

# FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

JUNE 2016

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## A Year in the Mentoring Program

*FDIC News follows six mentoring pairs through a year of development and change.*

By SALLY KEARNEY  
Office of Communications

What do mentees learn during a year in the Mentoring Program, and how do they apply what they learn? Do their goals change as the year unfolds? To find out the answers to these questions, the *FDIC News* is following six mentoring pairs participating in the 2016 Mentoring Program. During each quarter of the program year—April-June 2016; July-September 2016; October-December 2016; and January-March 2017—the *News* will report on the plans, progress, setbacks, and breakthroughs that the pairs experience in order to gain a better understanding of how the mentoring process works.

For the first installment, the *News* asked mentees and mentors about their hopes, dreams, plans, and expectations for the year.

*Mark Mickelson, Mentee, and Jeffery Stanovich, Mentor*

When they met for the first time at the Mentoring Program orientation on March 30-31, Mark Mickelson and Jeffery Sta-

novich discovered just how much they have in common. Mickelson wants to learn about large bank supervision, while Stanovich is an RMS Senior Large Bank Specialist at headquarters whose job it is to examine these institutions. Mickelson, an RMS Financial Institution Examiner in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, Field Office, was immediately impressed with his mentor's experience and knowledge.

Both men have positive but realistic expectations. Mickelson hopes to develop a "rich and lasting professional relationship" with Stanovich that will guide him on his career path. Stanovich hopes to highlight opportunities for Mickelson so he can prepare for the responsibilities that come with a promotion.

Mentor and mentee share a preference for candor. "I want honest opinions and advice, and I expect to be forthcoming in return," Mickelson said. "Although the truth can be uncomfortable, it is important to face it in order to grow and improve pro-

see **Mentoring**, page 2, column 1

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# MENTORING PAIRS

## Mentoring, from page 1

professionally.”

The two also tend toward action. Already, Stanovich has taken the step of coordinating with Mickelson’s field supervisor so that Mickelson can spend a week with him on an examination of a large bank. “Being onsite, Mark will get firsthand experience in how the RMS Large Bank Branch interacts with the permanent team onsite and with bank management,” Stanovich said.

### *Kendra Berch, Mentee, and Shaundalon Hasty, Mentor*

When they met at the orientation, Kendra Berch and Shaundalon Hasty skipped over the preliminaries—none were needed. Instead, they developed an immediate rapport. “We are already comfortable with each other and laugh a lot,” Berch said. “I know we will be open and honest. Trusting each other from the beginning will be our greatest strength.” Hasty, agreeing that their personalities mesh, looks forward to “fresh ideas and great exchanges.”

While Berch wants to polish her resume

and interviewing skills, on a deeper level, she also wants to step outside her comfort zone with Hasty’s help. “Shaundalon is known in the mentoring program for pushing people, and I know she will push me to succeed and it will be uncomfortable at times,” said the RMS Financial Institution Examiner in the San Francisco Region. “But that is when my trust in her will come into play. She asked me to remember that everything she suggests will help me reach my goals.”

As for Hasty, she plans to help Berch see traits that she may have overlooked or undervalued. “I am looking forward to the journey with all its twists and turns,” said the RMS Supervisory Financial Analyst in the Chicago Region. “I have no doubt that our relationship will grow stronger, and we will seize every opportunity and overcome every obstacle.”

### *Fatena El-Masri, Mentee, and Eloy Villafranca, Mentor*

Fatena El-Masri and Eloy Villafranca bring divergent but complementary experiences to their mentoring partnership. El-

Masri is a highly respected Ph.D. financial researcher and analyst, while Villafranca is favorably regarded in his field of community development and economic inclusion. Having accomplished much in their careers, mentor and mentee count mutual respect as one key to their rapport.

El-Masri wants to apply her expertise in a managerial role, preferably one in which she can also do original research. Strengthening communication skills and taking leadership courses are central to her plans. Villafranca is already introducing El-Masri to his wide circle of FDIC colleagues. “I am arranging opportunities for Dr. El-Masri to meet various managers,” said Villafranca, DCP Regional Manager for Community Affairs in the Dallas Region.

