



# DOCCS TODAY

**From the Desk of  
the  
Acting Commissioner  
Anthony J. Annucci  
New York State Department of  
Corrections and Community  
Supervision**



To increase the safety and security of our staff and the incarcerated population, DOCCS has accomplished many forward-thinking initiatives, some of which are in line with best practices and recommendations by the State Inspector General over the past year.

For instance, in 2018, we launched the first-in-the-nation body camera pilot program making DOCCS the first state corrections department to equip security staff with body cameras.

Earlier this year, we received a \$835,196 grant from the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance allowing us to increase the number of facilities using body cameras, as well as specialized units, like OSI.

In September, DOCCS received an additional grant for nearly \$3 million to further support the expansion of body cameras throughout the Department.

That enabled DOCCS to expand the program and deploy body cameras at Clinton, Bedford Hills, Great Meadow, Albion, Taconic, Fishkill, and Green. And in September, we received additional funding to further support the expansion of body cameras throughout the Department.

The Department has also been overhauling existing fixed camera systems, as well as installing new ones, within its facilities. To date, we have completed the work of these systems at Attica, Five Points, and Adirondack Adolescent Offender Facility.

Installation is currently in progress at Clinton, Southport, Great Meadow and Auburn and will soon begin at Coxsackie, and Green Haven.

Downstate, Eastern, Elmira, Shawangunk, Sing Sing, Sullivan and Wende are in the planning stages of installation. Upstate is presently upgrading its system, and Bedford Hills is expanding its system.

We expanded the internal OSI office by hiring outside investigators, moving supervisory positions from union to appointed management-confidential positions, and partnering with outside agencies.

We also developed and implemented training for newly hired civilian staff and increased the frequency of other trainings. And we updated the annual Boundaries training that deals with employee and incarcerated individual interactions.

Community Supervision implemented a new travel policy, created specialized gang caseloads, and increased its vehicle fleet while installing lights and sirens in a number of them. Also, at the suggestion of a member who served for many years as a parole officer, OSI's Threat and Apprehension Division launched a new pilot Taser program.

We added "Cellsense" metal detectors, infrared detectors, and rounds tracker to track security rounds. And we are piloting two mail scanners to assist staff in detecting contraband in mail and other packages. And our staff does a great job of putting technology to work.

We also nearly doubled the number of K-9 units used for drug detection and interdiction. And we implemented new statewide protocols for correctional facility staff, including scheduling more metal detector searches, supplying clear bags to transport personal items, and providing a list of allowable items staff may carry into the facility.

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# DOCCS TODAY

WANT AN EVENT INCLUDED IN  
*DOCCS TODAY*?

Send your submissions by  
February 15 for publishing in the  
next issue of *DOCCS TODAY* to:

[dee.johnson@doccs.ny.gov](mailto:dee.johnson@doccs.ny.gov)

[thomas.mailey@doccs.ny.gov](mailto:thomas.mailey@doccs.ny.gov)



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## From the Desk of the Acting Commissioner

*Continued from Page 1*

*We updated security protocols relating to assignment and search of living quarters and cell integrity checks.*

*We also operationalized the statewide use of pepper-spray. And we implemented a department-wide grievance tracking system for complaints by the incarcerated population alleging employee misconduct.*

*We also banned hooded sweatshirts and eliminated canned goods from commissaries to prevent using can lids as weaponry.*

*As you can see, we've accomplished several important initiatives to improve the safety and security of our staff and those in our charge.*

*I'm proud of the strides we've made and look forward to continuing to lead one of the finest corrections and community supervision departments in the nation.*

*As we turn to the new year, we will focus on employee wellness. Correction and community supervision staff sometimes work under stressful circumstances and our health and wellbeing are important, not only for a positive workforce, but also for a healthy and sound lifestyle.*

*Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!*



OSI Investigator Kevin Gibbs carrying one of the new CEWs

## OSI TASER PILOT PRODUCING POSITIVE RESULTS



The Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) commenced a pilot program in 2019 to train and provide certain investigative staff with Conductive Electrical Weapons (CEWs), also known as tasers, which is already proving to be a valuable device.

Senior Investigator John Walters, Threats and Apprehension Division (TAD) and long-term parole officer, recommended CEWs as a potential additional tool for its peace officers. His recommendation and a subsequent incident involving an OSI member prompted the CEW pilot program.

In 2018, while searching for a parole violator who had absconded, an OSI Senior Investigator was confronted by the violator coming out a wooded area. He was not only uncooperative, he also wielded a knife and rapidly approached the OSI member. The Senior Investigator deployed OC spray, but it did not have an impact because the absconder was too far away. As the violator, wielding his knife, closed ground towards the OSI member who had pulled his firearm in self-defense, a partnering law enforcement agency arrived on scene and deployed a Taser immediately ending the encounter without further incident.

With this background, the Department purchased 26 AXON Taser X2 CEWs.

In April 2019, OSI sent two supervisors from TAD to the AXON two-day instructor program, certifying them as instructors in using CEWs. From July to September, the two instructors put two dozen TAD Investigators through the two-day user certification program, which included requiring each of them to be exposed to a Taser deployment. Currently, all 26 Tasers are assigned to OSI investigators and supervisors in TAD.

Early results have been positive.

In most instances, the mere presence and display of the Taser has de-escalated situations and resulted in the safe surrender of those being apprehended.

Consequently, far fewer incidents requiring deployment of the Taser were successful as well, almost instantly ending a violent encounter without injury to the offender or investigator. ■

# 2019 New York CAYSA Symposium

Formerly incarcerated celebrity chef and motivational speaker Jeff Henderson was the keynote at the New York State Corrections and Youth Services Association's 28th Annual Symposium held on October 23-25 in Poughkeepsie.

In keeping with the conference theme, "Empowerment Through Connection," he shared the emotional story of his journey from the streets as a drug dealer, to discovering his passion for the stove in the unlikelyst of places — prison, to award-winning celebrity chef and best-selling author.

Other speakers included New York State Assemblyman David Weprin, Office of Children and Family Services Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice Ines Nieves, and our very own Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci.

