



WATSONIAN NEWSLETTER- April 12, 2005

WELCOME	COMMITTEE NEWS
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WELCOME

Ron Bruder
Robert Griffin
Linda Cockrill
Sharon R Slater

COMMITTEE NEWS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING - all are invited to call in and participate.

When: Tuesday **2:30 - 4 pm 4/19/2005.**

Where: CORPORATE SQUARE, building 11, Room 2105 (Phil's office)

Call In: Toll free #: 866-732-9603, Passcode 873632

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE - VOLUNTEERS

We would like to have a contact person in each branch and division of our membership. With the reorganization in process, some folks have transferred, or retired. We need to be sure we have a contacts who are willing to forward the newsworthy items to Rita Varga.

Therefore, volunteers are needed- this could be your chance to do your part in the WATSONIAN SOCIETY. Please send your name and division/ branch to Rita as soon as possible. Those who are currently liaisons, please signify your willingness to continue by sending your name forward too.

Thank you

EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Annual Watsonian Society Retirement Pig Roast And BBQ



Date: **Saturday- April 23, 2005**

Time: **2:00-7:00 pm**

Tickets: **\$15/person SEE TICKET SELLERS LIST below!**

(For a head count- please purchase by April 14, 2005)

Cash Bar

Location:

American Legion Post 140 aka "The Hut"
3905 Powers Ferry Road N.W.

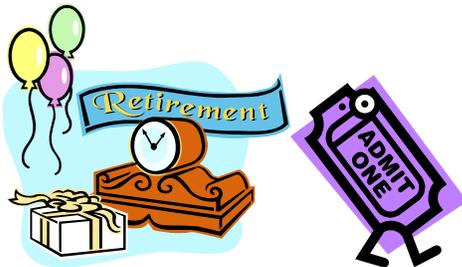
BBQ BBQ

BBQ BBQ

BBQ BBQ

BBQ BBQ

BBQ BBQ



TICKET Sellers:

Roybal Campus/Clifton Road

Cathy Stout

Karen Willis

Corporate Square

Kathryn Koski

Cindi Knighton

Executive Park

Kristin Brusuelas

Decatur

Dick Moyer

Retirees and those not on the above campuses

Fred Martich

Jerry Naehr

Calling all volunteers!

A good time is planned for all!

The EVENTS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Volunteers are needed for the Watsonian BBQ on April 23! We need people to help with set up and clean up for the day's event, greeting others and collecting tickets at the event, selling drink tickets, and other activities/duties. This is your chance to do an important service for the society!

Please contact **Chris Thomas** if you would like to volunteer

POC: [Cindi Knighton](#)

Those being honored include:

Anderson Ken

Baldwin, Bob

Bell, Duke
Bill Scott
Brasile, Al
Brownell, Dave
Cahill, Kathy
Carmine Bozzi
Carter, Joe
Cox, Ross
Diamond, Sarah
Dowda, Don
Fowler, Tony

Hicks, Thomas
Kuharik John
Long, Mark
Mason, Dean
McCumiskey, Peter
McDowell, Dennis
Moran, Bob
Narkunas, John
Nelson, Bill
Perez, Tony
Poppe, Paul

Rauch, Kathy
Ruberti, Don
Shaw, Susan
Stone Kay ([associate](#))

Not retired, but left CDC after years of service:

Randy Louchart Laura Neylans Kate O'Toole

COME Celebrate their new life chapters! Have Fun socializing with everyone! Put names to faces and meet the membership.

If you need directions- send an email to R. Varga.

For details see our website: <http://www.cdc.gov/watsonian/2005PigRoastInfo.html>



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The WATSONIAN SOCIETY has officially been accepted by **ADOPT-A-PLATOON!**

The Watsonian Society is now supporting the men of the **1st PLT, B Co, 1-503rd Infantry Regiment** until their return stateside through **Adopt a Platoon**. Here is the link to learn more about this very worthy organization: www.adoptaplatoon.org

For ideas on items to send over, please see this webpage: <http://www.adoptaplatoon.org/new/pdf/care.pdf> (Alternatively, go to [adoptaplatoon.org](http://www.adoptaplatoon.org) and click on "ideas for care packages." Remember NOT to send religious articles, pork, or any other item that would offend the religious beliefs of the country in which the men are stationed.

Stacy Harper (contact her with any questions!) is collecting all goods and sending them over on weekly basis to the approximately 30 men in the platoon. What we need **RIGHT NOW** are cards and letters to send over. The men can get desperately lonely for their homes, so any word of encouragement is really appreciated.

