



## Missouri State Employees of the Month

January 2006, State Employee of the Month

### **Adrian Barnes, Department of Corrections**



Accompanied by Department of Corrections Director, Larry Crawford; Governor Matt Blunt presents Mr. Barnes with his award.

Adrian Barnes was selected as the January 2006 State Employee of the Month for diffusing a potentially dangerous situation at the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center.

Recently, as a result of an altercation at this facility, the need to administer a medical procedure to an offender was required. Unfortunately, due to the offender's agitated emotional state, the ability of medical and custody staff to safely perform the procedure was in question. It was at this point that crisis intervention expert Adrian Barnes was called to the scene. Trained as a hostage negotiator, Mr. Barnes has a proven record of claming angry offenders and ultimately gaining their compliance.

After the offender was placed in the administrative segregation unit, Mr. Barnes was able to approach the offender and employ his communication abilities to put the offender at ease. As a result, the need for any use of force to complete the medical procedure was avoided altogether, eliminating the danger to medical and custody staff. Adrian is a skillful and valuable asset to the Department of Corrections.

February 2006, State Employee of the Month

### **Tammy Pew, Department of Public Safety**



Governor Blunt presents Tammy Pew with the February State Employee of the Month Award.

Tammy Pew was selected as February 2006's State Employee of the Month for saving the life of a veteran. On the day this incident occurred, Ms. Pew was attending to her scheduled duties, when she was called by a Certified Nurse Assistant and into a hero's room where the Veteran was unresponsive. Tammy quickly assessed his condition, and within seconds instructed a by-stander to retrieve the AED, called for an ambulance, sent for additional supplies and transferred the hero to the floor. Her knowledge and skills enabled Tammy to give these directions clearly and concisely and she was able to begin CPR chest compressions and rescue breaths within moments of entering the hero's room. When the AED arrived, she instructed a staff member in how to operate it while she continued to administer CPR. After applying and evaluating the AED, appropriate shocks were given and additional compression were required before a pulse was detected. Her quick thinking and unwavering actions undoubtedly saved the life of this veteran.

Tammy is a dedicated employee who attended training to become a CPR instructor on a scheduled day off, and it was through this training that she was able to remain calm during a very stressful situation. Tammy takes pride in caring for America's Heroes and always has their best interests at heart. Cameron Veterans' Home is fortunate to have her on staff.

March 2006, State Employee of the Month  
**Dan Leyland, Department of Natural Resources**



Governor Blunt presents Dan Leyland with the March State Employee of the Month Award.

Dan Leyland, an Environmental Specialist III with the Department of Natural Resources, was recognized as the March State Employee of the Month for his dedication and service to the citizens of Missouri. Dan recently played an integral part in the creation of the storm water pollution control system that now treats the runoff at the Shepherd of the Hill Fish Hatchery. Previously, runoff from the asphalt parking lot dumped pollutants directly into the Trophy Trout area of Lake Taneycomo. The sand filter system Dan helped implement is now capable of removing 75 to 80% of these pollutants and helps protect the quality of the water in Lake Taneycomo. This filtration system is an excellent conservation project for the preservation of cold water fisheries, not only for this watershed, but nationwide. Further this system helps protect the water quality for the aquatic life in Lake Taneycomo and also adds an extra level of protection for a large portion of the City of Branson's drinking water supply.

Dan has voluntarily contributed his free time on the weekends and evenings and is a strong advocate and believer that people "in the field" should be met whenever and wherever possible to encourage best management practices. His considerable knowledge of the environmental regulator process, methods of investigation and analysis and techniques related to environmental control make him an invaluable asset to the Department of Natural Resources.

April 2006, State Employee of the Month  
**Bonnie Kliethermes, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations**



Bonnie Kliethermes accepts the April State Employee of the Month Award from Governor Matt Blunt.

Bonnie Kliethermes was selected as the April State Employee of the Month for taking on the challenge of being the "business project manager" for the Unemployment State Tax Automated Reporting System (USTAR) project. However, as the project progressed there were several personnel changes, and Bonnie, because of her outstanding work ethic, stepped up and took over the overall project manager role. This new system will provide a more customer-friendly way for the approximate 134,000 employers of Missouri to conduct unemployment insurance tax business electronically via the Internet.

In calendar year 2005 approximately 40,190 quarterly reports were filed using the USTAR system and wages for approximately 1,173,118 workers were reported representing over \$5.7 billion dollars in wage amounts. Employers paid approximately \$25 million dollars in contributions (taxes) due and the USTAR system saved the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Employment Security approximately \$46,000 which, without the USTAR system, would have been paid to an outside vendor to key the individual wage records. The citizens of our great state and Missouri employers would not have reaped the benefits, savings and opportunity to improve their productivity without the dedication to commitment shown by Bonnie Kliethermes.

