

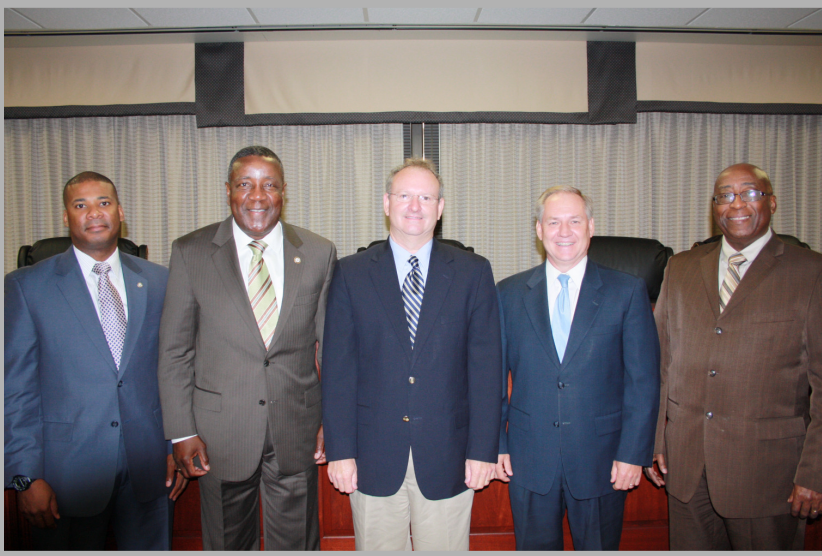


*Terry Barnard, Chairman; James Mills, Vice Chairman;
Member James Donald; Member Albert Murray; Member Braxton Cotton*

Summer 2014

STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Board Elects Barnard as Chairman



Terry Barnard of Shellman Bluff will serve as Parole Board Chairman for the next year beginning July 1, 2014.

Barnard was elected by his colleagues on the Board at the May Board Meeting. Board Member James Mills will serve as vice chair.

"You've actually placed on me today the highest honor that a member of this board might ever hope to achieve, the honor of being elected your chairman. I know that this position (chair) does not come through succession. So it's indeed a very high honor," Barnard said.

Barnard said the Board has made many improvements since 2010 and applauded the leadership of the previous two board members who served as chairman and he

noted the Board's parole success rate is currently at 74% which is 20% higher than the national average.

"Four years ago when Chairman Murray and I came to this Board we joined Jim (Donald) and we elected our first chairman and we put that confidence in Jim Donald and that day, under Jim's leadership, there became a new framework. We began a new framework that continues to this day that in a sense overhauled this agency. Frankly, if it weren't for what happened in 2010 some of you would still be using flip phones and sitting behind desks and who knows what. It all began in May 2010, right here in this place," said Barnard.

(see "Barnard to serve as Chairman, page 12)

Parole in Georgia continues to be an exciting place to work in 2014! As I begin my term as the chair for the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, I do so with a confidence that we will, together, continue to build upon the successes achieved over the past four years.



Terry Barnard
Chairman

I have been fortunate to represent the Board as vice chairman these past two years and as a result, I've been able to represent the Board at national meetings including the recent Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) conference in Colorado. I could not have been prouder of the staff representing you and the story they told about Georgia parole. At this particular conference and several recent ones, we were asked to present information on the cutting edge changes incorporated by our agency. I echo Director Michael Nail in saying that we're only successful because of the employees who have not only embraced a new way of completing our mission, but they have excelled in their specific areas. We have many fine leaders in this agency, leaders who continue to lead by example and make sound decisions. The reason it works is because public safety continues to be the focus. We are being noticed by our professional colleagues for doing it the right way! While continuing that success can be a daunting task, I embrace it as the norm and I have the confidence in my colleagues at the State Board of Pardons and Paroles that the future will continue to be bright.

Georgia Parole presents at the Association of Paroling Authorities International

Georgia parole officials presented information on Georgia's parole process and community supervision at the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) conference in Denver, Colorado, in May.

Two workshops were conducted at the APAI annual conference, held May 18-21, 2014. APAI member agency leaders were given information about the Georgia Board's

Guidelines System and Parole Decision Process at the APAI Chair's meeting. At a second presentation, conference participants received information about new technology being used to improve agency functions including community supervision.

The APAI represents paroling authorities in the U.S., Canada and countries outside of North America.

