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The Greening of DAS

By Donna Micklus

A leader in environmentally preferred purchasing

Although it sounds like a mouthful of bureaucratese, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing or EPP is really a simple concept. "It just means purchasing products that have a less negative impact on the environment than products that serve the same purpose," said Barbara Moser who heads up DAS' EPP efforts in Procurement Services.

Basically, she explained that EPP products conserve energy, protect natural resources, reduce toxins, prevent pollution, and promote health and safety.

Moser took over the program in April, which was last run by Rob Guillemain (Green Rob to most of us). Guillemain now works for the Environmental Protection Agency in Boston. "I've been in contact with Rob and he's been a great help," Moser said.

She said that nationally, EPP is a relatively new endeavor and growing. "DAS is definitely near the front end of the movement," she added enthusiastically.

continued on next page

ERP Announces Latest Winners!

Team Excellence

Joann Figueiredo, Alyce O'Neill, Sonji Fonseca, Tony Nunes, Paul Felix, Robert Lapointe, Chris Roberts (not shown) in FSC

Customer Service

Mary Gugliemino in HR/Payroll

Going the Extra Mile

Steve Bansavich in FSC Recovery



Full story in the July issue following awards ceremony

continued from previous page

Moser, whose background is ecology, biology, and regional planning, clearly adopts a realistic philosophy about her job.

“The success of EPP products relies on their success to perform as well as or better than conventional products for a reasonable price,” she said.

She believes a solid business approach will make the difference. “EPP products need to make sense and save money.

Tops on her immediate agenda is crafting a business plan. One of her first priorities involves forging a new relationship between the contract specialists from DAS and the pollution prevention experts at DEP.

“Together, they can look at contracts that will be expiring and begin to consider both environmental issues and purchasing constraints,” she



explained. That way when the eventual Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued, it will be EPP, and the final product will be a contract that meets both DEP regulations and DAS’ business needs.

Another facet of DEP’s regulations deals with disposing of office electronics such as computers, printers, copy machines, etc. Paul Greco is currently working on an RFP that would address that and has received great feedback from agencies eager to take advantage of such a contract.

There is a wide range of EPP products already available on state contracts: paper products, office supplies, remanufactured toner cartridges, re-refined motor oil, retread tires, recycled content carpet tiles and recycled content traffic cones.

Moser’s future plans are to include products that “we already know can be incorporated into DAS contracts such as degreasers, cleaning products, paints, and building materials.

Not only is DAS’ EPP program benefiting state agencies, but schools, municipalities, and not-for-profit organizations as well since they, too, can purchase off state contracts.

“Just think of the huge health issues in schools,” she said. Moser says she gets questions ranging from asbestos removal to proper ventilation required for using certain cleaning fluids.

“DAS is really establishing itself in the EPP field, and I’m finding a growing number of both training and outreach opportunities.”

“There are purchasing agents in other state agencies, municipalities, and schools that can really benefit from the information we supply.”

Moser encourages people to call her with questions or even a “wish list for a contract” which she will gladly research.

Moser hopes to establish a stronger EPP presence on the DAS website, with an EPP site that will link to DEP’s Pollution Prevention website.

She also plans on publishing an EPP directory with lists of vendors on contract as well as businesses in Connecticut that offer EPP products.

Moser’s mission? “To make EPP inherent in procurement.” **DAS**



DAS Times

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Contributions are welcome but may be edited for space and clarity.

Visit our website at www.das.state.ct.us

Purchasing Manager Holly G. Bets from Stamford Public Schools praised **Doris Vieira** and the **FDP Team** for “all of the improvements with commodity food orders and deliveries. Ordering online was flawless this year and I am looking forward to the improvements that paperless billing will make for us. Thank you for making my job a lot easier.”

Dr. Martin Anderson applauded **Heather Tweeddale** and the **Nurse of the Year Committee** for their work with the First Annual Nurse of the Year Award on May 16. “As my Aunt Faye would have said, ‘You guys done us proud’. There was lots of pleasant buzz in the crowd and the president of CNA was there and was very complimentary of our having done this. Congratulations for a job well-done!”

Diane Fitzpatrick also praised **Heather Tweeddale** for her coordination of the First Annual Nurse of the Year Award. “Heather deserves a HUGE round of applause. She did a great job organizing this event and was responsible for all the coordination. Additional cheers to **John McKay** and **Nancy Jones** who provided valuable assistance to the project.”

