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DOCTalk July/August 2012 Employee Newsletter

Maine Department of Corrections

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DOCTalk

JULY-AUGUST 2012

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



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DOCTalk is the employee newsletter for the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC).

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January/February 2013 Issue:
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Please send submissions and changes to the contributor list to Cheryl Miller in Central Office at 287-2212; Fax 287-4370 or Cheryl.Miller@maine.gov

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Our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who submitted articles and photos to DOCTalk. Their time and effort contribute significantly in producing a quality publication.

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From the Commissioner



Commissioner Joseph Ponte

I hope everyone had an opportunity for some time off to enjoy this great summer. It is critical in these demanding jobs that we give ourselves time to recharge. Many of our executive staff have agreed with this philosophy and utilized their vacation time, some perhaps, for the first time in a long while.

We have completed all of our initial round table meetings and have a few follow-up sessions scheduled. These meetings have been productive and I've learned a lot from each session. We will be starting up our next quarter meetings in a few weeks.

By the time you read this issue of DOCTalk, MSP and MCC will have been through a comprehensive security audit, through a partnership with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). Gary LaPlante worked very hard to make this happen and we all look forward to the final review. The audit will serve as a guide to improve security, as well as, general operations in both facilities. Also participating in the NIC audit was Two Bridges Regional Jail which is under the leadership of Administrator Mark Westrum.

The Southern Maine Re-Entry Center (SMRC) at the York County Jail is still ramping up operations and programming. Unit Manager Jennifer Needham and her staff have done an exceptional job opening the facility and finding work for the women—18 out of 25 eligible inmates are currently working.

Maine Correctional Center has occasionally housed county jail inmates for several weeks now. Due to overcrowding in the jail system, our Department has agreed to accept overflow when we have capacity. MCC staff from the Multi-Purpose Unit (MPU) has done a good job adjusting to managing pre-trial inmates. It has not been an easy change, but under the leadership of Captain Emerson, they have stepped up made the necessary adjustments to get the job done.

Our three K-9 Units (Kyle Sylvester and his dog Gunner, Colt Sleaster and his dog TJ, Joseph Salisbury and his dog Tyson) are in the final phase of their training—drug detection. We believe these officers and their canines will be an effective tool in reducing drugs within our facilities and result in more prosecution of criminal behavior. In conjunction with this program, Gary LaPlante is working with the State Police K-9 staff to develop the next generation of K-9s. This will allow us to

Continued next page

ON THE FRONT COVER Thanks to Laura Bushey, Personnel Assistant in the Corrections Service Center for sharing her photo that appears on the front cover of this issue. Laura took this photo looking up the Kennebec River from the Madison Boat Launch while doing fireworks for Madison Anson Days. Share one of your photos and it might appear in a future issue of DOCTalk. (Email your photos to Cheryl.Miller@maine.gov)

From the Commissioner continued

obtain puppies and put them through the socialization and basic training readying them for the intensive K-9 training program.

Unfortunately, we had three recent “walk-aways” from our minimum security units and one from a juvenile program. All the individuals were captured and returned to custody due to the determined efforts led by the facility administrators, DOC staff, and local and State Police. Great job everyone!

We are finally in a position to address some of our Department’s major capital needs. A few of the projects will include secure ceilings at Mountain View and Long Creek, and security electronics at Bolduc and MSP. You should see signs of these and other projects beginning in the next 3-6 months.

Thank you all for the great work you do overcoming the challenges we face every day serving the citizens of Maine. You are appreciated.

Zero-Based Budgeting Update

By Jody L. Breton, Associate Commissioner

The Department, as well as all, executive branch agencies has been required to go through a zero-based budgeting (ZZB) exercise. We have been working on it for a couple of months and on August 9th, we did a presentation to the Governor, Commissioner Millett, and other key staff. Since then, we have been refining our documents and now are officially submitting them to the Budget Office.

This exercise has us looking at all the different tasks/activities we do and our mandates (why we do the tasks) to determine if we have any gaps. The gaps become opportunities for us to develop alternatives which become

budget initiatives. We submitted our budget before the September 1st statutory deadline.

This exercise really allowed us to look at what we do, why we do it, and what can we do differently. It showed places where we need to update the statutes, seek clarification, and demonstrate budget requests.

I want to thank everyone involved in this exercise as I know it was a lot of detailed work, but together, we were able to do it.

New PREA Coordinator

Hello all, my name is Michelle Urbanek and I am the State of Maine PREA Coordinator. PREA stands for the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA, P.L. 108-79) enacted by Congress to address the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. PREA has been an overlooked, but incredibly important aspect of the Country’s correctional facilities for many years. Implementing PREA into the State of Maine correctional

facilities means we can ensure the safety and security of the prisoners and staff, and that operations are not likely to be compromised by prison rape. For those of you interested in my background, I have a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice. I have also held multiple positions in the criminal justice field from corrections to law enforcement. I look forward to meeting all of you and extend a welcome to contact me should you have any questions.



Michelle Urbanek, PREA Coordinator

A Fresh Start

By Amanda Woolford, Director of Female Services

On July 25th the Southern Maine Re-Entry Center (SMRC) held their open house among state and county employees and community residents—the 14 women who had moved from Bangor to the new facility in Alfred, Maine. The women stood proud because they had put their own “blood, sweat, and tears” into the opening of their new home.

The new facility in Alfred will focus on providing inmates with personal growth skills, mental health services, and employment skills. The opening of this facility created 12 new jobs within the Department of Corrections—including culinary arts, landscaping, and carpentry instructors—and it is evident that each one of

these employees is there because they have the passion for working with female offenders in a community-based setting.

After being open for only one month, 60% of the eligible population is working in the community, and of those inmates who are not yet eligible for community status, 100% are volunteering with staff or working on a Correctional Trades Instructor (CTI) or Vocational Trades Instructor (VTI) Crew.

We are working thoughtfully to fill the 64 bed facility by moving only five or six women a week from the Maine

Continued next page



Jennifer Needham, Unit Manager for the Southern Maine Re-Entry Center and Amanda Woolford, Director of Female Services.

Fresh Start continued

Correctional Center (MCC) to SMRC. We decided to do this to minimize the disruption it would cause at MCC with a constantly shifting population. Our hope is to close down B-pod (in the Muti-Purpose Unit building) by this winter. The intention is to move inmates currently in the Women's Center to SMRC; and then move inmates from B-pod into the newly created vacancies in the Women's Center. The Unit Three Team has been meeting weekly to

discuss the challenges of this consolidation and everyone has been very thoughtful in their approach and has a great understanding of the direction we want women's programming to be going.

