

# Correction N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Theodis Beck  
Secretary

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Public Information Director

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## Corrections professionals shine at 2003 ACA Winter Conference

By Pamela Walker

**CHARLOTTE**—More than 3,000 people from across the country attended the American Correctional Association's 2003 Winter Conference Jan. 11-15 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

"The theme of the conference--Solving Problems Today for a Better Tomorrow--was fitting as criminal justice professionals are continually looking for creative ways to improve safety and security in communities in the face of extremely tight state and local budgets," said Secretary

Theodis Beck, who served as host committee chairperson.

Attendees participated in workshops that provided insight into a variety of topics, including offender transition initiatives, facility medical shortages, managing aging offenders, evaluating alcohol and drug treatment programs, dealing with gangs and much more.

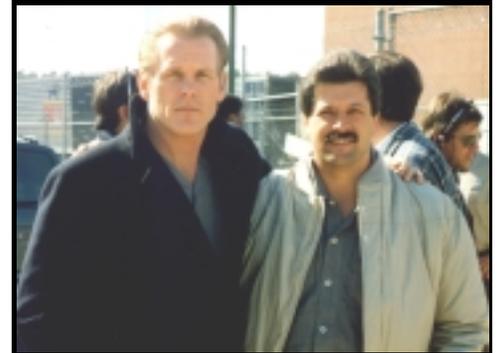
The workshops got underway on Jan.

11. On Monday, Secretary Beck kicked off the opening session with welcoming

(ACA, cont. on page 2)



Gov. Mike Easley greets ACA president Charles Kehoe (left) and ACA executive director James Gondles before the annual luncheon.



Nick Nolte and Ricky Byrd take a break during the filming of the 1987 film "Weeds" at Harnett Correctional Institution.

## Hangin' with the A-List

**RALEIGH**—You don't have to be rich and famous to hang out with the rich and famous. Just ask some of your DOC colleagues—especially the ones at Staff Development and Training (OSDT).

Everybody at OSDT seems to know somebody. Cindy Feild grew up in Georgia and was friends with the family of Deborah Norville, anchor for *Inside Edition*. Recently retired Al Mewborn was in a play with Andy Griffith many years ago in Goldsboro.

In 1986, Ricky Byrd was assigned to chaperone actor Nick Nolte when the actor filmed scenes from the 1987 film "Weeds" at Harnett Correctional Institution in Lillington. The film, which also starred Ernie Hudson, tells the story of an inmate that writes a play in prison that leads to his parole.

Dressed as an inmate, Byrd made a brief appearance in the movie in one scene. He also got to spend a lot of time with Nolte off camera. "Wherever he went, I went," he says. "I did everything with him for two days. It was a good

(Stars, cont. on page 2)

## ACA Conference attracts diverse group



Public information director Pam Walker, and OSDT training instructor Pam Taylor greet Charles Danzig, CEO of Hearst Newspapers. Danzig was the keynote speaker for the 2003 ACA annual luncheon.

(ACA, cont. from page 1)

remarks, followed by remarks from House Speaker James Black. The speaker voiced his support of corrections professionals and vowed to do what he could to protect chaplains in the prison system. Sarah Hart, director of the National Institute of Justice, followed him with the keynote speech.

On Tuesday, Gov. Michael F. Easley welcomed attendees to the state at the ACA Annual Winter Conference Luncheon. The governor expressed his appreciation for the hard work of those in corrections and criminal justice. He applauded the efforts being made in helping offenders transition back into communities upon release. "With the average cost of housing an offender reaching more than \$22,000 a year, we need to do all we can to ensure inmates don't return to a life of crime," Gov. Easley said. "We must also do all we can to invest in and provide a good education to our young people so that every citizen in every county has every opportunity to succeed."

Bob Danzig, CEO of Hearst Newspapers, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon. He gave an inspirational speech that encouraged everyone to show appreciation and respect to every person with whom you come in contact—no matter who they are. The following morning motivational speaker Michael Broome had attendees rolling with laughter as he talked about success and stress.

In between workshops and events, attendees got a chance to see the latest products on the market in corrections. Over 400 vendors showed off products that included fencing, food and phone service for inmates. Many people also took part in facility tours at Albemarle Correctional Institution, Charlotte Correctional Center, Judicial District 26 Community Corrections and the Mecklenburg County Jail.

