

# RIDOC Happenings

Volume V, Issue 4

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

March 4, 2011

*“Total absence  
of humor  
renders life  
impossible.”*

**Colette,**

*Chance Acquaintances,  
1952  
French novelist  
(1873 - 1954)*

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](http://www.doc.ri.gov)) should be submitted to Tracey E. Zeckhausen, Chief of Information & Public Relations  
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## Former Director John J. Moran Dies

John J. Moran, who served as the RIDOC's fourth director from 1978-1990, died at his home in Narragansett on Tuesday, February 22nd. In a message to all e-mail users, Director Wall spoke of his leadership of this agency during some of its most difficult and turbulent times, noting "he left an organization immeasurably better than the one he inherited." During his tenure, several of our facilities were constructed, renovated, and/or expanded and staff was expanded to meet the rapidly growing inmate census. Director Wall wrote, "Those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working for John will always remember his talent for inspiring us to give our very best. We recall his high standards and his wry sense of humor. He is a man we will never forget."

## Binders Available

The Planning & Research Unit has just done a big clean-out of its offices. There is an abundance of vinyl 3-ring and 4-ring binders ranging in size from 1 inch to 4 inches. Anyone who is interested may contact Jeff Renzi at ext. 20373.



## Spring '11 NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans Graduation

Three times a year, NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans takes time out to honor its most recently trained assistance dog teams. These events allow family, friends, and the general public to hear firsthand from its clients how a NEADS dog has changed their life. The Spring 2011 graduation will take place on Sunday, March 6th, at the Four Points Sheraton, 99 Erdman Way in Leominster, Mass. Among the graduates will be RIDOC-trained service dog, Jackson, and his human partner, Joseph Miller, and specialty dog, Holly, and her human partner Crystal M. Chase. The events are free and open to the public.

## Probation and Parole Support Staff Gather for Retreat

About 30 or so support staff from across the Probation and Parole regional offices gathered in Bristol on **Thursday, February 24th**, for the first ever retreat for that group. The event, held at the Roger Williams Baypoint Inn and Conference Center, was put together at no cost and included speakers who addressed such topics as *Professional Workplace Motivation, Workplace Benefits/Challenges, Potential Solutions, Stress and Life Balance*, and *Tuition Reimbursement Incentive*. Members of the planning committee included Michele Poulouit, Lisa Blanchette, Lynne Corry, Donna Broccoli, Richard Delfino and Shelley Cortese.

## Dr. Michael Fine to Serve as Interim Director of HEALTH

Medical Program Director Dr. Michael Fine will serve as interim Director of the RI Department of Health (HEALTH) until a permanent successor is named to Dr. David R. Gifford, whose resignation took effect February 25th. Dr. Fine will continue to supervise RIDOC physicians and will be on call 24/7, handling all emergency referrals. He did not seek out this appointment and does not plan to apply for the position at the Health Department.

## Susan M. Hunter Scholarships Available to Children of Full-time Employees

Children of any RIDOC employee who meet the criteria are welcome to apply for a Susan M. Hunter Scholarship. Two RIDOC employees' children have received one in the past, including last year. The Association of State Correctional Administrators encourages parents to visit <http://collaboration.asca.net/projects/20/pages/149> for information such as eligibility requirements and registration forms.

## Welcome, Linda

Linda Bessette is the new Executive Assistant in Chief Inspector Aaron Aldrich's Office. She started in her new role in January and can be found in Admin-B, 1st floor. She comes to us from an attorney's office where she served as a legal assistant. She is a graduate of Roger Williams University.

## Inmate Population Hits Record Low

After peaking at a historic high just three and a half years ago, the inmate population has reached a new low. The average daily population during the month of February was 3,158. Corrections Options legislation has clearly had the intended impact.

## Update on Ernie Chartier

Lt. Jankowski continues to make regular visits to see C.O. Ernie Chartier, who was in an auto accident in December. According to the Lt., Ernie is making good progress at the W. Roxbury VA and is off all the medications he had been on. He is rehabbing in the pool and next week will learn to drive using hand controls. He is also learning how to maneuver with his baby son. A pasta dinner fund-raiser is being held for him at Amalfi's Restaurant in Narragansett on **Sunday, March 6th from 3-7 p.m.** Tickets are \$5/student and \$10/adult and can be purchased at the door. Ernie's wife is an 8th grade math teacher at the Pier Middle School, and the school's PTO is sponsoring the event.

## PHOTO GALLERY

### REMEMBERING JOHN MORAN



*John Moran, seen here in a Providence Journal photo taken at Max, died on Tuesday, February 22nd, at the age of 80.*

### NEADS GRADUATES



*Crystal Chase and Holly  
Joey Miller and Jackson*

### PROBATION & PAROLE RETREAT



*Support staff in Probation and Parole gathered for a staff retreat in Bristol last Thursday.*

### WELCOME, LINDA



*Linda Bessette*