We are still settling into our new address and hope to have programming in full swing early this fall. Please feel free to stop by and say "Hi."



Commissioner Ponte and Amanda Woolford during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Southern Maine Re-Entry Center.



Commissioner Ponte, Director of Quality Assurance Troy Varney, Director of Victim Services Tessa Mosher, and Quality Assurance Evaluations Manager Ellis King.



Culinary Arts Vocational Trades Instructor Krista Okerholm adds a decorative touch on pastries served during the Open House of the Southern Maine Re-Entry Center.



The new facility at the Southern Maine Re-entry Center



Restitution and the Division of Victim Services

By Debbie McAllian, Victim Advocate, Department of Corrections

I have been with Victim Services at the Maine Department of Corrections as a Victim Advocate since January. Prior to accepting this position, I was the Victim Witness Advocate for the Waldo County District Attorney's Office. I was quick to learn of the volume and time involved researching the restitution cases in order to pay out the restitution to crime victims. Restitution is one of many tasks at The Office of Victim Services. Victim Services is completely dedicated to crime victims and the many issues that surface in the aftermath of criminal activity.

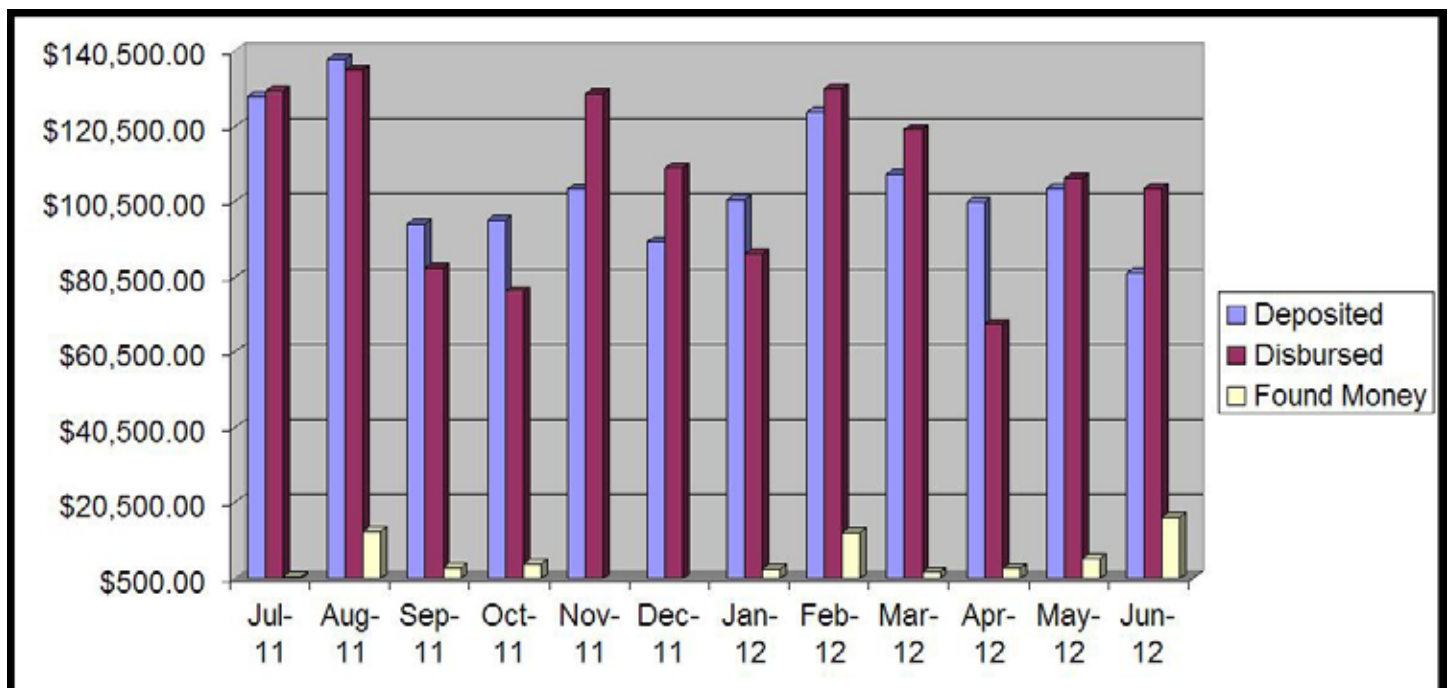
The chart below indicates one year of restitution funds collected, disbursed as well as "found money." A crucial aspect of this position is locating victims and ensuring they receive the compensation to which they are entitled by court order. "Found money" indicates the many cases in which victims were not entered into the system at all, restitution payments returned by the post office as "undeliverable as addressed and unable to forward," or victim(s) listed with no contact information entered.

The following chart reflects totals for year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

Restitution Payments Deposited	\$1,270,250.08
Restitution Payments Disbursed	\$1,279,586.02
Number of Checks Disbursed	11,711
Found Money	\$65,004.05

On January 1st of each year, a list of clients with unpaid restitution is sent to the Maine Revenue Service which results in garnishment of any tax refund that the client may be owed. This results in many inquiries from clients requesting an explanation for the garnishment and addressing any issues that may arise. During the dates of January 1, 2012 and July 30, 2012, the Department of Corrections collected \$59,598.46 with collaboration from the Maine Revenue Service of which \$55,638.45 was paid to victims.

Continued next page



Graph shows restitution collected, funds disbursed to victims and "found money" for July 2011 through June 2012 by DOC Division of Victim Services.

Restitution continued

The trauma that crime victims experience, forever changes their lives. The economic loss alone can be devastating and effects a victims' lifestyle, safety, personal welfare, family relationships, loss of property, medical costs, lost wages to name a few. Moreover, the emotional and physical trauma a crime victim endures, most often is irreparable. One incident of victimization can

completely alter the life of victims, family, friends, and an entire community.

Networking with other agencies is crucial when providing successful victim services and the Department of Corrections, continually strives to improve and develop services for all victims of crime.

Strategic Plan - Performance Measurements Measuring Volunteer Services

By Ellis King, Division of Quality Assurance & Professional Practices

The increase in volunteer service hours is one measure for assessing the progress of the Maine Department of Corrections in meeting the goals outlined in the Department's strategic plan. This measure specifically addresses objective B—to reduce the rate of recidivism of offenders released from the department's supervision. (see: <http://www.maine.gov/corrections/PublicInterest/goals.htm>)

Volunteer services includes any work or service performed for the Department by a person not employed or paid for by DOC. Examples of volunteer services are literacy volunteers, mentors, religious program providers, substance abuse program providers, and education service providers.