Over 200 staff attended workshops on gang activity, staff safety, drug trends, teen drug use, LGBTTIQQ2SA, wellness, and communication — to name a few.

DOCCS Deputy Commissioner Stephen Maher and Deputy Chief Investigator Christopher Martuscello presented "Escape from Dannemora," an in-depth analysis on the 2015 escape.

NY CAYSA President Denisha Goodman and President-Elect Delta Barometre presented the 2019 annual awards.

The Rutherford B. Hayes Founder's Award for leadership and/or support of the professional membership organization was presented to Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III.

The Meritorious Service Award for exceptional service in the field of adult and juvenile corrections was presented to Assistant Deputy Superintendent for Accreditation Melissa Coolidge.

The Outstanding Contribution Award for exceptional support to the field of corrections was presented to the John Jay College for Criminal Justice's Prison Reentry Institute for its continued support in administering the prison-to-college pipeline at Otisville Correctional Facility.

And the President's Award for members demonstrating outstanding achievement to NY CAYSA was presented to past president and Assistant Director of Family and Volunteer Services Lisa Brennan.

The 2019 NY CAYSA Cares Project donated over \$2,000 to the Make a Child Smile Foundation, which was started by correction officers from Green Haven. They raised funds to provide needy or sick children with holiday gifts, clothing, school supplies and financial support.



# DOCCS at the New York State Fair

At the 2019 New York State Fair in August, DOCCS showcased its history, programs, Corcraft, Health Services, Community Supervision, Emergency Response, and the newly formed Recruitment Officer Unit. Teams provided interested candidates with career information. There was an interactive booth located in the Science & Industry Building with kiosks to show video presentations of career opportunities, display historical artifacts and enlarged photos highlighting DOCCS many career options, and provide swag items. The Department also highlighted the history of Sing Sing, Auburn and Attica.



## DOCCS' OWN ATTENDS FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

DOCCS Office of Special Investigations' (OSI) Assistant Commissioner/Assistant Chief of Investigations Darren Miller attended the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Stephen Maher nominated AC Miller and, after reviewing his application and background check, the FBI approved his attendance.

Founded in 1930, the FBI National Academy is a program for active U.S. and international law enforcement personnel seeking to enhance their knowledge and credentials and raise law enforcement standards worldwide. AC Miller attended the Spring 2019 session, which ran for 10 weeks.

"I was excited about attending because it was a great opportunity, not only for me to learn, but to represent the Department among law enforcement agencies from around the globe," AC Miller said.

"The learning was not just in the classroom, but also from discussions with classmates from other agencies over dinner, on weekends, and at other times. It was particularly interesting to hear from those from other countries," he added. "Rarely does one get an opportunity to discuss counterterrorism with a member of Afghanistan's counterterrorism unit or to talk about public corruption enforcement with an official from the Philippines," AC Miller concluded.



AC Miller (Right) shakes hands with Khalid Afzal, National Security Directorate for Afghanistan during the International Night event when foreign students present food from their home countries

During the 10-week training, AC Miller attended six courses: Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement, Fitness in Law Enforcement, Contemporary Issues in Police Media, Law Enforcement Approaches to Counterterrorism, Leadership Strategies for Violent Crime, and Law Enforcement Executive Essentials.

"It was like being back in college," he said, "including living in a dorm with a roommate."

Classes ran from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., and most nights he was consumed with writing assignments, project preparation, and research.

"I was up by 6 a.m. and in bed each night around midnight," he noted.

He learned countless lessons, including the importance of officer wellness — physical, mental and spiritual, which was emphasized throughout the FBI National Academy and is something many law enforcement agencies are addressing.

"When I returned to OSI, I prepared a memorandum outlining more than 30 ideas and I am working with others in OSI to begin implementing many of them," AC Miller explained.

Since his return, OSI has had internal training for OSI members on wellness and is continuing to develop a program to help its staff be as "well" as possible.

"Commissioner Annucci espouses the 'servant-leader' model of leadership, so emphasizing staff wellness makes a lot of sense," AC Miller said. "We need to help take care of our most valuable resource — the men and women who work so hard each day to advance the Department's mission."

While researching leadership styles and qualities at the FBI National Academy, a quote from President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower resonated with AC Miller: "*The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.*"

"Building upon integrity as a foundational principle is a philosophy that Chief Steve Maher and I have strived to instill in OSI over the years," AC Miller explained.

*Continued on next page*

Besides his own personal learning, he said the training also underscored the importance of DOCCS' Directive 0750, "Reporting Suspicious Act (SAR)".

"In my Counterterrorism class, we learned about the pathway to violence that extremists or terrorists follow," he said. "At any point, there are usually opportunities for law enforcement to intervene if the conduct is reported. DOCCS is ahead of the curve by having a reporting mechanism in place through Directive 0750 and the Suspicious SAR form."

OSI's Counterterrorism Unit, with investigators imbedded with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, review all reports of suspicious behavior related to DOCCS.

During the National Academy training, Miller had 26 different homework assignments in addition to writing eight papers — including one more than 30-pages long — and making several class presentations.

He aced all six classes and even received an A+ in two.

In addition to the course work, there was a physical fitness course and fitness tests each week.

The final fitness test was called the "Yellow Brick Road" — a six-mile obstacle course run designed by and for U.S. Marines. Miller, who was 49 years old at the time, completed it in 1:13.

The 10-week program concluded with a graduation ceremony led by FBI Director Christopher Wray.

AC Miller noted that the learning doesn't stop there. As a graduate of the FBI National Academy, he is bound to a life-long commitment.

Last November, he attended the National Academy Association of New York and Eastern Canada Chapter's Annual Conference and elected to serve the Board as a chapter delegate.



"The lessons learned, and friendships made, at the FBI National Academy will serve me for a lifetime," said Miller. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity to attend. It has made me a better member of the Department." ■

## **COORDINATED EFFORT LEADS TO APPREHENSION OF TWO PAROLEES LINKED TO OVERDOSE DEATH AND RECOVERY OF WEAPONS, DRUGS**

On October 18, DOCCS' Office of Special Investigations — in strategic coordination with Community Supervision and the Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (URGENT) — assisted in the apprehension of two parolees under investigation by URGENT for their involvement in an overdose death.

