



JANUARY 2021

LABOR N.C.

For all NCDOL Employees

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Saturday, Jan. 2, Josh Dobson will take the oath of office and be sworn in as North Carolina's next labor commissioner. It gives me great pleasure to pass the baton to a man who I know will continue the great work we accomplished over the past 20 years.

Our last year together may have been marred by COVID-19, but when you look at the big picture of what we achieved during my administration, we have a lot to be proud of as an organization. The pandemic was a blow to all of us on so many levels, but one of the hardest parts for me was not being able to say goodbye to each of you the way I prefer—with a good old-fashioned hug.

It is truly hard for me to find the words to express how much I appreciate the work that each of you do for the agency and for the tax-paying citizens of North Carolina. Most North Carolinians have no idea that we touch their lives each day in some way. Whether you work quietly behind the scenes in a support role for the agency or are on the frontlines carrying out inspections, always remember that what you do each day and what we do collectively as an agency is important.

It has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as labor commissioner alongside each one of you, and while I look forward to my future as "mamaw," I shall always cherish my past and the great memories we made together at NCDOL.

May God bless all of you in 2021.



Sherie

EMPLOYEE NEWS

- Congratulations to Britne Becker, Legal Affairs, who was married to Mitchell Evans on Saturday, Dec. 5.
- Congratulations to Paul Martin, Boiler Safety, for passing the National Board exam to become an authorized inspector supervisor. He will be supervising authorized inspectors that provide inspection services to companies that manufacture, repair and alter boilers and pressure vessels.
- Congratulations to Grant Quiller, OSH West, for passing the Certified Industrial Hygienist exam.
- Congratulations to Courtney Phillips, OSH East, for passing the Certified Safety Professional exam.
- Congratulations to Gabrielle Kinney, daughter of Don Kinney, Boiler Safety, who graduated cum laude from UNC Wilmington with a bachelor's degree in marine biology. She has applied to the Virginia Institute for Marine Science, and hopes to begin her masters studies there next fall.

NEW HIRES

- Misha Griffis, OSH East, OSHA industrial hygienist, Wilmington
- Sabrina Martin, OSH East, administrative specialist, Wilmington
- Abigail Torres, Financial Services, accounting technician, Raleigh

PROMOTIONS

- Sarah Carr Barnes, Administration, executive assistant, Raleigh
- Kathy Capps, ASH, OSHA safety officer, Transylvania County
- Kevin Higham, OSH East, OSHA industrial hygienist, Raleigh
- Yolanda Morales-Bebrin, Wage and Hour, investigator, Charlotte

SEPARATIONS

- David Bullock, Publications, printing equipment operator, Raleigh
- Michelle Burks, Financial Services, accountant, Raleigh
- Veatasha Dorsey, OSH East, industrial hygienist, Raleigh
- Ramon Fernandez, Wage and Hour, investigator, Charlotte
- Elizabeth Flores, Wage and Hour, administrative specialist, Raleigh
- Sandra Hamm, Administration, executive assistant, Raleigh
- Wanda Smitherman, Administration, executive assistant, Raleigh

RETIREMENT

- Patrick O'Brien, Consultative Services, OSHA safety and health supervisor, Winston-Salem



Kris S. Cringle, North Pole Division, poses for a photo in his Christmas gear. This rare sighting was photographed and submitted by Tommy Petty, Elevator and Amusement Device. 😊

January Birthdays!

2 Gregory Greene

6 Elnora Fields

7 Kirby Atwood

12 Amanda Carroll

12 Gerald Miller

14 Danny Mattfield

15 Brandon Carter

15 Carlene Harris

16 Denise Ball

16 Jermaine Dennis

16 Kevin Higham

17 Amber Hartis

18 Jerry Midyette

21 Paul Sullivan

22 Anitra Nalls

23 Crystal Moss

23 Dawn Sears

23 Don Chapman

24 Melissa Bowman

25 Dee Bryant

25 Karissa Sluss

26 Lori Burns

26 George Calvery

31 Michelle Schmitt

31 Francisco Rodriguez

2020 SERVICE AWARDS

Employee of the Year – Dawn Reynolds, OSH West

Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Service, Administration – Beth Henley, Financial Services

Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Service, OSH – Beth Rodman, ASH

Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Service, OSH – *to be presented.*

Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Service, Standards and Inspections – Jackie Tanner, Elevator and Amusement Device

Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Service, Standards and Inspections – *to be presented.*

Five Years

Neal Godwin, Elevator and Amusement Device
Joey Hazelrigg, Elevator and Amusement Device
Julie Martin, ETTA
Jermaine Dennis, ETTA
James Washington, ETTA
Beth Henley, Financial Services
Shannon Utley, Information Technology
Beau Thomas, Mine and Quarry
Veatasha Dorsey, OSH East
Doreen Makaya, OSH East
Mike Saye, OSH West
James Dempsey, OSH West
Leaton Jones, OSH Administration
Taneka Sanders, Research and Policy

10 Years

Richard Parker, Boiler Safety
Andy Sterlen, ETTA
Ed Hardy, ETTA
Carla Rose, Legal Affairs
Kirby Atwood, OSH West
Tom Hardesty, OSH West