The total hours of volunteer services for 2011 is 20,060 (volunteer services hours for 2010 was 18,435) and includes both juvenile and adult

correctional facilities. The financial value of these services—based on a hourly rate of \$10/hour—is \$200,600. This is a low estimate because professional services would cost significantly more if provided by DOC staff or a contracted provider.

Services provided by volunteers to DOC can be contrasted to community services (discussed in the May/June 2012 issue of *DOCTalk*) which are provided to local communities by DOC inmates. Through these two programs, DOC and local Maine communities have established a collaborative exchange of services resulting in a *win-win* situation.

The goal of DOC's strategic plan is continual improvement. Ideally, each year the department would increase the number of service hours provided by volunteers. Each adult and juvenile correctional facility has a volunteer coordinator who recruits,

trains, and schedules volunteers. Continual program evaluation and regular contact with the volunteer ensures that (s)he is being used effectively and feels valued for the services (s)he is providing.

A special thanks to the many volunteers contributing their time and expertise to provide offenders with much needed services. Thanks also to the individuals within the Department who are working with the volunteer programs and documenting the services for the performance measurement.

For additional information on volunteer services within the Maine Department of Corrections contact the volunteer coordinator at the individual correctional facility you are interested; or contact Ellis King in the Division of Quality Assurance (557-8128 or Ellis.King@maine.gov).

Division of Quality Assurance

By Troy Varney, Director

The Division of Quality Assurance and Professional Practices (QA) staff has been visiting sites and facilities throughout the Department since mid-July to talk about the new Division's role, its services, and to share various projects currently in motion. As of 9/10/12 we have visited seven sites and met with over 100 DOC staff. The first round of presentations will take us into the beginning of November at which time we will begin the second round where the emphasis will be on meeting staff we were unable to see initially. We recognize this will be our biggest challenge given everyone's schedules and we will continue to team up with Departmental administrators to ensure all staff is aware of QA, its functions, and how we can be reached.

Since our initial presentation, QA has fielded nine requests through our online Request for Information and Services form located on [CorrNet](#) and the [DOC web page](#). Of the nine requests, two were internal and seven were from external customers, all of which received initial responses from QA within 24 hours and, with the exception of one data request due to information not being readily available, all requests have been met within the requested time frames.

Other venues in which staff may cross paths with QA are common projects we could be teaming up on together. Over the next several months, some of the larger projects QA will be involved with are:

- Combined efforts with OIT and other sectors in the Department, including our new medical vendor Correctional Care Solutions (CCS), to fully operationalized the Performance Based Measurement System (PBMS)—a national process that standardizes the outcome measures in our adult facilities
- Implementing a nationally recognized monitoring system for improvement planning projects

- Implementing two evidence based practice/blue print models for selected inmates at our two pre-release centers
- Working with adult services on fine tuning their re-entry and case management practices and assisting in the establishment and monitoring of community-based outcomes



Troy Varney, Director of QA presenting at the August Correctional Administrator's meeting.

- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) endeavors
- Reestablishing wraparound services for DOC youth

These are just a few of the many projects we will be involved with and I am in hopes that between our presentations and this work we have an opportunity to reach all staff in the Department.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact any of us in QA if you have any questions related to our core services which can be found by accessing the "Quality Assurance" link in CorrNet or the DOC web page. I can also be reached by email (troy.varney@maine.gov) or phone (441-0179).

Charleston Correctional Facility Out and About in the Community

Submitted by Dyana White, Secretary

Charleston Correctional Facility staff and inmates have been busy working in the local communities, here are a couple letters we have recently received expressing their gratitude. Inmates volunteered to help Mountain View Youth Development Center prepare for their American Correctional Association (ACA) audit by doing some cleaning and maintenance. Several also worked in Bangor to set up and tear down the Folk Festival. The Industries program at CCF is busy making snow shoes, snow shoe chairs, and other products for special orders or for sale.

Tom Sands
Charleston Correctional Facility
1202 Dover Road
Charleston, ME 04422

Dear Mr. Sands,

The Parkman Recreational committee would like to thank you and the Charleston Correctional Facility for your generous donation of wood chips to be used in the playground. It is donations such as this that have enabled the volunteers in the Town of Parkman to construct a safe recreational area for children in the community to play.

Thank you on behalf of the committee,

Anita Libby-Kain
Anita Libby-Kain

Town of Garland
P.O. BOX 36
5 Dexter Road
Garland, ME 04939
PH: 207-924-3163
FAX: 207-924-6615
Email: TOG5@nyfairpoint.net

August 10, 2012

Director, Chad Curtis
Charleston Correctional Facility
1202 Dover Road
Charleston, ME 04422

Mr. Curtis,

Enclosed you will find 4 letters from the Board of Selectmen of Garland as recognition for work well done by the following inmates:

96263
#4412653
#110182
#53783

Please review the letters and place in the appropriate inmates file. We have issued a check to JD Brown Inc., to be used by the Charleston Correctional Facility for needed repairs or purchases to help continue the Public Restitution program. This program has assisted the Town of Garland for many years and the work that has been completed was of excellent quality.

Thank you,

Juli Kimball
Juli Kimball
Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard

Staff Changes at Charleston Correctional Facility

This summer we have had several staff changes, Hollie Brewer and Ashley Williams are our new Caseworkers. Ashley came from Wings for Children and Families and Hollie from DHHS-Child Protective Services. Both women have brought great experience and fun attitudes to the facility. Gerry Scott was pro-

moted from Corrections Officers (CO) to Correctional Care Treatment Worker. We welcome three new Corrections Officers: Jonathan Lilley who transferred from MVDYDC; Robert Thyng from New Hampshire DOC and Christian McGinn who has been self-employed for the last couple years. Robert and Christian will

start September 10th. Joseph Riitano was hired as a CO/ Wood Harvesting Correctional Trades Instructor. Joseph has been employed with CCF and Mountain View previously and brings his experience in the Wood Harvesting Industry back to CCF. Leonard Wallace has retired at the end of August and will be greatly missed.

DOC In the News

Kids Behind Bars: Maine's youth correctional system has gone from abysmal to awe-inspiring.

By Jeff Clark, from the August 2012 issue of Downeast Magazine

"Barbaric." "Medieval." "The Dark Ages." Those are the words people use to describe the Maine juvenile justice system of fifteen or more years ago. The Maine Youth Center in South Portland was the target of federal investigations and multiple lawsuits for alleged mistreatment of young offenders. Newspaper articles routinely portrayed the system as badly broken and in need of reform. Legislators railed against it on the floor of the House.

