



# CHATTER THAT MATTERS®

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## A Message from Greg Smith:

As you read this issue you cannot help but notice that we continue to do our regular work that provides significant and important revenue to the State of Connecticut, and that we also continue to do more or better. We keep adding to the tally of years worked for CLC’s veteran staff while also attracting new talent into our workforce (Milestone Award Ceremony); we keep improving what we already do well (did you see those toy drive numbers and the huge quantity of toys in the warehouse!); and we keep expanding our efforts and participation in responsible gaming (NASPL recognition and our annual employee training for lottery and sports betting staff).

Throughout my work week I speak with business leaders who have a separated workforce with most or all staff working remotely – some of them are state lotteries. A year or so ago they were saying how impressed they were with how well things were going with remote working. Now I am hearing from those same leaders a bit of jealousy and longing for the time when they can get their teams back together again in the office. In my opinion the state of Connecticut has done this well, and so

*(Continued on page 5)*

### In This Issue

- Message From the President ..... 1
- GNEMSDC Buyer of the Year ..... 2
- NASPL NCPG RG Program Verification ..... 2
- Volunteer Spotlight ..... 3
- 2021 Powers Award Recipient ..... 6

#### Plus...

- Veterans and Diversity Hiring Expo..... 3
- Give a Toy, Not a Ticket ..... 4
- Milestone Award Recipients ..... 6

... And More!

### Next Issue:



# 2021 GNEMSDC Buyer of the Year

By: Lauren Perrotti

In mid-December our team was honored to learn that Suzanne Colley, Director of Operations, was nominated for, and won, the GNEMSDC 2021 Buyer of the Year. This award is encompassed to the corporate buyer who is judged by the Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) community to be deserving of this special recognition because of their commitment to purchase goods and services from certified minority businesses.



**From GBG The Corporate Gift Source's nomination:** *Due to the COVID pandemic, most trade shows were canceled in 2020 and throughout the first half of 2021. This was a devastating blow to GBG The Corporate Gift Source, which provides logo branded promotional items and apparel. The cancellation of trade shows caused a sharp decline in GBG's sales. CT Lottery Director of Operations Suzanne Colley and her purchasing team were instrumental in providing consistent revenue for GBG during this time by procuring an unprecedented volume of American-made face masks. Recognizing that a GNEMSDC supplier was struggling, they also provided bidding opportunities for GBG that the company wouldn't have had otherwise.*



*The CLC has been a Gold Corporate sponsor of the GNEMSDC Expo for at least the past four years. Suzanne embraces her company's commitment to supporting GNEMSDC businesses and has continuously provided opportunities for MBEs during her four years as director of operations. For this reason, she is worthy of recognition.*



## CT Lottery Receives Highest Level of Responsible Gambling Program Verification

By: Christopher Davis

In 2021, the CLC received the highest level of responsible gambling standards verification from the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) and the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) for our extensive responsible gambling efforts. The CLC was assessed by experts in the responsible gambling field across eight categories, including advertising, employee and retailer training, product oversight, and public education and awareness campaigns. CLC is one of only six lotteries in all of North America to receive this highest achievement, and among the first to be recognized by NASPL and NCPG at the Sustaining Level.



# Volunteer Spotlight: Rebuilding Homes and Lives

By: *Pete Donahue*

For the past 25+ years, the Church of Christ in Newington, CT has participated in the Appalachia Service Project <https://asphome.org/missions/>

Our dedicated group of youth and adult leaders head to Appalachia region of our country to help rebuild homes and lives. We tackle all kinds of projects while there. In an effort to prepare, our adult leaders hold “skills” clinics with our youth to get them comfortable and confident using tools and working as a team. You’ll see used CLC pallets put to good use in the pictures below.



