

*Terry Barnard, Chairman; James Mills, Vice Chairman;
Member James Donald; Member Albert Murray; Member Braxton Cotton*

Fall 2014

State Board of Pardons and Paroles



Terry Barnard
Chairman

A Message from Chairman Barnard

We've completed another fiscal year cycle and I'm proud to recognize and thank all of the employees at the State Board of Pardons and Paroles for a great job! We sometimes take for granted the smallest of tasks within our agency, however we are easily reminded just how important each employee is to accomplishing our mission.

In simple terms we are about public safety and successful offender reentry. The two go hand-in-hand. It hasn't been said recently, but we know that most all offenders are coming home to our communities at some point. Regardless as to how, by parole or end of sentence (maxing out), most all will return. That's what makes our agency vital to the community justice system. We make informed decisions based on many hours of staff work and we then supervise offenders closely once in the community to ensure public safety. Inmates that leave prison at the end of their sentence do not have the benefit of supervision which we know includes assistance by

parole officers in so many areas which results in parole successes. Paroling authorities across the country seek to model our success. That success doesn't simply happen. It takes hard work and dedication from all employees to continue to make the Georgia Parole Board a true leader!



Governor Recognizes Parole

Governor Nathan Deal not only recognized community supervision officers, including parole officers by issuing a proclamation, he also welcomed the Parole Board to the Capitol to commemorate the event.

The week of July 13 - 19, 2014, was Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week in Georgia.

See on page 4

"Governor Deal takes time to thank Parole"

Photo is courtesy of the Governor's Office, Andrea Briscoe; see photo caption on page 10

Victim Offender Dialogue brings family and parolee together

This article is reprinted by permission of the Rome News Tribune (see related story on page 6)

Rome News Tribune

Parolee meets his victims years after serious wreck as part of Victim Offender Dialogue program

By Alan Riquelmy — August 31, 2014

Chad Abernathy figured the woman sitting across from him would hate his guts.

Instead she helped him get a job after his release on parole for charges including injury by vehicle and DUI.

“It’s pretty amazing,” said Abernathy, 31, after speaking with Susan Pelfrey. “How many victims help their assailants?”

Pelfrey, who lives in Dalton, wanted Abernathy to know she has no grudge against him. That’s one reason she wanted to meet him as part of the **Victim Offender Dialogue** program.

Usually victims in the program meet with offenders while they’re still incarcerated. Abernathy, who was paroled Monday, is the first parolee in Georgia to meet his victims through the program. They met Thursday at the Rome parole office on Marable Way.

“I think that the meeting provided closure for my family,” Pelfrey said.

Tina Curtis, Pelfrey’s daughter, said she wanted Abernathy to know she held no ill will toward him.

“We all make mistakes,” Curtis said. “I wanted him to know that we supported him and want the best for him.”

State officials say Abernathy spent seven years in prison on charges of DUI, injury by vehicle and violating the motor vehicle law. His charges stemmed from a July 26, 2006, wreck on Interstate 75, near mile marker 318 in Gordon County, that left Pelfrey’s husband with brain and spinal injuries.

Pelfrey was in a car with her husband, Don, Curtis and Curtis’ son, Logan, who was then 7. Their vehicle flipped several times in the wreck, and Don Pelfrey was partially ejected. He remained in a coma for a month.

Don Pelfrey has some lingering effects from the wreck, though someone who just met him today wouldn’t notice, Curtis said.

Abernathy tried to hide after the wreck, though he was caught and later pleaded guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison, followed by 10 years’ probation, said Keir Chapple, director of the Victim Offender Dialogue program.

Abernathy, who plans to make Rome his home, spent his time in prison learning. He earned his GED and improved his welding skills. He also became proficient in electrical work, plumbing and carpentry.

Susan Pelfrey made a point of following Abernathy’s progress during his years of incarceration. She knew he took classes and gained his high school graduation equivalency, and she picked up the phone to call a friend in Human Resources when he was near release.

“I said, ‘Will you give him a chance?’” Pelfrey said. “And she said, ‘Absolutely.’”

Shalandra Robertson, director of victim services with the state’s Department of Corrections and Board of Pardons and Parole, said the Victim Offender Dialogue program focuses on the victims.

“Many victims have questions about the crime itself,” Robertson said. “Many victims want to know, why did you do what you did? They want the offender to know how their crime affected their lives. Some victims just want to contact their offender.”

Abernathy was glad to speak with Susan Pelfrey and her daughter. “I feel good,” he said. “They’re very special people. There aren’t too many of them like it.”