Today Maine's youth corrections system routinely earns high marks and praise from national review organizations. Other states send delegations to the Long Creek and Mountain View juvenile facilities to

learn modern techniques for dealing with young offenders, methods that don't include isolation rooms and restraint chairs. Legislators, attorneys who specialize in defending youths, prosecutors, and outside experts agree that Maine now has one of the best juvenile justice systems in the country.

"It didn't take a genius to see that change was needed," recalls Bartlett H. "Barry" Stoodley, associate commissioner for juvenile services in the Department of Corrections (DOC). "The Maine Youth Center had more than 250 kids in the old days, housed in cottages that were pretty abysmal by anyone's standards."

Stoodley started with DOC in 1971 as a probation officer and worked his way up to his current position in 2000—without somehow becoming enmeshed in the old "lock 'em up and beat 'em down" culture that permeated the department in those days. Instead he became a student of juvenile correctional research, and today he frequently presents talks at juvenile justice conferences around the country.

This article continues and the full text can be found in the August 2012 issue of Downeast Magazine or at <http://www.downeast.com/magazine/2012/august/kids-behind-bars>

Learning The Art of Furniture Making

By Bob Walden, Prison Industries Director

Sunday, August 26th marked the official start-up date at Maine State Prison of the New Hampshire Institute for Furniture Making Craftsmanship program. Volunteer instructors will be conducting ongoing weekly training classes for a select group of prisoner participants in the art of fine furniture design and craftsmanship. The program is modeled after a New Hampshire Department of Corrections program established over 12 years ago and

Continued on next page.

New Hampshire Institute for Furniture Making Craftsmanship program will teach Maine State Prison inmates furniture design.



Furniture continued

our Maine chapter has been in the planning stage for over a year. It is exciting to see the program underway and is expected to expand our woodworking program offerings over the next few years.



Prison Industries Builds Herstik Wall

By Bob Walden, Prison Industries Director

The State Prison Industries Program, under the guidance of Correctional Trades Shop Supervisor Hallis Thayer, recently completed construction of a Herstik Wall for the Maine State Police K-9 Training Program. The wall

is now in service at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy with several DOC K-9 enrolled in certification training and all reports are that it is working well.



A Herstik Wall built by the State Industries Program for training K-9 dogs at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

To learn more about the Herstik Wall and training K-9 detection teams see:
<http://www.detectiondogs.com/about.html>



Promotions at Maine State Prison

On August 1st, Maine State Prison held a pinning ceremony promoting three sergeants to captains. Captain Ken Vigue (*left*) was



pinned by Deputy Warden Charlie Charlton, Captain Joel Parsons (*center*) was pinned by Unit Manager Dwight Fowles, and Captain



Troy Ross (*right*) was pinned by Unit Manager Russell Worcester. Congratulations to our newest captains.



Then on August 15th, Maine State Prison promoted three Corrections Officers to the Sergeant positions. Sergeant Shane Blakely (*left*) was



pinned by Unit Manager Russell Worcester and Captain Troy Ross; Sergeant Dennis Duprie (*center*) was pinned by Unit Manager



Dwight Fowles and Captain Millard Rackcliff; and Sergeant Mark Engstfeld (*right*) pinned by Sergeant Carroll Gifford.



Maine State Prison Welcomes Edward (Ed) Dahl

Edward (Ed) Dahl served on active military duty in the United States armed forces from 1971- 1998 retiring as a Commander, Supply Corps, United States Navy. In 1976 he earned a Bachelor's Degree in economics from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and in 1977 he was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy Supply Corps. In 1983 he earned a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Marketing from Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester), graduating Magna Cum Laude. In 1987 he earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In 1998, Dahl retired from the Navy as Commander, Supply Corps, United States Navy.

After retirement he worked in various senior inventory management, supply chain, and logistics roles for Staples, Whirlpool, and Exelon Corporation. From 2005 to 2012, he served as Eastern Maine Development Corporation's Regional Manager for the Maine Procurement Technical Assistance Center and



most recently, as the Deputy Warden for Support and Administrative Services at the Maine State Prison.

On a personal note Dahl enjoys home renovation, woodworking, computers and electronics and is married to Dr. Mary Tibbetts, MD, MBA, Chief of Mental Health Services for the Veterans Administration in Maine.

We at Maine Department of Corrections and Maine State Prison want to welcome Deputy Warden Dahl as

the Deputy Warden for Support and Administrative Services.

Congratulations to Danny Picard

Congratulations to MSP's new Special Management Unit (SMU) Unit Manager, Danny Picard. Danny will bring a wealth of knowledge and energy as he takes on this new role. Danny will also continue to cover the training division at MSP.



Maine Correctional Center Welcomes New Officers

The Maine Correctional Center is pleased to welcome on board the following individuals:

Melissa Bass
Donald Breinenger

Brett Butterfield
Sonya Cropley
Joseph Carter
Kay Grant
Joshua Grass

Joshua Hartley
Amanda Shipman
Corey Alley (transferred from the Downeast Correctional Facility)

Two Bolduc “Family” Members Retire

By R. Horton

In a small unit such as the Bolduc Correctional Facility (BCF), coworkers often begin to feel as close as family members, complete with the drama that often exists in families. In the past couple of months, BCF said “goodbye” to two of our *family* members.

We bid a sad but fond farewell to Ray Felt. Ray was hired in late summer of 1984 as a Recreational Officer at Maine State Prison. He also trained prison dogs for a while. He then rose to be Lieutenant, Captain, and finally, Unit Manager at BCF. Though a man of great stature—standing at 6’8”—he handled his duties with great understanding, a willingness to listen and consider other points of view, and his unwavering support was always appreciated. Because of his abilities, he left us for a while last fall to fill in as Director of Central Maine Pre-Release in Hallowell. He has also served as a part-time Deputy Sheriff.

As Unit Manager, Ray ran the weekly Unit Management Team meetings with efficiency, dispatch, and most importantly—despite the many pressures accompanying a job in Corrections—a sense of humor. Ray’s playful nature helped us through some tough moments allowing for the business at hand to get accomplished. He didn’t always agree with decisions reached through the Team’s democratic methods, but he would support the process and allow others their opinions without recrimination.

Perhaps not surprising in one so tall, Ray’s passion is basketball. He coaches his local high school’s basketball team and he is rumored to play a mean game of golf.