The two share a positive outlook about what they can achieve together. “Eloy and I hit it off right away, and I am so glad that he understands my French accent!” said El-Masri, Senior Financial Analyst with DRR

see *Mentoring*, page 3, column 1



A few mentoring pairs gather during the 2016 Mentoring Program orientation. Front row (from left): Mentee Brandi Akingbemi (Mentor Brandon Anderson is at far left, back row); Mentor Jeffery Stanovich and Mentee Mark Mickelson; Mentor Eloy Villafranca and Mentee Fatena El-Masri; and Mentor Lori McMaster and Mentee Evelyn Manley. Back row: Mentor Brandon Anderson; Mentor Shaundalon Hasty and Mentee Kendra Berch; Mentee Sheritta Arie and Mentor Todd Hendrickson; and Mentor Susan Koepp and Mentee Cassandra Monroe.

## MENTORING PAIRS

### *Mentoring, from page 2*

at headquarters. “I know he will guide me to become a strong manager.”

Villafranca responds in kind. “We got along right away by being open and honest,” he said. “Dr. El-Masri has had an amazing life, and she is really motivated and energized, so this will be a very exciting year for us.”

*Cassandra Monroe, Mentee, and Susan Koepp, Mentor*

Unlike some mentors and mentees who meet for the first time at orientation, Cassandra Monroe and Susan Koepp have known each other as colleagues for years. Nevertheless, the mentor and mentee plan to discover more about each other in their new roles. “I want to listen and find out what direction Cassandra wants to take and help her get there,” said Koepp, DOF Process Improvement Manager at headquarters. “Networking is one of her goals, and although our spheres overlap, there is so much more for her to explore.”

Monroe also wants to strengthen her communication skills and hopes to gain motivation and inspiration from Koepp in order to take action in her career. “I look forward to building a partnership that allows me to feel comfortable talking about the hard things as well as what goes well, and the events in my personal life as well as those in my career,” said the Business Analyst with DIT at headquarters.

Monroe and Koepp also share a desire to achieve measurable results. “I want to have definite outcomes from the pursuit of my goals,” Monroe said.

Koepp agrees. “One of the best ways to know if a developmental activity is success-

ful is to be able to measure it,” she said. “I want to make sure that Cassandra’s plan is actionable and that we have a shared understanding of what success looks like so that at the end of the year, we can point to an action, discovery, or decision that has made a difference.”

*Sheritta Arie, Mentee, and Todd Hendrickson, Mentor*

Sheritta Arie designed an action plan that dovetails nicely with her professional pursuits. A DCP Compliance Examiner in the Houston, Texas, Field Office, Arie is enrolled in a graduate banking school program and also teaches courses at Corporate University. Soon she will spend six months in the New York Regional Office on a detail assignment. Each activity will enable her to meet her goals of gaining new skills, preparing for higher levels of responsibility, and expanding her network.

Yet Arie recognizes that she needs a guide to help her sort through the many possibilities that await her. “I continually come up with ideas to further my career and personal development, so I plan to rely on Todd to assist me in identifying the opportunities that will help me attain my goals,” she said.

Hendrickson has no problem assuming that role. “Sheritta is incredibly energetic, but I want to help her channel that energy in the right direction,” said the DCP Deputy Regional Director in the San Francisco Regional Office. “I plan to assist her with identifying the best developmental opportunities and exploring curiosities, while pointing out the value of developing the opportunities she has already selected. I look forward to supporting her as she blossoms as an instructor and distinguishes herself in New York by demonstrating her talents and

abilities.”

Arie is taking Hendrickson’s wisdom to heart. “As a result of the mentoring process, I hope to identify those possibilities that best suit me and pursue them,” she said.

*Lewis Jones, Mentee, and Angelita Cabrera, Mentor*

Lewis Jones knows exactly where he wants to end up. The DOA Senior Facilities Operations Specialist in Kansas City plans to define and develop a skill set that is transferable to a position in RMS or OCFI. Ultimately, he hopes to work with Globally Active, Systemically Important Financial Institutions (G-SIFIs). Intermediate steps include landing relevant detail assignments.

In his quest, Jones has found a mentor who is not only qualified but committed. Angelita Cabrera, an RMS Senior Financial Institution Specialist at headquarters, is an expert in G-SIFIs and has decided to become a mentor because she wants to make a difference in her mentee’s professional life. “I intend to enable Lewis to identify all the available options toward reasonably fulfilling his goals,” she said.

Eager to start, the two began talking by phone before the orientation. Now they are ready to pursue Jones’s goals. Viewing their relationship as “motivational,” Cabrera is determined to spur Jones on his journey. She also finds inspiration in his unwavering resolve. “Lewis has his eye on the target, and nothing will dissuade him from getting there,” she said. Jones concurs. “I plan to keep trying and working toward my objective and look forward to success,” he said.

