



NEW CONTRACT MAILING SCHEDULE

Now that we have a final decision regarding the MCO contract, we are in the process of re-formatting it and gathering all the necessary documents that accompany the contract language (i.e. bid job information, etc.) in order to print the contract books. This process is time consuming as it requires extensive compiling and proofing to ensure the final product is accurate. As in previous contracts, it will likely be March before copies will be mailed out to the full MCO membership.

We recognize that there is a need for a "working" document in the meantime. Therefore, binders containing the tentative agreement contract language (which is what the Civil Service Commission imposed) are being prepared and will be mailed shortly to each Chapter President. This should aid in addressing the OT procedure as it relates to Sick Time and other changes you may encounter on the job.

In addition, there continues to be a link on MCO's website at www.mco-seiu.org to the full tentative agreement language for anyone with internet access to view, download and print.

STATE ENDS FY '06-'07 WITH BUDGET SURPLUS

Annual state financial reports released this week indicate that the state ended the 2006-2007 fiscal year with a \$259.1M surplus, and the School Aid fund with more than \$94 million.

The surplus is a result of higher than expected tax receipts and reduced spending. You'll remember that the state had addressed a \$1 billion dollar deficit for the FY '06-'07 by delaying payments to state universities, cashing in some of the state's future tobacco settlement money and more. It will be up to state legislative leaders how the extra money will be used.

State officials will meet on January 11th to discuss the current budget situation. The state raised taxes and spending was cut to address a \$1.75B deficit for the current fiscal year (FY '07-'08). The Senate Fiscal Agency, however, has projected a deficit of \$34M remains at this point in time. They will also discuss the budget forecast for the fiscal year that starts October 2008.

Any positive news on the budget front is welcome, but we will have to wait to see where the funds are dispersed. Corrections will continue to be under budget pressure regardless...we can only hope that some of it might help out.

NEW ACADEMIES AND STEWARD TRAINING IN THE UP

MCO President Tom Tylutki and Labor Representative Jeff Foldie will head to the UP to kick off the new year.

They will be addressing the new Academy in Baraga (50 recruits) on January 14th, Kinross (90 recruits) the 15th, and then conduct Steward Training in Newberry on January 16th.

There is an additional Academy scheduled in Lansing for January 28, 2008, with 120 new recruits to be added to the rank and file.

Several facility tours are planned in the area as well.



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BUDGET ESTIMATING MEETING TOMORROW

State economists are meeting tomorrow to review revenue estimates for the current and next fiscal year budgets. It is expected that the \$350M surplus from the FY '06-'07 budget will essentially wash with the projected shortfall for current year (FY '07-'08.)

There are conflicting opinions at the moment for FY '08-'09. The House Fiscal Agency is anticipating a combined \$300M shortfall, where as the Senate Fiscal Agency is projecting a \$34M shortfall in the general fund, but a surplus in the school aid fund.

STABBINGS AT CHIPPEWA

A fight broke out on the walk in front of the big yard gate at 19:58 hours on January 8th. One prisoner was taken to the hospital for a stab wound to the head. He was treated and released for a severed temporal artery. Two other inmates were taken to Seg, one treated for a puncture wound to the back. Four shanks were found at the scene... two 9", one 6" and one 5" long.

It is believed that this fight was racially motivated and was in retaliation for a fight that occurred earlier in the day (on 1st shift) in which an inmate was also stabbed. Four prisoners were sent to Seg in relation to that incident.

The siren was blown on the morning of the 9th and another five shanks and/or pieces of metal were found.

No officers were injured in gaining control of either fight.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR IN OUR THOUGHTS

Officer Steve Houck, the 2007 MDOC Officer of the Year, was recently diagnosed with in-operable cancer and will begin chemotherapy treatments soon.

The I-Max Correctional Facility Employees Club has put together a Benefit Luncheon on behalf of Steve, his wife Amy, and their boys Tom, Caleb, Chris, Ryan and Evan ranging in age from 20 to 5.

While this is late notice, for those of you in the area interested in attending, it is in the downstairs breakroom at I-Max on Friday, January 11th. Hot dogs, Sausage & Chips will be provided. Please feel free to bring a desert or any other dish to pass.



LEVEL IV INMATE AT HVM ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

Last week a Level IV inmate at Huron Valley Mens was found lying in a pool of blood in his cell. Officers dressed in universal precautions, removed him from the cell and Health Care addressed his cuts to the throat and arms.

