

news

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Editor M. J. Noll

July 1979

DOT's Nominee for the William A. Jump Award: Michael M. Finkelstein



Administrator Joan Claybrook presents a certificate of recognition from the William A. Jump Memorial Foundation to Michael M. Finkelstein.

Michael M. Finkelstein, Associate Administrator for Rulemaking, was awarded a certificate and a citation in recognition of his "... outstanding accomplishments and special contributions to the efficiency and prestige of the public service" as DOT's nominee for the William A. Jump Award.

The William A. Jump Memorial Award is presented annually for achievement in public administration to encourage increased interest, development, and high level performance among younger top-level officers. It was established in 1950 in honor of the late William A. Jump, Budget and Finance Officer of the

U.S. Department of Agriculture, recognized throughout the Federal Government, and nationally, for his leadership and distinguished contributions to effective public administration.

To be eligible for the award, nominees must be career Federal Government employees under 37 years of age who have demonstrated unusual competence, leadership, creativity, integrity, and dedication to duty.

Finkelstein, one of 14 nominees that the William A. Jump Memorial Award Foundation recognized for their abilities, joined the DOT in 1968 as a program analyst in the Secretary's Office of (See **AWARD** on page 4.)

Helping the Regions Help Consumers

Employees from all ten regions participated in a Motor Vehicle/Consumer Programs (MV/CP) Workshop June 4-8 at the Transpoint Building. The five-day workshop was a joint effort of the Regional Coordinator's Office and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to acquaint regional personnel with the day-to-day working of priority motor vehicle and

consumer programs at Headquarters.

The idea behind the training program, Dean Van Gordon, Regional Coordinator, said was, "to improve the interface between Headquarters and Regions and to define the responsibilities of the regional offices in terms of motor vehicle and consumer programs." Bud Duffy, OPM, said the workshop itself was designed with two goals in mind: to provide regional personnel with data, information, and materials on consumer activities, and to furnish guidance and assistance to help regions implement their programs.

The twenty-one sessions covered a wide range of topics. Program experts from Headquarters described the procedures used in conducting defects investigations, importation and dealership inspections, and the

processing of consumer complaints. Other sessions dealt with hot-line operations, recall campaign follow-ups, odometer laws and regulations, and the fuel economy program.

The MV/CP workshop was the first training of its kind offered for regional employees in over five years. So, for some of the participants it was the first chance they had had to meet with the Headquarters' people they deal with regularly by memo or phone. And their reactions were complimentary.

"The course content was excellent," Laretta Carlson (Region X) said. Paul Snodgrass (Region IX) added that the instructors were "well-prepared and organized."

"For the most part," Bill Blandford (Region III) said, "I found the instruction quite interesting and the

instructors enthusiastic." And Lance Thomas (Region IV) thought that the hand-out material that several of the speakers distributed would be very useful in his regional office.

Many of the participants were enthused about the exchange of ideas that the workshop format allowed. "The workshop provided opportunity to ask questions and discuss problems of concern with the people who could provide useful guidance," one said. Another was hopeful that future workshops might be geared more to sharing and learning how similar problems are handled in each region. Laretta Carlson (Region X) said she thought more discussion might result in more "uniform treatment of similar problems faced by MVP field personnel."

Several benefits from the workshop should enhance regional efforts with consumers, Bud Duffy said. "The regional people established personal contacts with Headquarters' people who can help them with consumer problems. Through the presentations, they also developed an awareness of other governmental agencies concerned with consumer issues."

"The workshop offered participants a chance to ask questions and discuss approaches to consumer problems in an informal confidential atmosphere," he added.

At the end of the week the overwhelming opinion of participants and

Headquarters' attendants as well, was to keep the newly established lines of communication open. Many said that similar workshops might be planned on a regular basis to maintain the collaborative spirit that the MV/CP workshop established. Others stressed that more training sessions like this one would enable regional people to keep up with the fast-paced changes that occur in Headquarters' policies and procedures.

The participants of the MV/CP workshop were: Windsor Coleman and James Ryan (Region I); Irvin Rodness (Region II); Bill Blandford and Lance Thomas (Regions III and IV); Ardella Pitts and Thomas Houser (Region V); Alex Calaluca, Frank Pattee, and Charles Keiper (Regions VI, VII, and VIII); Joseph Zemaitis and Paul Snodgrass (Region IX); and Paul Orris and Laretta Carlson (Region X).

