

Official Newsletter
of the Kentucky Department
of Corrections



LaDonna Thompson Commissioner

CORRECTIONS

Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Meeting is third of its kind held at state prisons

Judiciary Committee Meets at Northpoint

By Lisa Lamb Director of Communications

The Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary held its June meeting at Northpoint Training Center and key initiatives of the Department of Corrections were the only topics on the agenda.

Corrections Commissioner LaDonna Thompson presented several items of key interest to the lawmakers, including the results of a recent outside review of restricted housing. Ken McGinnis and Dr. James Austin, CNA Analysis Solutions, presented their findings to the committee and while the review included some recommendations, the overall conclusion was that Kentucky is operating within established national guidelines for restrictive housing units.

Other topics on the day's agenda included a presentation on the dangers and stress of working in corrections. The presentation was created by Danny Norris, a unit administrator at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women. Commissioner Thompson and Deputy Commissioner Jim Erwin also gave the legislators a brief overview of the department's medical and food services

Please See JUDICIARY, Page 3



Secretary J. Michael Brown (L-R) and Commissioner LaDonna H. Thompson listened as Ken McGinnis and Dr. James Austin presented the findings of their restricted housing review to legislators. The meeting was held at Northpoint Training Center on June 6.

2013 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program Graduates



See story and photos on page 8!

PBMS Training Held

Representatives from the DOC Central Office, all adult institutions and the Justice Cabinet met in Frankfort on June 17 for the first annual Performance Based Measures System (PBMS) training workshop.

The purpose of this workshop was to educate those new to PBMS on the data gathering and

Please See PBMS, Page 13

On The Inside

Page 2 – EKCC Partners With Habitat for Humanity

Page 4 – "Spotlight on a Vet"

Page 7 – Agency Spotlight: Ombudsman's Office

Page 12 – Employee Recognition

Pages 18-24 – Correctional Employees' Week photos

Page 25 - Bell County Bloodhounds to Track Arsonists

INSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentucki



Inmates Help Construct Largest HFH Home Ever Built in State

EKCC Partners with Habitat for Humanity

Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) was recently contacted by Habitat for Humanity (HFH) to explore the possibility of using inmate labor to build the walls and trusses for a house that was going to be constructed in Campton. The Department of Corrections had previously used state inmates housed in county jails to assist in the construction phase of HFH homes but nothing of this scale had ever been attempted.

The materials for this project were provided by HFH through donations, and inmates at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC) were used to construct the walls and trusses according to the plans that were provided.

With the "pre-fab" work done at EKCC, the volunteers were able to construct the walls in only four days. Mary Shearer, Kentucky chapter of HFH, said if they would have had to build these walls themselves, it would have taken weeks. She also commented that the walls fit together perfectly and went on to say what a great job the inmates had done.

KCI Assistant Director C.A. Wilkerson said that HFH was obviously not expecting the quality of work that we provided. As a result, they have now inquired about using the inmates at EKCC to construct the cabinets for this house.

This particular house in Campton is being built for a low-income family of 10. Once completed it will be the largest HFH home ever built in Kentucky.

Wilkerson said this will be an ongoing partnership with HFH. After they establish when and where the next house will be built, they will contact KCI and start the process over again.

"This is a great way for inmates to give back to the community," said Wilkerson. "It also teaches them new skills that will assist them in gaining employment once they return to society."





Pictured top: The Habitat for Humanity (HFH) house in Campton in the early stages. Above: Volunteers for HFH raised the walls that were constructed by inmates at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex. At right: Erecting the walls only took four days, compared to the weeks it would have taken if the volunteers would have had to build the walls themselves.



LNSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentuc



Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

First-Ever Veterans Dorm Opens at Northpoint

Northpoint Training Center (NTC) held a ceremony in May to honor Veterans who had served their country and are part of the prison's offender population.

The ceremony also unveiled a new flag pole dedicated to the NTC Veterans Dormitory Pro-

The idea for the program at NTC was the vision of Warden Don Bottom.

Warden Bottom wanted to create an environment where offenders who had served their country could be offered the services they had earned as Veterans upon reentry into society. It is the goal of the program to assist Veterans with gaining their benefits upon release and giving them the tools necessary to successfully re-enter society.

Close to 50 Veteran offenders, along with numerous NTC staff, were present at the ceremony for the raising of the flag by American Legion Post 18 members John Bradshaw and Randall Riley. In addition, the Pledge of Allegiance, a performance of the National Anthem by the NTC Mens' Choir, and special messages by Veterans



Warden Don Bottom spoke at the dedication ceremony for the first-ever Veterans Dorm at Northpoint Training Center. The new flagpole behind the warden was also dedicated during the program.

Affairs representative Jerome Tomlian and Warden Bottom were also part of the ceremony.

The Veterans Program at the prison is overseen by NTC Correctional Unit Administrator II Mendalyn Cochran, Correctional Unit Administrator I Jack Godbey, and Classification and Treatment Officer Jamie Moreland.

Judiciary

From Page 1

contracts.

Justice Secretary J. Michael Brown spoke to the legislators about re-entry and the need for legislation that would remove some restrictions on licenses for offenders. Supporters are hopeful the legislation will be successful in the 2015 General Assembly

The meeting began with an awesome performance by the NTC Mens' Choir and at the conclusion, the legislators were treated with a demonstration from the prison's dog program, "Mutts With Manners."

After the meeting, NTC hosted lunch for the legislators and provided tours of the prison as well.



Unit Administrator Mendalyn Cochran explained the new Veterans' Dorm Program at Northpoint Training Center to House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Tilley.

INSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentucky

Page 4 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014



Spotlight On A Veteran

Bill Harper

This issue of "Spotlight on a Vet" focuses on Bill Harper. Bill started his career with the Department of Corrections in 2001 as an officer for the Division of Probation and Parole in District 9. He is currently an assistant supervisor for that district.

Bill Harper initially joined the Marines in 1983, long before he ever thought of coming to the Department of Corrections. He said while on his way to Louisville to sign his paperwork, his recruiter asked him two seemingly innocent questions. The first, "Do you want to see the world?" to which he replied, "Yes sir, that is why I am joining up," and the second, "Do you like ships?" to which he said, "Well, I suppose so...although I have never been on one."

