



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

Winter 2014

STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES



Albert R. Murray
Parole Board Chairman

2014, a new year for the Parole Board and all of us!

I wish I could take credit for the great year 2013 was, and while credit is due for the Board and executive staff, the lion's share of credit goes to this agency's employees. Credit for achieving our mission of public safety goes to the Field Operations Division and the parole officers supervising their caseloads;

to the Clemency staff who have made tremendous improvements in the process of preparing cases for the Board's consideration and providing necessary information about those cases and to our support personnel in the Operations Support Division.

We welcome Braxton Cotton to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. In the short time he has been a member, his presence indicates that he will have a major impact and make a strong Parole Board even stronger.

This agency continues to impress our counterparts in other states. Innovative ideas including the "Virtual Office," our voice recognition supervision program (Anytrax) and our Clemency Online Navigation System (CONS), continue to be the talk of the profession.

Also, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles annual report for Fiscal year 2013 is available on our website at www.pap.georgia.gov. The document details the agency's success in FY13 and our employees' commitment to public safety. I hope you can review the information.

Thank you

Braxton Cotton takes oath from Governor Deal



Board Member Braxton Cotton was ceremoniously sworn into office December 18th, 2013.



Chairman Albert Murray, Board Member Braxton Cotton, Gov. Deal and Board Members James Mills and James Donald. Vice Chair Terry Barnard could not attend due to scheduled revocation hearings.

December SNOWMAN Operation again includes Parole

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles participated in the three day joint law enforcement operation in Metro Atlanta called "Operation Snowman." Parole officers joined their counterparts, state probation officers with the Department of Corrections, Atlanta police, the Fulton County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Units consisting of officers from each organization served warrants and checked the compliance of those offenders on community supervision; parole and probation.

The operation was December 17th through the 19th.



Parole officers and Dept. of Corrections' probation officers head into the residence of a probationer to conduct a compliance check during Operation Snowman.



Snowman began December 17th. Metro Region Director Felicia Holloway, South Metro Master Chief Parole Officer Amanda Jordan, Field Operations Director David Morrison, Assistant Field Operations Director James Williams and Program Manager Patrick Holsey prepare for Operation Snowman.



Jonesboro Chief Parole Officer Jimi Williams briefs parole officers, probation officers and Atlanta police before the unit attempts to serve a warrant during Snowman. DeKalb Parole Officer Keir Chapple and Griffin Parole Officers Michael Murphy and Derek Boehringer look on.

Forty-four arrests were made during the operation including the arrests of two offenders who were on parole.

A total of 20 metro area parole officers participated.



North Fulton Parole Officer Terrance Letourneau and South Metro Parole Officer Taneshia Sims search a parolee's residence during Snowman.



In Savannah, the Parole Board participated in "Operation Safe Holiday," December 16th. The operation included the Savannah Metropolitan Police Department, Chatham County Juvenile Justice and Probation (Dept. of Corrections).

Chief Parole Officer Hawkins Recognized by Governor Deal Former Board Member Robert Keller honored for career

Cuthbert Chief Parole Officer Kelvin Hawkins is a 2013 recipient of a Governor’s Public Safety Award. Governor Nathan Deal presented Hawkins with the honor at the 16th annual presentation and recognition ceremony held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, December 12, 2013.

On December 11, 2012, Hawkins was in the field conducting board business when he observed Albany police trying to prevent a man from jumping from the Blaylock overpass to US 19 below. Hawkins acted quickly to assist. He began encouraging and assuring the man that there were other options. Hawkins promised help if the man would stop threatening to jump. Hawkins then assisted other officers by physically pulling the man to safety and away from the overpass. The man was taken to an ambulance and transported to receive the help Chief Hawkins had promised.

Hawkins says he relied on his parole officer experience in crisis situations and he is honored to be recognized with the award.

“I’m honored to receive it, I’m honored without a doubt,” said Hawkins.



Governor’s Public Safety Awards: (l-r) Assistant Director of Field Operations James Williams, Southwest Region Director Caryl Deems, Board Member Braxton Cotton, Kelvin Hawkins, Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail and Director of Field Operations David Morrison

Executive Director for the State Board of Pardons and Paroles Michael Nail says the incident speaks to the many roles of a public servant.