More info on the individuals of the 1st PLT, as soon as it's available!
For those of you who are interested, like most units, they have a long and illustrious history. You may find this at : <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/1-503inf.htm>





“Get Ticked Off!” Workers, Miles, and Money

“Get Ticked Off” is in full swing!! The clean-up campaign will take place in Whiteriver, AZ from May 1 to May 14, so we don't have much time! Next step is workers, miles, and money.

Workers

We plan to travel a total of 20 people, 10 each week, out to Arizona during the 2-week clean-up from May 1 to May 14. While logistics continue to evolve, the general plan is that we will provide assistance to 9 separate subdivisions that incorporate approximately 1500 homes. We are tentatively working on the one-subdivision-a-day plan, and volunteers will assist state and local personnel with loading dumpsters, hauling debris from residences to dumpsters, patient education, logistics and that perennial PHA favorite, other duties as assigned. Work will generally involve lifting and more lifting. Whiteriver is a beautiful location, but it is located at a high altitude, so please take the physical aspects of this request into consideration before volunteering. Personnel will be on CDC travel orders and will be flown to Phoenix.

Whiteriver is approximately four hours away, and we will be riding there with state personnel or driving USDA donated trucks. Housing is being arranged through IHS hospital personnel and per diem for food will be provided.

Who's eligible – Our preference is for Watsonians, but we will use other CDC personnel if we don't have enough volunteers. This is a great opportunity for some of our more junior members to see some of the "other" aspects of public health, and has the support of CDC's highest personnel. In addition to their willingness to "get dirty," all participants **MUST** have supervisory approval to participate. This is a public health response, and participants **do not need to take leave**. We would like to utilize willing retirees, and we are currently working with the Office of General Counsel on liability issues.

If you are willing to volunteer, please send your name, phone number, week available (1st week or 2nd week) and something that says that your supervisor approves to Ted Pestorius with a [cc to your supervisor](#) by COB 4/13/05. Ted has the audacity to be on leave this week, but given his incredible dedication to the Watsonian Society, he will track this information from the beaches of South Carolina.

Miles

In an effort to minimize costs for this intervention, we will be traveling as many people as possible on donated Delta frequent flier miles. Delta has a limited number of seats available for flights from Atlanta to Phoenix on 4/30 and 5/1, and we should be able to travel field staff in the same manner, but we need to book tickets for the first week's cohort no later than April 17th. Donations of 25,000 miles will provide round-trip travel for one Watsonian. Due to Delta regulations we can only accept mileage donations for the full 25,000 mile increment. If you are willing to donate 25,000 miles to support this effort please email Ted Pestorius right now and then finish reading this email. The number

of mileage donators will directly impact the number of Watsonians that we can send to help. Once we have names of volunteers you will be contacted to arrange a ticket.

Money

So far we have collected over \$1,000 through the CDC Foundation for this effort. **You can still donate online right now!!** Just click on the CDC Foundation website below and enter your donation. Leave blank the section that reads 'I would like my gift directed to,' but at the bottom of the page, under 'Areas of public health you are interested in or other information you would like us to know' -- **enter 'Get Ticked Off.'** That way we can ensure the donation will be directed to the Watsonian effort. All donations to the CDC Foundation are tax deductible.

<http://www.cdcfoundation.org/online.htm>

If you have any questions about 'Get Ticked Off' contact Ted Pestorius. Please share this information with others that might be interested.

Thanks!!

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### **CONDOLENCES**

**Robert "Bart" Bartholomew's** wife, Sharon passed way March 10th at home after a short illness. Bart was the CDC Program Consultant to the Los Angeles STD program for more than twenty years retiring in 1996 after 35 years of service at CDC.

Donations can be sent in Sharon's name to:  
The Kaiser Hospice Fund  
12200 Bellflower Blvd.  
Downey CA 90242

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Condolences to **Fran and Bill Doyle** (retired PHA) on the passing of Fran's mother, Vera Elvie Redmon, in Paris, Tennessee. She died on March 10th at the age of 95. Descendants include two sons, five daughters, 31 grandchildren, 53 great-grand children, 25 great-great-grandchildren, two brothers, and one sister.

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### **DEATH OF A CDC EMPLOYEE:**

It is with deep sorrow that the Division of Violence Prevention, part of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, announces the death of **Dr. Linda E. Saltzman**. Linda passed away suddenly on Tuesday, March 8, 2005. The violence prevention community and those who find themselves affected by violent acts lost a friend and a champion for their safety with Linda's passing. She brought a wealth of knowledge and a caring heart to her work. She was a person of tremendous resource to CDC and a wonderful colleague and friend.

