



CHATTER THAT MATTERS[®]

Volume 10, Issue 2

Winter 2021

A Message from Greg Smith:

Looking forward to 2021. How could you not?

The stories in this edition remind you of two things: (1) we continue to do our normal work, some of it in different ways; and (2) while the pandemic has affected how we went about some things, it seemed to have a much larger effect on many other people. By now we all know at least one person in our lives who lost work or tested positive for COVID-19. By now we all also know that we cannot wait to return to normal. I hear it every day, and I feel the same myself.

In our work world of prizes, who would ever consider offering the prize of “normal”? Right now I think we could sell a lot of tickets for that.

As we turn the page on a new year and wait for that return to normal, be sure to reflect on the positives, and on how you can help others who are worse off. I have had to remind myself to think not

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Next Issue:

PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

→ AWARENESS+ACTION

2020 Nomination for GNEMSDC Local Corporation of the Year

By: Suzanne Colley



Purchasing was honored to learn that the CLC was nominated for the 2020 Local Corporation of the Year.



GBG the Corporate Gift Source, submitted the recommendation on our behalf. And, although we did not win, it was great to be in such good company as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts – the ultimate awardee.

Honestly, it is not always about winning. The ‘win’ comes from knowing that the Corporation you work for always strives for fairness, accessibility, vendor diversity, and fiscal responsibility. Of interest, the CLC has partnered with more than 50 MBEs including GBG.

Below is an excerpt from GBG’s submission.

“The Connecticut Lottery Corporation has a long history of supporting and developing Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and the GNEMSDC. The company demonstrates its ongoing commitment to small, minority-owned businesses with an enhanced Supplier Diversity Program that offers easy online links to supplier bidding, as well as employment opportunities. When it comes to choosing suppliers, the CLC’s mantra is ‘Supplier diversity is more than just a goal - it’s our business!’”

We appreciate the nomination and kind words!



Give a Child a Toy, Not a Ticket Goes Virtual

By: Annmarie Daigle



The CT Lottery hosted its 7th Annual “Give a Child a Toy, Not a Ticket” Holiday Toy Drive from November 13 through December 31, 2020, to help raise awareness that lottery tickets are not suitable gifts for children, and to collect toys for patients at Connecticut Children’s. To do this, the CT Lottery proudly partnered with Connecticut Children’s and iHeart Radio to launch a multi-media effort aimed to educate adults not to buy lottery tickets for children under 18. Instead, we encouraged donations to Connecticut Children’s in the form of toys or gift cards through an online wishlist.

Connecticut Children’s uses toys as a distraction from pain before shots, tests and surgeries, and to help celebrate birthdays and special events during longer stays.

Give a Child a TOY, not a Ticket
LOTTERY TICKETS ARE NOT SUITABLE GIFTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18

During the holidays, the CT Lottery helps spread the responsible gambling message to adults that lottery tickets are not suitable gifts for children. We partner with Connecticut Children's and iHeartRadio, to spread this message and collect toys to be used daily for comfort, play and rehabilitation.

TOUCHLESS TOY DRIVE
Due to precautions around COVID-19 we are only able to accept online donations.
NOW - THURSDAY, DEC. 31

Donate through our online wishlist at give.connecticutchildrens.org/ctlottery or access the site via text message. Text "ctlottery" to 243-725.

iHeart RADIO Connecticut Children's Use your GameSense | CTLOTTERY.ORG Purchasers must be 18 or older. CT Lottery

Community Volunteering: A Family Affair

By: Sol Ramsey

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to do volunteer work, which centered on feeding the homeless and families in need. The Hosea Williams Feed the Homeless and Hungry in Atlanta is an organization that I had volunteered at during Thanksgiving many times in the past. I have never forgotten how gratifying that was to help people in need.



Since March of 2020, we have all seen the adverse effect of Coronavirus on the nation and the world. In particular, there have been families and individuals who for the first time did not know where their next meal would come from. One day while watching the news about the pandemic with my 17-year-old son, Marcus, we started to discuss what could we do to help. We decided to contact Foodshare Connecticut. We volunteered to help in any way we could with the process to help in feeding families in need.

The Foodshare staff was very receptive, and Marcus and I have been volunteering with sorting and moving packages and food in the Foodshare warehouse for the past few months. It has been great to work with other volunteers in what we know is a good cause that is helping to feed families. We have also shared what we were doing, and was able to raise some money from friends and families that allowed them to donate directly to Foodshare Connecticut. We are making it a family affair, as my 13-year-old twins and my wife are also scheduled to do volunteer work soon.

Foodshare makes it easy to volunteer by visiting their website and signing up to volunteer, <https://foodshare.volunteerhub.com> and they should have opportunities close to where you live. The Foodshare staff follows the CDC guidelines: they check your temperature, facemasks and gloves are required, and are provided if you do not bring your own.

“This has been a rewarding opportunity to give back to the community, and also share with my family at a young age the importance of volunteering to help others.”

-- Sol Ramsey



PROTECT YOUR WORKPLACE TOP 5 INFORMATION SECURITY TIPS

TIP #1

EVERYONE IS A TARGET!

DON'T EVER SAY, "IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME." We are all attractive targets to scammers and cybercriminals. Be aware of who is entering your workspace and be especially careful with your own information and the information of others.



TIP #2

DON'T GET PHISHED! BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS & PHONE CALLS.

Be careful with whom you share information over email, telephone, text, or even in-person. Never respond to unexpected or official-looking emails or open unfamiliar links or attachments - even from friends and co-workers - without first independently verifying that they are safe.



TIP #3

SAFEGUARD PROTECTED INFORMATION.