During treatment for the cuts at the local hospital, the inmate became assaultive to the ER doctor, using profanity and verbal threats. A hospital security officer was called in and while he was applying hospital restraints the inmate spit blood, hitting him twice. CO's requested and got permission for a spit mask to be applied. MSP was contacted and a report made regarding the incident.

The inmate was then transferred to U of M hospital for further treatment.

Two officers received treatment for blood exposure.

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I-MAX FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

The Employee Benefit Luncheon held by the officers at I-Max last Friday netted over \$1600 for Officer Steve Houck, the 2007 MDOC Officer of the Year, who was recently diagnosed with inoperable cancer.

The I-Max Correctional Facility Employees Club presented Officer Houck the money earlier this week to help out Steve, his wife Amy, and their boys Tom, Caleb, Chris, Ryan and Evan while he undergoes treatment.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTRACT PROVISION DELAYED

MCO has been informed by the state that the Sick Time exemption (as it relates to calculating OT) will not be implemented before the pay period starting January 27, 2008.

The delay is due to the time required to implement this procedural change uniformly statewide.

There is a chance the actual effective date could be pushed back further in which case we will let you know. However, as we said, we do know at this time that it **WILL NOT** be before January 27th.

PUGSLEY USES A.E.D. TO SAVE LIFE

In the early morning hours of December 29, 2007, an inmate noticed that his bunkie was having problems breathing and alerted staff. The inmate went into full cardiac arrest just as an officer arrived on the scene. The responding officer then called for assistance and they proceeded to use the A.E.D. (Automated External Defibrillator) 3 times to restart the inmate's heart. The inmate ultimately required surgery and is now recovering back in the unit.

All officers and Staff did an excellent job and deserve recognition for their training and quick response which led to saving a life.



STATEWIDE INCIDENTS

1.10.08 - Three inmates were placed on TOBR restraints during the day for self injurious behavior, threatening to commit suicide, and more.

1.8.08 - A cell phone was found in the shower shoes of an inmate at KCF.

1.4.08 - A Level IV inmate at HVM given an Assault and Battery misconduct for putting an officer into a choke hold.

11.8.07 - A Level V inmate at I-Max set fire to his cell. He then refused to exit and chemical agents were used to remove him to the shower for a strip search. On the return from the shower he lunged and head butted an officer.

11.2.07 - A Level IV inmate at HVM refused several orders to lock up saying "make me lock up". When staff attempted to gain control of the prisoner he turned and pulled away. Officers ended up taking him to the ground in a bear hug and he was issued a misconduct for Assault and Battery on staff.

11.1.07 - A Level IV inmate at HVM, angered by having to sort property to keep and dispose of, refused to leave the property room and kicked at an officer applying restraints. Prisoner was issued an Assault and Battery misconduct on Staff.

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SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IN 6 DAYS!

The Union Plus Scholarship Application deadline is January 31, 2008.

To get your Application, simply visit www.mco-seiu.org and click on the link on the front page...or, for a hard copy, call MCO Central and ask for Sacha. *Due to mail times, if you need a hard copy you need to call MCO ASAP!*



2008 MCOY SEARCH UNDERWAY

Officials from the MDOC, MCO, and former MCOY winners gathered at MCO Central today to review the statewide submissions for the 2008 Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year. Committee members include 2007 MCOY Steve Houck of Carson City, 2006 MCOY Eric Jones of Deerfield, Jai Deagan from the MDOC, Fredeane Black of Boyer Road, and Tom Tylutki from MCO.

After deliberations and scoring of applications, they narrowed their decisions down to five finalists who will then be interviewed before the final selection later next month. The names of the five finalists are being withheld at the time of print due to pending notification of their Wardens.

CELL PHONE FOUND

Acting on a tip from a prisoner at another facility, staff at KCF searched an inmate and his property looking for a gun hidden in his shower shoes.

While no gun was found, a cell phone and battery were craftily hidden in the soles of the shower shoes.

NEW DATES AND RATES

We've had many calls in recent days from members looking for special rates for the Great Wolf Lodge.

We've finally received the updated rates and dates for our members and they have been updated on our website. Rates start at \$99/night Sunday-Thursday. Call them today! 1.866.478.9653, promo code "CHEER".



IN MEMORIAM



Officer Jon Jackola, 34, of the Michigan Reformatory, passed away January 14, 2008.

Jon leaves behind a new wife Denise, and an infant daughter Katie.

Officer Jackola served in the U.S. Army from 1993-1995 before coming to the MDOC in 1996. He worked at Jackson, Baraga, Riverside and MR.

An education account has been set up for Katie. Donations can be mailed to:

Chemical Bank
c/o Katie Jackola
Education Account
102 W. Main St.
Belding, MI 48809

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2008 MCOY FINALISTS

Late last Friday, the list was narrowed down to five finalists, who will interview in Lansing on February 13th.

The finalists and a brief look at their accomplishments...

Cassandra Chandler - Mound Correctional Facility

Officer Chandler joined the ranks of the Mound Correctional Facility in 1999. She played a key role in developing a numbering system and log sheets for visitors which cut down on waiting time and also has received numerous "thank you's" from visitors to the facility for going the extra mile. Officer Chandler has gone on to obtain her Masters while at the MDOC and she currently is a certified Anger Management Facilitator.

Kirk Downs - Pugsley Correctional Facility

Officer Downs has been with the Department for over 7 years, and in that time has distinguished himself. He recently was awarded the Todd James Memorial Service Excellence Award for his role in the MDOC Honor Guard. Downs has also served as a Field Training Officer at the Academy and participates in local recruitment career/job fairs. In addition, he speaks at area schools, volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and serves on the Pugsley Facility's Employee's Club board.

Bryan Morrison - Lakeland Correctional Facility

Officer Morrison, while young, has nearly 9 years with the DOC, starting at Egeler before coming to Lakeland in 2001. He is the PA-415 trainer for the Coldwater Complex and for ERT, along with helping out with a recent New Employee School. He always goes the extra mile, and in his community is the JV Basketball coach and helps out the elderly by building wheelchair ramps, cutting firewood for heat, and more.

Tyrone Lawrence - Huron Valley Mens

Officer Lawrence came to the MDOC three years ago after spending 25 years as an FSA. He is a testament to the differences and similarities between the DOC and DCH and true teamwork. He is most known for his ability to take professionalism to the extreme, being precise and dependable. Lawrence has been a mentor to troubled teens, volunteered with Section 8 placements and has coached 8-10 year old boys football through the Detroit Police Athletic League. He is also a member of the MDOC Honor Guard.

Bryan Neve - Boyer Road Correctional Facility

Officer Neve spent 12.5 years in the Coast Guard before coming to the MDOC and opening the Pine River facility in 1999. Since 2003 he has been at Boyer Rd. where he is known to be dependable, on time, fair and takes the extra step. Neve participates in the Mid-Michigan Working Dogs program with his bloodhound "Buford" and has assisted with many search and rescue operations. Officer Neve's knowledge of policy and procedure has enhanced the security of the facility for those that work there.

MICHIGAN INVESTS!

PUTTING THIS INTO

PERSPECTIVE

While on the surface it may seem alarming to hear Governor Granholm in her State of the State say that they are going to take \$300M from the state pension fund to launch a new Michigan Invests! Fund. However, once you know the facts, it's not the "raid" it may seem to be.

The combined teachers and state employee pension fund currently has approximately \$60 billion dollars, the ENTIRE amount of which is regularly invested all the time. The Treasury Department does not just let the funds sit idly in an account.

Thus, this plan simply calls for \$300M of \$60 billion in funds (1/2%) to be invested in the new Michigan Invests! Fund, rather than one of many other investments the Treasury could make. In addition, a board will be set up to monitor the Fund among other things. The plans' goal is to help create jobs.

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2009 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION RELEASED...REFORMS TO CORRECTIONS



Governor Granholm's 2009 Budget Recommendation was presented to a joint session of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Thursday afternoon. The budget includes no new taxes or fees, however it does seek \$172M in General Fund spending reductions, \$50M of which is to come from Corrections.

The Corrections budget comes in at \$2.1B, which, due to efficiencies and reforms made in previous years, is 0.2% below the current figures.

The budget also calls for the formation of a *Justice Policy and Sentencing Commission*. This Commission, a bipartisan workgroup facilitated by the Council of State Governments under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative will identify additional savings and budget reductions in the Department of Corrections through operational efficiencies and policy reforms, including

- ⇒ Implementation of health care efficiencies
- ⇒ Changes in facility staffing assignments
- ⇒ Consolidation of certain prison operations
- ⇒ Adjustments to prisoner housing arrangements
- ⇒ Advanced approaches to prisoner classification
- ⇒ Continued impact of the statewide implementation of the MPRI
- ⇒ New parole guidelines

Governor Granholm also calls for the formation of mental health courts. Five pilot sites will be used with specialized court dockets for defendants with mental illnesses who have committed non-violent offenses.

