



KANE COUNTY

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

**June 26, 2012, 2:00 pm
Kane County Government Center, County Board Room**

**Employee Recognition Award Ceremony
June 26, 2012**

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Presentation of Recognition Award Recipients:

Josh Boies	Barb Garza	Sally Lee
Dan Brusveen	Karen Greever	Donna Mueller
Lynn Carlstrom	Jennifer Grobe	Joanna Murphy
Patsy Clark	Ceil Hackman	Pam Petoskey
Sherry Cowan	John Harahan	Martin Pinnau
Halle Cox	Brad Hunold	Steve Placek
Amy Coyne	Tim Keovongsak	David Scholes
Susie DeChristopher	Karen Kosky	Ingrid Vogt
Joe Durczak	Krista Larson	Steve Wells

Reception to follow in the Auditorium

All award recipients, along with their Department Heads, are asked to remain for photos after the ceremony

*"Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition."
--Abraham Lincoln*

Recognition Award Recipients

Auditor's Watch Dogs – Auditor Above and Beyond

In my final year of my last term as County Auditor, I recognize my staff as co-recipients of this award. Both employees have gone above and beyond. **John Harahan**, Deputy Auditor, is the principal internal auditor for my office. In addition to evaluating risk and implementing the audit program, John Harahan revised the interview process for the hiring of an Administrative Officer. **Lynn Carlstrom** was hired as the Administrative Officer to succeed her predecessor. In addition to processing vendor payments and distributing payroll checks, Lynn Carlstrom has discovered wasteful practices and assisted with internal cash audits. Both employees are deserving of being recognized for their accomplishments in office and the benefits they bring to County government.



Dan Brusveen – Building Management Employee Recognition

Dan Brusveen has worked for us as the county Painter for only 6 months, but in that time he has brought a high level of professionalism and quality to that position. His quality of work, experience and personality is a great addition to our staff. He takes pride in his work and it reflects in his completed projects. All the departments that he does work in are very happy with the quality of his work. He is a great addition to the County Staff.



Patsy Clark - Human Resources Above and Beyond Award

Patsy is the Payroll Manager for the Human Resources Department. To say that she is extremely conscientious, diligent, and hard-working is an understatement. The quality of her work is exceptional. She is always professional and has a wonderful sense of humor.

She is always ready to assist our Payroll Coordinators with answering questions or concerns so that each of us receives accurate paychecks. Her great attitude, patience and vast knowledge makes this complicated process look easy, and with close to 1300 employees, this is no small feat!

In addition to these major responsibilities, Patsy has been directly involved in the training and implementation of the eSuite module that enables employees to access their own personal information. She has also been on the team that has been instrumental in implementing the latest Next Generation Human Resource module. Accomplishing both of these tasks in addition to the normal work duties certainly earns Patsy the “Above and Beyond Award” for the Human Resources Department.



**Office of Community Reinvestment
Outstanding Program Development**

Amy Coyne and Jennifer Grobe

Amy and Jennifer each manage a variety of housing programs for the Office of Community Reinvestment. Last year, however, they teamed up to develop an innovative program to remove lead-based paint from Kane County homes. Lead paint is a significant problem in Kane County’s older neighborhoods and it puts area children at-risk of serious health problems. Amy’s and Jennifer’s proposal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was one of only a handful to be awarded Federal funding. Over the next three-years, they will reduce or eliminate the toxic substance in homes where it is poisoning children, and educate contractors and residents about how to properly deal with lead and make their homes healthier places in which to live. We tip our hats to Amy and Jennifer for their outstanding effort to develop and implement a program aimed at making our county a healthier and more-livable place to raise children. Well done, Amy and Jennifer!



**Sherry Cowan- Recorder
Employee Recognition**

Sherry Cowan has been with the Recorder’s Office for 20 years now and has always excelled in her customer service. She started in a temporary position and was then hired to work as a duplicating machine operator, moved on to the microfilm vault and the computer /scanning department. Except for a brief time in the recording department, Sherry has spent her time in the research/tract and archive areas of the office graciously assisting the public with their searches.



**Halle Cox – Judiciary
Employee Recognition**

Halle Cox has been an outstanding employee for the Judiciary. In her position as the Chief Librarian at the Law Library her hard work and professionalism is shown daily. Her knowledge of the library’s contents and the available resources for litigants and Judges is unsurpassed. She was instrumental in starting the “Lawyer in the Lobby” program with the Kane County Bar Association in cooperation with a not for profit organization, Administer Justice, and in building the conference rooms in the Law Library. She is truly an asset to the Judiciary in Kane County and we commend her for providing excellent service to the public and the Judges each and every day.