15 Years

John Kirkland, Boiler Safety
Jennifer Haigwood, Commissioner's Office
Robbie Zimmerman, Consultative Services
Terry Carroll, Elevator and Amusement Device
Beverly Lott, Elevator and Amusement Device
Eursula Joyner, ETTA
Brian Harper, Financial Services
Stacey Thompson, Human Resources
Britne Becker, Legal Affairs
Christopher Moore, OSH East
Paulette Geddes, Research and Policy
John Luckado, Research and Policy
Angela Leon, Wage and Hour

20 Years

Kathy Capps, ASH
Junior Coley, Boiler Safety
Allison Jay, Boiler Safety
Janie Judd, Boiler Safety
Sam Kirkman, Boiler Safety
Jimmy Snuffer, Boiler Safety
Dee Bryant, ETTA
Margaret Harris, Financial Services
Ric Schumann, OSH East
Curt Davis, OSH East
LaKisha Cameron, Wage and Hour
Shannon Council, Wage and Hour
Elnora Fields, Wage and Hour

25 Years

Jo Ann Bell, Boiler Safety
Mark Hutchens, Boiler Safety
Dean Johnson, Boiler Safety
Terry Putek, Boiler Safety
J.J. Bulluck, Commissioner's Office
Rod Wilce, Consultative Services
Denise Ball, Financial Services
Doris Kester, Human Resources
Donell Sanders, Information Technology
Mary Perkinson, OSH West
Nancy Hall, OSH West
Phil Hooper, Standards and Inspections

30 Years

Danny Harrell, Boiler Safety
Wanda Smitherman, Commissioner's Office
Eric Smith, Consultative Services
Renathe Cotton, Human Resources

35 Years

Lafayette Atkinson, OSH East



HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Happy New Year!

By Betty Coles, Human Resources

Hopefully 2021 will be a much better year for everyone!

This is the time to wrap up any “unfinished business” from 2020:

- Need any help with elder care or child care issues?
- Anyone in your family need to speak with a counselor?
- Have a legal issue?
- Need to establish a budget for this year?

Remember, EAP is here for you and your family. It is confidential and it offers all types of help.

We have:

- Three free counseling sessions for you or a family member (even children in college).
- One free legal consult (per issue) with a local attorney (anything other than a work issue).
- One free consult with a financial advisor.

WHATEVER YOU NEED, EAP IS THERE TO HELP.

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

Available any time, any day, your N.C. Employee Assistance Program is a free, confidential benefit to help you balance your work, family and personal life.

Reminder

By Stacy Thompson, Human Resources

Please check your December pay statement in Beacon to make sure your State Health Plan 2021 premium is correct and that you received the tobacco attestation premium credit, if applicable. Premium rates may be found by **clicking here**.

N.C. Flex 2021 premiums will be deducted from your January paycheck.

If your State Health Plan premium is incorrect, please **email Stacey Thompson**, Administration and Standards and Inspections employees, or **Beth Benson**, OSH employees, to let them know. Please attach a copy of the confirmation statement you received after completing open enrollment.



LEGAL AFFAIRS REMINDERS



By Jill Cramer, General Counsel

- Effective Dec. 18, Legal Affairs will be relocated to the first floor of the Labor Building where Communications was previously housed. No phone numbers will change.

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.

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

Podcasts are recorded over the phone as of March 31, 2020, in accordance with social distancing protocol.



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Inside NC Labor



Follow Us!

What's New @ Your Library

Online Resources

- **29 CFR Labor.** 2020. GovInfo.gov.
- **Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic.** BLS webpage.
- **CPWR COVID-19 Exposure Control Planning Tool.** CPWR webpage.
- **Dust Hazard Learning Review.** Dynamic Inquiry LLC. Prepared for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.
- **Filtering Facepiece Respirators With An Exhalation Valve: Measurements Of Filtration Efficiency....** NIOSH Technical Report.
- **How to Assess Your HVAC System to Combat SARS-CoV-2 Transmission.** Triumvirate Environmental blog post.
- **Lessons Learned: Frequently Cited Standards Related to COVID-19 Inspections.** OSHA document.
- **Safety + Health.** November 2020 issue.
- **Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning While Working with Portable Generators.** OSHA alert.
- **Protect Workers This Winter.** USDOL blog post.
- **Safety + Health.** December 2020 issue.
- **Whistleblower Protection for Pipeline Facility Workers.** OSHA fact sheet.
- **Working from Home: How to Optimize Your Work Environment and Stay Healthy.** NIOSH Science Blog post.

New Books and Standards

- *Electrical Safety in the Workplace.* NFPA 70E-2021. NFPA, 2020.
- *Life Safety Code.* NFPA 101-2021. NFPA, 2020.
- *Safe Use of Mobile Elevating Platforms....* ANSI/SAIA A92.22-2020. SAIA, 2020.

New Periodical Issues

- *Bulletin.* Fall 2020 issue. National Board and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, 2020.
- *Professional Safety.* November 2020 issue. American Society of Safety Professionals, 2020. *Donated by Phil Hooper, Standards and Inspections.*
- *Safety + Health.* November-December 2020 issue. National Safety Council, 2020. *Donated by Wanda Lagoe, ETTA.*