
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:



The big news this week is the retirement of one of OJJ's longest-serving employees, RM Sue Larisey of the Hammond Regional Office. Sue served for 39 years, in several positions before becoming Baton Rouge RM. She then moved over to the Hammond office as RM. I was able to attend the retirement party that the Hammond office put on for Sue, and it was really very nice. There was a lot of good food, and many people were there to wish Sue well. Her husband, Mike, was there, as well as her son Ben, and her little grandson. A number of friends from Sue's church also attended. It was a very nice tribute to Sue, and the staff did a great job in recognizing her for 39 years of service. Sue has excellent leadership qualities, and I want to personally thank her for so many years of outstanding service to the agency and the youth and families of the Baton Rouge and Hammond regions. She has served well and faithfully and will be missed. We wish Sue well in the next chapter of her life.

I stopped by the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's office on the way to Hammond today and met with some of the staff who deal with juvenile issues. They had a lot of good things to say about the OJJ staff from the Hammond office that they work with daily. While I appreciate their compliments, it comes as no surprise to me. I know the excellent quality work that our field staff puts forth.

Shifting gears, you know it's election season because you can't turn on the television without getting a barrage of ads touting candidates. Remember, we are restricted in voicing support for candidates and political parties, but our voices can be heard at the ballot box (okay, the computer terminal), so I would encourage you all to exercise your right to vote as you see fit on Nov. 4. There are 14 constitutional amendments on the ballot, and that's a lot of reading. Below is a link to the non-partisan Public Affairs Research Council's Guide to the 2014 Constitutional Amendments. We are not restricted in discussing amendments to the constitution and issues that affect us.

<http://www.parlouisiana.org/dynaengine/loadDocument.cfm?site=1002087&doc=par2014amends1stedition.pdf>

I hope you all have been able to attend one of the meetings that the Office of Group Benefits has been conducting to let us know about the changes taking place in the health insurance plans. Don't forget to educate yourself about the various options so you can make good decisions. Please study the materials that OGB sent out, or visit their website at <https://annualenrollment.groupbenefits.org/> so you can choose whichever plan is best for yourself and your families.

We're going to have a great football weekend, with most of our teams playing worthy opponents. The Ragin' Cajuns and Grambling played last week or earlier this week, but ULM in Monroe will be away playing Georgia, LA Tech will be playing Southern Mississippi, the Saints play Green Bay at home, and the LSU Tigers, bless 'em, ranked 24, are playing third ranked Ole Miss. I think they are going to be a handful for the Tigers. You know the old saying, "Thank God for Mississippi" or Louisiana would be dead last on all the good lists...not this time – Mississippi State is Number 1. Oh well.

I hope you can get outside this weekend to enjoy this beautiful weather and the great outdoors. It's the perfect time for a walk along a nature trail or just enjoying your own backyard. On that note, I'll close with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, for all you do, every day, in every season, and in every office and facility, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary