

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



## AWARDS

### RECIPIENTS OF THE 1996 OKLAHOMA QUALITY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating last Friday announced that Eaton Corporation of Shawnee and the Bone and Joint Hospital of Oklahoma City are recipients of the 1996 Oklahoma Quality Award. The Governor presented the awards in a special ceremony held in the State Capitol Blue Room.

The Oklahoma Quality Award was given in recognition of each company's leadership and commitment to quality products, services and customer satisfaction.

Eaton Corporation's Shawnee plant is one of the world's foremost manufacturers of hydraulic motors and components. In addition to being a world class example in the use of cellular manufacturing techniques, the Eaton plant and its 380 employees are leading corporate citizens in Shawnee and surrounding communities. In a time of highly competitive challenges, this plant is committed to a process of continually improving that relies on total involvement of all its employees.

The Bone and Joint Hospital in Oklahoma City, a subsidiary of SSM Health Care of Oklahoma, is a 102 bed, not-for-profit hospital with 300 employees, specializing in orthopedic surgery, arthritis care, and comprehensive medial rehabilitation. Bone and Joint Hospital is nationally renowned for excellence in Orthopedics. The hospital is a leader in joint replacement surgery and orthopedic procedures. As a member of one of the most rapidly changing industries in the nation, the Bone and Joint Hospital has embraced the quality movement as a means

of improving processes, and thereby improving outcomes and customer satisfaction.

On February 4, 1997 these companies will be presented at the "Design for Success" conference at the Marriot Hotel in Oklahoma City. For more information contact Mike Strong at 405-815-5295 or write PO Box 26980, Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0980.

—THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
10/07/96

### FALLIN PRESENTS QUALITY OKLAHOMA TEAM AWARDS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Lt. Governor Mary Fallin presented awards of recognition to state employees selected as Quality Teams, October 9, at a ceremony in the Blue Room at the State Capitol.

The ceremony honored 24 Quality Teams from various state agencies in Oklahoma. October is National Quality Month. October 9 was proclaimed "Quality Oklahoma Team Day '96" in Oklahoma. Teams were recognized by a gubernatorial proclamation for their high degree of professionalism and the valuable public services they provide.

Fallin recognized top teams during the Blue Room ceremony. The State of Oklahoma reports that 197 Quality Teams completed projects resulting in more than \$16 million in total savings, including cost savings, cost avoidance and increased revenue.

—OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR  
10/09/96

## CORRECTIONS

### SUPREME COURT INTERVENES IN PRISON SUIT

■(GIT) The US Supreme Court on Monday intervened in the 24-year-old lawsuit that effectively placed Oklahoma's prison system under federal control.

Acting on an appeal by the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, the Court told the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to reexamine the lawsuit in the context of a new law aimed at limiting the scope of federal intervention in state prison systems, tossing out a 10th Circuit order requiring the state to submit evidence of its compliance with federal court mandates on prison conditions.

The Attorney General's office appealed to the Supreme Court earlier this year after the circuit court ordered the evidentiary hearings aimed at determining whether the state

was in compliance with its earlier orders.

That issue — whether Oklahoma has ever been found in compliance with the federal court's orders — lies at the heart of the suit. Attorney General Drew Edmondson maintains that the state was found to be in compliance with the federal court's orders in 1983 and that it should be released from the suit. Attorney Louis Bullock, however, argues that the state was never in compliance and that the federal district court found violations of its orders in 1983.

The suit dates back to 1972 when inmate Bobby Battle alleged he was being treated cruelly and unusually at McAlester's Oklahoma State Penitentiary. The case was later expanded to a class action suit and other inmates were added as plaintiffs. In 1974, the federal government intervened and a federal district court ruled that the prison system was violating constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment. Three years later, overcrowding was added to the list of constitutional violations and significant changes were mandated by the court, effectively placing it in control of the state prison system.

In the early 1980s, the court took its involvement a step further, ordering the closing of cellhouses at OSP and Oklahoma State Reformatory in Granite. In 1983, the case was finally dismissed.

Earlier this year, Bullock went to federal district court alleging the state was violating the court's orders by housing prisoners in the condemned cellhouses. US District Judge Michael Burrage in Muskogee decided Sept. 26 to move up a hearing on the matter from Dec. 2 to Oct. 15 after Bullock argued that there was an urgent need to get the issue of prisoner safety before the court.

Burrage will also hear arguments Dec. 2 over whether female prisoners at the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center, located in Oklahoma City, can be triple-celled. The Tulsa attorney claims such a move would induce violence among the inmates.

Additionally, the 10th Circuit Court has helped to keep the suit alive, despite rulings from US District Judge Frank Seay, who was ordered removed from the case by the circuit court earlier this year. Seay had ruled that the case should be dismissed and that the federal injunctions should be dissolved. Also helping to keep the suit alive has been

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*"While people and their opinions always deserve the greatest respect, the opinions adopted by parties (which are typically instruments of personal advancement and power, with all the chances for intrigue which this implies) are not to be identified with ordinary human opinions: they are ideologies."*

*Sir Karl Popper  
'Popper on Democracy'  
The Economist, april 23, 1988*