He never thought much else about the questions until after he completed infantry school at Camp Pendleton. That is when he found out his first assignment would be to go to San Diego to attend "sea school." Harper was told that his recruiter had recommended him for this assignment, apparently based on those two questions. He said at first he was resentful because he had his heart set on serving with an infantry unit. He later found out the other members of his unit were somewhat envyous of his special assignment.

After completing sea school, Harper would spend the first two years of his four-year enlistment serving on the aircraft carrier USS America. He served in a 70-man unit that was charged with guarding what he could only refer to, for security reasons, as "special weapons." They worked seven days a week alternating between one day of guard duty and one day of training.

One of his favorite things on the aircraft carrier was security alerts. "General Quarters" would be called which meant everyone had to immediately report to their duty station for a simulated emergency. He said when this would occur the ship looked like an ant colony with over 5,000 personnel running as fast as they could to reach their assigned location. He said it was fascinating to watch the coordination of this operation.



Above: Bill
Harper attended
Infantry School
at Camp Pendleton. Right:
Harper took time
for a photo while
on board the aircraft carrier USS
America.



Harper was twice deployed to the Mediterranean while serving on the USS America. One of the biggest events on the carrier occured in 1986 during his second deployment. That was when Libya's Muammar Gaddafi claimed much of the Gulf of Sidra as territorial waters. He declared a "line of death" and said if the United States crossed this line he would unleash his air force. President Reagan responded to Gaddafi's threat by

Please See HARPER, Page 5

INSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentucky



Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Harper

From Page 4

sending in a huge battle group and the ensuing conflict lasted approximately three to four weeks.

During this time, the USS America repeatedly drilled on the call to general quarters as well as when it was called "for real" during Libyan attacks.

The crew subsequently recorded the fastest response time to this drill in the history of the ship. Harper's participation in this campaign earned him the Marine Corp Expeditionary Medal and the Navy Unit Commendation Medal as well as the Meritorious Unit Citation for achieving the record time in response to general quarters.

The USS America was ultimately decommissioned and used in an experiment. Planes fired on the ship to help determine exactly what was required to sink an aircraft carrier. Harper said this was somewhat sad since the ship had been his home for two years.

For the last two years of his active service, Harper finally got to serve as a basic rifleman in an infantry unit. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, better known as the "Fighting Fifth Marines."

During this time, he was deployed to Okinawa where he participated in Team Spirit 1987, a joint forces operation in South Korea in which U.S. Marines worked hand in hand with the Republic of Korea Marines.

While in Korea, Harper also attended Mountain Warfare School where he learned the skills necessary to build rope bridges, repel and rock climb.

Upon his return to Okinawa, Harper attended a six-week jungle warfare school which prepared him for the rigors of jungle combat operations while placing an emphasis on day/night land navigation. This course taught Marines to navigate through thick jungle canopies with a compass and map.



Above: The graduation photo of Harper's platoon after they completed Boot Camp at Paris Island. Right: Harper posed, ready for action, at Camp Pendleton.

Harper said he could best describe his military service as a love/hate relationship. "I loved some of it and some of it was torturous. The thing about the Marine Corps, or any service, is you know you are doing something really important and that keeps you going."

After completing four years of active duty, Bill was not quite ready to hang up his boots. He signed on for two additional years in the Reserves where he served as a non-commissioned officer training Marine recruits.

Please See VETERAN, Page 6



Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Veteran

From Page 5

After leaving the military, Harper worked for the Kentucky Horse Park as a mounted police officer and Fayette Circuit Court in the Child Support Enforcement section before joining the Department of Corrections as a Probation and Parole Officer in 2001.

"All the physical fitness of the Marine Corps, and the discipline I learned there, I was able to apply to my job," said Harper.

"The Corps taught me how to get through difficult times and to adapt quickly to fast paced, high stress environments."

These early lessons proved to be very effective and have withstood the test of time.

In 2008 Bill Harper was promoted to assistant supervisor in District 9 and remains there today in his 25th year of service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

"The thing about the Marine Corps, or any service, is you know you are doing something really important and that keeps you going."

Bill Harper
District 9 Assistant Supervisor





Pictured Left: Harper served aboard the USS Amercia during his time in the Marines. The air wing of the USS America is pictured at left during a flyover maneuver. Above: Harper's infantry unit lived in what they called "tent city" while serving in Korea. While there, he attended Mountain Warfare School where he learned the skills necessary to build rope bridges, repel and rock climb.

In the Next Issue ...



Our 'Agency Spotlight'
will be on DOC's Critical Incident
Stress Debriefing Teams

INSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentuck





The term "ombudsman" is an English translation of the Swedish word umbuds man from the Old Norse "umboosmaor," meaning representative.

The Department of Corrections Ombudsman's Office is staffed with John Dunn who is the Executive Staff Advisor and reports directly to the Commissioner. His support staff is Administrative Specialist III Julie Bowles.

Another part of Dunn's office is the department's legislative liaison, a position recently filled with the promotion of Briney King from Offender Information Services. Dunn also oversees the grants and research office, a position which is currently vacant.

The Ombudsman's Unit was created by DOC to act as a bridge between concerned citizens and the department by gathering information that potentially uncovers and reduces problems within the corrections system thus ensuring the rights and safety of offenders are protected.

The office aids in answering questions and assists in the resolution of concerns during critical situations. They also are attentive to general public concerns in an unbiased, impartial, and courteous manner. If they look into a concern and it is revealed that there is room for improvement, the appropriate DOC staff will be notified.

The staff also manage the inmate grievance program which includes processing Commissioner Appeals.

The grievance system is designed to resolve any issues at the lowest level possible. The final phase, if necessary, is the Commissioner's Appeal.

The Ombudsman's Office researches and provides the commissioner appropriate information to answer the appeal. Office Includes Legislative Liaison, Grants and Research

Ombudsman's Office Essential In Providing Information for DOC



Pictured above (L to R): Administrative Specialist III Julie Bowles, Executive Staff Advisor John Dunn and Briney King, the legislative liaison for the department.

On average the office responds to 1,000 appeals each year. The Ombudsman's Office also provides grievance training to all 12 institutions in the state.

Another important responsibility of the Ombudsman's office is to manage the Department's ACA process.

Depending on the audit cycle, they manage around four to six audits per year. Additionally, their office handles 16 internal reviews (Mock Audits/Program-Security reviews) on a yearly basis.

