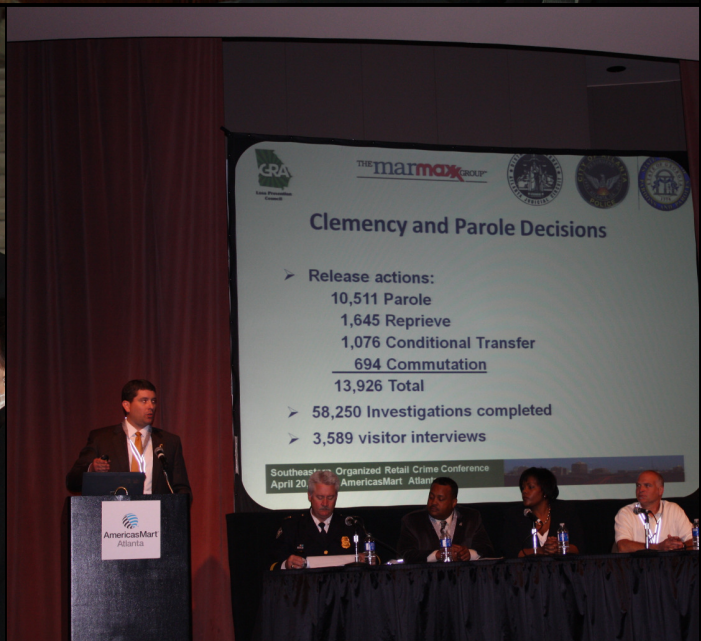
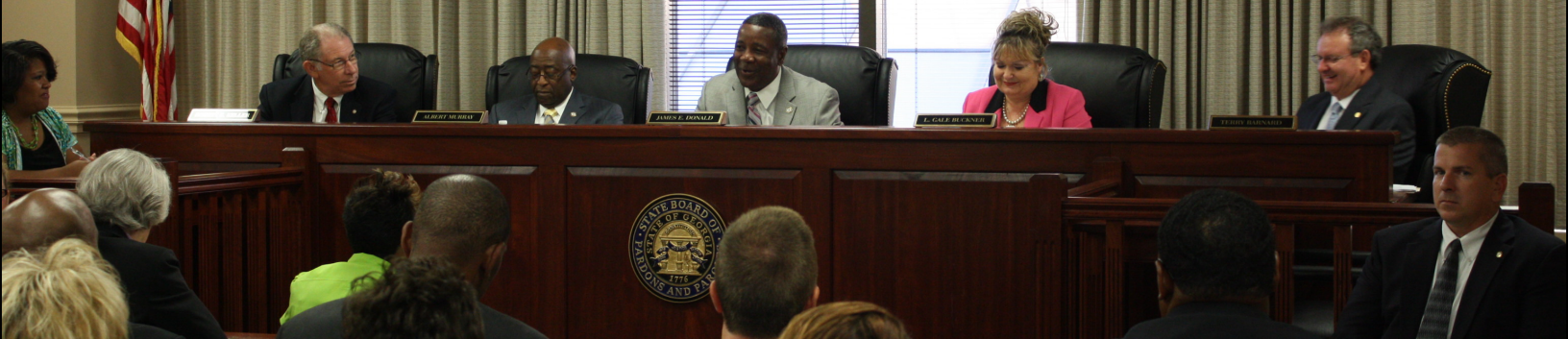
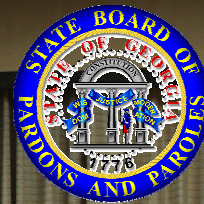




# GEORGIA PAROLE REVIEW

Summer 2011





## Parole Board Re-Elects Leadership

At the May Parole Board meeting, Board Members re-elected Chairman James Donald and Vice Chairman Albert Murray to their leadership positions for a second term. Donald and Murray began their new terms July 1, 2011 and they will serve in these positions for the Fiscal Year 2012.

"I'd like to thank my colleagues again for their confidence and support. I'm always humbled by this leadership role. I think it's indicative of how special this Board is," said Donald. "Everybody has the highest respect for Georgia's Parole Board. It is what sets us apart, the strong experiential backgrounds that we all bring to the Board and we are in fact, as a board, as a parole department, painting outside the box," added Donald.

Donald was appointed to the Board in January 2009 after serving as the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections for five years. Donald says those around the country in the parole profession look at what Georgia's Board is doing, "with great anticipation."



Vice Chair Albert Murray and Chairman James Donald

"I want to tell you how proud I am to have another year as chairman and I promise you my 110% commitment and hope that we continue to grow as a Board not only professionally but friendship-wise," stated Donald.

Murray was appointed in May 2010, coming to the Board from the Department of Juvenile Justice, where he ended his tenure as the longest serving commissioner of that agency, serving more than six years.

