Season’s Greetings

The Holiday season is a time to reflect on the successes of the past year, a time to spend with family and friends, and to be thankful for all the blessings each of us have.

I am extremely appreciative of you; the staff members of our agency, who day in and day out through your dedicated service ensure our primary goal of public safety. Looking back on our agency’s successes during the past year, I can’t help but feel incredibly fortunate for the opportunity to work with such extraordinary people. Thank you for your commitment and service towards our common goals.

As proud as I am of the job you do as correctional professionals, I am even prouder of the way you treat each other. Whether it is assisting a coworker who has fallen ill, supporting staff members and their families who are active in the military, or helping total strangers in their time of need, I am constantly astonished by the generosity of our staff. For this you should all be proud.

During this hectic time of year I encourage you to take a moment to remember the many men and women, including fellow staff, who cannot be with their families because they are protecting our freedom. I am deeply grateful for their selfless sacrifice.

I cannot overstate how much I appreciate what you have done this year and I offer a sincere thank you for your unwavering commitment and dedication. To that end, I would like to extend to all of you my wishes for a happy holiday and prosperous year ahead, working together for a noble cause.

Sincerely,

Leo C. Arnone
Commissioner
Warden Gause’s Last Day

A buffet style luncheon was held in honor of York Correctional Institution’s warden Kevin Gause’s last day on November 30, 2012. For just over 20 years, Warden Gause has been a dedicated employee of our department going above and beyond while working at several facilities including the Garner Correctional Institution, Manson Youth Institution and ending his career at the York Correctional Institution/Niantic Annex. At the end of the first shift, staff members from all departments within the facility lined the west compound walkway up to the front lobby of the facility for Warden Gause’s last tour. When he arrived at the lobby he was awarded a proclamation from Governor Dannel P. Malloy, along with a plaque from Commissioner Leo C. Arnone. The commemorative items were presented by both Deputy Commissioners James Dzurenda and Cheryl Cepelak. After he gave a farewell speech to all the staff, main control contacted him via radio and conducted a “Signal 2” at which point he was officially out of service.

Dr. Burns Sworn In

The new Director of Psychiatric Services for the Connecticut Department of Correction, Dr. Craig Burns, was recently officially sworn-in as part of the Graduation Ceremony of Pre-Service Class 252, held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

Dr. Burns holds degrees from Wesleyan, Columbia and Rutgers Universities, as well as from the New Jersey Medical School and the Yale School of Medicine, where he was Psychiatry Resident of the Year, and where he has been a lecturer and clinical instructor. He has held the responsibility as the Principal Psychiatrist at the Whiting Forensic Institute in Middletown, Connecticut; as a Senior Resident at the West Haven Veteran’s Administration Hospital; and as the Assistant Chief of Psychiatric Services for the University of Connecticut’s Correctional Managed Health Care. These are just a few of the highlights of Dr. Burn’s extensive and impressive resume.

“It was his work at the Garner Correctional Institution, our designated mental health facility, which impressed all who worked with him,” said Commissioner Leo C. Arnone just prior to swearing in Dr. Burns. “We are truly fortunate to have a professional of his stature leading our agency’s vitally important mental health services.”
Pastoral Proclamation

Correctional Chaplains representing a variety of faiths gathered in Commissioner Leo C. Arnone’s office recently, where he presented them with a proclamation from Governor Dannel P. Malloy marking the week of November 26 – December 2 as Pastoral Care Week. The text of the proclamation reads as follows:

Whereas, correctional chaplains provide many critical services to a diverse population in a challenging environment; and Whereas, the professional care provided by chaplains behind prison walls addresses many specific needs and aids in the orderly operation of the facility; and

Whereas, calming strong emotions and deflecting potential violence is standard work of correctional chaplains in addition to counseling offenders in spiritual development and grief management; and

Whereas, volunteer services are coordinated by correctional chaplains to aid in religious services and rehabilitative efforts; and

Whereas, correctional chaplains provide pastoral services that allow the incarcerated in Connecticut to participate in religious reflection and expression, and give administrative guidance in matters pertaining to religious expression for a large number of faiths; now

Therefore, I Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim the week of November 26, to December 2, 2012 as Pastoral Care Week in the State of Connecticut.

Beards for a Cause

In recognition of November being National Beard and Men’s Cancer Awareness Month, Lieutenant Paul Germond of the Northern Correctional Institution encouraged several staff members on all three shifts to grow their beards to help raise awareness of the cause. In addition, Lt. Germond collected $215 to donate to the Movember Fund. The funds raised support prostate cancer and testicular cancer initiatives. Donations are directed to programs run directly by Movember and their men’s health partners, the Prostate Cancer Foundation and LIVESTRONG Foundation. Together, Movember funds are supporting a broad range of innovative educational and survivorship programs.

