



Guardians Quarterly Newsletter

"Respect, Pride, and Leadership"

New Executive Board are sworn into office

Jan.2010

Executive Board

Kennith T. Armstead
President

Imam Umar Abdul Jalil
1st Vice President / Chaplain

Jerome L. Rice
2nd Vice President

Mary Love
Executive Secretary

Larry Johnson
Treasurer

Clement Glenn
Financial Secretary

Monique Carpenter-Ellison
Recording Secretary

Kenya Elam
Corresponding Secretary

Vincent Capers
Sergeant At Arms /
Director of Communications

William Thomas
Business Manager

Ralph Smith
Public Relations

Troy Hurley,
Videographer

Board of Directors

Charles Billups,
Pres. Grand Council of Guardians

Qauslim Inham, Ret, Supv. Warden

Bill Hurley, Ret. Bureau Chief

Wayne Lamont, Ret Asst. Chief

Dr. Ali Al-Rahman,
Ret Warden, Past President

Stephen Ricci, Esq.
Ret. Capt. Past President
Christopher Lynch, Capt.

Thomas Summer, Past Pres.



On January 13, 2010 the new executive board was officially sworn in at the Harlem State Office building. The executive board was greeted by a host of family, friends, co-workers, and elected officials. President Kenneth Armstead and his executive board are both motivated and committed toward bringing back the **Respect, Pride, and Leadership** of this great association. The entire executive board is asking both active and retirees to become an agent for change, by bringing in an additional person of the African decent, to become a member.



Dr. Dora Schriro
Commissioner



Larry W. Davis Sr.
Chief of Dept.



Carolyn Thomas
Former Chief of Dept.

The executive board extends a warm welcome to both the departments newest Commissioner Dr. Dora B. Schriro and Chief of Department Larry W. Davis Sr. When we think of the phrase "Officer and a Gentleman", Chief Davis certainly fit this description. Chief Davis who is close to serving 30 year in the dept., is certainly respected by both uniform and non-uniform of all ranks. Again we wish the very best to both in their new assignment. We also wish out -going Chief of Department, Carolyn Thomas best wishes on her retirement. Chief Thomas has joined the circle of the few women of color who has reached the rank of Chief of Department. Both Jacqueline McMickens and Gloria Lee are part of this prestigious circle. Thank you for your leadership.

Correction Guardians Association, Inc., P.O. Box #690488 E. Elmhurst, N.Y. 11369
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Guardian's Spotlight



Jacqueline McMickens

In 1984, Mayor Edward Koch named Ms. McMickens Commissioner of the Department of Correction, making her the first female correction officer in the United States to become Commissioner of a major correctional agency.

Before her appointment as Commissioner, Ms. McMickens served for five years as Chief of Operations for the Department of Correction, the first African-American female correction officer to become a four-star Chief of Operations of any correctional agency in the United States. During her tenure, female correction officers were fully integrated into the operation of all facilities and met the goal of insuring that 25 percent of all correction officers hired during the first phase were female. While serving as Chief of Operations, she was responsible for the single largest jail construction plan in the history of New York City at a cost of more than \$900 million. She is the founder of Jacqueline McMickens & Associates, PLLC.

“Respect, Pride, and Leadership”

About THE BLACK CARD

“The Premier card for Premier People”

By Jerome L. Rice, 2nd Vice President

As a campaign promise for change, every member will receive a new membership card known as The Black Card, along with a lapel pin. Your new all flexible plastic membership card will allow you to gain a discount to some of the known business establishments. Every member will be assigned a permanent membership number. The letter A for Active or the letter R for Retired will be placed before your permanent membership number. Your photo is optional. Both Honorary and Paid for Life members will be entitle to receive The Black Card along with its benefits. Anybody looking for a Guardians application can email us at: joinus@nyccorrectionguardians.com we are always looking for volunteers to serve on the many committees. Again your energy, your efforts, and your ideas are always welcome. See your facility delegate to become both a proud member and agent –for –change.

NYC CORRECTION GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION

2010 NYCD

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“Respect, Pride and Leadership”

JEROME L. RICE
#R422 MEMBER

KENNETH ARMSTEAD
PRESIDENT

Coming Soon:

Membership Only event, this event will be held annually and exclusively for all who are both Black Card holders and is in good standing. This annual event will be free for both you and your immediate family.