May 2006, State Employee of the Month

## **Trooper Matthew Keeney, Department of Public Safety, Missouri State Highway Patrol**



Trooper Matthew Keeney accepts the May State Employee of the Month award from Governor Matt Blunt.

Last fall, Bollinger County received seven and a half (7 ½) inches of rain in a very short time period. As a result it caused the local creeks and rivers to swell out of their banks very rapidly and many people became trapped in their homes. To make matter worse this occurred during the hours of darkness making it difficult to notify and rescue stranded citizens. The hardest hit area was the Caste River Camp Ground on Highway 34 near the Twin Bridges area. By the time campers received notification of flooding, the quickly rising river completely blocked the road exiting the campground cutting off any route of escape. The Bollinger Sheriff's Department and Fire Department responded and began rescuing stranded campers by boat. Sheriff Terry Wiseman was using his own personal boat but his motor was not strong enough to combat the swift current of the rising river. Seeing the need for a boat and motor capable of maneuvering through the currents, the sheriff's office contacted off-duty Trooper Keeney at 0400 hours (4:00 am). Trooper Keeney, who is adept in handling his boat and equipment, responded to the call and was able to battle the strong currents. His selfless actions resulted in the saving of the lives of six adults and three children who would have drown in the swift current of the raging river if not for the quick actions and expert handling of his boat. The Department of Public Safety, Missouri State Highway Patrol and the citizens of Missouri are well served by Trooper Keeney's bravery and dedication to duty.

June 2006, State Employee of the Month

## **Dennis Moore, Department of Health and Senior Services**



Governor Matt Blunt presents Dennis Moore with the June State Employee of the Month Award

When Missouri citizens are ill and oftentimes at their most vulnerable, they turn to their health care practitioners, licensed professionals placed in a position of trust, for assistance. The diversion of drugs of illicit purposes is a threat to the public and, more importantly, impaired practitioners who are practicing while under the influence of drugs create a significant risk to the public's health and safety. During the fall of 2005, Mr. Moore identified 5 practitioners that were either impaired while practicing or illegally distributing controlled substances. The first doctor closed his registration and left the state of Missouri, and the second and third doctors surrendered their registrations and authority to Mr. Moore and the United State Drug Enforcement Administration (USDEA). The fourth doctor confessed to Dennis during an inspection, suspended his practice, and is in treatment. Most significantly, the fifth practitioner confessed that he had been issuing fraudulent prescriptions in the names of real patients so that the drugs, when returned to the practitioner, were illegally distributed to people outside of the scope of his practice. Dennis took the time to gather all of the prescription records and visit the home of a senior citizen to review her medications. Through this personal visit and process, it became apparent that she had not received the medications. Notification of the fraud was provided to the pharmacy and ultimately the insurer. As a result of this investigation the practitioner's employment was terminated, along with the authority to conduct activities with controlled substances. All five of the practitioners mentioned will also face possible actions by their respective licensing boards and criminal and administrative actions by the USDEA. Mr. Moore's, investigations and extra efforts have made citizens significantly and exponentially safer and his professional, quiet and unassuming manner have caused many practitioners to thank him for saving lives. The impact and benefit of Mr. Moore's work toward citizens' safety is immeasurable.

## July 2006, State Employee of the Month **Mike Kempker, Department of Corrections**



Governor Matt Blunt presents Mike Kempker with the July State Employee of the Month Award

Mike Kempker is a Heavy Equipment Supervisor with the Heavy Equipment Depot at the Jefferson City Correctional Center. His duties include the supervision of the Regional Heavy Equipment Crew and responding to various calls for heavy equipment. However, Mike takes his responsibilities to a higher level. Recently, Mike was leaving town on a Saturday for a family vacation when he received a call from the staff at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center. A waterline feeding two of the main buildings had failed creating an emergency situation. Mike delayed his family vacation to assist staff in obtaining the necessary equipment and stayed until the situation was under control. In another instance, on a Friday evening, the Boonville Habilitation Center experienced an electrical power outage. Two of the housing units were without electrical power. The next morning, Saturday, Mr. Kempker received notification of the electrical emergency and the immediate need of a generator from the Heavy Equipment Depot. Within the hour he delivered the generator and assisted the Boonville Correctional Center maintenance staff in setting up the equipment. The generator was used to power critical functions at the facility and helped mitigate a major institutional emergency. Mike and his crew save the Department funds that otherwise would be required to rent equipment when an emergency arises, but more importantly; a quick response is critical when an emergency occurs at one of the institutions. Mike is truly a valued employee of the Department of Corrections.

## August 2006, State Employee of the Month **Crystal Patterson, Department of Social Services**



Accompanied by Department of Social Services Director, Gary Sherman (right) Governor Matt Blunt (left) presents Crystal Patterson with the August State Employee of the month award.