Executive Director of Parole, Michael Nail, says agency staff presented well and the level of interest among the conference attendees was extremely high.

Georgia parole staff presenting at the conference were Operations Support Division Director Scott Maurer, Senior Hearing Examiner Scott Reaves, Information Technology (IT) Director Phil Sellers and IT Assistant Director Keith Perry.

Mills elected Vice Chair of Board

James Mills was elected as vice chair of the Parole Board during the May Board meeting. Mills will serve in the position for the next fiscal year. Mills was appointed to the Parole Board by Governor Nathan Deal in November 2011.

"Thank you for this opportunity to serve. I have always believed that everything rises and falls on leadership," Mills said, following the May Board elections.

Vice Chairman Mills is a former State Representative. He served 19 years in the legislature representing the 25th district. Mills served as Secretary of the Rules Committee and served previously as chairman of the Banks and Banking Committee.

Mills thanked outgoing Chairman Murray for his leadership.

"You have a style of leadership, Chairman Murray, that is unique, you listen. Great leaders are great listeners. You are a great listener and you have been a great leader for us as a Parole Board," said Mills.

During his legislative service, Mills sponsored an amendment which placed "IN GOD WE TRUST" on the Georgia state flag. Mr. Mills passed "proof of citizenship when registering to vote" legislation. Mills also passed the "Option of Adoption" legislation, the first-of-its-kind in the nation.



James Mills
Vice Chairman

Murray's service as Chair, 2012-2014

Parole Board Member Albert Murray concluded two years as chairman on June 30, 2014. Murray chaired his final Board Meeting on June 2nd.

Murray's tenure as chair coincided with the agency's continued transformation from "business as usual" to what some in the profession may have considered "radical change."

The agency closed parole offices and moved to the "Virtual Office" as the means of supervising offenders. The Board also is now using "video conferencing" as a means of conducting parole revocation hearings.

"As Chair, I've been blessed to work with this Board, Executive Director Michael Nail and a senior management team second to none. All of us have worked together to make this agency one that other states are looking toward for guidance. Our agency will be in continued good hands with Chairman Terry Barnard and Vice Chair James Mills. I plan to continue to do my very best to support them and our entire staff as a member of the Parole Board," Murray said.

Murray was appointed to the Board in May 2010 and was immediately voted to the vice chair position on the Board where he served two years until he was elected chairman in 2012.

Murray is a former commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.



Albert Murray
Parole Board Member

Basic Probation/Parole Officer Training Course Graduation

Fourteen new state parole officers graduated the agency's basic training course on May 2, 2014.

The Basic Probation/Parole Officer Training Course (BPPOTC) is an eight week course. Graduates are certified as Probation/Parole Officers by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.).

Course work includes supervision techniques, investigation procedures, intervention strategies, Georgia law, policy and procedure, interview skills, physical fitness, arrest procedures, defensive tactics, firearms qualification and crisis mediation skills.

Georgia parole utilizes a "Virtual Office." As a result, Georgia's parole officers are supervising offenders in the community, full-time. The state vehicle is the parole office and is equipped with all necessary technology. Parole officers no longer report to a physical office location.



New parole officers are sworn in.

Class Special Awards

Team Competition - Blue Team - Ricardo Eastman, Corinthia Richardson, Cory Purl, Joan Beck, Alisha Mann

Firearms - Macon Parole Officer Jason McDaniel

Academic - Macon Parole Officer Jason McDaniel

Physical Training - Ricardo Eastman & Jessica Stanford

Leadership Award - Aldo Avila

New Parole Officer Profile

Macon Parole Officer Jason McDaniel

Macon Parole Officer Jason McDaniel says the Parole Board "people" have surprised him.

"I expected to be treated as a rookie, but instead everyone has been respectful and treated me as an equal. I have been enjoying the independent schedule that has allowed me to attend my daughter's athletic events and other family functions. The independence given to me by my supervisors has made it feel not like a job at all. Leadership has impressed me. They truly value their employees and that has not always been the case in other places I have worked."

McDaniel's career includes 18-years in law enforcement.