Upon developing information regarding two parolees involved in illicit activity and possible possession of a weapon and heroin, OSI contacted URGENT and carried out a search of the home with Community Supervision staff.

During the search, one parolee was found to have in his possession a loaded hand gun, a loaded magazine, and 120 bags of heroin that tested positive for Fentanyl.

A search of the home the parolees shared led to the recovery of approximately 100 additional bags of heroin and multiple large plastic tubs containing large quantities of marijuana.

As a result of this coordinated effort, the parolees were lodged at Ulster County Jail on charges of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd – Heroin, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 4th – Heroin.

Great work by a number of DOCCS staff to get these dangerous individuals, weapons and drugs off the streets of Ulster County!

# Hairstyling Competition

DOCCS offers Vocational Cosmetology programs taught by licensed cosmetologists at its female facilities: Albion, Bedford Hills and Taconic. Women interested who meet qualifications for the program have the opportunity to participate in a preparation program to take the New York State Cosmetology License Examination. Recently, a hairstyling competition was held among Vocational Cosmetology programs at Albion, Bedford Hills and Taconic.

To help prepare students for the competition, cosmetology instructors engaged them in studying courses, including the Principles of Hair Design and Hairstyling Techniques. Students were invited to enter the contest and showcase their talents by creating a modern hairstyle for a formal occasion, like a prom, wedding, or graduation.

The hairstyles entered were scored on overall appearance, design, balance of design, creativity, and technical difficulty. Each facility had a panel of professional cosmetologists who viewed photos of the finalists from each facility, including Avy Lewis, Allyssa Potter and Henrietta Dunn. The panel said it was difficult to determine the winners. Nonetheless, prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. There was a tie for 1st Place between Bedford Hills and Taconic. Taconic won 2nd Place, and Albion 3rd Place.



*Both Bedford Hill and Taconic win 1st Place*



*Taconic wins 2nd Place*



*Albion wins 3rd Place*



# Albion Correctional Facility

## CANINE GRADUATION

On August 19, Albion hosted its second Canine Training Program (CTP) graduation ceremony. Orleans County Animal Control Officers Kathy Smith and Ariel Strickland and Undersheriff Christopher Bourke attended.

Albion received two dogs in May from the Orleans County Animal Shelter: Maverick – a beagle, and Mateo – a hound. Two teams of three handlers cared for and trained the dogs for about 12 weeks under the support and supervision of community volunteer trainer Tom Ryan.

Throughout the training, Maverick and Mateo learned obedience and socialization skills, making them more suitable for adoption.



# Altona Correctional Facility

## WEAR PINK CAMPAIGN

In October, NYSCOPBA members and staff at Altona took part in the national “Wear Pink” campaign for breast cancer awareness. Participating members pledged funds and wore authorized pink articles of clothing, ribbons and pins to show support. Between donations and food sales, they raised \$1,000, which was donated to the Northern New York Chapter of Guardians of the Ribbon, also known as “Pink Heals”.

*Participating members and NYSCOPBA Chief Steward N. Ayotte present Jim Garrant, Co-Owner and Operator of “Pink Heals” a check for \$1,000*



# Attica Correctional Facility

## TEDXATTICA

Attica hosted TedX Attica on October 10. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Arun Gandhi — author, activist and grandson of Mohondas Gandhi, Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci, facility staff and incarcerated individuals participated in the event coordinated by TedX Organizer Delia Cohen.

The theme centered around Healthy Lifestyles/Healthy Living. The intention was to spread increasing awareness of how peers and co-workers deal with difficult circumstances.

Presenters discussed dealing with anxiety and stressful situations, utilizing meditation to relieve everyday stresses, and finding positive outcomes in negative circumstances.

One of the day's most emotional topics addressed suicide, and incarcerated individuals and staff shared their stories on the subject. TedX Attica will be available for public viewing on the TED YouTube website in the near future.

View [WKBW TV coverage](#)



# Attica Correctional Facility

## GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL

On Monday, August 12, Attica held its fifth annual Glimmerglass Festival. Musical artists from Glimmerglass Opera House performed excerpts from the musical "Show Boat" for a crowd of about 150 incarcerated individuals and staff.

The Attica Chorus, directed by registered volunteer Isaac Hutton, performed backup vocals for the show. The performance was well received. Attica is in the planning stages for next year's performance and looks forward to welcoming Glimmerglass again in 2020.



# Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

## VETERANS APPRECIATION BBQ

On August 3, employees from Bedford Hills traveled to the Montrose Veterans Home in Montrose to host a BBQ for about 50 appreciative veterans residing there. This is the second year employees have prepared and shared a meal with the veterans to show appreciation for their service to our country.



*L-R: Education Supervisor Michael McKenna, Captain Paul Artuz, First Deputy Superintendent Eileen Russell, and Health Services Deputy Superintendent Ernest Martone*

## BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Due to the generosity of "Hour Children" and their wonderful volunteers, children left Bedford Hills on Saturday, September 28 with full backpacks and big smiles after visits with their mothers.

DSP Eric Miller managed the distribution of the backpacks full of school supplies and necessities.



# Cayuga Correctional Facility

## MILLARD FILLMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PUMPKIN DONATION

On October 10, staff from Cayuga paid a visit to Millard Fillmore Elementary School in Moravia to hand out pumpkins to students. Horticulture Instructor Mike Moore, who grew the pumpkins, was accompanied by Education Supervisor Kyle Lamphier to distribute a total of 40 pumpkins. The fourth grade students and their teacher were thrilled to receive the donated gourds as a fun and festive addition to the classroom! Principal Howard Seamans expressed his gratitude for Mr. Moore's work and the generosity of Cayuga staff.



Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

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DOCCS at the 2019 Great State Fair

DOCCS redesigned website launches soon!

Stay tuned...