Ray is married and the proud and loving father of three daughters. This love extends to the local community as well, as shown when he shaved his head completely bald in support of a local individual stricken with cancer. Both figuratively and literally, Ray’s departure has left a huge hole in the BCF community.

Sergeant Creig Ponsant had been with BCF since 11/2/92. Sergeant Ponsant was extremely pleasant to

work with and earned a positive reputation among inmates as someone who was firm, fair, and didn’t hold a grudge. Other staff members could count on him to be willing and able to help in almost any situation while maintaining a good sense of humor. He will be missed by those who grew to know and respect him.

Both Ray and Creig have left their positive marks on the BCF community, and as they retire and move on to other ventures, they carry our support, respect, and good wishes with them.



Ray Felt, Unit Manager (above) and Sergeant Creig Ponsant recently retired from BCF.



Promotions and Transfers at Bolduc

As of July 23rd, Mae Worcester assumed the responsibility as Unit Manager in a temporary compensation capacity. Mae has worked for the Department for more than 35 years and brings with her experience in all aspects of the Unit Management process.

As of July 23rd, Margaret Morin has assumed the responsibility of the Community Programs Coordinator here at BCF, in a temporary compensation capacity. Margaret has worked for the Department for almost 15 years and brings with her experience in all aspects of the correctional field being highly respected by security and support staff alike.

Tony Mendez has recently transferred to BCF from Maine State Prison as our day Sergeant. Sgt. Mendez has worked for the Department for many years and was highly respected at MSP.

We welcome Tony to BCF and congratulate both Mae and Margaret.

New Programs at Central Maine Pre-Release Center

By Tracy Richard

Recently the Central Maine Pre-Release Center (CMPRC) began offering two new programs for inmates. [Inside-Out Dads™](#) is an evidence-based corrections programming that addresses the unique challenges incarcerated fathers face. By helping inmates develop pro-fathering attitudes and teaching the necessary skills, the program provides dads with strategies to connect with their families and prepare them for release. This twelve week program will be offered to an initial group of ten inmates.



We are also pleased to be partnering with [Guitar Doors](#), a non-profit organization with the goal of inspiring incarcerated individuals to think and express themselves in new ways, and teach the benefits of group dynamics through small group instruction on the guitar. This program will hopefully bring inmates together towards the

common goal of making music together, and encourage an interest in arts and creativity.

Staff Changes at CMPRC

The Central Maine Pre-Release Center (CMPRC) is pleased to announce that Correctional Officer (CO) Charlie Bean has been promoted to sergeant. He has been an employee at CMPRC for two years, and is a great addition to our supervisory staff.

We also welcomed a new per diem RN, hired by Correct Care Solutions (CCS). Melanie St. Michael joins our full-time nurse in providing medical care for up to 64 inmates. This new addition will ensure that there is medical care available for the inmates returning from work release jobs in the evenings. We look forward to having her on board!

Recently CMPRC completed interviews to fill open CO positions. We are hoping to fill all open spots by the end of the month.

News From Downeast Correctional Facility

By Debbie Day, Secretary

Conversion to Minimum Security

Downeast Correctional Facility (DCF) has been deeply immersed in our conversion to a minimum custody. We have come a long way. Milestones include: opening the gate, two new Correctional Trades Instructor (CTI) positions, a second caseworker, and prisoners going out on work release assignments. The conversion to minimum requires us to perform our jobs from a completely different perspective and we have been successful. There are more changes coming and we Downeasters will effectively meet the challenge.

Welcome Susan

DCF welcomes Susan Knight as a caseworker. Sue comes to us with over 10 years experience in case work with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Busy Work Crews

Outside work crews have been busy preparing schools for the new school year. Tibbetts' and Johnson's crews have focused on painting the interior and exteriors of schools. Vocational Trades Instructor (VTI) Sprague just completed the installation of two handicap access ramps for the Bay Ridge School in Cutler. Sawtelle's crew performed a multitude of tasks for local communities to include building maintenance for town office building and fire stations.

Jeff Mason and his crew just completed a project for the St. Croix No. 1 Fire House on Church Street, Calais. The Association has been involved in an eight year restoration project and Jeff's crew completed the cabinets for installation in the kitchen. On September 15th they will be dedicating a window to the firemen of New York who lost their lives during the 911 disaster. Jeff's crew as well as the carpentry vocational program class worked on the restoration of the facility's library school department.

Welding VTI Craig Smith and his class designed and fabricated aluminum water tanks for two ATV's for the Machiasport Fire Department.



Kitchen cabinets prior to Jeff Mason's crew's restoration efforts.



ATV's for the Machiasport Fire Department.



This tanker is a proto-type for Forestry—it's a 1,000 gallon water tank. Craig Smith has been working closely with Forestry developing a large capacity tanker for use in Maine's forests.

Summer Fun at Mountain View Youth Development Center

Photos by Marsha Higgins, Volunteer Services Coordinator

Mountain View has had a very busy summer! On August 14th, the entire facility celebrated its first Annual Field Day. We had a large barbecue cookout for residents and staff while

enjoying time outside in the ball field and picnic area. There were a variety of games to be played with staff managing the posts and tracking the activities. We had some water events,

including a slip and slide (the kids absolutely loved this—mud and all), a wading pool with marbles, and “Dunk Tank!” Lots of events and fun for all!



Slipping, Sliding, and Hooping it up!



Superintendent Jeff Morin takes a “Dunk!”



Summer means barbecue!

Mountain View Youth “Working with Feel” and Horses

By Lori Prestridge, MVYDC Special Education Director

“He acts a lot like I do,” J., an 18-year-old youth, remarked after working with a young energetic and slightly erratic horse. “He (the horse) doesn’t mean anything (bad) by it.”

J. and three other youth committed to MVYDC were participants in a six-week equine program at Northern Maine Riding Adventures in Garland, funded by a grant for at-risk youth.

The youth were selected for the program once they successfully completed the majority of their treatment program at MVYDC and needed to gain employment experience for their resume as part of their Jobs for Maine Graduates program.

The goal of the program is to give youth real-world experiences that cultivate employment skills, community service, and by the very nature of the program—therapeutic benefit. The value of the program was apparent to J. on day one when he announced that the program was “amazing” and not only had he “learned how to communicate with the horses” but made a connection with how the program “will help communication development” in general. By session four, he was able to identify and express his emotions appropriately to the horse he was working with by saying, “I’m having an off day so be patient with me.”