Linda began her CDC career in 1984, coming from Mankato State University. Her work at CDC focused on prevention of family and intimate partner violence, sexual violence, public health surveillance of violence against women, and violence as it relates to pregnancy and other reproductive health issues. Linda had worked on the development and pilot-testing of uniform definitions for intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

As a well-recognized expert in violence prevention, Linda provided consultation to federal and state health officials across the country and to researchers and violence practitioners, both nationally and internationally.

She was a visionary in championing violence prevention efforts and she will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to one of the organizations listed below.

1. Marietta Theatre in the Square. Donations can be made on-line at <http://www.theatreinthesquare.com>. 11 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta, GA 30064. Phone: 770.422.8369
2. GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders). Donations can be made on-line at <http://www.glad.org>. 30 Winter Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02108. Phone: 617.426.1350
3. Irving J. Saltzman (Linda's father) Scholarship Fund. Donations can be made on-line at <http://iufoundation.iu.edu/>. Indiana University Foundation, P.O. Box 500, Bloomington, IN 47402.



## MEMBER NEWS

### BABIES IN THE NURSERY! FUTURE PHAs-- LETS SEE AROUND 2027-ish....

The WEBMASTER is a new DAD! – **Keith Davis** welcomed Kyle Jacob Davis, born 28 February 2005, at 6:05 a.m., weighing 7lb 3oz and 19.5 inches long. Lungs, he has.

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Jakob Jeffrey Jenks born to **Dawn Broussard** and her husband Jeff Jenks (brother of **Julie Jenks**, PHA) on 1/16/05. 6 pounds, 1 ounce; 20 inches. Jake joins brother Luke, who is just shy of 2 years old.

Dawn notes: We're all doing well, though the diaper-wearing half of the family is substantially more well-rested than the other half. I'll be back at work in mid-May.

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### DOUBLE DUTY HERE TWINS! TWINS!!



#### **Melinda Salmon**

Dear friends and family,

Melinda delivered two beautiful, healthy baby boys by caesarian section last night [3/21/2005] at 7:30 pm at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Mom and babies are both doing great. I don't want to announce names until we have had a little more time to see them -- they are spending the night being monitored in the intensive care nursery, due to their gestational age (34 weeks, 5 days). We hope to see them

moved to the well-baby nursery tomorrow. So poor Melinda has barely seen them. Once we figure out which is which, and make sure the names "fit" I will pass them on.

In the meantime, here are their birth weights: Baby A:, 5 lbs, 12 oz Baby B: 4 lbs, 11 oz

If all goes as planned, Melinda and the twins will come home on Thursday or Friday. We'll keep you posted & send on better photos (and names!) when we have them.

Proudly,  
John and Big Brother Jake

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Liz Bell resigned from the Global Immunization Division at NIP in December following the birth of her twin boys, John Bowyer and Matthew Morgan, on 12 August 2004. Even after her five-year stint with the polio eradication program, she is learning more about stool collection methodology than she ever *dreamed* possible.

She writes: Things are good with the twins. They are now 7 months old and at the stage where I just want to eat them up. Good thing I know that's a felony or they'd have little ears and toes missing....

We are all sleeping (mostly) through the night and my primary daytime responsibility (outside of feeding and changing them of course) is PLAYING. There are worse jobs. The boys are not crawling yet but they roll around all over the place, can sit (although they eventually topple over like the little drunks they will be in college), belly laugh/squeal, LOVE peek-a-boo, blow impressive razz-berries and are starting to fight over toys (sigh. I can see my future).

We were trying to figure out what they will be when they grow up given their current skills: they are excellent rollers, jumpers and have great aim if you are not careful when changing them. We have decided they are destined to be paratroopers.

Skills that still need some work: eating. Half the time we end up with mashed peas up our nose or pureed carrots in our hair, but it is always a sight to see.

She hopes to come back onboard with CDC again in few years once they've got the whole eating thing worked out!

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Five Senior Management Officials have been selected as the senior CDC management official to work with the senior leadership team within the state health director's office to ensure the strategic direction of the state agency and resources are in alignment with CDC's strategic interests.

- Arkansas - - Steve Boedigheimer, (previously PHPPO)
- New York State - Joe Henderson (previously OTPER, NCID, NIP)
- Ohio - Roberta Erlwine (previously ATSDR)
- Texas - **Mark Fussell** (previously NCHSTP)
- Washington State – Karen White (previously EPO, NCID, NIP)

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I am pleased to announce that, on the recommendation of the Department of Health and Human Services' General Counsel, Alex Azar, Secretary Michael Leavitt has appointed **Ms. Paula L. Kocher** as the Deputy Associate General Counsel, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Branch, Public Health Division. Ms. Kocher served as the Acting Deputy Associate General Counsel since January 2004.

Ms. Kocher provides legal advice to the leadership of CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on a wide range of complex and difficult legal matters. Currently, she manages a legal office of 19 employees located in Atlanta, Georgia; Washington, D.C.; and Rockville, Maryland.

Ms. Kocher joined the CDC Branch of the Office of the General Counsel in 1987 as an Attorney-Advisor and worked primarily with ATSDR in carrying out its new responsibilities pursuant to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. She was promoted to Senior Attorney in 1988 and in this capacity worked on a number of important cases including the American Legion Agent Orange Litigation, the advisory committee challenge involving the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health diesel study, FOIA litigation, numerous cost recovery cases brought on behalf of ATSDR and the Hanford Downwinders case. In 1998, she became a Senior Coordinating Attorney in the CDC Branch and served as the lead attorney associated with implementing the legislation that established the National Foundation for the CDC. From 2001 to 2004, Ms. Kocher was the Deputy to the Deputy Associate General Counsel, CDC Branch, and provided leadership and guidance on numerous complex legal matters stemming from the extraordinary challenges faced by CDC in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11 and its aftermath.

Prior to joining CDC, Ms. Kocher was Assistant Regional Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Region IV, in Atlanta from 1982 to 1987. From 1980 to 1982, she worked for the U.S. Department of Education as Chief of the Litigation Unit, Region IV, Atlanta.

Ms. Kocher received her B.A. from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and her J.D. from the Emory University School of Law.

I appreciate your continued support of Ms. Kocher and hope you will join me in welcoming her to this important role at CDC.

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.  
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former CDC PHA , **Brian Mahoney**, now with the Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Service, Public Health Preparedness Program in Portland is in the Agency Operations Center, and is the state Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator. Brian's wife, Judi, has been working in wine promotion - meaning that she has poured wine in wine tasting rooms and supermarkets. She taught classes for Portland Community College, and she is starting a chapter of the American Wine Society. (This is what she learned during her 25 years in elementary education...payback time.) Their two kids go to Beaverton High School and are doing well.

Nathan Chatman has retired (02/02/05) after nearly 40 years of service in STD and Immunization programs in Detroit and Los Angeles and other areas in California.

Charles Iddings retired 2/28/2005 after 10 years with the New Mexico Health Department. Charles says that is the proud owner of a pacemaker following a heart attack last September. His total time of government serve is 45 years, including PHA service with CDC starting in 1965 and prior service in the U.S. Navy. His wife is from Santa Fe and owns a moving company so they will remain in that area.

Al Chowning will also be retiring from the state of New Mexico in June after 10 years of service there. He served 30 years as a CDC PHA starting in 1964.

[Updates such as the above are welcomed; please feel free to submit information that you would like to share with your PHA colleagues]

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Ms. Hightower retired in 2003 from CDC after 30 years of service and now resides in St. Joe Beach, Florida. She published her first novel, **Anthrax: The Game**, in 2001. She has finished her sixth novel **The Deal** that will be published in March of 2005.

Dwan's company Dream Catcher Publishing has now released 18 books with three of these books being optioned for movies. **The Sound of Death** by Jack Mullen, **Pleasant Hurricanes** by Sim Shattuck and **Dark Angel Pass Me** by Sim Shattuck. DCP has published 3 books by CDC employees. **Robert Emerson's The Forty-Rupee Clock**, **The Wingates** by **Anne E. Shuttleworth**, (sequel to follow this year). **On Second Thought** by **Hodelin Rene**. All of these books can be purchased at your SHARE office in CDC.

Dwan is as busy as ever serving as President of the Friends of the Gulf County Public Libraries, Inc. ,Membership Chair for the Gulf County Art Alliance, starting the Coastal Writers Group and sitting on the board for Habitat for Humanity. She does try to spend some time with her four grandchildren and writing and the completion of her sixth novel. Former TB PHA **Bert Malone** is now the environmental chief in KC. He says he enjoys hearing from old CDC friends!!

He reports: "All the family is well. Grandchild #3 is due this summer so we are anxiously awaiting that. Our son Brian is in the middle of his second year of Law school, so we are dealing with the empty nest. Being close to grandkids though makes it fun. We are planning a Malone/Wren family reunion here in KC late next summer.....should be interesting!"

Bert is sorry he will not be able to make it to the BBQ but asks that we say hello to all who come to the BBQ!

### **HOW IS YOUR MEMORY?**

**Ed Powers sent this is for us!**

Hi Rita -- 1962? Was there a Senior PHA in NYC in IM then? Or was this a NYC doc? Who would know? Puzzler for me...maybe not for you and the Watsonians. ed powers

#### **CAR TALK PUZZLE - Answered on 4/10/2005**

The year was 1962. New York City was in the grip of a measles epidemic. City officials were getting nervous. It seemed like New Yorkers weren't taking it seriously.

But, people needed to know who needed to be vaccinated and why, and, moreover, they needed to know where the vaccine was available and who was eligible. There was a lot

of information that needed to be disseminated.

The public health service people were getting discouraged as the epidemic spread. Something had to be done. A meeting was called. Various strategies were presented. Finally, out of the inky shadows, emerged Edmund J. Potas, Senior Public Health Advisor.

"I have an idea," he said. He suggested a form of mass communication that had never been used before. It was a success. And this method has been used countless times ever since.

What did he suggest that day? And here's a hint: "measles."

**Answer: 1-800-MEASLES! First time a word was used for a phone # (at least that's what Click and Clack contend - the puzzle was sent in by a fellow named Marty Trope -- in 1994 - could Marty have been a Public Health Advisor?**

## **TRANSFERS PROMOTIONS AND TDYS**

**Mark Fussell** [NCID] is new Senior Management Official for Texas beginning mid April.

**Cherrie Couch** [DSTDP] has accepted a transfer with promotion to the Office of Civil Rights, Atlanta, GA, effective March 20, 2005.

**Phillip Powers** [DSTDP] has accepted a transfer to Miami, FL, effective March 6, 2005.

**Robert Small** [DSTDP] has accepted a transfer to Tallahassee, FL, effective March 6, 2005.

**Kerry Kenney**[DSTDP] has accepted a transfer to Phoenix, AZ, effective March 6, 2005.

**Veronica McCants**[DSTDP] has accepted a transfer with promotion to the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, effective February 20, 2005.

**Karen Gavin**[DSTDP] has accepted a transfer to Philadelphia, PA, effective February 6, 2005.

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RETIREMENTS

Retirement of Susan J. Shaw

After 30 years of distinguished service for the U.S. Government and the last 20 years with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **Ms. Susan J. Shaw** is retiring on March 31, 2005.

Retirement for Susan does not mean rest and relaxation! With three daughters, 5 grandchildren, and a new home in the mountains of Ellijay, Susan will remain very active. She also plans on remaining active in the public health arena and with church and community activities.

Susan began her prominent career with the Federal Government during the Vietnam War with the Selective Service System. From the start of her career, Susan never walked away from difficult and challenging tasks. She brought compassion and caring to a position that was the focal point during a very difficult period in U.S. history. From Selective Services, Susan worked for Social Security Administration, DOD, U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Department of Interior, and the U.S. Geological Survey before coming to CDC. She has left a positive mark on a wide range of priority programs through her leadership, skilled management, commitment to the mission, effective mentoring and her caring interaction with people. During her service in NCID, Susan has worked in the Office of Director, Laboratory Services Branch (formerly CPS), STD/HIV, Office of International Activities, HRMO, Commissioned Corps Section, PHPPO, and her current position in the NCID/OD/Office of Informatics.

Though Susan's career, she has received CDC's and the government's highest awards. She has left a legacy of commitment, leadership, and respect and fair treatment for all people she encounters.

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EAP Director, **Ms. Judy Ryland**, will be retiring on April 1, 2005. Judy began work as an EAP counselor with the CDC Occupational Health and Prevention Services contract in October 1986. She became the EAP Director in 1995. Under Judy's leadership the Employee Assistance Program at the CDC has become an HHS model for innovative and responsive services. The integration of the EAP into CDC's overall corporate culture has resulted in continuous utilization rates that have been more than double of those of other HHS agencies. As a recognized leader in the provision of EAP services, Judy was invited in 2002 to serve as a member of the HHS Steering Committee on the integration of EAP/WorkLife Programs.

A number of projects where Judy played a leadership role have resulted in HHS models for EAP services. One example of this was the development of CDC's Workplace Violence Prevention Policy, and its related Crisis Management Team which integrated the EAP counselors with CDC's management structure to handle potentially dangerous situations occurring at the workplace.

As CDC and the nation made significant changes in its global orientation over the past decade, the EAP services provided critical support to sustaining the mental health of CDC workers. Examples of this have included conducting Military Support Groups at the worksite for family members of those serving in the military during and after Desert Storm and Iraq wars; Critical Incident Stress Management to assist CDC employees deployed to such traumatic events as Civil War in Rwanda, the World Trade Center and Pentagon after 9/11, SARS and the Anthrax investigations; ongoing emergency preparedness activities such as participation on CDC's Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) and the Metro Atlanta Bioterrorism Mental Health Response Group; and assisting CDC management and employees with Change Management during the HHS A-76 Competitive Sourcing Bidding Process.

Judy's leadership of the EAP stood out because she demonstrated the ability to initiate and ensure the successful implementation of projects such as those mentioned above against a backdrop of sustained "traditional" EAP counseling services. Judy leaves behind a strong and vibrant Employees Assistance Program, positioned to assist CDC management and employees with all future challenges

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After nearly 35 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the U.S. Government which involved many good times and lots of laughter, **Jim Roppo** is retiring from CoCHIS, National Center for Health Marketing, Office of Health Communications (OD) formerly part of PHPPO on April 1, 2005.

Jim and his wife, Diane, have made many friends from all over the world during his varied career. As testament to his outstanding character, he remains in touch with many. Jim, who is very active in the Federal Manager's Association, will continue to serve as President after retirement. Retirement will also allow Jim to become a more formidable foe on the tennis court as well as to spend more time with family and friends. We will all miss his wisdom, warmth, and sense of humor he brought to the workplace; it just won't be the same without him.

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**CAPT Donald D. Dollberg** is retiring from NIOSH (Cincinnati) on March 31, 2005 after 30 years of Federal service.

CAPT Dollberg started with NIOSH in 1975 and during his years at NIOSH, he contributed greatly to the Institute's success in the areas of sampling and analytical method development, state-of-the-art data handling systems, high quality analytical chemistry service to the Institute, and research partnerships. His research in silica analysis helped to improve exposure measurements to silica and also to clarify silica exposures resulting from the 1980 Mt. St. Helens volcanic eruption. He was also responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a laboratory information system to track requests for analytical chemistry service from all of NIOSH. For over 18 years, he has managed a productive chemical research section/team that has contributed several hundred new or revised methods to the NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods. Over the past 5 years he has established a partnership with a local university that has provided summer and intermittent employment opportunities for chemistry majors while introducing them to aspects of occupational health.

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Donna L. Orti, MS, MPH is retiring after 35 years of Federal service on Friday, April 1, 2005.

Ms. Orti joined CDC in 1978 as a Medical Technologist in the Clinical Chemistry Division. She completed her Masters Degree in Chemistry at Georgia State University and earned the Master of Public Health Degree in 2000 from the University of South Florida. In 1989 she joined ATSDR and became Chief of the Health Education Branch, Division of Health Education and Promotion (DHEP) from 1991-2001. She is currently working in DHEP as a Senior Health Education Specialist.

During her 35 years at CDC/ATSDR, she served as co-facilitator for the Leadership Education and Develop (LEAD) training, co-chair for the Public Health Education and Promotion Network (PHEP-Net), and Vice-President of membership for the CDC/ATSDR Noontime Toastmasters.

Ms. Orti says that her career in public health has been both exciting and rewarding because of the wonderful, dedicated and talented people she's worked with, and assignments that have been unique and challenging. After retirement she plans to move to Florida with her husband, spend more time with her family, work her way through a tall stack of books needing to be read, pursue her interests in painting, ceramics,

sculpture, and photography, and write, teach and travel. Her dream is to one day walk the length of the Appalachian Trail and document it in script and drawings.

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After 27 years of service, **Dave Culver** retired from the Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH), National Center for Infectious Diseases on April 1st. As Chief of the Statistics and Information Systems Branch in the Hospital Infections Program (now the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion) for the first 20 years and as Senior Statistician in DVH the last 7 years, Dave's teaching skills helped many people in learning the principles and methods of statistical inference and he worked on scores of important projects. Among them were the multimillion dollar, multi-year SENIC Project (Study on the Efficacy of Nosocomial Infection Control), the development of the NNIS (National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance) system, the Hepatitis C targeted look back study of transfusion recipients, and GAP-sponsored HIV projects in Uganda. He also helped bring to CDC many talented statisticians and computer scientists.

In addition to enjoying the usual retirement activities - traveling with his wife Jeanne, enjoying his family, playing golf, and counting cards - Dave will be spending a lot of his time as an independent financial advisor, pursuing a second career that began on the side some 15 years ago when he discovered that his statistical skills were very useful in helping people to solve financial planning problems.

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CDC Leadership Profile: Reggie Mebane CDC CONNECTS- March 29, 2005

As part of our series of leadership profiles, we continue with a profile of Reggie Mebane, MS, Chief Management Officer, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases.

Name: **Reginald R. Mebane, MS**

Title: Chief Management Officer, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (February 2005)

Responsibilities: Direct authority for business operations (including human capital, information technology, grants, facilities, administrative services, etc.) for the Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (CoCID). He is one of seven Chief Management Officers (CMOs) who report directly to Bill Gimson, CDC's Chief Operating Officer.

First job at CDC: Current position

Path to public health: "My path to CDC started with my path at FedEx. I started working for FedEx in 1981 when I took a part-time position as a handler where I unloaded trucks, loaded planes, etc., while working toward my bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Memphis.

"While I worked at night at FedEx, I worked as a psychiatric case manager and psychotherapist in Memphis, during the de-institutionalization of the mentally ill. That was my first tie to public service, and I did that for about six years. That work taught me very valuable life lessons in leadership and humanity—that stereotypes are not accurate and that perseverance is the most crucial life leadership skill of all. As a result of this experience, I later became Chairman of the Memphis Health, Education & Housing

Finance Board. The restructuring of this board under my chairmanship is my legacy to Memphis in making housing affordable to people of moderate income means.

“Over the years, I was promoted at FedEx—to manager, then senior manager and eventually, as part of the FedEx Leadership Institute, teaching leadership and management practices to FedEx employees from all parts of the company around the world. I also was the corporate lead for diversity training from 1995 to 1997. In 1997, I was promoted to Director of International Operations, where I was responsible for overseeing shipments to and from more than 200 countries.

“In 2001, I moved to Buffalo, New York, to become the Chief Operating Officer for a company that FedEx acquired—one with \$2 billion in revenue yearly. My job was to manage the massive changes, create best business practices and facilitate the merger and integration of over 1,000 new employees.

“About three years into this assignment, FedEx went through a major reorganization and restructuring. Just for perspective, the company has over five different operating companies and over 150,000 employees worldwide with over \$27 billion in revenues. Each company operated independently, but competed collectively. I like to think that there are immense parallels to the change we’re experiencing now at CDC.

“After this reorganization, FedEx offered senior executives the opportunity to take an early severance package or early retirement. It was the opportunity of a lifetime for me to have a whole new management career and the freedom to choose a career path based on my personal passion to serve others.

“It was CDC’s mission that attracted me here. CDC is an icon name brand just like FedEx or Wal-Mart. You could not be doing more important work in life than what the great people of this organization are doing now—saving lives and improving health.

“One other career area that I’d like to mention is teaching. While I worked the night shift at FedEx, I also was on the adjunct faculty of the University of Memphis. Last year I also taught at the University of Buffalo in the MBA program.”

Last book(s) read: His Excellency: George Washington by Joseph J. Ellis. “I really love old detective stories that took place in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. My favorite author of all time is Ross MacDonal (that was his pen name; his real name is Kenneth Millar). I am also reading a series of biographies—Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton.”

Family: Married 18 years to his wife, LaRhonda, who has a background in finance. They have twin daughters, Lindsey and Mallory, age 17, who have aspirations to study law and medicine, respectively. They both have black belts in karate.

“In my free time, I enjoy exercising, writing and old movies—Turner Classic Movies, especially film-noir. I collect CDs and DVDs of old-time radio shows—like the Lone Ranger, The Mercury Theater, Orson Wells and gum-shoe detective stories.

“By the way—FedEx was featured in the movie “Castaway.” I was actually in the movie. At the end of the movie when the Tom Hanks character is being welcomed back to

FedEx at a banquet, they wanted real FedEx executives. The 10 seconds you see me on the screen took two days to shoot!”

What are the top priorities you are working on? “Over the next 30-60 days, the big challenge for me is to get a handle on organizational performance and build a good business plan that will enhance all three centers (NIP, NCHSTP, NCID).” Meanwhile, a top priority “is getting the Coordinating Center up and running from a staffing perspective. We would like to have the Coordinating Center fully staffed by September.

“The next immediate priority is improving communications with all the divisions and branches. That means we get our website updated, make sure there is information coming out consistently from myself and Mitch [Cohen, Director, CCID] so that people will know where we are in our efforts related to the Futures Initiative. More importantly, we must build in mechanisms for effective feedback and consistent leadership visibility and accessibility. This means face-to-face meetings in groups and in one-on-one sessions within and outside our own coordinating centers. In my most recent meetings with staff and people throughout the organizations, one point that keeps coming up is that it is important for us to clarify how the new organizational structure will add value. The second thing is to really be clear on goals and roles within the centers.

“I also plan to continue to fully share best practices with my fellow CMOs and to utilize the Management Council and Executive Leadership board as platforms for strategy and positive change related to the Futures Initiative.”

Mebane also plans to focus on leadership. Citing *The Leadership Challenge* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, he said “Good leaders inspire the heart—I think this is the soft side of the leadership challenge we need to work on. It doesn’t matter if you are a technology person or a scientist, behind it all we are still people, and people still want to feel connected to the organization and connected to the leadership. That’s why we have to make a concerted effort to be more visible and accessible. The other thing we have to do is enable people to act—we should create a culture where people act responsibly and freely. We should also reward and provide incentives for people who embody those values.

“On the service side of the business, we have to look at how we can run the business better. As a team, we must collaborate to figure out how best to consolidate services, create efficiencies and run the business better while simultaneously doing the right thing by our people. Establishing best business practices and creating efficiencies are at the top of the list on the service side.

“As for my top finance priorities, I am focused on executing the current budget and planning for the next year. I think that we can both meet our public health mission and save money in some areas. In order to be able to do that, we need to engage people in the process to look hard and deep at what we are doing and finding more creative ways to do business better.

“To summarize, my focus right now at CDC is on being the best leader and doing the best job that I can. I want employees to know my sincere commitment to the organization and to the people. They won’t find anyone who will work harder or longer or be more sincere in trying to do the right thing for the organization and its people. It’s the way I’ve always managed and to me, it’s not just a job, it’s a way of life.

“Longer term, I hope to be a part of this organization for many years. I’m very proud to be a part of the CDC mission. My motto is no egos, no silos; one team, one mission.”

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SHARE: Services to Help All Regular Employees

SHARE has partnered with the Fort McPherson Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Program to offer our members discounted tickets to the following:

- **Georgia Force Football** – tickets are \$27 each for seats located in the 200 level on the sidelines
- **Atlanta Hawks** – tickets for sections 108-111, 119-122, and front sections of 208-215 are \$34 each (normally \$55). Tickets for sections 307-314 are \$14 each (normally \$35)
- **Atlanta Braves** – tickets are \$28 each for terrace level seats
- **Callaway Gardens** – tickets are \$12.50 for adult tickets and \$7.25 for children’s (3-11) tickets
- **Stone Mountain** - Adult tickets are \$19.50 and children’s (3-11) tickets are \$16.50

Discounted tickets and passes are available to SHARE members for the following:

- **Wild Adventures in Valdosta, GA**
- **Wild Animal Safari in Pine Mountain, GA**
- **Zoo Atlanta**
- **Disney World**
- **Dixie Stampede**
- **Kennedy Space Center**
- **Sea World**
- **Universal Studios**
- **Tennessee Aquarium & IMAX**

For more information or to order tickets, please contact Charles Buxton.

Georgia Renaissance Festival Weekends this Spring!

Location: Fairburn GA - Tickets \$13.50 adults, \$6 Youth - On Sale at SHARE stores

Saturday, April 16, 2005

From: 10:30 AM To: 06:00 PM

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#renaissance>

(For details about this event)

The Annual SHARE CDC/ATSDR Tennis Tournament

Location: DeKalb Tennis Center - Deadline April 29th

Friday, May 06, 2005

From: 01:00 PM To: 05:00 PM

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#tennis>

(For details about this event)

SHARE CDC/ATSDR Volleyball League - Spring/Summer 2005

Location: Chamblee Vb Courts Contact Raj to join

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

From: 05:30 PM To: 08:30 PM

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#volleyball>

(For details about this event)

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall @ Woodruff Arts Center - \$12 Tickets

Thursday – Saturday, May 5-7, 2005

08:00 PM To: 10:30 PM

For more information on this event contact Tony McDonald or visit our website:

<http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#aso>

Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular - first come first serve

Location: Fox Theatre - Tickets \$50 - see link for more info –

Friday, November 25, 2005

From: 05:00 PM To: 07:00 PM

Email Tony reservations

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#rockettes>

(For details about this event)

CDC/SHARE Nights at Chastain Park this Summer

Email Tony to reserve - 15% off and no extra charges

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

From: 07:30 PM To: 11:00 PM

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#chastain>

(For details about this event)

CDC/SHARE offers Broadway production of Disney's on the Record

Location: Fox Theatre - Tickets \$44 - click link below for more info-

Email Tony for reservations

Sunday, May 22, 2005

From: 02:00 PM To: 04:30 PM

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#disney>

(For details about this event)

CDC/ATSDR Wednesday Spring/Summer Golf League

Location: Fort McPherson - Click link for more information - Contact Mick to sign up

Friday, April 29, 2005

From: 04:00 PM To: 08:00 PM

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#golf>

(For details about this event)