

The Need for Mentoring

PPP Hosts its First Reentry and Mentoring Summit for the Community

By Jodi Gallman, Director of Community Affairs

One of the most pressing and complex challenges facing our state is the reintegration of offenders from prison back into society. Almost all inmates currently incarcerated in our state (97%) will eventually return to our communities. In 2007, the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) released 13,499 offenders back into society. Almost a third of the inmates released in 2003 returned to SCDC custody within three years.

On June 7th, SCDPPPS hosted the 2008 SC Reentry and Mentoring Summit for faith-based organizations, government agencies, treatment providers and the community. The event was sponsored, in part, by a technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). Correctional Program Specialist and former PPP Deputy Director for Paroles and Pardons Carla Smalls was on hand from the NIC office in Washington, D.C. to observe the summit and participate in preliminary staff development training sessions.

The summit provided a forum for exchange of ideas and information sharing. Our theme, "Mobilizing Mentors Through Faith-Based Initiatives" focused on the reentry process of offenders to society while examining best-practices for mentoring programs.

The featured trainer was Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., Senior Advisor on Faith-Based Initiatives for Public and Private Ventures, where he directs the Amachi Program and former Mayor of Philadelphia. Dr. Goode provided a national perspective on mentoring during the plenary session which was shared by James Murray, South Carolina Field Director for Prison Fellowship. During summit sessions, Dr. Goode covered such topics as: Developing a Holistic Approach to Mentoring; Mentoring Beyond the Four Walls and Best Practices for Mobilizing Community Outreach. He stressed the importance of good orientation, comprehensive training and developing a personal approach to matching mentees with mission-minded mentors. At the end of his presentation, Dr. Goode challenged all participants to go back to their communities and implement reentry and mentoring programs.

Over 100 participants from across South Carolina and neighboring states attended the comprehensive one-day summit. Attendees also benefited from referral materials in the Information Center provided by summit partners.

The growth of the American incarcerated population has reached an all time high with one of every 100 adults imprisoned. This alarming statistic demonstrates the need for mentoring to be at the forefront of our efforts to facilitate the reentry process.

To that end, the "On the Outside" Mentoring Program and the inmate education and employment initiative, the S.P.I.C.E. (Self Paced In-Class Education) Program were implemented. These initiatives work in concert to ensure a seamless transition from incarceration to reentry while reconnecting offenders to their families and promoting a better quality of life.

SCDPPPS is committed to continuing to collaborate with partners and communicate ongoing information and updates on reentry and mentoring initiatives. The summit was closed with an Ashanti proverb, "We must work as if it is impossible to fail."



Summit trainer, Dr. W. Wilson Goode explains the need for reentry and mentoring programs and how they have been successfully implemented throughout the country.



Participants pledge to support Reentry and Mentoring Programs in South Carolina at the conclusion of the Summit.



We will no doubt long remember this year's scorching summer season. The heat has not slowed us down though,

and the last few months have been action-packed for the Department (as some of the articles in this issue will illustrate). In addition to programs and activities we already have underway within the agency, it was a particularly active session at the legislature this year in terms of legislation that has potential for affecting our Department.

Regarding the budget, this year we requested \$2.9 million to fund needed areas including law enforcement safety equipment, offender drug testing, network infrastructure improvements, and implementation of the Ignition Interlock Device Program. The budget bill passed recently by the House and Senate provided PPP with \$615,000 (via proviso) to implement Ignition Interlock, but the other budget areas requested were not funded and our overall budget was reduced by a total of \$707,404. In addition, a 1% cost of living adjustment for state employees was included in both the House and Senate versions of the budget bill. The budget reduction effective on

July 1st will negatively effect our operational expenditures in the new fiscal year, so I urge all staff to continue to find creative ways to save money.

