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APRIL 2015

DAS TIMES

Commissioner Melody A. Currey at the Helm

On January 7, 2015, Dannel Malloy was sworn in again as Connecticut's 88th Governor and with him DAS welcomed their new Commissioner, Melody A. Currey. Commissioner Currey comes to DAS after serving four years as the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.



Prior to becoming a commissioner she was elected in 2005 as the Mayor of East Hartford, and served from 2005 until 2011. Before serving as mayor of this town of 50,000, Commissioner Currey served in the Connecticut House of Representatives for 13 years representing East Hartford. Four of those years she served as Deputy Majority Leader and six as Deputy Speaker of the House.

During her service as a state legislator, she was the Ranking Member of the Regulations and Review Committee, Member of the Reapportionment Committee and Reapportionment Commission, on various committees including Appropriations, Education, Judiciary, Insurance, Select Committee on Housing, and Higher Education and also served on special committees of the Legislature including the Stadium Committee, Financial Aid Task Force, Crime Bill Conference, Juvenile Justice and Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force.

Commissioner Currey said in January, "I am looking forward to my new appointment at DAS and working with the staff to move the agency forward. My four years at DMV brought about many changes that created a more effective department for people and businesses. I have those same goals for DAS."

Melody Currey was born in Margaretville, New York and spent the earliest years of her life in Downsville, New York, a small town of 800 people rooted in middle- and working-class values. She later relocated to Delmar, New York, a suburb of Albany and graduated from Bethlehem Senior Central High School with a Regents Diploma. She attended the State University of New York at Cobleskill where she majored in Business Administration.

She married her husband Donald in 1971, and following his military service and after college, moved to East Hartford in 1978 where they have made their home and raised a family. She has three children - Becky, Jeff and Matt, all from East Hartford, and six grandchildren- Matt Jr, Devin, Lily, Mariah, Delilah and Maxwell.

Commissioner Currey and.....

Efficiency and process improvements are important to Commissioner Currey. “I am very excited to utilize LEAN principles in DAS School Construction, for example. This gives us the opportunity to look at Grant Applications and processes in school systems in relation to how this can be leveraged when seeking funding.”



*DAS New Executive Team from left to right:
Chief Information Officer Mark Raymond, Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone,
Commissioner Melody A. Currey, and Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi.*

“I love LEAN - it is grass-roots. We used it when I was mayor of East Hartford. It works and it is employee driven!”

“I would like to have a discussion with all commissioners in the building about having a LEAN expert come in to deal with paper before our move to 450 Columbus Boulevard. I feel this should be a collaborative effort with the entire building. Often during this process we find a need to reorganize - change reporting as we move forward - change business practices and reevaluate how we do business. The beauty of LEAN is we reeval-

uate as we go forward and if change does not work then we correct the situation and learn as we go. If it does not work we need to have the courage to say so. At DMV I actually reinstated a process from before that ran better under new eyes. We must always remember that we are a customer focused agency - a service agency. Our customers are other agencies and municipalities for the most part.”

She went on to share a slogan that comes to mind with all work that needs to be done, “I want to get everyone thinking forward - I love the saying ‘Just do it’ even though it’s a copyrighted slogan. We must be able to take risks making change. If it fails we fix it!”

She really wants all employees to evaluate their processes and if they have an idea or a strategy that would make that process run more efficiently or smoother - let her know. There is a suggestion box on the DAS website that comes directly to the Commissioner! If your suggestion sounds like something that will help DAS run better then they will sit down and discuss it.

She added, “My focus is on the future and DAS as **ONE agency** not an agency with lots of bureaus. We are ONE DAS - moving forward and we are going to simplify processes! Blend common sense with simplicity to improve customer services. We need to get out of the mindset that the it is OK for the State to take longer to do a job than is done in the private sector. Quit accepting that mentality! Just do it!”

.....Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone

by Nina Ritson



Deputy Commissioner Toni M. Fatone comes to DAS from over 25 years in private and public service where she was an attorney and an insurance broker. “I spent the better part of the last five years teaching employer responsibility under the Affordable Health Care Act. What I did learn is that Connecticut is far advanced in implementing the Affordable Healthcare Act!” Toni has extensive experience in the development and implementation of public policy initiatives.

“I am very excited to be here! DAS is the Chief Operating Officer of state government - we take care of so many functions that people are unaware of. And DAS does this so quietly and professionally - people have no idea. This agency provides critical functions, other agencies are so single focused and we are broad based yet work together so cohesively. This truly sets us apart in state government. I have only been here five weeks but I can already see people really like to work here and to work with each other! The karma is good - other agencies do not experience the synergy we have.”

She then returned to Connecticut and a long career in leadership roles from being a member of Governor O’Neill’s Human Service Cabinet to the Director of Government Relations at Sullivan and Leshane to Executive Vice-President of the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities, where she was the chief liaison to federal and state agencies and served as the organization’s chief spokesperson. She worked alongside Congressman John Larson passing into law ‘The Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)’.