## CLC Attends Veterans & Diversity Hiring Expo

By: *Irena Baj-Wright*

On September 7, 2021, CT Lottery attended the Veterans and Diversity Hiring Expo sponsored by Hartford Athletics and the CT Department of Labor. Held at Hartford’s Dillon Stadium, this event was geared towards veterans, people of color, women and those with disabilities.

Along with CT Lottery, 57 other organizations representing a variety of industries around the state met with over 300 individuals seeking job opportunities and career advice. Individuals stopping by the CT Lottery booth had a chance to discuss Sales Representative position requirements as well as openings in the new Sports Betting division.



# “Give a Toy, Not a Ticket” Responsible Gambling Campaign Sets Records

By: Christopher Davis

RESPONSIBLE  
GAMBLING

For the 8<sup>th</sup> year, CLC hosted a toy drive for CT Children’s to help promote our responsible gambling message for residents to “give a child a toy, not a ticket” during the holiday season. This past year’s campaign collected several thousand toys for the medical center, far exceeding our previous record of 1,000 toys, while also reminding residents that lottery tickets are not suitable gifts for minors.

During this year’s campaign, we expanded the number of toy drive drop off locations around the state from 12 to 128, including for the first time all of our sportsbook locations, 14 U-Haul locations, all six Geissler’s Supermarket locations, and all 89 Stop & Shop locations in Connecticut.

Additionally, over 1,900 CLC retailers participated in our annual holiday campaign responsible gambling training, setting a new record for participation by our retailers. CLC employees also received responsible gambling training provided by the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling and the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Problem Gambling Services during the campaign.



Governor Ned Lamont and CLC Board Chair Rob Simmelkjaer look on as Santa receives a “check” for 6,000 toys on behalf of CT Children’s.



Christopher Davis and CT Children’s volunteers stand in front of CLC’s donations.

(Continued from page 1)

has CLC. We have had our share of illnesses and positive test results, but we have followed our protocols and adjusted where necessary.

Separately from what we do at work we all have personal lives, families, and activities that shape who we are. Ensuring your immediate family is attended to should be priority one. From there we make ourselves better by taking action to help those who are not as well off as we are. Pete Donahue’s involvement with his church is rewarding for him (see page 2), others volunteer their time at local food banks, and even coaching youth sports teams. All great positive additions to who we are. And getting started can be so simple – as easy as cleaning out your extra stuff and donating clothes and household items to organizations who can give them to those less fortunate. You can even help collect those items in your neighborhood and be the deliverer. My point is don’t miss the chance to begin.

It is impressive to think that we can accomplish all of this while doing our jobs responsibly and thoughtfully.

— Greg Smith

## Recycling Efforts Conserve and Protect Resources

By: Karen Chambrello

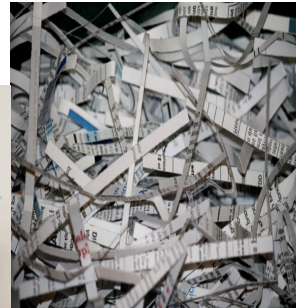
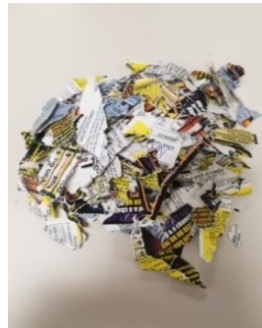
The environmental impact saves trees, oil, water, energy, and landfill space!

“What happens to the remaining packs of Instant Tickets when a game ends?”

“What happens to our documents when the retention period is over?”

Following all of the proper criteria, ~ we shred ‘em!

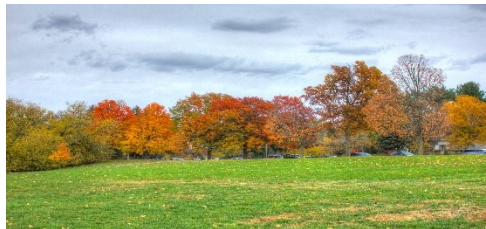
Every little green bit helps!



