

# THE INFORMER

*January-March 2018*

## DIRECTOR ADGER SPEAKS AT TRI-COUNTY BANQUET

The 13th Annual Anderson, Oconee & Pickens County Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet was held on March 6, 2018 in the G. Ross Anderson, Jr. Student Center at Anderson University. The event recognized the outstanding accomplishments and dedicated service by members of law enforcement and emergency services agencies from the three upstate counties. Jerry Adger, Director of South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and Anderson County native, was the guest speaker for the luncheon attended by more than 300 guests. PPP's Victim Advocate for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Wanda Johnson sang the national anthem.



Staff from all over the Upstate and Central Office attended the banquet to support Director Adger and Honor Agent Buckner.

The event was started nearly 15 years ago by George Ducworth, former 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor and current Dean of the School of Criminal Justice at Anderson University. Originally, only Anderson County law enforcement officers were honored, but eventually the event was expanded to include neighboring counties Oconee and Pickens. Former

Anderson Agent-In-Charge Gerald Black worked tirelessly to champion the inclusion of a PPP Agent as one of the categories. Retired Agent Jean Studler was the first recipient of the award and agent Kerin Buckner, the 2018 recipient, is the 11<sup>th</sup> award winner. Proceeds from the banquet will benefit the Anderson University Criminal Justice Scholarship Fund.

## BUCKNER RECEIVES TRI-COUNTY AGENT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Agent Buckner (Center) is joined by Anderson County AIC Auburn Callahan and Director Adger.

Many of the PPP family gathered at Anderson University on March 6<sup>th</sup> to honor Kerin L. Buckner, the Tri-County Law Enforcement Agent of the Year, at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anderson, Oconee, & Pickens County Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet.

Agent Buckner began her career at SCDPPPS in 1998 career after completing the Volunteer/Interns

Services Program with the Department. According to Agent-In-Charge Auburn Walker-Callahan, "Kerin has always been a team player. Throughout these years, Agent Buckner has demonstrated not only her dedication, but also her loyalty to SCDPPPS, and most importantly to the Anderson County Office, where she has worked her entire career." She has supervised both regular and sex offender caseloads, was an original GPS team member and served as the Anderson County Office Volunteer/ Intern Liaison. Presently she serves as a Pre-Parole Investigator and along with her current duties, she has proven to be the "go to person" in the Anderson office by frequently assisting her fellow Agents as needed. In addition to being NCIC certified, Kerin acts as a back-up for our Court Agent and conducts the Pre-Parole and Pardon Investigation on-the-job training for newly hired Agents.

Agent Buckner earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Secondary

Education from the University of South Carolina and a second Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Affairs from Columbia College. She is graduate of the SCDPPPS Strategic Leadership Academy, an active participant of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Bounce Back Program and is a member of Fraternal Order of Police.

The Anderson County Office and the entire PPP family believe that Kerin is well deserving of this award and commend her for her accomplishments.

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*"Culture: That which has been planted has been allowed to grow."*

## PPP'S REGIONAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

The Department reinstated the Regional Program Administrator (RPA) function in October 2016 as part of PPP Director Adger's vision of a paradigm shift in the Department's philosophy toward quality and accountability. Staff selected for the RPA position must be C-1 certified. Each Regional Director is assigned an RPA to support the daily operations of the regions. Although the RPAs are flexible in offering assistance wherever needed, they are tasked with an array of duties, including: measuring quality assurance to ensure integrity of programs and initiatives; conducting regular reviews of COMPAS assessments, supervision plans, and use of the violations matrix; utilizing the Agent Performance Management tool and Supervisor Quality Assurance process to conduct objective assessments of the county's compliance with Agency policy; providing reports and findings to management on compliance; providing direct in-county training on programs and processes; serving in times of deployment or special operations as first responders; reviewing and modifying business processes as needed; conducting annual reviews of service providers for quality assurance; developing and maintaining a professional local communications network in each assigned county; and promoting public relations on the county level. The RPAs have more than 73 combined years of experience with the Department and each brings a unique perspective to this challenging assignment.