During the legislative session, the legislature passed several new laws which relate to PPP. Here are some highlights:

- S.144 is a joint resolution creating a sentencing guidelines commission to review, study, and recommend legislation for sentencing guidelines, the parole system, and alternative sentencing procedures for non-violent offenders.
- S.274 allows the Department to develop and operate a pilot project day reporting center program.
- S.472 makes technical changes which our Department, along with DVM and DAODDAS, requested in order to successfully implement the Ignition Interlock Device Program.
- H.3326 allows our Department to be reimbursed for training costs from another governmental agency that subsequently hires one of our agents.
- H.3623 and H.3094 have been enrolled for ratification and are pending final

legislative action scheduled for later this month.

- H.3623 requires our Department to use a one piece GPS device throughout the State, with the exclusion of areas where cellular coverage requires an alternate device.
- H.3094 limits the areas in which certain sex offenders may reside and provides a penalty for anyone who violates the new law.



I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your enthusiasm in performing the important work of our Department and for your continuous commitment to the field of Probation and Parole. It appears that the next few months will be sweltering across South Carolina, so I hope you will stay cool and be safe wherever the summer months find you.

~~ Sam Glover

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS WITH VICTIMS OF CRIME

By Carol Woodard, Director, Office of Victim Services

Staff members throughout the state are participating in the Enhancing Communication Skills with Victims of Crime Training. Through a grant awarded by the SC Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, the Department received the assistance of national consultants to develop and deliver this new training module. Trudie Gregorie and Diane Alexander of Justice Solutions, Inc., a national non-profit organization located in Washington, DC, traveled to South Carolina to conduct the sessions. Staff from the Offices of Executive Programs, Victim Services and Training Compliance and Professional Development teamed together to coordinate this training event. When the last session concludes on July 1st every employee who has even the remotest contact with victims will have attended this training event along with representatives from the South Carolina Parole Board, the Victims Advisory Council and law enforcement agencies. This training provides an opportunity for victim service providers to be reminded of the importance for all of us to be knowledgeable about the rights of victims and to increase our awareness of the issues surrounding victimization in order to be responsive and supportive in carrying out our Department's many missions.



PPP employees underwent comprehensive day-long training at various sites throughout the state since April on ways to better communicate with and serve victims of crime. This photo is of the session held on May 19th at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center in West Columbia.

Highlighting Aiken County

By Peter O' Boyle, Public Information Director

Aiken County AIC Mitchell Ray has a firm philosophy about the operation of his office: "We can't be a part of the community and not give back." By that he means that everyone who comes through the doors of the Aiken office – employees as well as offenders – needs to give back to the community. For the offenders, the motive is obvious; they have taken something from the community already due to their crimes. They need to give back in part to make amends. For the Agents and other employees, giving back to the Aiken community pays off in many other ways. It is one reason the county was recently named Large County Office of the Year at the PPP annual Employee Awards Ceremony.

AIC Ray shares that "It's a departmental-wide feeling that you've got to give back to the community. You don't know what you're going to get until you start working with the community." Many of those needs have to be met in order to improve the community and make it a better place to live and make crime less of an attraction to those who might otherwise drift into the criminal justice system. "We work closely with Vocation Rehabilitation; they have an office right here," Ray notes. He got the Aiken County Detention Center nurse certified as a vendor for VR and that cut 30 percent out of the processing time for offenders who need VR services. The Aiken VR office also provides specific job-training for local industries, in-patient drug treatment, uniforms and tools, all in order to get offenders into the local job market. If offenders are working, they have less idle time on their hands and can support themselves and their families.

Ray notes that when he went to work in Aiken, there was a problem with the Aiken Detention Center. The jail was reluctant to house SCDPPPS offenders from other counties because it did not know how long they would be there. Ray promised that he would have the offender out of the jail and on his way back to his supervising county within 24 hours. The office also works

closely with the Cumbee Center for Domestic Abuse. "CDVs are off the charts," notes Ray. Agents make sure CDV offenders are attending counseling and understanding the nature of their offenses and need to reform.