She went on to work in health care policy for 25 years until her appointment as Deputy Commissioner. Most recently she was the President of TMF Consulting Services where she specialized in national group purchasing, vendor partnerships and negotiating savings that resulted in new revenue streams.

“As the Commissioner discussed, we are looking forward to the use of the LEAN processes here at DAS - especially with the move to 450 Columbus Boulevard. We must be less paper bound! When the move begins in November of 2016 we have a mere 15 weeks to vacate this building. That may seem like a long time but it truly is not so there is much work to be done starting now!”

Deputy Commissioner Fatone was born and raised in Connecticut in the Norwich area. She graduated from UConn and received her juris doctorate from Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, passing the Florida Bar. Toni currently lives in West Hartford with her husband and two daughters, Callie, age 13 and Catie, age 15. When not dealing with law and state government Toni enjoys her time at home with her family. “I am a vegetarian and completely into healthy eating and healthy cooking. I have spent years growing my own lettuce, kale, herbs, zucchini and tomatoes in our garden at home.”

With the arrival of a new commissioner and deputy, DAS is poised for a new era of change and progress.

Dr. Martin Anderson Puts a New Spin on Life

by Jeff Beckham and Nina Ritson



In 1988, Ronald Reagan was President, the Soviet Union was a superpower and personal computers were not yet out. It was in this era that the Director of Personnel Assessment for the State of Oklahoma decided to answer a national ad for Chief Personnel Psychologist at the State of Connecticut. Little did he know how many lives he would affect for the next 27 years. “It was the Eighties and Oklahoma was in an oil slump while Connecticut was enjoying an economic boom. Seemed like a good idea to move!” Dr. Martin Anderson reminisced about his migration east from tornado alley. “I was fortunate in many ways – I did get to do so many things that touched every aspect of our agency and of many agencies. I got to know an awful lot of people, what they did and how they did it.”

Anderson has held many leadership roles since he accepted that position in April of 1988. He has been a Chief Personnel Psychologist, DAS Manager, Director of Administration, Deputy Commissioner of DAS, and Acting Commissioner at DAS. “I felt most connected to the employees when we started the ConnectiFit campaign. That was something that was particularly nice – especially because people were trying to better their health.” Martin shared, “Then I was honored to be tasked with the COOP Planning exercise statewide in preparation

of a flu epidemic. We convinced agencies to do something they didn’t feel was necessary. As a matter of fact the most recent planning for Certification in All Hazards referred back to how we did things in COOP.”

Martin has been the DAS poster child for so many initiatives and campaigns going back two decades to Commissioner Waters’ Big 8, First 100 Days, ERP (Employee Recognition Program), Got Stuff, and many long range projects that we rely on today like COOP, CoreCT, New Managers’ Training, Managers Day and the DAS Learning Center. What are his biggest accomplishments? “I think my favorite time was when I was Deputy Commissioner – this was most fulfilling. I was able to use everything I had learned about this organization and other agencies in the state in our programs. Being Deputy gives you the opportunity to influence things. After so many cohorts I am proud to look back on the managers that went through the New Manager’s Program. This was developed through DAS Strategic Services, it was the most fun and we influenced lives positively! From this we developed many programs, Train the Trainer and Aspiring Leaders to name a couple.”

He added that programs are successful if you embrace technology – especially in this day and age. “I have always investigated how technology and software can make us better and more effective. I like to look at things and understand how this power can be leveraged. An example is Fleet online, the online reporting or How’s My Driving system. What a huge difference the online system has made to better Fleet.”

“Another large endeavor was the Print study of 2004 when we reached out to the ten or so print shops running independently in the state and tried to eliminate redundancies, or leverage leased equipment so that they ran more efficiently. Unfortunately, agencies were not ready to relinquish these onsite services and the consolidation never transpired. But along the way we did learn more about gaining efficiencies

within and how commercial print shops operated and were evolving to more digital systems and online ordering.”

Everything has not always been about progress and advancing the agency. He reflected on times that were bothersome for him, “There were painful experiences too. When the bureaus left DAS, Information Technology became the Department of Information Technology. It was hard and painful for them when they rejoined DAS, and it was difficult to do administratively.”

He also noted the coming retirement wave as the baby boomers leave the state workforce. “I think people should be aware that DAS is not going to have the numbers of people they are used to working with -we have always talked about the “silver tsunami. Succession planning is so important.”

When asked his plans for the near future Martin responded, “When I leave on March 31 I am totally NOT going to work.... at least for a bit. I have been a pawn shop salesman, a Maytag repair man; I have always worked. My wife Becky has been bugging me to do some traveling and we did fill in the pool last summer, so I am now relieved of my pool maintenance duties. I would like to get back on the bike and do some real miles. Although I enjoy spinning at the house it is just not the same. I will be doing more photography. All the images I keep thinking of getting while I have been here in my office. I have two grandkids (age 4 and 14) in Philadelphia – so I will be traveling to see them a lot more now. We will stay in our house in Connecticut and I will most likely run for Board of Finance in Durham again. We just did a lot of renovations on our current home so we plan to age in place!”

