



Governor Rell taps Anne Gnazzo to be new DAS Commissioner

By Nina Ritson

The New Year brings winds of change for the State of Connecticut. Governor M. Jodi Rell was inaugurated to serve her first four-year term, we have a new Lieutenant Governor, and a legislative session tackling new issues. DAS, too, witnessed change as Anne D. Gnazzo took the helm on January 4 as Commissioner of DAS.

In announcing her appointment Governor Rell referred to Gnazzo as “a fiscal expert, bringing strong expertise in policy development and state budgeting to her position.”

Gnazzo began her state service career in 1991 in the legislative branch working for the Legislative Commissioners’ Office. She served as counsel to the Public Health Committee and later to the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. Then in 1999, Gnazzo joined the Office of Policy and Management, where in 2000 she became the Director of Legal, Legislative, and Policy Affairs and, in 2003, Deputy Secretary.

Gnazzo hails originally from Cleveland, Ohio and speaks humbly of her journey to becoming the CEO of DAS.

“I graduated from Ursuline College and met and married my husband, Patrick. We moved to Washington, D.C. after he finished law school, where he worked for the federal government, and we raised our two daughters, Beth and Meghan.”

In 1981, her husband took a position in Connecticut with United Technologies Corp.,



Commissioner Anne D. Gnazzo

so the Gnazzos became West Hartford residents – during which time Anne decided to get her Master’s Degree in Communication at the University of Hartford.

In 1986, the family again returned to the D.C. area. There she entered law school at American University, Washington College of Law and received her juris doctor. A few years later it was back to West Hartford, again, this time with a bit more permanency!

While her professional accomplishments are laudable, Gnazzo says, “As a mom, I just served one very exhausting position – wedding planner!”

She smiles as she talks about her daughters. Beth is now a lawyer in D.C. and Meghan, an architect living in Chicago.

Both are recent college graduates and both recently married. “In 2003, my daughter Beth married her husband whom she met while at Boston College. They were married at the parish of St. Ignatius of Loyola on the BC campus, and then in

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DAS Has Key Role in Inaugural Events

By Nina Ritson

Rhinestones and pearls garnished satin, velvet and taffeta gowns as ladies walked the red carpet, escorted by men polished to perfection in tuxedos.

Did the Oscars come to Hartford? No, but it **was** a night of glamour and who's who in Connecticut. The Inaugural Ball, celebrating the 87th Governor of Connecticut, Governor M. Jodi Rell, went off flawlessly at the Connecticut Expo Center on January 3. Two thousand people attended, hobnobbing and nibbling on a fanfare of hors d'oeuvres, sipping wine and dancing to the music of Tirebiter, all the while hoping for a chance to meet the Governor or the new Lt. Governor, Michael Fedele. All this glitz and glitter followed a long day filled with the parade and swearing-in ceremonies...and just a little over a month of preparation time.



Glamour couple Tracie and Glenn Knapsack at the Ball

So what does it take to pull together such events of pomp and pageantry? It takes a lot of vision, communication, coordination, and people who are ready to work and eager to please.

And DAS was on the front line, working to make sure everything was perfect!

"It all began when we learned that the Governor's Foot Guard was not running the Inaugural Ball this time, so the Governor's Office quickly formed a committee of employees from DPW, DAS, DPS and the Military to work on it," said Tracie Knapsack of the Business Office, as she pulled out a six-inch



Governor M. Jodi Rell and Mr. Rell along the Inaugural Parade route



Lt. Governor Michael Fedele and Mrs. Fedele wave to parade spectators

deep, 20-pound manila folder of clipped papers plastered by a kaleidoscope of post-it notes.

"We began meeting in early December via conference calls at 5:30 every night. It took a while to sort out our roles in these events," she said.

"Then it was determined DPW would be responsible for the parade and swearing-in ceremony, while the Military would host the Inaugural Ball."

For Knapsack, this meant she would be there to guide the Military through the purchasing of goods and services, making sure the vendor was active in CoreCT, negotiating prices, ensuring that they make or beat prices that are already on DAS contract, coordinating the vendors



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and the Inaugural Committee, and finally, processing payments for services. For this, she engaged the help of Suzanne Hawkins and Don Cassella to do standardization transactions for food and decorations.

Devin Marquez, as legal counsel, reviewed all language and contracts, especially for the CT Expo Center, to insure compliance.

“There was a lot of information that had to be processed quickly and correctly,” Knapsack emphasized.

She then credited those responsible, “Peter Varhol made daily trips to the Military to pick up invitations and guarantee 3:00 p.m. mail drop, Diane Preble and Debbie JeanFaivre processed credit card payments for booth tickets at the ball and transferred payments to the Military.”