Another organization high on his list of local resources is the Aiken Community Outreach Ministries, a prison-based program that works with offenders. The innovative two-year program agrees to provide rent-free housing and food for two years and finds a job for qualified offenders. "It's all about knowing what community resources are available," said Ray. He is involved as a volunteer in many other organizations as a way of networking and finding out what other resources are available. Many organizations want to help out, but are not sure how. He finds a way.

The Aiken office contributes in other ways as well. Last Christmas, Aiken decided to forego its traditional office party and contribute the money to the local elderly for a turkey drop. They not only collected the money, but delivered the turkeys and other food items themselves. "I've got a really young, energetic staff and they're really enthusiastic about what we're doing here," said Ray. "I can't tell you we have any magic formula here. But I think we're doing it well here. Our formula is building good relations to solve problems."



AIC Mitchell Ray confers with Agent Diane Partridge over a case.



Agents Mitch Collins (left), Keith Crossland and AIC Mitchell Ray are ready for another day of intake.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT DEADLINE JULY 3, 2008

In order to comply with State law, all employees must cut off their travel reimbursement at the end of the business day on June 30th. Please submit these requests as soon as possible. Any travel reimbursement requests dated through June 30th must be received by **July 3, 2008**. Travel not received by this date may result in reimbursement not being processed.

Celebrating State Employee Appreciation Week



Enjoying a little frivolity during State Employee Appreciation Week in Charleston are (left to right) Gail Donaldson, Nikesha Jacobs and Ruben Potts.



Richland County employees enjoyed a picnic lunch (from Left): Condi Johnson, LaSheika VanDyke, Duane Newson, Quintus Young, right: Michael Glover, Tivona Rice, and Starr Greene.



PPP's Offices of Human Resources and Records Management enjoy a luncheon in recognition of National Public Service Recognition Week.



Employees of the Columbia Restitution Center and the Fairfield County office lined up for a group photo during a celebration of the week.



Sumter AIC Sharon Holland, along with HSS Rosalie Hyatt and Agents Beverly Singleton and Beth Corbett, participated in the Wednesday Walkers Program – an annual downtown worksite-based community walking program sponsored by Sumter County. The program ran from March 12 – May 7 and its goal was to encourage citizens in the community to become more active. The picture is of the program's finale celebration.

Greenville Offender Treatment Program

By Peter O' Boyle, Public Information Director

The media turned out for a special session of Greenville's "Offender Treatment Program," at which volunteer offenders on probation or parole heard from special guests Myrtle Hall Smith and Trey Rochester. Smith was a long-time singer for Billy Graham Ministries and Rochester is a Greenville business owner. Both are former drug addicts and dealers who shared their stories of recovery with current offenders undergoing mandatory treatment counseling. Smith and Rochester spoke to offenders graduating from the program and gave interviews to the local media. The program is run by Greenville Agent Dave Johnson.

The Offender Treatment Program is offered to offenders free of charge for eight weeks. They must sign a contract at orientation. If they complete the mandated substance abuse sessions, which include strict attendance and abstinence, they will satisfy the treatment requirements. As a general rule, each offender must have a minimum of three clean screens. Most offenders who fail to complete the program are referred to a higher level of treatment with service providers outside SCDPPPS.



Greenville County's Agent Dave Johnson (center) is interviewed by a local television station about his eight-week program that is offered to offenders free of charge to meet mandated substance-abuse treatment requirements. Also interviewed was guest speaker and former addict Trey Rochester (left).



HOW TO BOOST YOUR BRAINPOWER

Submitted by Julie Blanton, Human Resources Office

Do you sometimes feel as if your brain is running on empty?

Here's how to keep it in shape so you can pump up your problem-solving abilities, fight forgetfulness and think more clearly and creatively:

Practice mentally: Studies of athletes indicate that imagining a tennis serve or ski run between competitions can boost performance. Possible reason: Mental rehearsals may build mental "muscle" by sparking the brain connections needed during the real thing.

Focus your attention: To help remember "where": If you tend to misplace your car keys, for example, say to yourself, "I'm placing the keys on the shelf by the hallway mirror." To help remember "when": Note the weather, the day's headline news or

what you're wearing at the time of performing a task.

