



Connecticut  
Department of Correction



# P.R.I.D.E. *at* Work

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

## Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support restitution, rehabilitation and successful community reintegration

## Season's Greetings



As 2011 comes to a close, it is a good time to reflect upon the accomplishments of the previous months. Although, the past year has been a difficult one filled with many uncertainties, it is still important to take stock of the many blessings we have.

First off, I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication. It is because of you that I feel so fortunate to be able to say that I am the commissioner of the best correctional agency in the country.

As if keeping the public safe wasn't enough, I am constantly amazed by your caring and generosity; not just for your fellow coworkers, but also for those less fortunate. As an example, our staff recently donated more than \$7,600 and 1,500 pounds of food to the Governor's Care and Share Food Drive.

For those of us lucky enough to spend the holidays in the comfort of our own homes, with our families, let us not forget our brave coworkers who are protecting our freedoms while selflessly serving in the armed forces. I offer a heartfelt thank you for your service to our country.

Thank you also, to all of you who purchased a yellow ribbon in support of the more than 20 Department of Correction employees who are currently deployed around the world in the military. Perhaps even more important than any financial benefit these brave men and women receive, is the emotional boost they get from the knowledge that their correctional family is thinking of them.

As I look to the coming year, I do so with confidence and optimism that we will continue to set new standards as we implement our vision for the future.

With a deep appreciation and gratitude, I wish you and your families a happy and successful 2012.

Sincerely,

Leo C. Arnone



November 18, 2011  
through  
December 21, 2011

Distributed monthly  
to 6,200 staff  
and via the Internet  
throughout Connecticut  
and the nation  
by the  
Department of Correction  
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# Rededicated

## Commissioner Administers Oath at State Capitol Ceremony

With Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman in attendance, many of the Connecticut Department of Correction's top administrators were officially sworn in by Commissioner Leo C. Arnone during a ceremony held at the State Capitol recently.



**Commissioner Leo Arnone is flanked by the group of administrators that had just been sworn in at the State Capitol.**

On Friday, November 18, the Commissioner, his executive team, directors, administrators, and wardens from the facilities gathered in the opulent Old Judiciary Room of the Connecticut State Capitol to be sworn-in as part of the current administration.

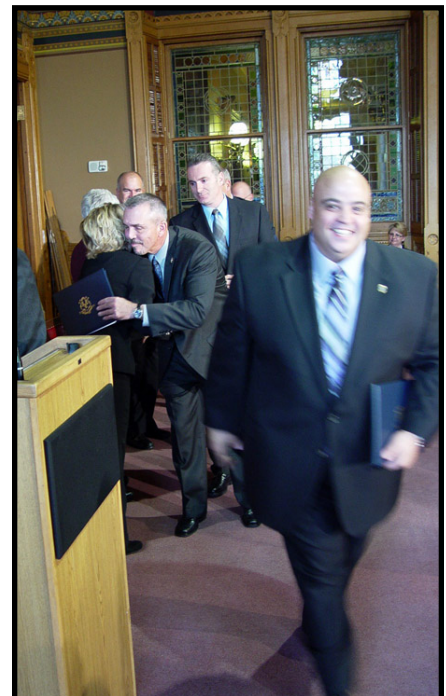
In front of the family members of those being sworn in, Commissioner Arnone addressed the crowd and reminded them of the importance of such ceremonies. "It is important for the agency and for the individual to publicly swear their allegiance with our mission of protecting the citizens of the state of Connecticut," he said,

while adding. "So this will represent a new beginning, a rededication to your position and duties."

Helping to make the occasion even more memorable was the presence of Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, who also addressed the gathered throng of correctional family and friends. She noted that she was confident that the individuals being sworn in would live up to the demanding challenges of their positions because, "I know the Commissioner has faith in you, and in all you do and with his faith, I know that he has picked some very strong people," Wyman said. She went on to thank those about to take the oath for all the work they have done, as well as the work they will do in the future.

After the Lt. Governor's remarks, it was time for the actual swearing-in portion of the ceremony. Deputy Commissioners James Dzurenda and Cheryl Cepelak were among the first to take the oath. Before it was all over, the entire executive team, three directors, both district administrators, and all the wardens (newly appointed as well as seasoned veterans) were sworn in.

With a benediction from Director of Religious Services Father Anthony Bruno, the ceremony came to an end, allowing those gathered to share some light refreshments and to reflect on the words of Commissioner Arnone. "This is also an opportunity to think of the importance and value of what we do for the state of Connecticut and its citizens every day."



**The Department's wardens are congratulated by members of the Executive Team after being sworn in by Commissioner Arnone.**

## Swearing In – Part II

Just four weeks after the swearing in ceremony at the State Capitol of the executive team, directors and wardens, Commissioner Leo C. Arnone swore in one more director, a parole manager, and ten deputy wardens during a ceremony on Friday, December 16, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

Addressing the crowd of family and peers, the Commissioner urged those about to be sworn in to, "...listen carefully and absorb the words of the oath and consider how they reflect your commitment and dedication to our agency and the citizens of our state."