Murray said he's once again thankful to be given the opportunity to serve as vice chairman.

"In my long career I've enjoyed many titles but never as special as the present title because it gives me the opportunity in 2011 to do some things I haven't done before, in a different kind of setting. I will continue to give it my all and make sure it is a priority in all that I do."

### Board Member Gale Buckner at the Israel Police Command Center



Board Member Gale Buckner with Israel National Police Inspector Arich Cohn, center, and Pastor Danny Cochran, flanked by Israel National Police

Board Member Gale Buckner traveled back to Israel this spring, helping coordinate a visit for members of her church, Holly Creek Baptist Church in Chatsworth. She assisted her pastor, Danny Cochran in coordinating the trip. Buckner has made six trips to Israel, including as a member of the 2003 Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program. Buckner is a former president of the International Association of Women Police.

"Reconnecting with the Israel National Police (INP) was a great opportunity to observe the enhancements to their Old City Command Center," stated Buckner. "We often think of INP responding only to terrorist activities, yet their common crimes such as assault, theft, and burglary, take up more than 90% of their resources," she added.

Buckner was able to coordinate a visit for Cochran to the Command Center for Security in the Old City of Jerusalem. Cochran serves as chaplain for both the Chatsworth Police and the Murray County Sheriff's departments.

## Board Member Robert Keller Educates Local Attorneys

In March, Parole Board Member Robert Keller addressed members of the Henry County Bar Association. He provided the attorneys with information regarding the parole process in Georgia, information he says can sometimes get complicated.

"The parole process in Georgia has many steps," says Keller. "We investigate the offender's history, we use guidelines for recommending a number of months to be served before paroling an inmate, and then at the end of that period, we look at him again to see if anything has changed, before he is granted parole."

Keller was Clayton County's District Attorney for twenty seven



Parole Board Member Robert Keller speaks with members of the Henry County Bar Association.

years, serving from 1977-2004.

Although a prosecutor for many years, Keller says defense attorneys need to know accurate information so their clients are not surprised by the process.

Keller's information was well received by the group.

During the meeting, Keller took questions on topics including mandatory minimum sentences, and Georgia's transitional centers, for inmates coming out of the prison system. Keller said he wholeheartedly supports alternative sentencing and treatment programs for non-violent offenders because they represent "front-end" solutions to prison overcrowding as opposed to "back-end" solutions such as parole decisions. He says that can be achieved while keeping the public safe as well as lowering recidivism.

The state is currently looking at criminal justice reform as a result of the rising prison population.

## Macon Parole Office Awarded Corrections' Partner of the Year

The Macon Parole Office is a 2010 Partner Agency of the Year Award recipient. Macon Parole Chief Tamara Stubbs received the honor at the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Annual Awards Ceremony, May 24, 2011.

GDC honors agencies that partners with the Department to fulfill its mission.

"Our mission is to protect and serve the public and on this day we honor those who have excelled at helping us accomplish this mission. The common thread among our honorees is that they did not achieve their success by accident," stated GDC Commissioner Brian Owens. "The award you are receiving is a reflection of your commitment to this agency," Owens called it a, "Job well done!"

This is the second consecutive year the Macon Parole Office has re-

ceived this award. The Macon Parole Office supervises more than 500 parolees with the average



Macon Parole Chief Tamara Stubbs and Corrections' award recipients. Also shown left; Rep. Jay Neal, GDC Commissioner Brian Owens and far right State Personnel Commissioner Joe Doyle

caseload per officer of 85-90.

Stubbs says, "It (award) is a result of the on-going working relationship we have with GDC's Macon

Transitional Center (MTC). We conduct a Parole Orientation at the MTC every month. We also have a great two-way communication with the counselors in finding and approving suitable residences in Macon for upcoming releasees to reside."

Stubbs says the cooperation goes both ways. She says the MTC provides her office an inmate each week to clean the office and the center has loaned her office their van on occasion to assist with transporting parolees to Final Hearings. Stubbs says it is just a few examples of the cooperation with GDC's Macon Transitional Center that her office enjoys and aides each agency in meeting their missions.

"I'm appreciative of this recognition and very proud of my entire office," states Stubbs.



# A Busy Summer for Parole

April, May, June and July; it has been a busy summer as parole officers have joined other law enforcement across the state serving warrants and checking supervision compliance, all an effort to keep the public safer.



Officers from Parole, Probation and the Macon Police Department get instructions for Operation Neighborhood Sweep. Shown: Macon Parole Officer Walker Reddick and Parole Officers Charles Arnold and Lamario Harris from Warner Robbins.

