

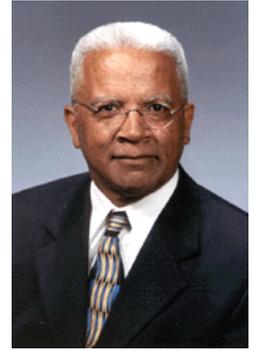


Season Greetings! As we prepare for this busy and joyous holiday season, it is a time to reflect on the cherished and important things in life. When we think about those things that create meaning, enrich our lives and things that are hard to live without, I am sure that they would have to include your family and close friends.

As we bring this extraordinary eventful year to a close, we reflect upon our accomplishments and blessings. Thanks to your hard work and dedication our agency has been able to reach greater heights. Certainly the topic on everyone's mind will be the challenges we will face in 2009.

For public agencies, the theme of the economy translates into seemingly endless discussions about the difficult task of balancing our budgets and accomplishing essential work with insufficient resources. The executive staff has implemented several

strategies in response to the significant mandated budget cuts. Moving forward in 2009, our goal must remain unchanged as we explore creative and diligent ways to Prepare, Provide, and Protect the citizens of this state.



Let us remember those who have experienced great loss and the ones who are in great need. A simple act of kindness can change the lives of many. Also, please take time to pray for our soldiers who are away from their families during this season. Let us be mindful of the reason for the season.

It is my sincere desire that each of you find great happiness, deep fulfillment, and experience good health in the upcoming year.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Sam Glover

And The Winners Are...

SCDPPPS employees racked up some nice awards at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Training Conference at Myrtle Beach in November. Congratulations are in order for (from left) Executive Administrative Assistant to the Director Loretta Goodwin, 2008 SCPPA Distinguished Administrative Support Staff Award; Regional Director Robert Mitchell, 2008 SCPPA Grady A. Wallace Excellence Award, and Director of Board Support Services Gwendolyn Bright, 2008 SCCA President's Award.



See Page 5 for additional conference highlights.

Criminal Justice Academy Graduates



September 26th

Leonarde J. Cain graduated from the Criminal Justice Academy and will become an Agent in Orangeburg County. Congratulating him are (from left) Orangeburg Agent-in-Charge Kim Brantley, Cain, and Regional Director Schwann Scott.



October 17th

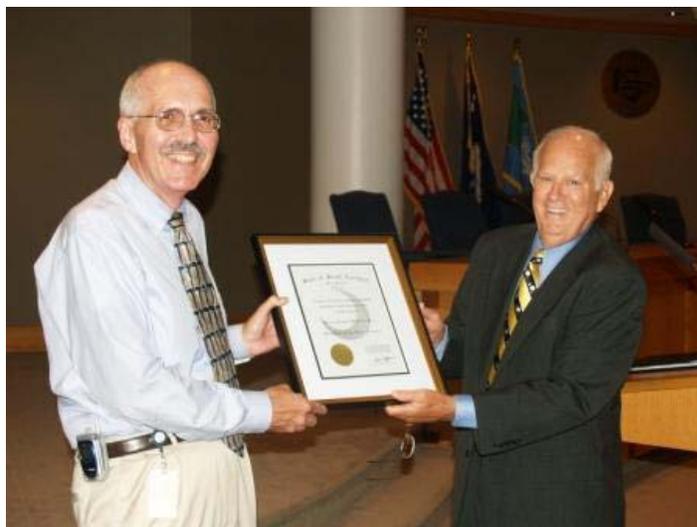
Two new Agents joined SCDPPPS in October. Pictured are (from left): Regional Director Cliff Howle; Agent Brian J. Gallagher, Lancaster; Agent Ashleigh M. David, Sumter; and Regional Director Chris Stepp.