"Leadership has impressed me. They truly value their employees..." - Jason McDaniel, Macon Parole Officer



Macon Parole Officer Jason McDaniel graduated training and received the Firearms and Academic Awards. (l-r) Field Operations Director David Morrison, Board Member Braxton Cotton, McDaniel, Parole Board Vice Chairman Terry Barnard and Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail

Video Conferencing among topics highlighted at Texas Presentation

Through the use of Video Conference hearings, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles eliminated 31,000 travel miles during the first six months that video conferencing was used in the parole revocation process. Video conferencing was one of several topics that Georgia's Executive Director of Parole, Michael Nail discussed at the Texas Public Policy Foundation in May during a panel discussion involving innovations in criminal justice.

Nail also discussed Georgia's use of voice recognition supervision and the agency's virtual office concept.



Michael Nail
Executive Director

now spending about an hour per revocation hearing and are able to get back to other work.

All parolees going through the revocation process are now transported to Jackson State Prison using prison transportation and because Jackson is an intake prison, if revoked, the offenders remain there.

In Texas, Nail also described the agency's voice recognition system, an offender call-in system which is 99% accurate in voice recognition of the voice register. Nail says the agency recognized the opportunity to partner with the private sector to provide the supervision level for lower risk/lower need offenders who have a proven track record of compliance while on regular parole supervision. Nail says as a result more resources can be dedicated to supervising higher risk/higher need offenders. The voice recognition system is funded by the offender. Nail stated the program is successful citing that 10,000 parolees have passed through it, with a 97% success rate. Nail told his audience that public/private partnerships can work and can enhance public safety.

“First and foremost, the driver of any initiative has to be enhancing public safety.” - Michael Nail, Executive Director of Parole



Parole Board Member Braxton Cotton conducts a parole revocation hearing from Atlanta by using video conferencing. The parole officer and offender are at a state prison.

Nail says final revocation parole hearings were being held at five different state prisons. This resulted in the Parole Board Member and parole officers traveling to the prison and offenders having to be transported. The result was traveling long distances and several hours on the road.

Through video conferencing, the Board Member, parole officer and offender can all be in different locations, yet the hearing is held as if all are in the same room.

Nail told the group that safety for all participants including the prison staff is improved through the use of video conferencing.

Nail added that video conferencing has saved officer time. What typically was a 4-8 hour day for officers, officers are

Nail also discussed the Parole Board's Virtual Office. Parole offices were closed because parole officers were usually in the community supervising offenders, where they needed to be, and paying for offices didn't make sense. The virtual office has resulted in officers increasing contacts with offenders by 22%, says Nail. Relationships with other law enforcement and treatment providers have improved. Parole officers utilize the latest technology to perform their job functions from their state vehicle. Initial contact with the parolee is now a home visit by the parole officer which includes all family members.

Nail thanked the state of Texas for leading the way with criminal justice reform. “I want to thank you for helping us to get where we are and build upon your success,” said Nail.

Nail says Georgia's changes are driven by enhancing public safety, then if there are cost savings, it becomes a “win, win.” He says saving money cannot be the driver.

“First and foremost, the driver of any initiative has to be enhancing public safety,” stated Nail.

Victims say they were heard at Victims Visitors' Day

More than 200 victims of crime discussed the crimes that made them victims with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles on Monday, April 7, 2014. The agency conducted a Victims Visitors' Day in Forsyth at the Department of Corrections' headquarters, as a part of the ceremonies being held to commemorate National Crime Victims Rights Week. The victims and family members were able to meet with parole staff and an individual Parole Board Member to discuss the offenders and their parole status.

"They share intricate details of these crimes, especially if violent, and they tell us how the crime has impacted their lives, and the lives of their family. They express their desire to keep that offender in prison as long as possible," said Parole Board Chairman Albert Murray.

That was the case for Sylvia Mays of Atlanta. She and her sisters routinely attend the event to inform the Board of their desire that the offender in their case never be paroled.

Mays says Victims Visitors' Day is very informative and she says the staff working with the victims have friendly faces and they are very "welcoming."

Mays says Chairman Murray told them that their concerns would be considered when the offender is considered for parole.

"We don't want him paroled, and we were able to voice our concerns strongly and we felt they were heard," Mays said.

Murray says he had over 20 meetings during the day with victims. Four of the five voting Board Members were able to see victims and all conducted a similar number of meetings.

Information given to the Parole Board during the Victims Visitors' Day is included in the offender's case file for the Board Members to review when determining whether to parole an offender.

Victims were thankful for being able to have the meetings.