“Retiring will give me a lot of flexibility! People have been coming to visit me steadily since I announced I was retiring. To be honest I was eligible to go 20 months ago but it was the people that kept me here – they made my time here so worthwhile.”

Dr. Anderson leaves behind many friends and grateful colleagues at DAS. His institutional knowledge, good humor and humanity will be sorely missed. We wish him the very best in retirement.



Facilities Management and the Coldest Month on Record

by Nina Ritson



Every year, as winter approaches the Old Farmers' Almanac gives forewarning of the weather ahead – good or bad. This year's prediction of an extraordinarily cold winter with snow came to fruition when all records were broken in the month of February. Thankfully, most of the winter weather events occurred on the weekends, saving commuters and state employees from many hours of long slow drives in slippery conditions. But while most of us were at home tending to fires and sitting out the storm in front of the TV a few state employees were called into action.

Heeding the call for help was the DAS Facilities Management Maintenance team with a couple extra helpers. As storm warnings increase DAS Statewide Security places the call putting this team on the alert to come to the State Office Building for what can add up to several days depending on the storm. They are tasked with maintaining the walkways and steps of the State Office Building and the church on Washington Street. In addition they maintain Cedar Crest Hospital in Newington and the walkways of the Judicial property on Bledsoe Street. "On the Valentine's Day Storm we had everyone working – Mike Agnes, Richie Martin, Jerry Bouchard, Lennie Williams, Dave Smith, Anthony Smith, Gary Faraci, Quincy Cole and me. Everyone camps out here in the shop on Buckingham Street – we usually go out to eat but sometimes we cook here. Restaurants are good about staying open during storms because they know people are out plowing and shoveling like us," said Robert Green, DAS Facilities Maintenance Supervisor.

So what is it like coming to work for a long weekend in the elements and not being able to sleep home at night? Robert said, "We make sure the employees take breaks and stay warm. They come in to change soaked clothes and snow suits which has been difficult because there is no washer or dryer on the premises, so sometimes it is like camping for the weekend. For the most part we use our cellphones for communication and for media reports about the storm, but we can also go to room G-4 in the State Office Building for updates," he added.

When not battling Snowzilla the facilities management team is a very talented bunch of guys – Bobby has been painting state properties for over 20 years and Jerry just did some furniture refinishing for a newly confirmed Commissioner as well as masterfully building bookcases for the Connecticut Building at the Big E. They are carpenters, painters, plumbers, furniture restorers, and framers. Oh and they know what to do with snow!

By the way – if you are a member of the NP2 union and are looking for something adventurous to do during the next crippling blizzard – you too can leave the comfort of your home to join the team maintaining state properties. Just give Robert a call!

DAS Conducts Outreach

by Alicia Nuñez

A Public Safety and Security Career Fair hosted by the University of New Haven Career Development Center



University of New Haven students considering careers in intelligence, security and public safety met and networked with employers in these vital fields at their job fair on Friday, March 27, 2015 organized by the UNH Career Development Center.

Private cyber security and intelligence data firms, federal law enforcement agencies and the U.S. military were among the vendors who signed up to participate in this first-ever vertical job fair specifically for careers in Social/Human Services; Fire Sciences and Criminal Justice & Forensic Science.

UNH Job Fair organizers envision the event becoming an annual opportunity for the college graduates and students who are interested in these promising career paths.

The job fair was free. Participating agencies included the Department of Administrative Services; Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department

of Correction. In total 52 employers had booths at the event with over 200 students in attendance.

Francine Dew, Statewide Human Resources Program Manager, Debra Mainville, Human Resources Specialist and Alicia Nuñez, Equal Employment Opportunity Manager, were on hand to assist job seekers with information about getting a job with the state, taking an exam, signing up for e-alerts and navigating the DAS website.

Going, Going Gone

by Jim Palmer

Fleet auction update! Whenever Fleet Operations replaces a vehicle the old one is immediately disposed of, except in rare situations. The first step to this process is to assign it to DAS Surplus, where it is posted online for a two-week period and made available to other state agencies and municipalities on a first-come, first-served basis. Should it go unclaimed, it is then designated to be sold at auction. Over the past few years the process has transitioned from auctions being held on site at our Wethersfield maintenance facility, to internet auctions, which were initially held in conjunction with Copart in New Britain.



Recently there has been another change, online vehicle auctions are now accessed by going to www.PropertyRoom.com. The vehicles are actually housed at Corona's Auto Parts and Towing, 608 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Even though this is an online auction, there is no restriction on inspecting vehicles prior to placing your bid. Inspection is free and viewing hours are: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Note that no special license is required to purchase a State of Connecticut vehicle, unless it is listed as 'salvage' (vehicles with salvage titles can only be sold to licensed dealers). To bid, you must register as a user on www.PropertyRoom.com. Registration is free. Auctions start and end on Wednesdays at or around 6:00 pm. Should you be the

successful bidder be prepared to pay a gate fee of \$30.00 and a 12.5% buyer's premium on each vehicle. All DAS vehicles come with a State of Connecticut title.

