Fleet's new Safety Coordinator Russ Winger "has really set the bar with how well Russ has brought us up to date with the backlog of driving complaints. It's exciting to work with people that do their job very well, and like what they do!"

Steve is anticipating technological improvements that will assist fleet users in the very near future, "technology is changing so rapidly that GPS will soon become standard in new vehicles - all models. Having vehicles come equipped with standard GPS would greatly approve efficiencies statewide and validate or disprove the hundreds of complaints that come into the fleet complaint system."

Steve attended Gateway Community Tech in North Haven while studying for his ASE Certifications as an auto mechanic, and did his very first internship at Wallingford Buick-GMC Truck when he says, "I had no idea how to even change my oil."

Recently he became involved with Toastmasters International, a non-profit public speaking and leadership organization. He is a member of several clubs as well as being the current President of the Cromwell Community Toastmasters and serving as an Area Director assisting with the growth of four additional clubs. His first club was with the Department of Revenue Services, Riverside Toastmasters, which meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from noon till 1 p.m. at 450 Columbus Boulevard, South Plaza. "Once I saw the growth potential and skill development opportunities, I was hooked! I'm continually pushed out of my comfort zone to keep the mind in shape, and I spend lots of time at my home gym to keep the body in shape!"

"For now, I am just focused on sourcing ideas and suggestions from all fleet staff and using agencies on how together we can make Fleet better!"

# Meet the New Director of Collection Services

by Nina Ritson and Michael Barile

DAS has welcomed a new Director to the Collection Services Division, Michael Barile. Michael originally came to DAS in 2016 from the Department of Social Services (DSS) where his career path began 30 years ago as an eligibility service worker. "I handled everything from granting AFDC cases to granting Title 19 applications. When I left DSS I was deeply involved in policy analysis, State Plan amendments, HIPPA and Federal Tax Information compliance. DSS transformed their processes by leaps and bounds with the implementation of the new eligibility management system called Impact and the scanning project. Working with Information Technology, we scanned over 400,000 cases. I was part of that along with the implementation of Impact which is transforming how people will receive benefits from the State. Commissioner Currey and her team support new technology and would like to see that happen here. Currently our computer system is quite old - mostly an Access database, and IT is having more and more difficulty supporting this platform."



Since he has been on board, Mike has made a few changes, based on the recommendations of his Team Leaders, to make the job more efficient for his staff, and the staff are embracing these changes. "These employees know how to do their job and I want to give them the tools and the power they need to do this more efficiently and easily so that the workplace is a happier place for them. This job is difficult and it is completely thankless. It is a real challenge always taking money from people's pockets and hearing the stories of misfortune and tragedy that brought people to be dependent on state services wears staff down. It takes a special person to persevere and do this job without getting beaten down along the way. I want to help them do this well. I am very lucky to have a group of people from Billings and Recoveries that know their jobs and do it very well."

Michael attended Southern New Hampshire University (formerly New Hampshire College) where he played ice hockey for the school. He transferred to Eastern Connecticut State University and graduated with a BS degree in Business Administration. He went on to get his Master's Degree in Public Administration/Political Science from Southern Connecticut State University in 2000. He may no longer be a student, but he still loves hockey. In his spare time (as if it is spare) he is the Central Commissioner of the National Ice Hockey Officials Association of Connecticut. He schedules ice hockey referees for public and private high school ice hockey games all around the state. Michael began his hockey career at the age of nine and played during his college years. After college he coached his high school team and his sons' youth hockey team. After coaching he refereed ice hockey and has been doing that for the past 25 years. He credits his dad for getting him into hockey at an early age. "My dad was a very good hockey player, he went to Providence

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College on a full scholarship playing hockey and he was my hockey coach throughout my high school years as well.” Michael has been married to Cheryl, his wife, for 32 years and resides in the same town he grew up in. Michael’s son played youth hockey, but now that he is in high school he manages the hockey team. “He loves working the calculations!” His daughter played lacrosse and was a goalie which caused him to grimace when he described the lack of protective gear a goalie wears in a game. She was recruited to play at American International College in Springfield and now attends Eastern Connecticut State University. “Yes my kids have done well and my team here in Collections has done well, also!”

