
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Ready or not, here comes Christmas! Have you finished your shopping? I hope you don't get caught up in the rat race of buying way too much stuff. Stuff is fine, but it is not what makes us happy. How about doing something special for someone, or just going out of your way to make somebody's day? Giving of your time or your talents is a good idea! Enjoy being in the present, not necessarily giving a present! Just a thought. Okay, buy the gifts too. But let's remember what the spirit of Christmas is all about in the process.

Speaking of which, I know that a lot of offices around the state are finding ways to help some of the youth and families we serve. At central office we collected money to send over to the Baton Rouge P&P office to help two needy families. I know that type of thing is going on at OJJ locations all over the state, and I really commend you for it. You are the most generous staff I have ever worked with. Louisiana folks are known for our generosity, and it sure is true within the Office of Juvenile Justice.

Guess who had a big birthday this week? Yep, Yours Truly. I only mention it because it was one of those "decade markers." One of those clock turners. (I'll let you guess which one.) I am a very lucky person. I have wonderful friends, and family, and a community of colleagues who inspire me. I have been treated like royalty, starting back in October. Yes, I have been milking this one for a few months now. I have been treated to many dinners, flowers, champagne, a limousine ride in D.C., the beach, gifts, three different cakes, and many, many cards, emails, and phone calls. Yes, indeed! This has been one that I will remember! I guess I have to wait another 10 years for another one like this! Maybe I'll start milking that one in August of that year!

I know that you are enjoying your office get-togethers for the holidays. We had ours at central office Thursday. We had a choice of gumbo or shrimp fettucini, with all the fixins. I tasted them both, although I tasted the gumbo more! Both were very good. Our Morale Committee did a great job with beautiful decorations, and I understand there was a White Elephant gift exchange. Did I hear there was a lot of legal stealing going on? I couldn't tell you because I had to slip away to get to a Sentencing Commission meeting. So, I guess I will just have to review the UORs. I'm sure you know how that works – you can choose a gift from the pool or "steal" one that someone else has already opened, and that person can then either choose a gift from the pool or steal another that strikes their fancy, and so on...and on...Do you think the Sentencing Commission would approve?

Well, y'all, next week is Christmas (and Christmas Eve is a holiday) – bookmarked by a work day before and two after, but a lot of staff are taking vacation time, so we won't have WUD next week. So, I'll take this opportunity to wish you all, all over OJJ Land, a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year, with my sincerest thanks for all you do, every day, year in and year out, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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