*The next installment in this series will appear in the FDIC News during the second quarter of the 2016 Mentoring Program, which is July-September 2016. 🏠*



## Headquarters Floor Marshals Recognized in Ceremony

*FDIC officials and police and fire department representatives pay tribute to volunteers' service.*

By SALLY KEARNEY  
Office of Communications

Volunteer floor marshals throughout the FDIC play a critical role in workplace security. Whether at headquarters, regional offices, or in the field, volunteers who offer to receive training, learn about the threats to their locations, remain vigilant, and act during a crisis or emergency situation are vital to the protection of FDIC employees, contractors, and visitors on a daily basis.

Dr. Aida Perez, DOA Assistant Director for Security and Emergency Preparedness (SEPS), noted the importance of floor marshals to the FDIC's security. "Volunteer floor marshals at headquarters, the regions, and the field offices help ensure the safety of our employees and our facilities throughout the FDIC," she said.

Headquarters floor marshals recently received recognition for their service. At a June 7 ceremony at Virginia Square honoring more than 100 floor marshals, DOA Director Arleas Upton Kea and Dr. Perez praised their contributions. Also in attendance to honor the floor marshals were Captain William Shelton and Captain Christopher Cox of the Arlington County, Virginia, Fire Department, and Corporal Elizabeth Lennon of the Arlington County Police Department.

Captain Shelton and Corporal Lennon each thanked the volunteers for assisting their crews during emergencies.

"The headquarters floor marshals deserve our recognition and our thanks for assuming this essential responsibility," said DOA Emergency Management Specialist Gerradi Henderson, who with Emergency Management Specialist Kujenga John manages the national floor marshal program. "Their vigilance and dedication help ensure our safety day in and day out." The volunteers received a certificate of appreciation for their service.

The FDIC is in need of additional headquarters floor marshals, according to Henderson, and he encouraged interested employees to contact his office. "We enthusiastically welcome employees who want to join the cadre of floor marshals," he said.

Floor marshals coordinate the response in their areas to drills and incidents by guiding their colleagues to predetermined evacuation paths or shelter-in-place locations. They receive training on preparedness for a variety of emergencies, from fires and earthquakes to terrorist attacks and shooter events. Clad in bright orange safety vests, they make sure that everyone in their area is accounted for while also notifying security guards if an employee with a disability needs assistance.



**Opening the ceremony, DOA Director Arleas Upton Kea thanks the headquarters floor marshals for their service**

In the near future, floor marshals will receive updated training in how to respond to an active shooter incident.

Current floor marshals cited a concern for safety and their fellow employees as reasons for volunteering for this collateral duty. DRR Senior Franchise Marketing Specialist Jim Gallagher volunteered many years ago and continues to serve. "I feel a responsibility

*see Marshals, page 5, column 1*



**Volunteer floor marshals recognized. Headquarters floor marshals attend a Virginia Square ceremony honoring their service.**

# FDIC SECURITY

## Marshals, from page 4

ity to my co-workers and want to make sure they evacuate or relocate safely and get out of danger,” he said.

DIR Program Analyst Kitty Chaney pointed to her long experience as a church usher as one reason she became a floor marshal. “It may sound funny, but as an usher, my job was to get people in and out of the church building, and when someone became ill, it was my responsibility to signal the pastor and call an ambulance, if need be,” Chaney said. “I am very excited about this opportunity and want to be sure that we are all prepared.”

Legal Division Secretary Debra Coneys volunteered four years ago to keep watch over her Virginia Square location. “I am looking forward to the active shooter incident training, which is an interesting topic, and unfortunately, too real,” she said. “We must be prepared for this type of event, should it ever happen.”

Paralegal Specialist Darlene Dalbec of the Legal Division volunteered in 2011 as a way to stay informed and help her colleagues. “I like to know what I should be doing, and I wanted to make sure people stay safe,” she said. Also, before becoming a floor marshal, she noticed co-workers who did not leave their offices during fire drills. “Now I am in a position to knock on their doors and urge them to leave,” she said. “I feel like I am taking an active part in our safety.”