As you can see, there are several areas MCO will be watching closely as the House and Senate work on the budget proposals...specifically the "changes in facility staffing assignments", "adjustments to prisoner housing arrangements" and whatever is meant by "advanced approaches to prisoner classification".

BELLAMY CREEK BUSY

From January 22nd - February 6th, Bellamy Creek sent 56 inmates to Ad Seg. Of those, 13 were for NOI's, 18 for threatening behavior or refusing lock-up/shakedown, 16 for fighting, 5 for sexual misconduct and 3 for dangerous contraband. A nurse was assaulted during med lines, an officer was hurt breaking up a fight, and several shanks were found.

OFFICER MAKES BUST

On January 31st, a 2nd shift officer at Ojibway discovered a visitor smuggling drugs into the facility. A search warrant was obtained for the visitor's vehicle where a quantity of suspected marijuana was seized.

Thanks to the great job done by the officer, the smuggler is currently charged with two felony counts of bringing contraband into a prison and possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

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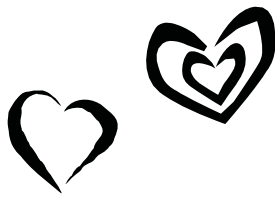
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FEBRUARY 14, 2008

2008 MICHIGAN CORRECTIONAL

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

BRYAN L. MORRISON

LAKELAND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

After a grueling day of reviewing the candidates' credentials and conducting individual interviews, the Correctional Officer Training Council selected Bryan L. Morrison of the Lakeland Correctional Facility as the MDOC's 2008 Michigan Correctional Officer of the Year.

"Bryan is a leader on shift and is a tremendous role model and mentor to staff. Bryan is a trainer for the Coldwater Complex in all PA-415 and ERT courses. He is also a certified SCBA instructor. Bryan is always willing to help co-workers and volunteers to train staff. Bryan works all Custody assignments and is always looking for ways to improve security and operations on shift," states his nomination.

Congratulations go out to all the CO's of the Year at facilities around the state, to our finalists, and to our 2008 MCOY Morrison. The work you do, the effort you put forth, the extra mile you go - all lead to a safer, more enjoyable place to work and a community bettered by your contributions. *Thank you!*

Bryan Morrison, Lakeland

*Kirk Downs,
Pugsley*

*Tyrone Lawrence,
HVM*

*Cassandra Chandler,
Mound*

*Bryan Neve, Boyer
Road*



DRUG BUST AT KINROSS

On the 3-11 shift at Kinross earlier this week officers found eight packets of heroin in a housing unit phone room. Later, in another unit, officers discovered a cell phone battery and a charger.

YOUTH YARD ISSUES AT THUMB

On February 5, 2008, while approximately 30 inmates were out, the single officer on the yard noticed that they had formed a wall between the officer and two inmates who started to fight.

When the officer radioed for a supervisor it was determined that the supervisor was on his RDO and that the position was not manned. A Supervisor from another yard had to respond, along with staff who were alerted by the radio traffic.

As a result of this fight one inmate had his jaw broken. This is not the first time this has happened, in fact another inmate had his jaw broken in a fight within the last month.

This yard is an extra yard given to the inmates as a reward, however it is an isolated assignment that is not within earshot of other officers nor visible to the closest tower. The fighting amongst the youth can never be prevented 100% of the time, however the current staffing of this yard is dangerous for all.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF MCO PRESIDENT TOM TYLUTKI, SEIU LOCAL 526M

sc:opeiu459a11cto



MDOC BUDGET BEGINS ITS TREK THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE

Deliberations on the MDOC budget, which originates in the Senate this year, have begun. Last week the Judiciary & Corrections Appropriations Sub-Committee, led by Senator Alan Cropsey (R) DeWitt, spent the better part of the session reviewing a presentation by Senator Cropsey regarding MDOC spending. In fact, the MDOC, who had been on site to testify, was asked to return at the next scheduled session as time ran out.

