



*Albert Murray, Chairman; Terry Barnard, Vice Chairman;*

*Member James Donald; Member James Mills; Member Braxton Cotton*

**Spring 2014**

## STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES



Albert R. Murray  
Parole Board Chairman

Believe it or not, we're well into 2014. Spring is here and soon of course summer will follow. Soon we will wrap up Fiscal Year 2014. Despite how quickly time seems to pass, the public safety efforts by the Parole Board continue without much notice. Of course, that's as it should be.

The article on this page (opposite) is evidence of that public safety effort by the

Board. Our involvement in collaborations with other law enforcement agencies continues to be another way that we work very hard to protect the public. While we are heavily invested in public safety, our agency is also very active in supporting other aspects of state government, because in doing so, Georgia citizens benefit from the services made available. In this issue, you will also read about some of those efforts.

In any state agency, you have extraordinary people. You will also read about parole staff who are not only providing public safety, but they're benefiting society in other positive ways. You'll also read about some of the training that helps prepare this agency to meet its challenges.

As Parole Board Chairman, I commend our team that is the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. To the public, I pledge that we will stay the course while also finding ways to excel even more.

*Albert Murray*

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## Sex Offender Supervision in Georgia

Paroled sex offenders are supervised at the highest level in communities in Georgia. The Parole Board ensures supervision compliance through monthly visits to the offender's home.

Searching sex offenders' residences is a part of the sex offender supervision. During these searches the focus is for violations such as prohibited Internet access, photos of victims, pornographic images, and illegal drugs. Officers also review cable bills and phone bills during these field visits. During the searches, officers are tasked with searching computers and interviewing the offenders and families.

In Georgia, sex offenders are subject to electronic monitoring during their parole supervision period. During the last fiscal year, Georgia had more than 1,100 sex offenders under parole supervision.



Specialized Parole Officer Heather Strickland supervises the Douglasville sex offender caseload.

(see Sex Offender Compliance Operations and more photos on page 14)

## Counting down for a cause: John Durden plans to do 52 athletic events for charity in 2014

By Severo Avila

*John Durden is a parole officer with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles and works in Rome, Georgia.*

For someone who doesn't consider himself an athlete, John Durden certainly has planned a lot of athletic events this year.

The 43-year-old parole officer plans to participate in at least 52 runs, rides and other athletic events throughout the year, but not just so he can stay in shape.

"One day I was talking to a friend and we were discussing giving back to the community," Durden said. "I like the idea of participating in athletic events but I wanted it to count for something. This new goal will drive me to give back in my own way."

Durden's goal is to participate in at least 52 charity events this year — races, competitions or athletic events from which a majority of the proceeds will benefit a worthwhile organization.

Fifty two was a totally arbitrary number, according to Durden. Although there are 52 weeks in the year, he knows that he may not do an event every single week. He may do two or three a week and realizes he may get sick or other things might come up.

So far he's done eight events. His first was right here in Rome, the Resolution Run 5k. But the events won't all be local. He has done a half marathon in Warner Robbins to benefit an aviation museum, a recent Hot Chocolate 15k benefiting the Ronald McDonald House charities and a race in Marietta which helped the Wonderful Days Pre-K.

"That one was so special because it was a great course and the kids painted flower pots as prizes," he said. "I spent \$25 to register and got so much in return. They were happy I was there and I really felt like every participant made a difference."

Durden, a parole officer in Rome, said he has always been an athlete wanna-be. He trains for bigger events and works out in the gym but he isn't overly concerned with his race times or pace or where he places.

And while many of his events will be 5ks, 10ks and half marathons, he's not limiting himself to foot races.

"The great thing about this goal is that I make the rules," he said. "I'll decide which charities I'd like to help and I'll decide what the events will be. Some will be running, and some will be cycling events. Softball tournaments count or any other physical activity that helps a good cause."

The causes are as varied as the events themselves. Durden's varied interests allow him to choose a wide range of organizations to help. From schools and churches, youth groups and stray animals, environmental groups and wildlife, there's no end to the list of organizations he would like to help.

And the help comes in three different forms. The first is the basic monetary fee Durden will pay to participate in each event. Depending on the particular activity, entry fees can range from tens of dollars up to the hundreds.

But there's also a less tangible factor at play. Durden's personality draws people to him. Friends and even strangers have shared in a small part of his goal, participating in one or two events with him. And through his Facebook page, followers are also updated on his events and many sign up simply to show support for him. The publicity he attracts also draws attention to the cause itself.

