

DMB CAFRs earn honors

For the 18th consecutive year, all four Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports prepared by Financial Services staff received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The CAFRs report on the retirement funds for State employees, police and judges as well as public school employees

A CAFR is the annual financial report of a system, which encompasses official financial statements and examines the success, condition and compliance of the system's funds.

The certificate of achievement is the highest recognition in government accounting and financial reporting and represents significant achievement by a government and its management.

Financial Services retirement team accountants Randy Bitner, Cindy Peters, Erik Simmer, Paula Webb and Julie Zolnai and technical and support staff members Pat Jorae, Jamin Schroeder and Marilyn Williams worked with staff in the Office of Retirement Services to compile the reports.

Room available for nursing mothers

Lewis Cass Building employees who are nursing mothers now have a room reserved solely for their use. The former women's lounge on the building's garden level is now a dedicated Mother's Room, which is available to staff in the Departments of Management and Budget and Community Health.

Nursing mothers who wish to use the room may contact Pat Roberts, 373-6400, to obtain a copy of the key.

Acknowledging Excellence

Four individuals, one team receive department honors

Eleven Department of Management and Budget employees were honored with the 2009 Employee Excellence Awards. Recipients were announced at the annual Employee Recognition Ceremony, which was held Sept. 3 at the State Secondary Complex.

Each year, department members nominate colleagues for the awards, which recognize employees who help DMB achieve its very best. The program acknowledges employees who consistently demonstrate DMB's values, provide excellent service, display exceptional performance, lead by example, and engage in innovative thinking.

This is the seventh year of the prestigious awards program. A committee of employees reviewed all nomination materials and chose the award recipients. Fifty-six nominations were submitted, representing 96 different DMB employees.

The honorees include:

Mike Bliss **Customer Service Award**

Bliss, who is a Purchasing Operations buyer specialist, has been praised for his diligence, professionalism and clear understanding of purchasing issues. He processes and tracks the division's Freedom of Information Act requests. Bliss offered key input in developing a procedure to assess the Michigan impact of bids. His

meticulous review of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 zeroed in on key provisions that concerned purchasing personnel.



Sherry Bond
Living the Values Award
Bond, who is the secretary to the State Administrative Board, consistently demonstrates DMB's values of excellence, inclusion, integrity, teamwork, growth and fun. She approaches her responsibilities with dedication and professionalism. Her nominators described Bond as extremely successful in balancing agency and Administrative Board needs and

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Bond



Scott



Ragsdale



Bliss

Staff in the Customer Service Center received DMB's 2009 Innovator Award. DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe, standing at left, and Chief Deputy Director Rose Wilson, standing at right, joined the award recipients. Honorees include Ken Powelson and Shawna Walts, seated, and Nicole Tefft, Brandon Philip, Tim Simpson and Ryan McKee, standing. Missing is Chelsey Hamel.

11th annual *DMB celebration*



Billie Isham, right, helped greet guests at the Employee Recognition Event. Patrick Mullen signs the guest book as Judy Ferrigan, Gary Ewing, Tina Powell and Rick Miles wait their turn.

Employees gather to honor successes

There was no shortage of sunshine, music and good food when DMB employees gathered for the annual Employee Recognition Event, which took place Sept. 3.

Lines of employees filed past tables piled high with boxes of steaming pizza. Directors from offices across the department served as “chefs,” pulling on pleated hats and white aprons before serving slices to staff members.

After the feasting, employees gathered for the formal awards presentation. DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe and Chief Deputy Director Rose Wilson greeted staff and thanked them for their outstanding service.

“DMB is a diverse department with diverse employees who do a wide range of jobs,” Webb Sharpe told the audience. “We owe our success to more than 800 employees who bring

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After DMB
throws a party

Don't look for leftovers!

When DMB throws a party, don't expect any leftovers.

It isn't because employees are big eaters. Rather, it's because committee members who stage the annual event are efficient planners.

“We donated 20 full pizzas and 70 bottles of water to the Lansing Food Movers,” said Trish McKenna-Ley, planning committee chairperson.

The Food Movers Program brings refrigerated trucks to rescue excess edible food from grocery stores, restaurants and catered events for immediate delivery to shelters, community kitchens, senior citizen housing and other

places where food is needed. McKenna-Ley said the food crew appeared as soon as the event was over and transported the leftovers to homeless shelters and food kitchens that afternoon.