**Susie DeChristopher – State’s Attorney’s Office
Employee Recognition**

The Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office nominates Susie DeChristopher to be recognized by Kane County. Susie is an unsung hero of the state’s attorney’s office. She tackles many tasks that are important to the office – tasks that no one notices unless they do not get done – and she does them with no fanfare. Officially, as the office’s payroll assistant, Susie handles payroll, vacation requests, accruals and benefit information, provides orientation to new employees, pairs interns with support personnel, arranges travel and accommodations for trial witnesses and orders supplies. Unofficially, Susie is co-chairman of the office’s Employee Relations Committee and works with a Kane County sustainability committee on recycling. Susie gives much personal time organizing office events. For a recent office-wide recycling event, Susie arranged for places to donate items, collected boxes for the items to be placed in and delivered the items. The event was a success because of Susie’s extraordinary efforts. Susie is highly regarded in the office because of her helpfulness, her professional, efficient approach and the exceptional quality of her work. The State’s Attorney’s Office is a better place to work because of Susie DeChristopher. Not only do the SAO employees benefit from Susie’s work, the public also benefits. Congratulations to Susie.



**Joe Durczak – Health Department:
Employee Recognition**

Joe Durczak has been selected for the Employee Recognition Award for the Health Department. Joe has shown to be a vital asset to our organization. He works hard and is thorough in the work that he does. He is passionate and motivated to consistently do a great job. He maintains a great relationship with the public and goes above and beyond to ensure they obtain the upmost quality services from him. He is extremely knowledgeable in public health and is constantly finding ways to increase his expertise.



**Barb Garza – County Board
Above and Beyond**

This year, the County Board office would like to recognize Barb Garza for her beyond the call of duty efforts to bring Kane County’s website to a level of communication that is first class. Barb, along with other individuals from the Information Technologies and Human Resources Departments, worked many long hours in excess of standard job duties, to ensure that County offers as much information as possible to the general public. Approximately 1,800 hours of staff time has been devoted to providing better website transparency just this year by staff, with at least half of those hours being on their own time in the evenings and weekends. Barb’s dedication to this project has resulted in a website that is cutting edge and nationally recognized for its transparency.



**Karen Greever – Kane County Clerk’s Office
Above and Beyond**

With a smile, a helping hand, and her southern charm, Karen Greever has been assisting customers at the County Clerk's office since 1994. Whether it is dealing with the public, or in her role as Supervisor of Vital Records, she regularly goes above and beyond her job description. She takes the time to understand the statutes, how to apply them to her work, and explains them to both the public and her staff. She interacts with the hospitals, the Judges of Kane County, the State's Attorney's office, and the State of Illinois Department of Vital Records with the same mixture of professionalism, respect, and kindness. Lending a helping hand whenever needed, Karen Greever is an asset and we appreciate her doing her best at always going above and beyond.



Ceil Hackman – Circuit Clerk’s Office
Outstanding Dedication

The office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court would like to honor Ceil Hackman for her outstanding dedication to the information needs of the Kane County Judicial System. From key punch to Crystal, mainframe to AS400 and beyond, Ceil has preserved our core operations through many iterations of change. Over the past 33 plus years, she has maintained high standards and her quality of work is shown in all aspects of her job. She works tirelessly to ensure that all parties related to the Court have the information that they need to conduct business when requested for statistical or tracking purposes. She accurately and thoroughly performs her assigned duties, and is constantly willing to step beyond her job role to help her coworkers. Ceil is the institutional memory of our Information Systems team as well as a dear friend that is a joy to have around. Thank you Ceil for all you do.



Brad Hunold - Division of Transportation
Rising Star Award

In his four-year tenure, Brad Hunold has consistently delivered high quality work and has accepted responsibilities beyond his seniority level. KDOT relies on Brad to manage numerous highway construction projects valued at over \$5 million annually. He tackles necessary field changes with an eye toward finding the best solution at the most reasonable cost. Brad is a meticulous record keeper and is very cool under pressure. Brad is a 2008 graduate of Iowa State University and is KDOT’s first full-time hire from our Engineering Cooperative Education program. He is exactly the type of conscientious, talented professional KDOT intended to develop when our “co-op” program was created.