The Collections Recovery Unit consists of a Billings Unit, a Probate Unit, a Legal Rep. Unit and an Accident/Lien Unit all with different functions but having one goal...recovery. Billings is headed by Heather Sharpley and is credited for billing out over \$1,300,000,000. Her teams continuously recover ongoing medical expenses paid out on behalf of recipients who received public benefits. “The Billings Unit consists of a group of people that really know what they are doing. We are very lucky to have that expertise working for DAS. The Recovery Unit has been headed by myself for the past few years and hopefully there will be a replacement in the near future. Probate and Legal Rep. Units handle decedent estates, when someone dies and had state benefits and they may have to pay those benefits back. Some workers attend Probate hearings and they really have to work closely with the Probate Courts within the State of Connecticut. The Accident/Lien Unit handle law suits from individuals that have received state benefits or have been incarcerated. The Accident/Lien Units Processing Technicians are faced with daily challenges including over 2,500 possible sources of liens per week. The Reimbursement Analyst within the Accident/Lien Unit has an average case load of approximately 3,800 cases each!” “Each group within the Collections-Billings and Recoveries Units from the Processing Technicians to the Reimbursement Analysts do excellent work and an amazing job. It is their hard work that has given DAS consistent success in recovering large amounts of money year after year”.

In closing he noted how welcoming DAS has been to him during this transition!

Spoken like a true coach!

# Burrville Firehouse Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

by John McKay



In October Deputy Commissioner Pasquale 'Bud' Salemi, along with other state dignitaries, gathered in Torrington for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Litchfield County Regional Fire School.

"DAS is particularly proud of this specific project," said Salemi. "To be involved with the construction of a building that will literally save lives doesn't happen every day. The training and education that will happen within this facility is second to none and should be the model for all future projects."

He continued, "The intent of this project is to reconstruct and enhance the training facilities here at the Burrville Regional Fire School to provide the highest level of training possible to first responders within the region so they can stay safe while assisting others."

The campus offers a state-of-the-art administration building, burn building, training tower and rehab shelter. The upgrade "has been a long time in coming," Salemi said, noting he's very pleased with the results.



"A lot of the credit goes to the DAS Construction Services team," said Salemi. "Peter McClure, Don Ouillette, Scott Phelps, and James O'Neil worked together to move this project along and get it completed."

# Housatonic Community College Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

by John McKay



Housatonic Community College held a ribbon cutting ceremony in mid October for their expansion of Lafayette Hall and renovation of other areas on campus. The \$45 million project added space for new classrooms, science labs and student services. Division of Construction Services Deputy Commissioner Pasquale ‘Bud’ Salemi was asked to say a few words of thanks at the ceremony.

“The Department of Administrative Services Division of Construction Services is proud to be a partner with Housatonic Community College in the renovations and new addition to Lafayette Hall,” he said. “We’re particularly proud of the fact that the project created and retained 627 construction-related jobs.”

“A special note of thanks and recognition for our Project Manager Steve Longo who was at the center of all the action and kept this project going,” added Salemi.

The college’s president says these improvements will help students for generations to come.

The expansion is also home to a new surgical tech lab and sterile processing suite that the college worked with Bridgeport Hospital to design.



This Project has also met Connecticut High Performance Building Standards and received LEED Silver Certification status. Two years in the making, the expansion and renovation project adds four floors of classroom space, technology, and simulation labs to the college’s footprint. There are 37 transformational changes in all, according to Rose Ellis, Housatonic’s Dean of Administration.

# Happy Birthday JobAps! October 30

By John McKay

Applying for an exam and later applying for a position. Faxing resumes and cover letters.

It was only a year ago that this was common place experience for people applying for state jobs.

Then came JobAps. This system enabled the state to streamline the applicant experience. Applying for exams and jobs are now one in the same and a significantly more efficient process.

