



The Voice

Who's new?

We would like to start off with great excitement to announce our new additions to the Faith and Citizen Programs- Andrew Zack. Andrew Zack is the Regional Coordinator for the Eastern slope, which includes Sterling, Limon, Arkansas Valley, Bent County and Crowley County Correctional Facility. He has already made great contributions to the FCP Team. Welcome!

A few words from Andy Zack:

Hi, My name is Andy Zack. I was the Chaplain and Volunteer Coordinator at Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center for 4 years and am now with DOC and Faith and Citizens Program. Almost 3 months ago I completed the CDOC Basic Training Academy. In addition to my FCP Regional Coordinator duties for FCP assisting AVCF, BCCF, CCCF, LCF, and SCF, I am the Facility Volunteer and Programs Coordinator at Limon. Dan Pliemann is still around but I have taken some of his duties so he can shift some of his focus elsewhere. It has truly been a great experience for me. The many things I am learning from the FCP team and the staff at Limon has both enriched and challenged me. I have met many wonderful, friendly, and dedicated people who have been with DOC many years. It has meant so much to be welcomed and accepted.

It is my heart to get to know you and serve you in any way I can. Feel free to contact me, andrew.zack@state.co.us. Have a Cool Yule!

Thank You for Your Service



Fun Facts for December/January:

The birthstone for December is the turquoise.

The December flower is the Narcissus (named after the Greek hunter, Narcissus, the son of the river God Cephissus. He was said to have been very beautiful and all who met him fell in love with him. However, he was a very vain man and drowned while looking at his reflection).

Noble Prizes are awarded in December.

January is named after the Roman God Janus, who was always shown in pictures to have 2 heads and presided over the gate to the New Year.

The January birthstone is a Garnet.

The Roman Senate declared, in 153 BC, that January 1st is the beginning of the New Year.





Greetings from Kirk Machin

Getting ready to roar in the New Year 2018!

Wow, it's already 2018. I bet many of us remember Y2K which seems like only yesterday. As I continue to reminisce, I realize I am becoming more and more like my parents just like the commercials suggest. Life is grand, especially considering I get to spend much of my work time helping volunteers who continue to bring more and more opportunity to the men and women in our care. Not only do you bring value to their lives but staff are blessed too. Thank you!

*****You know I like to share a couple of tidbits in our newsletter so here it goes.*****

Please do not bring any weapons on CDOC property. Please do not bring any weapons on CDOC property. This applies to every facility.

Please be aware of your electronic gadgets- leave them in your vehicle. Technology continues to change and inside our walls it is one of our biggest threats to security. Please leave your cell phones, fitbits, smart watches, anything that resembles technology and your x-ray vision glasses in your vehicle. This applies to every facility.

Please do not take pictures while on CDOC property. We've had two incidents- the flower beds are beautiful and the Bighorn Sheep and Water Buffalo are awesome but please do not stop to take pictures.

As of October 2017 Danyel has processed over 400 more new applications than the year before. We continue to grow and more and more programs across the state. With this growing population of volunteers, please be patient with time frames.

Donald O'Dell who recently transferred to Denver to fill the FCP Regional position will be leaving the department. He will be serving with the Aurora PD. We wish him the best. We do not know who will be replacing him but we are hoping for someone quickly. Please work through James Sheldon at DWCF until a replacement is found. James has always been great help and will keep us a float.

Welcome to Andy Zack at Limon. He stated he work at Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center (CMRC) for several years and we are happy to have him. Limon and volunteers have been very welcoming. Thank you!

In the last year we've had several incidents of staff denying active volunteers access to the facility. We have repeatedly shared information with the facilities about volunteer time frames and active versus inactive status. Please forgive these challenges. The best way to approach them is to attempt to communicate with the staff member about being on a current list means you are active. We have suggested policy changes which specifically cover volunteer access so we hope it eliminates the problem. We have also suggested changes in the format the list is printed. Please let us know if this happens to you as we will address this issue every time it comes up.