- Use strong, easy to remember, but hard to guess passwords. Avoid using the same password for multiple applications.
- Before leaving your work area, turn off/lock your computer, put away sensitive documents and data storage media (e.g., thumb drives), and lock storage spaces.
- Remove sensitive documents immediately from printers, fax machines, and copiers.
- Shred documents that contain sensitive personal or company information that are no longer needed.



TIP #4

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

TRUST YOUR GUT! Lookout for strange behavior in the workplace. Workplace safety and security is the responsibility of all CLC employees. Report security concerns to IT or Security immediately!



TIP #5

STAY EDUCATED.

Follow the tips here and continue to educate yourself about current and emergent computer and physical security threats and prevention methods. Visit Connecticut's Cybersecurity Resource Page (portal.ct.gov/connecticut-cybersecurity-resource-page) and the Department of Homeland Security's STOP. THINK. CONNECT. Toolkit (dhs.gov/publication/stop-think-connect-toolkit) for additional safe computing resources.



To report an incident, contact:

- IT at it@ctlottery.org
- Security at security@ctlottery.org

Visit the Information & Privacy section of the CLC Web Portal at <https://clcweb/Portal> for more information.

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of what I *cannot* do because of the pandemic, but what *can* I do. This has reshaped some of our personal priorities. Sol Ramsey's article is a good example of that.

It has been great to hear that some staff members have acquired some of CLC's used IT devices for personal use. We expect to continue this practice, and hope that those of you who will be upgrading your personal devices that are still in good condition find ways to get those into the hands of people who need them but cannot afford new ones. There are numerous organizations in Connecticut to help you find a second home for IT equipment.

Last but certainly not least, my hat is off to all of the Milestone and Special Award Recipients highlighted in this issue. Nice dedication and effort by all of you.

— Greg Smith

Winter Driving Tips

As you venture out on the roads, please remember...

- Clear snow and ice from windows, lights, hood, and roof before driving.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping.
- Brake early and correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.
- Be wary of bridge decks. They freeze first, making them more dangerous than the approach road.
- Exit ramps sometimes have less anti-icing material than the main line. Be aware of this when exiting the highway.
- Look further ahead in traffic than normal.
- Don't crowd the plow. Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. Stay back at least 200 feet and don't pass on the right.
- Remember to slow down and always wear your seat belt.
- Let others know your destination, route, and expected travel times.
- Allow for extra travel time.
- Drive with your headlights on at all times to see and be seen.
- Avoid parking under trees if possible, as the weight of the leaves and snow may cause branches to break.

Please stay safe!

Congratulations Milestone Award Recipients

By: Jodi Ketchale

Congratulations to each and every one of our Milestone Award Recipients. You have each contributed so much to this organization and the State and we are truly thankful that you are part of our team.

35 Years

Brenda Gignac

30 Years

Russ Gomes

Mark Negralle

Elena Silva

25 Years

Shown Lowe

15 Years

Joe Montano

Steve Wagner

Kevin Wiggins

Gary Wilson

Sharon Zarotney

10 Years

Joe Antonelli

Janet Rocco

Rob Ryan

Tom Trella



“Hidden Gem” Award recipient **Kim Pezanetti**.

“Moving the Finish Line” Award goes to the IT Department: **Aubrey Braithwaite, Angel Cuevas, Nicholas Eshelman, John Gasparini, Todd Scheuy, Edward Socha, Timothy Spence & Steve Wagner.**



“Flo Votino Award for Spirit & Enthusiasm” recipient **Carlos Rodriguez**.

Beyond the Landfill ~ Examples of our ‘stuffs’ finding life anew through surplus

By Suzanne Colley



An Arctic Blast from Surplus of Winters Past

If you want to learn how it works, take it apart. CLC posted an iLight camera recorder for auction. Andy, the father of three daughters, stated his oldest child has a passion for photography and is just beginning to build her portfolio. She enjoys learning all mediums relating to photography, which includes how these devices work. Andy figured it this way, *“if you want to know what makes something tick, take it apart.”* This purchase will be a great tinkering opportunity for her.



Not only was Andy pleased to be the successful bidder for this particular item, he has *“happily won several past CLC auctions and looks forward to seeing what we might have up for bid next.”*

If you would like to share some of your own recycle, upcycle, or repurposing ideas, please let me know.



Congratulations! 2020 NASPL Powers Awards



**2020 Powers Award Winners
Jamie Kyle and Rita Finocchiaro**

The Powers Awards are presented in recognition of the significant contributions lottery and/or vendor employees have made through exceptional job performance. These awards are named in honor of the late Edward J. Powers and are presented to industry stand-outs. This year, the CT Lottery made a team nomination, two individuals who work together and who have demonstrated a true commitment to their profession.

A couple award submission excerpts regarding Jamie and Rita:

“Jamie is the ultimate model of dependability and reliability and her positive and meaningful actions directly impact record sales and the success of the Connecticut Lottery.”

“Rita is a role model for the department and Connecticut Lottery. Her example of continually taking a critical look at our process and offering creative responses is how we grow and become better.”



The Corporate Responsibility Team:

- Karen Chambrello
- Suzanne Colley
- Annmarie Daigle
- Kendra Eckhart
- Bryan Figueroa
- Rita Finocchiaro
- Steve Fox
- John Gasparini
- Wendy Gasparini
- Valerie Guglielmo
- Jodi Ketchale
- Rebecca Lambert
- Violetta Lukin
- Zuleika Mercado
- Nikki Nearing
- Barbara Petano
- Robin Raboin
- Justin Rivera
- Janet Rocco
- Greg Smith
- Susan Starkowski
- Linda Tarnowski
- Steve Wagner
- Jeff Yue
- Sharon Zarotney



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