

Department of Corrections

News for Department of Corrections June 28,1997 Employee Recognition

To: All Employees of the Department of Corrections

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support while I was Acting Commissioner and during the confirmation process. I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciated the letters of support, calls, and personal conversations over the last several weeks. This legislative session has been a very positive session for the Department of Corrections. We have received funding for:

- at MSP positions to open a Mental Health Stabilization Unit
- at CCF to open the Northern Maine Detention Facility
- at CCF to receive Federal funding for a Therapeutic Community program
- at CCF to supervise and provide programs in order to move the minimum security females to CCF
- at MCC ability to expand additional adult male capacity by "receiving" additional security positions, program positions, and a classification position.
- at MCI we received six (6) additional guards to deal with the hardened population within the facility
- at MYC we received eight (8) training school counselor positions and staff to open a Diagnostic Evaluation Unit within Probation & Parole we received approval to request Federal funding for six (6) Probation & Parole Officers who will supervise high-risk sex offenders I believe that after several years of tough times for Corrections, we have turned the corner this Session with these positions and these initiatives and that we can use these initiatives as a springboard to move forward in a very positive way. I want to again thank you for all your support and hard work. It has paid off during this Session. I am looking forward to a continued working relationship with all of you during the coming year. Thank you very much.

Martin A. Magnusson

Commissioner

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Correctional Education Association International

Congratulations to Lorraine Christensen. At the international conference to be held in Houston, Texas, Lorraine will be awarded the Region 1 Teacher of the Year award. Region 1 includes all of New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Lorraine is a state certified Director of Adult and Community Education, Life Science Teacher and Literacy Specialist. She has been teaching in Corrections for 15 years and is an active member of the Maine Correctional Education Task Force. Congratulations Lorraine !

Reception with Governor

In celebration of Correctional Officer Week the following DOC Employees attended a Recognition Ceremony with Governor King, followed by a reception at the Blaine House: Charleston Correctional Facility Jim Chase, Correctional Officer I Kevin Perry, Correctional Officer I Carol Harvey, Teacher Steve Connor, Voc. Trades Instructor Christine Conlogue, Personnel Specialist Phil Blake, Plant Maintenance Engineer Maine Correctional Center Jeanna Blais, Records Dept. Harold Cain, Laundry Russell Kelley, CO II Mike Worden, Industries Bolduc Correctional Center Lt. Raymond Felt Officer James Coombs Sgt. Linwood Olsen Sgt. Dawn George Maine State Prison Gloria Seekins, Accountant I Ina Firth, Payroll Supervisor Gene Goss, Chief Engineer Walter Breen, Asst. Training Officer Lt. Thomas Johnson Officer Daniel Moran Officer Stephen Wood Major James O'Farrell Ester Riley, Prison Admin.Coordinator Diane Lugar, Administrative Secretary Karen Carroll, Director, Support Services Maine Correctional Institution Dana Little, Building Control Supervisor Holly Howieson, Nurse III Officer Arthur Simmons Col. Steve Mahoney Nelson Riley, Deputy Warden

The State Legislature recognizes the Third Shift at MCI in Warren:

Correctional officers struggle daily to protect our citizens by housing dangerous prisoners often at great risk to their own personal safety. On April 10, 1997, an inmate at the Maine correctional Institution set fire to his cell and himself. The third shift officers responded quickly, saving the life of the inmate and evacuating the facility in an orderly and efficient manner. Their quick action and professionalism resulted in no escapes or injury to other inmates. We extend our appreciation and recognition for their service.

Lt. Hildane Polky

Sgt. John Kinghorn

Sgt. Leon Bissonnette

Officer Scott Plaisted

Officer Richard Bissett

Officer Howard Gagnon

Officer Stephen Widecomb

Officer Stanley Smith

Officer James Champagne

Officer Corey Dodge

Officer James Jacques

Officer Sean Maguire

and Deputy Warden Nelson Riley and Chief of Security Steve Mahoney for their bravery, courage and professionalism during the recent fire at the Maine Correctional Institution from the Legislative Proclamation.

Downeast Correctional Facility

Scott Jones, Chief of Security at DCF commended Correctional Officers David Daniels, Peter Drew, Joseph Tibbetts, Lewis Beal, and Gregory Burns for their exceptional actions in response to three simultaneous assaults in Dorm I on February 20, 1997.

Their actions were a direct result of professionalism and commitment. It prevented a bad situation from becoming much worse. Well done!

Maine Correctional Education Task Force Awards

At the Annual Conference held in Waterville the following Awards were presented to:

- Brent Elwell (BCF) Academic Teacher of the year.
- Steve Connor (CCF) Vocational Teacher of the year.
- Colette Dickey (BCF) Volunteer of the year.