Both the internal and ACA audits are to evaluate the operations of our Adult Institutions, Probation and Parole, Training, KCI and Central Office. This process is a great management tool to improve the department's overall functions.

In managing DOC's grant process,

this includes submitting proposals to receive grant money as well as monitoring and implementing approved grants.

In fiscal year 2014, the Department of Corrections received over \$3.7 M in federal grants.

In addition, there are typically over a dozen research projects and surveys each year which are overseen by this of-

The legislative liaison is a critical staff member for the department. King will be following legislative proposals to see what their impact is on corrections. This gives the Department the opportunity to respond to them if neces-

Another challenging task she will be responsible for is coordinating and responding to legislative inquiries, which average 200 per year.

age 8 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 20

Executive Leadership Class Graduates

The 2013 Commissioner's Executive Leadership class graduated May 7, when the 39 DOC employees received their certificates of completion from Commissioner LaDonna H. Thompson.

The class began in September and the members were immediately divided into teams. Each team consisted of five individuals with a diverse corrections background. The teams selected a topic to work on throughout the eight-month long program.

As part of the their graduation, the teams presented their projects to Commissioner Thompson and her Deputy Commissioners, Kimberly Potter-Blair, Jim Erwin and Paula Holden. The commissioner and deputies were extremely pleased with this year's projects and the work completed by the teams.

Project topics included:

- •Elective Training Credit (ETC)
 Program
 - Sex Offender Housing Project
- •Creating Career Employees; Not Job Employees
 - •Composting 101
- •Changing the Face of Inmate Visitation
- •Enhanced Training for Probation and Parole Officers
 - •Developing Organizational Change
- •The Community Re-Entry Initiative

Please See LEADERSHIP, Page 15



Above: The members of the 2013 Commissioner's Executive Leadership class, along with their mentors, listened to Commissioner LaDonna Thompson address the group at their graduation ceremony. The class was divided into eight teams and the teams presented projects they had worked on throughout the eight-month long project. Middle right: Thompson discusses the day's events with James Sweatt, Division Director of Classification/Population. Bottom right: Each graduate received a framed certificate and Commissioner's Coin.





2013 Class Members & Mentors

Belinda Sanchez - BCFC; Warden Joe Meko, LSCC

Zach Schadler – IT; Administrative Coordinator John Hall, Offender Information/IT

Eric Sizemore - BCC; Warden Aaron Smith, KSR

Tammy Lou Wright – Victim Services Branch; Warden Ravonne Sims, RCC

Jose' Garcia – GRCC; Deputy Warden Joel Dunlap, KSP

Heather Meredith, District 5; P&P Branch Manager Dan Fountain

Shannon Clarke – District 2; Supervisor George Glass, District 1

Please See MEMBERS - MENTORS, Page 15

NSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentuc

Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Always Appreciated!

Government officials, others send thank-you letters or notes

Commonwealth of Kentucky

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July 1, 2014

Mr. Don Bottom, Warden Northpoint Training Center P.O. Box 479 Burgin, Kentucky 40310

Dear Warden Bottom:

On behalf of my co-chairman, Representative John Tilley, and the entire Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary, I want to thank you and your staff for welcoming us and accommodating our first interim committee meeting of the year

Most importantly, I wish to offer our sincere thanks for the critical work each of you do every day to protect the Commonwealth. Each of you are true public servants.

In recognition of your invaluable service, please find enclosed a legislative citation. If I can ever be of service to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely.

State Senator

WHW/ANC

From: Foster, Heather L (DOC) Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 9:34 AM

To: Wright, Tammy Lou (DOC); Johnson, Sarah G (DOC); McIntire, Abby (DOC); Brown, Shonda (DOC); Sullivan, Ashley (DOC); King, Briney J (DOC); Probus, Denise K

Subject: RE: P&P Investigator In-Service (May 20, 2014)

What a great day!!! All of you were so wonderful. I could not have asked for anything better. I cannot say "Thank You" enough.

The program evaluations were glowing with positive feedback. Most even stated this was the best in-service they ever attended. None of this could have been achieved without you

It was my pleasure meeting all of you and I look forward to continuing to work with you as well.

If you all ever have any issues, concerns, questions, suggestions, or ideas please feel free to contact me.

Thank you again.

Heather Foster Assistant Supervisor Probation and Parole, District 4 From: Stacey Dimon

Date: July 18, 2014 at 2:50:44 PM EDT

To: "Siegelman, Fred (KCI)

Subject: Furniture

I just wanted to let you know that we received our conference room table and four chairs yesterday. Each piece is of great quality and craftsmanship. I've had several people comment on them and I've already passed along your website.

I also want to commend everyone I worked with on their exceptional customer service. The crew that delivered the furniture were very professional as well. They set-up everything up and discarded all of the trash so you couldn't even tell they had been here.

Thanks again, Stacey

Stacey Dimon

Division of Government Communications, Lexington

Commonwealth of Kentucky



Warden Bottom

Thank you for hosting our Judiciary Committee lost week. I'm sorry I couldn't stay for the tour but from what I saw everything looked like you ran a great facility. Thanks for all youds.

From: Madeya, John (DOC)

Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 3:38 PM

To: Dailey, Hilarye (DOC) Subject: Becky and Jena

Mrs. Dailey - I wanted to say a big, huge thank you to your employees Becky Meehan and Jena Camden and let you know how helpful they were with their assistance in navigating me through the process of getting work done and the billing involved with that for the vehicle purchased by the US Marshals. They have the patience of a saint and were tremendously helpful guiding me through a process that was completely foreign to me.

John Madeya, Probation and Parole

INSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentuck



Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Thanks

From Page 9

From: Roddy Grimes Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:41 AM

To: White, Randy (DOC) Subject: Leadership Kentucky

Good morning Randy,

My name is Roddy Grimes a participant of the 2014 Leadership Kentucky Class. I wanted to extend my appreciation for your continued support for Leadership Kentucky. The KSP tour was an eye opening experience for me and I will certainly have a deeper appreciation for what you and your staff do. I now have a better understanding of the other side of law enforcement and how you deal with your population within the prison.

I was especially impressed with how you and your staff show and earn respect of the inmates while in your custody. I liked the response by Captain Thomas, "I don't want to know why they are here". This doesn't allow distractions within your own emotional intelligence.

