

From the Commissioner

Before we close another year, I'd like to bid one final thank you to Lee Peacock for spearheading the 2015 Toys for Tots drive. Our department—including the participation of all of our offices statewide and many toy partners in other agencies—collected nearly 1,100 toys and \$675 in monetary contributions for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive.

The generosity of our staff, our partners and our special guests never ceases to amaze me. Your support of this drive helped provide Christmas presents to hundreds of needy families throughout our state.

In addition to Lee, there are so many behind the scenes that help make the event happen. I'd like to give special thanks to the following individuals who served as building coordinators for the toy drive: *Asheville*: Tena Clark; *Winston-Salem*: Mary Perkinson; *Wilmington*: Howard Laurie; *Lake Boone Trail*: Curt Davis and Angela Woods; *Old Revenue Building*: Dee Bryant; *Labor Building*: John Luckado; and our partners: Jill Cramer, Lucy Lee and Victoria Voight, *Department of Justice*; Michael Fetting, *State Auditor's Office*; Lisa Frazier and Jarrod Lowery, *Governor's Office*; and Danielle Albert, *Lieutenant Governor's Office*.

We have a short video highlighting the toys and open house on our YouTube channel. Please view it [*here*](#).

I am looking forward to another great year working together. Happy New Year to each of you!

Cherie

Employee News

- * The Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau held its annual inspector's meeting the entire week of Nov. 30 at the Embassy Suites, Crabtree, in Raleigh. At this meeting, the award of "Inspector of the Year" was given to Stephen Green for outstanding performance, dedication and professionalism. Stephen is based out of Greenville.
- * Oscar A. Keller Jr. has served as chairman of the OSH Review Commission for 14 years. He is retiring Dec. 31. On Dec. 16, the Review Commission held an open house during which Mr. Keller was recognized for his service. The Lee House Courtroom was renamed the "OAK Courtroom" to honor Mr. Keller (his initials are OAK). Mr. Keller also received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.



Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry presents the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau's Inspector of the Year certificate and trophy to Stephen Green.



OSH Director Allen McNeely (center) and Assistant OSH Director Kevin Beauregard (right) congratulate Oscar Keller for his upcoming retirement from the OSH Review Commission at an open house held Dec. 16.

- ❖ Our condolences to the family and friends of Russ Edmonston, who died Dec. 9. Russ was director of the Communications Division from February 1986 until January 1993.

Job Change

- ❖ John Jaskolka, from HCO I, Compliance East, to standards industrial hygienist, ETTA, Raleigh

Separations

- ❖ Norman Roland, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Charlotte
- ❖ Ron Henegar, elevator inspection supervisor, Elevator and Amusement, Western Area A
- ❖ Robert Kastenhuber, safety compliance officer II, OSH, Charlotte

Retirements

- ❖ Linda Bullock, administrative statistical assistant V, Research and IT, Raleigh
- ❖ Kathy Gilliam-Ragan, safety consultant, Consultative Services, Charlotte
- ❖ Rex Edwards, graphic artist, Publications, Raleigh
- ❖ Evelyn Zoldak, administrative officer I, Research and IT, Raleigh
- ❖ Billy Dean Lassiter, safety compliance officer II, OSH, Winston-Salem
- ❖ Steve Franklin, mine and safety health consultant, Mine and Quarry, Rocky Mount

Steve Franklin, Mine and Quarry, receives a certificate of appreciation from Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry. The bureau held a retirement luncheon for Steve at Hill's Lexington BBQ in Winston-Salem on Dec. 30.



Linda Bullock, Research and IT, receives a certificate of appreciation from Todd McNoldy. The division is planning a retirement luncheon in January for Linda.



Upcoming Birthdays

1-4 Roseanne Morgan	1-15 Brandon Carter	1-24 Robert O'Neal
1-5 Dawain Faison	1-15 Stephen Green	1-24 Karen Kelly
1-5 Corey Partridge	1-15 Carlene Harris	1-25 Dee Bryant
1-6 Elnora Fields	1-16 J.J. Bulluck	1-25 Karissa Sluss
1-7 Kirby Atwood	1-19 Kristi Bryson	1-26 Lori Burns
1-8 Carl Hunter	1-21 Paul Sullivan	1-27 Leighton Dowdle
1-12 Amanda Carroll	1-23 Dawn Beasley	1-28 Dorothy Strickland
1-13 Amy Jaeger	1-23 Donald Chapman	1-31 Joseph Taylor



Evelyn Zoldak, Research and IT, accepts the Old North State Award from Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry and Research and IT Director Tina Morris-Anderson. The Research and IT Division held a retirement party for Evelyn in the Labor Building on Dec. 17.



Rex Edwards, Publications, accepts a certificates of appreciation from the department and the Governor's Office from Publications Bureau Chief Mike Daniels, Communications Director Dolores Quesenberry, and Chief of Staff Art Britt. The bureau held a retirement party for Rex in the Labor Building on Dec. 16.