“We really are seeing the fruits of our labor,” said Statewide HR Director Nick Hermes. “And we’re excited to keep adding to the system to streamline applications as well as the behind the scenes work being done by our employees. I want to thank the staff for sticking with it and I look forward to improving the JobAps system.”

From October 2017 – October 2018 there were 2,833 jobs posted with 207,583 applicants.



# Topping Off Ceremony Buckingham Street Garage

by Nina Ritson



In the blustery wind on a 20 degree December day the big cranes on Buckingham Street were being packed up for departure as Governor Malloy, Commissioner Currey and Deputy Commissioner Salemi gathered the teams, the contractors, and the media to celebrate the Topping Off Ceremony of the new modern garage. At 324,683 square feet and eight stories tall, this new garage will now support up to 1,005 vehicles with open retail space along Washington Street. "I want to thank all the DAS teams for making our deadline and the teams at Gilbane Building Company and Amenta Emma Architects." He went on to say, "25 years ago a sick building was imploded but the garage remained until we took it down this spring. But that demolition had many unwelcome surprises of hazmat contamination and other problems that had to be addressed before construction could begin."



Commissioner Currey thanked all the teams and then introduced Governor Malloy saying, "none of this would be possible without the support of our Governor."

Governor Malloy proudly noted that one of his biggest accomplishments in eight years has been "getting 'Bud' to shorten his speeches." He then discussed the accomplishments of his administration replacing and rebuilding several buildings that have been neglected for decades causing sick work environments for employees. "This ceremony is a Win-Win for everyone and will help foster economic growth with small retail stores and apartments in an area of Hartford that has not been vital for decades."

After the dedication the Governor was treated to a tour of construction and progress in the State Office Building at 165 Capitol Avenue - across the street.

For a time-lapsed look at the construction go to: [https://app.truelook.com/?u=g11500991240#tl\\_live](https://app.truelook.com/?u=g11500991240#tl_live)



# Procurement Employee Recognition

by John McKay

It's that time of year again. When DAS Procurement recognizes outstanding professional achievements with their employee recognition program.

Three categories, including honorable mentions, were created:

- Innovation in Procurement Award
- Display of Values Award
- Beyond the Call of Duty Award

At an awards ceremony in November, Procurement Director Carol Wilson kicked off the event by thanking everyone on her staff for their work. "I just want to thank each and every one of you for the work you do every day here at DAS. I like this program because it's recognition from your peers, which means a little more to everyone."

The Innovation in Procurement Award went to Melissa Marzano. Also nominated were Greg Mooney, Tina Costanzo and Patrick DeConti.

"Melissa created a contract review questionnaire for customers to review the contractor's performance early in the life of the contract resulting in better service to the agencies, cost savings and better communication," it said in her nomination. "She is always thinking out of the box and suggesting new ideas and better processes."

The Display of Values Award went to Marisol Rivera. Her fellow nominees were Nicola Murray and Eva Orlinski.

Part of Marisol's nomination read, "This person



Top: Carol Wilson, Marisol Rivera, Eva Orlinski, and Nicola Murray.

Middle: Carol Wilson, Arlene Watson-Paulin, Marisol Rivera

Above: Carol Wilson, Melissa Marzano, Pat DeConti, Tina Costanzo and Greg Mooney

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is a team player. This person has touched just about every team in this Division over the years and not only happily agrees to help out others, but volunteers for special projects and department events as well as assisting others.”

The Beyond the Call of Duty Award went to Arlene Watson. Her fellow nominees were Marisol Rivera and George Bernocco.

Her nominator wrote, “I take this opportunity to express appreciation and honest thanks to Arlene for the tremendous time and energy devoted to the needs of the Department of Correction as they have transitioned away from outpatient medical and hospital care previously provided by UConn Health Center for the prisoner population at the Department of Correction. In late February, 2018, DOC approached Arlene to alert DAS Procurement that they were

creating new in-house medical facilities at 14 separate locations at the Department of Correction and that they had to be up and running with contracts in place no later than July 1, 2018.”

