



FEBRUARY 2009

North Carolina Jail Administrators' Association

President's Message...

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and is looking forward to the days ahead in 2009. I am anticipating a very eventful and exciting year for the North Carolina Jail Administrator's Association as there seems to be a sense of change on the horizon. There definitely seems to be a strong sense of excitement and anticipation for change in America with the historic inauguration of President Obama. His words gave a renewed sense of dedication, responsibility and most importantly a sense of hope for Americans to meet the many challenges facing our country.

Although on a much smaller scale than President Obama, we are also looking ahead at the challenges that are facing the North Carolina Jail Administrator's Association. Our Board of Directors are looking at ways for our continued growth and meeting our goals as an association through networking and training.

During our last Board Meeting in December, we got the opportunity to tour the new location for our upcoming Annual Training Conference at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. We were all very excited for the many new training opportunities that our new location will provide with expanded classrooms, vendor halls and even an area to accommodate a guest speaker or presentation to all attendees. This is a new challenge for us, but we are very excited that all our association members will be happy with this new change. We are all looking forward to the Annual Training Conference scheduled for October of 2009!!

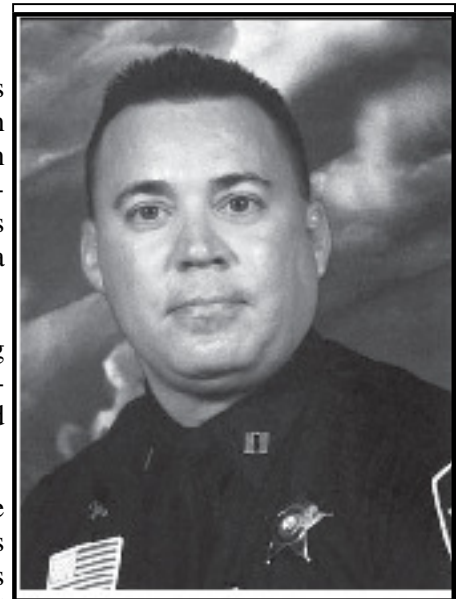
Make sure to visit our website (www.ncjaa.org) for upcoming events as the Annual Training Conference date is scheduled for September 29th - October 2nd, 2009 at the Embassy Suites, Greensboro.

Our next board meeting is set for February 10th at the Moore County Sheriff's Office hosted by Captain Eddie Johnson. The Training Committee will be presenting the training calendar for the upcoming Regional Training in April 2009. We hope to have this posted on our website in the next few weeks so visit the site for an update. We will also address several other issues which include a restructuring of our awards program, making changes to our web site and discuss the training calendar for the Annual Conference. I have great hopes and admirations as I look ahead for the upcoming year in what is sure to be an even better year for the North Carolina Jail Administrator's Association.

I still want to challenge all of you to get actively involved in your association and we encourage your comments and participation as always. My email address is glen.matayabas@buncombecounty.org and please feel free to contact me at any time.

On a personal note, our Detention Division suffered the tragic loss of one of our Detention Officers. Chris Bunker, a veteran detention officer with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office passed away unexpectedly on January 3, 2009 at the young age of 27. Chris was a seasoned detention officer that was well respected and loved by all his fellow officers. We will greatly miss Chris and his loss has been heartfelt by several of our officers and deputies within the Sheriff's Office. Our prayers and sympathy are with his family and especially his mother Patricia.

In closing, with the loss of Officer Bunker, our agency continues to struggle with the loss of such a very young man, but



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it teaches us a hard lesson that life is very precious and time is even more precious. I usually try to give a new quote with each message, but this one is for Chris because he lived a wonderful life with the short time he had and has left a lasting impression on the many people he has influenced!!

Abraham Lincoln - And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.

My God Bless You,
Glen R. Matayabas, President NCJAA

Inmate Program Services in Detention

When I began my career in the criminal justice system in 1979, I had no idea the journey would bring me to the Buncombe County Detention Facility as the Coordinator of Inmate Program Services. Working "on the street" supervising convicted individuals on Probation or Parole I acquired the skill sets required to assimilate into the world of detention. Although there are differences, the one that is most predominant for me is "what you do for 1, you do for all." That concept continues to be a learned and practiced behavior for me as well as the volunteers. Walking the letter of the law, state standards, policy and procedure and the world of inmate programs is quite achievable for me, but so nebulous for many of our volunteers. Most have never been in a detention facility and have no concept of the reality of what we do, much less who we are.

To become an approved volunteer, individuals are required to devote time and energy to our facility approval process before going into the housing units to present a program. Due to the fact there are no state standards mandate for inmate programs; our administration has ultimate authority in determining the process as well as allowing these programs in our facility. Due to the ever changing climate, the volunteer approval process continues to evolve to maintain accountability as well as increased safety and security parameters.

Successful inmate programs are contingent upon good communication that goes up and down the line as well as an accountable volunteer approval process. New detention officers receive specific training on all facets of program services, as these programs are unique to our facility. Although administrations have changed, I am proud to be in a facility that has supported volunteer inmate programs since the early 1970's.

What remains constant with our volunteers is a "pureness of intent." Every approved volunteer has that intention in common.