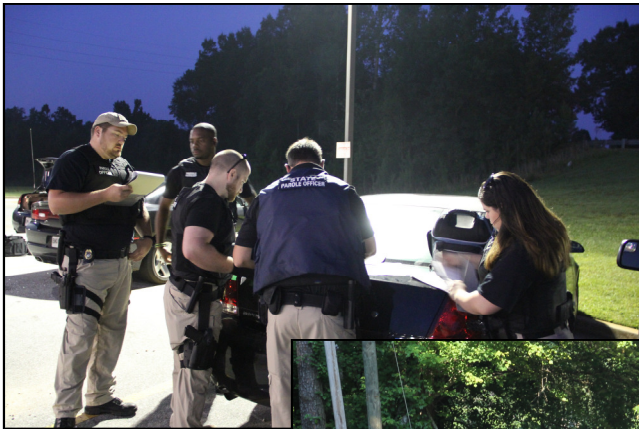


Tina Curtis (from left) Chad Abernathy and Susan Pelfrey spoke as part of a Victim Offender Dialogue program. Abernathy spent about seven years in prison for a 2006 wreck in which Curtis, Pelfrey and two others were involved. The victims followed Abernathy's progress through prison, and Pelfrey has helped him get a job. (Alan Riquelmy/RN-T.com)

Parole Arrest Teams are specialized

The Parole Board’s Arrest Teams are specialized groups of parole officers that serve warrants on parolees who have absconded or otherwise are not compliant with their supervision.

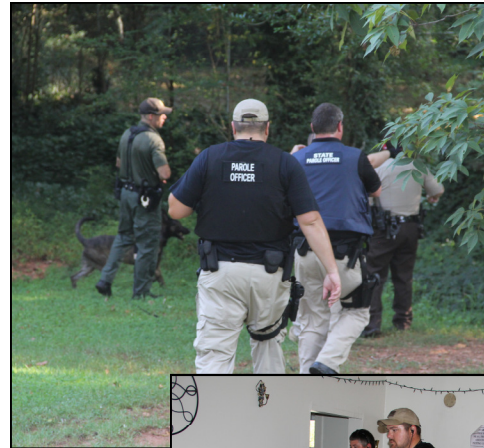
In early September, the Carrollton/Douglasville Parole Arrest Team conducted a warrant operation. The team consists of eight parole officers, four from each parole district.



Eight warrants were attempted, but no arrests were made. Douglasville Chief Parole Officer Craig Cazier says that’s not necessarily an unsuccessful operation.

“Eventually these individuals are caught and the warrant is served. The operations also result in some offenders turning themselves in later because they understand Parole will keep looking,” says Cazier.

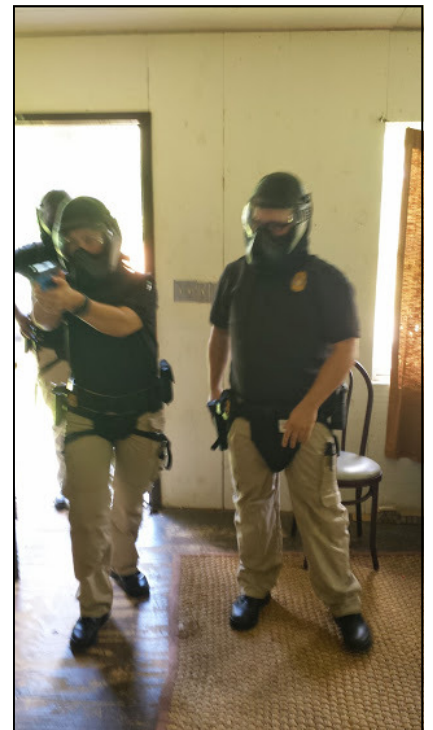
Georgia parole officers can take arrest team training through the Parole Board’s Training Unit. Planned scenarios allow instructors to give feedback, instruct and grade performances. Training Specialist Jim Sikes says the scenarios expose the parole officers to a wide range of complex issues. The officers must then use appropriate force options to control a given situation. The training promotes safety, teamwork and confidence in use of force knowledge and warrant execution.



Carrollton-Douglasville arrest team officers and local law enforcement search for an offender in a neighborhood.



Chief Parole Officer Brannndon Turner, Parole Officer John Robinson and Chief Parole Officer Craig Cazier take an opportunity to check in with a parolee at his home.



Top left: Carrollton/Douglasville Parole Arrest Team prepares for the warrant operation.

Bottom left: Officers search a neighborhood for an offender. The parolee was later caught.