Before the conclusion of the event, DAS’ Carlos Velez – who is retiring in early 2019 – expressed his appreciation and thanks toward DAS Procurement director Carol Wilson. “Carol, thank you for all your work and leadership here in Procurement. It’s been

an honor working with you and everyone here in the procurement office.” Carol was then presented with a glass vase and flowers in appreciation of her work.



*Top: Carol Wilson addresses her teams*

*Above: Melissa Marzano, Marisol Rivera, Carol Wilson and Arlene Watson-Paulin*

# *Business Office: The Crew Awards - Going Above and Beyond*

by Jerry Lynn



Years ago there existed a program in DAS called *Public Service Excellence*. Intertwined within that program was a recognition mechanism called, *The Crew Award*, which recognized colleagues and co-workers for their efforts, without having to go through an evaluation committee. Along with that theme, *Public Service Excellence* taught the beauty behind *the Crew Award* was its pure simplicity. It was not hard to do, and anyone could fill out a nomination to give to another worthy co-worker or colleague at any time.

Following a staff meeting within the Business Office, Director Jerry Lynn presented Crew Awards to **Cathy McGuire**, **Suzanne Giansanti** and **Shantelle Varrs**, for their help to re-activate emergency wireless lines for DCF case workers over a weekend this fall. Jerry explained, "The wireless lines for several of the emergency contacts went down, and immediately, Cathy, Suzanne and Shantelle sprang into action. They worked together to coordinate their efforts with the wireless carrier representative. Cathy was able to access the DAS Telecom group email from a remote location in order to provide the necessary approvals for the wireless carrier. Once these three got involved, it was not too much later when we received confirmation that the wireless lines were activated once again. The three of them did a great job!"

# October 31 Gets Rather Ghoulish on the Twelfth Floor



# Putting the “Thanks” in Thanksgiving

by John McKay



We are pleased to report that the 450 Columbus Boulevard Turkey Drive gobbled up 110 turkeys and over \$3400 in monetary donations for FoodShare.

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.

We had tremendous support from both buildings here at 450 Columbus Boulevard!

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

***Thank you again for all your support.***

*Best Wishes to Deputy  
Commissioner Fatone  
who heads off to be a  
Workers'  
Compensation  
Commissioner*



## ... and a Hearty Welcome to New Employees



*Thomas Piacenza, Commissioner Currey and Sherry Petruccione*



*Rebecca Schwartz and Commissioner Currey*



*Reis Medeiros, Commissioner Currey and Charles Calvert*



*Christian Soto, Commissioner Currey, Chad Senich and Olivia Stone*



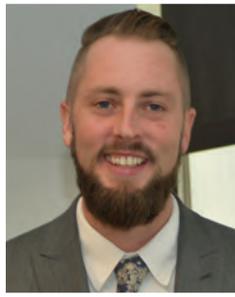
*James Caramante, Commissioner Currey and Gary Chirgwin*