“Chief Hawkins displayed the quick thinking and willingness to get involved that are traits our parole officers must have. He utilized his training and skills to help avert what could have been a tragedy. We’re all very proud of him and his actions,” stated Nail.

Hawkins began his career with the Board in April 1993 in the Blakely Parole Office, which later became the Cuthbert Parole Office. In 1999, Hawkins transferred to the Albany Parole Office as acting assistant chief parole officer (ACPO). The position was made permanent in November 1999. In December 2008, Hawkins was promoted to chief parole officer of the Cuthbert Parole Office.

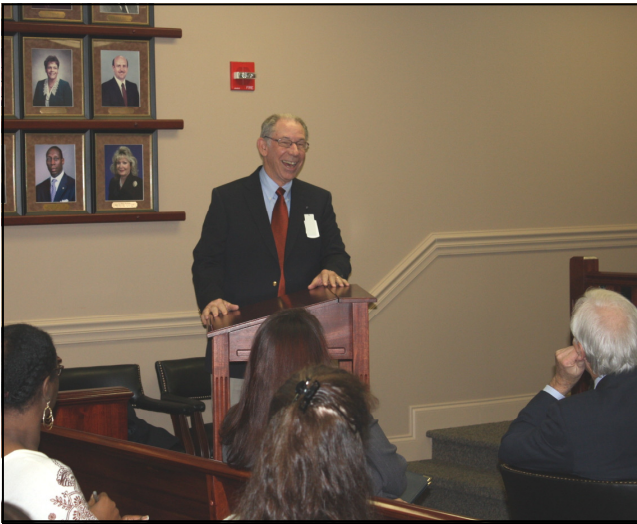
Robert Keller recognized for career service

During the 16th annual Governor’s Public Safety Awards, former Parole Board Member Robert Keller was recognized by Governor Deal with the “Outstanding Contribution to Profession” award for his 41 years of service to the state of Georgia. Keller left the Board in November. Governor Deal has appointed Keller to the Governor’s Office of Transition, Support and Reentry. (Keller cont. on page 4)



Cuthbert Chief Parole Officer Kelvin Hawkins, Governor Nathan Deal and former Parole Board Member Robert Keller at the Governor’s Public Safety Awards.

Board and PAOG Recognize Robert Keller for Service



Robert Keller, now an assistant director in the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry, was honored by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles at the December meeting.

At the December Parole Board meeting, former Board Member Robert Keller was honored for his nearly seven years as a member.

Keller was appointed to the Board by Governor Perdue in 2007. He left the Board last November to join the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry where he now

serves as an assistant director.

Following the Parole Association of Georgia (PAOG) awards December 12, 2013, Keller was again honored by the PAOG and the Parole Board.

Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail presented Mr. Keller with the agency's Leadership Coin. In his comments, Nail stated the coin is not presented often and is reserved for those who truly deserve the recognition for their leadership and service while an employee of the Parole Board.

Mr. Keller was district attorney of the Clayton Judicial Circuit from 1977 to 2004 and was twice voted District Attorney of the Year.



Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail presents the Parole Board's Leadership Coin to Robert Keller.



At the Parole Association of Georgia annual awards ceremony, December 12th, former Parole Board Member Robert Keller again was honored for his service to the Parole Board. (l-r) Chairman Albert Murray, Vice Chair Terry Barnard, Board Members James Mills and Braxton Cotton, Clemency Division Director Melodee Stewart, Field Operations Director David Morrison and Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail.

Board Expands Video Hearings to Revocation Proceedings

The Parole Board is continuing a process of moving away from holding traditional parole revocation hearings. The Parole Board began using video conferencing in 2012 to conduct some preliminary revocation hearings. As a result of the Google Apps for Government Platform, the Board is proceeding with video hearings via Google Web Conferencing (“*Google Hangout*”) including final revocation hearings. The change in business practices is expected to save travel time for staff and agency costs. Offenders are at a state prison while parole staff “*Hangout*” in central office and other locations.

Reduced travel and transportation of offenders is enhancing public safety. Parole officers and Board Members are not traveling as often or the distances they once traveled. Transportation of offenders is also dramatically reduced. The agency is also saving time and associated resources as often day-long hearings held at state prisons in Georgia are lasting only a fraction of the time. The improvements to the process allow for a more efficient and effective parole revocation hearing.