Kathleen Gilliam-Ragan receives the Cardinal Award from Consultative Services Bureau Chief Keven O'Barr. The bureau held a retirement celebration for Kathy at the Omega House in Winston-Salem on Dec. 18, with co-employees and family, including her husband, Ed, and son, Leevon McKinney Jr. In addition, Nelson Edwards, supervisor, presented Kathy a certificate of appreciation from NCDOL. There was reminiscing of all the good and funny times experienced during Kathy's 30-plus years of service.

Kathy was the second female hired as a safety compliance officer, and she had some cases that set precedence in OSHA law history for defining employer/employee relationships in application of roofing and in failure-to-abate citations, which were under her former last name.

She was the first female safety consultant in Consultative Services. Her tenure of 30-plus years in the field is the longest length of service for a woman in OSHA compliance and consultation.

North Carolina Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

BY TERRI R. HARRIS, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALIST

We seldom get through life without dealing with some sort of serious personal problems or work-related challenges. In an ideal world, we would all come to work with a clear mind and function to the best of our ability. But in the real world, we all have to deal with some difficult issues at some point. While we cannot always prevent or avoid dealing with life's challenges, we do have a valuable and little-known benefit designed to support healthy and productive employees.

That benefit is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which is designed to enhance employee and workplace effectiveness by providing help and guidance on a broad range of issues from family problems, depression and work-related stress to management consultations, wellness coaching and daily living resources.

EAP is free, confidential, and available to our employees 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, DOL employees and their family members may receive up to three free confidential counseling sessions per year from our EAP provider. Having this added level service allows an EAP counselor more time to assess the need, build trust and really give valuable information without being rushed. In some cases the issue or concern might be resolved within three sessions. If further referral is necessary, the EAP counselor will refer the employee to the appropriate specialist for further care. (There may be costs for the specialists.)

We also have unlimited free online access to the McLaughlin Young website to explore a variety of work-life topics. There is bound to be something of interest to you.

Website: ***www.mygroup.com***

Username: nclabor

Password: guest

Telephone: 1-888-298-3907 or 704-717-5295

2016 Holiday Schedule

Holiday	Observance Date	Day of Week
New Year's Day	Jan. 1	Friday
MLK Jr. Birthday	Jan. 18	Monday
Good Friday	March 25	Friday
Memorial Day	May 30	Monday
Independence Day	July 4	Monday
Labor Day	Sept. 5	Monday
Veterans Day	Nov. 11	Friday
Thanksgiving	Nov. 24 & 25	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	Dec. 23, 26 & 27	Friday, Monday & Tuesday

Confidential

Seeking assistance from EAP will have no impact on your work record and will not be noted in your personnel file. Employee contact with and participation in this program is voluntary and will be kept strictly confidential, except when required by law.

Having a valuable resource such as EAP not only demonstrates that DOL and the state of North Carolina as an employer are concerned about the well-being of employees, it also promotes happier, healthier, more informed employees. The NC EAP is a valuable service that we all have the opportunity to take advantage of. Happy 2016!

What's New @ Your Library

BY NICK VINCELLI, LIBRARIAN

Updated Safety/Health Collection Instructions, NFPA Access Instructions and Standards List

* http://10.35.133.11/etta_one_stop/listingDetails.cfm?&catid=16&subcatid=201

Access instructions and the standards list have been updated and can be accessed from the OSH One Stop Shop (Library Resources page).

New Print Titles

* *Fundamentals of Combustible Dust* (NFPA 652-2016). NFPA, 2015

* *The Lineman's and Cableman's Handbook* (12th edition). McGraw Hill, 2012.

* *NFPA Journal* (Vol. 109, No. 6). NFPA, 2015.

* *Occupational Safety Management and Engineering* (5th edition). Prentice Hall, 2001. *Donated by Dr. Richard Pearson.*

* *Transport Safety Pro: Your A to Z Guide to Running a Safe Trucking Operation*. J.J. Keller, 2003. *Donated by Dr. Richard Pearson.*

Online FYIs

- * *ISEA Protection Update* (Winter 2015)

<http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/ext/resources/files/isea-protection-update.htm#1>

- * *NIOSH eNews* (December 2015)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/enewsV13N8.html#director>

- * *NIOSH Research Rounds* (November 2015)

<http://tinyurl.com/pkv4bcu>

- * *Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away From Work in 2014*

<http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2015/nonfatal-occupational-injuries-and-illnesses-requiring-days-away-from-work-in-2014.htm>

- * *OSHA's Top 10 Most Cited Violations for Fiscal Year 2015*

<http://tinyurl.com/q2xfe6q>

- * *Occupational Research in Motor Vehicle Safety* (recorded webinar and slides)

<https://savir.wildapricot.org/Webinars/>

- * *A Robot May Not Injure a Worker: Working Safely With Robots*

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2015/11/20/working-with-robots/>

- * *Total Worker Health: What's Work Got to Do With It?*

<https://prevention.nih.gov/programs-events/pathways-to-prevention/workshops/total-worker-health>

- * *Workplace Violence Prevention* (*Safety+ Health Magazine*—January 2016 issue)

<http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/13369-workplace-violence-prevention>