

## Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens and offenders.

## From the Commissioner



I have watched with concern and anguish as one hurricane after another caused catastrophic amounts of damage to parts of Texas and the Gulf Coast, to Florida, and several islands in the Caribbean. From Barbuda, which had to be evacuated and remains uninhabitable, to Dutch St. Martin, where 90 percent of the buildings were damaged, to the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and Cuba - all have been severely impacted by the recent storms.

My deepest sympathy goes out to all who are feeling the impact of these disasters, especially those in our Department of Correction family who have loved ones, homes and other connections in the affected regions.

Of great concern to many in our agency is the devastation and its aftermath caused by Hurricane Maria to the island of Puerto Rico. The incredibly destructive storm has rendered an estimated 3.4 million people without power, and the island's energy grid all but destroyed. Numerous members of our staff have direct ties to family and loved ones living in Puerto Rico. I feel deeply for, and empathize with, those who have been unable to connect with them – to simply make sure they are “all right.” Several staff have expressed their interest in contributing to relief efforts and I am completely on board.

To combat the frustration that accompanies the uncertainty, it is human nature to want to assist in whatever way possible. The most efficient and practical way to lend your support is through a monetary donation. To that end, I have authorized an agency wide Pay-to-Park to be held on Friday, October 13. Additionally, I encourage each facility to individually conduct fund raising efforts (such as bake sales, raffles etc.), to assist the people of Puerto Rico. All funds collected by October 17 will be donated on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Correction to the American Red Cross - Puerto Rican Relief Effort.

Few of us have ever witnessed a natural disaster of this sweeping magnitude, yet I believe together we can truly make a difference.

Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Once again, my thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by this disaster.

August 12, 2017

through

October 4, 2017

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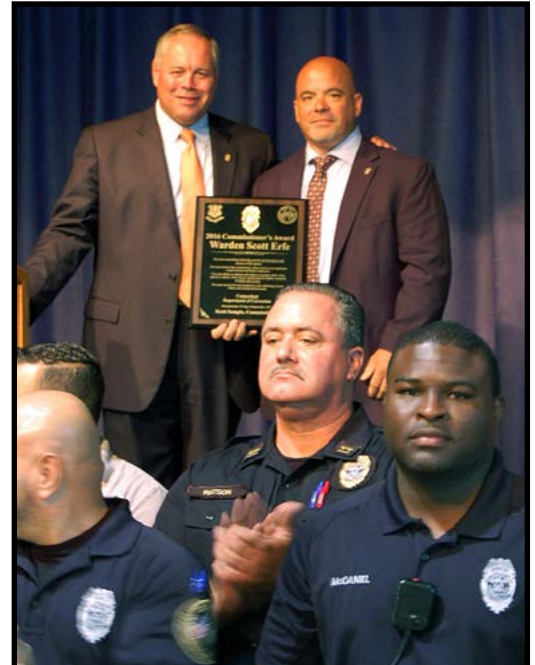
# Annual Awards Ceremony

The extraordinary accomplishments of the staff of the Connecticut Department of Correction were once again recognized during the agency’s Annual Award Ceremony held on Friday, September 15, 2017, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

“This is always a great occasion for us as an agency when we join together to honor these outstanding employees, who went above and beyond the call of duty,” Commissioner Scott Semple said as he addressed the gathered crowd of family and fellow staff.

In front of their peers and family members, award recipients were called to the stage as brief descriptions of their accomplishments were read.

A change from the typical agenda of previous years resulted in one of the more memorable moments of the Awards Ceremony. In previous years, due to the high number of recipients, those receiving Preservation of Life Awards were not recognized during the ceremony. This year, the decision was made to select one incident in which the response of staff members was directly responsible for the saving of a life. The intention was not to diminish the significance of all the other



**Commissioner Semple presenting Warden Scott Erfe with the Commissioner’s Award**

life-saving incidents by selecting just one to highlight. To the

contrary, the hope was to highlight the valiant and courageous actions taken by staff members on a regular basis.