Not only are the youth learning animal care and handling for employment purposes, but they are receiving instruction in life skills as well. At the onset, they learned how to “observe the herd” and look for signs as to how horses communicate with one another, as well as, patterns of

clean pasture and stall; and *working with feel*—using all the senses to understand the language of the horse. Our youth have a lot of emotions, which in part, are expressed through their body language. When they’re around these sensitive animals their emotions can easily impact the



Mountain View youth participate in an equine program at Northern Maine Riding Adventures in Garland, Maine.

horse behavior. The youth also have learned how to introduce themselves to and communicate successfully with an unfamiliar animal; how to build trust by remaining positive and calm when interacting with a horse; what safety measures to take in order to manage a horse effectively; grooming and how it’s a vital part of a horse’s health; the importance of a

horses’ behavior. The horses give our youth the feedback needed to adjust their own behavior. Remaining calm and identifying the problem that caused the animal’s uneasiness is the skill being cultivated.

With each visit, the smiles of our youth grow wider, their confidence becomes more apparent, and having

Continued on next page.

Feel continued

something to look forward to is evidenced by queries of, “When are we going out again?”

The Equine Program completed on August 30th with four students gaining that special working knowledge to put on their resumes. A special thank you to the following staff for making this program possible: Pat Gillis from Jobs for Maine’s Graduates; Volunteer Coordinator and Program Photographer Marsha Higgins, and Principal Cheryl Quinn. Thanks also to all the staff who helped with coordination, transportation, supervision, and more to ensure the success of the program.



Mountain View students hard at work.



Volunteer Coordinator Marsha Higgins with Mountain View students.



Mountain View Staff Updates

Promotions

Dr. Nina Boulard, MVYDC Psychologist was recently promoted to Deputy Superintendent of Mental Health Services. Nina started at MV in January 2004, and has expressed that her work experience at MVYDC has been very rewarding. She is now very excited about expanding her services through overseeing the mental health programs at MVYDC, and Charleston Correctional, and Downeast Correctional Facilities. Congratulations, Dr. Boulard!

Donald "Bud" Dillon and Shane Tyrell have been promoted into the Juvenile Facility Operations Supervisor positions that they've been doing in acting capacity since April on the second shift. Congratulations to both as they have done a superb job.

Retirement

Jeff Perkins, JFOS retired effective July 18, 2012, and we wish him the very best!

Mountain View Staff and Residents Swim at YMCA



The Friends of Mountain View have sponsored three trips to the local YMCA for residents and staff to enjoy a swim. Participants on the first two trips had a terrific time. We're so grateful for the this opportunity and are looking forward to the third trip to the Y!

JPW Tim Kuespert enjoys a swim at the Y.

Cider Pressing at Mountain View

By Larry Casey, Science Teacher

Mathew Stevens, a full-time Bangor fireman and part-time farmer, was a guest speaker at MVYDC School recently. Mr. Stevens brought in the cider press used on the family farm for over 20 years to teach students how to make apple cider.



Scott Demoranville, Rodney Lopez and Mr. Stevens press apples with MVYDC students.

Marsha Higgins, superintendent of volunteer services coordinated the activity. Ms. Higgins arranged for the demonstration to be outside on the athletic field where students were able to learn, expend some energy, and enjoy the nice summer weather all at the same time. This was a cooperative learning activity between Scott Demoranville's building trades class and Larry Casey's science class. Youth enjoyed learning some hands-on activities and applying science to the making of apple cider.

Special thanks to kitchen supervisor Jason Goggin, who supplied the apples for this learning exercise. This was another extremely effective learning activity due to the caring and cooperative environment evident at MVYDC.

Mountain View and Charleston Staff Walk on National Employee Health and Fitness Day

By Tiz Beaulieu, Project Impact

May was National Employee Health and Fitness month and for a second year, Mountain View Youth Development Center and Charleston Correctional Facility hosted the National Employee Health and Fitness Day Walk on May 16, 2012. It was another very successful year with well

over 50 staff members from both facilities participating in the walk. And once again this year—DOC had one of the largest number of walker participants from sites all around the state!



Pat Armitage and June Allen.



Colleen Hurley and Dr. Nina Boulard.



John Roberts, Chad Curtis, Dyana White, and Christine Brown.



(Above) Tiz Beaulieu and Barbara Atkinson organizing T-shirts for the walk.

**Thanks
to Tiz for
organizing
our walk. We
all loved it!**



Sandy Cyr

Kyle and Gunner

Canine Officer Kyle Sylvester and his partner Gunner did a training and demonstration for staff at the Mountain View Youth Development Center.

Officer Sylvester and Gunner resting (right) and working (below). Ryan Dearborn provided the "bad guy's" arm. Ouch!



Region 1 • Adult Community Corrections

By Carol Carlow

It has been a busy summer filled with much awaited vacation, time spent with family and friends, time to regroup, and time to recharge our batteries for another year.

Before we move into the fall season, we like to take a moment and welcome our newest staff member Deanna Fernandez. Deanna comes to us with a law enforcement background having served a number of years with the Portland Police Department, first as a dispatcher then as a patrol officer. Right now Deanna is getting her feet wet by job shadowing, but soon she will enroll in formal training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as soon as that becomes available. Upon graduation she will be based in the Portland office and will assume supervision of a case load. Deanna comes to us with the highest recommendations from her former supervisors and peers. It is with great pleasure we welcome her to Region 1.

Region 2 • Adult Community Corrections

By Donna Davis

On July 20th, commendations were given to three employees at the Region 2 staff meeting held at the Lewiston Office by RCA Scott Landry. Awards were given to the following employees:

Probation Officer Mark Fortin for his efforts in an investigation leading to the arrest of an individual who was exploding high-powered bombs in the Augusta area.

Probation Officer Joe Galego for his part in an investigation that prevented the escape of an individual at Central Maine Pre-Release Center.

Continued on next page.

Region 2 • Adult continued

Office Associate Donna Davis for her role in completing a massive archiving project in the former Auburn office on a very short deadline in anticipation of the office move to Lewiston.

On 8/16/12, Probation Officers Rob Omiecinski and Adam Silberman participated in *Operation Hot Spot* with Lewiston PD. *Operation Hot Spot* is a collaborative enforcement effort that includes local, county, state, and federal agencies targeting a specific area. The operation was started in response to an increase in violent criminal

offenses in the Lewiston area, including an increase in weapons violations. Every week there are different operations, some target probationers while others focus on prostitution or drugs. To date, approximately 18 probationers have been visited.

David Ferrell retired on August 1, 2012 after 25 years of state service. David held several positions within the Department of Corrections, retiring as Regional Correctional Manager, Region 2 Augusta.