Hour of Power- We will have several classes on Directives, Operation Orders, Rules & Regulations and Report writing. We believe that education should be on-going; we should not have to wait until the last minute to study for any exam because “Knowledge is Power”.

Special Olympics- Our President will both support and participate in the Special Olympics this year, Because he is working inside the water tank, this is your opportunity to dunk your President in the water.

A Message from Our Guardians President Kenneth T. Armstead:

The Correction Guardian's Association, Inc. has an extensive history of fighting both bias and discrimination practiced against African Americans working for the Department of Correction. The New York City Correction Guardian's Association, Inc. (Created as an initiative by Dr. Lawrence Irving, a Department of Correction Dentist was formerly known as the Correctionairs) and is the oldest Correctional Fraternal Organization in the Country, and the second oldest African-American law enforcement organization preceded by the Dallas Police Association (established in 1935).

Like any organization, the Correction Guardian's went through a period of turmoil and for approximately two years was in a state of flux. On January 1, 2006 when former President Thomas Summers took office, he gave the organization what amounts to a jolt from the paddles of a defibrillator machine. The organization began to breathe again, going from non-responsive to ambulation; providing and participating in community services (planting trees in New York City, giving school supplies and book bags to less fortunate children), offering training to staff at our monthly meetings, offering free holiday parties for the children of staff and toys to those less fortunate living in shelters throughout the four boroughs. Thomas Summers spent a good deal of his time interceding for others, taking call after call personally helping other staff members get through whatever difficulty they were faced with.

The time has now come for my administration to take the organization to the next level of rehabilitation by re-organizing our staff (delegates), increasing our membership and providing services to both the staff and community that is viable and which provokes pride and excitement.

In the past couple of weeks I have personally canvassed many of the civilian employees of the Department to ask why their involvement in the Correction Guardian's has dwindled over the past several years, and all of them said that they used to attend the meetings religiously, but they were made to feel as if the Correction Guardian's had turned into a "*uniform staff only*" organization. During my tenure as President of this great organization, I plan to change that image. The Correction Guardian's Association is an organization designed to fight discrimination and bias for *ALL* Correction Department employees, uniformed officers and civilians alike. Our goals are simple; first we need to establish effective delegates in each facility in order to impress upon our African American Brothers and Sisters the importance of being a member of this proud organization.

Secondly, it is the goal of my second Vice President, Jerome Rice, (Chairman of the membership committee) to raise our membership from approximately one hundred and sixty (the number we were quoted at the time of the election) to *one thousand* by close of business 2010. While this may seem like an unreachable goal to some; I believe that what the mind can conceive and believe, it can also achieve, and to that end, I support Vice President Rice's efforts to reach this goal.

I believe that we need to take a proactive approach to all those members who are ill, displaced, hospitalized or facing death in the family, by offering them morale support. This should include a card, flowers and visitation by the executive staff, chaplain, delegates and membership where possible. This committee shall be activated effective January 1, 2010 when the new Executive Board officially takes office. In accordance with our Constitution and by-laws, the First Vice President, Imam Umar Abdul-Jalil will chair this committee.

Effective January 13, 2010, I plan to activate and appoint the Chairperson of the "Civilian Affairs Committee". This person shall serve as a liaison between the civilian members of the Department and the organization.

Also on this date I plan to activate and appoint the Chairperson of the "Youth Committee" with the express purpose in mind to raise money, organize our children, sponsor events, march in our parades and provide our children an opportunity to enhance their lives through an each one teach one concept. This committee shall also have involvement in the facility tour program.

With so many of our children and relatives children finding themselves in the custody of the Department of Correction, with so many Community representatives calling and writing to seek our help in assisting them to help their children, I believe that it is incumbent upon this organization to once again put forth the effort to re-establish facility tours for our young. It was told to me that tours would only glamorize jail for our young, making them think even more that being processed through the system is some sort of "*rites of passage*." I have seen the results in my community from the tours I've sponsored and been affiliated with. We won't be able to keep all the kids from making bad decisions (getting locked up), but the numbers of young adolescents, returning to the facilities as inmates, (after having toured), in my experience, have been remarkably low.