Jimmy Batson Receives Award

James Lewis Batson, Jr., who is affectionately known in the Greenville Office as “JB,” received the Governor’s Order of the Silver Crescent in a surprise ceremony on September 23rd. Batson, who retired and has come back to the Greenville office as a volunteer, received the award for his outstanding career with SCDPPPS and his numerous volunteer activities in the community. The Order of the Silver Crescent is awarded to residents of South Carolina for exemplary performance, contributions and achievements within the community. It is the state’s highest award for volunteer and community service.

During Batson’s distinguished career he served as a Unit Coordinator, taught hundreds of Agents in the use of firearms and other critical skills, and actively supported the Offender Employment Assistance Program as well as the Offender Treatment Program. In the community, Batson was very active as a volunteer at his church, Marietta First Baptist Church, the North Greenville Baptist Spanish Mission, the Greenville Literacy Association and numerous others. Greenville Agent Dave Johnson nominated Batson for the award. “I am proud to call him, not only a true professional in every aspect of his job, but also a true gentleman and genuine friend,” Johnson said. “While there are many deserving candidates for such a prestigious award, I truly believe there is none more worthy than JB,” Johnson shared in his nomination letter.

At the ceremony during which Batson’s award was presented by Senator Lewis R. Vaughn of Greenville, JB was indeed caught by surprise. Virtually the entire Greenville office attended, as did many friends, relatives and members of his church.



Senator Lewis R. Vaughn of Greenville presented Batson the award on behalf of Governor Mark Sanford in recognition of his many years of service to the state, his community and church.

Highlighting Georgetown County...

By Peter O'Boyle, Public Information Director

A visit to the Georgetown County office looks like a lot of other SCDPPPS offices throughout the state. Offenders are milling around waiting for intake; very busy Agents are dealing with their caseloads. Somebody is being finger-printed while another offender is waiting to see the nurse to give a DNA blood sample. Meanwhile, AIC Chad Beard is signing off on paperwork to transfer another offender's case to Georgia. "Another typical Wednesday in Georgetown," says Beard. All this takes place in the historic Georgetown Courthouse near the scenic waterfront just a few steps away. Our first president, George Washington, came through this area during his second term and spent a night or two. You can smell the history in this town (when the paper mill's not producing its own smell!).



Georgetown AIC Chad Beard stands in front of the new county courthouse under construction. The new facility will help relieve overcrowding at the old courthouse.

Sometimes Beard looks out the window of his office and spots a tour group going by in a bus. He is a relatively new AIC, arriving from Darlington County a year ago, but he's already adjusting to the Georgetown County staff and the other facets of the county's criminal justice system that interact regularly with them. SCDPPPS has an excellent relationship with the local police, Sheriff's department and solicitor's office. "That makes a big difference", Beard said. "One thing I love about Georgetown County is the relationships with the Sheriff's office, solicitor's office and different police departments. "We all work together and we have an open line of communication."

The quaint and picturesque courthouse, built when times were simpler and the county population was much smaller, is bursting at the seams. That's why the county is building a much larger courthouse several blocks away. SCDPPPS offices will remain in the old courthouse for the time being, which is not too bad as it will still be only a block from the beautiful waterfront.

Beard notes that probably the biggest challenge facing him and

his staff is that Georgetown is still largely a rural county, with only one fair-sized town. Like many coastal counties, the population swells during the summer and tapers off in the fall. But the county is not quite big enough to have all the service providers available in larger cities. So Georgetown has cultivated partnerships with the critical service providers it does have such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Counseling Associates and the Palmetto Center In-Patient Treatment Facility for drug offenders.

"You have to deal with what you have. You have to adapt and do the best you can to get the offender to achieve success and protect the community," Beard shared. One service provider is coming to our area that isn't even available to large cities in South Carolina or most of the rest of the country as yet: The Family Justice Center, a one-stop center for dealing with family violence issues. First



begun in San Diego, the grant-funded center, one of 30 in the nation, will be a single location to receive all the services needed by victims of domestic violence. It will also provide counseling to the perpetrators of violence in an effort to stop the cycle of family breakdown. Georgetown, like most other counties, has a lot of those offenders on its caseloads.