October 13-14, 2012

Lewiston-Auburn, ME

An event to benefit The Patrick Dempsey Center for Cancer Hope & Healing

Mike Simoneau (Probation Officer, Region 2-Lewiston) has created a team for the Dempsey Challenge in October in support of his wife Tiffany Simoneau (Probation Officer, Region 2-Lewiston) who is battling cancer. If anyone is interested in being on the team (biking or running) or just wants to offer a donation of

support, you can go to the website dempseychallenge.org and click on the "Teams" link, then scroll down and choose "Tiffany Tough." You can donate directly online or give the money to Mike Simoneau and he will donate it for you. All the donations support cancer research and the Cancer Center in Lewiston.

Region 3 • Adult Community Corrections

By Mary Jones and Pat Delahanty

New To The Region

We are very pleased to welcome Jennifer Mitkus as our newest Probation and Parole Officer (PPO) in Region 3. Jennifer was hired on July 30th and will be working out of our Rockland office. She comes to us from the Damariscotta Police Department, where she was employed as an officer for several years. Their loss is definitely our gain. Welcome to the Region Jennifer!

Interviews, Interviews, and More Interviews

RCAs, RCMs, and several PPOs from all three regions of Adult Community Corrections recently completed

the first round of hiring boards for 12 newly established Probation Officer Assistant positions around the State. Over 100 candidates were interviewed over the course of three plus weeks. From those interviewed, the top candidates will be invited to participate in a second (and hopefully final) interview in the near future. We are anxiously looking forward to having these positions filled to assist in reducing caseloads and casework for the PPOs. A big thank you to all of the PPOs who took time out of their busy schedules to assist with the oral board interviews! Your participation and input into this process was invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Region 2 • Juvenile Community Services

By Susan L. Carr, Regional Correctional Manager

I am the new *DOCTalk* contributor for Region 2-Juvenile Community Services. We have new staff that we would like to welcome aboard. First, we have hired a new Office Assistant, Jessica Peaslee. Jessica has been hard at work learning about our mission, her new job responsibilities, and CORIS. We have also hired a new JCCO, Steve Labonte, who worked at Long Creek as a Juvenile Facility Operations Supervisor (JFOS). Steve will take on Southern Kennebec County. Welcome Jessica and Steve to Region 2!

Jay Pennell transferred to Region 2 this past winter and is covering Lewiston. Christopher Raymond also covers Lewiston and with that said, we've been actively learning about the culture of Lewiston's large Somali population. Jay and Christopher have taken on the task of bringing community members together to collaborate, teach and learn from each other. Everyone is committed to becoming culturally sensitive. Below is an article from the *Lewiston Sun-Journal* on a recent question and answer session about the Juvenile Justice System.

Lewiston Locals Get Educated in Juvenile Justice

By Jose Leiva, Lewiston Sun Journal

Sometimes, when there's confusion among the people, nothing beats a good Q&A session.

Within the local Somali community, there is plenty of confusion where the law is concerned. What's the difference between a misdemeanor and a felony? What does the district attorney do? When will a suspected criminal go to jail as opposed to being sent home on probation?

"We have questions that we don't know the answers to," Somali Bantu leader Rilwan Osman said at the first Juvenile Justice System panel discussion at B Street Community Center on Birch Street on Tuesday.

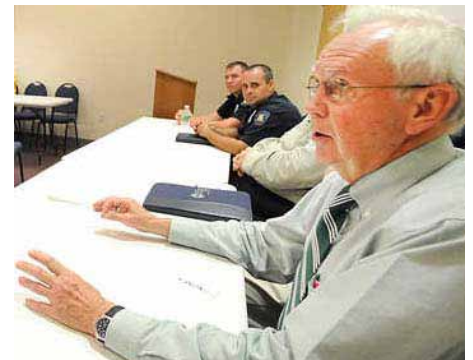
No problem. To get information about legal matters, a group of four dozen Somali youths and their parents went right to the source, firing question after question at

the panel that included two police officers, a juvenile corrections officer, a pair of case management experts and a district court judge.

Almost every juvenile in the room—they were 90 percent of the crowd—wanted to know how to avoid landing in jail.

"If you commit a serious crime like robbery, burglary, aggravated assault or if you get into the drug scene, you could be sentenced to the youth center," 8th District Court Judge John Beliveau told the group.

The world of juvenile justice is different from the world of adult justice, Beliveau explained to them. Police, court officials and judges do all they can to keep children at home with their parents. It wasn't always that way.



Judge John Beliveau of 8th District Court in Lewiston responds to questions about the juvenile justice system during a question-and-answer session Tuesday at the B Street Community Center in Lewiston. A panel made up of police officers, a probation officer, a judge and social workers fielded questions about the justice system for a group of Somali Bantu youths and parents.

"Just a hundred years ago, you people would have been treated like adults," the judge said.

Continued on next page.

Juvenile Justice continued

Community Resource officers Craig Johnson and William Rousseau explained the difference between felonies, which can involve jail time of a year and up, and misdemeanors, which are punishable by less than one year.

They mostly see misdemeanors, the officers said. Locally, kids get in trouble by violating city ordinances or state laws. They stay out beyond curfew. They scribble graffiti on walls or get caught with cigarettes. When it happens, police work closely with Juvenile Community Corrections Officer Jay Pennell to determine what happens next.

“We decide what to do with the charge,” Pennell explained. “We bring in the families and ask a whole bunch of questions.”

The parents wanted to know what rights and responsibilities they have when their children will not behave. Many wondered what is involved with a juvenile's criminal record.

“Most kids believe that when they turn 18, their record goes away,” Pennell said. “That is not true. It doesn't go away; it just becomes protected.”

If a young adult had a juvenile record, it may come into play if they want to join the military, become a police officer or go into banking.

And speaking of becoming a cop, more than one child in the room

wanted to know what it takes. That's a common question, Lewiston Police Chief Michael Bussiere said. In the Somali community, children frequently express interest in law enforcement when asked about their career goals. His advice?

“Stay in school. Keep your nose clean. Don't do anything you'll regret later. Go to college if you can,” Bussiere said. “Then come and see me. If you keep your nose clean and you graduate, we'll probably hire you.”

Also on the panel were targeted case manager Stephen Telow of Learning Works and Spurwink Trauma Systems therapy clinician Melissa Marcinuk. Both work with juvenile offenders, parents and police to help kids avoid trouble and abide by conditions set by the courts.

The questions just kept coming. They wanted to know the difference between Class A, Class B and Class C crimes. They wondered what the FBI is all about and at what point a Somali immigrant could be deported.

