Filip Receives Commissioner’s Award

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz’s carefully considered choice for the 2008 Commissioner’s Award received a ringing endorsement at a recent Top Manager’s meeting, when she asked the assembled wardens and directors, “How many of you had Ray Filip as your training officer?” The room full of 20 year plus veterans quickly saw nearly every hand raised. “Ray epitomizes our values and our mission,” said Commissioner Lantz. “We are extremely fortunate that he has so effectively taught those values to a great number of our staff over the past three decades.”

While Commissioner Lantz says the decision as to who will receive the award is always difficult, given the number of worthy recipients, this year’s choice was clear. Training Program Specialist Raymond Filip has been with the Connecticut Department of Correction for 32 years. “It is icing on the cake to receive this award for what I love to do,” said Filip. After being surprised with the lofty recognition before the room full of agency managers, he explained his passion for his work and the Department. In 1976, he had been out of a job for six months, after being laid off. With five children to support, he had been encouraged to take a number of state employment tests. Finally, a job with the Department of Correction as a correctional officer aide came through. “I was overjoyed,” he said. He said he reported to the New Haven Correctional Center that first day, at 6:30 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. start time, only to be told to come back for second shift.

On that first night, within only a few hours, he was placed in charge of a cellblock, told to call another officer on the phone if he had any questions. Shortly, he did and the veteran officers quickly came to his aid, as he only knew how to push the button to open the stairwell door for them. In accepting the honor, Filip said he was accepting the award for those officers who had taken him under their wing.
The Department of Correction Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee is proud to announce the formation of the Sexual Harassment Advocacy Response for Employees (S.H.A.R.E.) program.

The S.H.A.R.E. program is designed to provide support to the complainant involved in the sexual harassment Affirmative Action complaint process. Support and interventions are conducted in a safe and confidential environment to promote staff wellbeing. The program consists of several volunteer employees, S.H.A.R.E. advocates, who will provide this service to any sexual harassment complainant that wishes to participate within the S.H.A.R.E. program.

The employees that have volunteered to be S.H.A.R.E. advocates are as follows:
- Paul Garcia Hartford CI
- Todd Clemons Trans. Unit
- Sharon Goodwin Garner CI
- Sharone Daniels Hartford CI

The specific details of the S.H.A.R.E. program and how to contact the S.H.A.R.E. advocates will be provided to each complainant that files an Affirmative Action sexual harassment complaint.

The enactment of the S.H.A.R.E. program will enhance the understanding and awareness of the Affirmative Action sexual harassment complaint process.
Accreditations Affirm Why We’re the Best!

You would have to have been an “A” student in school to know just how the staff of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development and the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution (MWCI) felt after their recent accreditation audits. After three days of intense scrutiny, by experienced correctional auditors from Texas and Pennsylvania, MWCI scored an astounding 99.5 percent on a total of 531 standards. This for the largest correctional institution in New England that holds more than 2,000 of the state’s high security and high profile inmates.

Meanwhile the agency’s training academy went to the head of the class itself, with a second, successive 100 percent, perfect score on its accreditation review. “This is the reason why I frequently brag that we are the best in the country,” said Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. One of the auditors at the close out meeting at MacDougall-Walker CI summed up her impression by saying, “I would like to work here, that’s how impressed I am.” Both Warden Peter Murphy and Director Sandra Sawicki credited the commitment of their staff for the high level of success at both facilities.

The auditors at MacDougall-Walker CI cited the cleanliness, professionalism, hospitality and team work between custody and medical staff as some of the highlights during their stay. Pleasantly surprised by the number of staff who introduced themselves and asked how the audit was going, one of the auditors commented, “…you don’t see that in a lot of the places I go to.”

Addiction Services Accolades

Director Patricia Ottolini and Deputy Warden Elizabeth Martinez are pleased to announce the following achievements of the Addiction Services staff:

**Wendy Jones**, Correctional Substance Abuse Counselor Trainee (CSAC-T) at York CI, has passed her Certification Exam and been promoted to CSAC.

**AnJeanette McKenzie**, CSAC-T at Willard-Cybulsiki CI, has earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut.

**Leigh Ware**, Correctional Counselor Supervisor at Gates CI, has earned a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in Biblical Counseling from Friends International Christian University.