# Five Points Correctional Facility

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

Five Points EAP Committee recently held its third annual Domestic Violence Awareness Day. On October 25, EAP held a Basket Raffle and Bake Sale.

Ten baskets were donated by various departments in the facility.

Baked goods were also donated by many individual employees throughout the facility.

A total of \$917 was raised at this event with proceeds being donated to Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, a facility that advocates for, educates and supports victims of domestic violence.



# Franklin Correctional Facility

## SECOND NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATION

On September 6, Franklin recognized those who had earned an associate's degree from North Country Community College (NCCC), which has been in collaboration with Franklin since the spring 2017 semester and produced 31 graduates. The commencement address was given by Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci and NCCC President Joe Keegan.

Members of the facility's Veterans' Organization provided a color guard and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Refreshments were also supplied by the Inmate Veteran's Organization. Members of the facility Executive Team and Central Office were also in attendance.

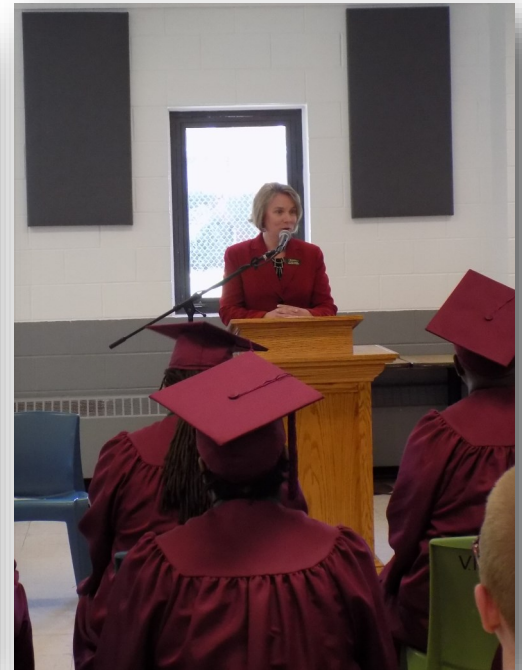


# Gowanda Correctional Facility

## TASC GRADUATION CEREMONY

It was a beautiful, sunny day allowing Education Supervisor Walter Samick and staff to let graduates pose for group pictures outside. Graduation day was made even more special because families were able to celebrate their loved ones' accomplishments and have pictures taken on that special day.

Graduates were serenaded by live piano music and congratulated by the Gowanda Executive Team and staff. DSP Schneider encouraged the group to continue moving forward with their goals and urged them never to give up. Refreshments were provided by the Gowanda ILC and made by the Culinary Arts Program.



## FLOOR COVERING CLASS DISPLAYS PROJECT

The Gowanda Floor Covering class proudly displays the latest classroom project about various ways to customize projects.

Instructor Reid noted that this type of craft can be added in any project to help personalize work and have it stand out.

The piece featured is to be stained and displayed in the Floor Covering classroom to encourage others to incorporate wood burning into any type of project.



# Gowanda Correctional Facility

## GOWANDA GROUNDS

Horticultor Instructor Scott Wagner and class take pride in making the Gowanda grounds beautiful for staff, visitors, and the incarcerated population. Plants are grown and cared for in facility greenhouses and in classrooms.



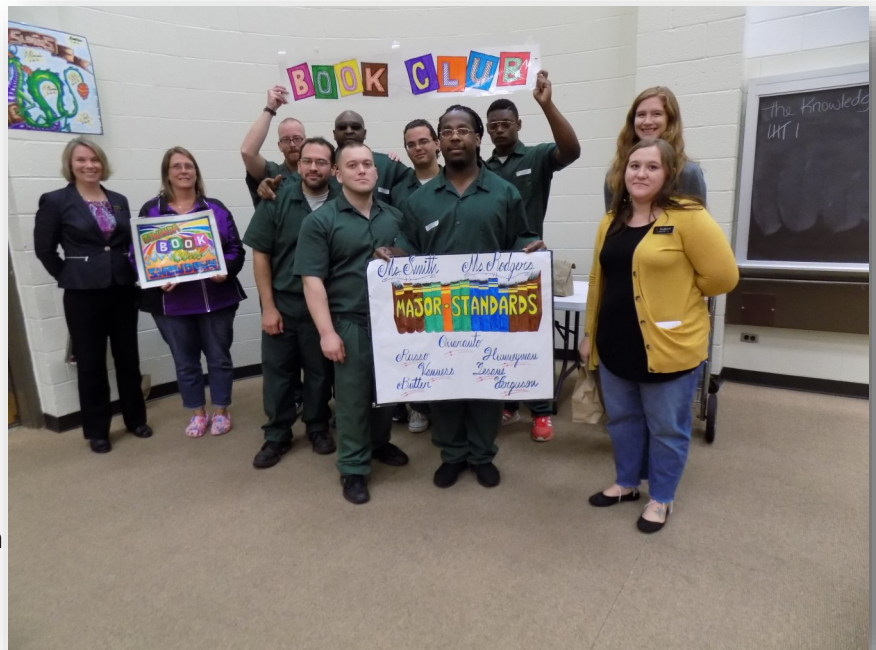
## BOOK CLUB SHOWDOWN

Seven teams participated in the Book Club Showdown, each having read four books in about 12 weeks:

- *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin about a group gathered for the reading of the will of a game-loving millionaire.
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor, about a young, black girl and the land her family owns.
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell about a farm overtaken by its mistreated animals to transform it into paradise.
- *The Last Dragonslayer* by Jasper Forde about the end of magic and the death of the last dragon.

During the six rounds of the Showdown, one team was eliminated at the end of each round.

The winning team, Major Standards, won a pizza party held in the General Library. During the pizza party, the winning team watched a movie that corresponded with one of the books featured in the Showdown. A second team was drawn randomly to join the winners in their victory feast and the Library team, the Book Slayers, won that privilege.





# Groveland Correctional Facility

## VETERANS RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30TH ANIVERSARY

Groveland celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Veterans Residential Therapeutic Program (VRTP) on November 7.

