

**WEEKLY UPDATE**

**May 20, 2005**

**Medal of Valor Awards Ceremony**

The 2005 Medal of Valor Awards Ceremony will be held Friday, May 20, 2005. The ceremony will be held on the West Steps of the State Capitol. Speakers are Roderick Q. Hickman, Secretary Youth and Adult Correctional Agency and Jeanne S. Woodford, Director California Department of Corrections. CDC will present awards to correctional staff and other employees who have exemplified heroism and valor, above and beyond the course of their duties, or exceptional service to the Department.

CCSO State Board and representatives will be present to acknowledge the recipients and honor their acts of heroism.

**Victor Valley Closing**

CCSO Administrative Field Services Representative Braden was on hand to assist our supervisors at Victor Valley, Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. DPA and CDC were present to assign staff of their transfer location and benefits because Victor Valley is scheduled to close at the end of this month. Administrative Field Services Representative Canutt and Chief Operations & Financial Officer Le Sage have been addressing benefits and placement for the last two months. It appears all of our efforts were successful as all but one CCSO supervisor received their first choice. The one CCSO supervisor who did not receive his first choice received his second choice with involuntary benefits. CCSO will continue to meet over Victor Valley, as we have not been able to finalize first right of refusal.

**Bylaw Revisions**

The CCSO Bylaw revisions to Article II, Section 1(d)(e)(f) and Article V, Section 8 (d)(k), have been ratified by eleven Chapter Presidents. I want to thank the following Chapter Presidents: Danny Wirth (CIM), Terol McCullar (CTC), Robert Brisco (CCC), Patrick Santiago (CTF), Ramiro Villarreal (PVSP), Mark Skaggs (NKSP), Bob Trujillo (Folsom), Bruce Rankin (SVSP), Robert Peery (HDSP), Frank Cerecedes (SQ) and John Anderson (VSPW), for taking the time to review the bylaw revisions and voting. Their input is invaluable to this organization.

**Youth Authority Changes**

State prison officials released a new plan Monday, May 16, 2005, to overhaul the troubled California Youth Authority, but juvenile justice advocates said it fell short of the major reforms Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration had promised.

The new proposal marks a new emphasis away from punishment and toward therapy and schoolwork, and one corrections official noted it was just a beginning of changes at the Youth Authority.

Schwarzenegger's proposal would make several changes. Among them are:

- A reduction in the number of wards living in dorm-style rooms to 35 – some currently house 75.
- A reduction in the staff-per-ward ratio to 1-to-7 in dorm-style facilities – substantially lower than current practices.
- A system to classify wards when they enter the Youth Authority so they are sent to appropriate places based on risk and needs – something that isn't done now and leads to the mingling of wards who have committed crimes that range in severity.

### **Youth Authority Changes: cont'd**

The May revised budget targeted \$3.1 million for juvenile corrections system reform. The money will be used to study how to change the eight facilities and two conservation camps that hold 3,300 wards. Officials for the Governor will return to court with a more detailed outline in November. California spends approximately \$71,000 per male ward each year and twice that on female wards.

### **Solicitation Calls**

If you are bothered by solicitation calls on your home, work or cell phones, just call the National Do Not Call number. This is governed by the California Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission. You must call from the telephone number you want to block.

**National Do Not Call Registry  
1-888-382-1222**

### **Welcome New Members**

On behalf of the CCSO State Board and staff, I want to welcome the new members who have joined CCSO this week.

### **Thought for the Week**

"All the arts we practice are apprenticeship. The big art is our life." -- M.C. Richards

**The next weekly update will be**

**June 10, 2005**