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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I've been "busier than a horse fly at a rodeo," contributed by Lafayette OJJ Administrative Coordinator 3 **Jennifer Primeaux**, who says that phrase was her daddy's favorite. Keep the responses coming and we will publish them.

First – really first – prize to **George Hebert, Lafayette OJJ PPO3**, who responded to my trivia question asking who is OJJ's Family Liaison with extra points for knowing what that person does. George responded 26 minutes after we sent WUD last Friday, and told me that Donna Bowie is our Family Liaison AND he listed her job duties. GOOD JOB, GEORGE!! Note to RM Michelle Thomas – take Mr. Hebert to lunch...bring him a cupcake...do something nice for our grand prize winner. Thanks to the other staff who responded as well – too numerous to mention.

This week's trivia question: what is this week's national commemorative observance? Hint: it is germane to OJJ's work. AND you received a policy this afternoon that pertains to it. Okay, the policy is Crime Victims Registration and Notification, and it's a policy that I hope each of you will read. Sometimes I think that we, and I mean everyone who works in a corrections/law enforcement field, sometimes forget that for every offender there is an often-innocent victim who has suffered as a result of the offense. We do a lot of restorative justice projects, but those things do not affect the individual victim of the offense, but are generally community service efforts. This policy calls attention to the need for empathy for the crime victims and their need to feel safe, especially when a youth has escaped or is being released. I hope that empathy for those who have been harmed is something we impart to our youth as we work with them. That may be the most important thing they take away from their time with OJJ, either in secure care, non-secure or on probation. When you have genuine feelings of remorse, perhaps you will think twice or three times before you re-offend.

Well, many of you may remember the OJJ Choir performance last year of their song "OJJ is on Fire", and that was almost true this week, at central office, thanks to Yours Truly. I am still embarrassed that I attempted to pop some popcorn in the microwave...and did not pay attention to the instructions to stand by while it pops. No, I went into my office and got busy...standing still is not exactly my strong suit. And when I remembered to return to the microwave I had one really hot mess on my hands. I was enveloped in a thick haze of white smoke. I'm not kidding, that stuff was on fire! Thanks to Admin Asst. Mitzi Sonnier for running that package of steaming carbon outside before I burned the building down. Thanks also to Safety Officer Debbie Linder who came running to the rescue, and to DAS Beth Morgan and Program Consultant Katie Justice, who tried to dissipate the fog. The odor is still lingering and the microwave doesn't smell so good, either. Debbie Linder has forbidden me to cook anything for a while and we've had a visit from an official looking person who I fear was from the Fire Marshal's office (they are in our complex after all) who discovered that the only reason the smoke alarms did not go off is because there are no smoke alarms. Or sprinklers. Otherwise we would have needed umbrellas. Moral of the story: pay attention when cooking – anything. Nero fiddled while Rome burned....

Well, on that note, I'll close with my heartfelt thanks to everyone on the OJJ team, wherever your serve, for all you do every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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