



AJCA Newsletter

Serving Youth Nationwide

Winter 2005

From the President

♦ *Donna Bonner, Texas*

Happy 2005! It seems only a short time ago that we were together in Olympia. AJCA moved forward with completing goals and objectives established prior to and at the Mid-Winter Workshop in Las Vegas. We are grateful to Ryan and the rest of the Washington ICJ Office for their hospitality.

The membership approved a Strategic Plan that was initiated at the 2004 Mid-Winter Workshop, and facilitated by Mary Scheulen-Leffler, AJCA Past-President (1996). Mary's contributions went far beyond being a facilitator. Mary's knowledge of ICJ and AJCA as well as her experience in strategic planning were invaluable to the process. We are hopeful that Mary will assist us in future endeavors.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting are detailed within related articles of this edition. Please also take time to carefully review the annual meeting minutes, which were sent out sometime ago. You may also access at: <http://www.ajca.us/archive.php>

As many of you are aware, I received my Lifetime Award in August by meeting the criteria of being an active member of AJCA for 15 years. I join a small but distinguished group of current members who share this distinction, and they are: Judy Miller (AR), Pat Burt (CT), Rose Holmquist (DE), Cindy Pittman (GA), and Ron Leffler (IN). Judy and Cindy have the honor of being the most tenured as they received theirs in 1996. Amanda Beagles (FL) and James Eakins (OK) also have lifetime awards. They became eligible for the award when they left their ICJ Offices due to their active AJCA participation. At a later time, they returned to active AJCA status. I want to thank all of these members for their dedication to work we do and for providing a wealth of knowledge to the ICJ community.

I am honored by AJCA's recognition of my years of service. I believe I can speak for all of the 'old-timers' by saying it does not feel like 15 years. As Joye Robinson, my dear predecessor, was fond of saying: "You can say a lot of things about ICJ, but one thing it's not - and that is - boring!" I strongly believe this. Everyday in ICJ brings new challenges, which somehow keeps the job interesting. Couple that with our focus on strengthening AJCA, and the time flies by. In my reflections of the past years, I am proud to say that we have made great strides from where we were 15 years ago. I am privileged to have played a small part. Congratulations, AJCA!

While we've come a long way in 15 years, we must continue our quest to be better professionals, both personally and as an organization. Our new Strategic Plan is a roadmap to where we want to be. It is an ambitious plan, but all of the dedicated members who worked tirelessly on the details are committed to the vision. In addition, each committee has ongoing duties associated with AJCA business. This year is full of changes, challenges and growth. Your Executive Board and I urge you to become involved and be part of the team regardless whether or not you are able to attend a meeting. Please consider joining a committee and sharing your time and talents with AJCA to make a difference for the juveniles and communities that we serve.

Please plan to attend the upcoming 2005 Mid-Winter Workshop. The tentative agenda and pre-registration information were emailed on November 30th and are now on the website at: <http://www.ajca.us/events.php>

The Mid-Winter Workshop promises to be an exciting meeting. Our Mid-Winter Workshop is held in conjunction with the National Conference on Juvenile Justice, which is co-sponsored by the

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA). While we usually stay at a different location, we are provided with several advantages due to our affiliation with NCJFCJ, which include: our display booth is positioned in the Exhibition Hall (at no charge to AJCA), we present a workshop on ICJ at the conference, and the AJCA President is honored by sitting at the head table during the first day's luncheon. I am pleased that our membership will again spend a portion of the day at the juvenile justice conference. Members will have the opportunity to attend other workshops, visit the exhibition hall, and network with colleagues from across the country.

In addition to our time at the National Juvenile Justice Conference, there are many other dynamic features to this agenda. The Florida ICJ Office is working hard to assure that we have a wonderful stay in the Sunshine State. We hope to see you there!

Judge James M. Farris, 1932-2004

- ♦ *Reprinted with permission from NCJFCJ*

Judge James M. Farris, a cherished friend of the National Council and lifelong advocate for children, passed away Nov. 5, 2004 in Beaumont, Texas. NCJFCJ President from 1993-94, he served on the 317th District Court bench in Beaumont for nearly 20 years, retiring in 1996. Well known for his inspirational speeches, Judge Farris was a favorite at juvenile justice conferences around the country. [NCJFCJ's Dean M. James Toner shares the memories of his friend of more than 30 years.](#)

[Memorial funds have been established](#) in Judge Farris' name with CASA of Southeast Texas and NCJFCJ.