OF SPECIAL INTEREST If you've ever struggled to open a bottle of aspirin with a child-resistant lid, it might interest you to know how safety packages for household items are tested.

Provisions were established under the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) of 1970 to protect children under five years old from serious illness or injury due to handling, using, or ingesting harmful or toxic

substances.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission conducts tests with both adults and children to find out if packaging is child-resistant. To test packaging designs, two hundred children between the ages of 3-1/2 and 4-1/2 are selected. A pair of youngsters are given empty containers and tested in a room familiar to them. They are allowed up to five minutes to open the package and container without being told or shown how to do so. If the child fails to open it within five minutes and does not resort to using his or her teeth, the test administrator demonstrates how to open the package and tells the child to use any method he can think of to open the package in a second five-minute period.

If 85% of the children were unable to open the container before seeing the demonstration and 80% of the children fail to open it AFTER seeing the demonstration, the package is approved under PPPA standards as child-resistant.

To determine if the child-resistant packaging is easy for adults to open, 100 adults between the ages of 18-49 are tested. Each adult is tested individually, and provided printed instructions on how to open and properly resecure the special packaging. At the end of a five-minute period not less than 90% of the adults must have successfully opened and resecured the special packaging to meet PPPA requirements.



Lynn L. Bradford, Associate Administrator for Enforcement, opened the discussion of defect investigations at the MV/CP workshop. He was one of over twenty program experts from Headquarters who shared their expertise with workshop participants.



Participants listened attentively to presentations geared to provide them with the latest information on motor vehicle and consumer programs and procedures.

Award (from page 1.)

Planning and Program Review. He later became Chief of that office's Highway and Mass Transit Program Division. He joined NHTSA as Associate Administrator for Planning and Evaluation in 1976.

In a letter of congratulations Secretary Adams complimented Mr. Finkelstein on the "exceptional quality" of his work.

The winner of the William A. Jump Memorial Award this year was Dr. Thomas P. Ruane, Deputy Director, Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mr. Frank A. Berndt and Mr. Lynn L. Bradford on their new assignments.

Frank Berndt, Associate Administrator for Enforcement, has been named Chief Counsel.

Lynn Bradford, formerly Director, Office of Defects Investigation and, more recently, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement has been named Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

Give Blood Before You Go on Vacation

Less lucky people in our hospitals depend on you.

BLOODMOBILE - July 31, 1979
Transpoint, Rm. 3201

'Round About NHTSA

New Arrival

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Neill on the birth of their son, Arthur Harry Neill III, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz., on June 16, at Prince Georges Hospital.

The Neills' have a daughter, Wendy, two and a half years old.

Neill is a Physical Scientist in the Crash Avoidance Division, NRM.

Thank Heaven for Little Boys

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Hall became the parents of Scott Xavier on February 24, 1979. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Murianka became the parents of Philip Joseph on March 9, 1979.

LuAnn Hall, R&D, and JoAnn Murianka, ODI, submitted the following rhyme and dedicate it to all little boys:

Little boys are made for
dads to buy a football
for
For puppies to follow
home
For mothers to adore.

They're made to play with
hammers
And with drums and model
planes
To climb around in trees
And walk through puddles
when it rains.

To hunt for buried
treasure chests chuck
full of gold and pearls
And to go to dancing
parties and ignore the
little girls.

* * *

Personnel

Welcome Aboard

Richard L. Dixon,
Contract Specialist, NAD.
David O. McPherson,
Mechanical Eng. Technician,
NRD.

'Bye and Good Luck

Tony Cox, Personnel
Staff Specialist, NAD.
Brenda Dupree,
Secretary (Steno), NTS.
Patricia Price,
Secretary (Steno), NTS.
Stephanie Quarforth,
Accountant Technician,
NAD.

Lauren Reynolds,
Secretary (Steno), NEF.
Edward Sykes, Engineer
Technician, NRD.
Glover C. Thornton,
Trial Attorney, OCC.

Congrats on Promotion

Han-Sun Chan, Physical
Scientist, NRD.
Alice McGonagle, Staff
Assistant, NAD.
Diane Somerford,
Program Analyst, NPP.
Sineta Wooten,
Secretary (Typing), NAD.

Job Openings

For complete details on these job openings, see the official vacancy announcements. Vacancy announcements are posted on the NHTSA Bulletin Boards at both the Nassif and Transpoint Buildings. They are also distributed to each Office Director.

Chief, Technology
Assessment Division,
GS-0801-16, NRD. Opens:
6-14, Closes: 7-13.
NHTSA 79-56.