Robert Kennedy from Eastern Bag complimented **Maureen Friedman** for her training session on e-commerce. “Maureen did an excellent job, was very informative, and the information was very useful. She cleared up a lot of issues. Thanks!”

Phyllis Prokop from the City of Middletown commended **Laurie Melesko** and **Teresa Dupont** for their training class on

CtGovCenter. “Everyone commented on how enjoyable the class was and how great you both work together. Thank you so much, and I can’t wait to get started!”

State Comptroller Nancy Wyman had kudos for **Patsy McLaughlin**. “Her class on interviewing was well-received by my managers and her expertise on interviewing will greatly assist my staff in their recruiting efforts. Ms. McLaughlin is a fine trainer and brings credit to your Department.”

Executive Director Cynthia Watts Elder from the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities praised **Sandra Sharr** for her presentation on the state and federal medical leave laws. “Your clarity and thoroughness in explaining this comprehensive subject enabled us to expand our knowledge on how these laws are administered. Your oral presentation, captured on video as well, will continue to serve us as a valuable reference. Thank you for such great customer service.”

Dan Donahue commended **Laura McNelly** for revising 96 annual MOUs for the Local Housing Authorities. “Without her help the project would have lagged behind schedule.”

A pleased client thanked **Lee Ann Rosborg** from the Recovery Unit for being so helpful to her and for answering all of her questions. “You have been so generous with your time, concern, and empathy. I can’t thank you enough.”

Patsy McLaughlin commended **John McKay** for his participation in the nurse marketing campaign.

“Your creative idea for a State of Connecticut nursing tagline planted the seed that grew into a great slogan. Great job!”

Arlene Watson and the Workers’ Compensation Unit send out a big thank you to **Fred Ondevilla**, **Peter Varhol**, and **Dan Sadowski**

Hats Off

By Cindy Rusczyk

for moving them into their new workspace. “They are truly a great bunch of guys!”

Lee Steuber from The Steuber Group commended **Meg Yetishefsky** for her presentation to local businesses in Bridgeport on April 27. “I wanted to thank you for giving a great presentation that both lowered the perceived hurdles to obtaining certification as well as increased the awareness of the benefits of doing it. You were also right on another thing: the certificate is cool looking!”

Nancy Cocopardi from Copar Construction praised **Susan DeMauro** and **Eileen Morin** for all of their work during their recent audit. “It was a pleasure working with the both of you and thanks for making my first audit as stress-free as possible.”

Kudos to **Cheryl Catania** from David Elwell for assisting him with the appropriate form that he needed from Human Resources. “Cheryl was leaving for the day but offered to be of help, and thanks to her neatly organized files, found the form I needed quickly. Thanks Cheryl!” **DAS**

Fed Foods serves up another ace

By John McKay

Once again DAS' Food Distribution Program (FDP) put out another great spread.

FDP gathered all of its customers from across the state to review the past year's improvements and what their proverbial whistles of things to come.

Before the actual food was sampled, FDP staff gave updates to their customers on changes to the FDP system including a demonstration of their new online ordering system called the Marketplace.

"We were impressed by the proceedings of the entire day, from the presentations to the actual food show. Your new paperless system is state of the art and should be a huge benefit to all parties. The hard work of you and your staff was evident as the day was a great success for all involved,"



FDP ribbon cutters (from l to r): Yvonne Groves, Tony Ferreira, Michael Oswianko, Doris Vieira, and Connecticut School Food Service Association President Alan E. Belchak welcome visitors to the FDP Food Processing Show.

Office and Child Nutrition in the Department of Education reminded school cafeteria administrators of the importance of their jobs.

"It's not only important that you do your jobs, it's important that you do them well. Our state's children depend on you to not only feed

them, but also feed them healthy, nutritious foods."

Afterwards, a separate conference room was opened to customers to taste test foods offered through the program.

Customers sampled everything from breakfast egg rolls to tasty pocket sandwiches while networking with vendors and other school officials to negotiate the best deals for their schools.

"It's evident that the FDP team hit a major league home run," said Roy Dion, Director of Business Enterprises. **DAS**

Victories

said Terry McNamara of the Rhode Island Food Distribution Program.

Also, CFSA president Alan Belchak praised DAS' FDP for how far they've come in such a short time.