The Inaugural events were just a part of the administration transition, however.

With the departure of Kevin Sullivan, the Lt. Governor’s office was about to be completely transformed. So, Knapsack saw to it that all the outgoing staff’s property was collected, then disposed of properly or shredded. In addition to restock-

ing office supplies, she worked with Melissa Colonese-Scutt to coordinate cell phones for the Governor’s and Lt. Governor’s office.

Juliet Colebrook took charge of all the Lieutenant Governor’s stationery and printed materials. And in the early hours of the morning of January 3, Steve Dygus, Varhol and Knapsack loaded up a van of new materials – to prepare the Lt. Governor’s office and tidy up for an open house that began at 8:30 that morning.

“It will take a couple months for a complete transition, but for now they are up and running with the tools they need,” Knapsack went on to say.

“I have to tell you how appreciative the Governor, the Chief of Staff, Lisa Moody, and Lt. Governor Fedele and his staff have been for the efforts DAS put forth. They are wonderful to work with and let us know every day how grateful they are,” she said.



Top: Governor Rell and her Military escort enter the Ball Above: Nina Ritson and Lisa Chasse are part of the glamorous DAS contingent

Who do you call?

By John McKay

So, you have about 40 work days to plan one of the biggest events for the state – the Governor’s Inauguration Day. Where do you start?

You start with DAS Communications Office and Nina Ritson’s ability to design everything from parking hang-tags, to maps, signage, tickets, and a high-end commemorative booklet, all while getting it done under budget. Then the DAS Print Shop drops everything they’re doing to get items printed, cut, packaged and delivered to the right people.

“It was a lot of fast-paced pressure,” said Ritson.

“You’re doing this work for the Governor and everything has to be perfect the first time. There’s a lot of coordinating and delivery of items, and there’s no time to reprint or redo any of this.”

In a hand written note, Governor Rell said, “Nina, how can I ever say thank you enough? You did such a great job – on everything!!”

The inauguration was wonderful, and I truly have enough memories to last a lifetime!”



TOP BILLING

By John McKay

For some people, it's always been a dream to have their name up in lights. But having your picture, too?

Through an arrangement with the Connecticut Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. (CMSDC), DAS' Supplier Diversity Unit had a month of advertising on the electronic billboard on I-95 in Bridgeport.

The CMSDC strives to significantly increase the procurement opportunities between corporate members and certified minority-owned businesses.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to advertise our program," said Director Meg Yetishefsky. "And to put my staff up there was something I thought we would all really enjoy." The advertisement ran from December 22 to January 18.

Special thanks to Frank, Marisol and Amanda Rivera for taking a drive down to Bridgeport to take the photos.

Lucky motorists on I-95 in Bridgeport are treated to the faces of DAS' Supplier Diversity Team!

How cool is this !



hats off

By Cindy Rusczyk

Department of Transportation employee Vicki Arpin extended her appreciation to **Shari Grzyb** and **Linda Hubeny** for their assistance with a towing/parking issue with ProPark. "Diane Tyc is happy to get whatever reimbursement she can for her towing."

Joanne Batter from the Diversified Sales Company in Woodbridge, CT applauded **Charlene Lindee** and the **Supplier Diversity Staff** for the certification form that is online. "I am of the typewriter vintage and can

honestly say this was a wonderful experience. Certainly it was set up to be user-friendly and that is very much appreciated. I am also pleased that I was always able to reach someone who could assist me with my questions. Thanks to all involved."

Peggy Zabawar commended **John McKay** for his assistance with the new DAS Learning Center catalog. "Another fabulous success – thank you very much!"

Food Donations Coordinator Maurice D. Casey from Foodshare praised DAS Coordinators **Pamela Anderson** and **Eileen Morin** for their "hard work promoting the Governor's

Care and Share Campaign which contributed greatly to the success of this year's event. DAS collected 4,584 pounds of food and \$981. Food donations collected from the campaign in greater Hartford helped feed many needy families this holiday season, and the monetary donations enable Foodshare to address the needs of the 100,000 hungry people in greater Hartford throughout the year. Thank you for caring, sharing and helping bring joy to others. I look forward to working with you in the future."

After a Year, State Website Continues to Help Small Businesses

By John McKay

In January 2006, DAS' Supplier Diversity Unit launched its online application form.

Since then, over 1,000 small businesses have applied online via the DAS website with 753 businesses certified. Customers enjoy the convenience of 24/7 access and the electronic process has made it easier for enrolled companies in their recertification process.