**Linda Hall**, CSAC at Hartford CC; and **Dee Staub**, CSAC at Enfield C.I. are both now members of the Situational Control Hostage Negotiation Team (SITCON).
DoC Gives Back

York Helps Fire Victims

On Friday, May 9, 2008 the York Correctional Institution hosted a Pay To Park to benefit the people of Norwich who are now homeless due to a horrific fire in a large apartment complex called “Peachtree Apartments”. York C.I. raised $1,432.47 to benefit these individuals through the Red Cross.

Special thanks to the following staff for coordinating and participating in collecting for this worthwhile cause: Warden Angel Quiros, Captain Rich Hartling, Correctional Officer Judy Bell, Correctional Officer Lisa Rizzuto and Maintenance Officer John Attlebury. Thank you to all the staff who contributed to helping our community in their time of need.

Central Office Pitches In

Commissioner Lantz recently sent donations totaling $626.00 to the American Red Cross. The money was raised on Friday May, 9th and Friday May 16th through donations from Central Office staff members. The Commissioner requested that all the monies go to assist the victims of the Norwich fire.

Giving at Gates

Gates received two awards from the Connecticut Charitable Giving Campaign. One for the highest staff participation, and one for the highest dollar amount raised by a DOC facility. The staff of J.B.Gates collected a grand total of $13,345.

CRCI’s Standouts

Warden Bruce Cuscovitch is pleased to announce the Employees of the Quarter for Carl Robinson C.I.

State School Teacher Larry Soine was nominated for being a valuable resource to the Education Department and maintaining a positive relationship with staff and inmates.

Officer Michael Bell was nominated for taking pride in his work and always willing to learn more. He is admired for being a solid employee in all aspects and a team player.

Doubly Blessed

The proud father:
Director Dr. Patrick Hynes

Congratulations to Director of Offender Programs and Victim Services, Dr. Patrick Hynes and his wife Jessica on the birth of twin girls Emma Claire 5 lbs., 5 oz and Kathryn Spring 5 lbs., 15 oz. born on May 10, 2008. Father, Mother and babies are all doing fine.

Retirement Party for
C.O. Otis W. Brown Sr.

Saturday July 19, 2008
7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Country House Banquet Hall
990 Foxon Road (Rte. 80)
New Haven, CT

Cost: $50.00 p.p.
includes gift, D.J.
& open bar (buffet style)

For More Info Contact:
CO Gamble, CO Outlaw, or CO Vasquez
at NHCC (203) 974-4111
2008 Law Enforcement Torch Run Weekend
July 19th - 21st at Six Flags New England.

Six Flags New England and Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) are sponsoring a fundraiser event to raise money for Special Olympics, CT. This is an event for all Connecticut Law Enforcement Officials, friends and their families to enjoy!

Just for $45.00 pp you will receive: all day admission to park and to the Hurricane Harbor Water Park ($49.00 value); all-you-can-eat menu ($20.00 value) at the picnic grove; free parking ($15.00 value), and a KODAK photo souvenir ($12.99). A portion of each ticket sold will be donated to Special Olympics. Also, you can upgrade your ticket to a season pass for just $39.99 at the park.

Tickets can be purchased on line and printed from your own personal computer. Just go to: sixflags.com/newengland and enter the promo code LETR2008 in the upper right corner of the home page and then follow the easy steps.

The “Organization Name” is the facility that you are assigned to. (i.e. Enfield CI, Garner CI, etc.)

For More Information: email Pamela Neuendorf (Bridgeport CC, DOC South District LETR Liaison) or Jeffrey Beiler, (Willard-Cybulski, DOC North District LETR Liaison).

PHOTOS
1. Lt. Sean Sullivan carries the torch
2. Warden Walter Ford and staff from Bridgeport CC prepare to run
3. Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy leads the pack
4. The Central Office contingent
Welcome Home Officer Tiede

On May 3, 2008, Warden Angel Quiros and staff at York CI were proud to welcome back CO Randy Tiede from serving 18 months in Iraq with the Navy. Officer Tiede was deployed January of 2006. He was stationed in Fallujah as a warehouse clerk, supplying needed equipment and supplies to many different branches of military personnel. As a welcoming home gesture, York C.I. hung a eight foot long banner in the facility’s lobby, set up a pot luck meal and offered him appreciation gifts to acknowledge his service to our country and helping to maintain its freedoms. Warden Angel Quiros, and Deputy Wardens Karen Oien and Christina Polce were all in attendance at Roll Call to show their support. Officer Teide humbly shared words of appreciation for the recognition and the gifts.