Parole Board Chairman Albert Murray conducts a parole revocation hearing via video conferencing. Field Operations Officer Chris Kimner is assisting. The parolees are at state prisons across Georgia. The hearing proceeds as if all participants are at the same location.

Because of the change in business practice, the waiting period is being reduced for inmates being held in county jails who are awaiting a final revocation hearing.

Parole Joins Task Force to Protect Children

The Parole Board is now a member of the GBI's Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Specialized Parole Officers from each of the Board's five regions have been assigned as liaison members. Program Manager Patrick Holsey is the agency's primary contact for the task force. The Board's liaisons are receiving advanced specialized hardware and software equipment for sex offender computer searches and they will have an important role in scheduling and participating in joint sex offender compliance operations.

David Morrison, Director of Field Operations for the Board says, “This will further foster our networking with local, state and federal agencies while enhancing public safety by holding our highest risk offenders accountable.”

The Board's five liaisons are Andrew Jerram, representing the Metro Region, Joe Obermeyer for the Southwest Region, Victoria Carter for the Northwest Region,

Amanda Canady for the Northeast Region and Brian Morgan representing the Southeast Region.

Stayton, Investigations Director, Graduates FBI Class

Barbara Stayton, the Parole Board's Investigations Director recently graduated the FBI LEEDS course. The FBI Georgia Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, “LEEDS,” was founded in 2009 and is designed for chief executive officers of Georgia's mid-sized law enforcement agencies. The seminar enables participants to exchange plans, problems, and solutions with their peers, to develop new thoughts and ideas, and to share successes in their own communities. The class held last August, consisted of sixty-five executives who were provided with instruction in the areas of Leadership, Dealing with Difficult Employees, Legal Issues, Marketing Law Enforcement, Media Trends and Crisis Prevention, Managing Agency Errors, and the Code of Silence.

(see photo page 10)

Come Join a Winning Team! The Parole Board!

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles has opportunities for job seekers in today's challenging economy. Recently the agency's Human Resources Office and parole staff participated in a couple of events, allowing a new generation of criminal justice workers to determine if working in parole may be what they're seeking.



At the Criminal Justice Day at the UGA Griffin Campus, Griffin Chief Parole Officer Mitch Beddingfield talks to students and the audience about careers with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

CJ (criminal Justice) Day at UGA was held November 22, 2013, at the University of Georgia Griffin Campus. The event was designed to bring together criminal justice professionals to provide information to students and job seekers who are interested in the field. The half-day session included remarks from Dept. of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens. Griffin Chief Parole Officer Mitch

Beddingfield discussed careers with parole as part of a panel discussion on careers in criminal justice.

November 13, 2013, Director of Human Resources Jesse Johnson and Monroe Chief Parole Officer Don Pace attended the Criminal Justice Pathway Expo at Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) in Clarkston. Chief Pace participated in the Criminal Justice Leadership Panel Discussion providing information about how to secure positions in the growing field of criminal justice. The Parole Board joined the FBI, DeKalb Police Department, Henry County Police, and Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department at the event.

Southeast Regional Job Fair

November 22, 2013, Jesup Chief Parole Officer Mike Bobo and Lyons Parole Officer Andrew Malone represented the Parole Board at the Southeast Regional Job Fair and Expo in Glennville. They provided job information about parole. Seven parolees attended seeking employment from the approximate two dozen other potential employers at the job fair.



DRC Program Helps Parolees

Success sometimes isn't easy and requires extra effort and hard work. For seven offenders on parole, success is graduating the Dept. of Corrections' Rome Day Reporting Center (DRC) program. Graduation was held November 19, 2013.

The program involves completion of substance abuse treatment. By completing the DRC program, parolees are able to remain on parole instead of being revoked to prison.

Offenders in the program also attend GED and employment classes. Rome Chief Parole Officer Phillip Shepherd attended the graduation.



Rome Day Reporting Center Graduates

Parole Board recognized by the Clean Air Campaign

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles was recently recognized for providing employees with commute options. The Clean Air Campaign was formed in 1996 to develop programs and work with employers as well as private citizens to reduce traffic congestion and to improve air quality in Georgia. In 2012, Governor Deal issued an Executive Order encouraging agencies to employ commute options to include teleworking, public transit, compressed work schedules, and alternate work sites. As a result, Parole Board Chairman Albert Murray directed that all agency employees complete the Clean Air Campaign's Telework Training Program which is offered via monthly webinars.

