



District members join Arsenal Island employees in the 2000 Combined Federal Campaign Rally Walk held Sept. 21.

Commander Issues CFC Challenge

By Mark Kane

The 2000 Combined Federal Campaign kicked off on Rock Island Arsenal Sept. 21, as District employees joined Arsenal personnel on the annual CFC Rally Walk, which served as the opening event for the 2000 campaign.

District members now have the chance to “Reach Out” and make a difference in the lives of thousands of people in communities all over the world.

“Reach Out” is the theme for the 2000 Illowa Bi-State CFC campaign, an annual fund drive that covers federal and postal employees on Arsenal Island and in a 12-county region of western Illinois and eastern Iowa. The area includes District Clock Tower personnel, as well as Locks and Dams 13, 14, 15 and 16.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world.

The District’s goal for this year’s Illowa Bi-State CFC has been set at

\$28,500. This amount does not include monies raised during special events.

Last year, 28 percent of District personnel in the Illowa Bi-State CFC region decided to give. This year the District commander is shooting a little bit higher.

“My challenge to the District employees in the Illowa Bi-State CFC footprint is 50 percent participation,” said Col. William Bayles, District Engineer. “In fact, I will give \$500 above what my family usually gives and \$500 for every percentage point the participation rate goes above 50 percent. I’ll even write the check in front of anyone that wants to watch.”

The District commander takes the CFC seriously and gives it his utmost attention.

“I want everyone to consider whether they want to be a part of CFC, if everybody considers it, more people will want to join this fine effort than will want to pass it up,” said Bayles. “It’s also essential for the leaders to lead the way on this and make this an important thing. This is voluntary, but it’s important.

“CFC is our way of making the world a better place and it’s important to me, in addition to the voluntary work I already do, to help people outside my community,” said Bayles.

There are thousands of organizations located around the world, but some people may not be aware that their CFC contribution can also go to local charities. Last year 1,400 families in the Illowa area benefited from the CFC.

“It’s very gratifying to see what your contributions are doing, and I always feel it’s money well invested,” said Bayles.

Ron Williams, District CFC committee co-chair, emphasized that although a person signs-up for a CFC contribution today, they can cease their contribution at any time during the year.

“It’s also important to remember that your contribution will cease if you leave the civil service, retire, or have a change of station,” said Williams. “You will have the opportunity to start it back up after arriving at your new station if you’ve moved.”

As for retirees, this year, retired federal

employees can designate contributions to be withheld from their pension annuities, thanks to a new retiree CFC online-donation system.

Until this year, retirees were not able to participate in the campaign. "If they wanted to give to a charity they had to do it on their own," said Robyn Kehoe, who works with the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund. Last month, Kehoe's boss, Steve Bauer, became the first federal retiree to use the new program.

The retiree access initiative is targeting 380,000 retirees in eight CFC regions, but is open to any retiree receiving an annuity who wishes to participate. The targeted areas are: Washington, Baltimore, Norfolk, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. Participation in these areas will determine the future of the program.

Retirees can find more information about the program at www.cfcretiree.org or by calling 888-840-2848.

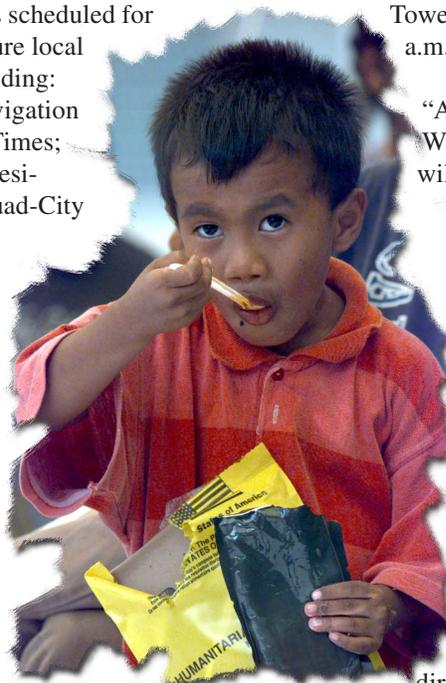
Special events will also play a part in the District's CFC campaign. The annual CFC Chili Cookoff is scheduled for Oct. 17 and will feature local celebrity judges including: Barb Arland-Fye, navigation reporter, Quad-City Times; Brian Eggers, vice president, concessions, Quad-City River Bandits; Brian Schwartze, assistant coach, Quad-City Steamwheelers; as well as a player from the Quad-City Mallards.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place for "Best Chili" and "Best Costume." The individual winning 1st Place for "Best Chili" will have their name added to the traveling

"Best Tasting Chili Pot." The cookoff will be held in front of the Clock Tower Annex starting at 11 a.m.

Jim Albracht, host of "Albracht in the A.M." on WOC Talk Radio 1420, will be the celebrity auctioneer at the annual CFC Auction scheduled for Nov. 1 at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center. Albracht is also a columnist with The Dispatch / Rock Island Argus. He is a native of the Quad Cities and was previously a sportscaster at WQAD Channel 8.

Questions concerning the CFC can be directed to Ron Williams,



ext. 5414.  CFC on the 'net: www.opm.gov/cfc/

Photo by Larry Collins, lockmaster, Starved Rock Lock and Dam



Get That Sand Outta Here

By Mark Kane

More than 40,000 cubic yards of sand were removed from the Starved Rock Lock and Dam lower-approach area, where the Corps and tow industry will now benefit from improved lockage efficiency.

"Up-bound tows can now await lockage much closer to the lock, below the red buoy off the head of Plum Island," said Rick Granados, project manager, Illinois Waterway Project Office.

"Thanks go out to the Corps Channel Maintenance Crews of both the Illinois Waterway and Mississippi River and Operations Technical Support Branch who did an outstanding job of keeping the digging, unloading and shuttling of barges going to make this accomplishment possible," said Granados. "Thanks also go out to the towing industry for their patience in dealing with the delays while we performed the digging. We should all now be able to benefit from this effort by improving the lockage efficiency at Starved Rock."

The dredging at the lock was no small feat, in fact 40,000 cubic yards turns out to be a lot of sand.

"It's equal to over 1,800 semi loads," said Larry Collins, lockmaster, Starved Rock Lock and Dam. "Bumper to bumper (they) would stretch nearly 20 miles. What a great finish to this effort. I couldn't be more pleased with all who made it happen. Both Illinois and Mississippi crews, and a cooperative and patient industry made it happen."

Collins said the official completion date was Sept. 25, when the last barge load of sand was removed from the lower-approach area.

"The dredged sand from the project has been stockpiled close to the site," said Mike Cox, channel maintenance coordinator, Operations Division. "In fact, the City of Ottawa (Illinois) has already started to use the material and they're planning to use it to make a toboggan run for this winter."

Starved Rock Lock and Dam is located southeast of Utica, Ill. 