Jim Toner is Retiring!

- ♦ *Donna Bonner and Cindy Pittman*

Dean M. Jim Toner is retiring after a remarkable 33-year career with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). His official last day with the National Council is February 11, 2005. Jim will be in Orlando at the conference. Please be sure to look him up when we are there on Tuesday, March 22nd.

Jim has been Dean of the Louis W. McHardy College of Juvenile and Family Justice, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges since 1999. He has been with the National Council since 1972 in various capacities. We have had the honor and pleasure of working with Jim Toner since early 1992 while he was the Executive Director.

We began our work with Jim Toner when AJCA first made inquiries into becoming affiliated with the NCJFCJ. In March 1992, Mr. Toner set up our first meetings with the NCJFCJ Executive Board at the National Juvenile Justice Conference in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Toner was supportive of AJCA, and the affiliation from the very first meeting. Jim Toner's support continued through the entire time of negotiation as we determined what we desired from NCJFCJ and what they, in turn, could expect from the AJCA. Our affiliation became final in late 1993.

Since the affiliation, Jim Toner's support has never wavered. At the National Juvenile Justice Conferences, Mr. Toner consistently provides the AJCA with prominent display space in the exhibit hall and extends the invitation for AJCA to hold workshops. Further, Mr. Toner honors the AJCA President at the banquet lunch by providing prestige seating at the head table and introduces him/her to the assembly.

Clearly, the affiliation has benefited AJCA much more than NCJFCJ. Jim has always treated us with great respect. Jim was our connection with Judge Farris. We first asked Jim to provide AJCA with a keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting in 1995. Thus, began AJCA's admiration of Judge Farris. We were fortunate to have Judge Farris at several different meetings, thanks to Jim Toner.

When AJCA requested legal assistance, Mr. Toner made arrangements for judges to prepare legal opinions for AJCA. He has also arranged for several other judges to speak at AJCA functions.

At our 1995 annual meeting in Reno, Jim Toner personally contacted the sales director at the University Inn to assist in arranging our housing. Additionally, Mr. Toner provided meeting spaces at the NCJFCJ headquarters and provided audiotapes for our members of training sessions from prior juvenile justice conferences. Mr. Toner personally set-up NCJFCJ recording equipment for us when our own equipment stopped working. When requested if he could help with our newsletter, the always-agreeable Mr. Toner agreed to experiment in working on the newsletter after the meeting. They were able to produce, copy and mail one

newsletter. Unfortunately, Mr. Toner's office was unable to continue in this endeavor due to staff constraints.

The following year, AJCA President Mary Scheulen spoke with Mr. Toner in the hopes of sending two AJCA members to a NCJFCJ Train-the-Trainers session, at a discounted price. When Mr. Toner became aware of AJCA's training needs, he suggested that a special Train-the-Trainers session be developed specifically for AJCA. Mr. Toner worked toward that goal by speaking with many trainers and receiving their proposals. Mr. Toner kept President Scheulen advised of the progress. When the time came to make a decision on the trainers, Mr. Toner kindly allowed AJCA to make the decision. On behalf of NCJFCJ, Mr. Toner contracted with the trainers to develop the AJCA training session. He worked tirelessly on the logistics of the actual training. In addition to ensuring that AJCA members would receive quality training at no charge, Mr. Toner also provided binders for the training materials. Development of AJCA modules was a process that took two years and three meetings to complete. Mr. Toner was always available to help and assist in any regard. Once the modules were completed, Mr. Toner ensured that the training curriculum received national accreditation from the NCJFCJ Executive Board. In the final step of this massive endeavor, Jim worked with Sandy Davis in the design of a training certificate and was the NCJFCJ signatory on the certificates.

Mr. Toner has also been a mentor to AJCA. He graciously made himself available when we were trying to gain non-profit status and answered countless questions. A true friend, Jim always has time for AJCA. Through the years, Mr. Toner has always been considerate and thoughtful of AJCA. While Mr. Toner has acted as a liaison for NCJFCJ, many of the benefits we enjoy would not have been made possible without his personal involvement. The benefits mentioned above were not in the affiliation agreement.

The list goes on and on. Jim Toner is an exceptional friend to AJCA.