The highlighted incident took place on Thanksgiving Day of 2015 at the New Haven Correctional Center. Warden Jose Feliciano came to the podium to describe the situation in which recently retired Lieutenant Theodore Holmes, seated in the Lieutenant’s office at the New Haven facility, suddenly and without warning collapsed to the floor.

Lieutenant John Barret; Lieutenant Carlos Padro, Correction Officer Jason Bailey, Correctional Managed Health Care’s Licensed Practical Nurse Lynda Carter, and Registered Nurse John Davis all worked together to help save Lieutenant Holmes’ life. It is important to point out that Lt. Holmes was clinically dead for a period of time during this ordeal, and clearly would not have survived if not for the efforts of all those involved.

see **The Best of the Best**/page 3

## The Department of Correction 2016 Annual Award Recipients

<u>Award</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Medal of Valor	Dan Barry Stanley Mysliwiec
Officer of the Year	Brian Mulligan
Employee of the Year	Mary Lansing
Dist. Public Service	Miriam Ray
Dist. Service Medal	Illidio Rodrigues
Supervisor of the Year	Ernestine Green
Manager of the Year	Gary Wright
Parole Officer of the Year	Lindsay Carrington
Health Services	
Employee of the Year	Ursula Knight
Teacher of the Year	Daniel Cambra
Preservation of Life	Jason Bailey, John Barret, Lynda Carter, John Davis, Carlos Padro
Excellence in	
Correctional Training	Lynn Laperle
Innovator’s Award	Mark Tata
Unit of the Year	CRU
Commissioner’s Award	Scott Erfe

# Women in Leadership

Female Staff members of the Connecticut Department of Correction were represented at the National Institute of Corrections Women in Leadership Conference held July 24-28, in Phoenix, Arizona. Those who attended the conference included: Parole Manager Jill Colavolpe, Fugitive Unit; Manson Youth Institution’s Deputy Warden Eulalia Garcia; Deputy Warden Sandra Violette; Health and Addiction Services Unit Counselor Supervisor Sharonda Carlos; Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center’s Counselor Supervisor Trina Sexton; Parole and Community Services Central Intake Unit Counselor Supervisor Nicole Thibeault.

Throughout their weeklong conference, these individuals explored different leadership styles, learned communication, fostered new relationships, strengthened team building skills and practiced delegation. They also worked alongside women from all over the country, to empower and uplift one another while focusing on the theme “partnering for performance.” Although they enjoyed the conference a great deal, they are happy to be back home; and excited to see how the ideas and concepts they learned can be applied to our staff here in Connecticut.



**The DoC’s Women in Leadership Conference participants.**

## The Best of the Best from page 2



**Retired Lt. Theodore Holmes publicly thanks those who saved his life.**

In a truly moving moment, Lieutenant Holmes (after being called to the stage) choked back tears as he publically and personally thanked those who helped to save his life.

“I can’t thank you enough,” said Lieutenant Holmes. He also implored staff members in the audience to attend and take seriously their CPR training requirement.

