



Bob Taft, Governor

Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director

PATRIOTIC DAYS IN FIELD SERVICES A Patriotic Competition

If you walked by one of the units in the Deputy Registrar Administrative Servicing Section (DRASS) during October, you might have noticed it was all decked out in red, white and blue.

Duke Hobson, DRASS section chief, wanted to bring his section together for a friendly competition. The goal was to celebrate America and remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Each unit within the section decorated their offices with a patriotic theme. Dianna McConnaughey, Deborah Scott and Julie Stebbins judged the competition on Nov. 9th.

"It brought everyone together," Hobson said. "I'm proud of the effort everyone put into the competition."

The Application Verification and Application Filming and Retrieval units located at Alum Creek won the competition. The employees were dressed as the Statue of Liberty, firemen, police officers and members of the military. Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American" played in the background as those dressed in costume stood in front of an American Flag and a "Secret Service" agent protected the cardboard version of President George W. Bush. Those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, were memorialized as you

walked in, while a white Christmas tree trimmed with red, white and blue decorations stood in the middle of the room.

Deputy Technical Services came in second. Each workspace was individually decorated representing the Red Cross, all branches of the military, New York City, Washington, D.C., and more. The Audit Section and Consignment Inventory decorated individual offices to represent the branches of government, including the Department of Transportation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Health.

The winner received a pizza party.



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If you have upcoming events or information that you would like to see in the next issue of *Public Safety News*, send it to Lynne McBee, Office of Communications, Shipley Bldg., 4th floor, or via e-mail at lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

IT'S ABOUT SAFETY



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OHIO'S SAFEST YOUNG DRIVER CONTEST— IS YOUR TEEN ELIGIBLE?

Surrounded by hundreds of driving-age students at Franklin Heights High School, Ohio State Highway Patrol Superintendent Col. Kenneth Morckel and Honda of America Mfg. Vice President Rick Schostek launched the second statewide "Ohio's Safest Young Drivers" competition on November 6, 2001.

"Younger drivers are over-represented in Ohio's fatal crash picture. State troopers and emergency responders of all kinds know that even very small mistakes can be deadly when you are dealing with a motor vehicle," said Morckel.

According to statistics, 64 percent of deaths among teenagers occur from motor vehicle crash injuries. Further, 65 percent of teen passenger deaths occur when another teen is driving.

Last year's Ohio's Safest Young Drivers program saw 965 total entries from 300 different high schools in 85 of Ohio's 88 counties.

The winner of last year's contest, Jeff Mobley, a senior at Westerville North, told the students, "When I entered the contest last year, I thought I knew all there was about driving a car. But from the time I entered the contest, I have thought more about safety, more about what it takes to be a good driver. Because I took the time to fill out the application, I now own a sporty red Civic EX. It was a little work, but it was worth it."

Applications to enter the contest are available at local high schools, members of the Honda Dealer Network, Ohio Highway Patrol Posts, public and private driving schools and American Family Insurance offices. Information may also be obtained at these **Web sites:**
www.Ohios-SafestYoungDrivers.com,
WinACivic.com and
www.Ohio.Honda.com

MBE Conference at ODPS

The Ohio Dept of Public Safety's EEO and Purchasing Sections co-sponsored an all day Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Conference on Thursday, October 11, 2001, in the ODPS/ODOT Auditorium. Assistant Director Gary Joseph welcomed the participants to the Conference and explained that this was a part of our outreach program to increase our MBE participation and to comply with the spirit of the "Set-A-Side" program.

Other speakers included Maddie Maddox-Gordon, DAS Equal Opportunity Officer, who provided a presentation on MBE Certification and Recertification and DAS/EEO's role. David Hoodin, DAS State Purchasing Supervisor, spoke briefly regarding State Purchasing and its role with the MBE Program.

Shellee Davis of Britt Business, Alvin Lai of Direct Resources and Curtis Jewell of Excel Management Systems, all three MBE vendors, participated in a panel discussion on their experiences as an MBE vendor with the state and ODPS.

The workshops held in the afternoon were "Everything you would like to know about State Purchasing" conducted by David Hoodin and "How to do business with ODPS" conducted by Geraldine Berry, Purchasing Coordinator. A final segment was on "Where do we go from here?" which provided the MBE vendors with some insight on technological advances that may be implemented in the future and how they will impact both the agency and vendors.

All of the Divisions provided table displays for the MBE vendors with information about their function in the agency and what their procurement and purchasing needs encompassed.

The responses from the participants were extremely positive, indicating they felt the time spent at this conference was beneficial to them. One participant said, "During the past two years, out of frustration, I was lead to believe that the state had no real interest in working and developing MBE's. My perception has been changed."



Co-Chairpersons, Caryl Ray-Whitaker, EEO Coordinator, and Geraldine Berry, ODPS Purchasing, along with their committee, Sandy Queen and Debbie Frohnauer, provided support and participated in the event.



OSHP New Canton Post Holds Open House

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's new Canton post opened its doors to the public and media for an open house on October 19, 2001. The new Canton post, located at 4710 Shuffel Road in North Canton (about one mile south of the Akron/Canton Airport), became operational on September 23 and combines personnel from the Akron and Massillon posts who were consolidated to meet the changing needs of Stark and Summit county citizens.

During the ceremonies, Col. Kenneth L. Morckel, Ohio State Highway Patrol superintendent, thanked State Senator Scott Oelslager (29th District) for being a driving force in getting the project completed. Col. Morckel went on to point out the new 24-acre site, and 10,000 square foot facility, will improve the Patrol's ability to provide critical services to motorists in Summit and Stark counties.

"Increased service to motorists in Summit and Stark counties means our troopers assigned to the Canton post will be able to arrive quicker and take control of a critical situation. This new post will continue to strengthen our commitment to this area," Col. Morckel said.

The new Canton post is strategically located near Interstate 77, which should result in increased service to citizens in northeast Ohio, according to Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Ohio Department of Public Safety director.

"Today's open house provides an opportunity to re-introduce the members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol who serve the communities of Stark and Summit counties," Lt. Governor O'Connor said. "The troopers who make up the Canton post join the team of nearly 1,500 men and women who work to protect Ohio families on Ohio roadways."

The new Canton post has many modern features including a BAC testing area, a meeting/training room and an interview room. The Patrol's Massillon district headquarters will remain at the old Massillon post facility. The old Akron post will be sold.



Lt. Joel Smith, Lt. Judy Neel, Col. Morckel, Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor and Senator Scott Oelslager assist in opening the new Canton post.

HOWARD is New Chief Financial Officer

Ernest Howard has been named as Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Public Safety. In this new position, he will oversee all aspects of the Department's fiscal, purchasing, and asset management functions. He retired from a 30-year career with the Ohio State Highway Patrol; the last 10 years of which he has overseen all administrative functions for the agency. During that time, he was instrumental in developing, submitting and successfully implementing numerous Operating and Capital budgets and overseeing all payroll, fiscal and purchasing functions for the Patrol.

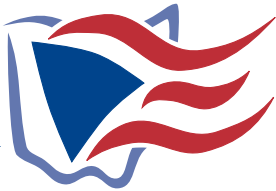
Lt. Colonel Howard joined the Patrol in September 1971 as a member of the 93rd Academy Class. As a trooper, he served six years at Lebanon. In 1975, he was selected Lebanon Post Trooper of the Year and, that same year, earned the Patrol's ACE Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. Elevated to sergeant in August 1977, Lt. Colonel Howard served 10 years as an assistant commander of the Bucyrus post before transferring to Patrol General Headquarters in November 1987. He was promoted to lieutenant in June 1989, to staff lieutenant in 1990, and to captain in 1992. He served at the rank of major from 1998 to 2000 when he was promoted to assistant superintendent of the Patrol.

A native of Jackson, Kentucky, Lt. Colonel Howard graduated from Middletown (Ohio) High School in 1967. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Miami University and studied law at Sinclair University. He also graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College in 1995.

Howard began his new duties November 19, 2001.

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QUALITY QUOTE

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.”

—Sally Berger

Salute to Ohio *Proud to be a Buckeye*

FOSSIL

An extinct sea creature is Ohio's state fossil. It is called the trilobite. It existed in Ohio 440 million years ago when salt water covered the state. It resembles the modern horseshoe crab and is about 14 inches long.



The *PSNEWS* Roving Reporter

Q What is your favorite song?

A “I’ve really been listening to a lot of Kenney Chesney lately. He has a song on his latest album entitled Baptism that he sings with Randy Travis (another favorite of mine). I would have to say that is one of my favorite songs.” Don Goodman, Inserter Room, ACF

A “Phil Collins (Genius), Don Henley (Eagles), & Elton John are my favorite artists. I really like a number of their songs. However, there are times when I really enjoy Gospel music. I even find myself listening to classical and jazz every now and then. The only music I really don’t care for is Country Western, but throw a gospel twang in there, I’ll even listen to it.” Terry Williams, INV

A “American Pie.” Robert Booker, OSHP

A “‘Last Resort’ by The Eagles. It is a song about the great outdoors and how civilization has destroyed some of the most beautiful places on Earth.” Delmar Huff, EMS

DID YOU KNOW...

As of November 1, 2001, more than 500,000 bicentennial plates have been issued.



CCC Community Care Day

On Community Care Day for the Combined Charities Campaign, state employees helped out at various charitable organizations doing everything from cleaning, painting, landscaping, bookkeeping, serving meals— whatever the agency needed at the time. Some of the ODPS employees volunteered for the Heritage Day Health Centers, location no. 3 at 4550 Heaton Rd., where they helped to construct picnic tables. The Heritage Day Health Centers provide adult day care for senior citizens.

The rest of our ODPS volunteers spent their day at the Ohio Wildlife Center in Powell, Ohio, where they installed a door on a barn. The Ohio Wildlife Center (OWC) is a veterinary center for Ohio's wildlife. The OWC treats injured, sick, displaced and orphaned wildlife. Their goal is to return healthy wildlife back to their own environment.

Dress Down Dollars Donated to Relief Effort

Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor declared four weeks of paid employee dress down days with the contributions designated for the 9/11 disaster relief fund. As a result of the dress down donations, more than \$15,500 was forwarded to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. This is extraordinary generosity as the dress down campaign took place in the middle of a record breaking Combined Charities drive.

Two dates, Thursday, October 25, 2001 and Thursday, November 1, 2001, were designated as free dress down days as well as all of December, to thank employees for their generosity. The total collected is truly outstanding and reflects the kindness and caring of Public Safety employees.