The committee also agreed to recycle the empty water containers. Member Adam Christenson volunteered to take approximately 300 plastic bottles to the Granger Recycling Center on Wood Road.

In addition to McKenna-Ley and Christenson, the planning committee included Joanna Alvera, Tigi Habtemariam, Billie Isham, Mary Lewis, Marsha McKee, Dan Morgan, Sharon Ross and Shawna Walts.



Office of Retirement Service staff members Julie Myszak and Kara Gross find something to smile about.



Printing Services colleagues Sandra Duke-Ryan and Luci Mendez-Manthei were among the earliest arrivals at the pizza luncheon.

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diverse ideas and a broad experience to their work."

The program included recognition of the staff celebrating special employment anniversaries. In 2009, 173 employees achieved milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of services. Collectively, the group amassed 3,325 years with the state. The 19 employees who reached 35 years of service and the 38 employees who marked 30 years received certificates and recognition during the event. Other anniversary employees were to receive their certificates at presentations in their own offices. (For a list of milestone employees, select the 2009 Employee Recognition Program link on DMB's intranet.)

Webb Sharpe also announced the winners of the department's 2009 Employee Excellence Awards. Four individuals and one team received the honors for their achievement in customer service, leadership and innovation as well as their efforts to live the department's values and serve as an every-day hero. (Information about the award recipients can be found on page 7.)

DMB's own employee band, Comp Time, again entertained employees, and staff member Tigi Habtemariam sang for the crowd.

This is the 11th year DMB has held the employee celebration. Several of the events, including this year's, were held under tents at the Secondary Complex. Previous events also were held at the Marshall Street Armory and the auditorium at the Library of Michigan.



Honoring employees

Rows of honorees listen as DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe talks about their contributions to the department's success.



Comp Time, DMB's own house band, entertained guests at the Sept. 3 employee celebration. Mike Johnston, Don Mulvany, Tom Cooley, Dave Bergeon and their rock-and-roll favorites are program regulars at the annual event.



Jim Rademacher, center, rates his lunch with a double thumbs up. Joining him are ORS colleagues Travis Peake, left, and Doug Murray.

Man on the Run



Storekeeper represents DMB on annual Mackinac Bridge

On Labor Day, Ron Shepherd awoke early. He pulled on his running clothes, laced up his shoes and joined the select group of participants chosen to cross the Mackinac Bridge as part of the Governor's annual run. Later that day, he crossed it again.

"I even went back over the bridge and walked it with my wife," said Shepherd, a storekeeper in the Mail and Delivery Services Division and 32-year DMB employee.

Waking early became a habit for Shepherd, who was chosen in a random drawing of applicants to represent DMB on the run. Three or four times each week, Shepherd set out from his Pottsville home at 6 a.m. and followed a

four-mile training route.

Shepherd had been running "off and on" about 15 years and had participated in a number of local races. When his daughter trained with her high school track and cross-country teams, he sometimes joined them.

"I ran behind them, though" he said. "They were pretty good."

As a result of his preparation, Shepherd crossed the 5-mile span in 42 minutes. His summer of training helped him lose 12 pounds and lower his cholesterol 60 points.

"After a long summer of training for it, I found it was not as daunting as I thought it would be," Shepherd said. "I would enjoy doing it again."

Through Oct. 16 – State Employees Charitable Campaign fund drive

Oct. 14-28 – Michigan Harvest Gathering food and fund drive

Oct. 15 – Flu shot clinic, General Services Building, 1 to 4:45 p.m. For appointment, contact HoffmanJ1@michigan.gov.

Oct. 19 – Flu shot clinic, Operations Center, 12:30 to 4:45 p.m. For appointment, contact PoynterJ@michigan.gov.

Oct. 21 – Managers and supervisors meeting, 2 to 4 p.m., Constitution Hall Conference Rooms A and B (intranet reservations requested)

Oct. 22 – Flu shot clinic, Cass Building, 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. For appointment, contact HoffmanJ1@michigan.gov.