"It was nice to sit down face-to-face with a Board Member. It was a great experience, not knowing how they (Parole Board) work," said Dennis Albright from Warner Robins, Georgia. Albright's daughter, 23-year old Nina Albright, was murdered in 1998 in Perry, Georgia. The inmate is serving life in prison for murder and will have his case come up for review by the Parole Board in 2018.

Mabel Dye, another victim attending, said the day was very informative. "I don't feel like I'm out there alone," Dye said, referring to being able to see and talk to other crime victims during the day's events.

The 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week was celebrated April 6th through April 12th.



(l-r) Sylvia Mays, Juanita Marbury, Mary Holland and Angela Jones traveled to Forsyth in April and attended the state's ceremony marking National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

During the Board's Victims Visitors' Day, the family also met with Parole Board Chairman Albert Murray about the offender who murdered their niece, 15-year old Nyah Walker. Robert King Hamilton is up for parole this year. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Information victims give to the Board Members at the Victims Visitors' Day is placed in the inmate's parole case file for the Board Members to review as they determine whether parole should be granted in the case.

Professional Skills and Leadership Development



The Professional Skills and Leadership Development program is a training program focusing on preparing future parole leaders to face future agency challenges. The week-long training class emphasizes the agency's values and philosophies and the personal growth of the participants to increase the organization's overall effectiveness.

First row, l-r: Kelvin Hawkins, Tiffany McKinney, Lori Massengale, Lisa Copeland, Karen Smith, Marie O'Connor and Training Director Lisa Lance; Second row, l-r: Garnett Tate, Roy Fry, Judy Ethredge, Bobbie Jo Wilson, Kathryn Alexander, Michael Reeves, Donald Moore and Michelle Robinson; Third row, l-r: Derek Lovelady, Neal Carney, Matthew Ellis, Michael Allen and James Hill
Not present: James Edwards

ACPO Williams Lobbies Congress for Diabetes Funding

In late March, LaFayette Assistant Chief Parole Officer (ACPO) Kimberly Williams traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for increased diabetes research support.

The American Diabetes Association includes advocates from across the country. They banded together and met with House and Senate Appropriations Committee members, sharing personal stories of how diabetes has impacted their lives. The ultimate goal is to secure necessary funding to find a cure.

Williams says she became an advocate in 2012. She's been participating in diabetes walks and fund raising events since she was young, she says.

Williams was able to meet with congressional assistants and gave them their "asks" for 2014 in hopes of securing House and Senate votes for more funding.

Many of the advocates on the trip have diabetes including Williams who has had Type 1 Diabetes for almost 25 years.

Type 1 usually occurs in young children. Only 5% of those with diabetes have this type. In type 1, the body does not produce insulin needed for turning sugar and other foods into energy.



ACPO Williams braves a snowy D.C., day to advocate for diabetes research funding.

Parole Success Story: from supervision to supervisor

Michael Williams had everything going for him. He was a high school graduate and had excelled in track and football. His next stop was Jacksonville State University to begin his freshman year when he got a call that he needed to return to Douglasville, Georgia. In August 2002, Michael was charged with robbery. On February 2, 2004, he was convicted. After spending three years between county jail and prison, Michael was released on parole. He got back into school to study music. Again everything appeared to be going well but in March 2008 he violated his probation by possessing a firearm and marijuana. Michael was sent back to prison for another three years. When he received parole a second time his attitude was different. Michael's mindset was that he was not going back to prison. Michael told his parole officer that he would never say he was innocent, but that he was no longer the person that had been to prison twice.

Michael Williams had worked at a fast food restaurant while he was in high school and at that time he told himself he would never work in a fast food restaurant again. However, after working while in prison, Michael stated that any paying job was better than not getting paid. Following his second release from prison, he was hired at a local restaurant. He started out as a food handler, then a biscuit maker. After a year, he was placed in the manager program. After completing the program, he was promoted to relief/shift manager where he stayed for three months. Then he was made the assistant manager. Last December, the restaurant's Christmas party was held and Michael walked away with the greatest gifts. He received the Assistant Manager of the Year Award and to top that he was given his own store to manage in Norcross.

Michael's original hiring manager praises his success saying, "Michael has come such a long way. He maintains a positive attitude, and he is always striving to better himself." Michael also passes his experience along by mentoring new hires, especially someone who may have had trouble along the way, much like himself.