*To volunteer as a floor marshal, contact Gerradi Henderson at (703) 562-2608 or [ghenderson@fdic.gov](mailto:ghenderson@fdic.gov).*



**Photos l to r: Dr. Aida Perez, DOA Assistant Director for Security and Emergency Preparedness (SEPS), emphasizes the importance of contributions by headquarters, regional, and field floor marshals. DOA Emergency Management Specialist Gerradi Henderson, who manages the floor marshal program at headquarters, salutes the floor marshals for their role in FDIC workplace safety.**



**Photos l to r: Captain William Shelton of the Arlington County Fire Department expresses his gratitude for the support his department receives from the volunteers. Also paying tribute to the volunteers is Corporal Elizabeth Lennon of the Arlington County Police Department.**



# REFLECTIONS ON THE FDIC

## FDIC - Proud of the Past, Focused on the Future

*A nostalgic stroll through the past via FDIC News*

By LAJUAN WILLIAMS-YOUNG  
Office of Communications

In the 1970s, the format of the *FDIC News* was about as random as the topics and photos it published. While on my journey back in time, I picked up recipe ideas, learned about the origin of Valentine's Day, and admired many wedding and baby photos. I was able to envy the purchase of a hot new car or the sad demise of an old one. It became clear to me that the newsletter created a single FDIC community by printing regional "news" for all to share. These snapshots into the lives of employees were seemingly random, but created a connectedness within and across the divisions and regions.

So I spent hours reading the back issues of the newsletter. I was fascinated by the human dynamic that was so professionally highlighted, along with the randomness of news coverage. I found myself skipping ahead to see if so-and-so recovered from shoulder surgery, or if a co-op student was eventually hired as a full-time employee. And, while the business of the FDIC was featured, it was the personal nature of those random announcements that, for me, connected the person to the business.

Today's newsletter is quite different. My only experience with the *FDIC News* is with its current format, so I expect a variety

of coverage ranging from policy issues to retirement announcements. Most of us have come to expect the news coverage to be far more technical and comprehensive than it was in the '70s.

I had fun researching this story (it's really true that what's old is new again). Looking back at the FDIC gave me a glimpse into the FDIC through the eyes of its employees at that point in time. So, to honor the randomness of the "news" from the FDIC Newsletter in the '70s, I present to you a trip down memory lane—in all its random glory!

### A View of the FDIC in the 1970s...

Interested in what downtown Washington, D.C., looked like? Flip through the pages of back issues of the *FDIC News* to find pictures of demonstrations and sit-ins (see photo bottom left), and a bomb scare that took place right in front of the main building on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.

There was a feature called "'D' You have a Question?" that is the equivalent of today's Quarterly Chairman's Call-In.

Remember when smoking in the office was allowed? Yup, that was in the '70s.

There were yummy recipes (I plan to try out a few) that seemed to get a big thumbs up from FDIC employees.

Visit Atlanta and Missouri and Washington, D.C. - The "Tour Guide" was a periodic feature that showcased American cities examiners visited either in the course of their work or personal travels. The photo essays provided a preview for prospective tourists deciding on the next vacation destination.

There were lots of interesting and funny stories that we now call "Inside/Out" in today's *FDIC News*. Below are some topics regularly covered in the FDIC newsletters:

- "On the Mend" – or get well soon
- "Still Wandering" – or vacation tales and pictures
- "Hi & Bye" – or welcome & farewell to employees
- "Kudos" – recognition for a job well done
- "Family News" – marriages, proud parents, wedding bells, condolences - (pictures usually accompanied the announcements)
- "Birthdays" – past, present and future
- Training Announcements – upcoming

classes & conferences

**Service Awards** – you have how many years of government service?

**Miscellaneous** – history lessons, team building exercises, etc.

**Sign of the Times** - The '70s newsletter featured topics that, by today's standards, could be considered borderline "inappropriate." Female employees were commonly referred to as "girls." The clerical typing pool was exclusively made up of females, and the comic strips depicted women primarily in support roles—domestically and professionally.

**Patent Problem** (pulled from the 1975 FDIC newsletter) – The first U.S. Patent was granted nearly 225 years ago to the wrong person. It was granted to Samuel Hopkins for a process of making pot and pearl ashes, or potassium carbonate, which is used to make such items as soap and glass. There was just one problem. The process was really invented by Mrs. Hopkins.

Well, let's move on...

The FDIC and Federal Reserve entirely stopped surprise Call Reports. The surprise call reports were to prevent banks from preparing records in an effort to receive a favorable report of examination.