Officer Johnson handled the former question. Because the United States does not presently recognize the government of Somalia, he said, in serious federal crimes, the U.S. government might choose to detain an immigrant until conditions change and the suspect can be deported.

“On the state level, we don't deal with deportation at all,” Johnson said.

Osman and his group have been holding justice system workshops all summer. Tuesday's meeting marked the first time they tackled juvenile justice with a panel of experts to answer questions.

It wasn't all grim questions with somber answers. Some of the children wondered about lighter things, such as how police officers decide when to run their lights, when to turn on their sirens and when to go quietly.

Officer Rousseau handled that one, explaining the difference between Code 1, Code 2 and Code 3 police responses. Code 3, with lights and sirens, is meant for urgent incidents, Rousseau said. Even so, a cop doesn't fly through city alleys, overturning fruit carts and jumping up onto curbs like some of the children might have seen on television.

“We can't just disobey all the traffic laws,” Rousseau said. “We have to be cautious with our driving. It's a way for us to notify the public that we need to get somewhere where somebody is hurt or might be hurt.”

This article was reprinted from the Tuesday, August 14, 2012 [*Lewiston-Auburn Sun Journal*](#)

Region 3 • Juvenile Community Services

By John Bennoch, JCCO

JCCO Roxann Austin recently shared an example of the great work the Bucksport Diversion Program under the leadership of Barb Ames has been doing for several years. Roxann received a referral on a girl who was charged with possession of alcohol. The girl, who has aspirations of becoming a pediatric dentist, chose to participate in the Diversion Program. In addition to substance use counseling, Barb was able to arrange for the girl to volunteer at a local dentist's office. After completing the hours, the dentist offered her an internship when she enters dentistry school next year. This was a wonderful outcome that will hopefully help this client make positive

choices and achieve her goals.

Region 3 held its annual out of the office summer staff meeting on August 31st. JCCO Austin (again) graciously provided the use of her home and amenities. Rather than the usual grilling, we chose to take advantage of the low prices and enjoy some lobster. The rain threatened but never became an issue. The temperature didn't come close to the high 80s that were predicted so those that came prepared to use the pool decided to stay dry. After dispensing of the work-related agenda, it was good to socialize and engage in a little "friendly" competition.

Backpacks for Children in Need



The Downeast Correctional Facility Garments Program donated backpacks for the Backpack Drive for Children in Need. The backpacks are constructed from the scraps left over from the manufacturing of jeans for the prisoner population.

Long Creek Youth and Staff Participated in the Beach To Beacon Race

This summer Long Creek staff and residents ran in the Beach to Beacon Road Race on August 5th. Congratulations to all the LCYDC participants competing in a crowded field with intense heat, and in particular to Superintendent Bouffard who was the first to complete the course from LCYDC.



Inmate work crews touted

By Mal Leary, Capitol News Service

AUGUSTA -- Work crews of inmates from state correctional facilities are providing state agencies, as well as local schools and towns with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of repairs, construction, road work, painting and other maintenance every year.

"We use \$10 an hour as a value for the labor," Corrections Commissioner Joe Ponte said in an interview. "We have some jobs we do that are more

sophisticated, and the labor is worth more than that."

For example, he said, there are work crews that overhaul surplus military vehicles and add tanks to them to carry water for the Forest Service. He said inmates also make or re-make furniture that has been used by the Department of Corrections and other state agencies.

"Some of those jobs are worth a lot more than painting a fence

or clearing brush," Ponte said, "If you put a better estimate on the value of the work, we could be in the millions of dollars a year."

He said that in 2011, the work crews provided 39,201 hours for projects as diverse as remodeling offices, bridge maintenance for the Department of Transportation and clearing snow from the roofs of both state and municipal buildings.

"It's a good service, both for the community and for the inmates and crews that go out," Ponte said. "The inmates feel good about giving back to the community."

This article continues and the full text can be found in the September 17th issues of [Portland Press Herald](http://www.portlandpressherald.com/news/inmate-workcrewtouted_2012-09-16.html) or at http://www.pressherald.com/news/inmate-workcrewtouted_2012-09-16.html

Employees' Services Anniversaries

Facility Key:

CC-Community Corrections/

CO- Central Office

CCF-Charleston Correctional Facility

CMPRC-Central Maine Pre-Release Center

DCF-Downeast Correctional Facility

LCYDC-Long Creek Youth Development Center

MCC-Maine Correctional Center

MSP-Maine State Prison

MVYDC-Mountain View Youth Development Center

SMRC-Southern Maine Re-Entry Center for Women

5 Years

James Boisvert LCYDC
Daniele Gray LCYDC
Joseph M Guinan MCC
Steven J Labonte CC
Jason L Palmer MSP
Jon M Parker MSP
April J Potvin CO
Susan M Dyer Taylor LCYDC

10 Years

Michael A Hubbard MSP
John P Paskewicz MCC
Gary W Patchell BCF
Denise E Theriault MCC

15 Years

G. Scott Chandler MVYDC/CCF
Kevin T Cox MSP
Allen R Devericks DCF
Donald W Dillon Jr. MVYDC/CCF
Heidi L Hamilton MVYDC/CCF
Timothy R Kimball BCF
Jeremy A Mason DCF
Loring E Proctor MSP
Lisa A Royal MVYDC/CCF
Edward V Swift MVYDC/CCF

20 Years

Paul H Dube MSP
Michael G Mason MSP
Richard C Rogers CC
Stephen J Wheeler BCF
Karen L Yeaton LCYDC

25 Years

David C Clock CC
Carol T Cunningham DCF
Paul H Dube BCF
Michael G Mason MSP
Jerry L Smith MCC
Michael D Smith Sr. MVYDC/CCF
Richard C Rogers CC
Stephen J Wheeler BCF
Karen L Yeaton LCYDC

More than 25 Years

Scott Burnheimer (1979) MCC
Paul Burtchell (1985) LCYDC
Paul H Charland (1985) MCC
Robert Costigan (1970) MSP
Daniel J Davis (1986) MVYDC/CCF
Joel K Gilbert (1986) CO
Harold N Hodgkins (1970) BCF
Thomas N McLeod (1983) CC
Janice M Peasley (1967) MSP
Werner Pobatschnig (1983) LCYDC
Eric J Reburn (1983) MCC
William E Robinson (1986) BCF

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In August, Central Office staff got an opportunity to meet Governor LePage.



Shown left to right: Associate Commissioner Cindy Brann, Director of Human Resources Sarah Conroy, Commissioner Ponte, Governor LePage, Director of Special Projects Judy Plummer, Associate Commissioner Jody Breton, and Associate Commissioner Barry Stoodley.