In some cases, Durden will go beyond paying his entry fee and actually raise funds for a particular event and charity. In April, he will run the Nashville Marathon. The event benefits St. Jude Children's Hospital and Durden hopes to raise \$2,500 before he runs. Supporters can donate through a link on his Facebook page.

(see Durden, page 8)



To support Officer Durden's effort to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Go to:  
<https://www.facebook.com/johns52eventsin2014>



(photos - Parole Officer Durden completes two events)

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Feb. 19, 2014

## Local Parole Officer's Heroic Actions Likely Save Woman's Life

Luke Roberts

Enterprise Staff Writer

*Michael Brown is a parole officer with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles and works in Douglas, Georgia.*

"Trust me – I don't view myself as a hero in any way. This is what the world is supposed to do, and that's to look after and take care of one another."

Those were the words of local State Parole Officer Michael "Bull" Brown, whose actions recently helped save a woman's life after she completely severed one of her hands in a scary accident while working at her home.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, Adalina Garcia was out working on her family's property in the Green Acres community where they operate a pallet building business. Garcia was grinding up wood in a mechanical grinder to make mulch and somehow, her clothing got hung up in the machinery, which led to her completely severing one of her hands right above the wrist.

Garcia's neighbor, "Bull" Brown was at his home at the time of the accident and recalled one of Garcia's children running up and beating on his door.

Brown commented, "Ricardo came running and saying, 'Please help my mom, please help my mom,' so I took off to their property not knowing what was happening. When I rounded the corner, I saw Adalina sitting on a Gator ATV covered in blood and the wood grinder was still running. She was the lone adult there, as her kids were inside and her husband had gone to town."

"She had a towel wrapped around her arm and was holding it close to her. I pulled back the towel and her hand was completely amputated right above the wrist; there was blood gushing everywhere so I immediately took my shirt off and wrapped it around her arm to try to hit the pressure points to stop the bleeding."

"At this point my wife, Cindy, came running up and I instructed her to go to our home to get ice. I noticed the ATV that Adalina was sitting on had several bungee cords on it, so I took one off and created a tourniquet and continued to apply pressure."

"Adalina began shaking badly and was about to pass out due to the loss of blood, but fortunately as I was holding her up, deputies and emergency medical personnel arrived at the scene. They transported Adalina and she was life-flighted to Savannah, but fortunately she survived the ordeal."

Longtime Coffee County Sheriff's Office deputy Charles Cross was the first deputy at the scene, and he told *The Enterprise*, "Bull Brown is a great American hero. He was at the right place at the right time and took the proper, necessary actions, and I believe he saved her life. Bull was so calm and cool and did a great job during an unfortunate incident. I firmly believe he saved her life."

Brown isn't very comfortable with the thought of being labeled as a "hero," and he commented, "Adalina, her husband Ramon, and their entire family are like family to me. They were there for my family when my mother and long-time nurse, Melba Brown, was diagnosed with ALS and always checked on her before her passing. In fact, Adalina said she could feel my mom's presence while we were amidst this ordeal. The Lord was with us, and I believe my mom helped us as well."

(more story on page 8, see "Officer's Actions....")



Parole Officer Michael "Bull" Brown, neighbor Adalina Garcia and her daughters Judith and Ahmi

### Brown cites training as key

Parole Officer Michael "Bull" Brown says recent training he received from the Parole Board's Training Unit was a key to him helping his neighbor.

"Definitely the training that I took a couple of months ago, I fell back on," stated Brown.

Brown completed CPR/first aid training conducted by the Training unit. He had praise for Training Specialist Jimmy Sikes. "It was my first training taught by him, he's an awesome teacher. Not all instructors can hold your attention like he can," said Brown. (see "Brown took" on page 8)

# Mental Health Day 2014 at the State Capitol

State Board of Pardons and Paroles Executive Director Michael Nail said the Board supports those in recovery as he addressed a rally at the State Capitol on February 19, 2014. The rally was the kick-off to Mental Health Day at the State Capitol. Hundreds of supporters rallied as speakers encouraged them to meet with legislators to ensure the state budget includes funding for mental health programs.

Nail told the rally that parole's primary mission is to successfully transition offenders back into the community and that the Board has taken steps in working with offenders diagnosed with mental illness.

"We have a trained licensed mental health professional on staff full-time and we have specialized officers in each district who are trained specifically to work with these offenders and assist in their transition from prison to the community," said Nail.

