



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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Point of Contact: Chief Judge Dave Hall
or Diane Flory

Telephone: 847.377.4500
or 377.3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT'S LIBERTY BELL AWARDS

On Wednesday, April 16, 2008, Chief Judge Dave Hall of the 19th Judicial Circuit presented the 2008 Liberty Bell Awards at the Depke Juvenile Justice Center.

The Liberty Bell Award originated in the 1960's in Michigan to honor extraordinary service to the justice system and dedication to the furtherance of the administration of justice. The awards have been bestowed by the 19th Judicial Circuit since at least 1996 and past recipients include Dwight A. Magalis, former Lake County Administrator; Bart J. Carroll, Jr., former Guardian ad Litem for the Lake County Juvenile Court; A Safe Place, a local domestic violence shelter; and former Lake County Coroner Barbara E. Richardson. Since 2005, the awards have been presented in Memory of Judge Thomas R. Smoker, a respected Lake County judge who passed away in 2004.

Chief Judge Hall bestowed this year's awards on Mr. Wayne Hunter, and the Lincolnshire Garden Club.

Mr. Hunter is currently the Director of Homeland Security for the Lake County Sheriff. He began his career as a patrol officer for the Waukegan Police Department and served as a detective. He concluded his Waukegan career as an officer with the Narcotics Task Force assigned to the DEA and retired as a highly decorated Lieutenant.

Then Mr. Hunter began a new career as a psychology intern with the 19th Judicial Circuit Psychological Services while working toward a PhD degree. He continued as a corrections psychologist with the Lake County Sheriff, and then became the Director of Medical Services for the Lake County jail where he is still noted for the crisis intervention he continually initiated for deeply troubled inmates. Judge Hall noted that in all positions he was able to cross perceived adversarial barriers between victim and defendant, prosecutor and defense attorney, layperson and law enforcement.

Mr. Hunter also worked in the planning, implementation, and operation of the 19th Circuit's Therapeutic Intensive Monitoring Courts (both the Drug and Mental Health components). He worked tirelessly on behalf of the programs' participants to intervene, devise treatment plans and provide guidance to the team. Additionally, he worked with

the Illinois Department of Health Services to open the door for the possibility of a sanctioned psychological fitness restoration program at the local level. Judge Hall praised Mr. Hunter as “a man who knows not of ‘normal business hours’ as he is always only a phone call away with help.”

The Lincolnshire Garden Club was also honored. The Club has served as volunteers at the Hulse Detention Center for 5 years. Judge Hall explained that during that time, the Club has shown five years of constant dedication, commitment, hard work, love for the residents and activities, and appreciation of the environment. In addition to providing volunteers weekly, who work with children at the Detention Center, the Club has also generously given financial support to the garden program at Hulse. Judge Hall commented: “The garden club created opportunities for our young people to participate in learning and having the chance to be exposed to a career in horticulture or agriculture, something that they might never have thought about. “ Judge Hall also praised the Club’s investment in a long-term relationship with the Juvenile Court.

The Club has also supported and assisted in other areas of landscape development and outdoor construction at Juvenile. They are currently assisting the Eagle Scouts with two major projects in the court yard/garden. The garden club created opportunities for the residents and staff to engage in bird banding with Dr. Caleb Gordon, Professor at Lake Forest College, as well as assisting the Court to develop and expand opportunities to work with the Cuneo Gardens in Vernon Hills.

Judge Hall went on to explain that individual members of the Club have also given of their time to tutor the residents in various subject areas – Math, language, etc. They have also presented gifts and books to the residents. Judge Hall said, “The point is that the Club supports individual contribution in any and all forms.

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(See photo below)

<http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us>



Pictured are Chief Judge Dave Hall (third from left); Mr. Wayne Hunter; and representatives from the Lincolnshire Garden Club.