Tim Keovongsak - Purchasing Department
Customer Service

Tim has worked for the County since 2001. His position as a buyer requires interaction with staff County-wide and many businesses soliciting County work. Tim has acquired broad knowledge in many functions and operations throughout the County. He performs his duties each day with a determination and commitment to providing great customer service in a friendly and courteous manner, while handling multiple tasks. Tim could be working on evaluating a potential food service provider, processing a FOIA request and preparing a cost analysis on an electric vehicle while soliciting quotations for a 1,700-pound torque wrench. He is a dependable team player that is always willing to help in any possible way and demonstrates patience even with the most challenging issues.

Tim is a big asset to the Purchasing Department and we are very fortunate to have him on our team.



**Karen Kosky – Environmental Management
Above and Beyond**

Kane County received a \$2,500,000 energy efficiency conservation block grant. This grant was divided between four County departments. Karen stepped up and administered this grant and all the complicated pieces and paperwork associated with this grant. Deadlines were shortened, quarterly reports were required, and audits were completed. Karen also administered several of the projects funded by this grant. Karen took on this challenge, without reducing her current work load.

Karen went above and beyond to administer this program, and we are grateful for all her efforts to complete this work.



**Krista Larson – Court Services
Employee Recognition**

We would like to nominate Krista Larson for employee of the year. She began her career with Court Services in September of 2007. She completed her Masters in counseling while a member of Court Services Adult Probation Department. She now has her LPC license.

In the 2010 and 2011 year, she was certified to be a facilitator in the Thinking for Change Program. She participated in developing the program for Kane County. She facilitated the first COG group in Elgin and has co-facilitated two more groups since then. In addition, Ms. Larson recently coordinated the implementation of a COG group that takes place between 4:30 – 6:00PM on Wednesdays, an hour after normal business hours to meet the defendants' schedules. Furthermore, she has created and amended a tracking system of the individuals who participated in the program. She recently volunteered to participate in the Train the Trainer Program for the Thinking for a Change (COG). She has managed to do this and monitor a full adult caseload.

Along with this, she volunteered to be the office safety officer and has managed those duties in a responsible manner. She is also involved in the LSI-R Revalidation Study to determine the IPI effectiveness. She clearly understands the hierarchy of Court Services and follows protocol in a mindful and respectful

manner. She projects a positive and enthusiastic attitude and she passes it on to her peers in the office as well as the probationers that she works with.

In conclusion, we believe that her hard earned work merits this recognition reward in representing Court Services.



**Sally Lee – Public Defender’s Office
Employee Recognition**

Sally Lee, the Public Defender’s Office Manager, has been a member of the Public Defender team since 1991. She supervises the support staff and runs every aspect of the Department’s daily operations. Sally is the backbone of the Public Defender’s Office. She is the first one to work in the morning and the last to leave at night. She is knowledgeable, dedicated, tireless, and a tremendous example to all. She far exceeds her job requirements every day, and manages to do it all with a smile and a kind word to everyone she encounters. Her energy and kindness are infectious. Sally is a treasure beyond compare.



**Donna Mueller – Information Technologies:
Above and Beyond**

The IT Department recognizes Donna Mueller of the Administration and Technical Support division for going “Above and Beyond”. Donna is recognized for her outstanding performance and attention to detail in support of the Department. While many people in ITD are busy fixing computers and printers, Donna is busy working on purchasing, receiving, paying our bills, and making sure we get our timesheets into payroll. Congratulations and thank you from everyone in the Department.



**Joanna Murphy – KaneComm
Above and Beyond Award**

Joanna Murphy is the recipient of the 2012 Above and Beyond Award for KaneComm. In addition to the duties required in her vital role as 9-1-1 Dispatcher, Joanna was responsible for the creation of the Kane County Emergency Communications 9-1-1 Education Program. Joanna took the initiative to conceptualize, design and implement a comprehensive curriculum aimed at educating first grade students on the appropriate usage of 9-1-1 services. During the month of April, Joanna spent her days visiting elementary schools across the County in order to provide children with the presentation she created in recognition

of National 9-1-1 Education Month, while she continued to work her regular hours on the midnight shift. This endeavor truly epitomizes what it means to rise “Above and Beyond” the duties of the position description for which one is hired and compensated. Because of Joanna’s efforts, the students she engaged will be better equipped to provide first responders with integral information in the case of an emergency and less likely to misuse 9-1-1 services. We congratulate Joanna on her achievement and thank her for working so tirelessly on a project that will ultimately benefit KaneComm, our first responders and the citizens they have sworn to protect.