It is for this reason that the Correction Guardian's Association, Inc. will introduce the "Battling and Standing Strong" (B.A.S.S.) program, to be submitted to the Honorable Commissioner Dr. Dora Schriro during the month of February 2010. The name, recommended by Treasurer Larry Johnson, speaks to everyone who "fights to overcome the struggles within their Communities, Society, and the Criminal Justice System." The program recognizes the daily struggles we all face and it introduces preventive measures that will enable us to succeed. I fully support this program and I know that we can make a positive impact on many of those who tour. Is this a "Scared straight" program, of course not, what we propose is an educational proponent that will enhance the youths ability to make a smart decision. In the words of our Second Vice President, Jerome Rice, "Our youth will not only have the opportunity to see some of the negative effects of committing a crime, but they will be afforded an opportunity to see some of the City's hardest working staff that are both uniformed and civilian, male and female in a controlled environment."

There is so much work yet to do, but we have risen to the challenge and have come up with many new ideas which will spark a new excitement in the membership. I look forward to working with the staff and membership, and I believe that 2010 will prove to be one of the most successful and exciting years for the Correction Guardians Association, Inc. God bless each of you and your families, and remember "From family to community; let's build something together, for indeed, change has come." I remain,
Fraternally yours, Kenneth T. Armstead, President

A Salute to Black History

By Jerome L. Rice, 2nd Vice President



The story of African Americans in the United States is one of both immeasurable suffering and soaring hope. Two and a half centuries of slavery and segregation prevented black men and women from exercising the rights of citizenship taken for granted by their white counterparts.

African Americans who fought for freedom from tyranny abroad, helping to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany in World War II, for example, returned to the United States and were denied the right to register to vote and some were beaten or killed while attempting to do so. In much of the country, blacks were forbidden to share the same spaces—including schools, public transportation, and recreational facilities—as whites. And measures were taken to prohibit African Americans from living near whites. Nevertheless, African Americans persevered, building universities and achieving heights in all spheres of activity, from arts and entertainment to aviation and science.

As African American employees of the New York City Correction Department, let us take advantage of this opportunity to *Educate, Enlighten and Embrace* others on our extensive history. We must also continue to do the things that would have made our ancestors proud rather than embarrass.

Hearts for Haiti -This executive board had lent its full support behind the C.O.B.A union by participating in an emergency fund drive for our brothers and sisters residing in Haiti. Our hearts and prayers will continue to go out to the people of Haiti. It is never too late to give.

Toys & Coat Drive and the Miracles of Giving



(3rd L-R Mary Love, Exec. Sec., 1st Vice Pres. Imam Umar Abdul-Jalil and 2nd Vice Pres. J.Rice)

During the holiday season we often see many families who are in need; the year 2009 was no different. We witnessed little children with tattered clothing, dirty ill fitting jackets and a lack of luster in their eyes, we saw parents who appeared embarrassed that their children were in this condition, but having no means to better provide for them. We were truly touched by this sight and were blessed because we were able to change their little lives for one day. With the help of the Salvation Army and the Family Worship Center, the Correction Guardians were able to provide these children with two new, warm coats, sweat suits, shirts and pants, sweaters and footwear. The children's eyes also beamed when they saw the assortment of toys that were on the opposite table and their laughter when they realized that they could have as many as they wanted. There is nothing more rewarding in this world then to have an opportunity to serve our fellow man and child, to bring warmth when there is cold, to bring happiness when there is nothing but sadness, to bring a sliver of hope when there is nothing but hopelessness. The Correction Guardians Association has dedicated it's time and staff to this work, to assist our staff, in its entirety, and the community in which we live. Help us to make a difference, become a member of the Correction Guardians Association so that we can reach further into the community to help those who need our help. Remember, we should give our heart to God and a hand to man. God bless and keep you always. *Kennith Armstead, President*



Mary Love puts a smile on a family's face



Some are just born to serve (Pres. Kenneth Amstead)



There were enough toys and coats to put a warm smile on both the girls and boys.



Giving to others is not a job, but a way of life. Join us next year, as we plan to widen the smile of others.

Providing both new coats and toys during the year of a failing economy, had placed tears in their eyes, a smile of their face, and a gleam of hope in their heart. In the words of our President Barack Obama during a bad economy, "No one should have to go without, because we are Americans and we all can do better by just simply be willing to give to others".

Center Top: Mary Love, Executive Secretary

Right: Kenneth Amstead, President

Center Bottom: Imam Umar Abdul-Jalil, 1st Vice President