Dr. Carter Addresses USD #1

Dr. David G. Carter, Chancellor of Higher Education, for the Connecticut State University System, was the keynote speaker at the Unified School District #1 annual end of the year meeting. He addressed the education staff on the topic of education and motivation. Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz and Superintendent William Barber presented Dr. Carter with a plaque thanking him for the support he has provided to the school district and the Department of Corection.

Also receiving recognition on this day were the USD#1 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Rachel Boccio from Manson Youth Institution, and Vocational Instructor of the Year, Ms. Pat Cirillo, from York CI.

Around the Cell Block

Brazil - An inmate serving 28 years for robbery and murder was found to have a plasma television, gym equipment, two pistols and $173-thousand in cash in his cell.

England - A new report suggests tens of thousands of inmates are opting not to apply for early release because the prisons have effectively become cushy bed and breakfasts.

Virginia - A county sheriff has sued the state for trying to rent out 1,000 prison beds to address a budget shortfall while it still has inmates in his jail.

North Carolina - Faced with the difficulty of placing sex offenders in the community, prison officials are considering the use of local motels at taxpayer expense.

Total Supervised Population on June 18, 2008

23,720

On June 18, 2003 the population was 23,279
Director Marcial -
A Positive Example

Mary Marcial, the Director of the Programs and Treatment Division was recognized by the Al Aziz Islamic Center at the 28th Annual Awards Dinner “Honoring Women Who Are Positive Examples in the Community”

Held March 22, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport. Other awardees included Gulassahan Alavi, Gloria Cummings, Mubarakah Ibrahim, Fahmidah KhanSahirah C. Muhammad, and Millie Sanchez. Gwen T. Edwards from Cablevision News 12 and author Amir N. Muhammad were the guest speakers.

Front Row: Imam Abdul-Majid K. Hasan, Warden Walter Ford, Director Mary Marcial, Chaplain Nasif Muhammad
Back Row: Consultant David Marcial, Chaplains Henry Faruq Abdullah, Akbar Esa, Yahya Skakoor, Kenneth Muhammad, Reverend Juanita Dinkins

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A Lasting Tribute For Captain Sandra Morton

Warden John Sieminski and the Corrigan-Radgowski staff honored deceased Captain Sandra Marie Morton on Friday, May 16, 2008, by adding a plaque to the facility memorial and dedicating the drive into the Radgowski Building in her name. The memorial service was led by Warden Sieminski and attended by Capt. Morton’s sister, Deborah Jurczyk, her son, Jeffery Morton, and staff from Corrigan-Radgowski, Gates, and York. Ms. Jurczyk, Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy, Director Michael Lajoie, and retired Deputy Warden Lori Krajniak all spoke. Sandy was instrumental in forging positive relationships among the CRCC family. Dir. Lajoie urged all to continue her legacy by remembering the importance of relationships. CRCC staff took a collection for a donation to the ECHO Foundation in Sandy’s name. Warden Sieminski presented the check in the amount of $610 to Sandy’s sister and son. The service was followed by a luncheon.

Recipes Wanted

Bridgeport C.C. Special Olympics Committee Is Collecting Recipes for a Cookbook Fundraiser.

Forward your recipes to:
C.O. Tracy Scott, Bridgeport C.C.

Rahway Prison Tour

The Cheshire C.I. Diversity Council is sponsoring a trip to tour Rahway Prison in New Jersey on July 25, 2008

For More Info. Contact: Dep. Warden Diane Sienkiewicz, Capt. Pat Reynolds, Lt. Marie Barnes, or CO Dirmy Mack @ (203) 250-2690 or via departmental email.

Why I Joined The Best

One day the assistant director of the Islamic chaplaincy program at Hartford Seminary, Abdullah Antepli, told me that the DoC was looking for Muslim chaplains…I believe it is vital to provide incarcerated parties a good theological base…religion is a key point to transform one’s bad habits to good habits.

Condolences

Warden Sieminski of the Corrigan-Radgowski C.C. is saddened to announce the passing of Patricia Dragon, mother of retired Deputy Warden Lori Krajniak, on Friday, May 30.