"Doris and her staff are to be commended for doing such an amazing job and becoming the model for others to follow."

FDP personnel gave brief overviews of their areas of expertise and answered questions from the audience. Guest speaker Maureen Staggenborg, Director of

FDP drops rates!

Just like the Federal Reserve, DAS' Food Distribution Program is lowering its rates.

After NINE years they are reducing their administrative rate by 15 percent! With all the improvements on FDP's business operations and major efforts on reducing expenditures, they got the rate down to .85 cents per case.

Some of the cost-savings measures were reducing the number of positions in the program, increasing the volume of commodities sold, automating the order form process online, and implementing the new paperless billing system.

The new rate will be effective July 1, 2002.

Great job FDP!

Westfields of green

To hear her talk, you would never guess that DAS' new Environmental Purchasing Advisor has only been with the agency for a few weeks.

"I like it here," said Barbara Moser who came to DAS from the Department of Environmental Protection. "I'm really beginning to find my rhythm and look forward to the work that's ahead of me."

Her position ensures that certain state contracts are geared to being more environmentally conscious.

Work is nothing new to Moser. Being the mother of seven-year-old Sam also keeps her pretty busy.

"You've heard of soccer moms," she says, "Well, I'm a karate mom. Sam is going for his second-degree green (what else?) belt in karate, so it's practice, practice, practice. He's really into it."

When not shuttling her son to karate classes, Moser spends a lot of her time at her alma mater Westfield State College in Massachusetts where she's an adjunct

environmental fields.

"Some students are used to getting their hands dirty and working in rivers, lakes and fields. But if their first job out of college puts them behind a desk, not only is there a lot of adjustment needed, but also they may have made the wrong decision for a career. I'm looking to guide them into determining what they like and where to look for the job that best suits them," she said.

"One of my next challenges is to work a professional etiquette course into my lecture series," said Moser.

"Even if you're going for a job that puts you in the middle of a mud puddle, you still need to dress professionally for your interview. It's simple pointers like these that will hopefully help them land the job of their choice."

She also plays the role of "juror" for the seniors' regional planning and environmental science finals – after a semester of focused research seniors present their findings to the jury of professionals who deliver the final grade.

When Moser isn't involved with Westfield State, she and her family enjoy hiking and bike riding around the Quabbin Reservoir in western Massachusetts.

The Reservoir has an interesting history. In the late 1930's all homes, industries and farms had to be sold, moved, or destroyed to make room for the reservoir development. Residents had to leave. Even the graves were dug up and reburied else-



Barbara Moser, DAS' Environmental Purchasing Advisor is pictured among (where else?) the greenery.

where. Thirty-nine square miles of land was cleared and flooded to make room for the Quabbin Reservoir.

"It's a very interesting area to hike and bike ride through," said Moser.

"There are roads and sidewalks that you can follow, and there are empty cellar foundations where homes and businesses used to be. Also in the fall and winter it's easy to spot Bald Eagles in the area."

Moser and her husband completed building their home two years ago and her environmental planning education is really beginning to kick in.

"You get really bored with a plain flat lawn," she joked.

"My experience in environmental planning has led me to do a lot of creative landscaping, wall building and plantings around my house. I don't think my degree was made for that but my yard is really coming along nicely." **DAS**

Up Close

By John McKay

professor. She lectures three to four times a year at Westfield speaking on environmental issues, and also does career counseling for students looking for jobs in the

DAS holds first ever State Nurse of the Year Awards

By John McKay and Donna Micklus

“Empathy, genuine concern, flexibility and stamina – yes, stamina.”

These were just some of the words Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell used to define the qualities of Connecticut’s nurses at a special May recognition event.

The first-ever State Nurse of the Year Awards ceremony at the State Capitol was sponsored by DAS to underline the critical importance of nurses in state service.

The ceremony was hosted by the Lieutenant Governor and



Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell presents the first State Nurse of the Year Award to Judith Molloy of DMHAS.

emceed by DAS’ own Martin Anderson after a sports injury sidelined Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola just 24 hours prior to the event.

“I know, from personal experience that nurses like you are the glue that holds most hospitals together. You are vital assets to

our state – in our agencies, in our hospitals, in our facilities,” Rell said.