Considering the fact that we've had an increase in volunteer applications and the routine workload involved with maintaining all of the volunteers please know we cannot expedite applications. We will do our best but we cannot jump through hoops to get things done because it affects our organization and process. The last thing we want to do is lose an application. The standard process is at least 3 weeks from receipt to the approval entered in the system. If you email an application anytime after Monday morning it will be added to the stack for the following week. Thank you for your understanding.

We do not send approval letters for update applications. Only new volunteers get an approval letter. If you are updating your application it should be approved like it was the prior year. If you have any questions or want to verify your update application was received/approved please feel free to email or call about 3 weeks after you mail it.

We believe the post office has about a 90% efficiency rate. There are times we get mail or your receive mail weeks after it was placed in the mail box. The applications you mail to 1250 Academy Park Loop are stored in our box and every Thursday they are sent via State Courier Service to our Pueblo office and we get them every Monday. Please do not send them to our Pueblo address!!!!!!

Update applications- please use the current form that is found on the DOC website or the form we mail you when it is due. We mail them the month before they are due. We seemingly only get about 50% returned in the "correct" time frame. I'm mentioning this because I think this will cut down on volunteers being turned away if the approval date not within the one year time frame.

Training registration- we've had a couple of incidents of people being turned away when they show up for training. There are a couple of reasons for this. Please know which class you want to attend when you call to register. We will not register anyone for class after 3 pm on the Thursday prior to the class for the upcoming weekend. Due to our technology challenges and FCP staff trying to accomplish other tasks we cannot make additions or changes to a roster after 3 pm. Danyel and I are the only ones who put people in for training. Once we enter the name the instructor has to "replicate" their database to get the updated information. We use antiquated technology and that is why I often refer to it as the "latest and greatest Atari technology". Our main volunteer database looks a lot like the Atari game Pong except we have a blinking cursor instead of a bouncing square. Our new technology will be up and running in 2020 so be patient. And the last thing is if you have someone else call to register you as well as register others for different classes it may result in errors. We do our best and we'll always encourage you to call or email to verify your training reservation.

As I continue to ponder things to share I am happy to report we have all walked in and out safely without any injuries or altercations. Offender respect you and the programs you provide. Considering the fact the we have almost 1,700 volunteers and the number of safety/security violations I've dealt with in 7 years I can count on one hand. Wow! Thank you!

In closing I want to say the best news of all. Beginning this month, select staff (including parole) across the department will be coming together to discuss mentoring. Yep, mentoring is the next bridge to cross. I know we have discussed this for years but it has finally popped up on the radar. I think it is fabulous news as well as many of you do too. Of course I don't have any additional information but I will keep you informed as we progress. Of course we expect the current volunteers to be our number resource.

Have a wonderful year- 2018!



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The CDOC has over sixteen hundred active volunteers, but more help is needed to meet the diverse needs of the offender population. If you know someone who would like to volunteer, please ask them to contact the CDOC today.

**CDOC, Faith and Citizen Programs
1250 Academy Park Loop
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
Phone: 719-583-5975**

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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPLAIN!

We are proud to announce that we have 11 full time Chaplains and 20 part time Chaplains currently serving in our facilities. Our chaplains may be supported by an organization or local church. Please speak with your local Chaplain about any support that you can give.

DONATIONS FOR CHAPLAINS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTABLE



Suggestions regarding **CDOC policy and procedure** (related specifically to Faith and Citizen Programs) are always appreciated and should be directed to Mr. Kirk Machin, CDOC Faith and Citizen Programs Coordinator :

kirk.machin@state.co.us

If you have feedback concerning our newsletter, send us a note or give us a call!

Does your program have someone to "highlight", or an event to feature?

E-mail your letters to us at: danyel.fox@state.co.us -- we may not be able to publish all of them, but we'll do our best. This is your newsletter!