### KEVIN C. KENNEDY REGION ONE

Kevin Kennedy is the Regional Program Administrator for Region One where Gerald Black is the Regional Director, representing Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. Kevin began his career as an Agent in the Spartanburg County office in 2013, where he managed a standard caseload and later a sex offender caseload. Kevin has worked in the Field Operations Programs section as a Resource and Sanctions Coordinator, where he assisted in the day to day tasks of the GPS, Drug Testing, DNA, and Sex Offender Management programs. Kevin has served on deployment teams across the state, and facilitates COMPAS, SLA, and GPS Responder training courses. Currently, he serves on the board of the South Carolina Probation and Parole Association, and is a graduate of PPP's Strategic Leadership Academy and the Speakers Bureau.



### BRANDI J. DHERS REGION TWO

Brandi Dhers is the Regional Program Administrator for Region Two where Greg Stewart is the Regional Director, representing Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Spartanburg, Union, and York counties. Brandi joined the PPP family in 1999, after volunteering through the PPP's Volunteer/Intern Services Program while in college. Prior to serving as RPA, she spent her entire PPP career in her hometown of Spartanburg, nicknamed "Sparkle City" by the locals. Initially working as an Agent, Brandi was promoted to team leader where she has 13 years of experience. Outside of PPP, she enjoys art and new adventures. Her mantra: "If plan A fails, remember that you have 25 letters left."

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## MEET THE RPAs



### GREGORY D. WHITTAKER REGION THREE

Greg Whittaker is the Regional Program Administrator for Region Three where Schwann Hopkins is the Regional Director, representing Abbeville, Aiken, Barnwell, Calhoun, Dorchester, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, and Saluda counties. Greg has 14 years of law enforcement experience and has worked with the Department for 12 years as an Agent in the Jasper County office. In addition to his current duties, he is a PPCT Instructor, member of the South Carolina Probation & Parole Association, and the President-Elect of the SC Chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.



### CATHERINE E. COOPER REGION FOUR

Catherine (Cathy) Cooper is the Regional Program Administrator for Region Four where Chris Stepp is the Regional Director, serving Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Kershaw, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Richland, Sumter and Williamsburg counties. Cathy has over 20 years of experience with the Department having served as an Agent, Team Leader in Richland County, AAIC of Richland County and as Director of Board Support Services at Central office. Cathy is a COMPAS trainer and CISO skills instructor for the Department. She also is the current President-elect of the SC Probation and Parole Association.



### JEFFREY M. RILLORTA REGION FIVE

Rillorta is the Regional Program Administrator for Region 5 where Chad Bead is the Regional Director, serving Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, and Jasper counties. Jeff has over 17 years of experience with the Department having served as an Agent, Team Leader/Supervisor in the Charleston County office; Offender Rehabilitation Counselor at the Charleston Community Control Center; and Employment Coordinator at the Charleston Restitution Center. He was the 2005 Employee of the Year for Residential Services. Currently, Jeff is a COMPAS instructor with the Department and has a Specific Skills Certification with the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

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# PPP AIDS IN ORANGEBURG'S SAFE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

The Orangeburg Safe Communities Initiative had its first roll-call on March 14, 2018. Leaders with numerous law enforcement agencies, faith-based groups, service provider and referral agencies gathered in the Orangeburg Council Chambers to meet with several violent offenders under supervision with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

This endeavor was spearheaded by the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety developed out of the desire to reduce recidivism rates in the city of Orangeburg by helping offenders break the cycle of re-offending. The program is designed to educate and empower selected offenders and offer them help with a multitude of resources targeted to change behavior and make positive life decisions, or suffer the consequences of poor choices. Each agency representative advised the attendees of the importance of not being arrested for additional violent, drug, or weapons offenses and the progressively stricter penalties associated with habitual repeat offending. Also on hand were ex-offenders who shared their journeys from offender to successful members of the community.