FDIC employees who are still making a difference at the FDIC – Below are a few of your colleagues who have been with the FDIC since as early as 1973.\*\*

- Robert Storch (Bob), Chief Accountant, started at the FDIC as a bank examiner trainee.
- Thomas Parzinger, worked in the Columbus, Ohio, Field Office in 1975. Today, he is a Case Manager in Memphis, TN.
- Dennis Trimper was a co-op student from Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts. He first worked for the FDIC in the Division of Research in Washington, DC, then worked as a Bank Examiner in the New York Region, and now works in DRR as a Senior Strategic Operations Specialist.

FDIC employees showcased their pets, and kittens took the prize for the cutest pets ever. Today, however, you can find cute kit-

see *Future*, page 7, column 1



# REFLECTIONS ON THE FDIC

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**Future**, from page 6

tens and any other pet, for that matter, all over the internet.

A “Brain Teaser” from the March 1976 issue - Name three words in the English language that end in G-R-Y. Any ideas?! Get help here – use this URL for hyperlink.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/help/faq-third-common-gry-word>

A look at the 1980s will be featured in an upcoming issue of the *FDIC News*. If you know of something interesting that happened in the ‘80s, please drop me a line at [lwilliams-young@fdic.gov](mailto:lwilliams-young@fdic.gov) or [fdicnews@fdic.gov](mailto:fdicnews@fdic.gov). I’d love to include your personal

story or photo of the FDIC 30-something years ago. 🏠

**\*\*Have you or someone you know been around for at least 40 years? Drop us a line at [fdicnews@fdic.gov](mailto:fdicnews@fdic.gov). We’d love to include your story and photo for a future story.**

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## On TV Starting Tonight: The FDIC’s Return to the Entertainment Industry

By JAY ROSENSTEIN  
Office of Communications

As readers of my May 2016 Inside/Out column in *FDIC News* have learned, the CW Network’s new weekly TV drama “Containment,” about a deadly epidemic that puts Atlanta under a quarantine, will air the first of three episodes filmed outside of several FDIC-owned properties acquired from a failed bank. The episodes start on June 21 at 9:00 p.m. (EDT).

The scenes show protesters gathering as tensions mount and a clash appears imminent near commercial buildings that the FDIC had acquired from Atlanta’s Capitol City Bank & Trust Company, which failed in February 2015. The other segments will

run on June 28 and July 5.

If you miss an episode, you can always catch up. The day after each new show airs it will become available for viewing on the CW Network’s website at [www.cwtv.com/shows/containment](http://www.cwtv.com/shows/containment). In chronological order, the segments are named “A Kingdom Divided Against Itself” (episode #109), “A Time to Be Born...” (#110), and “Nothing Gold Can Stay” (#111).

The FDIC has a history of occasionally renting buildings we have temporarily acquired from failed institutions for use in filming movies and TV shows, but these scenes, shot in Atlanta last October and November, are the first set on FDIC-owned real estate in many years.

According to Division of Resolutions and Receiverships staffers, there are basically three benefits from having the FDIC in this line of business: generating income that can help offset our costs from handling the failure of the institution that previously owned the property; providing another way to market and showcase properties we have for sale or rent; and enhancing the FDIC’s reputation in the local community after a bank failure.

To read more about the history of the FDIC in helping the entertainment industry and how the “Containment” deal came about, go to my May 2016 column *The FDIC Goes Hollywood: Turning Failed-Bank Properties Into Props*. 🏠

## FDIC TEAMWORK

# DCP Employees Rock ‘Tough Mudder’ Challenge

By SALLY KEARNEY  
Office of Communications

A group of seven Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection (DCP) employees (and one friend) recently showed grit, stamina, bravery, teamwork—and a willingness to get very muddy—by participating in a Tough Mudder Challenge on Saturday, June 11 in Doswell, Virginia.

### One Tough Course

Not for the faint of heart, the Tough Mudder is a 10-to-12-mile mud-and-obstacle course meant to test fitness and endurance while building camaraderie and courage. The events are held at various locations in the U.S. and Canada throughout the year. The DCP team participated in the Tough Mudder Virginia, located an hour-and-a-half south of Washington, D.C., and featuring rolling fields, meandering trails, deep mud pits, and 20 fearsome obstacles. The team completed the course in about five grueling hours.

The goal of completing a Tough Mudder event is simple: get to the end. There are no clocks and no medals. No competition. Just finish and help your teammates finish with you.