Use it or lose it: Research suggests that as you age, you can reverse a decline in thinking abilities by becoming more mentally active. Smart moves: Learn a new language, study a new subject, play games like checkers, and do crosswords and other puzzles.

Keep fit: Evidence shows that people in their 70s and 80s who stay healthy can expand their brainpower – and easily match the mental abilities of a 30-year-old. Helpful: Keep physically active, manage stress and maintain a positive attitude.

More mental muscle builders: Read more; eat more fruits and vegetables; use rhymes and acronyms to help remember facts and names.

Source: *TopHealth - The Health Promotion and Wellness Newsletter, October 2007, p 2.*



Statewide Agent of the Year Mikisha L. Freeman of Orangeburg received an additional honor in May with her designation as the Parole Agent of the Year by the SC Correctional Association during a luncheon held at the SCDC Training Academy.

AGENT BASIC GRADUATES



February 29th – Graduating from the SCDPPPS Agent Basic class on February 29th were (front row): Melissa Pilgrim, Laurens; Brandy Morrell, Lancaster; (Director Sam Glover) Justin Cohen, York; Frank Williams III, Sumter; (back row) Carla Oglesby, Anderson; Maurice Nelson, Sumter; Renje Zeefe II, Spartanburg and Jonathan Horne, Greenville.



April 11th - Graduating from the SCDPPPS Agent Basic class on April 11th were (front row): Eden Castillo, Georgetown; Ashleigh David, Sumter; Edwina Greene, Richland; Grant Garmon, Sumter; Caleb Gulledge, Richland; (back row) Leonarde Cain, Orangeburg; (Deputy Director for Field Operations Jeff Cogdill) Brian Gallagher, Lancaster; and Kenneth Manos, Richland.

What's Happening at the GOC?

By Rebecca Raybon, Program Coordinator

The GPS Operations Center (GOC) has been up and running for more than nine months now and has proven to be an invaluable asset to PPP in monitoring GPS offenders. The Department has seen the advantages for our agency to have a 24/7 operation and has expanded the role of the GOC. In March, the GOC began monitoring NCIC (National Crime Information Center) hits after traditional work hours, on holidays, and during weekends. This was a function previously handled by the South Carolina Department of Corrections. GOC staff members were NCIC certified at the opening of the GOC and once these duties began, FIOS employees were helpful in providing all staff with "refresher training" in addition to working side by side with the Agents for the first several weeks.

Since the GOC is located in SLED's Fusion Center where the South Carolina Information Exchange (SCIEEx) is housed, it made logical sense for PPP to incorporate a monthly wanted poster of all sex offenders on NCIC into the SCIEEx newsletter. This newsletter goes out to all law enforcement entities across the state. This information is given to the creators of the SCIEEx newsletter to post, and updates are made as sex offenders are arrested. Sex offender audits have been revamped to include more information and provide quicker updates. Recently, GOC staff provided information to SLED to help apprehend a murder suspect that had previously been active on the Department's Offender Management System. They also assisted in coordinating an arrest on the University of South Carolina campus with the USC Police Department, and PPP Lexington and Richland county offices to arrest an offender wanted on a GPS violation. These are just some examples of how the GOC facilitates teamwork among law enforcement entities, and will continue to do so in the future. It is a great resource for our Department and for South Carolina!



GOC Team Leader Jesse Rosier (left) and 3rd shift GOC Agent Jok Odom monitor GPS alerts and hits from NCIC during the night.

C.O.D.E.

Connecting Our Deployed Employees

By Jodi Gallman, Director of Community Affairs

Kudos to Mike Lee (Charleston County) as he enjoys his retirement from the Department but continues his service in the military.

Alex Myers (Berkeley County), many thanks and appreciation for your military sacrifice. Welcome home to caseloads, report days, administrative and violation hearings.