The Parole Board’s arrest team training

Governor Deal takes time to thank Parole

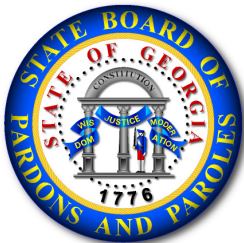
A governor is a busy man, especially in an election year. Governor Nathan Deal is no different. So when he welcomed parole officers to the Capitol on July 30, 2014, and personally thanked them for their role in public safety, the meaning was important says Andrew Malone, a parole officer in Lyons, Georgia.

“It means so much and it was totally so unexpected for him to take the time to tell us how much he and the citizens of Georgia appreciated our commitment to our job and to public safety,” said Malone.

Governor Deal greeted the parole officers and other staff for Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week which was earlier in the month. However after the photos were taken he stopped to personally address the group telling them that he knows their jobs are not easy and he thanked them for their public safety roles.

Metro Atlanta Parole Officer Kinnetta Hamilton agreed that Governor Deal’s comments were special.

“It’s a great feeling to know that our hard work doesn’t go unnoticed. It’s one thing to get the appreciation from within the agency but when it comes from an outside source, it makes us feel like we are going in the right direction as an agency and the work that we do is not in vain,” said Hamilton.



Georgia Parole Officers meet Governor Nathan Deal to mark Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week



Parole Board Chairman Terry Barnard (2nd from right), Vice Chairman James Mills (foreground left) and Director of Parole Michael Nail (far right) listen as Governor Deal thanks Georgia Parole Officers.



Parole Officer Graduation includes DJJ Officers

Seven new parole officers graduated August 1, 2014, from the Board's Basic Probation/Parole Officer Training Course. For the first time, the BPPOTC included juvenile officers who work for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. All 19 graduates are now certified as probation/parole officers by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T).



Chairman Terry Barnard addresses the graduating class, shown at right.



Parole and DJJ graduates are sworn



Chairman Barnard congratulates graduating class president Annie Moorman, a parole officer in Conyers

Terry Barnard, Chairman of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, speaking directly to the new parole officers, told them they are holding a unique law enforcement position.

“You have earned the right to wear the parole uniform and carry the badge that sets you apart from all others in the state,” said Barnard.

Barnard urged the officers to make parole a career and start by mastering every part of being a parole officer. “Become an expert in your field,” he added.



Clarkesville Chief Parole Officer Roy Fry and Parole Officer Jonathan Seawright



(l-r) Parole Board Member Braxton Cotton, DJJ Commissioner Avery Niles, North Fulton Parole Officer Sharika Mayne, Parole Board Chairman Terry Barnard and Parole Board Member Albert Murray



Marietta Chief Parole Officer Alan Smith and Parole Officer Lia Miller

Parole Officers take training to become Victim Offender Dialogue Facilitators

Eight Parole Officers and two counselors working for the Department of Corrections, attended training to become facilitators for the Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) program. VOD is a program that puts victims with the offender to discuss the crime and the impact on the victims.

The Just Alternatives Victim-Centered Victim Offender Dialogues in Crimes of Severe Violence Training took place in early September at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. The training prepares trainees to actually facilitate a Victim Offender Dialogue. Trainees review and process actual dialogues and interviews with real victims and offenders of various violent crimes from rape to murder. They are trained to become specialized interviewers with an emphasis on being victim centered in their approach. Throughout the week, trainees have the opportunity to interview both actual victims of violent crimes and actual incarcerated offenders to better prepare them to communicate with and extract the intentions of both groups. Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail made the decision to focus this training on parole officers throughout the state. Georgia may be the first state to specifically train parole officers as facilitators.



Parole officers and Department of Corrections' counselors completed training to become VOD facilitators. Pictured are (front row, l-r): Dept. of Corrections' Counselors Robin Ingram and Dana Patrick, Just Alternatives CEO and Trainer Jon Wilson, Parole Officers Lasonya Vance and Dain Dias, and Counselor Ruby Pugh. (2nd row, l-r): Office of Victim Services VOD Program Manager Keir Chapple, Parole Officers Angela Jackson, Lamario Harris, Priscilla Metts, Bobby Rocker, and Norris Howard.



Governor Nathan Deal recognizes the Office of Victim Services (OVS). Pictured (l-r): Parole Board Vice Chairman James Mills, OVS' Destiny Brown, Celestine Benjamin, and Carlia Ray, OVS Director Shalandra Robertson, Governor Nathan Deal, OVS Program Manager Keir Chapple, OVS Asst. Director Tabetha Rand, OVS' Cassandra Abdullah and Janelle Edwards and Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail. The Dept. of Corrections and Parole Board's OVS serves registered crime victims.