Michael Williams says his motto is that he refuses to fail and he is going to give his all to everything he does. There's no looking back for him because he can't change his past, only his future.

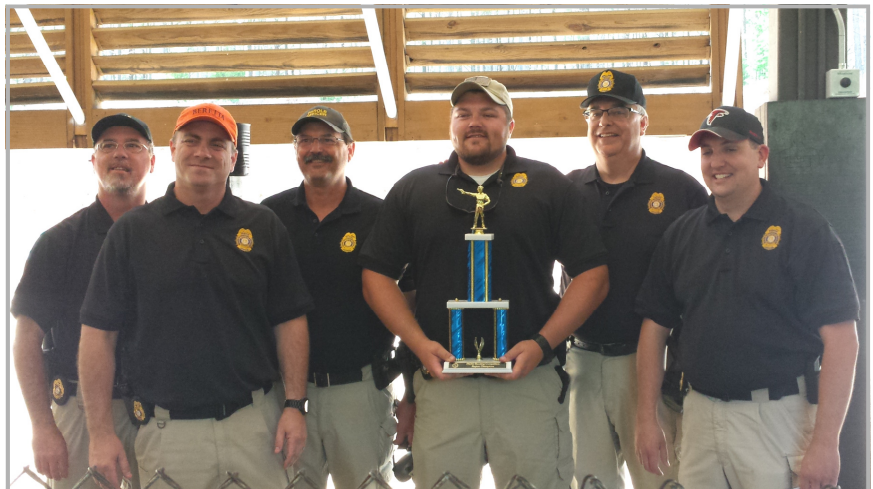


Michael Williams
Restaurant Manager

Parole Association of Georgia - 2nd Annual Shooting Competition



Marietta Asst. Chief Parole Officer Andrew Jerram (with PAOG President Shane Sasser) won overall for the 2nd straight year with a perfect 300 score.



The Team Competition winner for the 2nd consecutive year was the NW Region. (l-r) Rome Chief Parole Officer (CPO) Phillip Shepherd, Douglasville CPO Craig Cazier, Adairsville CPO Paul Parker, Carrollton Parole Officer John Robinson, NW Region Director David Tibbits and Dalton CPO Scott Greear

Remembering our Fallen War Heroes

Georgians paused to honor their war dead in May during ceremonies marking Memorial Day.

Parole Board Member James E. Donald, a retired U.S. Army Major General and Macon Senior Parole Officer Ronnie Mays, Jr., a National Guardsman, delivered the key addresses at two of the State's Memorial Day ceremonies on May 26, 2014.

Donald spoke at the Marietta National Military Cemetery.

"It is this notion of duty, honor and country that underpins these men's service to the nation," Donald said. "It is on this moral foundation that our veterans and those we recognize today have built their legacy." - Marietta Daily Journal

Donald urged those listening to continue to honor and respect veterans after the holiday.

Donald's distinguished service includes a Bronze Star as a Task Force Commander in Gulf War I.

Sgt. First Class Ronnie Mays, Jr., spoke at the Linwood Cemetery Memorial Day Service in Macon.

Mays says Memorial Day is about celebrating the lives of those who died in battle.

"They paid that sacrifice in order for us to be able to stand here freely and not worry about anything ..." said Mays - NBC41/WMGTV.

SFC Mays' 20-years of military service includes 15-years in the Army National Guard.



Parole Board Member James Donald, Major General, U.S. Army, (Retired)



Above: Memorial Day Ceremony at the State Capitol, May 19, 2014

Left: Macon Senior Parole Officer Ronnie Mays, Jr.

Georgia Parole Impacts Georgia Communities



The North Fulton Parole Office attended Career Day at the Oakley Elementary School in Union City on May 7, 2014. The students learned what a parole officer's job is about.

(photo left, l-r) Parole Officers Terrance Letourneau, Shakira Mayne, Administrative Assistant Sharon Battle, Chief Parole Officer Napoleon Robinson, Parole Officer Lashanda Johnson and Specialized Parole Officer Maurice White

On April 3, 2014, the Griffin Parole Office participated in the Griffin Day Reporting Center's Blood Drive. Parole Officer Cynthia Turner and Specialized Parole Officer Derek Boehringer joined Assistant Chief Parole Officer Craven Goodman, Master Chief Parole Officer Mitch Beddingfield and Field Training Officer Michael Murphy in giving the gift of life.

