

## OFFICER RENEE NICHOLS HONORED AS 2023 MDOC OFFICER OF THE YEAR



**Renee Nichols, a Corrections Officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility has been named the 2023 Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year.**

Officer Nichols was an Institutional Training Instructor for two years. She has been a Field Training Officer for six academies. Officer Nichols is the backup Grievance Coordinator and Hearing Investigator at the Saginaw Correctional Facility. She works well under pressure and is highly adaptable. Officer Nichols is often sought out for her creativity and attention to detail. She recently assisted in the creation of a new template and in updating the Visiting Room post orders, ensuring proper inventory and usage of children's tablets.

She volunteered as the Durand Band Booster Treasurer from 2019 to 2022. She was a Girl Scout Leader from 2012 to 2015 and was a 4H Leader from 2011 to 2015. Officer Nichols has been a firefighter with Venice Township since 2005.

### Finalist for Officer of the Year:

#### **Alfonzie Pipkins, STF**

Officer Pipkins has received numerous Life Saving Awards from the department. He performed CPR on a prisoner for upwards of 45 minutes. The prisoner lived and returned to the facility less than a week later. Officer Pipkins has been a part of the STF Recruiting Team for two years.

He assists underprivileged children in the community, volunteers at the local YMCA, referees youth and High School basketball, and coaches sports in the community.

#### **Mark Dunn, ECF**

Officer Dunn began his career at Huron Valley Men's Correctional Facility. He has spent the past 25 years at the Oaks Correctional Facility. Officer Dunn is involved with the Segregation Epic Team and the Drug Epic Team.

Officer Dunn was a member of the Emergency Response Team for 15 years, from 1997 to 2012. He was instrumental in the Oaks Correctional Facility 12-hour shift conversion. He initiated the placement of refrigerators in the housing unit breakrooms for staff and bubble camera monitoring systems. While working with the Emergency Response Team, he assisted the community in search and rescue efforts.

He has been a volunteer track and baseball coach for Mason County Center Schools and travel baseball teams.

#### **Jacob Poindexter, ARU**

Investigator Poindexter has made numerous contributions to enhance the operation of ARU. He gathers information and concepts from training provided by the U.S. Marshals and other outside law enforcement agencies. He develops creative ways to locate and safely apprehend absconders. Investigator Poindexter brings a joyful and exuberant love of his career to work with him every day. He treats everyone with respect and exhibits exceptional communication skills. Investigator Poindexter has and continues to develop and foster relationships between local and federal law enforcement agencies and the department that are beneficial for the agencies and the department.

#### **Tim Fluery, LMF**

Officer Fluery is the Bid Officer in Spruce Unit. He ensures consistent and efficient daily operations of prisoner movement and security. He was instrumental in the conversion of Spruce Unit from a Level IV to a Level II.

He streamlined procedures to ensure smooth transitions of property when prisoners moved between levels. He was also instrumental in bringing the Rescue Dog Program from Lakeland Correctional Facility to Alger Correctional Facility. He is member of the Alger Correctional Facility Security Threat Group Team. He is part of the Department Mentoring Program that helps assist new employees in the department. He has been awarded the MDOC Life Saving Award.

Officer Fluery has been awarded two Letters of Accommodation: one for stopping the introduction of a cell phone into the facility and the second for preventing a prisoner from committing suicide. He has been an assistant softball coach for his daughter's team. Officer Fluery is a seasoned officer who has the respect of staff and prisoners alike.

Ray Sholtz, Chief of Staff at Michigan Corrections Organization and a member of the Officer of the Year selection committee, said *"After interviewing the top five candidates for Corrections Officer of the Year, it is clear that we have an incredible amount of talent in our department. All candidates had exceptional credentials and Officer Nichols was a great choice. It is a privilege to have her in our ranks."*

**Congratulations to all  
Officer of the Year  
candidates!**