

RIDOC Happenings

Volume V, Issue 20

Upcoming & Recent Events & News of Interest to the RIDOC Community

December 22, 2011

PHOTO GALLERY

DIRECTOR'S HOLIDAY GATHERING FOR MANAGERS



Top: Deputy Warden Al Leach chats with Reentry Services Coordinator Teresa Foley at last week's annual holiday Managers' Meeting where the Director expressed his appreciation by providing a pizza lunch. Middle: HR's Paul Gutowski turned the camera on Chief of Information and P.R. Tracey Zeckhausen, sitting with HR's Linda Milner. Bottom: Anne D'Alessio, Matt Kettle, Cindy Drake, Anthony Feole, Nelson Lefebvre, Maggie Picot, and Dave McCauley chat over lunch.

PICOT TO HOST "OUR YOUTH" ON WRNI



Administrator of Community Confinement Maggie Picot interviews two Medium Security inmates for her Saturday morning radio program Our Youth. She has interviewed a total of nine male and four female inmates about their efforts to better themselves while in prison. The program will begin to air sometime in January on Latino Public Radio - WRNI 1290 A.M.



Resignation of Assistant Director Alexander

Director Wall has announced with regret his acceptance of the resignation of Assistant Director for Administration Ellen Evans Alexander. She will leave toward the end of January for a position as chief assistant county attorney in Binghamton, NY, where her husband recently began serving as legal counsel to a consortium of hospitals. She has been the RIDOC's Assistant Director for 12 years and Chief Legal Counsel for six years. Director Wall notes, "Please join me in congratulating Ellen on her tireless behind-the-scenes work for our department and wish her well in this next chapter of her life."

Bye Bye Audix

If you haven't yet programmed your phone for the new automated voice mail system, your callers will get a message that your number has not been activated. Please follow the instructions provided via e-mail to all e-mail users and update your phone ASAP. If you have any difficulty, call the Help Desk at **462-HELP (4357)**.

Honor Guard Members Appreciated by Oregon DOC Officer

In a December 19th e-mail to Chief of Information and P.R. Tracey Zeckhausen, Oregon DOC Correctional Officer Dustin Cox thanked RIDOC Honor Guard members Rachel Kowalski and John Bray for attending the funerals of two Oregon C.O.'s killed in the line of duty this past year. Officer Cox wrote, "I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I speak for all of our Oregon DOC family when I say this! Your staff is always willing to step up to the plate and assist in any way with the ceremonies. I am proud to say I know a couple of your professional staff as they portray what a great department you have out there. Again, thank you, and stay safe!"

C.O. Lucien Fontaine Seriously Injured in Crash but Will Be OK!

On Sunday, December 11, longtime Minimum Security C.O. Lucien Fontaine was driving on St. Paul Street in North Smithfield when he hit a patch of ice, lost control of his car and struck a utility pole. He sustained multiple fractures and was taken to Rhode Island Hospital. He has since been released and is recovering at home and apparently doing well.

Assistant Directors' Annual Food Drive

Due to scheduling conflicts, this year's annual Assistant Directors' Holiday Get Together will not take place until **Wednesday, January 4, 2012, from noon - 2 p.m.** in the Admin--A Conference Room. In the meantime, ADs Ellen Evans Alexander, Roberta Richman, and David McCauley ask employees to bring in canned and nonperishable food items and place them in the Rhode Island Community Food Bank boxes in the lobby of Admin-A or B. Last year, the RIDOC donated 764 pounds of food for the needy in our state.

Prison Pup Partnership at Moran Continues to Thrive

Christy Bassett, Assistance Dog Instructor with NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans, recently e-mailed Moran Facility staff most closely involved with the program to thank them for their association with NEADS. She wrote, "I just wanted to express my thanks to all of you for being such a solid and successful assistance dog training program at JJ Moran. The RIDOC has historically been one of the largest and strongest members of our **Prison Pup Partnership**.



This year has been no exception. I am so proud to be involved with such a dedicated, skilled and supportive group of people." She went on to say that 11 of the 26 dogs to "graduate" in November had spent time at Moran. The Department is in the early stages of discussion with NEADS about expanding the program at the RIDOC. Details will be shared as they become available.

Warden Dwyer Tapped to Head DMV

In a December 21st press conference, Governor Lincoln Chafee announced his appointment of Warden Carole Dwyer as Interim Administrator of the Department of Motor Vehicles, effective January 1st. Dwyer recently moved from her position as Warden of both Women's Facilities and men's Minimum Security to become Warden of the Intake Service Center. She began her career with the RIDOC in 1991 as a C.O. and has worked her way up the ranks.

SCORE, ZFP, and Tours - Shift in Responsibilities

The scheduling for not only institutional tours, but **SCORE** and **Zero Fatalities Project** programs is now being handled by Acting Assistant to the Director Susan Lamkins. Tracey Zeckhausen will continue to be the first point of contact and agency coordinator for **ZFP** and **SCORE** and Susan for tours. It made more sense to have one person scheduling all public events to avoid calendar conflicts. Brochures are available online and from Ms. Zeckhausen by request. The next **ZFP** will take place on **Wednesday, December 28, from approximately 9 - 11:30 a.m. at Moran**. Staff interested in attending are welcome and should arrive at Moran with their RIDOC badge.

"If there's one thing the ride this time has impressed on me, it's that the present is where I want to live. Never wish away distance. Never wish away time."

New York Times obituary writer Bruce Weber. Weber biked across the country at age 39 and just did it again at age 57

Listings or photos for the e-calendar *RIDOC Happenings*, the quarterly newsletter *RIDOC Review*, or changes or updates to the Department's Intranet site or external website (www.doc.ri.gov) should be submitted to

Tracey E. Zeckhausen, Chief of Information & Public Relations
Tel: 401 462 2609
Fax: 401 462 2630
traceyzeckhausen@doc.ri.gov