Operation Neighborhood Sweep took place April 14-16 in Macon. The Macon three day warrant sweep was held in collaboration with the Macon Police Department, and the Department of Corrections' Probation Officers. Six parolees were arrested out of the 80 total arrests made. There were 38 Probation staff and 6 Parole staff from the Macon Parole Office who participated. The Objective of the operation was to heighten law enforcement presence, crime reduction efforts and to execute any outstanding warrants.

"Operations of this type speak directly to our core mission of public

safety," said Director of Parole Michael Nail. "It is evident that we all are more successful in carrying out our respective missions by working together. At the end of the day, it's all about making our communities safer."

"Details like Operation Neighborhood Sweep are instrumental in fighting and deterring crime," affirmed Macon Police Chief Mike Burns. "Joining forces with other law enforcement agencies around the state enhances our reach and effectiveness. The results are impressive and we appreciate the expertise and professionalism of our partners."

A few days later in Columbus, six parolees were arrested as the Columbus Parole Office teamed with the Columbus Probation Community Impact Program (CIP) and Columbus police April 20, 2011, to serve more than two dozen warrants during the one-day operation.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Operation Nightrider II was conducted by the South Metro Parole Center, ATF Task Force Officers and the US Marshals Service. There were approximately 18 officers participating, divided into three teams. The operation focused on the cities of College Park, Union City, and Fair-

burn. The mission of the operation was to conduct compliance checks and serve warrants on parolees suspected of being in possession of weapons and other contraband.

26 compliance checks were conducted and seven warrants were attempted producing two arrests. Seven parolees were in violation of their curfew. One parolee was found in possession of ammunition. All others were in compliance.



Macon Parole Chief Tamara Stubbs looks on as officers working during Operation Neighborhood Sweep serve warrants.



## Busy Summer, continued....

"Once again, our officers represented the very best that our agency has to offer, and that we can and will continue to contribute to public safety by holding our parolees accountable," said Michael Nail, Director of Parole.

One parolee who was searched stated, "We all know y'all are coming to check. It's not if, it's when."

The relationship being built between Pardons and Paroles, the ATF Task Force and US Marshals Service, and many local agencies, makes large scale operations, such as this one, successful.

Operation Storm was a special joint operation that included the Clayton County Sheriff's Office, the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force of the US Marshals, the Morrow Probation Office and the Jonesboro Parole Office. The operation was conducted in response to illegal activity and also to serve outstanding warrants. The operation was conducted over three days from June 13, 2011, through June 15, 2011, and covered the entire Metro Atlanta region. A total of over 50 officers participated in the operation. Officers were divided into two teams that began serving warrants each day at 5 a.m. More than twenty arrests were made, including four parolees.

One parolee who was searched stated, "We all know y'all are coming to check. It's not if, it's when."

Parole and Probation officers assisted the Richmond County Sheriff's Department in July verifying the addresses of 285 sex offenders. Augusta Parole Chief Derek Singleton and Senior Parole Officers Amanda Cannady and Maxwell Smith worked with the Augusta Community Impact Program. Two offenders were not immediately located during the July 13<sup>th</sup> compliance sweep.

Collaboration with law enforcement partners ensures the safety of the public is not compromised, the Board's number one priority.

Cover photos: Parole Board meeting (top); Governor Deal announces criminal justice reform (left); Parole at conference (right); Macon operation (lower left); Board Member Keller and Vice Chair Murray and PO Michael Austin (lower right)

## Parole Officers Use Skills to Reach Youth

They're already headed down the wrong path and some, unfortunately are already headed to the Department of Corrections. However for most, their juvenile pasts can remain in the past as juvenile crime records are confidential in Georgia. So there's hope for them and to that end, Parole Officers from the South Metro Office were targeting these youth incarcerated at the Metro Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) and challenging them to avoid the state's adult correctional system.

The Parole Officers spoke to the Life Skills Classes at Metro RYDC in April and while answering many questions, they told the youth they wanted no part of the Georgia Department of Corrections and therefore they should want to avoid ever having to report to a Parole Officer. The youth at the Juvenile Justice facility are ages 13-17.

Dr. Koran Kanaifu, who teaches these classes at the RYDC says, "Youth at Metro RYDC make wrong decisions which can impact their entire lives." She says it's important for the youth to hear the information and she believes the officers and two parolees who also addressed the youth were able to reach at least some of her kids. Kanaifu says, "This is because while the youth are aware of their situation the information provided made the impact of their negative choices even more realistic."



Parolee Timothy Allen speaks to youth about wrong choices and where they can lead.



## Albany Parole Officers are Positive Role Models

Parole officers from the Albany Parole Office served as positive role models at the “Operation Green Eggs and Ham” event in the Dougherty County Schools this spring.

