

APRIL 20, 2011

DIRECTOR'S
NEWS UPDATE



2010 Officers of the Year Announced

I take great pleasure in announcing the 2010 Officers of the Year. Each of these individuals represent all the dedication, hard work and commitment that it takes to be the best in our profession. They serve not only as examples of excellence within their community but also as role models. Please join me in extending appreciation and congratulations to them.

Correctional Officer of the Year

Larry C. Barker, Correctional Security Officer III, Sayre Community Work Center, Northwest District Community Corrections, Community Corrections Division is the Agency Correctional Officer of the Year for 2010.

Corporal Barker began his career with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in 2006. He is a graduate of Snyder High School. He has since attended Applied Leadership and CLD classes. Once he has taken the Basic Instructor Development he would like to help teach classes for co-workers. Corporal Barker has served as Caustic/Flammable Control Officer since 2007 during this time he set up an efficient system for tracking/controlling supplies and organized the vehicle maintenance files to improve routine and preventive maintenance on facility vehicles. Both contributions have resulted in increased efficiency and decreased costs.

Corporal Barker communicates well with offenders, job supervisors and co-workers. He represents the agency well as he serves in the community as past president of the Chamber of Commerce, Rodeo Association, Lion's Club and the American Legion.

Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year

Cory E. Ketch, Correctional Security Manager II, Mabel Bassett Correctional Center, Field Operations Division, is the Agency Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year for 2010.

Captain Ketch began his career with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in 1998. He is a graduate of Checotah High School. His knowledge, experience and skills in responding to critical incidents serve as an excellent example of the role of a correctional officer supervisor. He has received facility meritorious service awards for his heroic efforts and life-saving measures involving suicide attempts by mental health offenders. During his 10 years at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center, Captain Ketch's ability to bring order and direction to chaotic situations, professionalism, integrity and effective communication skills have proven to be an asset as he works with co-workers and offenders. Captain Ketch also serves as a member of the Booster Club of Bethel High School where he assists in raising funds to provide equipment and resources for the youth in the community.

Probation and Parole Officer of the Year

Nathan A. Rhea, Probation and Parole Officer II, Tulsa County District Community Corrections is the Agency Probation and Parole Officer of the Year for 2010.

Officer Rhea began his career with the Department of Corrections in April 2007. He received his Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Criminology from the University of Oklahoma in 2005. He is now working on his Graduate degree in Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma – Tulsa campus. Officer Rhea is a dependable professional who is willing to help others on his team and, as a result, is highly respected by his peers, supervisors and clients. In addition, he conducts an average of 25 discretionary home visits each month. The large number of letters in support of his nomination substantiates the proficiency he demonstrates on the job and the reputation for excellence he maintains. Officer Rhea is certified as a Self Defense Instructor and OC Instructor for the agency. He was also selected by the Drug Court Team to attend the National Drug Court Conference in June 2010. Officer Rhea volunteers in his church, is a member of the National Helping Individuals with Criminal Records re-enter through Employment Network (H.I.R.E. Network), and participated in the Hurricane Ike disaster relief efforts in Galveston.