Nail said success is based on partnerships and the treatment providers are an essential partner. He says by working together, offenders with mental health issues can be successfully transitioned to the community.

Approximately six percent of the parole population in Georgia has a mental health diagnosis.

The parole officers' efforts include matching available community services with those parolees with the mental health diagnosis.

The Parole Board's licensed mental health professional is Erika Johnson. The Parole Board is one of the state agencies that participates on the Georgia Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (MHPAC). Johnson is the Board's representative on the council.

Governor Nathan Deal issued a proclamation in support of Mental Health Day and he spoke briefly to those gathered on the Capitol steps. His remarks were in support of more community treatment alternatives.



Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail addresses the crowd at Mental Health Day at the State Capitol.



Governor Nathan Deal waves a proclamation supporting Mental Health Day.



(l-r) Parole Board Program Specialist Erika Johnson, Cynthia Wainscott and Ellyn Yeager of Mental Health America of Georgia and Eve Byrd, Chair of the Behavioral Health Services Coalition

# Addiction Recovery Awareness Day 2014

January 13, 2014, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles joined other state agencies in celebrating those in recovery and those who assist in the recovery from addiction.

Parole Board Chairman Albert Murray was among the speakers at Addiction Recovery Awareness Day 2014, which was held on the steps of the State Capitol.

Chairman Murray, Department of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens and the Director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry, Jay Neal, were among the state leaders joining hundreds of supporters at the rally.

Supporters rallied around the theme, "Long Term Recovery is Real!"



Parole Board Chairman Albert Murray addressing Addiction Recovery Awareness Day 2014.



(l-r) Parole Board Reentry Manager Marta Daniell, Neil Kallenecker, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Chairman Albert Murray, Erin Anderson, Parole Board RPH Manager, and Erika Johnson, Parole Board Program Specialist, at Addiction Recovery Awareness Day.



Addiction Recovery Awareness Day 2014

Chairman Murray told the crowd that the hundreds of inmates released each month benefit

from treatment programs while incarcerated and achieve success once released into the community by accessing the remarkable treatment and support services available through those partners who were present at the State Capitol for the rally.

Seventy-six percent of the parole population in Georgia has a substance abuse diagnosis. Parole officers conduct drug tests on parolees and refer offenders to treatment programs. During the last fiscal year, more than 4,000 parolees completed substance abuse programs in Georgia.

## Fort Benning Military Job Fair

State Board of Pardons and Paroles staff members were available to speak with active serving military personnel as well as veterans at the Military Job Fair held at Fort Benning, Georgia in Columbus, on January 16, 2014.



Columbus Parole Officer Nick Simmons and Sherry Givens, the Parole Board's Assistant Director of Human Resources, speak with two active servicemen.

The Military Job Fair was hosted by the Department of Corrections, Georgia Department of Defense and Georgia National Guard.

(Fort Benning Military Job Fair, continued next page)

# Fort Benning Military Job Fair continued....

In addition to the Parole Board, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Safety, Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Department of Labor assisted veterans seeking careers.

Two star retired U.S. Army General James Donald, a member of the Parole Board, spoke briefly at the opening of the event and said that assisting veterans with employment assistance is small payback for the sacrifices they've made to protect us.



(l-r) Columbus Parole Officer Nick Simmons, Southwest Region Director Caryl Deems, Major General Jim Butterworth, Georgia's Adjutant General, Major General (retired) James Donald, Parole Board Member, and Columbus Chief Parole Officer Jody Dillard

"Veterans always have been the mainstay in transforming our communities. We are here today showing we value our veteran's expertise and experience. They've (vets) demonstrated they have a higher desire to serve and law enforcement gives them that opportunity," said Donald.

The job fair was held for both military personnel still serving and those who have left the service.

Georgia's Adjutant General, Major General Jim Butterworth says the job fair fills a gap for many veterans. "In the civilian sector, we take for granted the hiring process, but someone that's been in the military 15-20 years, well they have never gone through that process. This job fair bridges that gap. It helps make sure these heroes have an opportunity for that job they may be interested in," said Butterworth.

They deserve that extra ounce of consideration because they perpetuate freedom," he added.

The Board has more than 60 veterans employed.

## Fort Gordon Military Job Fair



March 20, 2014, the Parole Board's Augusta Parole Office participated in a Military Job Fair at Fort Gordon. Assistant Chief Parole Officer Julia Sancken speaks with two potential applicants.