The facility staff voted on the best beard that was grown for the month. Correctional Officer William Brunetti was chosen as the winner. He was rewarded with a can of shaving cream and a Dunkin Donuts gift card courtesy of the Northern CI Quality of Work Life Committee.
New CTU Busses Arrive

Two of the four new busses for the Central Transportation Unit (CTU) were on display in the parking lot of Central Office on November 28. The 2014 International CE Inmate Transport Busses were outfitted to the custom specification of the Department of Correction by the selected vendor, DATTCO of New Britain, Connecticut.

One of each of the two model types were parked outside of Central Office to give staff a chance to see the finished products. One model was designed with several custom isolation cells at a cost of $155,558 per unit, while the other model has a single isolation cell at a cost of $144,440 per unit. A total of two of each bus model was purchased for a total cost of $599,996. In addition to the new busses, the department also purchased mechanical diagnostic software packages which will assist in proper maintenance of the vehicles.

The request for funding to purchase new inmate transport busses was added to the State’s Bond Commission agenda for April of 2011. The Bonding Commission approved a total of $600,000 of funding for the purchase of the busses. Representatives from purchasing, CTU and Vehicle Maintenance staff met in October through November of 2011 to discuss and review their requirements for the new busses. The specifications for the new vehicles were finalized and approved in late May of this year.

One of each model will be assigned to the Central CTU Base in Cheshire and one of each model will be assigned to the North CTU Base in Enfield.

Around the Cell Block

OHIO - Following a traffic stop, Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized marijuana worth an estimated $192,000. The marijuana was hidden as wrapped Christmas presents.

GERMANY - Under a program in which regional governments can choose to pardon prisoners whose sentences are due to finish over the winter, more than 1,000 prisoners will be let out early in time to spend Christmas at home. The idea of the traditional seasonal amnesty is to lift the emotional burden of the prisoners over the holidays which a Justice Ministry spokeswoman said can be a “particularly difficult” time.

MICHIGAN - Retired state corrections officers could return to their jobs on a limited basis - and still receive their pension payments - under a proposal moving through the legislature.

Total Supervised Population on December 21, 2012

20,854

On December 21, 2011 the population was

21,452
A Bike for Christmas

More than 30 children in need will receive bicycles this Christmas, thanks to the efforts of the staff at the Connecticut Department of Correction’s Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center.

On Tuesday, December 18, 2012 staff members from the Connecticut Department of Correction’s Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center in Montville donated 33 refurbished bicycles to area children. The bicycles were dropped off at the Montville Social Services Department. The bicycles were refurbished by inmates who work in the facility’s Bike Rebuild Program, overseen by Correction Officer John Costa.

After receiving donated bikes, in various stages of disrepair, offenders restore the bikes to like new condition. In turn, they are donated to charity.

The local children who received the bicycles were selected by means of a “Bike Raffle” conducted by the Montville Social Services Department. Parents and guardians signed-up for the “Bike Raffle” in person at the Social Service’s Office prior to the delivery of the bikes.

“They do a great job for our kids and we’re very grateful,” said Mayor Ronald McDaniel who was on hand to witness the bike delivery.

Because it can take the parts from as many as ten old bicycles to make one “new” bicycle, bike donations are always welcome. If anyone is interested in donating bicycles to the Bike Rebuild Program for future restorations, they can be dropped off at the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center - call (860) 848-5700 to make arrangements.

Public Thank You

The following message was received via email

I wanted to send a note to the DOC about my experiences as a visitor to the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution.

My son was incarcerated in May. The last few months he has been at both the Walker building and now MacDougall. I regularly visit my son on Saturday mornings and have always been treated with the utmost respect by the correction officers at the reception desk. It’s not easy walking in there with your head held high. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate being treated kindly. It may seem like a little thing, to hear “please and thank you”, but it’s respectful and meaningful. Family members carry a feeling of shame which often isn’t justified, and I want to extend my thanks to the reception staff at MacDougall-Walker for not perpetuating that in their facility.

Thank you.
Specialized Training for SOG Trainers

Special Operations Group (SOG) Commander, Captain Bryan Viger along with the SOG Instructors drove through the entire East Coast (Connecticut to Georgia), during Hurricane Sandy to attend a two-week Federal Basic Tactics Instructor Training Program (BTITP). The SOG personnel logged over 2,000 miles, round trip, while attending the training in Glynco, GA. The BTITP program was an intensive 84-hour training program, with ten-hour days, that covered a variety of tactical subject matters including: tactical transitions and priorities, contingency planning and situational response. In addition, the program focused on the role of the field trainer and emphasized evaluation skills and documentation requirements.

The training was designed to qualify the SOG Instructors to be field training officers by providing them high quality training and instilling the analytical knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for the highest proficiency in their specialized field. With their successful completion of the course, each SOG instructor received a certificate of completion and is officially recognized as a Federal Basic Tactics Instructor.

