

# COURTLY NEWS

LAKE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

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## THE CHIEF'S CORNER

BY CHIEF JUDGE JAMES K. BOORAS

In May 2008 I went to my first Second Appellate Conference. It was hosted by the newly formed 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, McHenry County, Illinois; our former sister county.

We left Wednesday afternoon heading for Galena, where the conference was held. Using my GPS we were able to take the scenic route going through Southern Wisconsin. North of Rockford our direction changed from West to South and when we hit a bump I made the comment that we must be back in Illinois. I looked up and saw Governor Blagojevich welcoming us to our Great State.

This little parenthesis is not intended to criticize the Department of Transportation, our legislature or our roads, but merely driver's experience as our Great State.

*...there is an armed robbery in progress...shots fired and hostages taken. "What is the first thing you do?" which prompted me to give the answer, "drop the donut..."*

Eventually the scenic indeed it is scenic as rolling hills break the little towns you go to our populated area

especially the ones that are designed to always stop you. This designation earned Waukegan the reputation of being called the "City of Red Lights."

It appears that Waukegan is now modernizing and synchronizing the lights on Washington Street with other streets soon to follow. Since it is rather significant for the Courts to provide access to justice, the physical movement of our "clients" is one of the factors of great concern as is parking. I am certain that our host city of Waukegan is cognizant of that; so they will provide physical access to our facilities.

Our first day at the conference was a day I was able to get acquainted with the other Chief Judges from the other circuits within the Second Appellate District. Judge Starck and Deputy Court Administrator Diane Flory were magnificent in introducing me to other chiefs and court administrators.

Note: For a little history background, the Second Appellate Conference is attended by the chief judges, court administrators and selected administrative staff of the 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> judicial circuits. I learned that this conference originated here in Lake County 23 years ago and was spearheaded by then Chief Judge William D. Block and Executive Director Bob Zastany. The purpose of these conferences is to network with staff of other circuits, find out what new programs or undertakings other circuits have embarked upon or are in the process of accomplishing, and to discuss emergent issues and offer possible solutions. Another part of the one and a half day program is dedicated to training with an invited guest speaker on topics that have included, for example, "Leadership;" "Court Performance Standards;" "Caseflow Management;" "Dealing with the Media;" "Access to the Court for People with Disabilities;" "The Management of Change in the Courts;" "Judicial Security;" and "Dealing with Difficult People."

*Continued on Page 7*

# Welcome

## **Dr. Dena Traylor**

Date of Hire: June 16, 2008

Position: Director, Psychological Services

## **Cristina Gonzalez**

Date of Hire: July 2, 2008

Position: Adult Probation Officer

## **Roxann Garza**

Date of Hire: August 18, 2008

Position: Adult Probation Officer

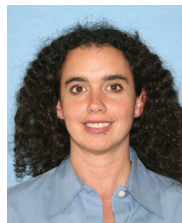
# Congratulations to the Employee of the Month



## **SARA DICRISCIO**

### **April Employee of the Month**

Sara, a Senior Probation Officer in the Compliance Unit, joined the Courts on December 19, 2001 from the Circuit Clerk's Office and received a B.S. degree from Western Illinois University. Sara is always willing to go the extra mile, whether it is with coworkers or the public. With her coworkers, she is flexible in scheduling to help accommodate their needs and the needs of the office. She does her best to make sure all people are treated fairly. Sara handles phone calls about all types of issues and provides answers without having to transfer the caller, even those not related to her job. She also exemplifies the meaning of team spirit by helping at the reception desk if needed. Sara is cheerful and fun to work with and has a way of putting nervous defendants at ease, all this on top of being very knowledgeable and skillful at her assigned tasks and duties. She is highly motivated, enthusiastic, arrives to work ready to tackle the day's cases ensuring that cases are handled expeditiously. **Congratulations Sara!**