The director of the training academy, Tracey Butler was the first to be sworn in, followed by the deputy wardens and the parole manager (who were sworn in as a group). After repeating the oath, many hugs and congratulations were shared amongst the newest official members of Commissioner Arnone's team.



Commissioner Leo C. Arnone administers the oath to 11 deputy wardens and one parole supervisor.

### Congratulations To:

**Allison F. Black** - York CI  
**Tracey Butler** - MCTSD  
**Denise Dilworth-Jones** - New Haven CC  
**Henry P. Falcone** - Garner CI  
**Robert Martin** - York CI  
**Giuliana Mudano** - Corrigan-Radgowski CC  
**William F. Murphy** - Osborn CI  
**Paul A. Ouellette** - CRCI  
**Dennis J. Roche** - Hartford CC  
**Antonio Santiago** - Corrigan-Radgowski CC  
**Pamela P. Senerth** - York CI  
**Armando A. Valeriano** - Security Division  
**Leigh Ware** – Parole and Community Services

## Digging Deep to Fight Hunger

### Osborn CI repeats as Care and Share Volleyball Champions

A total of 11 teams from the Department of Correction raised approximately \$1,100 in this year's statewide agency volleyball tournament as part of the Governor's Care and Share Food Drive. For the second year in a row, the team from the Osborn Correctional Institution emerged victorious. In addition, the Department was awarded the Governor's Cup for its participation and unprecedented success in the tournament. The trophy will be displayed for one month in each facility that fielded a team in the tournament.

The reigning champions from Osborn CI defeated Northern CI's team in every round, knocking Northern CI out of the semi-finals. Commissioner Leo C. Arnone, Deputy Commissioners Cheryl Cepelak and James Dzurenda wish to thank all who participated in the tournament.



The two-time volleyball champions from Osborn CI.

# Luncheon for Laudati

The Code Orange sounded loud and clear, and it was up to Warden Carol Chapdelaine, Counselor Supervisor (CS) Dianna Gonzalez, Captain Gemini Murray and Deputy Warden William Murphy to do something about it. So they decided to "Fight Like Girls." They adorned the Officers' Mess Hall with pink table clothes, pink napkins, pink streamers and pink centerpieces. They bought a strawberry filled cake with pink frosting.



L to R: Warden Carol Chapdelaine, Deputy Commissioner James Dzurenda, District Administrator Michael Lajoie, Parole Officer Dana Laudati, and District Administrator Angel Quiros

cancer. "The moment we heard that this remarkable member of our DOC family was stricken with cancer, we were determined to help her and her family in any way we could. So we used *Fight Like A Girl* which is one of the American Cancer Society's mottos as our inspiration," said Warden Chapdelaine. Other staff responded to the Code Orange as well. Correctional Food Service Supervisor (CFSS) II Lance Oliver and Officer Alonzo Peggins rolled up their sleeves, went into the kitchen and cooked tray after tray of pasta with meatballs, sausages and peppers, garlic bread and garden salad. Deputy Warden Steven Frey along with CFSSIII Arthur Riffo plated the orders, which were served restaurant-style to the rest of the staff by CS Renee Cyr, CS Gonzalez and Captain Murray. "I know I speak on behalf of Warden Chapdelaine, CS Gonzalez and CS Murphy when I say that it was a true honor to help Dana and her family," said Captain Murray. "Once again, the entire Osborn staff came through with their amazing generosity and support. We were able to raise \$700 in just two hours."

The Code Orange was heard far beyond Osborn's gates. The top administration at Central Office also heard the call for assistance and they responded immediately. Deputy Commissioner James Dzurenda, District Administrators Michael Lajoie and Angel Quiros all attended the luncheon. "There was no question in our minds that we would be at this luncheon to show our support for Dana and her family," said District Administrator Lajoie.

# Around the Cell Block



Then, they donned aprons and started serving lunch to tables filled with hungry staff. No, this was not an ordinary Code Orange. This was a benefit luncheon to help Parole Officer Dana Laudati in her brave fight against breast

**FLORIDA** – Officials from the state's department of corrections say special dormitories for prisoners who are military veterans are making a difference. The dormitories provide specialized services such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling for prisoners who have served in the military.

**FLORIDA** – Authorities say the dozens of cats which have burrowed under fences and taken up residence at the state-run prison in Belle Glade will be found new homes before the facility closes in December.

**OHIO** – A decision by state officials to remove all pork products from prison menus in response to a lawsuit by Muslim inmates is not sitting well with the local pork producers and processors. They promise action of their own, including a possible counter lawsuit, to address what they consider an unfair and illogical decision.

**Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on  
December 21, 2011  
21,435  
On December 21, 2010  
the population was  
22,737**



## Did You Know?

*“Did You Know” is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Services Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was written by Plant Facilities Engineer 1, Rick Hamel, if you have any questions about this article you may contact him at (860) 739-3084. If you have any questions, or have an idea for a future column, please leave a message on the Director of Facilities Management and Engineering’s phone at (860) 692-7554.*

### Are You Ready For the Cold?

Did you know that adding even a small wind can drive the wind chill effect down to dangerous levels for anyone exposed to it for very long? Of course, the best way to avoid any danger is to stay indoors in a well heated environment, but if you do feel the need to venture outdoors, make sure you prepare and take the proper precautions.

#### Be aware of the wind chill

Drink plenty of warm fluids or warm water but avoid caffeine and alcohol.

Take frequent breaks from the cold. Try to have a nearby shelter or warm vehicle to take breaks in.

Avoid unnecessary exposure of *any* part of the body to the cold. Always wear a hat and gloves and appropriate shoes or boots with several layers of clothing. Scarves or other face coverings help as well.

Get out of the cold immediately if the signals of hypothermia or frostbite appear.

However, for those of you who decide to spend some time indoors, did you know that winter also brings a number of fire hazards into our homes?

#### Use candles with caution

If you are going to use open flames, do so sparingly. Electric candles are a safer alternative.

Keep candles away from decorations, furniture, doorways and windows.

Keep candles, matches, and lighters out of the reach of children. Never have an open flame around children when they are unattended.

#### Wood or coal burning stoves

Only burn dry wood or coal.

Do not use flammable liquids to start the fire.

Make sure the stove has been installed properly with at least 3 feet between it and combustible objects.

Make sure that the stove has been placed on an approved stove board.

Have your chimney inspected every year by a professional.

#### Precautions for portable heaters/space heaters

Do not leave heaters unattended.

Do not leave children or animals alone with a heater when it is in use.

Never dry clothes on the heater.

Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from any combustible object (curtains, toys, furniture, magazines, etc.).

Always remember to turn off (and unplug) the heater when leaving the room for an extended period of time.



**Electric candles are practically indistinguishable from open flame candles, and are much safer.**

## Caring and Sharing

Commissioner Leo C. Arnone is pleased to announce that for the second year in a row, the Department of Correction donated more than any other state agency to the Governor's Annual Care and Share Food Drive. Staff members contributed more than \$7,600 in cash and checks, along with an additional 1,500 lbs. of food for those in need.

The Department was also awarded the Governor's Cup for its unprecedented success in the volleyball tournament (see **Digging Deep/page 3**) which raises money to support the Governor's food drive.

"I have been and continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of our staff to those less fortunate than ourselves," Commissioner Arnone said.

## Giving Back at Bridgeport

The week before Thanksgiving, officers Lois Pacheco and Dana Smith of the Bridgeport Correctional Center organized a food drive for local residents in need. These officers collected donations from staff exceeding \$200.00 which purchased a full Thanksgiving dinner including a large turkey and all of the trimmings for 12 families. The food was donated and to be distributed by the local branch of the Salvation Army.

## Parole Pitches In

Not to be outdone by the facility, the staff of the Bridgeport District Office of Parole and Community Services organized a "Thanksgiving Drive" of their own. Parole Managers Terri Williams and Stephen Noto were proud of Bridgeport District Parole Officers Gladys Marquez and Edgardo Soberal for organizing the effort to provide Thanksgiving dinners



L to R: Bridgeport Correctional Center's officers Lois Pacheco, Cynthia Moore, and Maria Roman

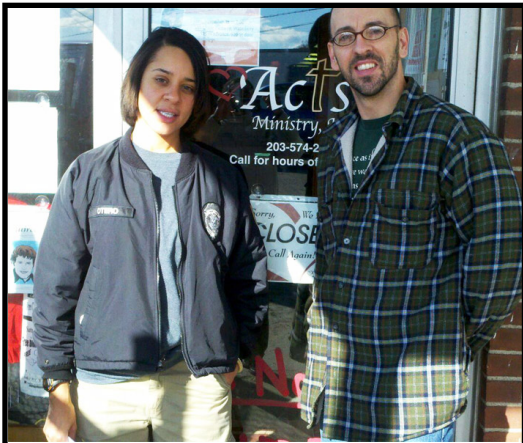


Staff members from the Bridgeport Parole and Community Services office show off their bounty.

to parolees who expressed a need. Parole officers Marquez and Soberal networked with community providers to acquire the items needed for the dinners, then deliver them in time for the holiday. Many families benefited from the kindness displayed by the officers.