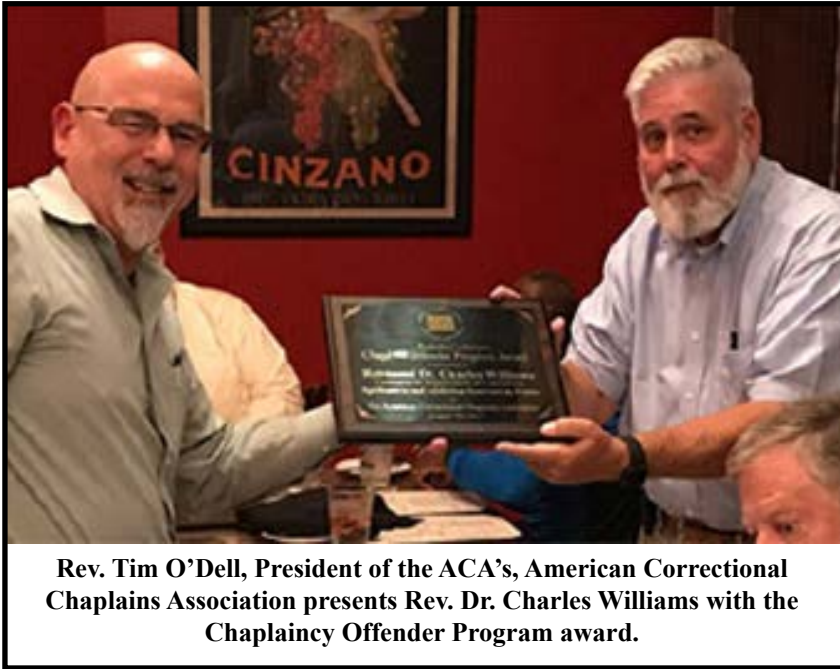
Keeping with annual tradition, the ceremony culminated with the presentation of the Commissioner’s Award. As its name suggests, the winner of the Commissioner’s award is selected solely by the Commissioner – all of the other awards are selected by committee. This year’s recipient was the Warden of the Cheshire Correctional Institution, Scott Erfe.

In another memorable moment, just prior to being called to the stage by Commissioner Semple, dozens of staff members from the nearby Cheshire facility lined the front of the stage as a show of support for Warden Erfe.

With the presentation of the Commissioner’s Award, the ceremony came to a close, once again having provided a great opportunity for the agency to join together to celebrate the accomplishments of the staff of one of the best correctional agencies in the nation.

## Award Winning Reverend

The Department of Correction's Director of Religious Services Rev. Dr. Charles Williams has been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Chaplaincy Offender Program (COP) Award presented by the American Correctional Chaplains' Association (ACCA).



Rev. Tim O'Dell, President of the ACA's, American Correctional Chaplains Association presents Rev. Dr. Charles Williams with the Chaplaincy Offender Program award.

The ACCA has established this award to give recognition to creative, effective, outcome-based chaplaincy programs. The award is presented at the ACCA's annual summer Congress of Correction held in conjunction with the American Correctional Association's 147th Congress of Corrections. This year's summer Congress of Corrections was held August 18-22, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Director Williams received the award for the program he initiated back in 2008 entitled "Spirituality & Addiction Recovery." According to the ACCA a Chaplaincy Offender Program is defined as one in which a chaplain has duties that are important in the operation of an effective program that is making a positive difference in the lives of offenders in an institution or in community supervision. In order to be eligible for the award, the program needed to demonstrate a positive difference in the lives of people in at least two of the following areas: new knowledge; increased skills; changed attitudes or values; modified behavior; altered status; decreased recidivism; and improved social relationships.

The program had to also meet the following three criteria: a clear purpose or mission; specific goals or outcomes; and have been in operation for at least three years.

Please join Commissioner Semple and the entire executive team in congratulating Director Williams on this well-deserved recognition.

## Around the Cell Block



**NEBRASKA** - Effective immediately, new hires at two of the state's correctional facilities will receive a recruitment bonus. The first 100 new employees hired between now and November 17, 2017, will receive a recruiting bonus of \$2,500.

**SOUTH CAROLINA** - Prison officers have found and taken one phone for every three inmates, the highest rate in the country. In Oklahoma, it's one phone for every six prisoners, the nation's second-highest rate.

**ILLINOIS** - Gov. Bruce Rauner recently signed a law requiring gender-appropriate and informed practices in the Illinois women's prison and parole systems. The measure seeks to adopt practices that recognize trauma women offenders have suffered, ready them for re-entry and reduce recidivism.

**Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on  
October 4, 2017  
18,699  
On October 4, 2016  
the population was  
19,599**

# Signs of Appreciation

There are some new street names around the Cheshire Correctional Institution, but its unlikely they will show up on any maps. The staff of the Cheshire facility has started a new and unique tradition to recognize its employee, supervisor, and officer of the quarter. Street signs have been made and posted at the three entrances to the facility grounds to honor them. As an added bonus, at the end of the quarter the staff member who was being honored, will get to keep the sign bearing their name.



Funds from the Quality of Work Life committee are used to pay for the new signs each quarter. In addition to the three signs recognizing outstanding staff, there is a fourth street sign which marks the location of the perimeter road of the facility. The staff had a contest to come up with a name for the road, with the winning entry being, “The Rock Road.” Congratulations to the first Cheshire CI street sign recipients: Captain Felipe Lugo, Correctional Officer Denise Burns, and Correctional Counselor Beth Albino.

# York CI Cuts Down the Nets

The annual Special Olympics Basketball Tournament hosted by staff members of the York Correctional Institution was held on July 28. A total of nine teams vied for the rights to be called tournament champions. The Department of Correction fielded teams representing York CI, Corrigan-Radgowski CC, Hartford CC, and MacDougall-Walker CI. Law enforcement agencies from New York City and Massachusetts competed as well.

In a closely contested, back and forth game, the team from York CI defeated the team from the NYC Police Department by a score of 76-75. Even more important than the victory, the tournament raised nearly \$2,000 for Special Olympics Connecticut. Thank you to everyone that helped to make the tournament a great success.



The basketball champions from York CI.

## Fiscal Services Awards

Fiscal Services held its annual Professional Development Day and Award Ceremony on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. Opening the event, Director Schott thanked staff for maintaining a high quality of service during a very difficult year. “It is because of all of you that we continue to achieve the high standards that are expected out of fiscal services. Your commitment to customer service and your dedication to both fiscal services and the Department impresses me and other staff members every day. I am grateful to each and every one of you and I could never thank you enough for your hard work. Fiscal Services continues to be an essential part of the Department of Correction achieving its goals of Public Safety, Efficiency

and Wellness. As an administrative function our strong support provides a piece of a solid foundation for the Department as it continues to be a leader in the correctional field.”

It was a full day for fiscal’s staff. In the morning, DOC’s K-9 Unit provided an informative and entertaining demonstration to staff and Cheryl Malerba (DOT Chief of Staff) gave an enlightening presentation on personal and professional communication, body language and appearance and its impact on our career development and ability to be successful.

This was payroll’s first time attending this event. Director Schott mentioned to staff how excited she, and the rest of Fiscal Services, are to have payroll be part of fiscal and how glad she was to see payroll staff in the room and participating in the end of the



Scenes from the 2017 the Fiscal Services Awards Ceremony

fiscal year celebration.

On a bitter sweet note, this was commissary’s last time attending this event. Oversight of commissary transferred from Fiscal Services to CEC effective July 1. Director Schott remarked how sad she was to bid farewell to Commissary staff, but also stated how proud she is to have worked with them all these years and how the realignment of this service will assist the Department with its mission to better prepare inmates for re-entry into society.

In the afternoon Commissioner Semple addressed staff thanking them for their service to the agency and to the people of Connecticut and reminded staff that what they do is vitally important to the agency’s ability to fulfill its mission and to attain its goals.

The day concluded with the presentation of awards to fiscal staff that have distinguished themselves during the fiscal year. Fiscal Services established these annual awards to formally recognize innovation and outstanding performance within Fiscal Services.

**Innovation Award: Michael Brooks.** Michael has been recognized for the enhanced reporting he has produced, specifically his Overtime Reports and Trend Analysis. Due to a reduction in resources, Michael has taken on additional tasks and while many of the duties were not by choice, he has embraced the challenge and has produced and enhanced the data for the end users. The Commissioner’s Office has been especially impressed and appreciative with the new reports and have begun to rely on them as part of their decision making process. Using data to drive decision making is critical to the success of our agency.