**Fred Massa**



**Deborah Peterson**



**Thomas Piacenza**



**Sherry Petruccione**



**Charles Calvert**



**Reis Medeiros**



**Rebecca Schwartz**



**Olivia Roman**



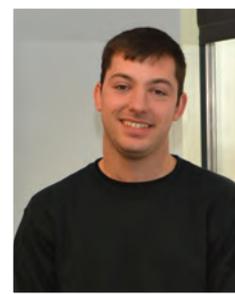
**Chad Senich**



**Christian Soto**



**Gary Chirgwin**



**James Caramante**

## **COMINGS and GOINGS**

### **RETIREMENTS**

**Fred Massa** – BEST, December 1

**Deborah Peterson** – Statewide HR, December 1

### **NEW EMPLOYEES**

**Thomas Piacenza** – Leasing and Property Transfer

**Sherry Petruccione** - Division of Construction Services

**Charles Calvert** – BEST

**Reis Medeiros** – DCS Boilers Division

**Rebecca Schwartz** – DCS Office of Education and Data Management

**Olivia Roman** – Statewide HR

**Chad Senich** – Leasing and Property Transfer

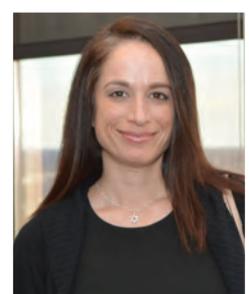
**Christian Soto** – Fleet Operations

**Gary Chirgwin** – Statewide HR

**James Caramante** – Fleet Operations

### **TRANSFERS**

**Rachel Fein** – Statewide HR to Office of the Chief Medical Examiner



**Rachel Fein**

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

Heather Tweeddale from Statewide Human Resources sent the following message of praise to **Angela Taetz**, “I wanted to let you know how wonderful **Lori Violette** has been to me and our unit. She has helped me so many times since I’ve taken on this new role and has always been just awesome to me. Yesterday, we had another FOI request and I asked Lori for help with a report. She once again went above and beyond and not only created the report with the information needed but did an analysis to be sure the data was correct. I can’t say enough good things about Lori and wanted to thank you also for all of the help she and you have provided to me.”

Pam Perrin from the State Marshal Commission commended **Amanda Klatt** for all of the assistance with the State Marshals 2018-2019 Annual Fee. “I would like to thank you for all the help this year with the annual fee checks for the 208 State Marshals. This is a month and half of collecting and depositing all the checks. You helped me out immensely. Thank you!”

Francisco J. Rivera, Reimbursement Team Leader from Collection Services “wanted to send” supervisor **Angela Taetz** “a quick email to express my gratitude as it pertains to **James Hudson**. James has repaired and improved over 50+ requests that have improved the way we utilize the system. His knowledge and quick turnaround has allowed for changes to be implemented in such a rapid manner, I don’t know how we functioned without him. Just wanted to take the time to give James a shout out on a job well done and also thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with James. I hope to do big things with you all, as far as a new system goes, in the meantime thank you for salvaging our old dog (BUCKS)”.

Valter Borges from the Department of Children and Families just wanted to let **Easha Canada** “know that **Paul Stevenson** should be recognized for his performance. Over the years all the times we’ve had an issue he’s always been there for us. Today was no different, we had an issue and he was very responsive and he goes above and beyond to provide excellent customer service.”

*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!*

Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepalak of the Department of Correction wrote to Carol Wilson for connecting her with **DAS Central Printing**, “I wanted to thank you and let you know how helpful **Michael Guimond** was for our career event on Saturday – he went above and beyond! The event was a complete success and he certainly helped get us there. Thank you!!”

Commissioner Currey responded, “Thanks for sharing this Carol. **Nina, Mike** and the **whole crew** do an excellent job for DAS.”

Susan Shellard of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD ) wrote to Mark Raymond of BEST stating, “DECD just went live with Filenet! Before everyone starts enjoying the holidays, I want to be sure to extend our appreciation for all the support your team gave us for this implementation. We know everyone is stretched these days, but folks went above and beyond to help this project be successful.

As always **Easha Canada, Eric Lindquist** and **Angela Taetz** helped out from the very beginning reviewing the SOW and giving input. I hope we haven’t left anyone out, but the staff actually working with on the project with us included: **Lori D’Amico, Cheryl Baruffi, Gary Clauss, Justin Duran, Don Heft, Marco Incorvaia, Justin Kilcollum, Derek Lewis, Craig Mollison, Paul Stevenson** and **Helena Wint**. Please extend our thanks to them. We are most appreciative for the ongoing support and service we receive from BEST.”

Department of Motor Vehicle Deputy Commissioner Judeen Wrinn wrote to Mark Raymond to say, “A BIG THANKS goes to you, **Leonard Welch**, for your leadership and perseverance as the team worked tirelessly to implement the phone self-service phase of the Customer Contact Center Strategy!! You have been the best of partners throughout each phase of this project and your support and guidance have had a meaningful impact on this project. Congratulations to YOU and your team for this successful implementation!”

# Commissioner's Holiday Gathering







# Procurement Holiday Lunch



# 2018 DAS Holiday Party





*In Memoriam*



*Aleksandra Bzdyra*  
*October 8, 2018*