Oct. 22 – Informational session on new lobby security system, 1:30 p.m., Michigan Library and Historical Center, Forum

Oct. 22 – Managers and supervisors meeting, 2 to 4 p.m., Michigan Library and Historical Center Forum (intranet reservations requested)

Oct. 24 – Surplus vehicle auction, DNR Repair Shop, 110 Ford Road, Marquette. Vehicles may be inspected Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Auction begins at 10 a.m.

Oct. 26 – Flu shot clinic, Hannah Building, 9 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. and 1 to 3:45 p.m. For appointment, contact LawlessP@michigan.gov.

Oct. 26 – Flu shot clinic, Romney Building, 8 to 11:15 a.m. For appointment, contact NolanT@michigan.gov.

Oct. 27 – Flu shot clinic, Ottawa Building, 9 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. and 1 to 3:45 p.m. For appointment, contact EdmondsK1@michigan.gov or 241-2510.

Nov. 1 – Daylight Saving Time ends.

DMB 'harvests' contributions for food banks

Employees across State government are helping to "Fill Michigan's Fridge" with their contributions to the 2009 Michigan Harvest Gathering.

"Statewide, we're hoping to beat last year's numbers," said Debbie Sanchez, who is coordinating DMB's campaign. "We're aiming to raise \$60,000 and 70,000 pounds of food – nearly \$2,000 and 6,000 pounds more than 2008."

The annual food and fund drive opened Oct. 14 and continues through Oct. 28.

Area food banks are challenged to keep shelves stocked with nonperishable foods.

In an average year, one in 10 Michigan residents requests emergency food assistance. This year, however, food banks

have reported a 30 percent increase in demand.

"The food banks really need high-protein items such as peanut butter and canned tuna, chicken and other meats," Sanchez said. "Canned soup, fruit and vegetables are also in high demand."

But the best donation, Sanchez said, is cash. "The Food Bank Council of Michigan is able to buy much more food per dollar than each of us can."

Many DMB employees are pairing their cash contributions with blue jeans and casual clothing. Their



Jackie Huhn, Financial Services, was among the first employees to contribute to the Michigan Harvest Gathering.

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\$20 donation provides them with a "Casual Because I Care" button, which entitles them to dress casually for two weeks, beginning Oct. 14. Buttons are available from representatives in offices throughout the department.

A number of offices also have planned friendly competitions to raise food and funds.

Contributors may make online donations at www.feedmichigan.org. At this site, donors should:

- choose the tab Donate to MHG.
- click on the State Employee Donor link.
- fill in the required fields and use the drop-down menu to select Department of Management and Budget.

Online contributions are not reported to DMB and cannot be applied to any fund-raising competitions.

Boxes for non-perishable food and personal care items are available in all State buildings. The food banks cannot accept canned beef stew and outdated food items.

Solar project benefits from teamwork

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Kusnier, Brett Stull and Ken Temple; and maintenance mechanic Scott Davis worked on the installation, which took place over a five-week period.

Design and Construction staff also played a role in the project. Rashmi Patel, the project director, coordinated efforts that preceded installation, and Chad Devereaux inspected the job when the work crew was done. All of them worked with building supervisor Geoff Cradit and facility manager Karin Carver, who helped facilitate the project.

Uphaus said installation of the modules is complete, and the system is operational. DMB is awaiting approval of an operating agreement with Consumers Energy before taking the solar system online. In the meantime, DIT staff Anne Brys and Dave Reicosky are wrapping up work on a Web page, which will monitor energy usage, savings and temperature.

Uphaus is clearly proud of the efforts of this diverse group and the work performed by DMB staff.

"The installation went very well," he said. "The DMB team did a great job figuring things out and organizing the project. We were able to work with a great, competent staff right here in Building Operations."



VTS previews electric cars

About 50 State employees were able to get behind the wheel of an electric vehicle and take it for a test drive during a demonstration day arranged by the Vehicle and Travel Services.

State employees who make vehicle decisions for their departments were invited to view the range of electric passenger and cargo vehicles and talk with the vendors who sell them, said VTS consultant Vince Reynolds. The electric-powered cars ranged from two-passenger commuter vehicles to utility vehicles capable of carrying 1,500 pounds. Most of them have limited range and a top speed of about 25 miles per hour.

The State fleet currently includes about a hundred electric vehicles, many of them in the Department of Corrections.

"They use them within the prison compounds because of the fact they are electric," Reynolds said. "They don't have to bring in fuel to power them."



