

2014 Service Award Employee Biographies for Board of Commissioners

Chair Kafoury opens meeting and hands it over to Travis Graves as presenter.

Travis will hand back to Commissioners to share the following:

COMMISSIONER MCKEEL (OR COMMISSIONER SMITH IF SHE FEELS BETTER)

Sandra Van Lom - 15 Years (start date: 9/13/1999)

Position: Finance Specialist 1

Department of County Assets

Division: Finance

Supervisor: Patrick Williams, 503-988-7574, ext. 87574

Sandra Van Lom was hired in 1999 by the Health Department as a Medical Biller in the Business Services Unit.

Sandra breezed through 14 years with the Health Department with various work-out-of-class assignments, lead designations, a promotion and a couple reclassifications.

About a year ago, Sandra was recruited to join the Finance Team in the DCA Administrative Hub. This Hub provides administrative services to DCA, DCM, and all the non-departmental offices here in the Multnomah Building. She accepted the challenge, and we're glad she did.

She assists with Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Travel and Training. She also manages procurement cards for 181 different people in those departments. Most people find managing a wallet full of credit cards a challenge, but 181? That's impressive!

We're so grateful that Sandra can pull herself away from her young grandchildren and her sweet dog to help us manage all of these crucial finance elements. Thank you Sandra for 15 years.

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COMMISSIONER DIANE MCKEEL

Greg Loux - 15 Years (start date: 3/9/1999)

Position: Carpenter

Department of County Assets

Division: Facilities

Supervisor: Liz Rodriguez, 503-988-4106, ext. 84106

Greg has served Multnomah County as a Carpenter with the Facility and Property Management division for over 15 years. Prior to his career serving the people of Multnomah County, Greg served in the armed forces. After his enlistment he apprenticed and later worked endless hours to become a highly skilled journey-level finish carpenter.

Greg's professional carpentry career has consisted of working within many high-security government environments as part of construction teams, as well as many exciting solo projects including the exclusive design and detailed fabrication of an office desk for Portland's own Arlene Schnitzer over twenty years ago, which she still uses today.

There is something very enduring about the carpentry trade; building things that last and that can be enjoyed by several generations. Greg is a dedicated public employee. His work ethic is impeccable; his commitment to public service and stewardship is demonstrated through his actions during every work shift.

Greg has been instrumental and helping to elevate and increase the value-add of a journey-level in-house Carpentry shop to help serve the facility needs of Multnomah County. Greg is dependable, punctual, and committed; an ideal representation of our trade staff organization and its dedication to providing safe & efficient facilities to serve the people of Multnomah County. Please join me in thanking Greg for his service to the County.

Linda Patterson - 20 Years (start date: 3/9/1993)

Position: Library Supervisor

Multnomah County Library

Division: Central Access Services

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Supervisor: Angela Weyrens, 503-988-5476, ext. 85476

Linda started as an on call page, and eventually worked as a permanent page, clerk and supervisor. She worked at several branches before landing as a clerk at Central. She has been in Central Library's Circulation/Access Services as a Supervisor since 2003.

Having been around for 20 years, Linda brings a rich institutional capital to the work group and leadership team. She is great with details and is dedicated to excellent service.

Linda loves the variety that the Central Library offers; working directly with our patrons, but also the challenges of being a supervisor in a large organization. She enjoys working collaboratively across locations, whether taking a temporary supervisor role at the Midland Branch, assisting with the branch Summer lunch program or by working county-wide as part of the Wellness Team.

Linda's most current project is being part of a system wide Think Yes! For Team Players training that focuses on helping library work groups develop their internal customer service skills.

Linda, we very much appreciate the 20 years you've shared with the County; thank you.