Parole fights crime during the Savannah Impact Program's Night Out

The Savannah Impact Program (SIP) kicked off National Night Out on August 5th. The event brings communities across the country to their streets to show unity against crime.

The SIP is a multi-law enforcement group that provides supervision and services to offenders under types of community supervision.

The SIP is a specialized Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD) unit, operating as a Community Reentry Collaborative. Other agencies involved in the SIP are the Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Chatham County Juvenile Court and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Currently, four parole officers are assigned to the SIP. They are Specialized Parole Officers (SPO) Melvin Reid, Kendra Green and Helen Monday, and Parole Officer Timeka Johnson.

The National Night Out event is a collaboration between citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials.

In addition to free food and music, the event included agency display tables set up by Parole, Probation, the Chatham County Fire Department, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, the Dept. of Juvenile Justice, and SCMPD. Local residents were able to walk through and ask questions about agency community involvement.

On the day of the event, parole officers assisted with organizing the event but also managed to conduct supervision and parole warrants service.

Other parole staff that attended the event were Savannah Chief Parole Officer Paula O'Neal, Asst. Chief Patrick Freightman and Asst. Chief Brian Morgan.

More about the Savannah Impact Program: Operating as a Community Reentry Collaborative, the SIP, primarily serves offenders, youth



Pictured left: Assistant Chief Parole Officer Patrick Freightman; Pictured right: Specialized Parole Officer Melvin Reid, Parole Officer Timeka Johnson and Specialized Parole Officer Kendra Green

and adults, who are "high risk" and "at risk." Through partnerships between the SIP's sworn and civilian police personnel and numerous community supervision agencies, the SIP provides intensive supervision and accountability, cognitive-behavioral training, and employment soft skills training.

Take the ALS Challenge, Parole is!



Looks fun, doesn't it? The LaFayette Parole Office takes the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge made by the Adairsville Parole Office. ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, attacks the nervous system parts that control voluntary muscle movement. The disease can strike middle-aged adults and also children. By taking the ALS Challenge groups raise funds for ALS research.

Pictured (l-r) are: LaFayette Parole Officer (PO) Aldo Avila, Asst. Chief Parole Officer Michael Allen, Chief Parole Officer Kimberly Williams, PO Michael Young, Field Training Officer Heather Williams, Regional Secretary Sherry Tate, Secretary Jennifer Pryor and PO Wes Woodall, (bucket handlers are Walker County Jail Detention Officers, thanks!)

American Probation and Parole Association recognizes two Georgia Parole Leaders

Two Georgia Parole leaders were recently recognized by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). Felicia Holloway and Carrie Goldring recently graduated from the APPA Leadership Institute. They were presented their certificates at a ceremony in New Orleans in early August. The APPA program is designed to enhance one's ability to exercise leadership and authority. The one-year program consisted of additional course work outside of the actual class time. It was the first time the Parole Board had been part of the institute.

Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail praised both employees.

"I'm proud of Felicia and Carrie on representing us so well," Nail said.

In addition, Felicia Holloway was asked to serve as National Representative for the program in 2015.

"We're certainly proud of Felicia for representing us in this esteemed position," Nail added.

Felicia Holloway is the Metro Regional Director and Carrie Goldring is Assistant Director of Clemency.



(l-r) DeKalb Chief Parole Officer Solomon Barge, Director of Strategic Initiatives Richard Oleson, Latisha Wilkins, Clemency Director Joje Wilson-Gibbs, Metro Regional Director Felicia Holloway, Asst. Field Operations Director Patrick Holsey, Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail and Field Operations Director David Morrison.

(Goldring photo on page 10)

Southern States Summer Conference a huge success!!

The Southern States Correctional Association (SSCA) held its Summer Training Institute in Savannah in July. With nearly 700 attendees, it was the second largest ever according to SSCA President Mitzi Kellum. The conference was co-hosted by the Parole Association of Georgia and the Georgia Probation Association.

Participants praised the training that was provided says Kellum, who had asked the

Parole Board's Training Director Lisa Lance to chair the Program Committee. Lance's training agenda focused on employees' mental and physical health and job readiness. As a result, Lance was recognized during the conference with the President's Award. The President's Award is given to the person that has gone above and beyond to make the conference a success.

"They were blown away by our training," Kellum says. She said the incoming SSCA President, Arkansas Dept. of Corrections Commissioner Ray Hobbs said Georgia had set the bar high and it would be hard to top it for next year's conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The SSCA represents 14 states and nearly 1,200 members.