(Photo at right, l-r) Derek Boehringer, Craven Goodman and Mitch Beddingfield



May 15, 2014, Ellijay Parole Officer Matthew Covington received the annual Respect for Law Certificate of Appreciation presented by the Jasper Optimist Club. Assistant Chief Parole Officer Victoria Carter and Chief Parole Officer Jeff Perry also attended the Law Enforcement Awards Breakfast.

Also attending was the Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Department of Corrections, Pickens County Sheriff's Department and the Jasper Police Department. The Parole Board has participated in the event since 2009.

Covington began his career as a correctional officer in 2000 and later joined the Parole Board in 2006.

(photo left, l-r) Matthew Covington, Matt Moore, Jasper Optimist Club, and CPO Jeff Perry

2014 First Quarter Employee Recognition



(l-r) Vice Chairman Terry Barnard, Board Member James Mills, Chairman Albert Murray, Waycross Parole Officer Zackery Westberry and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald

Parole Reentry Manager Marta Daniell and Community Partner Award recipient Charles Sperling with the Parole Board



Above: CONS Team Member Audrey Marable with the Parole Board

Right: Monroe Parole Officer Dustin Butterworth with the Parole Board



2014 First Quarter Employee Recognition



Top left photo, l-r: Vice Chairman Terry Barnard, Board Member James Mills, Chairman Albert Murray, Training Specialist Lori Massengale and Board Members Braxton Cotton and James Donald

Middle left photo: Northwest Region Parole Investigator Sheila Mullinax with the Parole Board

Bottom left photo: Senior Hearing Examiner Lisa Copeland with the Parole Board

Top right photo: Purchasing Specialist Discel Norris with the Parole Board

Middle right photo: Information Technology Programmer Ping Xu with the Parole Board

Bottom right photo: Carrollton Administrative Assistant Cynthia Ruthven with the Parole Board

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

Kristen Powell promoted to Hearing Examiner

Barbara Neville promoted to MORE Program Manager

Paula O'Neal promoted to Master Chief Parole Officer in the Savannah Parole District

Taneshia Sims promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer in the South Metro Parole District

Mitch Beddingfield promoted to Master Chief Parole Officer in the Griffin Parole District

Matthew Ellis promoted to Master Chief Parole Officer in the Thomson Parole District

Barnard to serve as Chairman continued from page 1

Barnard says the success and improvements have continued under Chairman Murray's leadership.

"Today under the leadership of Chairman Murray, now the nation looks on this Board frankly with a sense of awe and maybe just a little bit of envy," Barnard said.

Barnard cited the transformation to virtual offices and use of video conferencing to illustrate how far the Board has come in a short four years.

"They (nation) marvel at where we've come from in such a short span," said Barnard.

Barnard was first appointed to the Board in May 2010 and was reappointed to a full seven-year term in December 2010 by Governor Perdue. He served two years as vice chairman.

Barnard served in the state legislature for 16 years and was chairman of the State Institutions and Property Committee. Barnard guided through the Georgia House the framework for the State Sex Offenders Registry and Sexual Offender Registration Review Board. In 2012, Barnard was appointed by Governor Deal to the State Commission on Family Violence.

Marietta Parole Officers assist Kennesaw Police

Marietta Parole Officers worked alongside Kennesaw Police and state probation officers with the Department of Corrections in a recent compliance sweep. During "Operation Efficiency" parolees and probationers under supervision in Kennesaw were contacted at their homes on June 5, 2014.



One offender on probation was charged with a misdemeanor.

Marietta Chief Parole Officer Alan Smith (left) addresses officers readying for "Operation Efficiency."

Tamara Stubbs promoted to Southwest Region Director

Patricia Allen promoted to Field Training Officer

Jerry Black promoted to Field Training Officer

Jeffrey Reece promoted to Systems Administrator Advanced Level

Rod Porter promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer in the Albany Parole District

Jennie Hammett promoted to Parole Officer in the Griffin Parole District

Brian Morgan promoted to Asst. Chief Parole Officer in the Savannah Parole District

Derek Lovelady promoted to Assistant Chief Parole Officer in the Ellijay Parole District

Victoria Carter promoted to Chief Parole Officer in the Gainesville Parole District

Sherri Bloodworth promoted to program specialist in Reentry Services

James Kopp promoted to Chief Parole Officer in the Statesboro Parole District