## Southern States Correctional Association coming to Georgia

Georgia will host the Southern States Correctional Association's (SSCA) 45th Annual Conference in July. The Summer Training Conference is July 20-23, 2014, in Savannah. The association's mid-winter conference was also held in Savannah on February 21-23, 2014. The mid-winter conference allows the host agencies and the SSCA to plan the upcoming summer conference.

Parole's Training Unit presented a "get fit" workshop at the mid-winter conference. Topics discussed taught attendees to plan more balanced meals and how to start an exercise plan.

The SSCA is a non-profit organization representing criminal justice professionals in 14 southern states. (see SSCA page 14)

Parole Board Vice Chair Terry Barnard welcomes Southern States to Savannah.



## Parole Employees Graduate Corrections Leadership Institute

Four Parole Board employees recently graduated the Corrections Leadership Institute. The program was developed by the Department of Corrections through the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Personnel aspiring to mid- to upper-level management positions have the opportunity to prepare themselves for roles of greater scope and responsibility by participating. Participants in this third-level course within the development program, learn through classroom instruction and group activities on topics such as management and leadership, power and accountability, systems thinking, introducing new ideas in your organization, leading groups, group dynamics and group think, change management, ethics, and values, establishing and maintaining credibility, and effective public speaking and presentations.

Over the course of several months, participants engage in self- and team evaluation and complete a project focusing on organizational performance.



(l-r) Training Director Lisa Lance, Program Manager Tami Stubbs, Statesboro Chief Parole Officer Paula O'Neal, Clemency Imaging Manager Daphne Evans-Huff, Talent Acquisition, Development and Retention Program Director Maryann Dillard and Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail

## Parole's Professional Skills and Leadership Development

The Parole Training Unit hosted the agency's Professional Skills and Leadership Development Program February 24-28, 2014. Twenty-two parole professionals graduated the course.

The program gives participants an understanding of the agency's values and philosophies. The program's goal is to facilitate the development of the participants' leadership skills, emphasizing their professional growth as they assist the agency in meeting its challenges.



(front row, l-r); Training Specialist Lori Massengale, graduates Amy Reynolds, Kimberly Williams, Yolonda Johnson, Perry Price, Amanda Jordan, Kendra Green, Heather Strickland and Leah Lewis; (2nd row, l-r); Training Specialist Vicky Rollins, graduates Taneshia Sims, Alan Smith, Justin Wilkinson, Wes Moulder, JaTonya Lowery, Brad West, Brian Griffin and Training Director Lisa Lance; (3rd row, l-r); Trent Swicord, Jerry Black, Willie Carswell, Thomas Green, Andrew Jerram, Don Pace and Melvin Reid.

## Durden, continued from page 2

### Rome News Tribune

Even his family has gotten in on the action. Durden's wife, Crystal Maynor, participated in the Hot Chocolate run with him and his daughters Coppi and Perry accompanied him to a MLK race in Atlanta. He hopes his activities will be a good example for his daughters to give back to the community and to care about the plight of others.

"There really are no absolutes with this goal," Durden said. "I just want to participate in fun, athletic events that benefit others in and around our community. My goal is 52 events but I may surpass that if I can. I'm willing to take suggestions from people."

At the moment, Durden is scouring the Internet for possible events in which to participate. He doesn't even know which ones will strike his fancy. His eighth race was Saturday in Roswell, the Chattahoochee Challenge 10k which benefits the Chattahoochee Nature Center and its educational programs.

Durden hopes Rome and area residents will like and follow his Facebook page at [facebook.com/johns52eventsin2014](https://www.facebook.com/johns52eventsin2014) to keep up with his progress as well as to donate to events such as his upcoming Country Music Marathon in Nashville in April.

"The Facebook page has the list of events I plan to do for the next month," he said. "So February's events are on there. You can 'like' or follow the page, leave comments, suggestions and of course I'd love for people to do these events with me. This is my goal but you can share in it too. Even if you just do one or show up to support."



Parole Officer John Durden

## Officer's Actions, continued from page 3

### from the Douglas Enterprise

He continued, "I hope and pray this is the last time I ever witness anything like this, but I'd do everything I did all over again. I don't view myself as a hero in any way. This is what the world is supposed to do, and that's to look after and take care of one another. I actually feel fortunate to have been able to help. Adalina could have bled to death right there. If the world would look at it the same way I do, I believe this would be a better place."