## Fiscal Assets from page 6

**Customer Service Award: Joyce Becker.** Recipients of this award are nominated by staff throughout the agency. The Customer Services award is given to the Fiscal Services' staff member that most demonstrated sustained exemplary customer service. This year's recipient received a lot of nominations, each describing a person who has gone above and beyond and exceeded all expectations. It's very clear that Joyce has become a valuable resource to each of the many DOC staff that nominated her for this award. Her positive attitude, enthusiasm and professionalism have had a very positive impact on DOC staff.

**Unit of the Year Award: Warehouse Unit.** The Warehouse unit has been recognized for their dedication and resilience and for their ability to "get the job done" despite all of the challenges that they have had to overcome. Director Schott stated, "They are an amazing bunch of people who through determination, persistence and, on some days, a sheer force of will, made it through a dark tunnel while maintaining a high level of customer service." The warehouse unit lost over 40% of their staff due to layoffs and retirements. After numerous options and lots of discussions plans were devised and implemented that created efficiencies and better utilization of the remaining staff. These moves did not come without a huge amount of stress, conflict and challenges but staff came together to work through the issues and create a more efficient system that has enabled them to meet the demands of the agency.

**Leadership Award: Barbara Farrell.** Barbara received this award in recognition of her excellent leadership in the integration of the Accounts Payable Unit into her area and in the roll out of the CORE-CT 9.2 Upgrade, as well as for her hard work and dedication. With taking on oversight of Accounts Payable, Barbara's staff more than doubled. During the transition she never lost sight of the needs of her staff and worked hard to make the transition as smooth as possible for them. In addition, she took on the task of learning the new CORE-CT STARS Analytical Reporting Tool and then trained, not only DOC staff, but staff from other agencies on how to use it. And if that was not enough, Barbara and her staff sorted out the many issues the recent CORE-CT upgrade caused with P-Cards. Throughout all of the challenges and changes Barbara faced this year she was able to keep up with all of her "regular" work as well as step up to meet the new demands on her, while always keeping focused on her staff.

**Director's Award: Steve Plourde.** Each year that fiscal has done awards, Director Schott has selected a Fiscal Services staff member to receive this award that she believes made the biggest impact on Fiscal Services and the agency this Fiscal Year. This year's recipient has exhibited excellent leadership, has provided outstanding customer service and has demonstrated innovative and creative problem solving and a positive can do attitude. During this fiscal year, Steve took on every new task, every new challenge, every change and every new responsibility we threw at him. And, as he has done throughout his career, he stepped up to meet each new challenge and executed his duties with efficiency, creativity and a good sense of humor. In presenting the award, Director Schott stated, "Steve deserves to be recognized for his efforts and for his dedication to his work in Fiscal Services, the mission of the DOC and to state service. Steve's dedication, hard work and work ethic are second to none. He approaches every task and every responsibility (even the ones he would rather not do) with the goal of doing the best job he can and with delivering the best outcome possible. No task is too small and no responsibility is too big for Steve."



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# A Foundation of Support

Lieutenants Wesley Collins and Mike White both assigned to MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution (MWCI) were presented with a check in the amount of \$350.00 each from the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation on July 21, 2017. The Correctional Peace Officer Foundation a national, non-profit charitable organization created in 1984, supports correctional officers and their families, by providing assistance in cases of accidents or illness, as well as line-of-duty death benefits to surviving family members.



L to R: Deputy Warden Gerald Hines, Lt. Wesley Collins, Deputy Warden Jesus Guadarrama, Lt. Mike White and his two daughters, Warden William Mulligan, Captain Anna Dorozko, and Deputy Warden Joseph Roach.

Both Lieutenants Collins and White were responding to facility codes

when they sustained their injuries, forcing them to miss work. Staff from other facilities have also received assistance from the foundation for illness and/or work-related injuries.

