



FEBRUARY 2022

LABOR N.C.

For all NCDOL Employees

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

January 2 marked one year on the job for me as Labor Commissioner. While 2021 was certainly full of challenges, I assure you that I've enjoyed every moment of the job. More importantly, I value the time spent with everyone I've had the pleasure to meet and could not have navigated this past year without your experience, knowledge and guidance.


In January, I was a guest on our podcast, *Inside NC Labor*, during which I reflected on highlights from this past year and discussed my plans for 2022. I also met with our Leadership Team and shared with the group my ideas for making 2022 an even more productive year. First, I am committed to continuing and growing our culture of "yes." This means welcoming to the table groups that may not have thought they mattered or had a voice in our office. This means being creative to find solutions to problems, but also agreeing to disagree – and being honest about that. This means including all stakeholders as we try to tackle complicated, but important safety and health issues. You have risen to that challenge over the past year, and for that I am grateful.

Second, I can't stress how important it is to me to take the time to visit each of your bureaus and learn what your job looks like day to day. One year in, I understand the big picture of what we do here at Labor, but now I'm ready to learn the smaller details. Each of you, whether you're in the field, answering the phones or writing reports – you are where the rubber meets the road. Don't worry – I'm not here to micromanage. I genuinely want to meet you face to face and understand how your job helps accomplish our mission.

Normally, I'd be gearing up to attend the Gold Star Grower awards luncheon, but we made the difficult decision to cancel this event due to the recent increase in COVID numbers. Despite the cancellation, I want to thank Beth Rodman and all of our Agricultural Safety and Health Officers for their hard work ensuring that housing is safe for the thousands of migrant workers who will call North Carolina home this season. I also congratulate the many growers who qualified for Gold Star status and will receive their award in the mail.

Speaking of the ASH Bureau, Beth Rodman recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division. This MOU will allow our staff to work more effectively with USDOL's WHD staff by collaborating on training and education for growers and migrant workers.

Stay warm and safe and have a great February!



Josh Dobson

EMPLOYEE NEWS

- It is with great sorrow that we announce that Ron Rankin, Elevator Inspector with the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, passed away unexpectedly over the Christmas holidays. His funeral was held on Jan. 3, 2022 at Long and Son Mortuary Service in Charlotte, NC. Ron worked with the department for over three years. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

NEW HIRES

- Kevin Wood, Elevator and Amusement Device, elevator inspector, Charlotte
- John Mallow, Communications, public information officer, Raleigh

PROMOTIONS

- Elizabeth Henley, Financial Services, accounts receivable manager, Raleigh
- Katie Perry, OSH East, health compliance officer trainee, Raleigh
- Williams Scott Justice, OSH East, health compliance officer II, Raleigh

SEPARATIONS

- Carl Burton, Mine and Quarry, mine safety and health representative, Kings Mountain
- Misha Griffis, OSH East, OSHA industrial hygienist I, Wilmington
- Keyana Kimbrough, Financial Services, accounts receivable manager, Raleigh
- Mayra Colon, Wage and Hour, wage and hour investigator, Raleigh
- Kevin Cosgrove, OSH West, OSHA industrial hygienist I, Charlotte



February Birthdays!

3 Joseph Davis
3 Dan Draper
3 Norma Velasco
4 Kevin O'Barr
6 Mark Hutchens
9 Russell DeShield
10 Jill Cramer
10 Kaye Thibodeaux
11 Angela Hamilton
11 Mark Taylor

12 Erick Aydelette
14 Wesley Herron
15 Deborah Samad
15 Jackie Tanner
16 Rose Gray-Shindler
16 Peggy Reme
17 Sarah Burns
17 Steven Burris
17 Glen Jenkins
17 James Washington

18 Jordan Atamaniuk
19 Clarence Joye
22 Steve Able
22 Fleda Anderson
24 Paul Martin
24 Abigael Newton
24 Eric Smith
25 Derek Bailey
25 Kevin McGuire



HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Your EAP administered by MYgroup is available to all DOL 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



On behalf of Commissioner Dobson, Kevin O'Barr and Mark Luniewski presented a certificate of appreciation to Robbie Zimmerman in recognition of his service and in honor of his retirement. Mr. Zimmerman has worked for NCDOL since January 2005. He spent 10 years in compliance, seven years in consultative services and was Employee of the Year in 2011. His retirement plans include a lists of projects at home and shopping for a beach house that will support his fishing habit and lure his four daughters and seven grandchildren to visit. While we are happy for him, we are sad to see such a dedicated employee move on to the next chapter. We all wish him, his wife and his whole family the very best.

From left to right: CSB Bureau Chief Kevin O'Barr, Safety Consultant Robbie Zimmerman and CSB Central District Supervisor Mark Luniewski.

Photo courtesy of Kirby Atwood

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 47 features Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson as he discusses his first year in office and his goals for 2022.

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



ERC SNACKS



Located in an NCDOL building near you.

Funds go to the employee recognition banquet.



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 - Beth Henley, Britne Becker and Erin Wilson. Back row - Todd McNoldy, Jennifer Haigwood and Robert Olman. Those not pictured are: Susan Mullins, Fleda Anderson, Jill Cramer and Jennifer Busick.

What's New @Your Library

Online Resources

- **Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary, 2020.** BLS News Release.
- **Cold Stress Guide.** OSHA Safety and Health Topic webpage.
- **Conducting a Periodic Inspection for Each Procedure in a Hazardous Energy Control (Lockout/Tagout) Program.** NIOSH Workplace Solutions publication.
- **Direct-on-filter Analysis for Respirable Crystalline Silica Using a Portable FTIR Instrument.** NIOSH publication.
- **Is it Flu, COVID-19, Allergies, or a Cold?...** Article in January 2022 issue of NIH News in Health.
- **Respiratory Protection Toolbox Talk.** CPWR-NIOSH publication.
- **Safety + Health.** January 2022 issue.
- **Simple Solutions for Dusty Environments at Metal/Nonmetal Mines.** NIOSH publication.

Books/Consensus Standards

- *Fundamentals Of Total Worker Health Approaches...* NIOSH 2017-112. NIOSH, 2017.
- *Guide for Safe Confined Space Entry and Work.* NFPA 350-2022. NFPA, 2021.
- *Installation of Sprinkler Systems.* NFPA 13-2022. NFPA, 2021.
- *Work Zone Safety for Roadway Construction.* ANSI/ASSP A10.47-2021. ASSP, 2021.

Periodical Issues

- *OH&S.* November/December 2021 issue. 1105 Media Inc.
- *Professional Safety.* December 2021 issue. American Society of Safety Professionals, 2021. Donated by Phil Hooper, Standards and Inspections.
- *Safety + Health.* December 2021 issue. National Safety Council, 2021. Donated by Wanda Lagoe, OSH-ETTA.



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