Guest speakers included DC Jeff McKoy, Veterans Guidance Specialist John Darcy, retired Correction Counselor James Strollo who served as VRTP staff advisor from 1996-2014, and three-time Purple Heart recipient and Program Co-Director Daniel Stoy.

The Inmate Veteran's Organization provided the color guard, flags and cake.

The afternoon included a vendor fair with community providers about services, housing and employment resources for veterans. We Soldier On, Department of Labor, Department of Civil Service, Division of Veterans Affairs, PathStone, Veterans Administration, and Hornell Humane Society participated.

A new flag pole and military monuments ribbon cutting ceremony with Superintendent Shawn Cronin took place in front of the veterans' dorm.



# Hale Creek Correctional Facility

## TASC GRADUATION

On August 21, Hale Creek held a graduation ceremony honoring those who successfully earned their HSE diplomas.

The event was planned by Acting Education Supervisor Michelle Such and attended by DOCCS Central Office and Hale Creek staff. Deputy Superintendent for Programs Bill Close welcomed all and discussed how education raises income and reduces recidivism. He illustrated the correlation between education level and income by presenting average income figures beginning with those without a high school education through those with a master's degree.

Valedictorian Michael Hinkle provided uplifting remarks to those in attendance.

Hudson Valley Community College Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Michael Such was guest speaker and introduced the Attraction Quotient (AQ).

Professor Such explained that the AQ focuses on what a person attracts into their life and everyone has total control of their own AQ.

“What kind of person do I attract into my life? Are they good for me or bad for me?” Professor Such asked the graduates. He said he often tells his students: “We are who we hang out with.”

He asked them to reflect on that by saying: “If you drink, your friends likely drink. If you get high, your friends likely do, too.”

He explained that most deviant behaviors take place with the encouragement and support of like-minded individuals. So if we are who we hang out with, we have to carefully consider the influence those people have in our lives. “You need to avoid spending time with individuals who would encourage questionable activity,” he added. This notion drew an effective parallel to the people, places and things concept many in treatment and recovery become familiar with.

Professor Such closed by encouraging graduates to continue their education after release. He invited them to visualize their goals and then develop a plan to lead them there.



# Hale Creek Correctional Facility

## REENTRY FAIR

Hale Creek hosted another amazingly successful Fall Reentry Fair on October 10. Over 450 CASAT incarcerated program participants, Parole Diversion Program residents, and Relapse Prevention Program individuals enjoyed an opportunity to speak with 32 representatives from several community-based organizations, including Celebrate Recovery, Exodus Transitional Community, Hudson Valley Community College, the New York State Department of Labor, and the John Jay Prison Reentry Institute.

Recognizing the value of proactive planning for future success, the incarcerated population eagerly networked with volunteers and DOCCS employees throughout the day. Transitional Services Director Lissette Roldan-Hart was on hand to assist with questions during the fair.

Community Supervision staff were also in attendance, including Hudson Valley Assistant Regional Director Jill Leonard-Horne, Reentry Manager Charles Figel, and Central New York Regional Bureau Chief Margaret Montfort. They each took time to visit dorms to share some important aspects of successful reentry and to answer questions. Their insights were greatly appreciated by the population as evidenced by the positive comments.

Hale Creek hosts bi-annual reentry fairs and staff have already begun preparing for the 2020 Spring Fair in April.

Everyone looks forward to another outstanding event to give those returning to our communities the best possible head start.



# Lakeview S.I.C.F.

## WINTER BOOT RELIEF

During October, the Lakeview Vocational Painting and Decorating Program built, decorated and painted a snow-covered mountain display with hooks to be used to display boot tags for the Westfield Union Relief Association's "Winter Boot" donation. Staff purchased winter boots for 60 local children in need, which were distributed the first week in November in preparation for winter weather.



# Mid-State Correctional Facility

## RESIDENTIAL VETERAN PROGRAM

On June 26, Mid-State's Residential Veteran Program celebrated its first graduation. This group of veterans is the first to participate in this DOCCS veterans-only program, which allows participants to speak freely about issues unique to them, such as combat, overseas tours, and training, in hopes of better preparing them for reentry.

Representatives from Central Office were available to talk with participants and to learn about their experiences in the program, and staff are inspired and excited to continue working with the veteran population.



# Moriah S.I.C.F.

## THIRD ANNUAL SPEAKER JAM

On August 9, Moriah Shock held its third Annual Speaker Jam. The Speaker Jam is an event where outside presenters and DOCCS employees converse with the incarcerated population at Moriah. Speakers discuss the 12 steps of recovery and share personal stories of trials and success in their own life of recovery.

This year, staff from Hale Creek, Washington, Coxsackie, Clinton and Central Office, as well as two community volunteers, attended the event.

The incarcerated population was able to attend with the cooperation of the Executive Team, Security, Programs, Administration, and ASAT staff.



# Ogdensburg Correctional Facility

## CHURCH & COMMUNITY PROGRAM THANK YOU

Connie Jenkins, Director of Church & Community Program with Churches of Canton, Inc. sent Superintendent Danforth a letter expressing “deepest appreciation to you and the OCF garden crew for your generous weekly donations to our food pantry.” The letter continued: “The highlight of the week comes when CO Mike Rogers appears with a truckload of fresh, nutritious and tasty food for our pantry families...Need is great; in August, we provided food for 244 households. Thanks to your support, we were able to include a rainbow of fresh vegetables...I understand that the garden raised, and donated, nearly 35,000 pounds of food. That’s incredible, and we simply can’t say thank you enough for sharing with us.”



# Queensboro Correctional Facility

## CORNELL'S SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL & LABOR RELATIONS PRISON JOB FAIR OPENS DOORS

According to an article by Peter Ortiz, *Cornell Chronicle*, 12 employers and a formerly incarcerated individual currently employed as a union carpentry representative met with incarcerated men at the Queensboro Correctional Facility in New York City on October 4. Ortiz noted it was the first time employers have gone inside a DOCCS prison to conduct interviews and make job offers.