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CHAIR DEBORAH KAFOURY (OR COMMISSIONER SMITH IF SHE FEELS BETTER)

Debbie Sweet Helgerson - 25 Years (start date: 9/5/1989)

Position: Community Justice Manager

Department of Community Justice

Division: Juvenile Services - Management Svcs

Supervisor: Deena Corso, 503-988-4067, ext. 84067

Debbie Sweet Helgerson has held numerous positions at the Juvenile Services Division of Community Justice since she started in the fall of 1989. She's worked in the Adjudication Unit, Night Intake, and various Treatment, Resource and Intervention Units. Debbie has evolved with the Department as Juvenile Justice Best Practices have evolved, and from that, a leader was developed.

Debbie coordinated the training and transition of the night intake position from Juvenile Court Counselors to Juvenile Custody Services Specialists. She has covered for the Placement Coordinator since the inception of that position. She has played a key role in various large-scale initiatives including our Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, the Risk Assessment Instrument and Juvenile Crime Prevention Quick Screen, and the development and implementation of our Juvenile Service Tracking system.

She is respected and valued by co-workers, and has established very strong and vital relationships with numerous community partners and stakeholders. Her skills and contributions are valued by internal and external partners alike and she exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Let's applaud Debbie for her years of dedication to the County.

CHAIR DEBORAH KAFOURY

Mary Jane Russell - 25 Years (start date: 12/18/1989)

Position: Office Assistant Senior

Multnomah County District Attorney's Office

Division: Family Justice Juvenile Trial

Supervisor: Kimberly Lacey, 503-988-6820, ext. 86820

Mary Jane is a native Oregonian that grew up in NE Portland and graduated from Grant H.S. She has 2 grown boys that still live in the area. She started working for the county in the Office of Assessment and Taxation on December 18, 1989 and she remembers exactly what she wore for her interview. Most people can't remember what

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they wore last week, let alone 25 years ago, that's quite a memory.

In September of 1994 she transferred to the District Attorney's Office. She was the front desk receptionist for many of her years in the downtown office. She's also spent time working in Grand Jury, Unit C/Gangs, Unit A, Intake, Records and Misdemeanors. She's been the main receptionist at the Juvenile office since July of 2004.

Mary knows every zip code in the State of Oregon. To the joy of her co-workers you can just give her an address and she's faster than usps.com. Her knowledge of the office, attention to detail and girl-scout readiness are appreciated by all. Mary is involved in community service, she collects and provides our office recyclable cans and bottles to the homeless. She's a frequent pet-sitter, a job she hopes to continue after she retires. She enjoys her monthly getaways to the beach and long road trips. Thank you so much Mary Jane, for 25 wonderful years.

Randy Walruff - 30 Years (start date: 4/10/1977; but with break in service 12/17/84)

Position: County Assessor and DART Director

Department of County Management

Division: Assessment, Recording, Taxation

Supervisor: Marissa Madrigal, 503-988-5239, ext. 85239

Randy started working for the Multnomah County Parks and Memorials Department in 1972 as a temporary employee earning \$1 per hour, mowing lawns and digging grave, working every summer until he was hired to a permanent position. Over the next several years he developed a passion to become a property appraiser, and took a break from the county to pursue relevant experience and a degree in Real Estate.

With his degree and Appraiser registration in hand, Randy returned to Multnomah County in June 1987 as a Residential Property Appraiser. Twenty years later, he became the County Assessor and DART Director.

On a personal note, Randy has been a life-long runner and also involved in coaching youth athletic teams. A little known fact is that Randy decided in 1987 he wanted to run a marathon and do it under 6 minutes per mile average. After 25 marathons in a 5 year period, and 35 pounds lighter, he achieved his goal.

Randy champions organizational values, and supports diversity & equity efforts. DART was an early adopter in participating in the Office of Diversity & Equity's College to County Mentorship Program. Randy has embraced and communicated the merits of the program as to workforce growth and development, and as providing mentorship

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and leadership opportunities for DART employees.

Randy is best known as a visionary, and like the conductor of an orchestra, leading others to play on the same page, he facilitates innovation and “out of the box” thinking that changes how we deliver our services to the community. Congratulations to Randy on his 30 years with Multnomah County.

And now we can hand it back to Travis.