## **CHERYL SERSEN**

### **May Employee of the Month**

Cheryl, a Senior Probation Officer in Juvenile Services, joined the Courts on October 1, 1996 and has a B.S. degree from Western Illinois University. Cheryl currently supervises an all female caseload and is highly energetic in her facilitation of the G.I.R.L.'s program. In addition to traditional responsibilities, Cheryl has recently gone above and beyond – doing what could only be described as being truly a volunteer. She volunteered to fill in at the last moment for a team building exercise for the first night of a group when the staff member called in sick. She also has offered to facilitate a Challenge Course group when another staff was having medical problems. Recently she overheard a conversation that involved the need for someone to assist with office coverage and without being asked, she offered to assist in any way possible. She also assisted another co-worker by conducting various school visits to avoid a duplication of efforts. These few examples show how supportive Cheryl is of her co-workers and of the Circuit as a whole. Cheryl has set the bar high for all of us! **Congratulations Cheryl!**



## **ANGELA SEBALLOS**

### **June Employee of the Month**

Angela, a Senior Probation Officer in the Compliance Unit, joined the Courts on May 10, 1993 and received a B.A. degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia College in Missouri. Angela is noted as being a pleasure to work with. She is always willing to help train someone, help someone at the front desk, and assist a co-worker; you name the task and she will get it done. An employee states that when she needed to take a medical leave and upon her return, Angela took the time to assist her to catch up on the work that was awaiting her. Compliance maintains a rotating schedule for coverage from 7:00 a.m. to 5 pm. On numerous occasions, Angela has switched late days with her co-workers to ensure that there is coverage until 5:00. She does this with a smile. It's really nice to know that if you need to take time off, she will always check her schedule to see if she can fill in for you. **Congratulations Angela!**

## **CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE SCHOSTOK!**

The Illinois Supreme Court has appointed Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Mary Seminara Schostok to the Illinois Appellate Court, Second Judicial District. Judge Schostok is appointed to the position currently held by Appellate Court Judge Barbara Gilleran Johnson, who will be retiring on August 13, 2008. The appointment is effective August 18, 2008 and terminates December 6, 2010.

## **CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE ORTIZ!**

The Illinois Supreme Court has appointed Judge Jorge L. Ortiz to Circuit Judge for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. "Judge Ortiz is an outstanding jurist and is an excellent selection as the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit's next Circuit Judge", commented Chief Judge James Booras. Judge Ortiz will fill the Circuit Judge post recently vacated by Appellate Justice Mary Seminara Schostok.

## **THE COURTERLY NEWS STAFF**

ARMINDA BADGEROW

DIANE FLORY

JOSEPH KELROY

ROSANNE SHERWOOD

ROB ZASTANY, JR.

## FAST FACTS — GRANT ACTIVITY

BY MARCI JUMISKO, BUDGET AND FINANCE MANAGER

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit has received four new grants totaling \$269,561 so far this year in addition to the \$135,124 received for two ongoing grant programs. These grants provide some good news as current economic conditions have a negative impact on more traditional revenue sources. As always, the Judicial Budget and Finance Office is willing to assist in the pursuit of funding opportunities at the state and federal level or from private foundations. Please let me know if you are looking for funding for a specific program.

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit has received a \$200,000 enhancement grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the period July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010 to expand the Therapeutic and Intensive Monitoring (TIM) Court's treatment options for participants with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health issues.

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services has provided funding in the amount of \$42,686 in state fiscal year 2009 for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit to contract with a mediator to aid in the resolution of visitation and custody-related disputes in an effort to increase the collection of child support payments from non-custodial parents.

The Lake County Center for Self-Representation received \$16,875 from Prairie State Legal Services through an Illinois Equal Justice Foundation grant. Funds were used to offset a portion of the costs of the Adobe LiveCycle project which will automate court forms to improve processing and customer service.

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit received a \$10,000 planning grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services to evaluate *Redeploy Illinois*, a program focused on reducing commitments to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. Funding was used for training and data analysis to evaluate services provided to youth in Lake County.

## ETHICAL ACTION TEST

- ✓ Is it legal?
- ✓ Does it comply with our rules and guidelines?
- ✓ Is it in sync with our organization's values?
- ✓ Will I be comfortable and guilt-free if I do it?
- ✓ Would it be perfectly okay if someone was doing it to me - Golden Rule?
- ✓ Would the most ethical person I know do it?