(Stars, cont. from page 1)

experience and I got to learn a lot about how they make movies."

A few years later, Nolte remembered Byrd when they ran into each other in Wilmington. "He was real down-to-earth," Byrd says of Nolte. "A pretty neat guy."

Mike Evers grew up in Marshall, Texas, which produced not one, but two famous people—Bill Moyers, award-winning journalist, and Y.A. Tittle, the former New York Giants quarterback. Although both men were a few years older than Evers, their families were well acquainted. Evers' family shopped at the Tittle grocery store and Evers' dad, who was a barber, used to cut hair for the Moyers clan.

When Andy Terrell Jr. was a student at East Carolina University in the 1980s, his friend and dorm neighbor dated actress Sandra Bullock. Terrell didn't recognize Bullock's star quality back then, which probably explains why he works for OSDT and not a major talent agency. "She was always wearing that dancer-type clothing," he remembers. "She was very pretty, but her 'flashdance' clothes were kind of a turnoff."

Other OSDT employees with celebrity links, include Carl Dean, who is friends with Kweisi Mfume, president of the

NAACP; and Tony Lassiter, who is friends with Willie Gary, one of the most well known attorneys in America. Outside of OSDT, Durham probation officer Alfred Solomon was the inspiration for the main character in the 1994 sitcom "My Brother and Me."

No one, however, seems to have more celebrity connections than Mae McLendon, who recently retired as director of volunteer services for the

Division of Prisons. During the 1960s, she attended high school with singer James Taylor's brother. In 1978, she met President and Mrs. Carter, Vice-President Mondale and future President



Mae McLendon (left) and Gwen Chunn (right) met Tony Orlando at the 2000 ACA Conference.

Bill Clinton at a political convention

As a member of the ACA Board of Governors in 2000, she dined with Barbara Bush, Hugh Downs, Patty Duke and Tony Orlando. In fact, McLendon claims so many celebrity sightings that her stories are a bit incredible until she produces photographs, such as a photograph showing a beaming McLendon and Gwen Chunn, president of the American Correctional Association, flocking Orlando.

"I told him we could not be his Dawn," remembers McLendon, "but [we] could be his Twilight." Orlando decided to stick with Dawn.

### SECC Honors

**RALEIGH**--Congratulations to the State Employees Combined Campaign award winners from Region 5! Research and Planning won first place, exceeding its goal by 577 percent. MIS took second place, exceeding its goal by 448 percent compared to 2001 and becoming the largest section to achieve its participation goal. Combined Records exceeded its goal by 64 percent to earn third place honors. Overall, Region 5 raised over \$66,000 during the 2002 campaign.

# News

## BRIEFS

### Robeson CC receives Eagle Award

**SCOTLAND COUNTY**—Carver Middle School presented the Eagle Award to Robeson Correctional Center for its participation in the school's Adopt-A-Highway Project. Sgts. Brenda Mitchell and Hubert McDonald accepted the award on Robeson's behalf.

### DART supervisor moves to DHHS

**RALEIGH**—Chris Phillips, former substance abuse program supervisor at DART-Duplin, is now the chief of advocacy and customer services for the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Chris began his career with DACDP in 1990 as a counselor in the DART program that existed at New Hanover Correctional Center in Wilmington. He served as supervisor of the DART-Duplin from January 2000 until Jan. 13, 2003.

In his new position, Phillips will be part of the Executive Leadership Team for the Division. He will be responsible for collaborating and communicating with advocacy groups for the various disabilities, including primary consumers in the management and policy-making process and protecting client rights.

### Criminal justice professionals hold joint firearms conference

**RALEIGH**—More than 200 certified firearms instructors from corrections and law enforcement, together with other criminal justice professionals, gathered for a joint training conference Dec. 18 at Wake Technical Community College. The

conference featured training seminars and vendor displays.

Steve Johnson, president of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors and an instructor/coordinator at the NC Justice Academy, was the keynote speaker. After the keynote address, Tom Campbell of Safariland Holster Company provided a lecture on handgun equipment and associated shooting skills. Campbell is a nationally ranked competitive shooter.

David Upchurch, a correctional training instructor with OSDT, introduced and explained the new NCCE qualification foe-type target he developed. Upchurch claimed that the target offers an enormous per-target cost savings to the agency, insures uniformity, simplifies scoring and can be readily adopted by law enforcement agencies.

Approximately 20 vendors displayed their products and equipment throughout the day. In addition, Al Sutton of Lawmen's Safety Supply provided door prizes, such as a new pistol. Plans are already in place to hold the event again on Dec. 17, 2003.

### Harnett CI names Daughtry Officer of the Year

**LILLINGTON**—Harold Daughtry has been recognized as the 2002 Correctional Officer of the Year for Harnett Correctional Institution in Lillington. A five-year veteran of the department, Daughtry is a member of the Prison Emergency Response Team and follows his own advice for correctional officers—be professional, be firm and be consistent. Daughtry retired from the United States Army after 23 years of service.



Daughtry

### Harnett honors Jaycees at award ceremony

**LILLINGTON**—Many staff, inmates and citizens involved with the Jaycees

program at Harnett Correctional Institution (HCI) were honored at the Greater Crede et Vincent Jaycees' Annual Distinguished Service Awards Banquet Jan. 27.

For the first time in the 32-year history of this chapter, it finished as one of the top 20 chapters in the state. The chapter president, inmate William Covert, also was recognized as one of the top 20 local chapter presidents in the state. Several HCI staff members received awards for their efforts in helping the Jaycees with fundraising, leadership development and volunteerism.

In addition, the chapter received a "Big Brother" award from the Lake Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home for their monetary support and the donation of a computer cabinet. They also received an award from the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center for donations to cancer outpatient treatment. For the 2002 year, the chapter donated over \$5,000 to various charities and to the improvement of the HCI community.

### NCCIW instructor receives national award

**WASHINGTON**—Joyce Hawkins, an instructor at Wake Technical Community College, has been selected to receive the 2003 David R. Pierce Faculty Technology Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. Hawkins teaches computer information systems at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women.

For receiving the award, Hawkins and co-winner Susan Gaer will be recognized in the Feb. 18, 2003 edition of the *Community College Times*. They also will receive round-trip airfare and hotel accommodations to the AACC's 2003 Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas, April 5.

# Spotlight on North Piedmont CCW

Located in Lexington, North Piedmont Correctional Center for Women ("NPCCW") is a minimum-security facility for female inmates. A staff of 45 supervises a maximum of 136 inmates "We're small enough to give a lot of individual attention and meet individual needs," says Supt. Brenda Jarra.

NPCCW inmates keep active with rehabilitative programs and community service projects.



## The Superintendent's Crew

Supt. Brenda Jarra (above, left) began her career with Department as a correctional officer at Fountain CCW in 1984. She worked her way up the ranks, before being named superintendent at NPCCW in 1998. A Rocky Mount native, Jarra is a woman of the world. She spent 14 years living in Africa, first as member of the Peace Corps and later as an educational specialist for Opportunities Industrialization Corporation International. In her spare time, she likes to read, quilt and travel.

Mike Davis, assistant superintendent, helped open NPCCW as a programs supervisor. He has been with the Department since 1982 and handles disciplinary cases, safety and scheduling. In his spare time, he follows his kids in sporting activities, does home improvement projects and grills. "His salmon is to die for," says Jarra.



Administrative assistant Cindy Deaton (above) has been with NPCCW since 1998. As the secretary to the superintendent, she handles personnel, benefits and odds and ends. In her spare time, she is active in church activities and works part-time.

## Administrative Services



Debra Clonch (left) is responsible for basic accounting, including inmate banking, trust fund and work release. The newlywed is expecting her second child in June. When she is not on duty, she likes to read, teach Sunday School and participate in prison ministry at Western Youth Institution.

Processing assistant Phyllis Comer (right) is in charge of volunteers. "I was looking for a job that helped people," says Comer. "Since I've been here, we've given out over 400 dolls and 600 blankets, so yeah, we've helped a lot of people." The Lexington native uses her hometown ties to maintain a database of more than 300 volunteers. She is shown here with blankets and dolls made by inmates that will be donated to charity.