Each year on the anniversary of Dr. Seuss' Birthday (March 2), schools across the country celebrate with “Read Across America.” Chief Parole Officer Leslie Lamb has participated in the past, reading to students at Lincoln Elementary Magnet

School. This year, several readers were unable to participate at the last minute but Lamb called in the reinforcements.



Albany Senior Parole Officer Paul Martins reads to elementary kids during the “Green Eggs and Ham Read Across America” program.

“Three of my officers joined me. They had been out serving a warrant about the same time I was checking in with the librarian at the school,” said Lamb. After Lamb found out about the absent readers, she called her officers and asked them to stop by before they headed back to the office. Senior Parole Officer (SPO) Kris Walker, SPO Phil Burrell and SPO Paul Martins showed up to save the day. Lamb says despite many readers throughout the day, “It’s my understanding our officers were a favorite and a big hit.”

Oh, and yes, “Operation Green Eggs and Ham” included just that for the kids for breakfast prior to the reading events.



Albany Senior Parole Officer Kris Walker

## Parole and Probation share space, save \$\$\$

The Parole Board is eliminating office space leases where possible, an effort to optimize its resources, says Director of Parole Michael Nail.

“It makes little sense to continue to pay leases when we have state owned office space available,” stated Nail. “We will continue to look at areas where we can better utilize our resources while improving our overall operations.”

In a few locations, Parole Officers are now working side by side with State Probation Officers. One such move is in Gainesville, where the leased office was closed and parole officers are now working alongside probation officers in a Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), state-owned facility. Other moves include relocating the parole offices in Rome and Augusta into GDC owned space.

Other cost saving moves included closing the Louisville office. Parole Officers at this office are now working in the Augusta and Thomson Parole Offices. Additionally the Cuthbert Parole Office was closed with those officers now working in the Albany Parole Office.



## Expansion of Sanctioning Program Benefits Georgia

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles is expanding a pilot project that puts parolees to work doing community service as a sanction instead of revoking their parole and returning them to prison. The pilot program began in the communities of Milledgeville, Gainesville, Columbus and Dalton. The program is expanding throughout the summer to communities across Georgia and involves hundreds of parolees who have committed low level violations of their supervision requirements.

The Georgia Department of Transportation oversees the parolees who pick up trash and debris along the roadways and as the program is expanding, the parolees are helping out with mowing and trimming along Georgia's roads.

Jay Lacienski, Director of Field Operations for the Board, says the program offers the Board another intermediate sanction it can use to correct the behavior of parolees who fail their supervision requirements.

"Parolees can be sent to jail for a period of time for failing a drug test for example, but this program allows us to possibly save that expense in some cases while helping out another state agency as well as helping improve the overall appearance of our state," stated Lacienski. He says violations that could result in participation by a parolee may include a first failed drug test, and repeated curfew violations, for example.

"It isn't always necessary to revoke parole," says Lacienski. "Intermediate sanctions are usually very successful and often result in supervision requirements being met and maintained," he added.

Milledgeville Chief Parole Officer Bubba Williams has worked in his local area with GDOT for several years, providing the service as an intermediate sanction. He has taken the lead for Parole in the expansion to other parts of the state.



Parolees participate in the intermediate sanctioning program to avoid jail time or revocation to prison.

"It costs the Department millions of dollars every year to pick up litter along Georgia's 20,000 miles of state and federal roads," Georgia Department of Transportation State Maintenance Engineer Eric Pitts says. "And frankly, we don't have enough funding or manpower to do the job as well as we would like.

The parolees' help is invaluable," added Pitts.

GDOT Press Secretary David Spear says the department can always use the assistance and with continued budget reductions is finding the work by the parolees invaluable. GDOT provides transportation from local offices to the work sites in the state and provides equipment and safety gear for the parolees.

State Department of Transportation Board Member Jay Shaw of Lakeland, Georgia, one of the program's first and strongest advocates, says it is a perfect example of collaboration in which all benefit. "State probationers have been tremendously helpful to us in maintaining the safety and beauty of our roadsides. I am glad to see the Parole Board now being able to offer a similar program as a sanction for parolees."

The program is operating in ten parole districts in Georgia and could be further expanded as necessary.



Monroe Senior Parole Officer Christina Carter with parolees participating in the sanctioning program



## Georgia's Parole Board is Committed to Victims of Crime

Coinciding with National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) held a Victims Visitors' Day at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, April 11, 2011.

More than 100 victims of crime were able to meet



Parole Board Chairman James Donald and Hearing Examiner Amber Samples address victim concerns at the Victims Visitors' Day in Forsyth.

with Board Members and agency representatives as well as state probation staff to discuss offender cases.

The Victims Visi-

tors' Day coincided with the annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week ceremony and open house at State Offices South at Tift. Twelve state agencies participated in the multi-agency victim services partnership. Victims were able to learn about all the services offered by the state.