One Georgetown Agent, Ann Blakeley, does all intake for the office, which means there is a consistency to all offender processing. "Ann goes over all the conditions and also does referrals. The offender can't come back and say, *I didn't know what was going on or what I was supposed to do*," Beard notes.

Beard himself likes doing home visits, and pitches in on the voluminous paperwork and does DNA processing. "I don't just sit behind a desk," he said. "There's a total of 86 years of experience in this office. We're like a family."

2008 United Way Campaign

By Jodi Gallman, Director of Community Affairs

This year's United Way campaign launched its kick off September 4th and ended November 30th. In the midst of our challenging economy, monetary contributions are still being made to United Way. As a Department, this is truly a shared sense of responsibility as we "Live United".

Operation Abscond

by AIC Jeff Harmon and AAIC Chad Gambrell

At 8 am Sunday morning on November 16th until Tuesday at 8 pm, Spartanburg Agents, along with SLED, Sheriff's Deputies, and City Police Officers began Operation Abscond. This operation was totally devoted to reducing the amount of probation/parole warrants in Spartanburg County. The Fusion Center assisted two weeks prior by running the offenders through their data-base and creating new leads for Agents to use especially on the older warrants.

A Command Post was set up in an abandoned warehouse outside of the city, where all arrested offenders were brought for debriefing by Investigators. While working 12 hour shifts, 24 hours a day was somewhat demanding to our staff, they handled themselves as the professionals that they certainly are. The results of this operation were indeed successful. The agencies arrested 67 offenders and attempted 520 warrants. Along with that and because of the debriefing process, the Sheriff's Department was able to solve three larcenies; two burglaries; one armed robbery; four auto thefts; and two narcotic crimes.

While the statistics certainly are positive, we also developed a closer and stronger relationship with all of the law enforcement in our county. This will prove to be worth more in the years to

come than the number of warrants served during this entire operation. Furthermore, with the constant budget cuts that all county and state agencies are suffering, combining all of our resources continues to be a good idea.



Operation Abscond a Success

Spartanburg AIC Jeff Harmon (left) and Assistant AIC Chad Gambrell process paperwork as part of Operation Abscond, which resulted in the arrest of 67 offenders by SCDPPPS and local and state agencies.

Staff Promotion

HARDY L. PASCHAL

Assistant Agent-in-Charge - Greenville County

Mr. Paschal has had a stellar career with the Department. For more than 17 years, he has served in the Greenville County office. He began as a Probation and Parole Agent in 1991, and was promoted to Team Leader in 2005. He also holds the rank of Major in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Hardy brings a wealth of experience to this position.



Mark Your Calendars

By Jodi Gallman, Director of Community Affairs

DECEMBER



December is National Drunk and Drugged Prevention Month. Have a safe holiday— don't let friends and loved ones drive while impaired. This is also National Safe Toys and Gifts Month. We encourage all employees to be diligent and screen your gifts carefully for a safe and healthy holiday.

JANUARY

January is National Blood Donor Month. We will begin the year with our first blood drive at the Central Office on January 6, 2009. During this month consider participating in local blood drives in your area. Together we can continue to make a difference by giving blood to save lives. This is also National Mentoring Month. The Department joins other organizations in recognizing Mentors. Our "On The Outside" Mentoring Program gives us an opportunity to expand our mission in the reentry process.

FEBRUARY

February is National American Heart Month. Show your support by wearing red on February 6th – National Wear Red Day – to increase awareness of the number one leading cause of death in South Carolina.

2008 SOUTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2008 South Carolina Criminal Justice Training Conference was presented again this year by the South Carolina Correctional Association and the South Carolina Probation and Parole Association (November 11 – 14, 2008) at the Ocean Drive Resort in North Myrtle Beach. The theme for the training conference this year was “New Offenders and New Strategies: The Time is Now!”