In our business "Construction" complacency can and will get you injured. I appreciated your explanation when I ask you the question on how you deal with complacency within your work place. Although we are in very different businesses it's still a people business, I learn we have the same theory and that's continued communication, awareness, respect for your surroundings and lots of training.

Once again thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Roddy Grimes Vice President, Stewart Richey From: Carri Chandler

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:23 PM

To: White, Randy (DOC) Cc: gb@leadershipky.org Subject: Thank you!

Warden White,

Just wanted to let you know how much our Leadership Kentucky class appreciated the visit to your facility last week. When I was growing up, my mother processed work release participants at our county jail in northern Indiana, so I was personally familiar with corrections to a small degree.

I was so impressed with the professionalism of your staff. I know what we saw for those few hours was a snapshot, but I feel we all have a clearer perspective of corrections and a better understanding of the fine people who serve Kentucky well within those walls.

Thanks again!

Carri Chandler

Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc.

From: Shewmaker, Cortney M (DOC) Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 2:27 PM

To: Ingram, Amber (DOC) Subject: Marian Young

I mentioned this to Melissa yesterday, but I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate Marian. Her wealth of knowledge is invaluable to our Department. I appreciate her willingness to assist and her straight-forward approach and responses. Working with people like her certainly makes my job easier.

Thanks,

Cortney Shewmaker Assistant Director, Probation and Parole

Tara,

5-27-14

How are you today? I hope this letter reaches you in good health and good spirits. Well I just want you to know that I still use all of my tools that you and Mrs. Deniese taight US. I can't thank you enough for all of your time and efforts. I also want to thank you for getting my time sheet fixed. I think when get out I will be just fine. IF it was Not for that I for C I think I would have reoffended within the first Year. Don't get me wrong I think I am Still a blooming idiot, but I have my thought process And my reaction's are good Now. I still want to hit people but just for that split second thing you taught me I think before I react. I was hoping that you could help me get into that New Directions class. I have talked to my boss at work And I can come in early whatever day it is.

I really think that class would give me one last tool that I will weed So If you know who does that class tell them I would really like to set in. I would so into detail about my son but to much writing! Ld I will talk to you about it when I see you in here. ONE more thing before I close is there some one I CQN write to And tell them about our Class. IN my opinion you are the realist teacher I have head. I have head plenty of 90 day programs And Not a one came close to how much you cared about what you are teaching. You believe what you are tracking and NOW I believe it to.

Thank'S TARA

The letter at left was written by a graduate of the "Thinking For A Change" program who commended Probation and Parole Officers Tera Vincent, Denise Probus and Mike Rach on the ability to teach him new skills that he is using to prevent him from re-offending.

From: Hurst, Robin High School Principal

Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:20 PM

To: Herring, Steve (DOC) Subject: Thanks!

Steve,

Thank you so much for your coordination of the inmates to help us clean up after Project Prom. They were so much help to the head custodian and myself. I hope that we can work this out again for next year.

Mrs. Robin Hurst, Principal Lyon County High School

Please See THANK YOU, Page 11

INSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentuck



Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Thank You

From Page 10

From: Billy Bradshawc

Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 5:09 PM To: Wright, Tammy Lou (DOC) Subject: Kimberly Crews

Dear Ms. Wright,

Though the circumstances surrounding my wife's and my meeting with Ms. Crews, it was those circumstances that allowed us to truly appreciate her kindness. Several months ago, we attended a parole a man who attacked my wife. He grabbed her while she was jogging, held a knife to her throat and told her she was going to die as he attempted to drag her to his vehicle. Needless to say, that even still has its effects on my wife to this day.

Ms. Crews was present at the parole hearing and took the time to talk to us, prepping us for what to expect and making us feel more comfortable. I know that is her job, but she was able to do it while expressing compassion, understanding and the ability to be there for us if the need should arise as opposed to simply going through the motions. She was able to make my wife feel much more comfortable, believing Ms. Crews was the type of person you could easily build a friendship with.

Due to her outstanding traits in a job that must be difficult, I wanted to contact you and let you know how much we appreciated her. If I can answer any questions or provide more details, please don't hesitate to contact. Her performance is the type that should be acknowledged and rewarded.

Sincerely, Billy Bradshaw

From: Jones, Shannon J (DOC)

Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 11:25 AM

To: Wright, Tammy Lou (DOC); Lamb, Lisa (DOC)

Lisa/Tammy,

On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Charlotte and Kim for their excellent work. We have recently had a family come to a victim hearing and tell us what a wonderful and pleasant experience they have had dealing with victim services during such a stressful time for them. They were excited to meet Kim and requested to meet Charlotte who took time to come down to the hearing room and spend a considerable amount of time with the family. We are accustomed to getting positive feedback regarding victim services but that feedback has increased recently.

Hats off to you and all of the staff in your office as well. We are lucky to have such wonderful services for victims here in KY all the way around.

Have a great day!

Shannon Jones

Chair, KY Parole Board



Victim Advocates Receive a Well Deserved Thank You

Kim Crews (pictured at right) and Charlotte Ellis work in the Victim Services Branch at Central Office and assist victims on a daily basis. A family recently attended a Victim Hearing before the Parole Board to express their feelings about an inmate coming up for parole. Both Charlotte and Kim were very supportive during the entire process and helped to make the family feel more at ease. To show their appreciation, the family sent them both an arrangement of flowers just to say a big thank you. In addition, their supervisors have received the notes at left and below - all within a couple of weeks! Way to go Kim and Charlotte!

From: Wright, Tammy Lou (DOC)

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2014 1:03 PM

To: Lamb, Lisa (DOC)

Subject: Compliment from Caller for Kim

Lisa - I wanted to share with you, yet another compliment for Kim.

Ms. Cindy Tompkins from Fort Walton Beach, Florida received a VINE notification about her son's upcoming parole hearing. In her effort to learn more, she contacted the number provided in the message and reached Kim.

Cindy asked to speak to me because she was so impressed with the time Kim took to answer her questions and of Kim's understanding of our 'system.' Ms. Tompkins didn't understand the complexity or the terminology surrounding her son's case or incarceration.

Ms. Tompkins, who is a Nurse Manager, said she understood that "a little kindness goes a long way." And when someone does that it makes another's day. And that is exactly what Kim did, she made Ms. Tompkins' day with her time and kindness.

