

Public Employee Recognition Week Awards Program (2007)

The week of May 7-11, 2007 was Public Employee recognition Week (PERW) across the United States. Many GDC locations sponsored events that showed staff appreciation for hard work and dedication. Events included a GDC Idol contest, picnics, blood drives, scavenger hunts and many other contests. This was also a time for the managers and supervisors to show their appreciation to their employees.

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle presented awards to Statewide PERW Award Winners at a luncheon on Wednesday, May 9, 2007. Awards were presented in the categories of Community Service; Customer Service; Heroism, Humanitarian; Innovations/Suggestions; Leadership and Safety.

The Georgia Department of Corrections is honored to have 1 State Winner and 4 GDC State Level nominees, in various categories that competed at the state level.



Tony Taylor, Carl Petty, Dan Stone, Mark Bowen, Wade Chancey

Dan Stone, Wade Chancey, Tony Taylor and Carl Petty from Bacon PDC and **Mark Bowen** from Rouse DC were **Statewide Award Winners** in the category of **Heroism**. While off-duty, the officers were traveling together for a hunting trip when they witnessed a severe automobile accident in which a young woman became trapped in a burning car. Superintendent Dan Stone, Sgt. Wade Chancey, Sgt. Tony Taylor and Detail Officer Carl Petty secured and utilized fire extinguishers to prevent the fire from spreading to the victim and COII Mark Bowen. As this group of employees worked to suppress the fire, COII Mark Bowen got inside the vehicle, and provided

emergency aid to the trapped victim until the Jaws of Life extracted her. According to the Opp Assistant Chief of Police, "had these men not have exercised the efforts that they did in controlling the fire, the possibility of the victim receiving burn injuries or dying as a result of the fire was probable". Each of these off-duty officers took substantial risk and placed their lives in jeopardy.

Jon Wiesner from the Dahlonega Probation Office was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Community Service**. Jon is the Probation Counselor for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. He is a Board Member and Treatment Committee Director for the White County Meth Task Force. He initiated, helped organize and plan a National Recovery Monthly Event held in September 2006. There were over 1200 participants. He has also been involved in March against Meth parades, Meth State Coalition Conferences, and speaking engagements in local schools and churches. As the Treatment Committee Director, he helped with the production of several brochures that have been distributed through the community. He developed a Treatment Provider Collaborative, provided assistance in grant development and creation and maintenance of 24-hour hotlines.

The **Personnel Office Staff** of the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Customer Service**. This team consisted of **Tara Copeland, Yvette Crawford, Shaina Head, Gail Holder** and **Nancy Peace**. With the opening of Lamar Pre-Release Center and the High Maximum Security Unit at GDCP, the staff has hired over 100 new correctional officers in the last six months of 2006. The office staff is

responsible for HR functions for 454 staff members. It is also responsible for three PO office HR needs as well as Lamar Pre-Release Center. They also greet customers with a cheerful voice and a pleasant attitude.

The **Brunswick Circuit Probation Staff** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Humanitarian**. The team consisted of **Tim Tatum, Amy Hires, Denise Head, Phil Scott, Robert Houghton, Jimmy Pitts, Linda Rooney, Barry Cooper, Angelina Ewing, Brian Mills, Jeffrey Egan, Thomas Moree, Sail Mingledorff, Joyce Strickland, Andre Ogir, John Milton, Rick Jacobson, Glyndora Nobles, Roxanne Liphtratt, Julie Frey, Georg Trexler, Maria Jacobs, Ronald Doane, Shelia Gordon, Luke Coleman, Greg Taylor, Shea Cleland** and **Clay Wilkes**. Staff members found a man lying in the street behind the Probation Office. This man was a US Navy veteran trying to get to the VA hospital in Dublin. In each of the two previous nights, he had purchased a bus ticket to Dublin. Each night, he was assaulted by a group of young males and his tickets were stolen. The bus station stated that even if Mr. Way had retained his ticket, he would not be allowed to travel due to his appearance and clothing. While handling the normal flow of probation business and an accounting audit, the staff members got Mr. Way fed at the Manor House, obtained clothing from the Salvation Army, purchased a bus ticket and bought food for Mr. Way to have on his bus ride. The staff of Brunswick PO undertook this task upon their own initiative while their chief PO and Office Manager were away all day at a meeting. They have also prepared Christmas baskets for the last several years. Several staff members participate in the "Angel Tree" gift program.

Gerald "Jack" Koon from LaGrange Transitional Center was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Leadership**. Jack Koon strives to educate the community by speaking to students at LaGrange College and West Georgia Technical College criminal justice classes. He attends business expos and local job fairs recruiting the most qualified applicants. He promotes hiring of GDC residents at the Chamber of Commerce. He is the president of the West Georgia Society of Human Resource Managers and is proactive in partnering with the Department of Labor. He graduated in the first Commissioner's Pre-command class in 2006. Under his leadership, LaGrange TC was recognized by the GA Bar Assoc for participating in the nationally recognized BASIC World of Work program for offenders. Inspired by his leadership, the GDC employee of the year was awarded to a LaGrange TC counselor. The LaGrange TC received the 2006 perfect score for leadership from Georgia Program Assessment Inventory. He motivated staff to meet and exceed goal for State's Charitable Contribution Campaign in 2006. He obtained a grant from the Fuller Callaway Foundation to fund GED instruction for center residents.

The following GDC employee was nominated in the category of **Community Service**:
Karen Herbin-Foote.

The following GDC employees were nominated in the category of **Heroism**:
Denise Gunnels, Curtis Jackson, Rudolph Small and **Joe E. Williams**.

The following GDC employee was nominated in the category **Humanitarian**:
Mitzi Richards.

The following GDC employees were nominated in the category of **Leadership**:
Atlanta Specialized Supervision Unit – Pretrial Intervention Program and **Eric Blunt**.

Congratulations go out to all the Winners and Nominees!