Any Guesses What This Might Be?

CLC’s efforts over these past couple of years were impactful!

823 Trees



9,684 Gallons of Oil

286,855 Gallons of Water



199,039 Kilowatt Hours of Energy  
2,448 Cubic Yards of Landfill Space



# Congratulations Milestone Award Recipients!

By: Jodi Ganzer

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.

## 30 Years

John Gasparini

## 20 Years

Wendy Gasparini

Jaime Kyle

Todd Scheuy

Flo Votino

## 15 Years

James Hess

Christian Michaud

Juan Peña

Robert Raczka

Richard Shea

Susan Starkowski

## 10 Years

Christopher Davis

Steven Fox

Solomon Ramsey

Linda Tarnowski



CLC's 2021 "Flo Votino Award for Spirit & Enthusiasm" recipient, **Sharon Drummey**, with supervisor **Diane Geary**.



"Lighthouse Award" recipient, the Human Resources Department: **Jodi Ganzer**, **Tammy Morganti**, and **Irena Baj-Wright**.

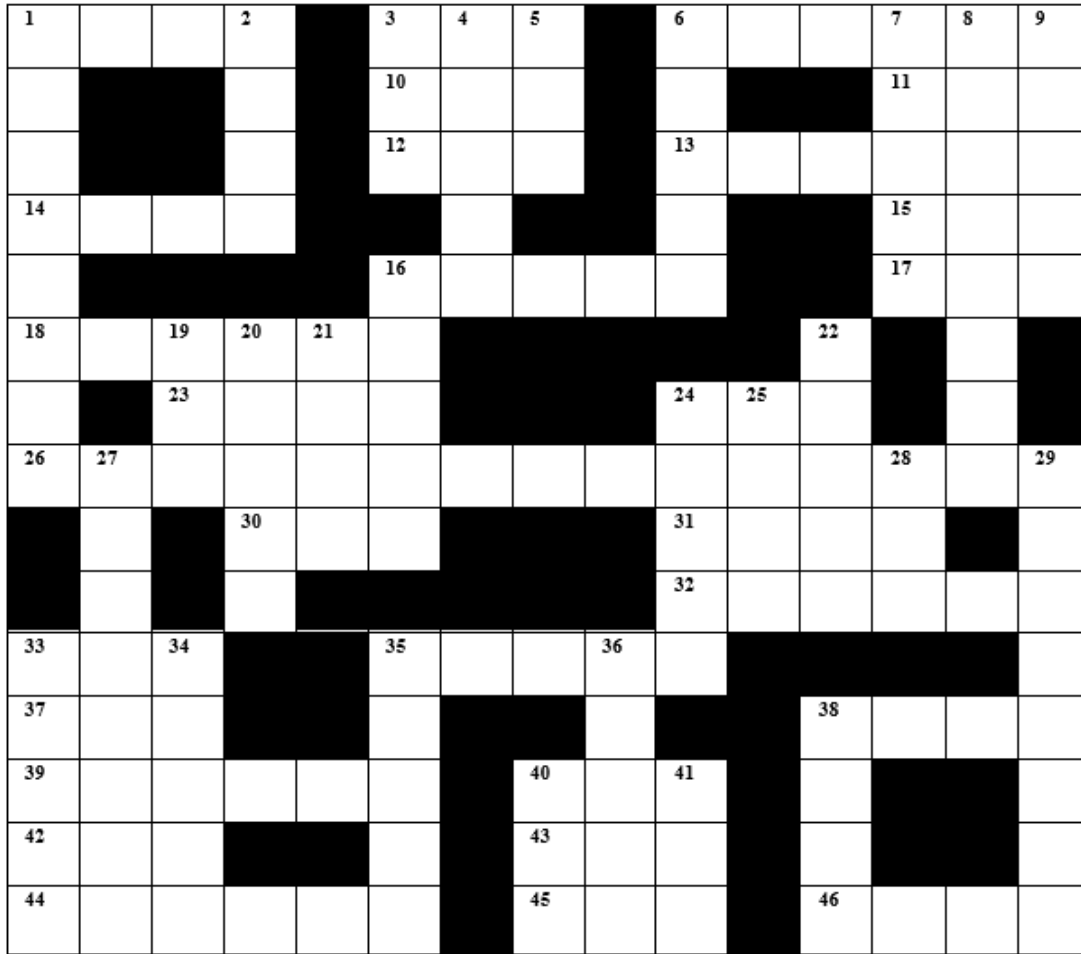
## Congratulations 2021 NASPL Powers Award Winner Suzanne Colley!



