

what's up doc?

by Dr. Mary Livers, PH.D, MSW, Deputy Secretary

Vol. 8, No.17. May 8, 2015

Hello, Everyone:

I'm sure you all know that this we have been celebrating Employee Appreciation Week this week. The first week in May is always designated National Corrections Officers and Employee Week by the American Correctional Association (ACA) as well as National Public Service Recognition Week, organized by the Public Employees Roundtable and its member organizations to honor those who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. So we are happy to take this opportunity to honor our OJJ staff around the state for your contributions to the public we serve. State Sen. Dan Claitor sponsored a Senate Concurrent Resolution to "recognize and acknowledge the efforts of the employees of the LA Department of Public Safety, youth services, Office of Juvenile Justice."

The 2015 theme for the Public Employees Roundtable is "Government Works." "Public servants do amazing things across our great nation, around the world, and in your hometown and community. Through Public Service Recognition Week, we showcase their accomplishments and recognize the significant challenges they take on each and every day," stated the Roundtable.

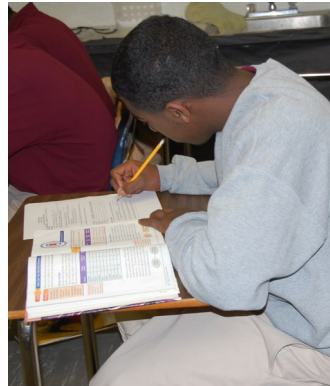
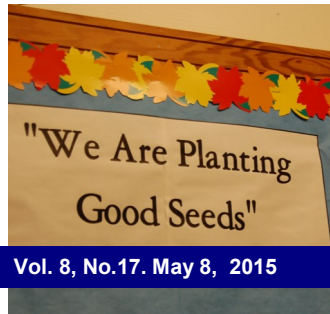
OJJ celebrated with events honoring employees at Bridge City and central office. We will be heading up to Swanson next week for a celebration. As much as I wish I could visit every office during this week, I have to recognize the reality that it is not possible (at least until they perfect that cloning machine). Our community based staff will be honored with events coinciding with Probation and Parole week in July. As usual the events included good food and conversation. These celebrations have a double meaning for us this year. As you all know, a retirement incentive was offered and as a result we will be saying goodbye to a few folks over the next couple of months. Though goodbyes can be bittersweet, we tried our hardest to laugh in equal amounts of crying. I know that you will all want to keep up with who is heading off to enjoy their retirement, we will keep you posted.

This week the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice was also held, and while the program is always very educational, I have to admit with pride that as ever, OJJ youth stole the show. The conference opened with the All-OJJ Choir, under the direction of Swanson's CCS Adm. Asst. LaShonda Reese, which performed the National Anthem, and two more numbers including the rollicking "Happy." The silent auction of youth artwork was set up as always, by Adm. Assts. Wanda Murray, Mitzi Sonnier and Marvel Adams, and it gets better every year. This year, the Ware girls' program sent their contributions for the first time. Bridge City's Culinary Arts students and Chef Ron Sonnier outdid themselves with the refreshments for the Thursday break. One of the highlights was the well-attended session "Circle Up and Fly Right," moderated by Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton and RD Susan Miller. But the stars were five Bridge City youth and two staff members, Group Leader Kedricka Roberson and Social Worker Cody Smith, where they demonstrated our group processes, such as Check-in and Circle Ups, and presented on the positive affect of the LAMOD program.

This is definitely celebration week. First there was Cinco de Mayo (Fifth of May, Mexican Independence Day) which is now a thoroughly American reason to celebrate with lots of music and fun. More importantly is Mother's Day this Sunday. I hope you will be able to honor the mother or mother figures in your lives—whatever would we do without them? I am so glad to be able to wish my mother, Doris Livers, a happy Mother's Day.

Wishing every member of Team OJJ a wonderful weekend, and a great Mother's Day, with my sincere thanks and appreciation to every one of you, wherever your serve, for all you do, every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
Whatsupdoc?
OJJ@la.gov