## Programs

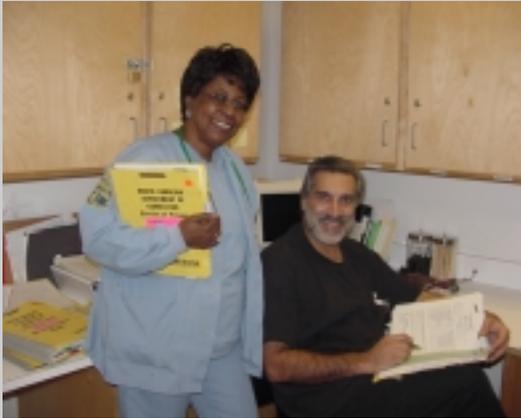


Programs supervisor Janet Wise (top) has been a state employee for 22 years. The former social worker focuses on the social skills and emotional needs of offenders. "We want to give them the ability to make better choices and give them the skills to help them do that," she says. In her spare time, she likes to read, make crafts and play music.



Lorna Brown-Ray, programs assistant, is the coordinator for work release, home leave, ThinkSmart, recreation, education and victim information. Her nickname is Sarge, because she was a sergeant when she helped open the facility in 1997. Married with four children, she watches a lot of movies and sings with a gospel ensemble in her spare time. Brown Ray has always had an interest in criminal justice. "It's about getting people to realize their potential," she says, "and when they realize it, it's like seeing a butterfly come out of its cocoon."

**Health Services**



Dr. Sami Hassan (seated) serves as a physician at NPCCW, Piedmont CI, Davidson and Albemarle. Born in Pakistan and raised in England, Hassan spent six years in the Army as a combat medic and two years as a flight surgeon in the Navy before beginning a career in corrections. The father of three dabbles in oil painting, astronomy, reading and racquetball in his spare time. He has two private practices in Denton and Asheboro, where he sees correctional officers and their families free of charge. "It is a courtesy for the custody officers because of all the hard work they do," he says.

Pat Samuels, R.N. (standing) was a nurse analyst for Brown and Williamson before joining NPCCW. "It's a different setting working with inmates," says the Belmont native. When she is not at work, she likes to read, do crossword puzzles and play sports.

**Officers**



Djuana Glover (top) supervises 25 inmates and two staff members as food service manager. Glover has been with the Department for 10 years, after spending eight years in the army as a cook. Married for 14 years, the Lexington native has three children and enjoys baking in her spare time.



A correctional officer since 1999, Sandra Young (bottom) is in charge of the clotheshouse and the canteen and serves as the choir coordinator for the facility's heralded gospel choir. "It's not just a job," she says, "it's also a learning experience." NPCCW's volunteers donate choir robes and clothing and shoes for inmates on leave or being released. A Lexington native, Young spent eight years in Colorado before returning home. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with her children and participate in church activities.



**Social Work**

Rhonda Robertson has been NPCCW's social worker since 2001. She focuses on the transition from prison to community, including release arrangements, transitional housing, interview skills and documentation. "I love my job because it gives me the opportunity to educate and open doors for offenders that they can't open for themselves. In her spare time, she spends time with her four kids in sports and community activities.

**Officers**



Anthony Perkins began his career with the Department in 1981 as a correctional officer at Piedmont CI. At NPCCW, he handles vehicle maintenance, disciplinary grievances and other duties. When he is off duty, the Winston-Salem native likes to play with his nieces and nephews, travel to track meets with his stepson and fish.

Heather Cheal is from upstate New York and came to Lexington because of her husband's family ties. Holding her first job in corrections, Cheal has been with the facility for one year. In her spare time, she just likes to relax.

**Dormitory Officers**



Nigerian native Olutoyosi Kassim (top) has been a correctional officer since March 2002. "I love my job," she says. "I'm learning every day." In her spare time, she likes to travel, do outdoor activities and watch movies. Last year, she visited Austria and London.



Karen Allen has been with NPCCW since 1998. The Lexington native serves as a mentor for young officers and is on the sergeants list. "She does a really good job," says Jarra. "You don't hear much from her, but she has it all under control." A mother of two, Allen likes to spend time with her family and read when she is off duty.



## MANAGEMENT IN MOTION



### George Solomon named superintendent at Dan River

**RALEIGH**—Correction Secretary Theodis Beck has named George Solomon as the new superintendent at Dan River Prison Work Farm in Yanceyville effective Feb. 1.