25 Years and Counting

In September, State School Teacher Jean Hansen reached the 25-year milestone of state service. It was in 1987 when she began full time credited service at the former Mansfield Training School as a State School Instructor. Mrs. Hansen remained there until the facility’s forced closing and laterally transferred to Enfield CI in June of 1989, where she was employed as an Adult Basic Education/GED teacher. She taught there until August 1990 when she transferred to Brooklyn – first to the Brooklyn Community Correctional Center – the Old Brooklyn Jail – then to Brooklyn CI after the new facility was built. She has remained there ever since. Over the years, Mrs. Hansen’s programs have helped countless inmates progress in their education – many earning their GED diplomas, national certifications, college coursework credit, and entire degrees while at Brooklyn CI under her auspices. Thousands more have been assisted through a “Transitional Checklist” program created by Mrs. Hansen, which has helped discharging inmates become more proactive in their societal re-entry. Additionally, Mrs. Hansen has served on and continues to participate in numerous school district and facility committees.

Throughout her years as a correctional educator, Mrs. Hansen has received both department and USD#1 distinctions as DoC’s “Teacher of the Year” and Brooklyn CI’s “Employee of the Year”. She was also named a “Star in Literacy” from Literacy Volunteers of America for her work in recruiting and training inmate volunteers. She has also received the “Renee B. Fischer Crystal Apple Award” for Outstanding Adult Basic Education through the Connecticut Adult and Continuing Education organization.

State School Teacher Jean Hansen

The DoC Portal System is Here
One stop computer application “shopping” comes to DoC

The Management Information Systems (MIS) Unit is pleased to announce the official launch of the DoC Portal System. The portal is a secure, private “cloud” application that will provide access to DoC web-based applications and resources such as CaseNotes, CORE-CT, CAPI, Query Builder, and LMS to name a few. You can use the portal as your home base or use it as a launch pad to access multiple systems.

So what does all this mean? Think of the portal as your personal shopping mall with your very own “key” to get into the mall. Your “key” is your Novell login ID and password. Once you get into the mall (the DoC Portal), then all the individual shops (web applications) are open and unlocked for you to enter and shop (work).

The portal can be accessed from your web browser by going to: https://portal.ctdoc.org

Although not as much fun as shopping, it should make your job easier by providing one location to access many DoC applications and web sites and save you time because your initial login ID and password will be all you need. You will also be able to reset your Novell password yourself once you successfully log in to the portal and set up your own security challenge questions.

When you connect to the portal for the first time, there are a few housekeeping tasks that must be completed:

1.) There will be a Security Information pop-up message stating that the “digital signature has been verified” with the Publisher being Stoneware, Inc. Be sure that you check “Always trust content from this publisher” and then click the ‘Run’ button.

2.) At the portal login page you should run the “Click here to run a system check” option before logging into the system the first time. Then make sure all the system checks ran successfully. The system check will also require you to close the browser the first time for the “Registry test”. If any of the checks are unsuccessful or the system seems to hang or lock-up, send an email to the Helpdesk doc.helpdesk@po.state.ct.us

3.) Once the above steps are complete, you can login to the portal. After your log in, you will need to answer two challenge questions to continue. These questions will be required for our self-service password reset function (a future article will explain how to reset your password). When answering questions, remember that what you put in must match exactly the same when being challenged. So, if you used any uppercase letters, spaces or special characters, you will need to remember this as you will be required to enter your challenge answers exactly as you entered them the first time if you need to reset your Novell password.

Once you have completed tasks 1-3, you will find yourself on the portal desktop page. From this page, you can click on the “DoC Apps” Category at the top of the screen to access DoC web-based applications including CaseNotes, DoCSystems (CAPI, Query Builder), LMS, CORE-CT, etc...

There are also additional features on the portal including Team Pages, Blogs, Forums, Document Access/Sharing. After the initial launch, the MIS Unit will provide additional information on future enhancements to the DoC Portal.
Years Of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of October 2012

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bald, Michael</td>
<td>School Teacher</td>
<td>Cheshire CI</td>
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<td>Hadlock, Scott</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Cheshire CI</td>
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<td>Irish, Raymond</td>
<td>HVAC Tech.</td>
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<td>10/23/1992</td>
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Employees with 25 Years of Service as of October 2012

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<tr>
<td>McIntosh, Joanne</td>
<td>Admin, Assistant</td>
<td>MWCI</td>
<td>10/9/1987</td>
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Touring for Teagan

Recently, some staff members from the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution had their heads shaved to raise money in support of their fellow officer Tony Colella, his wife, and their young daughter, Teagan, who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. The support of officer Colella’s family did not stop with haircuts. On October 7, 2012 Team Teagan, led by officers Chris Williams and Rodney Rakestrau, and more than 25 additional staff members from MWCI, participated in the Cycle for Life in support of Cystic Fibrosis which took place in Westport, CT. For the second consecutive year, Team Teagan was the top fundraising team for the event, collecting more than $2,000 for the Connecticut Cystic Fibrosis Society.

Happier Holiday

Thanks to the efforts of Warden Jose Feliciano and staff of the New Haven Correctional Center, 11 local families were the recipients of a Thanksgiving turkey and a basket with all the trimmings.

Employee Assistance Program

Confidential help for personal problems.
1-800-252-4555 or 1-800-225-2527
www.theEAP.com