
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, who knew I was a trend setter? I come to the office with the latest accessory, my crutches, and everybody wants some! Attorney **Steven Farber** and **Andre Metoyer** have followed in my foot steps and are sporting a pair of crutches around central office. Now, when people hear the sound of those things coming around the corner, they don't know who to expect...

Mid week OJJ leadership team met in the middle - middle of the state that is, to discuss some important changes that will be happening for our agency. I am sure you have all heard about the reorganization of OJJ. We will be transitioning to a regionalized model. The state will be divided into 3 separate regions, combining all regional field offices and facilities that exist in each region, under a regional director. There will be 3 regional directors who will be "boots on the ground" traveling between and working with each office and facility in their region. There are a lot of advantages to this structure, including better collaboration and team work between the regional offices and facilities and more awareness and accountability of OJJ's needs and issues. Even though I know there will be challenges in this transition, it's a positive path forward and I look forward to seeing the results of this model.

RM **Johnny Qualls** and his team did a great job hosting our meeting on Wednesday. I took advantage of being in that neck of the woods and spent the last couple days in the Alexandria area visiting with local sheriffs and elected officials. I was in and out of the Alexandria office and it was great to get to spend some time with the team there.

Let's talk for a minute about haters. If you've been following the Olympics, you've heard about the controversy about former LSU All-American and current Olympic trackster Lolo Jones. The media was attacking her abilities and right to be at the Olympics even though she holds the American record. I mean, give her a break! Turns out, she placed fourth in the U.S. Olympic finals coming in only 1/10th of a second shy of the bronze and .23 seconds shy of the gold AND she had surgery on her spine last fall. That's talent to me. And how inspiring is Oscar Pistorius of South Africa, the first double amputee to qualify for the summer Olympics? With people arguing his prosthetics blades give him (reminder – a man with no legs) an advantage over able-bodied athletes, his class and humbleness really deserve some respect. I can't run that fast even when I had two "good" legs and was younger.

So, there's a sink hole the size of a football field near Napoleonville. It started with unexplained bubbles and tremors like earthquakes and now it has consumed full grown trees!

Speaking of football, Saints started preseason games. All I can say is, at least no key players suffered season ending injuries before the season started. We should all be so lucky.

It's was back to school week here in East Baton Rouge Parish and I'm sure in many places around the state. So, remember to slow down in those school zones.

Wherever you're slowing down, dodging sink holes or avoiding preseason injuries, thank you for all that you do, everyday, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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