Solomon is an 18-year veteran of the Department of Correction who served most recently as the deputy warden at North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh. He also has served as assistant chief of security for



Solomon

the Division of Prisons and as assistant superintendent at Alamance Correctional Center and Dan River Prison Work Farm. His corrections career started

in 1984 as a correctional officer at Blanch Youth Institution in Caswell County.

"I'm excited about this new challenge and I'm eager to return to Dan River and work with the staff," said Solomon.

Solomon is a native of Prospect Hill and a graduate of Bartlett-Yancey High School. He is also a graduate of the department's Correctional Leadership Development Program. He replaces superintendent Shane Ellis who retired in July 2002.

Dan River Prison Work Farm is a minimum-security prison that houses about 550 adult male inmates. Solomon will be the prison's third superintendent since it opened in 1996.

### George Lyndon retires as special assistant to secretary

**RALEIGH**—George Lyndon, has retired as special assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Correction, effective Dec. 1, 2002.

Lyndon began his career with the Department in 1978 as a clinical specialist. He later served as a field service counselor, an educational supervisor at Piedmont Correctional Institution and a grievance examiner before being named special assistant to the secretary. As special assistant, Lyndon handled special projects and investigations for the Department.

At a reception on Jan. 22, Secretary Theodis Beck presented Lyndon with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for his

dedicated service to the department. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is North Carolina's highest civilian honor, given to citizens with a proven record of service to the state. "George Lyndon

has made significant contributions to this department throughout his career," Beck said.

"Most of my friends are in this department and I'm going to miss them," said Lyndon. "They have it backward—people should retire when they're young and work when they're old."

Lyndon and his wife, Billie, live in Wilmington. They plan to spend their time traveling, reading and spending time with their four grandchildren.



Lyndon

### Batten gets with the program

**RALEIGH**—Prisons director Boyd Bennett has named Norma Batten as the new chief of program services for the North Carolina Division of Prisons, effective Jan. 1.

In her new position, Batten oversees religious programs, academic education, vocational education and enrichment programs conducted for inmates in North Carolina's 74 state prisons.

Batten started her career with the Department of Correction in 1973 as a case analyst in the North Piedmont area diagnostic center located at Guilford Correctional Center. She was promoted to director

of that diagnostic center and served there until 1992 when she was named program director for the North Piedmont area prisons. When the Division of Prisons reorganized in 1998, she was named coordinator of program services for the Piedmont region prisons.

A native of western North Carolina, Batten holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and social work and a master's degree in counselor education from North Carolina A&T State University.

Batten replaces Keith Hester who retired as chief of program services in April 2002.



Batten

**From the Archives**



Mike Baker, administrative services manager at Pasquotank Correctional Institution, had this to say about the December Archives photo, which was taken at Caledonia in the spring of 1975:

They had to bring basic training to Caledonia that year because of all the new staff to man the first new wing (West) built since 1927. I am in the front row on the far left. The "newbie" on the other end is Mr. Parker who is now a captain at Odom CI. I hope his memory is better than mine because I have forgotten most of the names!! Notice that we were wearing the latest and greatest uniforms...Grey on darker grey!!!

