

NOVEMBER 2022

# LABOR N.C.

*For all NCDOL Employees*

## FROM THE COMMISSIONER

November is upon us and it is finally beginning to feel like fall! Fair season has concluded with the N.C. State Fair ending on Oct. 23. I want to thank Tommy Petty and all of the inspection staff for their tireless work and dedication for ensuring that all rides were safe for the public to enjoy during this year's fair season.

I also want to thank the NCDOL employees, family members and friends who volunteered at our department's booth in the Kerr Scott Building. Our volunteers are vital to educating fairgoers about NCDOL and the important work our department does, as well as testing their knowledge of North Carolina trivia. Many people didn't know that milk is the official state beverage of North Carolina and now they do! I want to extend a special thank you to our Publications team – Eric Bellamy, Jeff Wilson and Michelle Schmitt – for setting up and breaking down the booth, printing all of our educational materials and stocking the goodie bags and candy.

The state Certified Public Manager (CPM) program, managed by the Office of State Human Resources, is a rigorous professional program for managers in state government. Many of our supervisors and managers are alumni of the CPM program and this month I congratulate Jeremy Smith, Boiler Safety Bureau, on his recent graduation. The program requires more than 120 hours of classes, assignments and a CPM project before receiving the certification. Jeremy's project was to improve the Boiler Safety Bureau's online inspection request form/process. The previous form/process required two platforms and was redundant and confusing. There were also issues submitting the form through the website. Jeremy worked with IT, Boiler Safety Bureau staff and clients that utilize the online form to develop a plan for improving the whole process for all. The form was updated to include all the types of inspections that the Boiler Safety Bureau performs. An instruction page was developed to help the requestor (the public) complete the form and submit the request correctly. It was a long process, but the improvements will help the North Carolina public (installers and owners) with the inspection requests on our website. This also benefits the Boiler Safety Bureau in processing and performing requested inspections on boilers and pressure vessels. Please join me in congratulating Jeremy!

Our Employee Recognition Banquet is coming up on Nov. 16. This is my first banquet as Labor Commissioner, and I hope to see you there!

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, let us remember the service and sacrifice of those who have fought for our country and our freedom. I am proud to work alongside many veterans here at NCDOL and to live and work in a state that supports our military.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, celebrating with your family and friends! I am thankful for all of you!

*Josh Dolson*

# EMPLOYEE NEWS

- Wesley Herron, OSH East, Industrial Hygiene MESH and Emergency Preparedness MESH.

## NEW HIRES

- Teresa West, Financial Services, procurement specialist I, Raleigh
- David Frederick, OSH West, OSHA safety officer I, Charlotte

## PROMOTIONS

- Robert Maedje, OSH West, OSHA industrial hygienist II, Charlotte
- Katie Perry, OSH East, OSHA safety and health supervisor, Raleigh

## SEPARATIONS

- Sheree Berry, Human Resources, HR technician III, Raleigh
- Merville Forrester, OSH East, OSHA safety officer II, Raleigh
- Preston White, Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, elevator inspector, Haywood County

## RETIREMENTS

- Kevin Beauregard, OSH Administration, deputy commissioner/OSH director, Raleigh
- Peggy Reme, OSH West, OSHA industrial hygienist II, Charlotte
- Pamela Short, ETTA, administrative specialist I, Raleigh



Edgar Starnes, legislative liaison, enjoying a ride at the N.C. State Fair during behind-the-scenes ride inspections with OSBM and the Fiscal Research Division staff.