Tammy Lou Wright

KY Department of Corrections - Victim Services Branch

Please See NOTES, Page 17

Inside Corrections



Page 12 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Employee Recognition, News

Promotions Announced Throughout Department

David Higgs Promoted to Deputy Warden at GRCC

David Higgs has been promoted to deputy warden of Green River Correctional Complex (GRCC) in Central City. His promotion was effective July 16.

Higgs was the fifth employee hired during construction of GRCC and his entire corrections career has been dedicated to the institution. He was hired in 1994 as the prison's first fiscal manager and has served in this capacity until his promotion to deputy warden.



David Higgs

Higgs was instrumental in opening GRCC and his expertise was called upon in 2005 for the opening of Little Sandy Correctional Complex. His knowledge of institutional budgets and ability to forecast necessary purchasing to ensure budget restraints are met is a great benefit to the department.

He is an inaugural member of the GRCC Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) and in 2010 accepted the responsibility of becoming the team's leader. Later that year he was selected as the Western Region HNT Coordinator. He has also served as GRCC's Public Information Officer for 18 years.

Higgs has been recognized with numerous awards during his career, including the agency's top award, a Commissioner's Award, in 2013. He is a graduate of Murray State University with a bachelor's degree in communications.

Jesse Stack Promoted to Deputy Warden at LLCC

Jesse Stack was promoted to deputy warden at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex (LLCC) in LaGrange. His promotion was effective Aug. 1.

Stack began his career with the Department of Corrections in 2004 as a correctional officer at the Kentucky State Reformatory and he quickly began moving up the ranks in the department. In 2005 he was promoted to classification and treatment officer and in 2007 was again promoted to corrections unit administrator.

In June 2009 Stack transferred to LLCC where he initially worked in the pre-release office. In August 2010 Stack was promoted to corrections unit administrator II where he managed

an honor dorm, the substance abuse program and inmate orientation.

In May 2013 he was temporarily assigned to the Curriculum Branch in the Division of Corrections Training where he assisted with the revamping of the adult institution's in-service program. In January of this year he was promoted to program administrator for the department's training division.

During his tenure Stack



Jesse Stack

served as the public information officer for LLCC and also as an instructor for a regional leadership program, "I-LEAD."

A 2003 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Stack is a graduate of the Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program.

Merv Haddix Named Deputy Warden at LLCC

Merv Haddix was announced as a deputy warden for Luther Luckett Correctional Complex (LLCC) in LaGrange. Haddix begins his new duties on Aug. 1.

Haddix retired from the department in 2008 as deputy warden at Frankfort Career Development Center.

He most recently served as a director of security at Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center in LaGrange.

Haddix began his career as a correctional officer in 1982 at



Merv Haddix

the Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR). He worked his way up through the ranks to sergeant in 1985, lieutenant in 1989, Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) commander at KSR in 1991, and captain in 2002 at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women.

INSIDE CORRECTIONS Kentuck



Employee Recognition, News



Kentucky Wardens Visit Ohio to See 'Green' Initiatives

Department of Corrections Wardens Joseph Meko (LSCC) and Kathy Litteral (BCFC) recently visited the Noble Correctional Institution (NCI) in Caldwell, Ohio to benchmark green initiatives implemented at NCI. The two Kentucky wardens toured the Somat Pulper/Extractor used to reduce the water content of food waste. They also saw the "Big Hanna In-vessell Composter" as well as the housing units' recycling efforts.

Wright Elected to National VINE Advisory Committee

Tammy Lou DOC's Wright, manager of the Victim Services Branch, was recently elected to serve on the VINE Advisory Committee.

The VINE Advisory Committee (VAC) is comprised of seven VINE Program Managers and



is formed through a peer election process. Its purpose is to provide direct guidance and feedback to Appriss Senior management as they work to improve the services delivered to victims. This partnership is intended to enable Appriss to anticipate issues, assure preparedness, and be more responsive and reflective of its position as a victim service provider.

PBMS

From Page 1

entry methods used across the state.

PBMS is a powerful statistical tool that enables the DOC to compare key "performance measures" between institutions, and to compare the Kentucky DOC to other agencies across the United States.

The workshop was organized by systems consultant Beth Moore, programmer analyst III Cedric Coleman, and Program Administrator Coleman Morrell.



Those attending the training included: Organizers Cole Morrell and Beth Moore, Cedric Coleman, Briney King, Sara Pittman, Neva Bogue, Martha Slemp, Michelle Cockerham, Deborah Coleman, Aimee Harper, Patti Birch, David Alexander, Jeremy Lucas, Jessica Durrett, April Hall, Patti Ray, Tim Crutcher, Lindsay Dowden, Samantha Willis, Patricia Bridges, Loretta New, Brad Adams, Bridgett Gilliland, Donna Dailey, Sarah St. Clair, Lisa Mayes, Janice Dunlap, Roger Mitchell, Lawrence Betts, Rose Sewell, Christie Peach, Erica Greene, Betsy Patterson, Kim Stanaford, Sarah Potter, Jessica Fallen, Phyllis Perry, Robin McCalister, Paul Holbrook, Brandon Griffith, Teresa St. Clair, Suzannah Rostek, Debra Banks, Amy Douglas and Jacqueline Morgan.



Page 14



Probation and Parole Requests Continued Support for Officer

On May 1, 2014, District 2 Officer Mike Sears was diagnosed with B-Cell Lymphoma. Sears is appreciative of his DOC family, the **Correctional Peace Officers Foun**dation Catastrophic Assistance Program and the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency for continued prayers and generous contributions through his illness. District 2 sponsored a blood drive for Sears in Hopkinsville on June 24th. Additional blood drives in his honor will be held in the following locations: Owensboro - August 5 and 19; Greenville - August 12; Eddyville - September 2; Hopkinsville - October 7; and Elkton November 5.

KCI, Central Office Have Mock Audits



ACA mock audits were held in May for both Kentucky Correctional Industries and Central Office. Overall, audits found both operations conforming to ACA standards. Only very minor issues were detected that will easily be corrected. The two auditors were presented with plaques after the audit exit interview. Pictured above (L to R): Deputy Commissioner Jim Erwin, KCI Director Fred Siegelman, ACA auditors Michelle Vandusen and Ray Tamminga, Commissioner LaDonna Thompson and KCI Assistant Director C.A. Wilkerson.