Seven finalists were honored, with Judith Molloy, a nurse at the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services who works with the Homeless Outreach Team in the Greater Waterbury area, taking home the top honors. The other six finalists were Linda Carabetta from the Department of Children and Families, Susan D’Angelo from the UConn Health Center’s John Dempsey Hospital, Cynthia Denne from the Department of Public Health, Carol Gradowski from the Oliver Wolcott Technical

School, Patricia Morris from the UConn Health Center’s Webster Clinic, and Sally O’Hara from the Department of Mental Retardation.

The State Nurse of the Year concept is part of an overall strategy developed as an outgrowth of last year’s nursing summit that DAS convened.

Partnering with other agencies, DAS is currently working on ways to promote nursing, improve recognition in the nursing field, inspire candidates to enroll in nursing degree programs, and retain career nurses in Connecticut.

DAS’ Heather Tweeddale, who organized the event said, “It was great to work with everyone on the committee. Meeting people from other agencies and seeing how everyone pulled together to make this happen showed great teamwork. One thing we all agreed upon was that state nurses need more recognition for what they do. They literally save lives. What could be more important?”

A call for nominations went out to all the state agencies that employ state nurses. The judging panel itself was a pedigree of who’s who in the nursing community from Yale School of Nursing, Hartford Hospital, Hospital for Special Care, University of Connecticut, and Visiting Nurses Association.

DAS



Commissioner Barbara Waters, Joe Lefkowski, and Martin Anderson recognized committee members at a June 3 awards ceremony at DAS. L to R: Gary Zera (DCF), John McKay, Carla Kushin, Carolyn Koloseus, Donna Micklus, Diane Fitzpatrick, Commissioner Waters, Heather Tweeddale, Nancy Jones, Carla Martin, Deb Atkinson, Martin Anderson, and Cindy Rusczyk.

The art of Nina Ritson

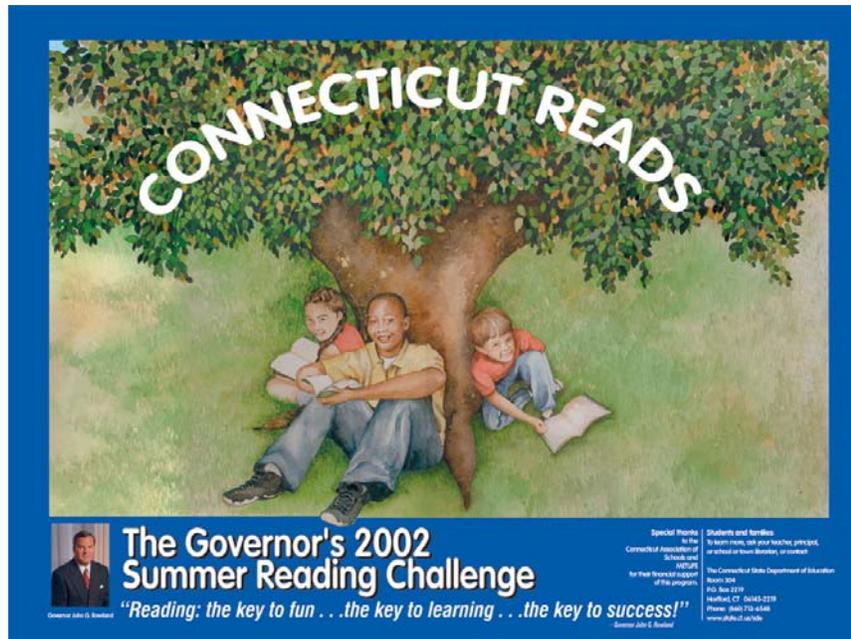
By John McKay

On June 7, Governor John G. Rowland and Department of Education Commissioner Theodore Sergi kicked off the 2002 Governor's Summer Reading program.

The standing room only crowd at the Legislative Office Building was packed with students and teachers, and was decorated with children's books and the new 2002 Summer Reading poster designed by DAS' own Nina Ritson.

The original watercolor took Ritson a number of weeks to complete and was an off-line project.

"It was nice to do something off the computer," said Ritson.



"I work so much with desktop design software that it was a really different project."

Over 5,250 of the posters were printed and distributed to public and private schools and public libraries. Also distributed were 710,000

bookmarks and reading journals all designed by Ritson.

