



Commissioner's CORNER

"To Protect the Public by Incarcerating and Supervising Offenders"

JOE SCHMIDT
COMMISSIONER, DOC



A report by COMMISSIONER JOE SCHMIDT
Alaska Department of Corrections
August 29, 2007

WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER'S CORNER:

Thanks for continuing to check in with this column. If you have ideas, issues or suggestions from institutions or field offices for the Commissioner's Corner, please submit them to Richard.Schmitz@alaska.gov or call 465 4640.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO LEAD 2007 SHARE CAMPAIGN:

Governor Sarah Palin has asked the Department of Corrections and Commissioner Joe Schmidt to head up the 2007 SHARE Campaign.



Richard Schmitz and Anna Herzberger will share responsibility for running the annual fund-raising effort among state employees.

(left: Commissioner Joe Schmidt signs the first pledge form of the 2007 SHARE Campaign.)

In a change from previous years, the Commissioner is requiring all participating agencies to have no higher than 27 percent administrative costs, without exception.

"I'm not setting a financial goal for this year," the Commissioner said. "Instead, I'm setting a participation goal of 15 percent of all state employees. Last year, participation was right around 12 percent. I am very aware that some of us don't appreciate being asked for money – and this year's SHARE Campaign will respect the giving choices of each employee. But I also recognize that many employees appreciate the opportunity to contribute to a very worthwhile effort."

LEADERSHIP TEAM VISITS KETCHIKAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER:



Commissioner Joe Schmidt, right, and his team visited Ketchikan on July 26th. The group met with staff at KCC, the field probation office and with justice officials. *Front Row:* Lt. Diane Gregory, Deputy Commissioner Sam Edwards, Director Donna White, Superintendent Alan Bailey. *Back Row:* Director Garland Armstrong, Deputy Director Bryan Brandenburg, and Deputy Commissioner Dwayne Peeples.

COMMUNITY WORK SERVICE PROGRAM BEGINS AT PCC: A



Community Work Service crew from Palmer Correctional Center has cleared close to six tons of trash from Mat-Su roadsides. The teams – which work weekends and holidays – are made up of an 11-inmate crew with two Correctional Officers. Since the program began on July 14, the crew has removed trash from the Glenn Highway from Sutton to the Parks Highway interchange,

the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, and the Parks Highway frontage road south of Wasilla. Inmate volunteers may not be sex offenders and must be minimum custody.



“Inmates are not paid for their time; they do not get credit for court-ordered CWS, and are not compelled to take part. This is an opportunity for an offender to help the community in which they have caused harm,” said Commissioner Joe Schmidt.

The CWS team is also working with the Knik Tribal Council to provide cleanup, brush cutting and fence repairs at the Council’s cemetery, located at Mile 15 of the Knik-Goose Bay Road. In addition, the crew cleaned the Moose Creek campground.

The department may expand the program to other communities after assessing public input, the Commissioner said. Work service programs have a fairly significant history in the department. Beginning in 1992, Palmer, Wildwood, Spring Creek and Lemon Creek correctional centers – working with local governments and non-profits – cleared trash from roadsides, state parks, campgrounds and trails, cut firewood for seniors, built portable wheelchair ramps and public viewing stands along the Kenai River.

PCC INMATES CRAFT TOYS FOR 'CHRISTMAS IN JULY' PROGRAM:



Inmates at Palmer Correctional Center hand crafted wooden toys for donation to the "Christmas in July" celebration held at the Children's Hospital in Providence Hospital on July 29. Supplies were donated by Spenard Builders Supply. The event was coordinated by Ladies of Harley in Wasilla.