Lisa Hodge, one of the Brown family's close friends, added, "The first impression people get when they see Bull is his size and the thought that you wouldn't want to make him mad! The reality is that he is more like a HUGE teddy bear with a heart that matches his size. He's an exceptionally compassionate person that does anything and everything he can to help others. The incident with his neighbor is the ultimate example."

Brown is a lifelong native of Coffee County and a 1999 graduate of Coffee High School. After playing football collegiately, he embarked on a career in the Arena Football League before injuries forced him to retire. He is now a State Parole Officer and is married to wife Cindy, who teaches at Coffee Middle School.

*The Enterprise sends prayers to Mrs. Garcia and wishes her a speedy, healthy recovery.*

## Brown took Parole's Tactical First Aid

The class is called Tactical First Aid. It is an eight hour class and was taught by the Training Unit to all sworn staff last year. Assistant Director of Field Operations, Jay Hancock, pushed for the class to take place after watching the Boston Marathon Bombing. The first half of the class is devoted to providing CPR to adults and children and use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The class then practices CPR and AED-use on manikins. All staff that successfully completes the CPR class receives a card from the American Heart Association and is certified to perform CPR. The certification is good for two years. The second half of the class identifies common injury and medical emergencies that may be encountered and discusses appropriate actions that should be taken. First Aid kits were purchased and distributed to all parole offices. Each parole vehicle now contains the First Aid kit. How and when to use various items contained in the kit was included in class instruction. The class finished with tourniquets. The different types of tourniquets (commercial, improvised) were explained. All parole officer vehicles also now contain a commercial tourniquet. In the event a commercial tourniquet is not available; how to make an improvised tourniquet was discussed. New officers will receive this class during Basic Training.

## Parolee continues to give....

Jackie Cooper along with her other five siblings was raised only by their mother. They grew up not having much. Sometimes that included not having electricity.

Jackie says at age 18 she went into a department store where she was asked to apply for a credit card, so she did, using someone else's name. She was approved for \$500.00 and maxed-out the card. She started going to other stores applying for cards using other people's names. She went from wanting nice clothes and shoes to getting a high by being able to get away with it, she says.

In 1989, Jackie was caught and sentenced to 24 months probation under the first offender's act. However, she continued committing fraud and theft until 2006 when she was sentenced to 15 years, serving 6 years in prison before her parole release.

On May 27, 2011, Jackie reported to parole for her initial interview coming in with a positive attitude says her parole officer Rita Rothwein. She also admitted guilt. However, she had a determination that she would make something of her life while having an influence on others. Her goal was to keep others from going down the road that she had traveled, says Rothwein.

### Community program provides opportunity to help others

During Jackie's transition from prison to the community, she and her sister, Brandi, began working with a mentoring program called Passionate About Living Souls (PALS). PALS is a community program that helps newly released and incarcerated women and their children get connected with different organizations to help meet their needs. Jackie and her sister continued working with the program assisting many women with their needs. The program holds a special place in Jackie's heart because she loves being an advocate for women and youth. Her work and commitment to the program is credited for its growth.

In September 2011, Rothwein, the assistant chief in Douglasville, put Jackie in contact with Chief Deputy Gary Sparks, of the Douglasville Police Department, regarding the Youth Against Violence program. Now, each week, Jackie teaches 'Criminal Addictive Thinking' on Thursday's and every Saturday she teaches 'Confronting Peer Pressure.' She is the first woman out of prison to ever teach classes at the Youth Against Violence program.

Chief Deputy Sparks was asked about Jackie and had this to say; "When I first sat down to talk with Jackie about helping I could tell that she wanted to give back and do something for her community and to help the youth," said Sparks.

He says Jackie tries to get the youth to look deep within while letting them know that they can succeed no matter what their past is. Chief Deputy Sparks says Jackie arrives every Saturday with a smiling face and a willingness to share and serve. He states she is committed to the program and that shows integrity. He adds that anything they ask Jackie to talk about she does, no matter what topic it is, and she does a great job. Dep-

uty Chief Sparks stated that Jackie is a very positive person even though she has had a negative background and she is an "OVERCOMER."

Audre Toles Coleman, Youth Against Violence Program Administrator, calls Jackie, "AWSOME." Coleman says Jackie is a prime example of a great volunteer.

Jackie also has begun working with the Atlanta Police Department's (APD) Atlanta Youth Initiative. Youth Coordinator, APD Officer Keith Roach says Jackie is, "excellent with the kids and she's a great female mentor."