Minority Business Enterprise Events

by John McKay and Nina Ritson

Earlier this year, the DAS Division of Construction Services hosted three informational events throughout the state to announce their new Statewide Minor Capital Projects Program.

The three events were hosted by DCS in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven in January and February of 2015.

NEW CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

For Both Small and Minority Business Enterprises (SBEs and MBEs)

New Statewide Minor Capital Projects Program

If you are a "small or minority owned business enterprise," as those terms are defined by Connecticut statutes, that provides general contracting or certain types of subcontracting services, and have some experience performing these services for institutional or commercial clients, you may be interested in new construction contracting opportunities through the State Department of Administrative Services.

This month, DAS will be holding community meetings to discuss this opportunity in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. Please join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 61 Woodland Street in Hartford; or Tuesday, January 27 at Bullard Havens School in Bridgeport and finally at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven on Wednesday, January 28. Meetings are from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. For more information, contact Kevin Kopetz at 860-713-5886.

DAS encourages any qualified firm that is not yet certified with DAS as a Small or Minority Business Enterprise (SBE or MBE) to apply as soon as possible for certification. For more information about the DAS Supplier Diversity Program contact Meg Yetishefsky at 860-713-5228.

Visit us at <http://das.ct.gov/mbeopportunities>

DAS' Division of Construction Services is looking for small or minority-owned business enterprises that provide general contracting or certain types of subcontracting services, and have some experience performing these services for institutional or commercial clients. "We targeted our outreach to businesses in our Supplier Diversity database and grassroots organizations in Connecticut," said Meg Yetishefsky, Program Manager, DAS Supplier Diversity. "We also battled bad weather on the nights of these scheduled events which caused the Bridgeport event to be rescheduled at the last minute. But the word got out with the radio spots. We captured their interest because I have received many calls about the program and many calls from

contractors who attended the events and they are excited about the prospects. Business owners do have to get their businesses in shape so that they qualify to bid on state projects. We are reaching out to small businesses but in the end they MUST be a qualified bidder which means meeting the criteria."

When DAS' Division of Construction Services has a specific Minor Capital Construction Project that is estimated to cost more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) but less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for one of the "Contractor Classifications of Work", it will advertise an "Invitation To Bid" for the SBE/ MBE Contractors who are on the "SBE/MBE Contractors Pre-Selected to Bid List" to bid for that specific "Contractor Classification of Work" Project.

The Contractor Classifications for the SBE/MBE Contractors Pre-Selected to Bid for Minor Capitol Projects include: Electrical, Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems, General Building Construction (Group A), General Trades, HVAC, Masonry, Roofing, Sewer and Water Lines, Sitework.

Meg noted, "Many businesses commented on the fact that they were able to get all the information they need from the website DAS hosted. Our hope is to put minority owned businesses in a position to compete with other small and minority owned businesses - and not to be foreshadowed by larger companies."



DAS Helps Build Emergency Application

On March 2, 2015 Governor Dannel P. Malloy and the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) announced the launch of a brand new online tool in the event of a natural disaster, storm or other type of emergency that will provide consumers with information they need in order to quickly and safely get medicine, supplies, or treatment when travel is difficult and business closures are prevalent.

‘Business Finder’— located at <http://businessstatus.ct.gov> – is a web-based, mobile optimized database that allows pharmacies, dialysis centers, and oxygen suppliers to update business information in real-time before and during an emergency, so customers can find a store or treatment center that is open and can meet their needs. The ‘Business Finder’ App is the State’s latest tool to protect residents during times of emergency.

And behind the scenes developing this tool was DAS’ own Dan Sears and Charlie Barnett of BEST. Known for the many applications that he has designed and built to save DAS money, DCP tapped into Dan’s genius to create this incredible tool that will help every resident in Connecticut in the event of an emergency.

“Business Finder” is voluntary for businesses to participate in this effort, and the first round of pharmacies is still entering their information into the database. In the event of an emergency, businesses can then update their listing with new information, such as limited hours, operating without power, operating without phone service whatever conditions they are experiencing.

“As far as we know, this is the very first mobile optimized website anywhere that’s specifically designed to provide information on pharmacy operations, portable oxygen, home medical supplies and dialysis treatment to the general public and to the State’s emergency operations center as part of an emergency response,” John Gadea, Director of Drug Control for DCP, said. “We anticipate that it will also be a great tool for visiting nurses, the United-Way’s 2-1-1 service, shelters, and other facilities that need to locate life-saving medicine or services.”

Without graphics to slow its function, the website is clean and designed to work with all major browsers including Safari, Chrome, Internet Explorer and Firefox on PCs, Macs, notebook computers and all types of Smart Phones, as long as you can access the internet.

Only authorized staff of authorized businesses, using a specific passcode, can go in and add or edit their information in the database.