One sad thing about this world is that the acts that take the most out of you are usually the ones that other people will never know about.

-Ann Taylor

## Dealing with Difficult People

Do you recognize these people? Maybe you work with one of them, or do you have one for a neighbor, or maybe you recognize one of them as YOU! Match the name with the characteristic... (answers on page 8)

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| The Know-It-Alls _____ | a. They are quick to point out why something won't work. What's worse, they're inflexible.              |
| The Dictators _____    | b. Is anything ever right with them? They prefer complaining than finding solutions.                    |
| The Passives _____     | c. They agree to any commitment, yet rarely deliver. You can't trust them to follow through.            |
| The Gripers _____      | d. They bully and intimidate. They're constantly demanding and brutally critical.                       |
| The "No" People _____  | e. They're arrogant and usually have an opinion on every issue. When they're wrong, they get defensive. |
| The "Yes" People _____ | f. These people never offer ideas or let you know where they stand.                                     |

*Dealing with Difficult People, Career Track*



# KIDS' KORNER AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

By Nicholas P. Alajakis  
News Sun Reporter  
June 21, 2008

When Eva Martinez told her three sons they'd have to tag along while she attended a court hearing in the Lake County Building, she didn't get the reaction most parents would expect.

That's because the Martinez boys have discovered something that nearly 30,000 other Lake County children have known for years - the courthouse isn't that bad. Not with Kids' Korner at least.

"They love coming here," Martinez said of her boys, ages 3 to 10. "When I told them I was going to court today, they asked if they would come to (Kids' Korner)."

Kids' Korner, the free, day-care-like-facility open to children whose parents are conducting court business, will soon take in its 30,000th child since it opened in 1994.

Located on the first floor of the Lake County Building, near the 19th Judicial Circuit's family courts, the 600-square-foot center is an ideal location for parents to quickly drop off and pick up their children when they have business in court.

The journey to 30,000 hasn't been easy, said coordinator Rosanne Sherwood. In the beginning, staff spent a lot of time worrying about fund-raising and donations. But once Kids' Korner went under county control and it began receiving \$5 from every civil case filing, the center began to streamline, with a \$150,000 budget. Now they see up to 20 children a day.

"I don't think we thought this far ahead in the beginning," Sherwood said. "We worked month to month to stay open."

Kids' Korner has taken care of a little more than 29,500 children since it opened. With summer being the busiest time for them, staff said they expect to reach 30,000 by the end of July.

Making the children feel comfortable during what is often a difficult time is very important for the center, said Sue Hrycyniak, the center's only full-time employee outside of Sherwood.

The day-care center was spearheaded by Judge Jane Waller as a way to keep kids out of the courts, where language and situations can often get hairy. A novel idea at the time, the popularity of similar systems has since taken off nationwide.

"It's such a win-win for everybody," Sherwood said.

During the summer, the center depends Carmel Catholic High School student Korner to earn ministry credits at because of the ability to work with and days a little easier," Van Dien said.



Everybody benefits from the program,"

a lot on volunteers. Johnna Van Dien, a from Winthrop Harbor volunteers at Kids' school. She said she chose the center mentor kids. "I get a chance to make their

Have a frightfully fun  
and safe Halloween!



## KIDS KORNER UPDATE

On July 24, Kids' Korner reached the milestone of the 30,000th child utilizing the services of the program.

Blessings to  
you and your  
family this  
Thanksgiving.



# COG nitive utreach Groups

By Robert Verborg  
Program Research  
Analyst

This study evaluates the efficacy of the Lake County Adult Probation Services' Cognitive Outreach Groups (COG) Program, which is based on the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) cognitive behavioral program for adult offenders on probation.

*Thinking for a Change (T4C)*, 89 male and 39 female high-risk probationers were studied. A quasi-experimental program design was utilized with COG Program completers matched to a comparison group of earlier probationers who had not been assigned to the program. The groups were followed for the duration of their respective probation terms and for three years after completion of probation service, and assessed for recidivism, as measured by successful completion of probation, new offenses resulting in arrest and new offenses resulting in convictions. Results demonstrate that COG group completers were more than twice as likely to successfully complete probation than those in the comparison group, and that new criminal offense (as measured by either new arrest or conviction) rates for group completers were significantly lower than that for comparisons.

