
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

So, I know I am getting old now, Karl Slover has passed away. Karl was 93, and the last of the mighty Munchkins. I guess he left us to go to the real City of Oz. And to tell you how old I am, as a child I actually saw Toto in real life at the Strand Theatre in Shreveport. The Strand was a movie theatre that had Saturday shows for kids – parents would drop us off and we would enjoy the kiddie shows. Also to show you how old I am, I saw Jimi Hendrix at the Shreveport Civic Center – but Toto was not with Jimi – at least not yet, anyway.

On to more serious business – we have had a seriously busy week. We conducted a tour of Jetson for staff of the LA Public Defender Board. Jean Faria, State Public Defender, and Julie Kilborn, Director of Training, were able to tour the facility and visit with staff and youth. It was a beautiful day for the tour, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They were very impressed with the staff and the youth – they saw the youth in school and participated in a circle-up in Sunshine dorm. Thanks to Director Daron Brown and his staff, and thanks to Ms. Faria and Ms. Kilborn for spending some time with us.

Five of our PPOs graduated from the POST Academy this week, and we are very proud of them all, especially Matthew Carter, from Shreveport OJJ, who was elected president of the class.

We hosted a judges' meeting here today, and we want to thank all of the judges who traveled to Baton Rouge to meet with us and give us an opportunity to share information about our activities and plans for the future. Judge Tracy Flemings-Davillier of New Orleans, Judge Robert Segura of New Iberia, Judge Dee Ann Hawthorne of Natchitoches, Judge George Murray of Vidalia, and Judge Jules Edwards of Lafayette, were in attendance. It's always good to meet with the judges to discuss issues that affect our youth and the services we provide. We appreciate their support.

We also had a lovely Thanksgiving luncheon today at Central Office, thanks to our Morale Committee. They provided a delicious, spicy gumbo, potato salad and cake, and gave us a chance to take a breath and visit with one another for a few minutes. Many thanks to the Morale Committee for, well, keeping our morale up.

The staff here at central office are giving me a hard time - when they come into my office they hear Christmas music in the background. The radio station that I listen to is already playing Christmas music, and I don't mind it, but apparently it drives my staff crazy. So, Merry Thanksgiving!

Just a note to tell you that we are going to skip next week, but What's Up, Doc? will be back on track the week after Thanksgiving. So, my thanks to each and every member of the OJJ family for all that you do every day to meet the mission, and my wishes to you all for a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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