“Our Drug Control Director and his staff worked with DAS IT personnel to develop this tool from the ground up,” Commissioner Harris said. “It will help consumers find the pharmacies and dialysis centers that are open and operational during any type of emergency. The listings can be maintained in real time at no cost to consumers or the state, and can be accessed from any computer, notebook, or smartphone as long as some type of internet access or Wi-Fi is available.”

“We believe this tool is going to be a great asset to consumers and businesses,” Commissioner Harris said. “We’ll invite Connecticut’s, dialysis providers, grocery stores and gasoline retailers to participate in this database on a voluntary basis as well, and are setting up a portion of the database for them.”

Black Heritage Celebration 2015

by Nina Ritson

On Thursday, February 26 the Departments of Administrative Services, Agriculture, Education, and Energy and Environmental Protection hosted a gathering in the Gina McCarthy Auditorium at 79 Elm Street for the 14th Annual Black Heritage Month Celebration. This year's Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Martin Anderson, opened the festivities which began with the Negro National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* sung by Marcus Jarvis. Len Glasser then offered us a Moment of Silence for Fallen Soldiers.

Commissioners from the following agencies spoke - Jonathan Harris of Consumer Protection, Steven Reviczky of Agriculture, Dr. Dianna Wentzell of Education, Robert Klee of Energy and Environmental Protection and our own Melody Currey of the Department of Administrative Services. Commissioner Currey shared a heartfelt story about an experience she had growing up in New York.

Each year in recognition of Black Heritage Month, the U.S. Postal Service issues a new commemorative stamp. This year's honoree is architect and educator Robert Robinson Taylor, considered the first black graduate of MIT and the first academically trained black architect.

During his course of study at MIT, Taylor met Booker T. Washington, the prominent black educator from Tuskegee, Alabama. In 1881, about a decade earlier, Washington had founded Tuskegee Institute--a black school that started as a teacher training school with a few ramshackle buildings and a small grant from the state of Alabama. Within a couple of decades it became one of the best-known African-American schools in the nation.

This year's stamp was dedicated by Christopher Rogers, Manager, Customer Service Operations of the U.S. Postal Service in Hartford. Following the dedication, the Island Reflections Dance Company graced the stage with an elegant tribute to Maya Angelou.

Guest speaker, Glenn A. Cassis, Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission gave a presentation for the event. DAS' Mary Taylor, the committee Chairperson gave closing remarks and everyone enjoyed a boxed lunch of chicken, macaroni and cheese and other goodies as well as cake.

Special thanks goes out to the committee members: Mary Taylor (Chairperson), Holly Maurice (Secretary), Candace Madison (Coordinator of Catering), Brenda Rollins (Coordinator of Vendors), Andrea Wadowski (Graphic Designer), Tanya Washington, Felicia Canty, Crystal Bryant, Rosalyn Thorpe, Maxine Lewis, Michele McGinley, Barbara Brown and Len Glasser.





DAS Volunteers at the Governor's Inaugural Ceremony



On Wednesday, January 7, Governor Malloy was sworn into his second term at the Governor William A. O'Neill Armory. Following an Inaugural parade on a bitterly cold day, family, state representatives, senators, municipal leaders and other dignitaries as well as many state residents arrived at the armory and were seated in accordance with their ticket designation. DAS was there to help with that process! Volunteers from several units came to the call to ensure that the Governor's Inauguration was a successful event. *Shown here are a few of those people: Amanda Nattinger, Kelly Dillon, Debra Batiste, Donna Wadhams, Don Poulin, Susan Orszulak, and Tim O'Brien.*

Governor's 31st Care and Share Food Drive

by John McKay

This year's Governor's Care & Share program was another success for state employees!

State employees raised \$19,443.44 with an additional \$20,000 donated by the Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation for a total \$39,443.44. In addition, 4,304 pounds of food was donated.

A heartfelt "thank you" to Dean Myshrall of DAS/BEST for coordinating food and donations at the 55 Farmington Avenue location.

On Thursday, January 15, the William A. O'Neill State Armory was turned into a massive state employee charity volleyball tournament.

As part of the Governor's Care & Share Food drive, agencies were encouraged to form teams to compete in the event. DAS, including DCS and BEST employees, combined into one team to play and raise money for the Care & Share food drive.

"I also would like to express my gratitude and thanks to you for coordinating and organizing the DAS Volleyball Teams for the State Employee Charity Volleyball Tournament held last night.

Our DAS Volleyball Team was just getting warmed up last night, but we promise to play much better next year. Everyone enjoyed themselves at this volleyball tournament." said Carl Grodotzke, DAS/DCS Project Manager.

Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support and special thanks to DAS' Pam Perrin for organizing the volleyball team!



From left to right:

Front row:

Christine Fisch; Carl Grodotzke; John Rossi; Pamela Perrin; Chris Malena; Pamela Wright and Mark Raymond.

Back row:

Derek Lewis; Donna Wadhams; Rose Mitchell; Steve Beaupre; Susan Orszulak; Bryan George, Rob Dexter and Tom Zaprzalka.

HAVE **You** SIGNED UP YET?