Let's continue to give our support to:

HA Blackwell

HA_Blackwell@hotmail.com

Hardy Paschal

hardy.paschal@us.army.mil

Antonio Vaught

antonio.vaught@us.army.mil

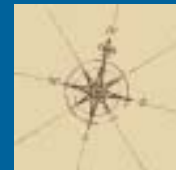
Communication from you allows them to "Stay in Touch."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2008 SC Criminal Justice Training Conference

Sponsored by

The SC Correctional Association and
The SC Probation & Parole Association



**November 11 – 14, 2008
The Ocean Drive Resort
North Myrtle Beach**

Direct Questions to:

**Scott Norton, Conference Coordinator
803-734-9246 or snorton@ppp.state.sc.us**

Exciting News About Employee Cross Training

By Melissa Ray, Director of Professional Development and Training Compliance

The Department has taken another step in meeting its goals through our Strategic Plan. In an effort to comply with the Department's Strategic Plan Action Item 3.1.3 the Department is excited to implement the Employee Cross Training program. Though cross training can be time consuming, it's hard to think of a downside. Cross Training provides an opportunity for the employee's professional growth, as well as employee motivation. Employees often desire a change in their daily routine duties and opportunities for advancement. Cross Training provides both of these opportunities for employees; it provides an opportunity for the employee to build their skills and develop professionally, and also provides a change in their daily routine. Well cross trained employees are beneficial to the Department in that they can quickly fill in when needed.

The SCDPPPS Employee Cross Training Program will assist supervisors as well as employees in increasing the effectiveness of their performance in their present position. Employees will gain invaluable knowledge, experience and growth within the Department, thereby, enhancing the employee's possible advancement within the Department.

In order to effectively cross train, each employee should work with their supervisor to identify critical job duties which are essential to the office's day-to-day operation. Since the employee is the expert in the particular job function, who better to serve as a trainer for other staff members? The Department's Cross Training Program utilizes each employee in the cross training process as the subject matter experts for their areas.

The Department's Cross Training initiative will not only provide a means for professional growth of each employee, it will provide growth and structure for the Department's future. Cross Training is a necessity for a successful employee, as well as the Department. Look for more information concerning the Employee Cross Training Program on the Department's Intranet.

Giving Back to Harvest Hope

By Jodi Gallman, Director of Community Affairs

On April 5th, Department staff from the Midlands area gathered at the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Columbia as a community project to prepare food boxes and provide needed support to this important service organization. Because of Harvest Hope's commitment to community service, hundreds of children, elderly and homeless are provided daily with food that they would otherwise have to do without. The boxes assembled by PPP's volunteers and others fed over twenty four hundred families in Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, and Richland counties. Participating in this service project were Jan Barton, Patrice Boyd, Sherri Brice, Janeice Evans, Sonya Garland, Rhonda Grant, Toyva Gunter, Lisa Hawkins, Marti Rearden, and Tiffany Phillips.

Spring Wellness Walk

By Paul Angus, Human Resources Office

On April 25th, Prevention Partners held the annual Spring Wellness Walk. Several employees from the Central Office participated in the walk: Renee Dominick, Trudy Brewer, Angie Salley, Missy Rodgers, Elizabeth Williams, Jyoti Nair, Valerie Watts, Julie Blanton, and Paul Angus. It kicked-off featuring refreshments and door prizes at Riverfront Park in Columbia. The annual Spring Wellness Walk is designed to create an awareness of the importance of staying physically active, make fitness fun and give your wellness committee visibility.