Parole members of the host committee: (l-r) Operations Support Director Scott Maurer, Director of Government Relations Rita Rocker, Confidential Assistant to the Director, Bea Blankenship, Savannah Chief Parole Officer Paula O'Neal, Douglas Chief Parole Officer April Moore and Field Operations Officer Shane Sasser.



Lisa Lance, Parole Training Director, (right) receives the President's Award from SSCA President Mitzi Kellum.

Around Parole



On August 22nd, Parole Board Chairman Terry Barnard met with officers in the Southeast Region. Officers from Brunswick, Jesup and Waycross districts were in attendance. The meeting took place in Brunswick. It was an opportunity for the chairman to spend time with officers in the field.

Pictured left to right are: Southeast Regional Director Darryl McGee, Parole Officer (PO) Blake Lewis, Chief Parole Officer Chester Chancey, Asst. Chief Parole Officer Brenda Locklear, PO Kyle Grimes, Specialized Parole Officer (SPO) Buster Johnson, SPO John Prince, Chairman Barnard, PO Shawn King, CPO Michael Bobo and PO Stephanie Mercer

On August 28th, the Georgia Department of Corrections hosted a career fair at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. Other agencies represented at this event included the Parole Board, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Georgia National Guard, the Gwinnett County Police Department, the Cobb County Police Department, the Cobb County Sheriff's Office, the Department of Public Safety, and Mercer University.

Representing the Parole Board were Marietta Chief Parole Officer Alan Smith, Parole Officer Sadarius Miley (shown right) and Human Resources Program Manager Maryann Dillard. Applicants were able to submit their applications online. One participant interested in a parole officer position in the North Fulton Office used an agency Chromebook (which are replacing more expensive laptops) on-site, and submitted his application via ApplicantStack, the agency's new applicant tracking system, available on the Parole Board website (www.pap.ga.gov). More than 70 job-seekers attended the career fair many with interest in the Parole Board.



On Wednesday, August 27th, six parole employees graduated from the Professional Management Program (PMP) at Roberts Chapel, State Offices South. PMP is a joint initiative through the Dept. of Corrections and Columbus State University and is an educational opportunity encouraged by the Board for employees who desire to work toward an Associate's Degree. Participants must complete ten (10) modules or 400 hours of course curriculum over a period of two (2) years earning a Certificate in Criminal Justice through Columbus State University. These hours will count toward an Associate's Degree through Columbus State or a similar institution.

Pictured (l-r); Stephanie McBride, Stephanie Wilkerson, Michelle Morton, Karen Autry, Cynthia Elmore and Vicky Rollins. The group began PMP in 2012 and were the first Board employees to benefit from this initiative. They were supported at graduation by family, co-workers, supervisors, and Board leadership.



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.

Parole Officer Graduation Class Project

Each Basic Probation/Parole Officer Training Class selects a deserving organization to collect much needed materials that will assist that particular organization. The class in August chose the Monroe County Sheriff Department's C.A.R.E. Cottage. The program assists women and children who are victims of crime, or witnesses to crimes.



Lisa Lance (left), the Parole Board's Training Director and Lt. K.B. Ayer of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for C.A.R.E. Cottage.

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FLOYD VETERANS MEMORIAL
BUILDING
2 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
DRIVE, S.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

Parole Review is published by
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Steve Hayes, Director
404-657-9450
www.pap.georgia.gov
Webmaster@pap.ga.gov

PROMOTIONS

Daphne Evans-Huff promoted to Office Manager of the Interstate Compact Unit

Kimberly Williams promoted to Chief Parole Officer in the LaFayette Parole District

Jim Vollrath promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer in the Monroe Parole District

Eris McKennon selected as Assistant Director of Human Resources

Michael Allen promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer in the LaFayette Parole District



APPA Leadership Institute graduate Carrie Goldring with Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail and staff at the August conference. (see page 8 for story details)

Phil Burrell promoted to Specialized Parole Officer in the Albany Parole District for the Max Out Reentry Program

Rita Rothwein promoted to Field Operations Officer

Melanie Scarbrough promoted to Specialized Parole Officer for the Max Out Reentry Program

Front Cover Photo: (left to right), Parole Board Vice Chairman James Mills, Jacques Brown, Doyle Moulder, John Robinson, Tamara Stubbs, Ricardo Eastman, Governor Deal, Josiah Davis, Barbara Neville, Kinnetta Hamilton, Michelle Zachary, Patrick Holsey, Victoria Carter, James Williams, Andrew Malone, David Morrison, Parole Board Chairman Terry Barnard and Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail.