

AUGUST 2022

LABOR N.C.

For all NCDOL Employees

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

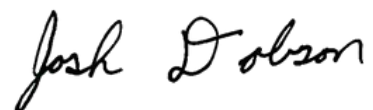
In last month's column, I wrote about the proposed state budget conference report, and its impact on state employees and our department. Since that time, I am happy to report that the General Assembly adopted the revised budget with strong bipartisan support and Gov. Cooper signed the legislation into law on July 11. The budget included a salary increase of 3.5% for most state employees, effective July 1. This increase is reflected in our July 29 paychecks. All of you come to work each day, responsible for important, significant tasks that effect almost every person in North Carolina. I cannot thank you enough for your service to the department and to the state, and for accepting the challenge of public service. I will continue to advocate for additional benefits that reflect and recognize your valuable commitment.

Last year's fair season allowed my first real sense of "normalcy" since the pandemic began in March 2020. It's hard to believe that it's time for another fair season, but August kicks off this annual tradition whether we are ready for it or not! The first local fair on my calendar is the Drexel Community Fair, opening on Aug. 22. I look forward to attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony and have plans to visit additional fairs in the coming months. Please join me in thanking our hard-working Elevator and Amusement Device inspectors who ensure the safety of the riding public.

Another annual tradition, the NCDOL Silent Auction, is also coming in August. This is the time to start looking through your closets and junk rooms at home, finding items that are no longer useful to you but could be very appealing to your colleagues! In the past, the auction has featured jewelry, books, electronics, homemade jams and desserts, apparel and more. Be on the lookout for more information soon.

To conclude my message, I'd like to take a moment of personal privilege to recognize Art Britt who served this department with honor and integrity for over 21 years. Art has worked with most of you over the years, first serving as Director of Administration, then adding on Governmental Affairs, and finally – since 2013 – as Chief of Staff. Please join me in wishing Art a fond, but bittersweet, farewell as he retires on July 31 with more than 30 years of creditable state service.

We welcome Scott Mabry as our new Chief of Staff on Aug. 1.



Josh Dobson

EMPLOYEE NEWS

NEW HIRES

- Frank Menola, Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, elevator inspector, Charlotte
- Arnulfo Musgrove, Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, elevator inspector, Brunswick County
- Bryan Hoilman, Mine and Quarry, mine safety and health consultant, Alleghany County
- Ricky Boggs, Mine and Quarry, mine safety and health consultant, Raleigh
- Carli Alborn, Wage and Hour, administrative specialist II, Raleigh
- Kyle Pflager, Wage and Hour, wage and hour investigator I, Charlotte
- Jennifer Hartle, OSH West, OSHA safety officer I, Charlotte
- Jennifer Sitzmann, OSH East, OSHA safety officer I, Raleigh
- Gail Barry, Wage and Hour, wage and hour investigator I, Raleigh
- Gabriel Pelly, Wage and Hour, wage and hour investigator I, Charlotte

PROMOTIONS

- Kenneth Darnley, Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, elevator inspection supervisor, Asheboro

SEPARATIONS

- Isabel Espinosa, Wage and Hour, administrative specialist II, Raleigh
- Yulanda Morgan, Wage and Hour, administrative specialist II, Raleigh
- Tina Sattler, Financial Services, accounting technician I, Raleigh
- Jesika Freeman, OSH PSIM, administrative specialist I, Raleigh
- Monique Williams, OSH West, administrative associate II, Charlotte

August Birthdays!

1 Andrew Ellis

4 Greg Davis

4 Beth Rodman

5 Adriana Jordan

6 Jimmy Snuffer

6 Anne Weaver

10 Julie Martin

11 Michael Hayward

11 Courtney Phillips

13 Tena Clark

13 Taneka Sanders

14 Yure Dixon

14 Ric Schumann

15 Kay Knezevich

15 Todd Waller

19 Jeff Cole

20 Marcy Collyer

20 Rob Maedje

20 John Rosser

20 Kevin Wood

21 Britne Becker

21 Christopher Oberst

23 Jennifer Sitzmann

27 Jennie Cagle

27 Kelli Fisk

27 Tammy Higgins

27 Dennis James

27 Meredith Watson

29 Tim Hogan

29 John Luckado

30 Celeste Hardy

30 Veronica Whitley

31 Gail Barry

Last Call with Art Britt

Most of you know, or at least know of, our Chief of Staff, Art Britt. After more than 21 years of service to the N.C. Department of Labor (NCDOL), and more than 30 years of creditable state service, Art is hanging up his Labor hard hat on July 31.

Art was born and raised in McDonald, North Carolina, a town numbering fewer than 100 residents on any given day. The town of McDonald is in Robeson County, near the border with South Carolina (on the good side!). Art's mother still lives in Robeson County and Art's three sisters, Maria, Lee and Lisa live in North Carolina. Art graduated from Fairmont High School and Campbell University before eventually moving to Raleigh to begin an exciting and dynamic career in state politics and government.

Art's first job in state government landed him in the Office of Gov. Jim Martin where he served in several capacities. He then moved on to the Department of Commerce, where he served four years as legislative liaison. Former Commissioner Cherie Berry hired Art as NCDOL's Director of Administration on Jan. 22, 2001, and then added the responsibility of Governmental Affairs two years later. In January 2013, Art was appointed Chief of Staff and has remained in that role since then. He graciously agreed to share a few parting thoughts for this month's employee newsletter.

What has been your favorite part about working at NCDOL?

Without question, my favorite part about this job is the people. Commissioners Berry and Dobson both set an incredibly high bar for department leadership, ensuring that we achieve our mission with integrity. It's been a great honor to work with colleagues who are dedicated to the job and are committed to public service. More than anything else, I will miss seeing my colleagues on a daily basis.

What has been your greatest challenge while working for the department?

Our biggest challenge, especially in the past decade, has been ensuring that our programs are adequately funded. Half of our budget is derived from state appropriations, while another large percentage is funded by federal grants. Our core mission is to ensure the health and safety of North Carolinians, and, over the years, we've struggled to do more with less. However, our legislative team has done a great job over the past two sessions to secure additional funding for the department and I believe we are headed in the right direction.

Can you share one of your favorite stories from your time here at NCDOL?

The 9/11 attacks happened just nine months into my time at Labor. As that day progressed, no one knew what was going on or what was going to happen next. Despite our fear and uncertainty, we felt a collective sense of patriotism and love for our country. Sometime during that afternoon, former Commissioner Berry asked me to make sure the American flag was flying at the Labor Building. Unbeknownst to me, the Labor Building did not actually have a flagpole installed at the time. While we waited for a permanent flagpole, our Publications Bureau printed and posted an American flag in every single window of the Labor Building. Within hours, we were fielding calls from neighboring buildings, asking for our Publications Bureau to print American flags for their buildings. It was an incredible show of love for our country.

Any parting words of wisdom for your colleagues?

Take pride in your work. No matter your role at NCDOL, the work that you perform each day is important to someone. Almost every North Carolinian is touched in some way by the mission of NCDOL, so try not to lose sight of the significance of your efforts.

Best wishes Art – your wisdom, experience and sense of humor will be deeply missed!

Art Britt Over the Years





HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Your MYgroup EAP

By Angela Hamilton, Human Resources

Your EAP administered by MYgroup is available to all NCDOL employees. This service is free and confidential. It is available 24 hours a day and can help in all areas of life. It includes up to three free counseling sessions as well as referrals for specialized services.

Just call or log on to get started.

TOLL-FREE: 888-298-3907

WEBSITE: www.mygroup.com>My Portal Login>Work-Life

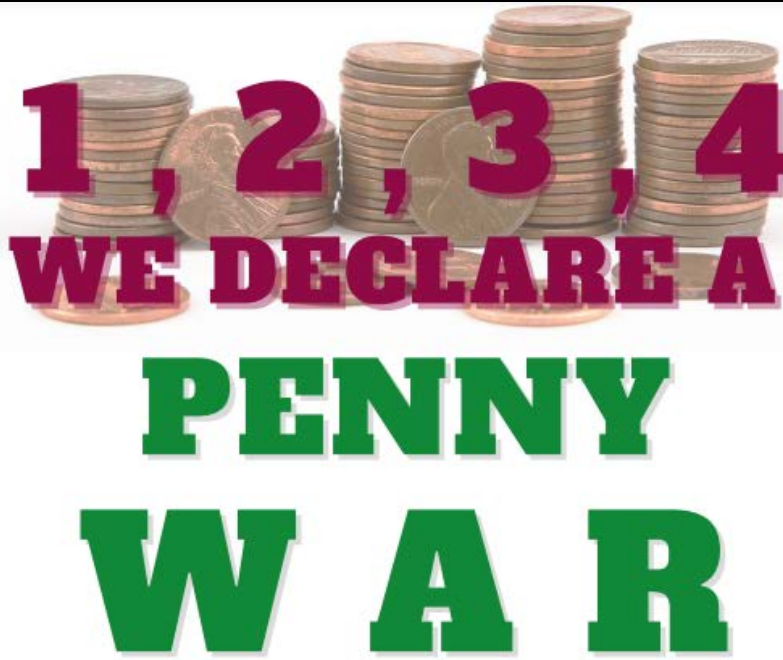
USERNAME: nclabor

PASSWORD: guest



Congratulations to the NCDOL Miles for Wellness team, also known as Pumped Up Kicks, on successfully placing first in their division! From left to right: Front row - Britne Becker, Beth Henley and Erin Wilson. Back row - Fleda Anderson, Todd McNoldy, Jennifer Haigwood, Jill Cramer and Robert Oلمان. Those not pictured are: Jennifer Busick and Beth Benson.

Employee Recognition Banquet Fundraiser



Monday, August 1st thru Monday, November 1st

Inside NC Labor



Be sure to check out NCDOL's *Inside NC Labor*, a podcast designed to inform and educate North Carolina citizens on the role that the Department of Labor plays in state government.

Episode 52 features Karen Miller, one of the family owners of Denton Farmpark and Greg Davis, one of NCDOL's Boiler Safety Bureau supervisors onsite at the SouthEast Old Threshers Reunion in Denton, NC. Miller discussed the origins of Denton Farmpark and the purpose behind the SouthEast Old Threshers Reunion, and Davis discussed the role that NCDOL's Boiler Safety Bureau has at the event.

Episode 53 features Beth Rodman, Bureau Chief, Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau; Grant Quiller, Occupational Safety and Health Division; and Roberto Rosales, NCSU Cooperative Extension, as they discuss heat stress hazards and solutions in agriculture.

Episode 54 features Art Britt, Chief of Staff, as he discusses his career and time at the N.C. Department of Labor.

Inside NC Labor is now available on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Anchor and Google Podcasts.

What's New @Your Library

Online Resources

- **Fall Prevention: Best Practices For The Three Main Types of Hazards.** Recorded webinar posted on NSC's Safety + Health YouTube channel.
- **...Heat-Related Illness on Mining Sites.** USDOL blog post.
- **Impact of COVID-19 on the Construction Industry: 2 Years in Review.** CPWR Data Bulletin.
- **Mental Health and the FMLA.** USDOL-WHD webpage.
- **Monkeypox: Information for Healthcare Professionals.** CDC webpage.
- **NIH News in Health.** July 2022 issue.
- **Occupational Exposures in Construction.** CPWR Data Dashboard.
- **Prevent Heat-related Illness.** Article in NSC's Safety + Health Magazine.
- **Safety + Health.** July 2022 issue.
- **Tool Energy Rating.** CIMA publication.
- **Trench Collapses Can Be Deadly.** OSHA Alert.
- **Working in Heat.** NIOSH Newsroom webpage.

Books

- *Guide to Hand Tools.* HTI 203-2007. Hand Tools Institute, 2007.
- *Pallets, Slip Sheets and Other Bases for Unit Loads.* MHI-2016. MHI, 2016.

Periodical Issue

- *Safety + Health.* July 2022 issue. National Safety Council, 2021. Donated by Wanda Lagoe, OSH-ETTA.



@nclabor



@nc_labor



@NCDOL



NCDOL



Inside NC Labor