Mark Your Calendar.... SCCA Women's Taskforce



Workshop
September 19, 2008
The Raddisson Hotel

Bush River Road & I-20 Columbia

Conference registration information will be posted on the SCCA Website as arrangements are finalized:

www.sccorrectionalassociation.com

Gwen Bright, Women's Taskforce Chairperson

803-734-9265 ~ gbright@ppp.state.sc.us

Featured speakers include:

Dr. Angela Coleman, Drug Abuse Program Coordinator
Federal Bureau of Prisons - Edgefield, SC

The Honorable James Lockemy
South Carolina Court of Appeals

Gerri Miro, Director
Division of Programs & Services
South Carolina Department of Corrections

Web-Based PIC *(Parole Information Center)*

By Rebecca Timmons, ITSS



Several years ago it was decided that the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services would benefit significantly from a move to web-based applications from client server applications. This change will place the agency in a position to be prepared to take full advantage of new technology as advancements are made. Last year a giant step was taken when, after a multi-year process of documentation followed by design and development, the agency moved from the client server based OIS to the web-based OMS. Later this summer the agency will roll out the new web-based PIC (Parole Information Center) application. PICweb will be a companion application to OMS, and this transition to web-based PIC will bring us closer to the goal of having all of our inmate and offender applications fully integrated.

Web-based PIC has gone through an extensive design and development phase which included over six months of testing by subject matter experts. This testing was followed by a two and a half month period of user acceptance testing which has allowed users statewide to test PICweb for any outstanding issues as well as attend training and practice the duties of their position in order to gain a level of comfort with PICweb.

The new web-based PIC also has valuable new functionality. The full integration OMS and PIC will now mean that all users will have only one username and one password for these applications. This username/password combination will allow access to OMS as well as PIC. The single sign-on process will allow users to switch easily between the two applications at any point without having to log out or log in to the other application. OMS and PIC will also be able to more easily access information of the each other's application and provide it to the user.

Another new feature of PICweb is the incorporation of the Release Programs. Rosters can now be set up to support the Community Supervision (CSP), Supervised Furlough II-A, YOA and Shock Parole programs. Automation of required field investigations for CSP cases has taken place. Residence plan approvals and Release Certificates have also been automated and will provide a more streamlined and less cumbersome process.

Other invaluable additions available with PICweb are a quality wizard for supervisors who approve pre-parole investigations, the ability to track unlock reasons and quick links to various information such as Parole Certificates and Release Certificates. The addition of all of these new features should allow the agency employees to make better use of their time.

These many years of hard work to convert OMS and PIC into web-based applications have provided us with the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of technology used in the probation and parole field. The Department is now positioned to take full advantage of technology as advancements are made.

Reminder... *Cell Phone Use*

Pursuant to SCDPPPS Policy 608, "cellular phones are to be utilized only for conducting Department business. Phones may be used for emergency/allowable calls of a personal nature, only when a landline phone is not available, while in support of the employee's ability to do their job." In addition, the Internal Revenue Code lists cellular telephones as "listed property" and a "working condition fringe benefit" which is taxable, unless reimbursement is made.

The agency cellular communications service has changed from Alltel to Verizon effective June 9, 2008. The deployment of the Verizon phones will continue throughout the month of June.

Mark Your Calendars

By Jodi Gallman, Director of Community Affairs

JULY



Across the country, we will recognize the services, support and work that probation and parole professionals perform to keep the public safe. July 14th – 18th is Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.

AUGUST

August 5th is National Night Out, a community-police partnership that aims to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, town watch, and other anti-crime. The Department proudly joins over 35.2 million participants in 11,100 communities supporting this cause.

SEPTEMBER

September is Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month to raise awareness and educate the public on substance abuse as a national health crisis. During September, a number of organizations across the nation will provide information toward the goal of helping others to understand that addiction is a treatable disease and that recovery is possible. Together with our treatment providers, we continue to positively impact the lives of our offenders and their families.

In addition, September is National Preparedness Month. During this month, there is a nationwide effort to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. As members of the state's response team, the Department proudly joins this shared responsibility.

Criminal Justice Academy Graduates



April 4th – Graduating from the SC Criminal Justice Academy were (from left): (Regional Director Chris Stepp); Mary C. Blackwood, Greenville County; Angela N. Levy, Sumter; Allan J. Norfus, Sr., Greenville; Brian N. Scales, Horry; and Shawn A. Vile, Greenville.