Which is exactly what the DCP team did. Employees worked together to climb in and out of mud pits, traverse high walls, and run/walk more than 10 miles. Obstacles included ice water; ropes; barbed wire; monkey bars; lots of mud and water; and fin-



**Before—**DCP team is ready to go, from left: Pam Freeman, Tara Oxley, Kim Schmitt, Michelle Cahill (in front), Jessica Thurman, Natalia Sharkia, Patrick Ryan (in back), and Francisco Juarez.

ishing muddy hurdles charged with 10,000 volts of live electricity.

According to DCP Senior Examination Specialist Pamela Freeman of headquarters, the most significant team obstacle was building a human pyramid against a slippery, slanted wall in order to climb up and over (*see photo below*).

The group ranged in ages from 27 to 48; came from Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Louisville, Kentucky; and had varying athletic abilities, from having completed Iron-

man competitions to barely being able to run a mile.

Arrangements to participate were rather informal. Some employees happened to be in Washington, D.C., during the week before the Saturday event and so joined headquarters colleagues to form a team.

Yet this group started out unified—note their FDIC and DCP blue colors—and their team spirit just got stronger. As Freeman said, “Nothing says teamwork [one of the FDIC’s core values] like getting out of your comfort zone and doing a challenging yet fun event.”

### The Team That Would Not Quit

The morning of the competition, Tara Oxley, Chief of DCP’s Supervisory Policy Section at headquarters, had a case of jitters. “I was very nervous,” Oxley recalled. “I had never done anything like this before and did not want to let my team down.”

Yet after starting, Oxley realized that she had help. “My team was great,” she said. “Some people even did an event twice so that I didn’t have to go through it alone. It was an experience I will never forget.”

Senior Compliance Examiner Patrick Ryan of the Lexington, Kentucky, Field Office soon realized that the course was living up to its name—both “muddy” and



**Do you trust me? A human pyramid scales the wall.**

*see Mudder, page 9, column 1*



# FDIC TEAMWORK

## Mudder, from page 8

“tough.” “I had underestimated how much mud there would be,” he said. “Simply trying to get the mud out of my eyes while wearing contacts was difficult.”

When he faced the most daunting obstacle of all, Ryan should have known that more mud was in store. “I was standing in front of a 25-foot platform that I was supposed to jump off of while trying to catch a swinging bar in order to ring a bell,” he said. “And then I just felt like—‘that’s not going to happen.’ And it didn’t happen. I jumped, barely touched the bar, and fell, face planted in a pool of muddy water.”

But Ryan got up, rubbed the mud from his eyes, and carried on.

### Sweet, Hard-Won Victory

Determined, the team members overcame each obstacle and finished the course, mud-soaked and exhilarated. “The Mudder was an incredible experience!” said Michelle Cahill, Assistant Regional Director, Chicago Regional Office. “Lots of mud, plenty of scratches and bruises, and 90 degree temps, but it was worth it. The course was definitely challenging, and it was a great feeling to finish. The teamwork needed throughout the day really made the experience worthwhile, and we had an amazing team that never quit!”

Patrick Ryan felt closer to his teammates. “I did the race to get to know some of my colleagues better, and boy, did I!” Ryan said. “I found out that I work with some pretty fun people! This event reinforced the idea that more hands make lighter work. Crossing some of those obstacles would not have been possible without a team.”

Financial Institution Specialist Francisco Juarez of the DCP Chicago Territory agreed. “The motivation and encouragement we gave each other was great,” he said. “It was pretty cool to have a section chief ask to hold my hand in order to go through the Electric Shock obstacle. It was tons of fun, and I would definitely do it again.”



Team members brave the final “Electric Shock” obstacle by dodging wires with different electric charges. Shown here traversing the course, from left: Michelle Cahill, Patrick Ryan, Pamela Freeman, and Francisco Juarez. At far left, Kim Schmitt looks on, having completed the obstacle.



After—the happy team celebrates victory, from left: Pam Freeman (in front), Tara Oxley, Jessica Thurman, Kim Schmitt, Michelle Cahill, Patrick Ryan, Natalia Sharkia, and Francisco Juarez (kneeling)

Freeman summed up the team’s attitude. “There was a sense of accomplishment completing the various challenges and 10-plus miles, but I could not have done it without the help and encouragement from

my amazing team members. I would totally do it again, especially with them! I want to give a special shout-out to Examination Specialist Kim Schmitt, who organized the event for us.” 🙏