**Pam Petoskey – GIS Technologies
Employee Recognition**

Pam Petoskey is currently part of the GIS-Technologies GIS-Team, a division of Information Technologies. Pam’s main function is the creating of custom GIS Maps for Kane County’s personnel using the many exiting GIS layers. She has created, printed and plotted thousands of custom maps since she joined the GIS-Team in 2008. Many of her custom maps can be seen in court rooms around the county being used as exhibits in court cases. She is also responsible for editing and geocoding a number of other GIS production layers throughout the year. This recognition is due to her playing an instrumental role in the accomplishments of the GIS-Team.



**Steve Placek - Department of Employment and Education
Exceptional Service and Dedication**

Steve began his 23-year career with KCDEE as a Case Manager at the Youth Home, where he helped at-risk youth identify and achieve their employment and education goals. He was a large part of the success of the Summer Youth Programs that ran for more than five years. In his current role, Steve serves as Network Administrator and Performance Manager. He stays on top of constantly evolving client eligibility criteria and performance measures. He trains fellow staff in these areas and monitors overall performance outcomes to ensure that Kane County is in compliance with state policies and standards. Steve has done an extraordinary job in these areas. Regardless of the circumstances, his attitude is positive and upbeat and he consistently gives 150%. Staff, providers, and customers enjoy working with Steve and appreciate his patience, dedication, and hard work.



**David Scholes- Recorder
Employee Recognition**

David Scholes came to the Recorder’s Office in 1990 with 13 years of title searching experience with Century Title. He is a great wealth of knowledge and is our “go-to-man” with the answers. He works directly with the public and assists with land and property searches and also assists other county departments such as Development , the Assessor’s Office and GIS , when research is needed. He is known for his sense of humor and easy going nature. David has given us 22 years of great service.



**Technology Team – Regional Office of Education
Above and Beyond**

This year the Regional Office of Education has chosen a team to receive the recognition:

Josh Boies and Martin Pinnau

Josh and Martin are part of our ROE Technology Team and during the months of April and May went above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to help make our 2012 Educator of the Year Awards a special night for all attendees. During April, Josh and Martin took equipment and visited 32 nominees throughout Kane County to video tape a response to one or two questions with the goal of building one video. Josh and Martin immediately realized they could capture more than just a single response and gathered enough footage to transform our awards night from being photo based to 100% video based. Feedback from attendees was phenomenal and kudos to Josh and Martin for going above and beyond to make it happen!



**Ingrid Vogt – Juvenile Justice Center:
Above and Beyond**

Ms. Ingrid Vogt has been selected as the Juvenile Justice Center’s 2012 Public Employee Recognition award recipient. Ms. Vogt has been employed by Kane County for five years and has recently received a promotion to Senior Youth Counselor. Her positive attitude and work ethic makes working alongside her a pleasure and an honor. She is a role model for residents and fellow staff. Ms. Vogt is a leader and always goes above and beyond what is expected of her. Her ability to work well with others, reliability, and initiative are just a few of the many reasons why Ms. Vogt is being recognized as Public Employee of the year.



**Steve Wells – Veterans Assistance Commission
Employee Recognition**

It is with great pleasure that the Veterans Assistance Commission nominates Mr. Steve Wells for the Employee Recognition Award for his exceptional and professional customer service and attendance.

Mr. Wells, a dedicated Veterans Service Officer, has an exceptional professional customer service work record. Through his dedication he has demonstrated that he is a dependable and compassionate employee who provides quality assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors in securing VA entitlements. He has established that he is a conscientious employee who constantly strives to improve and provide quality service to veterans and their families that seek assistance from this office.



Bright Ideas were presented for consideration by the following employees:

- Cecily Albertelli** – Public Defenders Office
- Ken Anderson** – Facilities, Development, Environmental Resources
- Juanita Archuleta** – Public Defender’s Office
- Carrollyn Brady** – Treasurer
- Lenny Finstrom** – Supervisor of Assessments
- Matthew Fitzpatrick** – Building & Grounds
- Ronald Grommes** – Sheriff’s Office
- **Scott Hajek** – Water Resources (2 Submissions)
- Jennifer Jarland** – Environmental Resources
- Shawn Loomis** – Corrections
- Mary Phillips** – Transportation
- *Elizabeth Stutz** – Court Services
- Julie Schelstreet** – IT/Elections
- Mark Vankerkhoff** – Development & Community Services (2 Submissions)
- Beth Williamson** – State’s Attorney’s Office

****Winner** - Submitted the “Kane Connection” an informative web page through the intranet for employee communication.

***Honorable Mention** - Submission for the County to implement an accredited Internship Program. This would help with workloads and it would bring in staff for free, but it would allow them to earn their credits for school.

**Congratulations
to
Everyone!**