Above: (L-R) Kim Potter-Blair, Melissa Chandler, Rodney Ballard, Kirstie Willard, Paula Holden, Jim Erwin, Gunvant Shah, Chris Patterson, Danice Martin, Sharon Kouns and Mark Carpenter

DOC Staff Visit Fayette Jail

The Fayette County Detention Center hosted an open house for their temporary outdoor kitchen. The nearly 5,000 square foot "tent" was used to serve more than 3,300 meals a day while the facility replaced the floor in the facility's kitchen. Director Rodney Ballard invited jailers and DOC staff to see the set-up and made the contractors available for a question/answer session, in the event they might ever need something similar at their facilities.

age 15 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Leadership

From Page 8

The mentors of each class member were recognized during the graduation for their valuable time spent with the class members and for their commitment to the department.

Each leadership session focused on a particular topic. Some of the key sessions were:

- 1) A tour of Northpoint Training Center
- 2) A visit to the Kentucky Supreme Court and a discus-

sion with Justice Bill Cunningham

- 3) A meeting with House Judiciary Committee Chair John Tilley followed by attending the committee meeting
- 4) A presentation by jailers and a tour of the Fayette County Detention Center
 - 5) Team Building
 - 6) Communication
- 7) "Everything You Wanted to Know About Personnel But Were Afraid to Ask!"

This year's program was facilitated by the department's Communications Office.

Members - Mentors

From Page 8

Alan Long – Food Services Branch; P&P Director Bob Rodriguez

Rodney Moore – Personnel; (former) Reentry Branch Manager Brigid Adams

Kim Gaines – WRTC; Deputy Warden Scott Jordan, KSP

Amanda Howard – District 13; Deputy Warden DeEdra Hart, WKCC

Shea Holliman – KSP; Deputy Commissioner Paula Holden

Starr Wright – P&P Re-entry; Deputy Warden Tiffany Ratliff, KSR

Ashley Sullivan, Offender Information; Warden Janet Conover, KCIW

Leah Beasley – Offender Information; KCI Assistant Director C.A. Wilkerson

Kelly Crocker – Capital Construction; Education Branch Manager Martha Slemp

Charece Brown – District 9; Cyndi Heddleston

Nikki Clifford – EKCC; Supervisor Sandy Taylor, District 18

Tim Horn – District 8; Warden Gary Beckstrom, EKCC

Matt Hayes – District 18; Supervisor Robert Taylor, D-16

Kirstie Willard - Local Facilities; PREA Director Bryan Henson

Andrea Collins - District 20; Supervisor Christie Feld-

man. District 7

Amy Robey, KSR; Warden Alan Brown, GRCC

Danny Norris – KCIW; Deputy Warden Phil Bramblett, LLCC

Briney King – Offender Information; Warden Clark Taylor, KSR

Troy Brown – District 14; Assistant Director Cortney Shewmaker, P&P

Danny McGraw – LSCC; Warden Greg Howard, LLCC

Tara Higgins – District 7; Melissa Chandler, Parole Board Support Staff Supervisor

Coleman Morrell - Adult Institutions; Warden Randy White, KSP

Laura Plappert – LLCC; Deputy Warden Vanessa Kennedy, RCC

Jason Walker – Parole Board Support Staff; Administrator Cookie Crews, Health Services

Nick Lilly – District 17; Director Chris Kleymeyer, Adult Institutions

Glen Hahn – District 4; Supervisor Todd Gaunce, District 9

Jackie Bodenhamer – Local Facilities; Supervisor Chris Copenhaver, District 12

Becky Barker – RCC; Deputy Warden Gary Prestigiacomo, NTC

Keith Hedgespeth – District 6; Veronica Hunt, SAP

Steve Turner – Interstate Compact; Branch Manager Mark Stonex, P&P

Laura Surbeck, District 16; Deputy Warden Sharon Veech, RCC

Page 16 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Promotions

From Page 12

In addition, he served as unit administrators at KSR and Roederer Correctional Complex before his promotion in 2007 to deputy warden.

Haddix received numerous awards during his career for outstanding performance.

Mark Wasson Promoted to Branch Manager of Internal Affairs

Mark Wasson was promoted to branch manager of Internal Affairs in central office. He assumed his new duties on May 1.

Wasson began his career with the Department of Corrections in February 1998 as a correctional officer at the Kentucky State Reformatory.

During his years of service, he has held the positions of officer, ser-



Mark Wasson

geant, lieutenant, captain, classification and treatment officer and probation and parole officer. Wasson has worked at the Kentucky State Reformatory, Luther Luckett Correctional Complex (LLCC), Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women and Probation and Parole District 16. He also served as the LaGrange area CERT (Corrections Emergency Response Team) Commander and the LLCC CERT Commander.

Wasson previously worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Office of Inspector General and served as a sworn peace officer in Fayette County.

He was named "Officer of the Year" for District 16 in 2011 and also received a Department of Corrections Hero award in 2012.

Wasson is a 1996 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where he earned a bachelor's degree in police administration.

Tim Horn Promoted to District 8 Supervisor

Tim Horn was promoted to supervisor of District 8 which encompasses Bath, Breathitt, Clark, Estill, Lee, Madison, Menifee, Montgomery, Owsley, Powell, Rowan and Wolfe counties. The district office is located in Mt. Sterling with field offices in Campton, Irvine, Morehead and Richmond. Horn assumed his new duties July 1.

Horn began his career with the Department of Corrections in 2004 as a probation and parole officer in Madison County. During his tenure as an officer he performed numerous duties including supervising a regular caseload, pre-sentence investigation preparation and serving as a member of the 25th Judicial Circuit Drug Court Team. He has also served as a firearms in-



Tim Horn

structor and security threat group coordinator since 2009.

In August 2013, Horn was promoted to assistant supervisor of District 8. Since that time he has served on the Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory Review Committee and is a current member of the Probation & Parole Firearms Board.

Horn is a 1992 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where he earned a bachelor of science degree in corrections and juvenile services. He is also a graduate of the 2013 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Development Program.

Michelle Blakeman Promoted to District 9 Assistant Supervisor

Michelle Blakeman was promoted to assistant supervisor of District 9 in Lexington. District 9 covers all of Fayette County. She assumed her new duties on May 1.

Blakeman began her career with the Department of Corrections in August 2006 as a probation and parole investigator. She was the first pre-sentence investigator in the state and was issued badge number one.