At the conclusion of the presentation, offenders met with their Parole and Parole Agents and had the opportunity to register for any needed services and assistance. In addition to SCDPPPS and the Orangeburg DPS, agencies represented included the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Marshals Service, Bureau of



PPP Director Jerry Adger was among the speakers at the Safe Communities Initiative's first Roll Call.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED) SLED, SC Highway Patrol, SC Department of Corrections, 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office, Orangeburg Sheriff's Office, North Polic Department, and Holly Hill Police Department, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department, SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW), CASA Family Services, Dawn Center, SC Fatherhood Initiative, and the SC Housing Authority.

## UPSTATE REENTRY JOB FAIR IS BIG SUCCESS

The Greater Upstate Reentry Job Fair & Expo was held on February 15<sup>th</sup> at McAlister Square in Greenville and drew more than 52 vendors, representing nearly 500 open positions in multiple local industries eager to discuss potential employment opportunities with attendees. Employers provided information to the 164 job seekers and reported offering 26 positions on-site and several follow-up meetings are scheduled.

The event was organized by the Joint Partnership Job Fair Committee to assist people with criminal



convictions or those currently on probation or parole find employment or get information about having criminal records expunged or obtaining a pardon. The Committee's membership includes representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Probation Office, SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, SC Department of Social Services, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department, and SC Works.

SCDPPPS participants included Program Coordinator Detra Cooley, Executive Administrative Assistant Loretta Goodwin, Program Assistant Lavetta Ward and Program Coordinator George Whitehead. Additional job fairs are scheduled in the Midlands area in May and in Dorchester County in June.

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## RIPPLES OF CHOICES AND CHANGE IN YORK COUNTY

The York County PPP office hosted "The Ripples of Choices and Change" Domestic Violence Awareness Program on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Moss Justice Center in York. Domestic Violence (DV) Agent Amber Boyle organized the event that included more than 50 offenders with DV convictions and several members of the justice system.

Several guest speakers who have experienced the ripples of domestic violence and turmoil in their lives and their communities offered heartfelt testimonies in hopes of bringing awareness to this subject. Among them were Sheriff Kevin Tolson, who honored Detective Michael Doty, who was killed in the line of duty while answering a domestic dispute. Kendrick Carroll, CEO of Creative Relief Solutions, LLC spoke of losing his mother at the hands of his stepfather when he was a child. Hospice Chaplain Tony Caruso shared his compassion for life and his desire to work to end all violence and needless loss of life. 16th Circuit Solicitor Kevin Brackett challenged all law enforcement agencies to work together to collectively address the problem of domestic violence in York County. The most extraordinary message came from Sandra Adams, the grandmother who is raising her grandson after her daughter was the victim in a murder for hire conspiracy orchestrated by former NFL player Rae Carruth in 1999. The program was filmed by an ESPN crew that is preparing a documentary to air during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Agent Boyle's remarks to the offenders were poignant and challenged them to think about their choices, "The choices we make cause ripples throughout not only our lives, but the lives of those around us. It is up to us to recognize how these ripples could have an lasting effect on others. Individually and together, we are capable of making a positive change, which will cause a ripple throughout our community."

PPP's Domestic Violence Specialized Caseload Program was launched in 2017. Agent Boyle is one of 20 DV Agents serving in 11 counties with the highest numbers of offenders with DV convictions.



Sandra Adams and grandson Chancellor Adams received a standing ovation at the domestic violence awareness event.



Inspirational wristbands with the saying "Live in Peace" were distributed to all guests.

## PPP Book Nook *The Culture Code* By Daniel Coyle

Where does great culture come from? How do you sustain it in your group? In *The Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups*, Daniel Coyle goes inside some of the world's most successful organizations and reveals what makes them tick. He demystifies the culture-building process by identifying three key skills that generate cohesion and cooperation, and explains how diverse groups learn to function with a single mind. Coyle offers specific strategies that trigger learning, spark collaboration, build trust, and drive positive change and unearths helpful stories of failure that illustrate what *not* to. *Source: Amazon.com*

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**The Honorable Henry McMaster**  
*Governor*

**Jerry B. Adger**  
*Director*

**Arnise N. Moultrie**  
*Newsletter Editor*

### AGENCY MISSION

To **prepare** offenders under our supervision toward becoming productive members of the community;

to **provide** assistance to the victims of crimes, the courts and the Parole Board; and

to **protect** public trust and safety.