"As you may see by the number of applications we've had, the online system is getting a lot of use," said DAS Commissioner Anne Gnazzo. "Especially now a year later, these companies are really beginning to see the benefits of the online system."

Also in 2006, the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services launched its new small business search engine in order to make it easier for Connecticut state agencies to better identify certified small, women and minority-owned businesses.

Other online improvements include advanced search features that have helped state agencies when completing their reports on spending with small and minority-owned businesses. This added feature, regarding the ability to drill down to find the minority affiliation, has helped online users in their process.

General contractors looking for small and minority sub contractors have commented to DAS that they like the drill down search functions regarding the union, bonded and prequalification features.

State law requires that 25 percent of the total value of the annual budget for all contracts (including construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of public buildings, the construction and maintenance of

highways and the purchasing of goods and services), shall be set aside for small businesses, and of that amount, 25 percent must be awarded to minority business enterprises.

"Our online application includes electronic follow-up as well. The applicants receive email notification from DAS to remind them of outstanding document submittals. This has proven to be helpful to the small business owner who has started the process and may have gotten distracted from completing it," added Gnazzo.

Look for more information at www.das.state.ct.us/busopp.asp



Small business
is
BIG
Business

Gnazzo, cont. from p.1

2005 my younger daughter was married on Cape Cod. With both the girls living out of state, wedding planning can be an all-consuming exercise!"

A wife, a mother, a lawyer, a director, and now in her new role as DAS Commissioner, Gnazzo hit the ground running, getting up to speed on the many businesses of the agency.

"I am very excited and want to really get going with all the DAS programs. And I especially want to thank everyone for making this transition so easy for me. There is so much to learn and so much to do – DAS performs such a huge array of services. Plus I am preparing for my legislative confirmation, which is rapidly approaching. For now I'm just happy to dive in and work hard."

Welcome to DAS,
Commissioner Gnazzo!



January 25 - As one of her first ceremonial duties, DAS Commissioner Anne Gnazzo presented a Retirement Proclamation to Verna Plona (of the SMART Unit) for 18 years of dedicated service with the state.

For Procurement Services, payback's a . . . big deal

By John McKay

For two decades, Procurement Services' Master Insurance Program has provided local housing authorities across Connecticut the opportunity to obtain required insurance coverage through DAS as a sole source.

And for the first time in history, the program is receiving a \$72,000 dividend from one of the insurance companies that provides coverage. The nonprofit Housing Authority Insurance Group recognized that all of its participating state authorities have been members for a certain number of years, which qualifies the group for the dividend.

Because housing authorities have similar assets and risks, when grouped together, they have the strength of a much larger entity. As a single provider, DAS can offer higher limits of liability coverage at lower premium rates. All costs incurred by each housing authority directly affect tenants;

so keeping insurance costs to a minimum in turn reduces tenants' rental fees.

"The money will help subsidize their budgets," said DAS' Aimee Gagnon, the Program Administrator. "The individual housing authorities are on extremely tight budgets. Every little bit helps, and I expect there will be a direct result in savings for the residents of these housing authorities," she said. Some of the program's larger customers include Hartford, Norwich and Stamford Housing Authorities.

And More Checks to Cash

As part of the state's Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) contract, Grainger Industrial Supply, a broad-line supplier of facility maintenance products, has been providing industrial supplies and repair parts to state agencies as well as to many towns and municipalities.

Recently, Grainger presented the state with a rebate check of \$15,558 for purchases made through the

contract for the past year. This is approximately a 20% increase over last year's earned rebate and represents about a 13% increase in contract spending with Grainger. The annual rebate was negotiated by DAS and became part of the contract, which began in 2004.

The rebate will be deposited into the state's General Fund.

In addition to its 600 locations and 1,900 customer service associates, Grainger boasts a strong online presence, which includes a web page for their contract with the State of Connecticut. Grainger's product line has expanded to more than 500,000 supplies and 2.5 million repair parts.



Update: Flu Planning

By Steve Soklow

Flumeister Martin Anderson is working to ensure that all state agencies have developed pandemic flu plans to keep their critical operations going even if a significant percentage of their staff is out sick.

“In conjunction with IBM, we conducted a series of four statewide training classes to walk all agencies through a process that helps them identify their critical functions, and plan how they will keep them running should the flu strike,” Anderson said.

As part of this effort, strategies have been identified, required staffing levels have been determined, as well as interagency dependencies that currently exist. Agencies are now in the process of creating their plans, which should be completed by mid-February.