DASALERTS

- Are you sure you can be reached about workday cancellations, delayed openings, early dismissals or emergency situations?
- Everbridge allows you to register the best way to contact you: home phone, cell phone, text, email, even social media.
- The Everbridge App can be downloaded for FREE onto your Smart phone for easier use of the program.
- This same system was used to alert the public during Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, during the Boston Marathon Bombings, and the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School.
- Sign-up for DAS Alerts is free.
- The personal information provided will be used for Everbridge alerts notification purposes only.



Everbridge will never give or sell contact or location information to any vendor or other organization. The system is maintained by the Department of Administrative Services.

HOW DO I ENROLL?

To subscribe to **DAS Everbridge Alerts**, email Diane.Dalo@ct.gov. You will receive an email invitation to enroll in the **DAS Everbridge Alert System**. Follow the instructions within the email invitation.

The system is maintained by THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

People are talking..... by Cindy Rusczyk

Michael J. Luzzi from Dolan & Luzzi, LLC “wanted to drop a note” to **Meg Yetishefsky** “about one of the employees in your department. I represent a minority company and I am helping its owner through the re-certification process. I had the pleasure of working with **Lori Coleman**. She was thorough, professional and extremely knowledgeable. It was a pleasure dealing with her. In this day and age when budgets are being cut and state departments are under tremendous burdens I thought it appropriate to bring my experience with your department to your attention. Thank you.”

Juanita Woolfolk sends a message to BEST’s **Cheryl Baruffi** commending “the good customer service I have received in the past and presently from **Richard Marsh, Brenda Richter and Helena Wint**. I was frazzled Monday morning after I kicked myself out of the Windows logon; but your staff, as well as others, was so very professional, pleasant and helpful and they directed me to where I eventually need to be to resolve my issue. I greatly appreciated the assistance I received and the kind way in which it was given despite how busy they were. Thank you!”

Juanita Woolfolk sent a message to BEST’s **Leo Boulanger** “for **Jessica Gioia** for the fine customer service that she has provided in the past, and most recently for the assistance she provided this week. To me good customer service includes doing a good job but also treating the customer as if it is a pleasure to serve them. Jessica accomplished both; I was frazzled but she provided the assistance I needed in a timely manner with a great attitude, and I greatly appreciate it.”

Deputy Commissioner Joseph Mooney from the Department of Revenue Services applauded “**Daniel Melesko and Rachel Whitesell** for the good work that you folks do. Your assistance on the Lexis Refund/ Identity Protection was professional and timely and supportive of a critical filing season fraud protection process.”

Each issue we publish letters of praise that we have received about DAS employees going above and beyond. If you have received great service or would like to write about a DAS employee going the extra mile, email Cindy.Rusczyk@ct.gov Don't be shy - good work deserves a good word- DAS employees are the best!

Procurement Services Director Carol Wilson also commended **Daniel Melesko** and **Rachel Whitesell** stating, “Way to go Dan and Rachel! Thanks for your ongoing professionalism and support for DRS’s various needs just now and in the past. You both do an excellent job! I’m so proud (but not surprised) to get notes like this from Senior Agency officials. Thank you!”

Juanita Woolfolk sends a message to BEST’s **Paul Stevenson** “to let you know how much I appreciate the GREAT customer service I received from **Brenda Gaffey** on Monday January 5. I was back from an illness and kicked myself out of my Windows logon page. I was frazzled but Brenda was efficient, and looked to resolve my issue in a timely manner, as well as being patient, kind and non-judgmental. She stayed with me until my issue was resolved. She especially, as well as others on the Help Desk, made a bad start to the day turn out pleasant. Good customer service (as they say in the accounting field) is an ‘intangible asset’ to the State, and I truly appreciated being on the receiving end of it.”

Commissioner Melody Currey recently received this note from Stanley J. Staron, a Purchasing Agent at East Hartford Public Schools, “I just wanted to let you know I had the pleasure of listening to and meeting the DAS Trio at a CREC sponsored meeting this morning. The three were **Joe Gilberto, Aimee Cunningham, and Melissa Marzano**, and they did a very credible job educating the audience on both general DAS use as well as updates. The audience had a good number of towns/ BOE’s that clearly had not used DAS anywhere as much as they could’ve/should’ve and I think this opened their eyes and ears. Conversations ensued and networking/ contacts were exchanged.

I think it went off very well for both the State and for CREC. I believe it made people realize how much the State and DAS has actually already done that clearly benefits towns/BOE’s and how much knowledge there is behind the process. This speaks well for the State.

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Skiing Past the Competition

by John McKay and Rob Dexter



Rob Dexter of the DAS' Division of Construction Services is a project manager by day but he is also a decorated skier who has been involved with skiing most of his life.

In college he went to Syracuse University where he studied Architecture and was on the Syracuse ski team for the three years he was there. Skiing was a varsity sport for which he competed in four events – Slalom, Giant Slalom, Jumping and Cross-country. Early on he learned cross-

country was not his strongest skiing sport, but he did learn some excellent techniques and was co-captain of the ski team.