During the workshops and plenary sessions, conferees had the opportunity to receive relevant and interesting training from a number of practitioners, colleagues and dignitaries. In addition, both associations presented annual awards to recognize those who have made significant contributions to South Carolina’s criminal justice community (see related article in this issue of *The Informer*).

There were approximately 240 conference attendees this year and in addition to the training, they also participated in a wide variety of networking opportunities (including a golf tournament, bowling, miniature golf, a “Mardi Gras” party and more). The evaluations reflected overwhelmingly positive comments by those in attendance!



No Crutches for Robert

Regional Director Robert Mitchell recently had foot surgery, but that wasn’t going to keep him from attending the conference (or doing his job). Mitchell didn’t want to hobble around on a pair of crutches, so he found this modified scooter to do the job.

Ignition Interlock Device Program

Emily Thomas, Administrator of the Ignition Interlock Device Program (until December 1st when she accepted a new position with SCDPS) and her husband, Kershaw Agent Brannon Thomas look on as US Probation Office Administrator Sandra Maree tests out the Ignition Interlock Device after attending the IID seminar presented by Thomas and PPP Assistant Chief Legal Counsel Ben Aplin.



Columbia Chief Speaks at Banquet

Columbia Police Chief Tandy Carter was a speaker at the SC Criminal Justice Training Conference at Myrtle Beach this year. Carter spoke on new ways of dealing with crime.



SC-NABCJ News

by Deon Wilform, Interstate Compact



On December 5, 2008, SC-NABCJ held its 15th Annual One-Day Training Conference with the theme of "Breaking Down Barriers: Finding Solutions." Attendance, despite the stress of the economic situation on all of us, was impressive. Participants represented various law enforcement agencies and community members from across the state. This year, SC-NABCJ was honored with attendance from the NABCJ National President, Robert A. Matthews, who brought greetings from the NABCJ national office and encouraged the SC Chapter to continue to work closely with the national office.

Workshops gave participants varied topics to take back to their respective agencies addressing professionalism in the workplace, breaking down barriers in personal and professional areas and how to find the monies that are available through grant writing. During the conference, newly elected Board Members were installed with three representing SCDPPPS. Serving on the Board for 2009-2011 will be Field Operations' Jessie Rosier, Vice President, Internal Audit's Sonya Garland, Treasurer and Interstate Compact's Deon Wilform, Secretary. *Congratulations!*

As always, if you missed this year's conference, we look

forward to seeing you on December 4, 2009. If you would like membership information, please contact Deon at dwilform@ppp.state.sc.us.



Awards Committee Chairperson Sonya Garland presents the SC-NABCJ Community Service Award to Sisters of Health System-Healthy Learners Ministry Director Jo Pauling-Jones.

Alston Wilkes Presents Awards

Agent Mikisha L. Freeman of the Orangeburg County office was presented with the 2008 Mark Hart Probation and Parole Agent of the Year award from the Alston Wilkes Society at a luncheon recently. Freeman had previously been named the SCDPPPS Agent of the Year. Mark Hart, for whom the Alston Wilkes award is named, was an SCDPPPS Agent in Spartanburg who died in 1983 from cancer.



The SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services received the Alston Wilkes Volunteer of the Year Award. Pictured in the photo (from left to right) are: Hardy Paschal, Tracy Swanson, Dwight Burns, Jeff Cogdill, Director Sam Glover, Laurin Mullins, and Steve Osborne.



Pictured with Agent Freeman (center) are (from left) Deputy Director for Field Operations Jeff Cogdill, Orangeburg Agent-in-Charge Kim Brantley and PPP Director Sam Glover.

The Alston Wilkes Society is a non-profit organization that provides offenders, former offenders, the homeless, at risk youth, veterans and their families the tools they need to become productive citizens.

Computer Tips and Tricks!

