



100 Years of Service 1909-2009
Santa Barbara County
Probation Department

Probation Today

The 24th Annual Staff Recognition Awards Dinner

The Probation Staff Recognition Dinner was held on February 20th. Many Probation Department staff, judges, dignitaries, retirees, family, friends, and supporters attended to celebrate the award recipients and the Department's 100 years of service to the community.



Chief Probation Officer Patti Stewart, left and Support Staff of the Year recipient for Lompoc Roseanna Regalado.

The Honorable Arthur A. Garcia, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, opened the program by commending and congratulating the Department and award recipients for a job well done. Board of Supervisors Chair Joseph Centeno of the Fifth District and Supervisor Janet Wolf of the Second District presented service pins to employees with 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service. The staff of the year recipients, selected by their peers, were: **Support Staff of the Year:** Lompoc Probation Assistant Roseanna Regalado, Santa Maria Probation Assistant Lucila Esparza, Santa Barbara Office Assistant II Miriam Castenetto; **Los Prietos Boys Academy Staff of the Year:** JIO Sr. Eugene Moggia Jr; **Santa Maria Juvenile Hall Staff of the Year:** JIO Robert Pischke; **Specialty Services Staff of the Year :** Deputy Probation Officer Senior Brett Kohler; **Adult Deputy Probation Officer of the Year:** Lompoc DPO Nicholas Consorti; Santa Maria DPO Jennifer Valen; Santa Barbara DPO Sr. Joe Talaugon; **Juvenile Deputy Probation Officer of the Year:** Lompoc DPO Alejandra Hernandez; Santa Maria DPO Sr. Ashley Guggia; Santa Barbara DPO Miguel Rivera Jr; **Bulldog Award:** Fee Study Team; Adult Collection Challenge; Collections Specialty Pilot; **Star Award:** Fiscal Manager Michael Cameron.

The Probation Department, as a whole, was awarded a special "**Chief's Award.**" Chief Probation Officer Patti Stewart recognized all staff for their professionalism, outstanding creativity, the solidity of labor, and loyalty of all levels of personnel. She noted that the last year has been one of the most challenging and perilous years experienced by the Department and highlighted that six award recipients were affected by displacement, demotion or transfer as a result of downsizing. Chief Stewart stated, "Ultimately, not a single member of the Department has gone untouched by change. Although dared to fail, it is a testament to unyielding commitment to our mission that staff are here to celebrate success."

Congratulations to all of our award recipients and thank you to all of our staff and supporters who contributed to the celebration. In coming months a Board of Supervisors Resolution will honor the centennial of the Probation Department. Please click [here](#) to view the Chief's Award presentation speech.

Submitted by Administrative Secretary Paul Williams and Personnel & Training DPO Sr. Duane Erdman

PROBATION 101: In 1909 Myra Morgan was appointed as the first Probation Officer of Santa Barbara County. Miss Morgan was a school teacher and taught in her home which was located at 118 East Figueroa Street, the site of the present Superior Court House annex. Miss Morgan had long been interested in underprivileged children and after her resignation as Probation Officer in 1913 she was appointed Superintendent of the Detention Home.

Submitted by Fiscal Manager Carter Ray, Retired

Los Robles High School Native Plant Garden Project

As a result of Garden Grant funding from the California Department of Education, the Los Robles High School (LRHS) Science Department was able to partner with *Growing Solutions*, a local organization, on a native plant garden project. They enlisted the assistance of Santa Barbara City College horticulture professor Don Hartley. *Growing Solutions* provided native plant seeds collected from the oak woodlands and chaparral habitats around Cachuma Lake County Park. LRHS students have been learning about the ecology of the Los Padres National Forest by studying the growth and life cycles of native plants. The Advanced Construction Class at Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy designed and built propagation benches, where 20 different native plant species could be planted in seedling flats. In late October, under the direction of LRHS Science teacher Mike Mowers, students planted approximately 1,000 seeds. The students will care for the seedlings until they are large enough to be planted in an interpretive garden located in front of the Los Prietos Ranger Station on Paradise Road. In addition to these activities, *Growing Solutions* will provide career workshops regarding resource management. ♣



Submitted by SPO Kristina Brumbaugh, LPBA



Collections Increase

Offender collections increased by \$69,835 in comparison to the first two month period in 2008. Collections from Probationers are distributed first to victim restitution (if it is ordered), second to fines, and last to fees. Seventy percent of all probationer payments are made at the Probation Department. The goal is to increase the total amount collected. In January and February of 2009, the Department tested three collection strategies: the Lobby Collection Officer, "Dialing for Dollars" and a Letter Campaign. The letter was most effective. A letter was sent to probationers with delinquent accounts. The letter required a payment or a meeting with their DPO to reassess their ability to pay; most chose to pay. The lessons learned from the Collection Pilot Project are being incorporated into Probation practices and procedures, to enhance offender accountability through the collection of restitution, fines and fees.

Submitted by Admin. Deputy Director Jean Silva