Maine Correctional Center

In Recognition of Correctional Officers Week, AFSCME has contributed five \$20 gift certificates to Shop'N Save stores. The lucky winners at the drawing were James Hunter, Russell Kelley, Wayne Willette, Thomas Koonitz and Joanne Dunn.

Correctional Officer Richard Pelletier, a 16 year employee, received a \$600 check. Since then he had to take a medical retirement. Rick, his wife, and two daughters have been most appreciative of the support they have received from MCC co-workers.

On Secretaries Day, MCC supervisors provided a buffet lunch for the Administrative Staff. Everyone had a good time. The secretaries that were honored were Judy Haywood, Paryse Thibodeau, Beverly Jensen, Laura Rhodes, Judy Blake, Jeanne Blais, Lynn Madar, Ann Paquin, Cheryl Libby, Donna Grass, Jo Pillsbury, and Kaye Hill.

Bolduc Correctional Center

A combination retirement party for two long time employees was held on May 12, 1997. Sgt. Linwood Olsen retired after 21 years of state service between MSP and BCF. He's going into a Caretaker position and will be missed by inmates and staff on the second shift at BCF. Howard Cobb, Grounds/Maintenance Foreman has retired after over 25 years of service. He is not certain what he's going to do after the years he's been involved with MSP and BCF. Good Luck and Best Wishes!!

Maine State Prison

On the evening of May 3, Maine State Prison held an open house. Nearly 450 guests toured the facility, kicking off Correctional Officers Recognition Week. Small groups were guided to the dining hall, industries area, recreation department, education, chapel and library areas. Brief descriptions of the activities or programs of each department were presented and visitors had the opportunity to ask questions of presenters.

There were demonstrations by the prison tactical team, K-9 unit, and the prison color guard. There was a brief award ceremony recognizing the accomplishments of Brent Elwell, the Bolduc Facility teacher, and the Correctional Officers who handled the fire, on April 10, at the MCI in an exemplary manner. Officer Janson Wiley received a Distinguished Service award for his work in providing emergency medical care to inmates.

Later that evening, colleagues, family, and friends gathered in a conference room at MSP for a reception and presentation of an award to retired Deputy Warden Lars Henrikson for his 30 years of dedicated service. Speakers included former Commissioner Don Allen, Commissioner Magnusson, Asst. Warden Bruce Wentworth, and retired Bishop Roger Blanchard. One of the new and renovated areas - Care and Treatment - has been named the Henrikson Annex. A replica of the dedication plaque was presented to retired Deputy Warden Henrikson.

Charleston Correctional Facility

The Charleston Correctional Facility has, again, had the privilege of having the most "Outstanding Vocational Teacher of the Year"! At this year's Annual Correctional Education Task Force meeting in Waterville, this honor was bestowed upon our friend and colleague Steve Conner, Vocational Trades Instructor for C.C.F. Steve operates our Vocational Woodharvesting/Forestry Program, instructing our prisoner population in the proper usage and techniques of selective forestry. Steve has been instrumental in the restructuring and expansion of our program offerings, starting the "Certified Logging Professional" certification program, and participating in the creation of the first "Prison Industries Program" at C.C.F. We hope our whole Department joins with us in celebrating this distinctive award for Steve!

Two of our Bloodhound handlers, Kevin Mayo and Scott Estes, with "Mr. Mago", have recently been through rigorous training at the National Police Bloodhounds Association's Annual Spring Training Seminar held in Maryland. This training proved very beneficial for both handlers and dog. And, soon after their return, C.C.F. was informed that the Maine State Prison will be donating another Bloodhound to our K-9 Team, thereby, affording each handler to train with an individual dog, thereby, creating an even stronger team.

Other matters of interest at Charleston Correctional Facility are the ongoing preparations for housing the "Female Unit"; interviews/hiring for staff involved; and the soon upcoming ones for the new juvenile detention facility to come on line in the fall.

Recently, a number of staff were involved in training at the Northeast Region Workshop of “Managing Incarcerated Women”, held at the Massachusetts State Police Training Complex in New Braintree, Mass, which was a very informative conference for all.

During the first week of June, personnel from the National Institute of Corrections will be on-site at C.C.F. to train and instruct staff regarding the female offender. Other facilities involved with the female units have been invited to attend a one day intensive training. We greatly appreciate the assistance from this organization, which has provided much needed training in this field.

Good Dirt ?

Want some good dirt? Best place to find it for this planting season is at the Maine Correctional Center where a high quality compost is being made.

Having developed two successful programs (garment manufacturing and upholstery) the MCC Prison Industries is experimenting with a third - Composting.