A Children's Service Worker II with the Department of Social Services, Crystal was recognized for her bravery in a life threatening situation. While at a family home there was a disturbance outside of the home. When the mother answered the door she and her daughter were attacked and received life threatening injuries. Ms. Patterson was able to maintain her composure and stay out of the incident, but remained close enough to get the family help as soon as possible. Crystal called 911 and stayed to ensure the ambulance and police arrived to provide the necessary care; she also identified herself to the officers and was able to give the police a detailed description of the aggressors, what occurred during the incident, and how the injuries were sustained. Her efforts resulted in serious criminal charges pending against the perpetrators. Her quick thinking and swift response undoubtedly saved the lives of the mother and daughter. Additionally, she was able to discover that there was a case-worker assigned to these individuals in another service case and advised the worker of their violence and the need to take safety precautions. Despite this traumatic event, Ms. Patterson returned to work the next day. When advised she could take some additional time off from her duties, her response was simply, "I have a job to do." Crystal Patterson is not only a dedicated and valuable employee of the Department of Social Services, but an asset to the citizens of Missouri.

September 2006, State Employee of the Month  
**Sarah Blankenship, Department of Social Services**



Sarah Blankenship accepts the September State Employee of the Month Award from Governor Matt Blunt.

Sarah Blankenship is employed as a Children's Service Worker II in Oregon County with the Department of Social Services. Sarah recently displayed her dedication and commitment to the clients she serves by providing services above and beyond her normal job duties.

One of Sarah's clients, a 16 year old boy in the custody of Greene County, was placed in foster care in Oregon County. A few months ago both foster parents for this child passed away. Responsibility for this child could easily been passed back to Green County; instead Sarah immediately began working to ensure that this young man was able to remain in the same town and school district where he had established roots and friendships. Sarah spent more time with this child than the two required monthly visits to find a placement for him in the community where he was established.

Sarah's dedication to this young man far exceeded what is expected in her day-to-day duties. The Department of Social Services and the citizens of Missouri are well served by Sarah Blankenship.

October 2006, State Employee of the Month  
**James "Butch" Amann, Department of Public Safety**



James "Butch" Amann, a Fire Investigator with the Department of Public Safety, Fire Safety, serves the citizens of Southeast Missouri by working with juvenile burn survivors and children with fire setting behaviors. In addition to his assigned job duties; for the past 10 years Investigator Amann has volunteered his personal time as a camp counselor at the Missouri Children's Burn Camp, sponsored by Burns Recovered Support Group. Each summer Butch spends a week at the Lake of the Ozarks camp helping children cope with self esteem and self confidence issues sustained as a result of physical scarring due to burn injuries.

Butch's commitment and dedication to these children does not go unnoticed. The parents of a young man who attended the camp wrote to him to express thanks and appreciation for inspiring their son. Their son had no ambition, didn't care if he graduated and was only concerned about "keeping a job". The parents informed Investigator Amann that, as a result of the time their son spent under his mentoring, he made a 360 degree turn in his attitude when returning to school his senior year; resulting in his making the honor roll every quarter, fantastic attendance and participation in school activities while working a part-time job, and a major change in this attitude and approach towards life. This young man has since moved on to attend a technical college, is enrolled in a computer programming course, and is continuing to be successful and participative in life.

Additionally, when the Division of Fire Safety began efforts to establish a state Youth Fire Safety Coalition program Butch stepped up to assist and, due to his initiative, the Division has been able to provide coalitions with the foundation needed to serve youth statewide. Butch's proactive approach of working with juveniles whom have exhibited fire setting behavior as well as providing counseling assistance to children who have sustained permanent scarring from burn injuries, epitomize the values of public safety and service to others.

November 2006, State Employee of the Month  
**Greg Combs, Department of Natural Resources**



Last December the reservoir disaster at Johnson Shut-In's State Park made national headline news for days and weeks, but only those who were closely and actively involved in the clean-up know the underlying reality that went on behind the scenes. By the time the breach of the Taum Sauk reservoir was reported just after 5:30 am on December 14<sup>th</sup> Greg had already been in contact with emergency workers in the area and for many months worked seven days-a-week providing front line assistance. During the recovery work, Greg not only maintained the day-to-day duties and responsibilities of District Supervisor, but also took on the role as On-Scene Coordinator which required countless hours both on site and at numerous public meetings, planning sessions, media and legislative contacts and other related events. Often the answer to a contractor's question could only be "I'll check with Greg and get back to you". His outstanding communication skills enabled him to effectively communicate with all professionals involved; which included other state agencies, federal agencies, Ameren UE officials, and Mactec - Ameren's contractor, with amazing patience and professionalism. During the long and complicated process of securing the area and the process to start to bring the park back to life, Greg never voiced any complaint of the impact it had on him not only professionally but also the effect it had on his family – wife Michelle and their sons Derek and Jackson – which required him being away from them for extended periods. Greg's outstanding efforts and commitment to provide exceptional service to the Department of Natural Resources and the citizens of Missouri make him a role model to emulate.

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