**2021 NASPL Powers Award Winner**  
**Suzanne Colley, Director of Operations**

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 nominated Suzanne Colley.

*Suzanne has dedicated over 20 years to the Lottery. Her career started with the Warehouse Team and she continues her success today as the Director of Operations overseeing Purchasing, Facilities, Records Retention and Warehouse. Suzanne has established herself as a leader who not only demands excellence of herself and her team but has the capacity to inspire others to reach that standard each day.*



**Across**

- 1. Keno number
- 3. Air safety org. (or KC's CLC title)
- 6. Warehouse item
- 10. Lottery gaming system provider
- 11. "...man \_\_\_\_ mouse?"
- 12. Golf ball holder
- 13. Beatty/Hoffman film dud
- 14. Num. found under ticket latex
- 15. Small recipe amt.
- 16. Fox or Wagner
- 17. Lotto has two
- 18. Hidden or secret
- 23. Sneaker brand
- 24. Stella Art \_\_\_\_
- 26. Lottery gaming system provider
- 30. Nike's stock symbol
- 31. Every vowel except U
- 32. \_\_\_\_ Ocean
- 33. COVID staples
- 35. One of three in CLC's address
- 37. Electrolux ticker symbol, sometimes
- 38. Play \_\_\_\_
- 39. Early 80s arcade game
- 40. You can't \_\_\_\_ if you don't play
- 42. Father's Day gift
- 43. Chicken \_\_\_\_ King

- 44. The OL in AOL
- 45. Workout place
- 46. Obligation

**Down**

- 1. Retailer \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. 80s Jeff Bridges sci-fi film
- 3. Healthy
- 4. 007 is one
- 5. Dined
- 6. Jackpot, or top \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. CLC game with 44 numbers
- 8. "\_\_\_\_ board.": Teacher request
- 9. Infield covers
- 16. Declare
- 19. Rock guitarist Steve
- 20. Opposite of odds
- 21. Ice skating \_\_\_\_
- 22. Newton or Asimov
- 24. Body of water
- 25. Dr. Frankenstein's assistant
- 27. Protest
- 28. Cambridge sch.
- 29. My favorite CLC department
- 33. \_\_\_\_ Bismol

- 34. Oft used Microsoft program
- 35. "Use Your Game \_\_\_\_"
- 36. Curt's partner
- 38. Wilma's husband
- 40. Tail movement
- 41. *Apocalypse Now* setting

*Just For Fun!*

By: Mark Walerysiak



## The Corporate Responsibility Team:

- Irena Baj-Wright
- Karen Chambrello
- Suzanne Colley
- Annmarie Daigle
- Christopher Davis
- Pete Donahue
- Kendra Eckhart
- Bryan Figueroa
- Rita Finocchiaro
- Steve Fox
- John Gasparini
- Wendy Gasparini
- Valerie Guglielmo
- Jodi Ganzer
- Rebecca Lambert
- Violetta Lukin
- Zuleika Mercado
- Nikki Nearing
- Lauren Perrotti
- Barbara Petano
- Robin Raboin
- Janet Rocco
- Greg Smith
- Linda Tarnowski
- Steve Wagner
- Mark Walerysiak
- Jeff Yue
- Sharon Zarotney



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