Parole Board Chairman James Donald took part in the roundtable discussion earlier in the day. He explained that holding face to face meetings is how victims can be heard as a part of the parole process. "Victims have a voice as the Board decides whether to grant an offender parole," stated Donald.

"Conducting these Victim Visitors' Day events is one of the most important ways we can demonstrate our commitment to victims and allow their input into their offender's case and decision making process," said Donald.

The Parole Board has conducted Victims Visitors' Days across the state since 2006, meeting with more than 1,000 victims.



Board Member Gale Buckner and staff discuss the event to ensure victims' needs are met.

In addition to receiving information concerning the status of an offender during the Victims Visitors' Day, victims can register to receive future status notifications regarding the offender.

The Department of Corrections and State Board of Pardons and Paroles' Office of Victim Services can be reached at 404-651-6668 or for more information on services provided please go to

[www.pap.state.ga.us](http://www.pap.state.ga.us).



Georgia's Parole Board fully supports crime victims as all five members attended the Victims Visitors' Day in Forsyth. Pictured are Vice Chairman Albert Murray, Member Gale Buckner, Member Robert Keller, Member Terry Barnard and Chairman James Donald.

### National Night Out!

Victim Services took part in National Night Out activities the week of July 31– August 4. Law enforcement including the Parole Board participated in activities to show support for public safety.



Monroe Parole Officers Kathryn Alexander and Michelle Vidal with Destiny Brown and Lisa Brown of Victim Services

## Parole Board Focuses on Reentry Services

The Parole Board has a new Reentry Coordinator charged with bringing together the Board's reentry services. Anita Cloud was named to the position in July. Cloud is a career employee for the Board. She started in Field Operations as a parole officer.



Parole Board Chairman James Donald is keynote speaker at STAND, Incorporated's 2nd annual symposium, June 22nd. Standing to Achieve a New Direction is an Atlanta based non-profit focusing on comprehensive services for reentry, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse intervention and prevention. Photos by George Bradley

Parole Board Chairman James Donald says, "Parole is really about reentry, successful reentry."

The Board is looking to continue to expand on services available through Faith Based organizations, linking community reentry initiatives with local clergy and volunteers.

"There needs to be more options for felons returning to our communities," says Donald. "The most important factors to successful reentry and sustaining that success is meaningful work and a suitable place to live. But offenders must be willing



Parole Reentry Coordinator Anita Cloud at the STAND symposium

to work," added Donald. He says bringing together community resources and people who want to help is key.

As part of her duties, Cloud will lead a Parole and Corrections joint Reentry Coordinating Committee.

"We recognize that the reentry process must start when the offender first comes to the Department of Corrections," says Cloud.



Columbus Senior Parole Officer Traci Pleasant goes over supervision requirements with a parolee on her caseload.

The agency also can assist with housing for some offenders if they qualify through the Reentry Partnership Housing Program and through THOR, Transitional Housing for Offender Reentry. More information about the housing programs can be found at [www.pap.state.ga.us](http://www.pap.state.ga.us).



Chairman Donald tells GED graduates at Baldwin State Prison to have a plan when they are released and to serve others.



## Preparing the Offenders for Reentry

Parole Board Chairman James Donald told probationers and parolees at the “New Beginnings” Re-Entry Forum, that “we are sick and tired of seeing you fail.”

The forum, held at the Lindsey Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, June 30, 2011, is a monthly event organized by the U.S. Attorney (Northern District), Georgia Department of Corrections, Board of Pardons and Paroles and Community Voices at Morehouse School of Medicine. Program organizers, with support from local service providers, enable ex-offenders to identify organizations offering services to include employment, job skills training and entrepreneurship, education and health ser-

vices. The event helps offenders connect with the community services they need.

The event drew just over 60 offenders on probation or parole.

Sally Yates, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District opened the meeting. Also speaking to offenders was Atlanta Police Chief George Turner. The Federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were also represented.

Donald, the keynote speaker, told the audience that all of law enforcement wants them to be

successful. He urged them not to make excuses. He challenged them to dream again and about what they want to do with their life. Donald said, “I dare you



Parolees, probationers and providers listen to Parole Board Chairman James Donald at “New Beginnings.”

not make that (prison bed) your legacy.”

## A New Beginning Starts Behind the Wall

Parole Board Members are supportive of prison programming that assists inmates in learning skills and behaviors that will result in them being productive citizens once again upon their release. The Board knows the importance of preparing offenders with long prison sentences in the event they are someday released.

July 13, 2011, eleven men graduated the “Just the Beginning” program for inmates serving life prison sentences at Rutledge State Prison in Columbus and Parole Board Vice Chairman Albert Murray spoke to the group.