Department of Natural Resources employees Joe Frick and Denise Smith return from a test drive in one of the many electric cars on display at a Vehicle and Travel Services demonstration day in September.

DMB has two electric vehicles used by the Security and Emergency Management Unit in downtown Lansing. The Department of Natural Resources recently chose an electric vehicle to use at a marina in Cheboygan.

"They wanted to highlight the new green aspect of the harbor, so they

brought in a Gem pickup," he said.

Demonstration day participants seemed to have fun while they were learning about vehicle options for their departments.

"The response was pretty enthusiastic," Reynolds said. "We've had a number of inquiries as to what's available."

DMB honored for workplace flexibility

The Department of Management and Budget was among Michigan businesses and organizations honored with national awards for workplace flexibility. DMB received honorable mention in the 2009 competition for the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Workplace Flexibility. Director Lisa Webb Sharpe accepted the award during a special presentation held Sept. 11 in Lansing.

"DMB and its employees are gratified to receive this prestigious recognition," Webb Sharpe said.

"This honor reinforces our ongoing commitment to making State government a great place to do great work."

Thirty-four Michigan companies and organizations received awards. The program also honored the other Michigan companies that applied for the recognition.

The Sloan Award honors employers that use flexibility successfully to reach organizational and employee goals. Applicants submit information about their worksite flexibility and

effectiveness practices, which judges measure against data from the Families and Work Institute's 2005 National Student of Employers.

DMB was among six State agencies recognized in the competition. The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Civil Service Commission, and the Departments of Education and Environmental Quality were Sloan Award winners. The Office of the State Employer also received honorable mention.

DMB's on facebook

People across the world connect with family and friends on Facebook. Now they can connect with the Department of Management and Budget as well.

"Our Facebook page gives us another way to communicate with citizens," said Patty Russ, acting communications director. "Facebook users can visit DMB's page to find up-to-date news about the department, see photos of

our projects and events, and become fans of our page."

Fans have the advantage of receiving DMB news on their own Facebook pages.

Although Facebook began as a social networking site, members saw the advantage of using it to promote businesses and organizations. Today, government agencies and officials – including Governor Jennifer M. Granholm – post information to their

own Facebook pages.

To access DMB's page, visitors must join Facebook – www.facebook.com – which is a free service. After logging in, search for

"Department of Management and Budget" to locate a link to the page. Note that Facebook is not currently accessible from State computers.



2009 awards recognize employee excellence

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sharing her knowledge and skills to facilitate the approval process.

Shirley Ragsdale Every Day Hero Award

Ragsdale, who is a department specialist in the Building Operations Division, fosters collaboration and cooperation. She is a valued team member who has worked with groups addressing key initiatives, including workforce planning and the State's One Great, Super 8 effort. Colleagues say she is quick with a smile, a pat on the back and a listening ear and it always available to assist, teach, direct, mentor and make them better employees.

Elaine Scott Leadership Award

In accepting a temporary assignment as call center supervisor in the Office of Retirement Services, Scott assessed needs and developed training to help staff understand complicated rules

about pension beneficiaries. She implemented recognition practices to honor employees who exceeded expectations, performed well or prevented problems. Her nominator describes Scott as positive, ethical and irreproachable and someone who follows through on promises.

DMB Customer Service Center Innovator Award

Teammates Chelsey Hamel, Ryan McKee, Brandon Philip, Ken

Powelson, Tim Simpson, Nicole Tefft and Shawna Watts streamlined processes, eliminated paperwork for vehicle permits, reduced the number of employees on waiting lists, and improved procedures for assigning parking, issuing photo identification and access cards, and processing payroll deduction payments. The staff members continue to make innovative improvements while creating a culture of quality, performance and customer service.

Panel of peers chooses recipients

Employee Excellence Awards recipients are chosen by a selection committee that represents offices throughout the department. The 2009 committee members included Julie Bullion, Print and Graphic Services; Diane Pittman, Business Services Administration; Kristi Thompson, Purchasing Operations; Terry

Bussema, Security and Emergency Management Unit; Doug Church, Building Operations Division; Kris Garrison, Design and Construction Division; Jennifer Ashton, Financial Services; Sheila Large, Financial Services; Elaine Scott, Office of Retirement Services; and Joan Schneider, Office of Retirement Services.