“At the end of February, there will be a statewide simulation of pandemic situations conducted to see how effective the plans are. They will be updated based upon the simulation results,” Anderson explained.

“Employees will need to know how to access the latest news, so as part of the simulation, a stateside notification process is being developed to tell state employees how to access up-to-date flu information, including advisories about state office closings, or suggestions about how best to avoid contracting the flu,” he said.

“Then once the statewide communication plans become clearer, we here in DAS will be working with Donna Micklus and the Communications team to create a more ‘local’ process to keep our staff informed, including the possibility of shifting staff internally to cover DAS’ critical functions as best as we can,” Anderson added.



What’s the Buzz?

By Nina Ritson

It’s hard to believe that nearly a year ago DAS began the FIT walking program. And because of it, the agency is looking a lot skinnier these days!

So how are they doing with their personal program? Here’s a sampling of what folks had to say about ConnectiFIT so far...

“Last May, I stepped on the scale for the first time in a couple of years, and was shocked to see the scale reading 302 lbs.! I thought, ‘there must be something wrong with the scale, this can’t be. How could I have put on this much weight?’ I turned to one of my co-workers and said, ‘I am determined to lose weight, and I really think I am going to be one of the success stories in this new ConnectiFIT program.’ Now, I know that is what everyone thinks when they start a program like this, but in this case it happened to be true. The ConnectiFIT program changed the way I think about food and exercise, and over the last 8 months, I have lost 30 lbs. I walk at least two miles extra each day, and try to walk up the five flights of stairs in the building at least once a day. I feel better about myself, and have more energy. I am only part of the way to my overall goal, but I am determined

to get there, and know I will someday, just a little at a time. I have to thank all that got involved and brought this program to DAS. It has truly inspired me to eat healthier foods and exercise, and has changed my life.”

Gregg Nome

“ConnectiFit is wonderful and gives you the incentive to participate in a better exercise program and to start eating a healthy and well-balanced diet. Lets face it, the more you exercise the better you will feel, both mentally and physically, and what greater rewards are there than that!!! I used the ConnectiFit program combined with yoga, which I do everyday, and stretching before and after walking is very beneficial for better muscle tone and relaxation. You will feel better and happier and anxiously look forward to the ConnectiFit program to start again!

Laurel Young

“Instead of walking I run - the benefits are similar, here’s a few examples: Problems or issues I encounter during the day sometime seem really big. After I run, they seem really small. After a work out my batteries are **charged!** My body stays toned (well, somewhat, I’d like to think). I can enjoy an extra bit of food and drink, too. Met some real good friends that I exercise with. Overall feeling - healthier, younger and more productive.”

Anonymous

The walking program will begin again in the spring, but with milder than normal winter weather now is as good a time as any to get out and start walking. Take it from our seasoned walkers –whether you want to lose weight, de-stress or just relax, you will absolutely feel better. So get fit – ConnectiFIT!

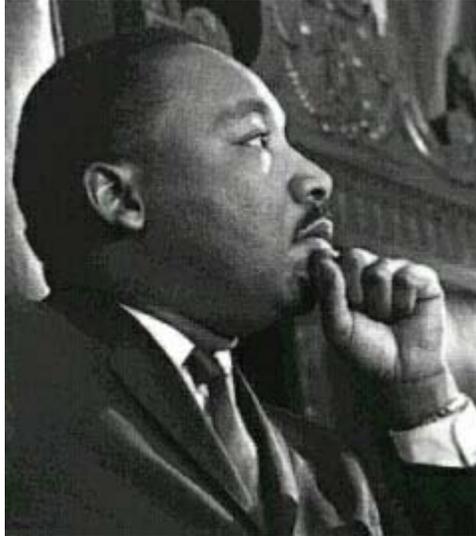


Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Nobel Peace Prize 1964

A TRIBUTE

(January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968)



Martin Luther King, Jr., was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, serving from 1914 to 1931; his father then served, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther King acted as co-pastor.

King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution in Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had been graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he received his degree. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."

Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, King accepted the pastorate of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Always a strong worker for civil rights for members of his race, King was, by this time, a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation. He was ready, then, early in December, 1955, to accept the leadership of the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States, the bus boycott described by Gunnar Jahn in his presentation speech in honor of the laureate. The boycott lasted 382 days.

On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Negroes and whites rode the buses as equals. During these days of boycott, King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was subjected to personal abuse, but at the same time he emerged as a Negro leader of the first rank.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957

and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles.

In these years he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," a manifesto of the Negro revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream"; he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested more than 20 times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of 35, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.

-Donna Camillone



...our strength is in our differences