“Change is forever and always necessary,” Murray said as he

congratulated the group of graduates for embracing positive changes in their behavior.



Parole Board Vice Chairman Albert Murray speaks to inmates serving life sentences.

Murray told the graduates they should hope and envision leaving the prison system one day, despite serving a life sentence.

He said the Board looks for potential, self improvement, meaningful change and progress when evaluating an inmate’s parole potential. Murray encouraged them to not allow the graduation to be the end of their improvement.

The Parole Board granted 196 life-sentenced inmates parole in fiscal year 2011 and denied 628.

The “Just the Beginning” Lifer’s program at Rutledge teaches the inmates to learn to take responsibility for the crime they committed, set future goals and have a plan for success if released from prison. The 6-month program also works to help inmates to correct behavioral problems and control emotions.

## Corrections' Day Reporting Centers Graduate Parolees

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles is committed to successful offender re-entry and that's why twenty four parolees are recent graduates of Day Reporting Centers operated by the Department of Corrections.

Three parolees were most recent graduates at the Atlanta Metro Day Reporting Center (DRC) June 8, 2011. DRCs target offenders who are about to be revoked back to prison. DRCs provide intensive substance abuse treatment for offenders sentenced by the courts or who have not responded to more traditional community supervision and treatment efforts. Failure at a DRC results in revocation proceedings against the offender.

At the Metro DRC graduation, parolee Randy Ellington said the program has helped him understand that he had to let the past go, and turn toward opportunities. "It (past) was no one else's fault but mine," stated Ellington as he spoke at the graduation.

Through collaboration with GDC, parolees are now graduating in higher numbers from the DRCs. Since August 2010, GDC has afforded up to ten slots per DRC for parolees.

Parole Board Chairman James Donald championed the expansion of DRC operations during his tenure as Commissioner of the Department of Corrections from 2003-2009.

Thirteen DRCs operate across

the state allowing approximately 13-hundred offenders to avoid the much more costly alternative of prison.

"That's a good size prison," says Donald. "A 13-hundred bed prison would cost about \$80 million to build and another \$30-\$40 million to operate each year," added Donald.

"We see the DRCs as another

added.

Donald encourages DRC graduates to return to the DRC for help should they encounter problems after graduation.

Although the cost is more than regular parole or probation supervision, a DRC is only a fraction of the cost of providing a residential alternative, and far

less costly than paying for a prison bed.

The program includes components such as substance abuse counseling, cognitive restructuring, adult basic education, employment enhancement, intensive supervision and community service. An aftercare component follows the on-site programming. Offenders assigned to the program are required to be em-

ployed as soon as they have completed the initial orientation, assessment, diagnostics, and programming.



Metro DRC Graduates: (l-r) South Metro Parole Chief Ken Morrow, Chairman Donald, DRC Graduates Nick Clausell, Ramon Hughes & Randy Ellington, Parole Regional Director Joje Wilson-Gibbs, Parole Reentry Coordinator Anita Cloud and Parole Officer Kindu Franklin

way of dealing with people we're not necessarily afraid of. We can save that \$49 per day prison bed by working with the parolee and supporting his rehabilitation."

Donald says, "rehabilitation is a journey and long term." He says the Day Reporting Centers work with the offender and keep the offender with his family rather than locking them up and possibly further destabilizing families. At the same time, Donald says, its intensive supervision that allows for swift, certain and proportionate sanctions when necessary.

"I think it's excellent," Donald

"It was no one else's fault but mine - DRC graduate Ellington  
"Rehabilitation is a journey and long term" - Chairman Donald

The day reporting program is generally 12 months in length, although that varies based upon the offender's performance. Intensive community supervision by parole, probation and law enforcement is constant through all phases of the program.



# Fifteen New Parole Officers Join the Ranks

“As Board Members who consider granting parole to an offender, we do so knowing that the offender will be managed in the community at the highest possible level,” said Parole Board Vice Chairman Albert Murray as he delivered the commencement address to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Basic Parole Officer Training Course. He added, “Georgia’s Parole Board is nationally recognized primarily due to the quality level of supervision of offenders.”

Fifteen new parole officers joined the Board’s ranks statewide following the graduation ceremony in May held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth.

Parole officers are classified as Georgia Peace Officers and must successfully complete an eight week Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.), Basic Training Course.

Course work includes supervision techniques, investigation procedures, intervention strategies, criminal and Georgia law, Parole Board policy and procedure, interview skills, physical fitness, arrest procedures, defensive tactics, computer interaction and firearms qualification. The training includes certification to use a Board issued service weapon.

Parole officers work to transition offenders back into the community using a balanced approach of surveillance and treatment intervention. Parole officers make scheduled and unscheduled visits to the parolees’ residences, employers and treatment providers to ensure compliance.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> BPOTC includes a former state trooper, a former State Department security agent, a former school teacher and several with military experience.