AJCA established the Mitchell Wendell Award in 1999. The Award is open to anyone (person, organization, or other entity) that has made significant contributions to the betterment of troubled juveniles through the ICJ and/or the AJCA. AJCA was very proud to present Jim Toner with the first award in 2000 for his constant and continuing support of the AJCA. Jim Toner exemplifies the

true meaning and spirit of the Mitchell Wendell Award.

Jim -- May you always have a smile on your face and the sun always be at your back. We will truly miss you.

2005 MID-WINTER WORKSHOP

The time is swiftly approaching. The AJCA 2005 Mid-Winter Workshop will convene at the beautiful Radisson Resort Parkway in Kissimmee, Florida. The dates are March 19-23, 2005. We will have the opportunity to spend some time at the National Conference on Juvenile Justice on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, at the nearby Omni Hotel. Please make note of these very important dates. This Workshop will prove to be most exciting and informative.

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

The New Year and dues notices are just around the corner. Dues are to be paid upon receipt to ensure your state's vote on important issues at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Notices will be sent out shortly for the upcoming year.

2004 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2004 AJCA Annual Meeting was held at the Phoenix Inn Suites in Olympia, Washington. The host was Ryan Pinto of the Washington ICJ office. There were many highlights of the meeting including: Training Modules on Travel Permits, Airport Supervision, and Requisition Processes, facilitated by Donna Bonner (TX), and Cindy Pittman (GA); open forum discussions; an update on the new Interstate Compact *for* Juveniles by Rick Masters, Legal Counsel, The Council of State Governments; fine tuning and finalizing the ICJ Strategic Plan, and much more.

Jean Hall, Florida DCA conducted New Administrator training. There were nine (9) trainees present, and this group provided very positive feedback. Our thanks to Jean for producing a wonderful training session.

The Silent Auction was a great deal of fun and productive with donations totaling \$235. The proceeds were presented to Haven House, serving runaway youth in Olympia, Washington.

The Annual Meeting was a huge success, with 32 attendees representing 25 states. Thanks to Ryan Pinto and his staff for being great hosts.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Elections were held at the 2004 Annual Meeting in August. The following were elected to Officer and Board Member positions:

- President: Donna Bonner, Texas
- Vice President: Ryan Pinto, Washington
- Secretary: Pam Helbling, North Dakota
- Treasurer: Cindy Pittman, Georgia

Executive Board (2-year terms):

- Darrell Morong, Arizona
- Judy Miller, Arkansas
- Rose Holmquist, Delaware
- JoAnn Rohan, District of Columbia
- Dale Dodd, New Mexico
- Nancy Wikle, Montana (to fill one year of Ryan Pinto's Board position)

Congratulations to all elected!

AWARDS BANQUET

The Awards Banquet was held at Ramblin' Jack's Restaurant in Olympia. The meal and service were excellent.

One Lifetime Membership Award was presented at the banquet. This was presented to Donna Bonner, Texas, for her 15-year tenure with AJCA. Jody Taylor, formerly of Idaho, now retired, received a Lifetime Membership Award for her many contributions to AJCA at the AJCA 2004 Mid-Winter Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada. Please join us in congratulating this year's recipients!

2004 William L. Frederick Award Recipient



(Shown with Pam are former Award Recipients (From Left: Cindy Pittman, 1994, Donna Bonner, 1995, Pamela Helbling, 2004, Judy Miller, 1984, Ron Leffler, 2002)

Pam Helbling was the 2004 recipient of the William L. Fredrick Award. This award was given to Pam for her outstanding commitment and dedication to the Interstate Compact for Juveniles. Pam has been a very strong proponent for ICJ and through her leadership; North Dakota was the very first state whose legislative body approved and whose governor signed into law the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles. In the nomination submitted, it was stated that Pam displays a cooperative outlook, a constructive work ethic and positive philosophy that make her very worthy of this award. Pam has held several offices and led committees on the national Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators Executive Board.

The Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators recognizes one of its members annually with the William L. Frederick Award. William L. Frederick was the first Secretariat of the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators through the Council of State Governments. Mr. Frederick was the sole individual who was responsible for making the ICJ a reality.

Congratulations, Pam, on a job well done!

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:
www.ajca.us

The AJCA Newsletter is produced by the Professional Development Committee and AJCA Secretariat. We welcome your suggestions, comments, and articles. Please send to: Cynthia Yim at: yimc@djs.state.md.us

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