*This study provides supportive evidence for the continued use of cognitive behavioral group treatment among high-risk offenders in Lake County as a means of reducing continued criminal activity.*



## NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT'S 2008 LIBERTY BELL AWARDS

The Liberty Bell Award originated in the 1960's in Michigan to honor extraordinary service to the justice system and dedication to the furtherance of the administration of justice. The awards have been bestowed by the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit since 1996.



### WAYNE HUNTER

Mr. Hunter is currently the director of Homeland Security for the Lake County Sheriff. He began his career as a patrol officer for the Waukegan Police Department, served as a Detective, concluded his Waukegan career as an officer with the Narcotics Task Force assigned to the DEA and retired as a highly decorated Lieutenant. Mr. Hunter began a new career as a psychology intern with the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Psychological Services while working toward a Ph.D. degree. He continued as a corrections psychologist with the Lake County Sheriff, and then became Director of Medical Services for the Lake County jail where he is still noted for the crisis intervention he continually initiated for deeply troubled inmates. Mr. Hunter also worked in the planning, implementation, and operation of the Nineteenth Circuit's Therapeutic Intensive Monitoring Courts (both the Drug and Mental Health components). He worked tirelessly on behalf of the programs' participants to intervene, devise treatment plans and provide guidance to the team. Additionally, he worked with the Illinois Department of Health Services to open the door for the possibility of a sanctioned psychological fitness restoration program at the local level.



### THE LINCOLNSHIRE GARDEN CLUB

The Lincolnshire Garden Club has served as volunteers at the Hulse Detention Center for five years. During this time the Garden Club has shown years of constant dedication, commitment, hard work, love for the residents and activities, and appreciation of the environment. In addition to providing volunteers weekly, who work with children at the Detention Center, the Club has also generously given financial support to the garden program at Hulse. The Garden Club has also supported and assisted in other areas of landscape development and outdoor construction at Juvenile. They are currently assisting the Eagle Scouts with two major projects in the court yard/garden. The Club created opportunities for the residents and staff to engage in bird banding with Dr. Caleb Gordon, Professor at Lake Forest College, as well as assisting the Court to develop and expand opportunities to work with the Cuneo Gardens in Vernon Hills. Individual members of the Garden Club have also given of their time to tutor the residents in various subject areas, as well as presented gifts and books to the residents.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately - without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional "pain relievers."

## CHARACTER IS SHOWN BY:

The jokes we choose to share ... and not to share.  
The derogatory terms we choose to use ... and refuse to use.  
The promises we choose to break ... and the ones we keep.  
The rumors we choose to spread ... and those we ignore.  
The resources we choose to waste ... and those we use wisely.  
The lies we choose to tell ... and not to tell.  
The responsibilities we choose to accept ... and those we shirk.  
The courtesies we choose to extend ... and fail to extend.  
The efforts we choose to put forth ... and not put forth.  
The quality we choose to provide ... and the corners we cut.  
The information we choose to share ... and that which we hoard.  
The listening we choose to do ... and not to do.  
The respect we choose to give ... and fail to give.  
The helpful hands we choose to extend ... and those we keep in our pockets.

# FACE-IT Victory Garden

For the past five years the FACE-IT Program has long enjoyed a working bond with Lincolnshire Garden Club. Together, a project known as the Victory Garden has come into existence. This creation represents for the boys a personal "Victory Over" criminality, indifference, sloth, anger, deceit, intolerance, violence, hatred, destructiveness, abusiveness and divisiveness; and a celebration for each boy in a "Victory For" love, beauty, honor, respect, charity, confidence, belief, penitence, responsibility and cooperation.

Through the Lincolnshire Garden Club, FACE-IT has been fortunate to be involved in a Boy Scout Eagle Project. Kevin Wood and Kristian Meyer of Boy Scout Troop 78 in Lincolnshire are both working towards their Eagle Scout Rank and have been working with the youth of FACE-IT, building a brook and pond as well as constructing a storage shed. The projects were made possible due to the gracious donations and support from the Lincolnshire Garden Club, Lincolnshire Morningstar Rotary, Orren Pickell Builders and Lurvey's Garden Center.