In an effort to support the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation, the staff at MWCI will be selling tee-shirts at a cost of \$20.00 from October 6 through November 17, proceeds from which will benefit the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation. For more information contact Captain Anna Dorozko, AA Joanne McIntosh, Secretary 2 Nancy Begnoche

## Years of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of May 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Cocchiola, Christine	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	5/1/1997
Standley, Diane	School Teacher	York CI	1/31/1997

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of May 2017

Cournoyer, Anne	Warden 2	Enfield CI	1/24/1992
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### Employees with 30 Years of Service as of May 2017

McGuinness, Michael	AFAO	Cntrl Office	5/22/1987
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## Jail Bird



This majestic Red-tailed Hawk was recently spotted keeping an eye on things at Osborn CI.



# K9 Competition Recap

On July 22, 2017, the Connecticut Department of Correction hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual K9 Olympics on the grounds of Officers' Beach in Enfield. This was the first time the Olympics were held at this location and it was a great success. This year's event saw the most K9 Teams compete - 38; the most spectators- 2,500; and the most money raised for charity - \$11,000.

The competition included teams from the Department of Correction, CT State Police and local police K9 Teams from across the northeast. Teams from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island competed for charity, as well as for bragging rights.

Each team made a big splash (literally) by taking the plunge into the water pit to begin the event.

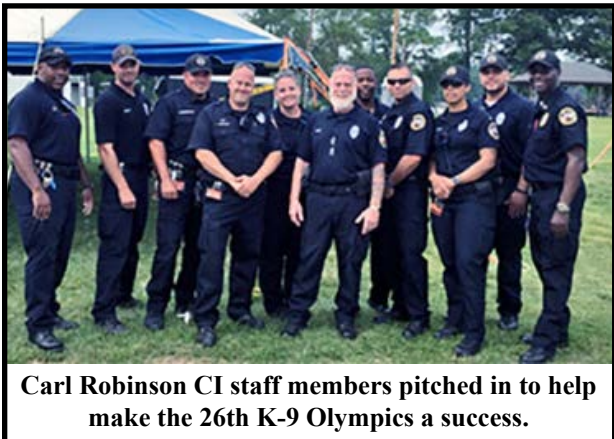
K9 Teams then competed in various events that included: tactical obedience, obstacles, distance obedience and an apprehension drill.

Our very own Department of Correction K9 Unit earned multiple awards on this special day. Lt. Josh Trifone and K9 Tango placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall. Lt. Ron Zaczynski and K9 Tower earned Top Team in Obstacles. And K9 Officer John Bennett and K9 Rocko earned Top Team in Tactical Obedience.

This successful event was a result of collaborative efforts from Carl Robinson CI staff, maintenance staff, Mike Rhodes of UConn PD, Sgt Mike Alogna of the CT State Police and the officers of the K9 Unit. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and energy, including retired K9 Trainer Mike Belanger of M.S.A, Bozzuto's, 105.9 FM's Renee Dinino and professional photographer Kim Carino. Thank you to Officer Rob Johnson for decoying every dog and to all of the judges that volunteered their time as well. A special thanks to Sara, Kim and Matt from the C.S.P Credit Union for their monetary donation and for coordinating a large tent so that our spectators could enjoy some shade. We look forward to next year's event being even bigger and better.



**K9 Handler Jessie Rainville and Kai compete in the 26th K9 Olympics.**



**Carl Robinson CI staff members pitched in to help make the 26th K-9 Olympics a success.**

# MYI Cyling Group

Members of the Manson Youth Institution have started a bicycle riding group officially named, MYI's Cycling Group. They invite all cycling abilities and all types of bicycles to join them on their weekly bike rides. The rides are scheduled for 3:15-4:00pm on Tuesdays (rain date is Thursday of that week). Locations may vary on a weekly basis. For more information, please contact:

[danielle.borges@ct.gov](mailto:danielle.borges@ct.gov) or [delores.medina@ct.gov](mailto:delores.medina@ct.gov)

#7benefitstocycling

#myi'scyclinggroup

#pedalpower



**MYI Cycling Group members**