This past winter he competed at the National NASTAR races at Snowmass, Colorado. NASTAR is the acronym for the National Standard Race and is the largest public grassroots alpine ski race program in the world. More than 165,000 Nature Valley NASTAR racer days are recorded throughout the season at 115 resorts. Participants compete within their age and gender groups to win platinum, gold, silver and bronze medals. In addition, participants are ranked in their medal group and the top ranked racers qualify to compete in the Nature Valley NASTAR National Championships. Rob explained, "A Pacesetter sets the standard for each race. Whatever the Pacesetter has as a handicap (percentage of the par time) sets the standard of the day. It is similar to a golf handicap, all are compared to the top racers in the world. Ted Licity, the fastest GS skier in the world (he won the world GS championship last year) was one of the pacesetters at the Nationals last year. He has a zero (0.00) handicap. All other skiers are compared to him."

Rob has competed nationally in NASTAR for the last five years. His consistency has also allowed him to set the standard time for the CT Ski Council Monday night race series at Mt Southington, CT. Nationally (in his age bracket) he has placed fourth, third, first, first and last year second. This year he is ranked third out of 144 nationally in the Platinum division (the highest level) in his age bracket. The national competition is March 19 and 20, in Snowmass, Colorado.

Skiing has also had a very positive role in Rob's social life. "I met my wife Claire on an alpine Ski-93 trip in New Hampshire back in 1988. She was with her Boston friends and I was with my skiing friends from the New Britain Ski Club. It was an epic ski week," Rob recalled.

Cross country skiing has been one of the Connecticut state ski races for over 30 years. The five Connecticut state races are Downhill, Giant Slalom, Slalom, Snowboarding, and Cross-country. The five types of state races have been yearly competitions and part of the CT Ski Council (CSC) racing program. The other two major racing events for the CSC are a Monday night series; an eight week racing series for racers over 18 divided in age brackets for both men and women, and the On-Snow Carnival; a three day event with 11 competitions to determine the fastest Ski Club in CT.

Rob has had some tough rivalries over the years. Connecticut holds the State Cross-country race at the CSC On-snow Carnival, typically the first weekend in March. The cross-country race is one of 11 competitive events at the On-Snow Carnival. This year the Carnival was at Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vermont where 12 to 13 clubs compete during the weekend Carnival. Last year the Connecticut state cross country race was not held due to dangerous icy conditions. The year before, Mike Kalburg won the cross-country championship, he was the defending champion and Rob was second. The Connecticut state cross-country race is a five km course. This year's race wanders over the Okemo golf course, going up and down the hills of the course. Each cross country racer goes out in 15 seconds intervals on the course. This reduces the conflicts on the course. In order to win Rob had to catch Mike or close on the 15 second distance Mike started ahead. It came down to the last sprint on the last hill. Crossing the finish close behind Mike, (less than 15 seconds) Rob got the win by only six seconds ahead (in total time).

There used to be a USRSA ski week for ski club competition that competed out West each year. The venue was at a different location each year. A few years after Billy Kidd won his Olympic medal, he became the ambassador for Steamboat Springs in Colorado. Billy was the forerunner for a USRSA race that was almost two minutes long. Typical eastern courses are only 20-30 seconds. Rob was one of only two of the 300 competitors that beat Billy's time that day.

Continued from page 15

Thank you for having them do this presentation and we (towns/BOE's) will continue to put a plug in for the DAS and also continue to help educate others to explore the DAS Program.

We (East Hartford Public Schools, EHPS) have gone as far as hosting other towns/BOE's bids on our site (and posting on the DAS Portal under EHPS) as we helped walk them through the procedure and the registration; kind of like teaching a kid to ride a bike.....

It all works well and your efforts/direction/leadership are much appreciated!"

Meg Yetishefsky of DAS Supplier Diversity said this, "Kudos's to **Cher Donnelly** and **Nicola Murray** for a great job at the 'Second Annual Open House for Diverse Suppliers' event held on March 12, 2015.

Both Cher and Nicola provided excellent customer service to each of the Small Businesses attending the event. The marketing of the Supplier Diversity Program was A- Plus!!! This was demonstrated by the positive feedback and customer services provided to the Small Businesses that attended the event."

Susan Bolduc of DAS Collections received this from Deirdre Bassett of Connecticut Probate about **Francisco Rivera**, "Francisco was perfection in a suit! He is so incredibly knowledgeable, patient and accommodating; it was a pleasure to watch him in action this morning. He represented DAS with poise and integrity."

Mark Carroza wanted to thank **John McKay** for employing his Photoshop expertise and helping me put together our Year in Review presentation last month.