This new program was developed with the cooperation of the Maine Compost Team, nationally known for its’ expertise on recycling and composting, and with members of the MCC staff. The composting project began in November, 1996, and is known as “ The Maine Correctional Industries Compost Project - A regional Food Recycling Initiative”. Project Manager, Mike Worden states “ I have been pleasantly surprised with the results of the end product and its marketability.”

Composting consists of taking loads of food seconds from a regional local food chain, truckloads of leaves and grass from the towns of Windam, Westbrook and Gorham, and manure from a nearby goat farm. These ingredients are mixed in a recipe, and after placed in winnows, are monitored for temperature daily, turned frequently, and become in about 37 days a useable product, It is stored for about 60 days for it to ripen before it is sold as compost. While sales this spring have been to staff and interested local customers, Mr. Worden feels this market will be expanded to local landscapers and garden centers.

Because of the favorable factors already in place - the space available, the closeness to sources of material, knowledgeable staff, and enthusiastic laborers, the prospect of continued growth are encouraging.

The industry is approved in the area as it recycles formally unused products into an environmentally friendly end product without creating objectionable side effects. The project gives inmates here an opportunity to be occupied in a worthwhile endeavor and builds self-esteem.

Donald (“Jake”) Jacobson

has the background and enthusiasm to be a valuable asset to the Project. Jake has taught inmates how to operate the bucket loader and tractor and how to mix and monitor the materials.

Dean Wiley

is using “Yankee ingenuity” and making do with whatever is on hand to make a screen so that, in the future, the compost may be more finely sifted for potting soil. A bagging operation may be added in the future. Members of the committee initiating the project are: Maine Compost Team: Geoff Hill, State Planning Office Mark King, Dept. of Environmental Protection Bill Seekins, Maine Dept. of Agriculture Richard Berville, U of Maine Cooperative Extension Maine Correctional Center Staff: Mike Worden, Industries Manager Scott Burnheimer, Director of Institutional Services Donald Jacobson, Correctional Trades Instructor Dean Wiley, Maintenance Mechanic John Winant, Director of Maintenance

Director of Northern Maine Juvenile Detention Facility selected

The Department of Corrections has recently selected Lawrence D. Austin as the new Director of the Northern Maine Juvenile Detention Center. This new facility will be in operation later this year.

Larry is a native to Maine and has considerable experience in the area of criminal justice. After graduating from high school, Larry seized on the opportunity to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a Police Officer and entering into a field he describes as “honorable and necessary.” As a Deputy Sheriff at the Androscoggin Sheriff’s Department and a Police Officer for the Lisbon Police Department, Larry developed a fulfilling and challenging career in criminal justice.

Larry was with the Lisbon Police Department when he accepted a new opportunity with the DOC Probation/ Parole Office. He realized the significance of this role in the juvenile probationers lives. Larry saw this as his chance to have a significant impact on young offenders, who without guidance and new opportunities, might not break the cycle of crime that many had become accustomed to. As a Probation Officer, Larry wanted juveniles to recognize their criminal behavior and find ways to modify and change their life patterns.

In 1991, Larry was promoted to the position of Assistant Director at the Charleston Correctional Facility. He was able to continue his proactive approach to rehabilitation at the minimum security facility. Larry supervised and managed treatment programs, as well as academic instruction, religious services, and case workers.

In 1995, as a result of down sizing within the DOC, Larry’s position was eliminated and he took on a new role as a Classification Officer at CCF. He was promoted to Corrections Program Manager at Charleston in 1996.

Larry has now decided to take on one of his greatest challenges - the Director position of the Northern Maine Juvenile Detention Center. When he was asked why he applied for this new position, Larry explained that throughout his career he has focused on impacting the lives of the offenders. He has acted as a deterrent in preventing further criminal behavior and he has

maintained his position on protecting the public. He has been able to instill, in the juveniles and adult offenders, alternative choices and encouraged the offenders to lead more productive lives and become productive community members.

Larry stated that his new position will be one of the greatest challenges he will face in his career and one of the most exciting. As the first Director of the Northern Maine Juvenile Detention Center, Larry will be entering a brand new facility with nothing in place. He will be responsible for implementing and developing programs, hiring a staff, creating policies and procedures and scheduling activities for the facility. Larry has described this as a “rare opportunity”, explaining that it is not everyday that a person is invited to walk into an empty building and be given the responsibility of creating it from the bottom up. He is looking forward to developing a team to create a place of change and opportunity for juveniles. He maintains his belief that getting to young offenders early can only be a step in the right direction for their future and for the future of society as a whole.

Facility & Region Newsletter Contributors

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Next Issue: Technology