**Movin' on Up**

Alton Arthur II	Lead Corr Officer	Prisons
Dedrick Battle	Prob/Parole Officer II	DCC
Michelle Beck-Warden	Corr Planner II	DCC
Sherry Blackburn	Accounting Clerk IV	Prisons
Bettie Chapman	Dept Purch Agent I	Fiscal
Harold Copley II	Prob/Parole Officer I	DCC
Alison Dean	Personnel Asst IV	Personnel
Phyllis Dombos	Personnel Tech I	Prisons
Donald Edwards Jr.	Corr Captain	Prisons
Dion Elliott	Dept Purch Agent II	Fiscal
Gail Erke	Corr Case Analyst	Prisons
Donald Graham	Asst Superintendent	Prisons
Dwayne Greene	Lead Corr Officer	Prisons
Bobbie Hannah	Office Asst IV	DCC
Wendell Hargrave	Asst Supt III	Prisons
Mark Higgins	Lead Corr Officer	Prisons
Linda Horrioun	Admin Secretary II	Prisons
Frederick Hubbard	Asst Supt III	Prisons
Patricia Kucan	Prob/Parole Officer II	DCC
Murle Lewis	Corr Captain	Prisons
George McGinnis	Prob/Par Officer II	DCC
Julie Meyers	Prob/Par Officer II	DCC
Teresa Myers	Personnel Asst IV	Prisons
William Parrish	Accounting Tech IV	Fiscal
Harry Pearce	Corr Sergeant	Prisons
Barbara Pierce	Corr Admin Serv Mgr	Prisons
Robert Pittman	Corr Unit Manager	Prisons
Diana Pratt	Accounting Tech III	Fiscal
Frederick Reeves	Corr Sergeant	Prisons
Clara Rogers	Corr Sergeant	Prisons
Evangeline Rouse	Processing Asst IV	Personnel
Dennis Smith	Prob/Parole Officer II	DCC
William Spruill	Lead Corr Officer	Prisons
Joann Strom	Corr Food Serv Mgr II	Prisons
Constance Taub	Corr Sergeant	Prisons
Charles Vance	Prob/Parole Surv Officer	DCC
Ethel Walker-Henry	Nurse (RN) Supvr I	Prisons
Basil White	Corr Food Serv Mgr I	Prisons
Melissa Whitson	Prob/Parole Officer II	DCC

**Retirements  
30 Years or More**

Kay Crouch      Kenneth Rains  
Earl Douglass   James Sanderson  
James McCann

**Deaths**

Diane Hartsell      Jonathan Rushing  
Henry McKenzie    Boyst Swann  
Ronald Raub



**PERSONNEL  
CORNER**

After a long relationship with Blue Cross Blue Shield as the dental insurance carrier for employees and their dependents, the North Carolina Department of Correction Insurance Committee has awarded the contract for dental coverage to a new carrier, MetLife, effective February 1, 2003. MetLife is the largest commercial dental carrier in the United States.

Some of the highlights of this new contract are:

- no waiting period for any dental service with MetLife for current subscribers of Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental Insurance

- a one-month waiting period for new enrollees for basic and preventative dental services
- a 12-month waiting period for new enrollees for major and orthodontic dental services
- pay only a \$25 annual deductible for "employee only" coverage
- pay only a \$75 annual deductible for "employee and family" coverage
- a calendar year maximum of \$1,000
- a lifetime orthodontic maximum of \$1,500

MetLife pays 100 percent of charges incurred with preventative dental maintenance per calendar year, such as two oral exams and cleanings, x-rays and fluoride treatments; 80

percent of charges incurred with basic dental maintenance, such as fillings and sealants; and 50 percent of charges incurred with major dental and orthodontia, such as inlays, crowns, root canals, periodontics, dentures, bridges, orthodontic diagnostics and treatment

All employees who currently have dental insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield will automatically transfer to dental coverage with MetLife, unless they elect to decline continued coverage. For those employees that need dental coverage, there will be an enrollment period Feb. 15, 2003 through March 15, 2003. See the benefit representative at your work location for more information.

## *From the Archives: The Past in Pictures*



Does anybody recognize this group? E-mail us at [smr22@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:smr22@doc.state.nc.us) if you have information regarding this photograph or if you have a photo that you would like to see published in *Correction News*. For information about the photo in the September issue, see page 7.

*This month's photo is from Peggy Meyer.*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 24-26, 2003**—Americans for Effective Law Enforcement hosts the AELE Workshop on Jail and Prisoner Legal Issues in Las Vegas. Topics include policy and procedure liability, prisoner religion rights, mail and correspon-

dence rights, suicides and in-custody deaths, a corrections overview and much more. For more information, call (847) 685-0700 or visit AELE's Web site at [www.aele.org](http://www.aele.org).



**ACA Highlights**

**CHARLOTTE**--The Department of Correction made a strong showing at the 2003 ACA Winter Conference. At left, an honor guard comprised of various corrections agencies presents the colors. Center: employees man the DOC booth. Below: Employees take time to interact with peers.



## ***Correction News***

*Correction News* is an employee newsletter published monthly by the North Carolina Department of Correction's Public Information Office. The newsletter is available on the Department's Web site.

If you have questions, comments or story ideas, please contact Mildred Spearman at [smr22@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:smr22@doc.state.nc.us).

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