The Governor's Summer Reading Program encourages students to continue reading over the summer and keep a journal of all the books they read. **DAS**

DAS folks shine at IPMA Conference

By John McKay

Joe Lefkowski, Deb Atkinson, Diane Mazar-Roberts, Patti Kokonowski, Deb Hearl and Cheryl Sawina attended the International Personnel Management Association Eastern Region Conference May 6-8 in Newport, RI.

Mazar-Roberts and Atkinson presented two of the Workforce Planning workshops, *Positioning for the Future* and *Strategic Human Resources Planning*.

"We seem to be so far ahead of any other state – DAS has a lot to be proud of," Mazar-Roberts said, adding that both workshops received a lot of positive feedback.

DAS employees were also recognized for their achievements: Joe Lefkowski was presented an

award for Outstanding Chapter Member for his continued involvement and dedication to the IPMA CT Chapter.

The Connecticut Chapter also won the Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award for the year under Sawina's presidency.

According to IPMA officials, "The CT Chapter exhibited great innovation and creativity and was credited with hosting a full slate of well-attended programs, varied activities for IPMA members and families, along with being involved in the community, sponsoring a scholarship program, updating communications with membership and publishing a bi-monthly newsletter." **DAS**

Covering all the bases

By John McKay

There was no joy in Mudville last week as the DAS co-ed softball team went down to defeat in their second game against Triple A. The



West Hartford club is a well-established team with years of

experience...and it showed. "But they enjoy playing us because we don't take the game too seriously, and we all have a good time," said Rick Miarecki.

DAS Team Captain, Julie Ahlstrin, wasn't too disappointed with the results.

"Our team has some great potential and we get a little better each time we play,"

she said.

Ahlstrin is mainly concerned about one league rule: Three women on the field at all times.

"We were fortunate yesterday because we had coerced some extra women to play.

While we are seeking additional players for the team, we especially need women.



This is a fun game not to be taken too seriously!

If you're a woman between the ages of 18 and 65, who knows which end of the bat to hold, and want to have some fun, call me at

713-5426, or speak with

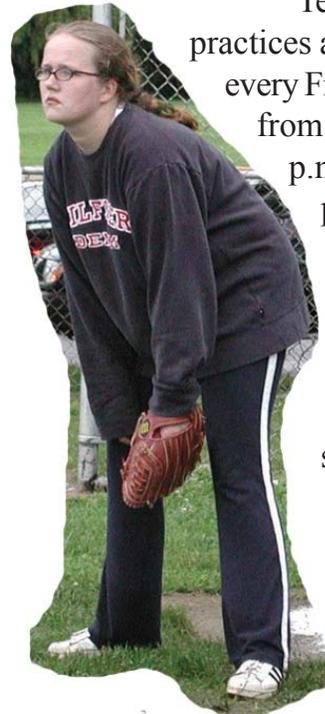
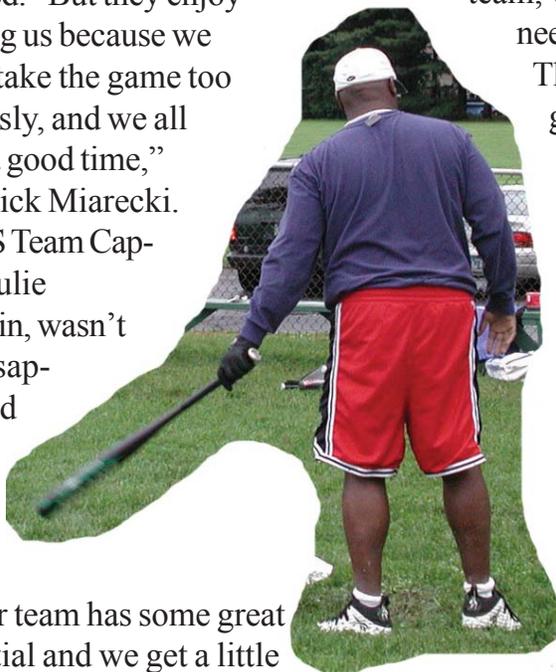
other team members," Ahlstrin encouraged.

The DAS sluggers are:

Julie Ahlstrin - Team Captain/Manager, Dan Barrows, Alex Caceras, Mark Grzymajlo, Belinda Hall, Rick Miarecki, Frank Rivera, Marisol Rivera, Brian Saczawa, Tony Smith, Steve Soklow, Anna Tara, Donna Wadhams, and Roy Wynn.