Jackie has four children and when she talks about them she has the biggest smile on her face. Jackie missed five years of their lives but during her prison time she stayed in communication with them. Two of her children are currently in college, one is in the Navy and her youngest is planning on going into the Marines. Jackie says she's always pushed them to do better and not follow in her footsteps.

When Jackie was asked what quote she would like to go in this article she stated, "My 3 Ps." She said, "God has preserved and prepared me for a purpose and hopefully my three Ps will have a profound effect on someone." Rothwein says God is using Jackie to make a difference in lives and she is certainly giving back to the community.

"JACKIE COOPER IS A SUCCESS STORY" and Jackie says she knows this is only by the grace of God. Jackie Cooper's parole ends on February 10, 2016, and Rothwein says she feels very blessed to see what Jackie has become and looks forward to seeing what else God will do through Jackie.



Douglasville Assistant Chief Parole Officer Rita Rothwein, Douglasville Police Department Chief Deputy Gary Sparks, and Jackie Cooper

# 2013 Fourth Quarter Employee Recognition



(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Clemency Hearing Examiner George Walker and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald

(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Clemency Secretary/Receptionist Natasha Clark and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald



(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Clemency Parole Investigator Candy Pender and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald

# 2013 Fourth Quarter Employee Recognition

(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Parole Officer Trent Swicord and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald



(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Parole Board Legal Counsel La'Quandra Smith, Parole Board Investigations Director Barbara Stayton and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald

# 2013 Fourth Quarter Employee Recognition



(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Marietta Assistant Chief Parole Officer Andrew Jerram and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald

(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Conyers Chief Parole Officer Reginald Huley and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald



(l-r) Board Member James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Jonesboro Chief Parole Officer James Williams and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald



# 2013 Fourth Quarter Employee Recognition



(l-r) Board Members James Donald and James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Clemency CONS Program Manager Latisha Wilkins, Dr. Gary McGaha, President, Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC), Mark Cunningham, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at AMSC and Board Member Braxton Cotton

Latisha Wilkins is the agency's first employee to graduate with a degree through the partnership formed by the Parole Board with Atlanta Metropolitan State College. The partnership encourages employees to continue their education while continuing their careers. Wilkins received her associate degree.

(l-r) Parole Board Reentry Program Manager Marta Daniell, Board Members James Donald and James Mills, Board Chairman Albert Murray, Community Partner Amber Browning, John Knox and Gary Branton of Mt. Vernon Mills, Trion, Georgia, LaFayette Chief Parole Officer Brandon Bell, Board Member Braxton Cotton and LaFayette Parole Officer Michael Young



# STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

## ***Our Mission***

*To serve the citizens of Georgia as an integral component of the Criminal Justice System by making informed release considerations and protecting the public through effective offender supervision.*

## ***Our Vision***

*To be the most efficient and effective paroling agency in the nation.*

## ***Our Core Values***

*We value Ethics, Integrity, Fairness and Honesty.*

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## PROMOTIONS

Chris Kimner promoted to Compliance Auditor 2 in the Investigations and Compliance Unit.

Branndon Turner promoted to Chief Parole Officer in the Carrollton Parole Office.

Shekevia Hawkins promoted to Field Operations Officer.

Denise Brown promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer in the Carrollton Parole Office.

Gerald Pearson promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer in the Griffin Parole Office.

## Parole Sex Offender Compliance Operations

The Douglasville Parole District recently conducted a monthly compliance check on the area's paroled sex offenders and found no violations. The team consisted of Northwest Region Director David Tibbits, Chief Parole Officer Craig Cazier, Specialized Parole Officers Heather Strickland and Michael Ruple, Field Training Officer Denise Brown and Parole Officer Myisha Tavelez.



Douglasville Specialized Parole Officer Michael Ruple and Regional Director David Tibbits search the living quarters of a paroled sex offender.



Operation Shamrock (sex offender compliance operation)

## SHAMROCK

A joint operation involving the United States Marshals Service, the Secret Service, Homeland Security, the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department, Gwinnett County Parole and Gwinnett County Probation occurred March 18 & 19, 2014.

Seven arrests were made including four parolees.



(SSCA continued from page 7)

The Georgia Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles are the host agencies for the summer conference.

(left) Parole Training Specialist Lori Massengale at the SSCA Winter Conference in Savannah.