



DAS Facilities Update

November 2007

A Monthly Newsletter for Facilities Employees

Section Focus Operations & Maintenance

The Wellness starting gun got the 14 O & M teams off the block on September 4, 2007, with all the teams prepared with sweat bands on, muscles limber, and excited to get on the road! The first few days saw much activity at the tally board, checking which team is where, discussing techniques, how much walking was done and much camaraderie. Wasn't long until the Machines (Joe Abood, Todd Johnson and Ron Kingsley, pictured on right) literally whizzed by everyone and ran down the main street of Boise 24 days and 497.9 miles later, leaving everyone in their dust! Loud congratulations were extended to the winning Machines. After the dust was wiped off, the remainder of the 13 teams continued their steady pace, watching the tally board everyday, encouraging their team members, checking their pedometers and filling their water bottles. More teams arrived in Boise, while others found it a little more difficult to get through the mountains and deserts and out of Oregon!

Binoculars in hand, always watching the finish line, someone spotted the last two teams running towards the outskirts of Boise on Tuesday, October 30. Yes, those were our teams! The last 2 teams, tired, low on water, but still in the race, touched the city limits of Boise and the O & M 2007 Wellness race to Boise was now history! O & M staff understand that health and wellness is a priority, as it affects our entire life. This wellness race afforded an opportunity to focus into healthy walking and it's rewards. The race competition was fun and laughable, but the main idea, "to walk" at work and at home, was accomplished. Our O & M teams and members participating in this Wellness race were: (not listed in the finish sequence) "Wildfires" (Juan Figueroa, Meril Craig, Richard Gwyn) "Soleful Plodders" (Ron Diller, Christine Keyte, Marcia Howell) "Team Margarita" (Tom Blair, Joe Brown, Dora Ledezma) "Easy Striders" (Bob Sprinkle, Randy Morris, Bill Halabi) "Miles of Smiles" (Sid Wriggelsworth, Yulia Niece, Nora Leahy) "The Mavericks" (Mike Gamble, Ken Ingham,



Phil Teague) "The Machines" (Joe Abood, Todd Johnson, Ron Kingsley) "Sportsmans" (Joe Jones, Barry Jones, Mark Wright) "Days End" (Terry Nunley, Floyd Peterson, Bill Sikel) "Walking Soles" (Ed Giesbrecht, Carol Standley, Debbie Howard) "Patty Cake" John Moreland, Pat McDermott, Mike Spady) "Endurance" (Ralph Hancock, Debbie Ziebert, Ron Cox) "Quarter DOZ" (Doug Lovejoy, Kevin Lovell, Doug Youngberg) "Better Late Than Never" (Rhonda Reich, Erich Camin, Mike Owens). Virtual reality "Blue ribbons" to every team member for their pursuit of wellness!

KUDOS

Meril Craig, Jose Rincon, Tom Simons, Richard Wehring, and Tom Barrows from O&M were recognized for their outstanding customer service in a monthly Kudos e-mail from our Deputy Director, Kris Kautz. *James McIntyre, Tollie Emerson, Martina Falk and Odie Vogel* from State Parking were also highlighted for their amazing service to their fellow state employees. It is an honor to be recognized and an honor to work with such outstanding individuals.

Thanksgiving Message From Our Administrator

Dear Facilities Team,

Thanksgiving is a time when we overwhelm ourselves with preparing our feasts and enjoying wonderful foods. Most importantly, Thanksgiving is the time to rejoice in a celebration of family. I wish you all a wonderful holiday and I wanted to share with you all the Origin of Thanksgiving Day!

-Thanksgiving is America's preeminent day. It is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday in the month of November. It has a very interesting history. Its origin can be traced back to the 16th century when the first thanksgiving dinner is said to have taken place. The legendary pilgrims crossed the Atlantic in the year 1620 in the Mayflower, a 17th Century sailing vessel. About 102 people traveled for nearly two months with extreme difficulty. This was because they were kept in the cargo space of the sailing vessel. No one was allowed to go on the deck due to terrible storms. The pilgrims comforted themselves by singing Psalms- a sacred song. The pilgrims reached Plymouth Rock on December 11th 1620, after a sea journey of 66 days. Though the original destination was somewhere in the northern part of Virginia, they could not reach the place owing to winds blowing them off course. Nearly 46 pilgrims died due to extreme cold. However, in the spring of 1621, Squanto, a native Indian taught the pilgrims to survive by growing food. In the summer of 1621, owing to severe drought, pilgrims called for a day of fasting and prayer to please God and ask for a bountiful harvest in the coming season. God answered their prayers and it rained at the end of the day. It saved the corn crops. It is said that the Pilgrims learned to grow corn, beans and pumpkins from the Indians, which helped all of them survive. In the autumn of 1621, they held a grand celebration where 90 people were invited including Indians. The grand feast was organized to thank god for his favors. This communal dinner is popularly known as "The first thanksgiving feast". There is however, no evidence to prove if the dinner actually took place. While some historians believe pilgrims were quite religious so, their thanksgiving would've included a day of fasting and praying, others say that the Thanksgiving dinner did take place. There is no evidence to prove if the customary turkey was a part of the initial feast. According to the firsthand account written by the leader of the colony, the food included, ducks, geese, venison, fish, berries etc. The feast continued for three days and was eaten outside due to lack of space. It was not repeated till 1623, which again witnessed a severe drought. Governor Bradford proclaimed another day of thanksgiving in the year 1676. October of 1777 witnessed a time when all the 13 colonies joined in a communal celebration. It also marked the victory over the British. After a number of events and changes, President Lincoln proclaimed last Thursday in November of thanksgiving in the year 1863. This was due to the continuous efforts of Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor. She wrote a number of articles for the cause.