Read the full [\*Cornell Chronicle\*](#) article by Peter Ortiz



Esta Bigler, ILR School’s Criminal Justice and Employment Initiative speaks with Rubén Colón (right), representing a local carpentry union, and Manuel Peña (center) at the October 4 job fair

# Riverview Correctional Facility

## NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

During the 2019 spring semester, seven students from Riverview participated in a Playwriting Workshop under the direction of Sara Rocchio, SUNY Potsdam Assistant Professor of Theatre.

Students met weekly with Ms. Rocchio to form a basic understanding of the playwriting process and five completed the course.

Throughout the semester, students wrote, revised, and ultimately formed an original play.

At the beginning of the 2019 fall semester, Ms. Rocchio recruited actors from SUNY Potsdam to perform the plays written by Riverview students who read through the plays and conducted practice sessions to perform to SUNY Potsdam and Riverview audiences.

During mid-September, actors performed these 10-minute plays in front of a large audience at SUNY Potsdam.



Ms. Rocchio noted that this performance was recorded and viewed by over 300 people on Facebook.

Finally, they brought the performance to Riverview on September 27 for approximately 90 members of the incarcerated population.

Following the show, playwrights, actors, and audience members participated in a Q&A session around the experience and performance.

Ms. Rocchio plans to hold another Playwriting Workshop during the 2020 spring semester.



# Sullivan Correctional Facility

## LIFERS INMATE ORGANIZATION BOOK BAGS DONATION

In September, Sullivan delivered 25 bookbags to the Fallsburg Elementary Central School District, which were donated by the Lifers Inmate Organization for students in need.

Bookbags contained a composition notebook, a two pocket folder, pen and pencil. School Administrators were very pleased to receive the donations.

In total, the Lifer's Organization has donated over four dozen book bags to Eldred Elementary School and Fallsburg Elementary School Districts.



**Front Row:** RPL I J. Depew, Lifer's Org. members: A. Joseph, R. Williams, J. Lundi, A. Morris, C. Dennis and RPL II D. Smith.  
**Back Row:** Grievance Supervisor C. Proscia, Lifer's Org. members: J. Fitzgerald, S. Allwood, F. McPherson, E. Hayes, J. Johnson, and P. Flanders

# Walkill Correctional Facility

## VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON

On November 12, Walkill held a Veterans Day Luncheon to honor the men there who served our country. They were treated to lunch, a movie, and a time of comradery as a thank you.

Special thanks to John Darcy, Guidance Specialist for Veterans Affairs and Rev. Twyman, Ministerial Program Coordinator, not only for their service to our country, but also for celebrating this special event with Walkill as a guest speaker.





# Wende Correctional Facility

## MAKE-A-WISH

The generosity of the staff at Wende was in abundance as a fund raiser was held with proceeds to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Paper and magnetic wish stars, along with Make-A-Wish koozies — a fabric or foam sleeve designed to thermally insulate a beverage container, like a can or bottle — were available for purchase with 100% of the proceeds going to grant wishes for children with life-threatening conditions.

At the end of the two-hour event, more than \$200 had been raised to help put smiles on some young faces.



## HUB KICK-OFF MEETING

Erica Raepple, Director of Development for the New York Special Olympics Western Region and Annapolis native and Special Olympian Jacob Landis gave a presentation at the first Wende Hub Kick-Off meeting. Landis then gifted Wende Superintendent Stewart Eckert and Lakeview Superintendent Brian Kubik with a wooden flag and eagle he made.

Everyone in attendance signed the back of the flag to memorialize this first meeting. The flag will now hang in the Lakeview Administration Building and Superintendent Kubik will be in charge of the Hub's Special Olympic endeavors.



# Willard Correctional Facility

## VILLAGE OF SODUS POINT THANK YOU

In August, Superintendent Bartlett received a letter from Village of Sodus Point Mayor Dave McDowell extending “sincere appreciation for the help that your teams provided the village of Sodus Point” as they prepared for 2019 flood waters. “Your teams of guards and inmates were the hardest working people who have helped the village in recent times,” Mayor McDowell added. “The professionalism and respect for the village were outstanding. The interaction with residents and village staff was more than we could have asked for. If the actions displayed in our village carry over to life after Willard, the inmates will also be in a good place. Thank you and your teams for all the help.”



# Wyoming Correctional Facility

## 42ND ANNUAL CANADIAN POLICE & PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Wyoming’s Honor Guard was invited to attend the Canadian Police and Peace Officers 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Service in the Canadian Capital City of Ottawa.

*L-R: Correction Officers Daniel Cutter, Douglas Setzer, Amanda Sims, and Correction Sergeant Wayne Durfee represented DOCCS at the Memorial Service*



## LIGHTHOUSE STATION

The Wyoming Correctional Facility's Inmate Liaison Committee donated \$1,000 to Lighthouse Station, the local maternity home for homeless women.

*ILC President Joseph Barrier (left) and Commissioner Thomas Sticht (right) present the check to Lighthouse Station representative Sarah Sutay (center)*



# Central Office

## 2019 BUILDSMART NY AWARD

In October, DOCCS was awarded the E088 Award for Most Comprehensive Energy Exchange Program at the New York Power Authority's Customer Clean Energy Exchange event. DOCCS was recognized for its leadership and innovation in advancing clean energy projects throughout New York State. Working hand-in-hand with the New York Power Authority, DOCCS built a comprehensive roadmap to achieve a 23 percent reduction in its energy usage, which was achieved by implementing nearly 120 energy projects. DOCCS has committed to installing one of the largest solar initiatives for an individual entity in New York State. Phase 1 of this initiative includes photovoltaic installations across seven sites and will result in an annual bill savings of \$15.2 million.



## FETI COURSE

In August, 50 DOCCS staff completed Introduction to the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview, including Office of Special Investigations senior management, ADS PREA Compliance Managers and OSI Investigators assigned to the Sex Crimes, Internal Affairs and Narcotics divisions. The Certified Feti methodology is driven by the neurobiology of trauma and memory and provides interviewers with a framework to maximize the opportunities for information collection about an individual's high stress or traumatic experiences in a neutral, equitable, and fair manner.



# Central Office

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

DOCCS' Annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration was held on October 4 at the Albany Training Academy to recognize the many contributions Hispanic Americans have made to our nation's history. The 2019 national theme was "Hispanic Americans: A History of Serving Our Nation". Commissioner's Hearing Officer Robert Barbosa was the keynote speaker. He expounded upon the service, legacy and patriotism of veterans of Hispanic decent.

**L-R:** Maria Herman, Guest Speaker Roberto Barbosa, Na-Kia Walton, Marceline J. Santiago, Opal Rivera, F. Elaine Grant and Daniel Figueroa

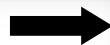


## 42ND ANNUAL SPIRIT OF BEACON DAY

DOCCS staff and NYSMICJ members – Fishkill First Deputy Superintendent Emily Williams, ODI/Central Office staff Josayne Anderson, retired Superintendent and NYSMICJ founding member Joseph William, and Downstate CO Tamecka Sergeant – participated in the 42nd annual Spirit of Beacon Day on September 29.



## MARIST COLLEGE



DOCCS staff attended the *Explorations in Social Justice Conference* at Marist College on September 13.

**L-R:** Wendy Bruno, Kim Ghatt, Stuart McMaster, Josayne Anderson-Tejera, Na-Kia Walton, Emily Williams, and Retired Superintendent Joe Williams



# Central Office

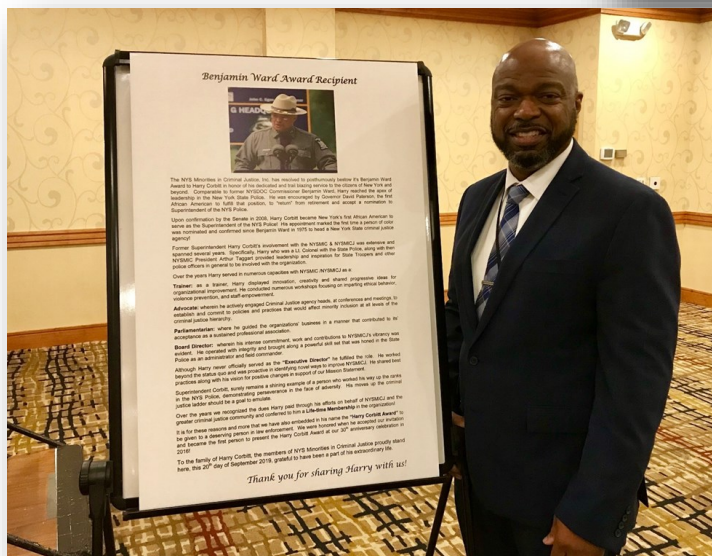
## MINORITIES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE 33RD SYMPOSIUM

The New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice (NYSMICJ) hosted its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual symposium – “Reforms in Criminal Justice: Thinking Outside of the Box” – on September 18-20 in Albany.

To continue the organization’s dedication to professionalism, excellence, equal opportunity and equal justice, the symposium focused on applying evidence-based solutions to “Community Correction” problems.

Deputy Commissioner Ana Enright participated in the plenary session entitled “Shifting to Solutions”. The symposium also held the highly anticipated Commissioners’ Forum.

Symposium attendees included Department Executive Team members, Department staff and NYSMICJ members, Shenendehowa Central School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. I. Oliver Robinson, and Albany County Sheriff Craig D. Apple Sr., among others.



## OSI INVESTIGATOR RECEIVES AWARD HONORING HIS FATHER

At the NYSMICJ Annual Symposium, John Pratt, Senior Investigator with the Office of Special Investigations, was presented the Benjamin Ward Award in honor of his father, the late Harry Corbitt, retired New York State Police Superintendent. Corbitt served the State Police for 25 years before retiring. He was later appointed by Governor David Paterson to serve as Superintendent and became the first African American to lead the agency.

# Central Office

## 149TH CONGRESS OF CORRECTION

DOCCS participated in the American Correctional Association's 149th Congress of Correction in Boston, Massachusetts on August 3. The Office of Guidance and Counseling presented a workshop sharing information about the Incarcerated Veterans Program. The presentation included video footage of staff describing the program benefits, as well as program participants detailing their personal experiences about what led them to enlist, what they experienced while serving, and their present experiences after receiving treatment in the Veterans Residential Therapeutic Program.

In 1986, there were limited program opportunities for veterans in DOCCS custody to address veteran-specific needs. Since that time, the Incarcerated Veterans Program has evolved into a comprehensive program administered on three levels to provide veterans a healing and peaceful environment so they can address their service related problems.

Our goal is to provide the best possible services to the veterans in our custody and to continue to provide the best Incarcerated Veterans Services in the nation.

*L-R: Guidance Specialist for Veterans Affairs John P. Darcy, Assistant Director Office of Guidance and Counseling Melanie Rodriguez, and Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator Zackary C. Clark*



**Table Items:** Kite made by Attica Active Veterans Organization, and quilted items from Auburn Veterans and Attica Veterans Organizations.

## ADOPT A PRISON

On September 22, employees from Bedford Hills, Taconic, Downstate and Central Office attended the first ever "Adopt a Prison" event sponsored by the Town of Bedford.

Volunteers and individuals who are contracted within the facilities explained to a packed house of community residents what services and programs they offer individuals during their rehabilitative journey.

Bedford Hills Superintendent Amy LaManna and Taconic Superintendent Tanya Mitchell-Voyd spoke about the importance of DOCCS volunteers and programs.

DOCCS had a table that focused on educating residents about employment opportunities.

The event was the creation of Hans Hallundbaek, Director of the Interfaith Prison Partnership, with the support of Bedford Town Supervisor Chris Burdick.



# Community Supervision



## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ENRIGHT RECEIVES EXODUS TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY AWARD

DOCCS Community Supervision Deputy Commissioner Ana Enright received the Exodus Transitional Community award during its 11th Annual Legislative Breakfast on October 17. DC Enright, along with Assemblyman Dan Quart and Executive Assistant District Attorney Chauncey Parker, were the award recipients.