## November Birthdays!

2 Susan Chabala  
2 Jim Zepede  
4 Christy Reed  
4 Ted Wall  
5 Kyle Pflager  
5 Barry Wilson  
7 David Bailey  
8 Rod Wilce

9 Bruce Pearson  
10 Doreen Makaya  
16 Erin Wilson  
19 Gary Franks  
19 Neal Godwin  
21 Hollis Yelverton  
22 Allison Jay  
23 Gabriel Pelly

24 Buddy Amerson  
26 Miroslava Hernandez  
26 Alan NeeSmith  
27 Jiles Manning  
27 Chris Moore  
27 Jeff Pahulik  
28 Alan Fortner



# CONGRATULATIONS



On Oct. 1, 2022, Peggy Reme retired with 30 years of service with the N.C. Department of Labor. Peggy started her career with OSH Compliance in 1993. During her tenure, Peggy has excelled in every compliance officer position she held under OSH's structure, specifically as a safety compliance officer I, health compliance officer I and health compliance officer II. Through the years, Peggy has been an active member of the Ergonomics Committee, Long Term Care Committee and the Safety and Health Committee. During the recent retirement celebration, Peggy received the Commissioner's Certificate of Appreciation, the OSH Director's Certificate of Service and The Order of The Long Leaf Pine. Peggy's hard work, dedication, expertise, personality and contagious smile will be missed by her coworkers. In retirement, Peggy hopes to spend more time with her family and traveling across the world.



Assistant Bureau Chief of the Boiler Safety Bureau, Jeremy Smith, graduated from the Certified Public Manager program on Oct. 3. Deputy Commissioner of Standards and Inspections, Phil Hooper, presented his certificate.

# 2022 DOBSON DODGERS

The Dobson Dodgers had a great season for 2022! They ended the regular season as the No. 6 seed with an 8-8 record to move on to the State Government Tournament. They defeated the No. 5 seed (DOT) and the No. 2 seed (DOR) to move to the championship game on Oct. 3 vs. DEQ. The Dobson Dodgers fought hard in the nail-biting championship game losing 14-13 versus the No. 1 seed DEQ to take home the 2022 State Government Runner-up trophy and title. Thank you to our fans, co-workers and families for coming to support us all season!

"We all put NCDOL on the map! I am so proud of every single team member for fighting the odds and ending strong. We'll get'em next year!"  
~ Coach Skyler Allen





# HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

## **Take The Stress Out of Your Holiday Season**

*By Angela Hamilton, Human Resources*

I can't believe it is November already! Soon the holiday season will be in full swing, and this can evoke a variety of emotions, both good and bad.

Be a step ahead this year by reflecting on circumstances in the past that may have triggered a stress response. Your MYgroup EAP can help by offering articles, audio recordings and video resources with tips on coping with holiday stress. Log in using the credentials below and enter "holiday" in the search bar.

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](http://www.mygroup.com)>My Portal Login>Work-Life

USERNAME: nclabor

PASSWORD: guest



# What's New @Your Library

## Online Resources

- **Disaster Recovery Assistance.** USDOL webpage.
- **Importance of Understanding and Training on the Portable Radio Emergency Alert Button (EAB) during a Mayday.** NIOSH-FFFIPP Safety Advisory.
- **Infrastructure Safety and Health.** OSHA Construction Industry-related webpage.
- **Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention.** NIOSH Workplace Safety and Health Topics webpage.
- **Safety + Health.** October 2022.
- **OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program.** OSHA Fact Sheet.
- **Stay Safe After a Hurricane or Other Tropical Storm.** CDC webpage.
- **Working in Cold Weather.** CPWR Handouts, Planning Tools and Training Programs webpage.
- **Workplace Violence and Bullying...** Recorded webinar posted on NSC's S + H Magazine YouTube channel.

## Books

- *Respirator Selection Guide For The Construction Industry.* NIOSH 2022-123. CDC-NIOSH, 2022.
- *Wheel Chocks.* SAE J348-2020. SAE International, 2020.

## Periodical Issues

- *OH&S.* October 2022 issue. 1105 Media Inc., 2022.
- *Professional Safety.* October 2022 issue. American Society of Safety Professionals, 2021. Donated by Phil Hooper, Standards and Inspections.
- *Safety + Health.* October 2022 issue. National Safety Council, 2021. Donated by Wanda Lagoe, OSH-ETTA.



@nclabor



@nc\_labor



@NCDOL

6



NCDOL



Inside NC Labor