April 25th – Completing the nine-week SC Criminal Justice Academy class were (from left): Veronica N. Gist, Pickens County; James A. Graham, Anderson; Christian P. Hines, Richland; and Tyson M. Milhouse, Barnwell.



May 16th – Graduating from the SCCJA were (from left) Ra'Shad J. Brown, Chester; Rhonda R. Elliott, Horry; (Deputy Director for Field Operations Jeff Cogdill) Matthew K. Pequegnat, Beaufort; and Eugene E. Rodillo, Jr., Richland. Pequegnat was a distinguished graduate.

Victims Rights Week Conference - Justice for Victims, Justice for All

By Carol Woodard, Director, Office of Victim Services

Recently several PPP staff attended the 21st Annual Victims' Rights Week Conference held at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in Charleston, S.C. This conference was sponsored by the Governor's State Office of Victim Assistance and the SC Victims Assistance Network. The event provided an opportunity for victims and the victim assistance community to gather in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and to raise public awareness about victims' rights, protections, and services. The theme "Justice for victims, Justice for all" is a reminder that victims' concerns affect everyone because everyone is vulnerable to crime. This event also provided an opportunity to communicate our Agency's mission and role in providing services to victims.



Representing PPP at the annual South Carolina Victims Rights Week conference in North Charleston were (left to right): Cindy Worthy (Charleston); Jackie Smith (Richland); Cordelia Glover (Central); Carol Woodard (Central); and Burt Sparks (Spartanburg).

Bikeweek 2008

by Mike Nichols, Director of Special Operations and FIOS



This year's event was the Department's 10th year of participation. There are only five Agents who have worked all 10 years and they are Chris Stepp, Clift Howle, Dan Barker, Alan Collins and Mike Nichols. Randy Bumgarner, Doug Fordham and Danny Drafts have worked 9 years. That is a lot of missed barbecues and family holidays but, the work goes on.

We sent a total of 30 agents to assist the Myrtle Beach Police Department this year. All of our agents did a great job as usual and if you don't believe me, ask any Myrtle Beach Police Officer who worked with our Agents. They were an outstanding group!

There were few major incidents this year, however, there was one homicide in our area of responsibility where a young man lost his life to a gunshot after an argument over a parking place. There were some shots fired and bottle throwing incidents that our agents responded to and we assisted with arresting two armed robbers. There were not as many traffic fatalities this year as in years past with only one person being killed in a motorcycle accident.

On a more positive note, the weather was very cool this year and was actually pleasant, particularly at night. It is a very large undertaking to send Agents to work at this event but, the relationships that we build with other law enforcement agencies far outweigh the resources dedicated by the Department. We have certainly earned quite a reputation at Bikeweek. It is the kind of reputation that we can all take great pride in as we share our greatest resource of outstanding personnel on behalf of our State for the safety of the public.

Ignition Interlock Training Video Made

Members of the Ignition Interlock Device Program Implementation Team coordinated a training video along with SC Criminal Justice Academy staff to show South Carolina law enforcement officers how the device works. It will become part of the law enforcement continuing education curriculum.



Anderson County Agents Honored

Anderson County Council recently honored Agents Jean Stutler and Will Freestate with Resolution R2008-247 that states: "Anderson County, acting by and through its County Council, hereby honors and recognizes Jean Sutler and William Freestate for their outstanding dedication, loyalty and commitment to Anderson County and its citizens." Both Jean and Will were given a copy of the Resolution. Agent Stutler was recently named the Region One Agent of the Year, while Agent Freestate was named Rookie Agent of the Year.

Regional Winner



Region Three Agent of the Year LaSheika S. VanDyke. It was necessary for Agent Vandyke to leave the PPP Employee Award Ceremony early to go to court so she was omitted from the group photo of Region Three award winners that appeared in the last issue of the Informer.