The event celebrated individuals who tirelessly serve the public upholding fair and effective policy.

The award read: "For your devotion to equal justice for all New Yorkers and your tireless efforts to positively impact our criminal justice system."

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

In October, the Manhattan/Staten Island Reentry staff participated in National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Throughout the month, Reentry sold Breast Cancer Awareness pins for \$5 and proceeds were donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Breast Cancer in Young Women-Young Survival Coalition. Reentry hosted its Pink Ribbon Day on Friday, October 18 where they continued to sell Breast Cancer Awareness pins and asked purchasers to join the staff in wearing the pins along with anything pink.

Breast cancer is one of the most common kinds of cancer in women after skin cancer. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early. If you are a woman age 40 to 49, talk with your doctor about when to start getting mammograms and how often to get them. If you are a woman age 50 to 74, be sure to get a mammogram every 2 years. You may also choose to get them more often. Talk to a doctor about your risk for breast cancer, especially if a close family member of yours had breast or ovarian cancer.



Manhattan 6's Day at Central Park for "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk. Parole officers participated and brought their children

# Community Supervision

## UTICA AND ALBANY PAROLE FRIENDS & FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

### UTICA

On November 14, DOCCS held its regional Parole Friends & Family Open House at the Utica Area Office in Utica.

This event provided an opportunity for those under community supervision and their supportive networks to engage with and meet and greet their parole officers and Community Supervision staff and receive information relating to successful reintegration and supervision.

Assistant Commissioner Donald Arras welcomed attendees during the morning session and Regional Director Jeffrey Kirker welcomed those during the evening session. Bureau Chief Lana Jolma led the event.

Eighty parolees, friends, and family members attended the morning session, and 85 parolees attended in the evening. During both sessions, participants heard presentations on Combating Opioid Epidemic by Andrea LoParco, Director of Special Projects, Insight House and Chemical Dependency Services, and Employment and Vocational Initiatives by Patti Williams, Senior Transition Counselor, Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation.

Guest speakers Kimberly Larue and Marcey Gromley shared their experiences under community supervision.

### ALBANY

On August 20, DOCCS' Albany Area Office held its regional Parole Friends & Family Open House. Assistant Commissioner Donald Arras provided welcoming remarks along with Bureau Chief Robert Fall during both morning and evening sessions.

Between the two sessions, over 100 parolees, friends and family attended. Guest speakers addressed several topics, including the opioid epidemic and employment opportunities.

Two former parolees gave presentations highlighting their success under community supervision and thanking DOCCS staff for the support that led to their continued achievements in life following parole.





# Correction Officer Recruit Class Graduations



## RECRUIT CLASS 2019-06

ALBANY TRAINING ACADEMY 2019



Corrections and  
Community Supervision

DOCCS Correction Officer Recruit Class 2019-06 graduated in August 2019 with 71 trainees.

CO Alexander Funnye received the PPT award, CO Timothy Simmes for Marksmanship, CO Angela Joyce Wells for Leadership, and CO Joshua Atwell for High Academics. CO Georen Weston was Class Representative and CO Neven Ferhatbegovic sang the National Anthem. Deputy Commissioner James O’Gorman presented the keynote address.

DOCCS Correction Officer Recruit Class 2019-07 graduated in mid-September 2019 with 80 trainees.

CO Nicholas Gaiser received an award for PPT, CO Ryan Jones for Marksmanship, CO Dominique Smith for High Academics, and Kyle Lewis for Leadership. CO Brandon Martin was Class Representative and CO Jake Connelly sang the National Anthem.

Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci was the keynote speaker.



## RECRUIT CLASS 2019-07

ALBANY TRAINING ACADEMY 2019



Corrections and  
Community Supervision

# Correction Officer Recruit Class Graduations

DOCCS Correction Officer Recruit Class 2019-08 graduated in late September 2019 with 71 trainees.

CO Joe Cooper III received an award for PPT, CO Kyle Sherwood for Marksmanship, CO Caitlyn Eleccko for High Academics, and Ermin Kreso for Leadership. CO Ezra Alman was Class Representative and CO Asim Hussain sang the National Anthem.

Associate Commissioner Charles Kelly presented the keynote address.



## RECRUIT CLASS 2019-08

ALBANY TRAINING ACADEMY 2019



Corrections and  
Community Supervision



## RECRUIT CLASS 2019-09

ALBANY TRAINING ACADEMY 2019



Corrections and  
Community Supervision

DOCCS Correction Officer Recruit Class 2019-09 graduated in October 2019 with 78 trainees.

CO Tramaine Richardson received the PPT award, Marksmanship to COs Nicholas Kehrley and Aleksey Padunin, Leadership to CO Bryce Potyok, and High Academics to CO Christian Pinaud. CO Richard Wahl was Class Representative and CO Clint White sang the National Anthem. Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci was the keynote speaker.

# Correction Officer Recruit Class Graduations

DOCCS Correction Officer Recruit Class 2019-10 graduated in early November 2019 with 79 trainees.

CO Sheldon Yearwood received an award for PPT, CO Shane Barrett for Marksmanship, CO Kevin Moore for High Academics, CO Timothy Reynolds for Leadership. CO Raechelle Davis was Class Representative and CO Jonathan Woodburn sang the National Anthem.

Deputy Commissioner James O’Gorman presented the keynote address.



## RECRUIT CLASS 2019-10 ALBANY TRAINING ACADEMY 2019



Corrections and  
Community Supervision



## RECRUIT CLASS 2019-11 ALBANY TRAINING ACADEMY 2019



Corrections and  
Community Supervision

DOCCS Correction Officer Recruit Class 2019-11 graduated in mid-November 2019 with 70 trainees.

CO Danny Hill III received the PPT award, CO Charles Ryan for Marksmanship, COs Catelynn Demartino and Alonee Jackson for High Academics, CO Joseph St. Louis for Leadership. CO Nicholas Crisorio was Class Representative and CO Jean Carlos Martinez sang the National Anthem.

Deputy Commissioner James O’Gorman presented the keynote address.