The FACE-IT participants were involved in all aspects of these two projects, from the planning right through the construction. In the course of actively working with youth their own age, and not just listening to a speech, our participants learned important life skills to include but not limited to, team work, social/personal interaction skills, responsibility, cooperation, following directions, safe work habits and a satisfaction of seeing the positive results of their hard work.

The brook and pond were hand sculpted and are comprised of an upper pond from which a brook meanders about six feet down to a lower pond. In and around the pond are rocks, boulders, flowers and plants all strategically placed and planted by our participants that enhance the ambience of this natural setting. We are also proud to announce that a frog has already taken up residence in the lower pond.

The shed was designed, measured, cut and constructed from scratch. When completed the shed will not only store tools and equipment for the maintenance of the gardens but will also include a potting counter.

We are already looking forward to two future projects already being planned for the FACE-IT Victory Garden. These are a Japanese Tee Garden and a multi-tiered garden terrace. As our gardens grow, develop and flourish, so do our youth.





A motivational and positive thinking lecturer occupied us the first day. The presenter, who is a certified business and life coach, spent part of the day teaching us on how to conquer procrastination, whether it involved our personal or professional lives, and suggesting tips on how to create new habits and adjust our attitudes. The afternoon session was spent on making a personal assessment of our internal thoughts and beliefs that may be negatively impacting our lives or careers. We were then given tools to overcome negativity and help us generate our own success. A little discouraging at first but in the end we all felt better about ourselves.

Our hosts had planned a group dinner on a boat over the Mississippi. At that time the river was calm and we were able to view the scenery and enjoy the prime rib dinner. I wonder how it is now with all the rain and the flooding; how mightily the "mighty Mississippi" swept away and flooded property along its banks. How beautiful and how destructive it can be.

Our second day at the conference, I was surprised by a presentation from the McHenry County Sheriff's Department regarding the use of force. Two fine deputies presented several scenarios which they varied depending on the situation.

A very large screen was used to project the various scenarios. The people on the screen were life size. Some were bystanders and some were the criminals. The criminals were able to shoot back. Plastic bullets were used to shoot back. These bullets sting the rookie deputies being trained.

McHenry County Chief Judge Michael Sullivan and I were the first to volunteer to take up arms against the criminals. I was given a Berretta and Judge Sullivan was given a Glock pistol.

We were first briefed about the situation we were about to face. They started out by saying "imagine your self being in a coffee shop across from a gas station. You hear over the radio that there is an armed robbery in progress at the gas station, with shots fired and hostages taken." Then they ask the question, "What is the first thing you do?" which prompted me to give the answer, "drop the donut..."

We faced the criminals and we got shot at. I managed to shoot the criminals a couple of times and Judge Sullivan shot one of the gas pumps which they told us later that, "it wasn't a good thing to do."

The conference ended with reports from the various circuits. This is probably the most beneficial part of the conference where we all learn from one another about what's going on in each of the circuits. At the end of the conference, Diane Flory and I visited President Ulysses S. Grant's home, which is well preserved in Galena, his home town, before heading back to Lake County.

My first experience at the conference was very positive and informative thanks to the participants and more important our Lake County Team. We are blessed to have the quality and caliber of personnel that would represent us and give the support so the Mighty 19<sup>th</sup> can live up to its name.



#### **VETERANS DAY November 11**

Once known as Armistice Day the modern celebration of Veterans Day has its origins in the end of World War I. Rather than a commemoration of war, this mid-November legal holiday is intended to coincide with the historic resumption of peace among nations. Naturally those who did not return from the battle front are the focus of much of the interest but living veterans are honored as well.



**November 4, 2008**

Voting is a privilege that the American people can utilize to make their choice of who they want to serve the people. Be sure to go to the polls on November 4 and VOTE!



*Continued*

## **Dealing with Difficult People**

**Answers:** The Know it Alls ..... e    The Dictators ..... d    The Passives ..... f    The Grippers ..... b  
The "No" People .... a    The "Yes" People ..... c