Volunteers are in fact role models who display forgiveness, hope, compassion, respect, love and do not judge.

These values are the basic philosophy and premise of all facility programs. Our community is really no different than those across the state. People from all walks of life believe in service work, giving back. As a community, we are fortunate that our facility allows the outside in. Our volunteer cadre consists of approximately 140 volunteers. In November 2008, approximately 269 hours of service were donated to approximately 1029 inmates. This translates to a savings of \$17,762.00 in tax dollars. Inmate programs can be effectively utilized as a management tool. Inmates involved in a program are not scheming or planning to harm the officer, inmate or victim. This is where the concept of change is introduced.

While in detention, inmates are afforded a clean, safe place to *get and stay clean* from substances and be out of harms way. We are in fact a "Petri dish", the perfect environment to plant the seeds of change. Due to mental health reform that began in our state in 2000, jails and prisons have become the default mental health institutions. We now house more and more individuals who have substance abuse and mental health issues. The national statistic holds true for our inmates; 75% of our inmates have substance abuse or dependence issues. We continue to witness the increase of disease and sickness in our inmates.

For those of us who have been in the system long enough, we have experienced the fact that some criminality is generational, a learned behavior. We all have witnessed an increase in inmates that are under eighteen years of age. I believe our volunteers offer habilitation, not just rehabilitation.

As a Buncombe County taxpayer it costs \$61.29 a day to house an inmate at the Buncombe County Detention Facility. It is also a human life that will be on the taxpaying end instead of the receiving end. Those success stories are living and working in the community as I have been fortunate enough to witness the change. As long as I *do not get invested in the outcome* and stay in the solution, I will continue to believe in and communicate the philosophy of our facility inmate program services; that of hope, forgiveness, compassion, and respect to the many volunteers who desire to minister and provide other valuable program services to our inmates.

Submitted by, Val Lamberti Westlund

Calendar of Events

NCJAA Annual Conference
Embassy Suites Greensboro, NC
336-668-4535
September 30 - October 2, 2009

Jail Health Law Project

The UNC School of Government now has another valuable tool to help its local government clients. In partnership with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, the SOG has established the Jail Health Law Project. The JHL Project assists North Carolina counties and jail personnel as they deal with legal issues related to health care in the jails. The Project was instituted in response to the growing number and variety of legal issues related to the government's duty to provide appropriate health care to inmates and detainees.

“Local jails are receiving more inmates every year, and seeing a greater number of health care issues,” says Cabarrus County Sheriff Brad Riley. “We’re delighted to hear that the Jail Health Law Project will be able to help our sheriffs and jail administrators as they deal with those issues.”

The Project offers education and training on legal health care issues to jail administrators, sheriffs, health care providers, and other local officials. Individualized consultation on specific issues is also available. The Project is developing written materials on jail health policy and procedures, as well as a website for Project related information. The specific tasks the Project undertakes and the issues the Project addresses are decided in consultation with an Advisory Committee. The Committee is made up of individuals who have both experience in dealing with health care issues in the jail setting and a unique perspective on the issues that they are willing to share in order to assist in guiding the Project as it moves forward. Committee members include sheriffs, jail administrators, attorneys, trainers, and health care providers.

Day-to-day operations for the Jail Health Law Project are the responsibility of attorney Jodi Harrison, who hit the ground running when she joined the School of Government in July. “I’ve been privileged to offer trainings at four statewide conferences so far, and I’ve answered over 100 calls asking for assistance with legal issues,” she says. “We’re working hard with the Advisory Committee to develop written materials to be of greater assistance to North Carolina jails.”

For more information on the Jail Health Law Project, contact Jodi Harrison at (919) 962-0103, jharrison@sog.edu.unc

Visit our Website: www.ncjaa.org

Tough Times

We all know the economy is in dire straits world wide. It's on the news, it's discussed at work, it's talked about everywhere you make your daily stops. Still the world keeps on turning and your bills still have to be paid. Your education needs are still there if it's for you, or your child. So there is no better time to prepare to apply for scholarships for these educational needs. The North Carolina Jail Administrators Association will be awarding scholarships at the Annual Training Conference. Again with these tough economic times contributions are tougher to come by. Please encourage members and your vendors to please contribute to our Sheriff Richard Frye Scholarship Fund. I also encourage all members to remind their fellow employees if they are continuing their education or have children headed to or already in a college program to apply for these scholarships.

Submitted by,
Jay Wood, Forsyth Co. Sheriff's Office

Christopher Stephen Bunker September 11, 1981 - January 3, 2009

Christopher Stephen Bunker, 27, of Asheville, passed away unexpectedly at his residence Saturday, January 3, 2009.

A native of Bumcombe Co.; Chris was a detention officer for the Bumcombe County Sheriff's Department. He was a graduate of Western Carolina University and a member of the Buncombe Co. Rescue Squad. He enjoyed target shooting, cars, trucks and motorcycles.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia Hunt of Asheville, a sister, Candace Miller and her husband Larry of San Diego, CA and long time girlfriend Jennifer Hinson.



Next Newsletter Deadline: May 1, 2009