Team practices are held every Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Colt Park Diamond number six.



I wish, I wish...

Are you a state employee, a vendor, jobseeker, anyone who has had contact with DAS?

If you could change anything about any area of DAS what would it be?

A team of DAS folks will be answering the phones and taking e-mails on Tuesday, July 9 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. to hear what you have to say.

JULY 9TH IS

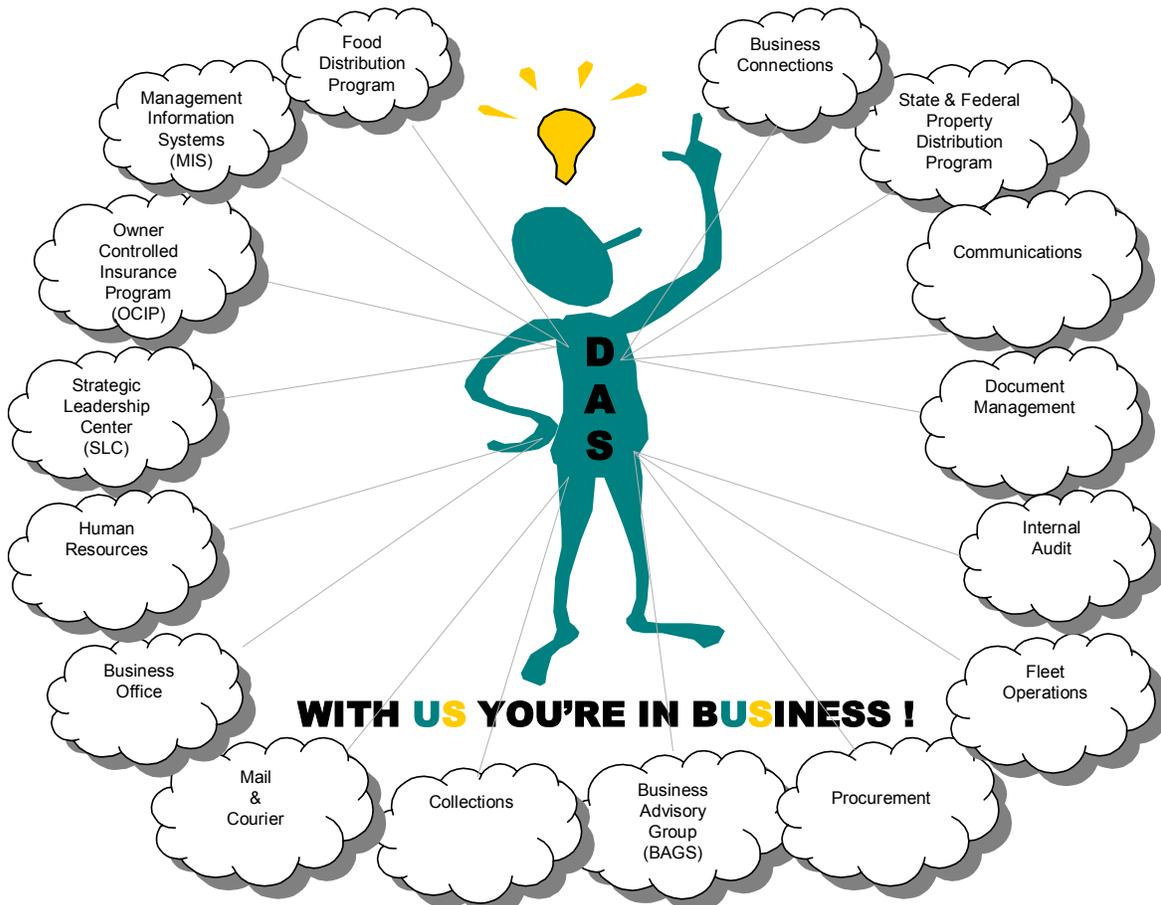
MAKE A WISH DAY !



The Department of Addministrative Services is committed to listening to our customers.

If you had ONE wish or idea that could add, change, improve, or remove ANYTHING in or about any DAS service, WHAT WOULD IT BE????

CALL US AND "MAKE A WISH" !



Date: July 9, 2002
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Phone: 860-713-5500

Or use our website:
www.das.state.ct.us
click "Feedback"

Each wish/idea will be directed to the appropriate Business Area for response.
 Your input will help us plan for our future business direction