By Beverly Steele, ITSS

Want to set a vacation rule for your GroupWise E-mail? How about printing documents double sided? ITSS is making it easy for you by providing a new page on the Agency's Intranet called ITSS Tips and Tricks!

What are ITSS's Tips and Tricks? They're handouts for some of our most common computer problems, with step by step instructions on how to use them.

There are handouts for Archiving your E-mail, How to Print Double Sided pages, How to Create Vacation rules, as well as one for creating other types of Rules and Changing your GroupWise Password.

Each of these handouts contains step by step instructions, with pictures, to show you how to perform each action.

So how do you get to the Tips and Tricks? They're located on the Agency's Intranet Web Page. Simply click on Useful Links from the Main Screen, then choose ITSS Tips and Tricks. Then simply select the handout you want.

We'll be adding additional tips as time goes by, so check back often!

SCDPPPS Leave Transfer Pool

by Patrice Boyd, Asst. Dep. Dir., HR and Records Administration

Each year around this time employees are asked to consider donating leave to the Agency Leave Transfer Program. The Leave Transfer Program is comprised of two leave pools, one is annual leave and the other is sick leave. Employees may voluntarily donate to either the sick or annual leave pool, or both. All leave donated to the program is irrevocable. Once the leave is donated the Human Resources Office transfers the leave to Agency employees that have requested leave from the pool. It will be transferred according to the provisions of the Leave Transfer Program. It is distributed to employees who have been approved through their chain of command as leave recipients under personal medical situations. It is important to note, however that leave donated to the program cannot be designated to a specific recipient.

Regarding annual leave, a Department employee may request to donate to the leave pool by completing a Donation Request Form. Then, the number of hours specified by the donating employee's accrued annual leave will be transferred from the donating employee's leave account to the Department's leave pool

account. However, an employee wishing to donate sick leave must have more than fifteen (15) days in his or her sick leave account in order to be eligible as a donor. Then the leave transfer process occurs.

Remember in state government it is a "Use or Lose" situation regarding an employee's leave account. For many employees that have reached the maximum annual and sick leave accruals, if they are not planning to use the accrued leave, they will lose any unused leave recorded that is over the maximum annual accrual amount at the end of each calendar year. PPP Human Resources Office asks that employees donate any unused leave to the pool. Without an employee's authorization the Human Resources Office is not authorized to apply any employee's unused leave towards the pool. Leave donations are very important in that the donations are used for a good cause by our fellow employees who are in need of leave related to personal medical situations they have encountered.

All forms associated with the leave transfer program can be obtained through the Human Resources Office.

C.O.D.E.

Connecting Our Deployed Employees

By Jodi Gallman, Director of Community Affairs

*Make this holiday season unique...
Send a greeting across each and every mile.
It's the small things that make a soldier smile!*

Bob Ayers
Antonio Vaught
Tim Williams

robert.h.ayers@us.army.mil
antonio.vaught@us.army.mil
email address to be set up soon

**First Ladies' Walk for
Life...Steps
Against Breast
Cancer**



By Jodi Gallman, Director of
Community Affairs

The 18th Annual First Ladies' Walk for Life...Steps Against Breast Cancer event was held Saturday, October 4th at Finlay Park in Columbia. Proceeds from Walk for Life will be used for awareness, education, patient and family support and research through the Palmetto Health South Carolina's Comprehensive Breast Center. Our team, "The Life Savers" included Sonya Garland, Jackie Smith, Cynthia Worthy and Jodi Gallman.

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*

GOOD HABITS FOR PREVENTING THE FLU



The single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each fall, but good health habits and antiviral medications are other measures that can help protect against the flu.

1. Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Stay home when you are sick.

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

3. Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

4. Clean your hands.

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.

5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

6. Practice other good health habits.

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

Visit the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov to learn more about flu immunization.

Source: Prevention Partners November 2008, Health Bulletin

**Wishing You
A Joyous and Happy
Holiday Season
From Our Family to Yours**

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