“Building Partnerships in the Community” - SCPPA Holds 2008 Spring Training Conference

by Robert Mitchell, Past-President of SCPPA



Once again, the South Carolina Probation and Parole Association held its annual Spring Training Conference in Columbia’s Historic Vista District on Wednesday, May 7th and Thursday, May 8th. The Conference gave participants the opportunity to attend three great training workshops on inter-agency cooperation, Sex Offender Management, and staying focused on your dreams. The conference began with the golf tournament at Crickentree Country Club on Wednesday morning, followed by a great “meet and greet” fellowship, hosted by SCPPA Past Presidents, at Wild Hare Sports Café in the Vista. Most out of town members lodged at the beautiful Hampton Inn, also located in the Vista. The Training Conference itself began on Thursday morning at Columbia’s Metropolitan Convention Center, located right next to the hotel, so everything was in walking distance!



The conference was called into session by President Stephanie Garrick. The invocation was brought by Mark Childress and the National Anthem was sung by Andrea Massie, both of US Probation. A detail from the Dutch Fork High School Air Force ROTC Color Guard presented the Colors. The first workshop was presented by Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott. Sheriff Lott spoke about the need for agencies to cooperate with one another to work together to build a better criminal justice system. He spoke of the progress made toward this goal and the great promise of the future, as criminal justice agencies learn to assist each other in combating the ever growing challenges to justice. Dr. William Burke, a nationally recognized Sex Offender Treatment Provider,

From left to right): Mitch Tucker (Central); Katherine Moore (Chester); Stephanie Garrick (Richland); Cathy Foust (Central) and Inger Foust, Cathy’s sister-in-law, who works for SCDC.

presented the second workshop, and provided fascinating insights into sex offender issues and supervision. Dr. Burke included information regarding the possibility that sex offenders can successfully be reintegrated into families with the careful supervision of certified chaperones to assist in this transition. The final workshop was presented by Akim Anastopoulo, better known as Judge “Extreme Akim” of the nationally syndicated television court show “Eye for an Eye.” “Judge Extreme” presented a humorous look at our dreams for the future and how we should never give up on them.

Following the workshops, SCPPA awarded the 2008 Joy Pace Thompson Scholarships to Heather Andrews of the Alston Wilkes Society and to Rick Hook of US Probation. Awards for the Golf Tournament went to the foursome of Randy Bunch, David White, Larry White, and Barry Coates, who won in playoff. In the final minutes of the Conference, several SCPPA members experienced the good fortune of winning one of the great door prizes provided by Board members and sponsors!!

SCDPPPS Director Samuel Glover again offered great support to the 2008 Spring Training Conference by granting administrative leave and the use of Department vehicles for transportation to the Conference. As always, SCPPA appreciates the support that Director Glover shows to the Association and its members. SCPPA also appreciates the support of its members and sponsors, both of whom allow the Association to provide quality training and networking opportunities to build better Probation and Parole professionals for South Carolina. Remember, SCPPA is OUR Association. DON’T MISS ONE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF IT!! Watch for information on all upcoming SCPPA Events on the web at www.scppa.net. See you at the Fall Conference!

THE INFORMER

South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services

THE INFORMER is a quarterly publication of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS). Articles may be reprinted without permission; however, proper credit is requested for any material used. *THE INFORMER* solicits photographs and story ideas from SCDPPPS staff. These, along with any inquiries or comments, should be directed by e-mail to Informer Editor, Rhonda Grant at rgrant@ppp.state.sc.us, or by postal mail to the Office of Executive Programs, SCDPPPS, 2221 Devine Street, P.O. Box 50666, Columbia, South Carolina, 29250.

The Honorable Mark Sanford
Governor

Samuel B. Glover
Director

Rhonda Grant
Director, Office of Executive Programs
Newsletter Editor

Arnise N. Moultrie
Office of Executive Programs
Newsletter Designer

AGENCY MISSION

To **prepare** offenders under our supervision toward becoming productive members of the community;
to **provide** assistance to the victims of crimes, the courts and the Parole Board; and
to **protect** public trust and safety.

AGENCY MOTTO

PREPARE, PROVIDE AND PROTECT