Dr. Martin Anderson



William Hauschulz



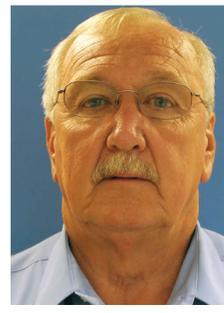
Charles Hoadley



Rosemarie Flynn



Eileen Morin



Edward J. Peznowski



Jeannette Rheume

COMINGS and GOINGS

Shown top to bottom from left to right:

RETIREMENTS

Dr. Martin Anderson - April 1
William Hauschulz - Collections - April 1
Charles Hoadley – BEST – April 1
Rosemarie Flynn – Collection Services – April 1
Eileen Morin – Human Resources – April 1
Edward J. Peznowski - DCS - February 1
Jeannette Rheume – Statewide HR – February 1

Shown on the next page

LEAVING DAS

Doug Rinaldi – State Marshal Commission/
Workers’ Compensation/Master Insurance

TRANSFERS

Andrea Keilty – Commissioner’s Office –
Linda Hubeny -
Connecticut Food Distribution Program
Joseph A. Pajak III - DCS
Dan Sadowski -
Connecticut Food Distribution Program
Ann Simeone – Procurement Services
Tara Talbert - Business Office

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Debra Arrieta - Office of the Commissioner
Jeffrey Cyr - Facilities Management
Robert Ficeto -DCS School Construction
Robin Havelin - Office of the Commissioner

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Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Melody A. Currey
Commissioner

Jeffrey Beckham
Staff Counsel/
Director of Communications



Doug Rinaldi



Andrea Keilty



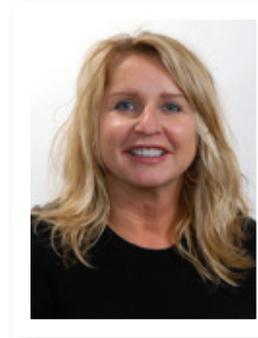
Linda Hubeny



Joseph A. Pajak



Dan Sadowski



Ann Simeone



Tara Talbert



Debra Arrieta



Jeffrey Cyr



Robert Ficeto

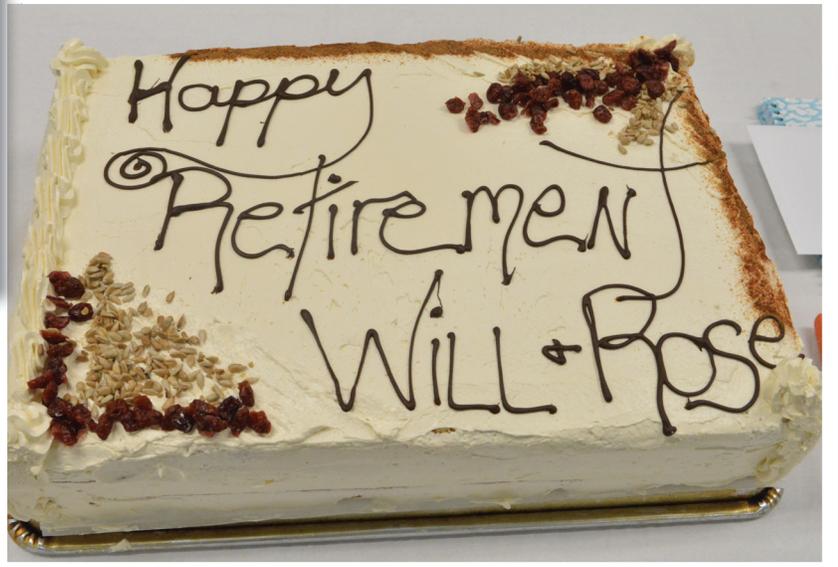


Robin Havelin







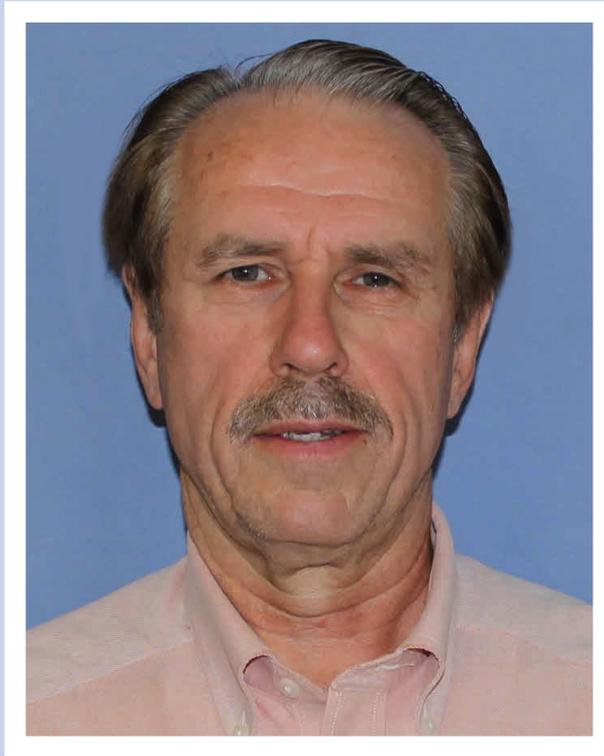






Dr. Martin Anderson is seen here in his office which just happens to be the very room where he was hired back in April 1988.

In Memoriam



Raymond Overton
DAS Construction Services
January 9, 2015