Parole Board Vice Chairman Albert Murray told the new officers that their role is one that speaks to the agency’s core mission of public safety.

Top Student, Academic & 2nd Place Firearms Award, Wayne Palmer, Moultrie; Performance Award, Reed Watson, South Metro; 1st Place Firearms Award, Heather Strickland, Douglasville; 3rd Place Firearms Award, Shekevia Thomas, DeKalb

## 52nd BOPTC



(Photo right l-r) Front Row - Macon PO Jay Ingram, DeKalb PO Shekevia Thomas, Columbus PO Danielle Stokes, Cordele PO Stephanie Edge, Columbus PO Blair Eastman and Vicky Rollins, Training

Second Row - Training Director Bert Flewellen, Moultrie PO Jamie Ross, Douglasville PO Heather Strickland, Conyers PO Akeia Keith, Moultrie PO Wayne Palmer, Gainesville PO Ashley Britt

Back Row - Griffin PO Michael Murphey, Adairsville PO Darryl Blanchard, Douglasville PO Reed Watson, Dalton PO Michael Austin, Americus PO Michael Reeves

## Staff Training is Key to Public Safety

Parole officers participated in joint arrest training with members of the Albany Police Department Gang Unit, the Albany Police Department Uniform Division and Albany Probation on June 1 & 2, 2011.

The training was conducted by the Parole Board's Training Director Bert Flewellen.



Albany Parole Officers train on joint arrest tactics with Corrections' and Albany police.

Serving Parole Warrants is an important part of a parole officer's job and the training is essential. Flewellen says the joint arrest training makes sense as the Parole Board is ever increasing its collaboration with other law enforcement agencies in conducting joint operations to include serving fugitive warrants or conducting supervision compliance sweeps.

"It's an opportunity to be pro-active with training," says Flewellen. "We know we are going to conduct these joint operations, so let's get it down to a science and leave nothing to chance, especially when we may be confronting someone who has the potential to be dangerous."

The classroom portion of the training included Board policies, state and federal laws regarding searches, use of force, and tactical ways in

which to approach and search a building. The training was informative for the other agency personnel as they learned more about what parole officers can and can't do when attempting to gain access to a residence and the subsequent search. Field scenarios mimicked real world scenarios allowing the officers to work together. Participants took turns in different roles including filling the role of offender.

Officers from probation and the Gang Unit appreciated that the Board provided the training. Parole Officer Phil Burrell says he believes all three agencies benefited from the training and it will help them work together more effectively and in a safer environment while serving warrants and providing public safety to the citizens of Albany.



P.O.S.T. Certified staff must re-qualify with firearms two times a year.

### Parole prepares for Crisis Intervention

Georgia's parole officers are more prepared if called on to assist with mentally ill offenders. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is a 40 hour course which teaches officers how to deal with those of offenders and how to de-escalate potentially volatile situations. Parole is taking part in training offered by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Also in May, parole officers participated in joint training by the Henry County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Marc Johnson says many law enforcement agencies are making the training mandatory. The training emphasizes treatment for the person over incarceration.



Georgia Crisis Intervention Team Training at the Henry County Sheriff's Department May 16-20, 2011. Parole graduates are North Fulton Chief Parole Officer Felicia Holloway, Griffin Senior Parole Officer (SPO) Brandon Turner and North Fulton SPO Fanny Canales



## Board Recognizes Parole Staff at July Board Meeting

Parole Board employees were recognized for their contributions to public safety during Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 17-23, 2011. The Parole Board Members publicly thanked all of the agency's hardworking staff at the July 19, 2011, Board Meeting.

Parole Board Chairman James Donald stated that the work done by parole officers results in a safer Georgia. "Citizens of Georgia can rest well at night, and go about their day without fear, because of the great work our parole employees are doing in supervising offenders in our community," said Donald.

Representatives from across the agency attended the Board meeting to be recognized alongside the parole officers in the field, to include the Clemency staff and those in the various support offices.

Board Member Robert Keller thanked the employees throughout central office and the; "Unsung heroes in Clemency," who prepare the cases for the Board Members to properly make informed decisions.



Parole Board Members recognize parole staff during National Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.



Valdosta's finest! (l-r) Parole Officers Eric Bryant and Greg Connell; Assistant Chief Ladon Conner, Chief Willie Carswell, and Parole Officers Jeff Cuthens and Lance Walker

"As Board Members, we recognize that our success has been a team effort," stated Chairman Donald. "Without the dedication and commitment of our central office and field support staffs, we could not fulfill our core mission of public safety."