In recognition of the Board's initiatives and actions to offer commute options and improve air quality, the Board was presented with the opportunity to participate in the 2013 PACE Awards. The annual PACE Awards, presented by the Clean Air Campaign, recognize private and public employers who employ best practices in commute alternatives. The Board was considered from among a number of state government employers and was selected as one of two finalists.

On November 13, 2013, the Clean Air Campaign conducted its 2013 PACE Awards Program at the Georgia-Pacific Auditorium in downtown Atlanta where the initiatives and programs of the two finalists in a variety of categories were presented. The two state government employer finalists were the Board and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Although the Board was the state government employer runner-up, having been selected as one of two finalists speaks highly of the Board's commute options program and cost saving actions to improve air quality.



The Parole Board's HR Director Jesse Johnson with Tedra Cheatham, Executive Director of the Clean Air Campaign

Victims Director Recognized

The Parole Board's Victim Services Director Shalandra Robertson received the 2013 Victims Voice Award from the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office last October. The award was presented by Gwinnett Victim/Witness Program Director Candice Pitman during the Annual Support Group Breakfast hosted by the District Attorney's Victims Program. Robertson's powerful commitment and dedication to helping victims of crime and ensuring that their voices are heard during the criminal justice process made her the obvious choice for the award.



Victim Services Director Shalandra Robertson and Gwinnett Victim/Witness Program Director Candice Pitman

Murder Victims Honored

Victim Services participated in the annual Candlelight Vigil held to honor homicide victims. The event included a tree lighting at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Agencies involved sponsor and decorate a Christmas Tree. The event was December 3rd.



Victim Services staff: (l-r) Celestine Benjamin, Cassandra Abdullah and Director Shalandra Robertson

2013 Parole Association of Georgia Awards

- 1) Non-POST Distinguished Service Award: Paulette Moore, Athens Parole Office
- 2) Central Office Employee of the Year: Susan Ruthven
- 3) Northwest Employee of the Year: Adairsville Parole Officer Michael Allen
- 4) Parole Officer of the Year: South Metro Assistant Chief Parole Officer Shekevia Hawkins
- 5) Southwest Employee of the Year: Macon Parole Officer Jatonya Lowery

(l-r) Board Members Braxton Cotton, James Mills, Terry Barnard and Chairman Albert Murray with Executive Director of Parole Michael Nail.



2013 Parole Association of Georgia Awards

1) Northeast Employee of the Year:
Augusta Parole Officer Leah Lewis



2) Metro Employee of the Year: Marietta Assistant
Chief Parole Officer Andrew Jerram

3) Innovations Award: Training, Investigations &
Compliance; Barbara Stayton, Lisa Lance, Vicky
Rollins, Stephanie Edge and Bert Flewollen



4) Southeast Employee of the Year: Lyons Parole
Officer Justin Wilkinson

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.

FIFTH FLOOR, EAST TOWER
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Investigations Director
Barbara Stayton (see article page 5)

Board Provides Toys for Tots

Each December, the Parole Board's central office employees donate toys for distribution to children through the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

Additionally, each December, central office employees donate non-perishable food items and deliver what is collected to the Atlanta Community Food Bank.



Top photo: Central Office staff drop off toys at a Publix

Middle Photo: Chairman Albert Murray (left) with Clemency staff and toys ready to be donated

Bottom photo: Metro Region parole staff with donations for United Military Care



PROMOTIONS

Vonda Henley promoted to Hearing Examiner

Bobbie Jo Wilson promoted to Asst. Chief Parole Officer, Griffin Parole Office

Victoria Carter promoted to Asst. Chief Parole Officer, Ellijay Parole Office

Maryann Dillard promoted to Talent Acquisition, Development & Retention Program Director

Dana English promoted to Hearing Examiner

Nina Burgess promoted to Hearing Examiner

Alan Smith promoted to Master Chief Parole Officer, Marietta Parole Office

Harris Childers, professional development assignment, Program Specialist, Reentry Services