Michelle Blakeman

While serving as an investigator she was awarded two commissioner's coins for her work with the Kentucky Offender Management System (KOMS) pilot project as well as for her work with the social security office to assist offenders with getting identification cards once released from prison.

Blakeman also received the 2010 "Officer of the Year"

Please See PROMOTED, Page 26

District 15 Participates in 5K Fundraiser



District 15 staff along with family and friends participated in "Be a Hero 5K" in Huntington, West Virginia on July 12 to support "Wounded Warriors." District 15 was the third largest team that participated in the 5K and Officer Rod Smith was the Team Captain. Pictured above (L-R) Flynn Thompson, Supervisor Susan Thompson, Kaylee Elkins, Officer Tabitha Donahue, Officer Justin Wallin, Officer Billy Slone, Officer Rod Smith (placed 3rd with fastest time in his age group), Jenna Adkins(placed 2nd with fastest time in her age group), Lisa Adkins, Mia Adkins, and Officer Terry Adkins. Pictured front and center is Helen Workman and Marti Ratcliff.

Notes

From Page 12

Destr Greg,

Thork you so much for

learning opportunity for my students, Please express my



I can't thank you all enough for allowing us to come and learn what a prison is actually like. Thankyou for being so open to all of our questions and

2 Hannah King

Thank you so much for allowing us - Mill Brid

Regards, Jim Seaver, Fauthy

Thank you for giving us this eye-opening expenence. Thank you for letting us come visit and reading kinggs

for this experience. arethirde to warden Meko, the morn officers we met, and Totan and Rob of well.

Thank you so much for sharing with us! We really appreciate the opportunity to explore

Thank you for albung Thank you for jung us us to take the Such a first-hand

Ky. Governor's Schalfers Program, Morehead St. Univ. Sampus

The letter at left was written by students in the Governor's Scholars Program in appreciation of their visit and tour of Little Sandy Correctional Complex. The note below is from Parole Board Member Caroline Mudd and sent to Tish Tipton, Parole Board Support Staff.

> Tuesday July 22, 2014 Though of have verbally shared with you and others, I wanted to send you a little nate as well as a result of your effort and diligence, our Parale Violaton Boards have become much more effective and smooth. I realize the time that this took and of appreciate your willingness to make that one process much better. Throughout our many years together in this business, of have always admired and respected you. Many day you truly are my punshine and of am so grateful for you. Thank you again for the wonderful work you do! Hugo!!

Page 18 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Correctional Employees' Week Celebrated







Top left: District 20's Andrea Collins showed her graceful agility jumping a hurdle while carrying an egg between her legs. Top right: Paul Walker and Lt. Ricky Morgan (pictured) were winners of the GRCC fishing tournament. The fish weighed 18 lbs. and 6 oz. Bottom left: Jerry Brumley and Jessica Watson won the corn hole tournament for District 6. Bottom right: (L-R) Maintenance Staff Bob Lee and Jerry Kisner work the grill for KCIW Employees' Week.



Page 19 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 201



GOOD TIMES FOR P&P!





Top left: Todd Lafferty and Joseph Osborne (front) along with William Sweat and Ashlee Pearson (background) competed at the District 9 picnic. Above: Officers Chris Stamper and Adil Elmednoub enjoyed the P&P picnic in Louisville for Districts 4, 16, 17, 18 & 19. Middle left: (L-R) Michael Rach, Chris Stamper, Ben Edwards, Joseph Myers and Michael Mitchell play a game of volleyball during the P&P picnic in Louisville. Bottom left: District 12 employees held their picnic at Clear Creek Park in Shelbyville. Below: District 7 Assistant Supervisors Brian Anderson (left) and Dennis Harden removed Dennis' famous pork chops from the grill.



age 20 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 201





F U N?



Top left: Pucker Up! Jessica Durrett prepared to kiss Buford during RCC's Kiss the Cow event. Middle left: Tim Settles (front) and Dave Edwards grilled hamburgers for NTC staff. Middle right: Sergeant Mike Cepeda played in LSCC's corn hole competition. Bottom left: (L- R) Senior Captain Kevin Mazza and CUA II Anna Valentine are pictured 'grilling and chilling' at KSR. Bottom right: (front to back) Margaret Jenkins, Barbara Frederick, Amye Havens and Michelle Vance placed bids on items at EKCC's silent auction.





Vol. 7. Issue 3 - July 2014





CENTRAL OFFICE GETS IN ON THE FUN!

Above: Kort Thompson seemed to really enjoy hitting Jeremy Shuck with a 'pie' while John Hall looked on. Right: Steve Turner thought he was prepared for the "Pie in the Face" event. Far right: Nicole Dempsey demonstrated just how wrong he was as she unloaded a whole can of whip cream on Turner.







Above Left: Ryan Walters and Zach Schadler won the corn hole competition for central office. Above center: Tammy Lou Wright and Mike Caudill took first place in horse shoes. Above: Doug Lamb, Offender Information, seemed to thoroughly enjoy hitting PIO Todd Henson with a 'pie.' Left: Beth Moore won "Cupcake Wars" with her entry called "If You Like Pina Coladas and Getting Caught in the Rain." Moore is pictured (center) holding her award with the other entrants. Front row: Jeni Marye, Stephanie Hockensmith, Beth Moore, Chelsea Sharp, and Pat Sudduth. Back row: Cedric Coleman, Jessica Barrett, Eddie Newsome, Jesse Gritton and Katherine Williams.

age 22 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 201





FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST...



AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN, WE CELEBRATED!





Top left: (L-R) Jacob Johnson, Brittany Patton and David Bradley played the "Handball Toss" game at EKCC. Top right: (L-R) KCIW's Pat Pinkstaff, Brittany Piascik, Wes Dawson and Jan Ferguson helped prepare for Employees' Week. Middle left: WKCC Warden Steve Woodward took a plunge in the dunking booth. Above: KSR Correctional Officer Kim Rogers is all smiles during one of the prison's Employees' Week events. Also pictured (L-R) David Lovitt, Lisa Craigmyle, Captain Scott Stewart, Teresa St. Clair, and Charlie Brewer. Left: NTC's Michael Huffman, James Littlejohn, Greggor Wilson, Lyndon Compton and Josh Foister enjoyed some ice cream.

Page 23 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014





CEW SN&PSHOTS!