Director of Parole Michael Nail read aloud Governor Nathan Deal's proclamation recognizing the week as "Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers Week in Georgia." During the week, field offices in Parole, held various events including cookouts, to show appreciation for staff. The State Board of Pardons and Paroles employs approximately

300 parole officers

who supervise nearly 23,000 parolees annually in Georgia. Average caseloads for a parole officer range from 75-85 offenders.

Georgia's parole officers work with the offender on parole to establish that parolee in a stable home and work environment. A parole officer often serves as a counselor for the parolee, by providing necessary information helping the individual to continue to meet supervision requirements. Supervision techniques include surveillance and often include home and work site visits to ensure compliance by the offender.



Dublin Parole Office celebrates Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week

## Agency Recognizes Employees with Quarterly Awards

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles recognized fifteen employees and a team at the agency's first quarterly awards ceremony August 4, 2011. Employees from Field Supervision, Clemency and Central Office received "Employee of the Quarter" certificates acknowledging their contributions to the agency's success and meeting its mission.

Parole Director Michael Nail told a packed audience that the day was about them. "I want you to know that although we are recognizing these employees today, you all are to be recognized for the work that you do, thank you," said Nail.



Clarksville Parole Investigator Lisa Densmore



(l-r) Board Member Robert Keller, Board Member Gale Buckner, Board Vice Chairman Albert Murray, Clemency Director Melodee Stewart, CONS member Zanda Strong, Board Chairman James Donald and Parole Director Michael Nail

Recognized for the first quarter from the Clemency Division were: Hearing Examiner Amber Samples, CONS Team 3 member Zanda Strong and Clarksville Parole Investigator Lisa Densmore. Field Supervision recognized Field Operations Officer Chris Barnett, Administrative Assistant Jan Moss and Thomaston Parole Officer Lori Massengale. First quarter recipients from the central office were Nhia Nguyen in Research, Evaluation and Technology and Destiny Brown of Victim Services.

Second quarter recipients for Clemency were: CONS Team 4 member Annie Avornytse, Hearing Examiner Tabettha Rand, Gainesville Parole Investigator Terry Rosso, and Athens Parole Investigator Linda Griffin. The Field recognized Lily Perry in the Interstate Compact Unit, Rome Chief Parole Officer Phillip Shepherd and Jefferson Senior Parole Officer Ronda Matheny. The lone central office award went to a team; The Consolidated Banking Initiative Team.

Additionally, Field Supervision acknowledged the parole staff who assisted with tornado recovery in Georgia following the April storms.

At the ceremony, the Board also recognized staff with Faithful service Awards.



Parole employees attend first quarterly awards ceremony, August 4.



Rome Parole Chief Phillip Shepherd with Field Supervision Director Jay Lacienski, the Board and Director Nail



# State Board of Pardons and Paroles

Parole Review is published by the Public Affairs Office, Steve Hayes, Director

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Georgia Parole Officers perform in the Special Olympics Torch Run. Shown: Albany Parole Officers Phil Burrell (left) and Rod Porter (right)

## Parole is About Helping Communities



South Metro Parole Officer Katie Turner assists tornado damage recovery in her native Birmingham, Alabama.



Tornadoes ravaged the south in the spring claiming lives in several states including Georgia. Parole officers including Griffin PO Brandon Turner assisted recovery efforts in Northwest Georgia.

## PAROLE PROMOTIONS

Patrick Freightman, promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer, Savannah Parole Office, effective August 15, 2011

Larry Morgan, promoted to Metro Regional Director, effective July 1, 2011

Chris Barnett, promoted to Senior Field Operations Officer, Central Office, effective June 1, 2011

Hank Harris, Jr., promoted to Chief Parole Officer, Hartwell, effective May 16, 2011

Vicky Dixon, promoted to Parole Investigator, Valdosta Parole Office, effective June 1, 2011

Solomon Barge, promoted to Field Operations Officer, Central Office, effective April 1, 2011

Denise Brown, promoted to Business Operations Specialist, Victim Services, effective March 1, 2011

Maryann Kelsey-Dillard, promoted to Compliance Auditor 2, Investigations and Compliance, effective March 1, 2011

Chris Kimner, promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer, DeKalb Parole Center, effective February 16, 2011

Richard Oleson, promoted to Program Manager 2, Central Office, effective March 1, 2011

Colleen Manthe, promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer, Lawrenceville Parole Office, effective May 16, 2011

Scott Maurer, promoted to Assistant Director of Research, Evaluation & Technology, effective May 16, 2011

James Kopp, promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer, Savannah Parole Office, effective April 16, 2011

### *Our Mission*

To enhance public safety by making informed parole decisions and successfully transitioning offenders back into the community.

### *Our Vision*

A parole system that leads to a safe Georgia.

### *Our Core Values*

We value Ethics, Integrity, Fairness and Honesty.