

February 17, 2012

# Weekly Views

Pendleton Correctional Facility Powerhouse Supervisor Danny Metzger was honored during a retirement ceremony at the facility in recognition of his 31 years of service to the State of Indiana. Congratulations Mr. Metzger!

Diana Daugherty was honored for over 19 years of dedicated service to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility during a retirement reception. Diana served as an Officer, Counselor, Casework Manager and Unit Team Manager during her tenure, and was honored in 2010 as Correctional Manager of the Year by the Indiana Correctional Association. Superintendent Dick Brown lauded her efforts and her strong support of the Wabash PLUS Unit.

"Diana is a role model who has inspired staff with her commitment to re-entry of our offenders back to society as community contributors," Brown said. (see photo right of Diana and Superintendent Brown)



The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted a group from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Twenty-one Jail Officers from Sheriff's Departments throughout the state toured the facility and learned about the DOC intake process.

Staff from Miami Correctional Facility participated in the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge in Kokomo, IN. Six employees, Jason Kochensparger, Earnest Parkin, Christopher Ertel, Craig Stoll, Daniel Madson, Douglas Nelson, and one non-employee, Shannon Fields, braved the 13 degree temperatures to take a dip in the water. The water temperature was a chilly 36 degrees and the wind chill at the time of the plunge was -1 degrees. Through this event, the group raised \$1,067 for Special Olympics of Indiana. They were also asked to participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Relay for the Special Olympics Summer Games held at Indiana State University, because of their contributions both this year and last.

Superintendent Stanley Knight presided over Putnamville Correctional Facility's Staff Recall. Knight relayed recent facility highlights. Laundry Foreman Beverly Wiseman, Casework Manager Steve Weltzin, Correctional Officer Travis Sutherlin and Correctional Lieutenant Bettina West were all recognized as Employees of the Quarter for their professional contribution to the facility. Assistant Superintendents Craig Grage and Tim Phegley gave Operations and Re-Entry updates. Officers Mark Neese and Michael Scales were recipients of the Promoting Positive Correctional Culture certificates.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) Superintendent Mark Levenhagen honored numerous well-deserving staff at the facility's quarterly assembly. Plaques, pins and certificates were distributed to recognize employees for years of service, staff of the quarter, and perfect attendance. The facility's newly formed Honor Guard captivated the attendees with their presentations of colors while WCC's own Iraq War veteran, Sergeant Sherri Washington, called cadence.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held a Valentine's Day candy gram fundraiser for the Employee Appreciation Fund. Staff sold 900 candy grams and raised over \$500 for the fund.

Natasha Allen, from the Indianapolis Veterans Center, delivered hand-made Valentine cards to the Veterans in the Indiana Veterans Education and Transition Unit at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility. The cards were made by elementary students at a local church school.

The Indiana State Prison Recreation Department invited William Franklin to speak to offenders at the facility. Will Franklin is one of the most respected personal trainers in the Chicago area and is also a motivational speaker. Through his work, he tries to make the athlete visualize what the future can look like. "Proper preparation prevents poor performance." The offenders were very enthused by his coach-like approach and they could relate very well to his life journey. This was a great community outreach for the Indiana State Prison Recreation Department.

The Branchville Correctional Facility PLUS Program held a graduation ceremony for approximately 70 offenders who completed the intensive 12-18 month program. This was the first graduation for the program since the program was moved from a dorm with a capacity of only 108 to a dormitory which holds 240 offenders. Over 15 visitors were in attendance, including offender family members and volunteers who assist with the PLUS Program.

Forty-one members of the Elnora Bible Institute Choir came from across the country to perform gospel renditions for the offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Choir members hailed from as far away as Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Black History Program which was attended by approximately 100 offenders. Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams served as guest speaker for the event.