## Counting on Coats at Osborn CI

With the new legislation numerous offenders are scheduled to be released this winter and the Department of Correction is trying to do all that it can to provide them with a winter coat/jacket or warm clothing such as sweaters, sweat shirts, fleeces, etc. Under the direction of Deputy Warden Murphy and leadership of Correctional Counselor Melissa Otero, this year the staff of the Osborn Correctional Institution has partnered with local community providers to create a surplus of clothing. With the assistance of local roundtable members, The ACTS 4 Ministry Inc. located in Waterbury, and Button-up Connecticut in New Britain, Counselor Otero has collected more than fifty coats and numerous winter items to be donated to offenders upon release. These



Counselor Melissa Otero and “Wil” the Operations Manager of Acts 4 Ministry.

agencies devote themselves to providing essential items for free to individuals in need, and were more than willing to assist the Osborn staff with the distribution of its collection.

“A winter coat and proper clothing is fundamental, said counselor Otero. “By ensuring that this basic need is met is not only a positive step towards the offenders’ reentry, but also a positive for the communities where they are being released to.”

Collection and distribution will continue throughout the winter months. Information regarding drop off locations around the state can be found at [www.buttonupconnecticut.com](http://www.buttonupconnecticut.com).

Financial donations can be made on-line at

<http://www.acts4.org> or by U. S. Mail to: Acts 4 Ministry, Inc.

P. O. Box 4524, Waterbury, CT 06704.

## Road Warriors

Eight staff members from the Department’s Tactical Operations and K-9 Units traveled to the State Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas to participate in the Federal Bureau of Prisons 2011 North Central Region’s Crisis Management Training dubbed “Operation Heartland.”

Those attending the training included: Officer Don Austin (K9), Counselor Lou Bonito (Cheshire CI/SITCON), Officer Juan Colon (Bridgeport CC/CERT), Lieutenant Andre Cox (K9), Lieutenant Eric Griswold (York CI/SITCON), Lieutenant Gregory Robles (MacDougall-Walker CI/CERT), Captain Bryan Viger (Cheshire CI/SOG), Lieutenant Robert York (Corrigan-Radgowski CC/SOG). They departed from Central Office early in the morning on Sunday, September 23, driving through seven states in a three-car caravan, some



The DoC crew in Kansas.

1,300 miles, to arrive in time for training the next day. All members participated in scenarios/role playing, with Special Operation Group members participating in a bus assault, airplane assault, hostage rescue, obstacle course, sniper observation and close-quarter “live fire” combat.

The training lasted through Friday, September 19. With a wealth of new found information, the crew hit the road and returned home to Connecticut the very next day.

# Holiday Support for the Military



**L to R: Counselor Laura Jakabauski, Captain James Watson, Director Tracey Butler, Commissioner Leo C. Arnone, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak, Addiction Services Counselor Doreen Krupp, and Counselor Supervisor Jacqueline Jennett display some of the gifts that will be sent in support of active duty military members.**

For the second year in a row, Commissioner Arnone, with the support of the Military Peer Support Group, has spearheaded the sale of yellow ribbons as part of a Holiday Salute to Our Military Personnel. Specifically, the group has been selling yellow ribbons, at a cost of two dollars each, to raise money to purchase a holiday gift for the families of Agency employees who have a service member currently deployed or one who has been deployed during this past year. Currently, more than 20 members of our correctional family are on active military duty around the world. Since the support group members began selling the ribbons on November 21, approximately 2,000 have been sold, totaling nearly \$4,000 in contributions. The monies went to the purchase of 12 Hickory Farms gift boxes for those with a family member currently

serving overseas. An additional 18 gift boxes were sent to those who had served overseas during the course of this calendar year.

“There simply are not words to express the debt that we owe someone who willingly and selflessly puts their life on the line so that our freedoms may be protected for generations to come,” said Commissioner Arnone.

## Years of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of November 2011

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Gonzalez, Robert	Corr. Officer	CRCI	11/15/1991
Garcia, Diana	Sub. Abuse Cnslr.	Cen. Off.	11/15/1991
Quinones, Tara	Rec. Spec. I	Cen. Off.	11/15/1991
Jones, Jody	Corr. Officer	MYI	11/15/1991
Turner, Kenrick	HVAC Tech.	NHCC	11/15/1991
Cloutier, Lawrence	Corr. Officer	Northern CI	11/15/1991
Blackman, Jacqueline	Corr. Cnslr.	York CI	11/15/1991

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of November 2011

Sylvestri, Diane	Hum. Res. Spec.	Cen. Off.	11/7/1986
Champion, Lucille	Clerk Typist	NHCC	11/14/1986
Worthington, Linda	Secretary II	Osborn CI	11/21/1986



**Congratulations to Correctional Food Service Supervisor II Edward McKeon of the York Correctional Institution who reached the milestone of 25-years of state service in October.**