Above left: Sgt. Donnie Hartman and Fiscal Officer Clark Jones played corn hole at BCFC. Above center: Brooke Phillips (front) and Shannon Clarke enjoyed lunch at the District 2 picnic. Right: Testing the waters... District 15 Office Coordinator Julie Steele took a dip in the waters during the picnic at Carter Caves.





Probation and Parole District 11 posed for a group photo during the picnic at Jenny Wiley State Park in Floyd County at the Dewey Dam section of the park. Top row (L-R): Branch Manager Dan Fountain, Supervisor Gary Compton, Officer Kevin Bowling, Officer Jenna Caudill, Officer Amanda Johnson, Officer Cretia Barker, Officer Ricky Warf, OSA Connie Hogg, Officer Tiffany Smith, Assistant Supervisor Trenton VanHoose, Officer Pam Combs, Officer Gary Newsome. Middle row (L-R): Officer Robert Elliot, Officer Donald Wright, Officer Jason Turner, Officer Sloane Marcum, OSA Morgan Newsome. Bottom row (L-R): Officer Brian Thompson, Officer Sam Stamper, SSC Vikki Bonyata, Officer Nick Sloan, Assistant Supervisor Olivia Newsome, Officer Heather Wells, OSA DaSheka Williams, Officer Sonny Jones, Investigator Jarrid Deaton, and Officer Donald Ratliff.



Middle left: (L- R) Cory Howe, Stacy Rigdon, Aaron Zehnder and Jordan Holden participated in RCC's 'Shank in a Mattress' contest. Josh Mellick (background) looked on while enjoying his lunch. Above: The three amigos, Deputy Wardens Rickie Williams and Ron Beck and Warden Alan Brown served tacos to Officer Vickie Hampton and other staff on GRCC's Fiesta Friday. Below: Deputy Warden Joel Dunlap, Lt. Bobby Hardin, and Safety Specialist Tim Schenk grilled hamburgers for staff.



Page 24 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 201

CEW ANTICS: ALL IN GOOD FUN!













Top left: Luther Luckett Correctional Complex had an "80's Day" and this group rocked the style! (L-R) Sonya Angell, Donna Haddix, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Lindsay Dowden, and Laura Plappert. Top right: Bobby Parker threw a 'pie' at KSP Warden Randy White. Center left: Officer Heather Keeling gave UA II Steve Herring a pie in the face. Center right: Lori Frost and Carson Payne in District 20 danced while whistling the theme song from the Andy Griffith Show. Above: LLCC's Hezzie Turner participated in the Hula Hoop contest. Bottom left: (L-R) LSCC Correctional Officer Betty Gilliam, Warden Joseph P. Meko, and Correctional Officer Linda Smith were all smiles as they got ready for the complimentary dinner provided to all staff provided by the LSCC Staff Canteen.

Page 25 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

New Program to Start This Fall Fire Season

BCFC's Bloodhounds to Track Wildfire Arsonists

Beginning this fall, the Bell County Forestry Camp (BCFC) will make available multiple bloodhounds and handlers to assist the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) with arson investigations.

The KDF's new Bloodhound Wildland Arson Investigation Program will be there to assist incident commanders and arson investigators across Eastern Kentucky.

BCFC's bloodhounds have been an invaluable asset in the tracking and apprehension of escapees, as well as being utilized to assist in search and rescue operations when called upon to do so.

This new program will put the bloodhounds to work tracking wildland arsonists who typically set fires within one to three miles from their homes, well within the range of a bloodhound's tracking abilities.

When fire officials determine that a wildland fire is the result of arson and they can determine the point of origin, they can then contact the Fire Marshall and request that the BCFC Bloodhound Unit be activated.

If a bloodhound is able to track the scent trail to a particular person or residence, a Kentucky State Police arson investigator will be dispatched to conduct the investigation.

The new Bloodhound Wildland Arson Investigation Program will be spotlighted on numerous media outlets including televised University of Kentucky basketball games.

The BCFC bloodhounds will also be available for local prevention programs.





Top: BCFC Correctional Officers Josh Brock and Adam Sloan posed with bloodhounds Chloe and Magic. Above: The vehicle purchased with federal grant money by the Division of Forestry to aide in fire investigation and prevention. At right: Sgt. Quentin Mason posed with one of the prison's bloodhounds.



Page 26 Vol. 7, Issue 3 - July 2014

Training Held For Internal Affairs' Investigators

Employees of the Central Office Internal Affairs Branch and all Internal Affairs Officers from the 12 adult institutions and other selected staff attended training classes in May. The classes was taught by best selling author and speaker Stan B. Walters, "The Lie Guy."

Walters taught attendees how to conduct professional integrity interviews and also talked about the principles of kinesic interviews and interrogations.

In June, the Internal Affairs Officers participated in a weeklong training in conjunction with Kentucky State Police. The training covered a variety of topics including crime scene preservation, evidence collection, case preparation, court room testimony and interview and interrogation.



Internal Affairs Officers throughout the state and Central Office participated in recent training designed to improve their skill set and enhance the quality of the Department's internal affairs' investigations.

Promoted

From Page 16

award for her district. In September 2011, she transitioned to probation and parole and began supervising a caseload with both felony probationers and parolees. In 2012 she was appointed as a re-entry liaison with certifications in the following programs: Thinking for a Change, 24/7 Dads, EPICS, and New Directions.

Blakeman is a 2004 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where she earned a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration with a minor in psychology.

Don Keene Promoted to District 12 Assistant Supervisor

Don Keene was promoted to assistant supervisor of District 12 in Frankfort. District 12 covers 11 counties including Anderson, Carroll, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, Henry, Oldham, Owen, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble with satellite offices in Carrollton, LaGrange and Shelbyville. Keene assumed his

new duties May 1.

Keene began his career with the Department of Corrections as a correctional officer at Blackburn Correctional Complex in Lexington in October 2000. He was promoted to probation and parole officer in October 2001 and worked in both the Covington and Carrollton offices.

In June 2005, he transferred to the newly formed District 12 office and was



Don Keene

again assigned to the Carrollton office. He worked there until March 2011 when he transferred to the Frankfort office.

Throughout his time with the Division of Probation and Parole, Keene has acted as a community office liaison for two offices, District 12 firearms instructor and assisted with disaster recovery efforts across the state.

Keene is a 2000 graduate of Kentucky State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.