Senator Cropsey was critical

of the budget proposal recommendation. Cropsey's presentation indicated that Michigan's prison system is not as "out of whack" with neighboring states as some have led us to believe. His goal was to work with a "real" budget, not one that worked off of savings presumptions from legislative and administrative changes that may or may not take place. The proposed budget calls for \$50M in savings from Corrections to be achieved through various efficiencies, clas-

sification and housing guidelines, and more.

The recommended budget is 0.8% lower than the current year. Hearings will occur in both the Senate and House with hopeful completion by this summer.



WEBSITE CONVERSION GOING ON TODAY!

A much anticipated, and slightly delayed, transition to a new website is finally here! The web address will not change, however the look and ease of use should greatly improve. The migration from the old site to new will occur over a 24 hour period between Friday and Saturday. We apologize in advance for any access problems you may encounter during this time.

A few key changes to note when checking out the new site. The website now features two rows of navigation, with roll-over features for additional links. This should mean that you are able to get to the information you need with fewer clicks. And, all the discount information is now contained in one area, rather than being split up between SEIU sponsored and MCO sponsored as it was before.

The new format allows for a lot of additional features which we will continue to incorporate as we move forward. If you have any comments or questions, or feedback on the site please feel free to contact sacha@mco-seiu.org. The goal of the site is to provide you with the information and on the job tools that you need in as easy and straightforward manner as possible. While we took extensive steps when planning the site design, it is you, the end-user that can best make suggestions on ways to make it a more effective communication tool.

LEVEL IV RTP INMATE HITS THE FENCE

On Friday, February 15th, an inmate at ARF scaled the fence behind 4-block after returning from chow. An alert officer immediately radioed that one was hitting the fence. Despite making it to the top, he fell, sustaining cuts and abrasions to his hand, forefinger and left knee.

The inmate was handcuffed and escorted to Segregation and a ticket for attempted escape was written.

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SHAKEDOWN GLOVE TRIAL UNDERWAY

After exhaustive discussions with the MDOC, MCO was finally able to obtain approval for a pilot, at the Cotton Correctional Facility, for the use of Protective (puncture/cut resistant) Gloves during shakedowns.

The pilot will last from February 25 - June 24, 2008, at which point a decision will be made regarding their implementation.



ARREST AT CAMP TUSCOLA

On February 23, 2008, officers noticed a suspicious vehicle driving slowly by the perimeter fence of Camp Tuscola. The facility had been having problems with contraband being thrown over the fence and they were on alert that weekend specifically for a drug drop.

An officer was sent out in a DOC van to check out the situation. The officer followed the vehicle and was able to obtain the license plate number which was then provided to Central Dispatch with details of the situation.

At the same time officers determined that a prisoner was on the phone talking to a female who was saying that security was following her. She also stated that she had a red Razor phone and drugs. Officers continued to monitor the call and secured video footage of which prisoners were on the phone, while they alerted the police to the planned "drop". At the direction of the prisoner, the female in the vehicle broke off and went into town for a bit and planned to return later that day during count. The police pulled over the van and found the red Razor and the drugs, just as officers had heard on the call.

The prisoner proven to be on the phone at the time of the incident was placed under restraints and moved to the local jail.

Great Job Guys!



CONTINUED OT ISSUES *What's next for MCO*

On February 26, 2008, MCO and the Department met with the Office of the State Employer so that each side could argue its position regarding OT calculations as it relates to sick time.

New problems continue to arise since the change took effect and discussions to resolve the matters thus far have ended without resolution.

At this point, MCO has made initial contact with outside lawyers. Due to the short staffing, mandatory overtime, and more, this change in OT calculations disparately affects MCO members.

We are continuing to pursue this issue and will be forthcoming with any information once it is available.

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BULLETIN

MARCH 3, 2008

MCO OBTAINS COURT ORDER AND FILES ULP

STATE'S CONTRACT VIOLATIONS THREATEN OFFICER SAFETY

MCO successfully sued the Departments of Corrections and Community Health this evening in Ingham County Circuit Court. The Judge issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to prohibit the Departments from further violations of the overtime 32-hour rule and mandating officers above the 50% line. Contract violations have occurred at several institutions including Huron Valley Women's, Muskegon Correctional Facility and the Forensic Center.

In addition, MCO filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge against both Departments citing blatant disregard of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mostly due to staffing shortages, officers at the facilities are being mandated for many days in a row in some cases, causing safety concerns for the officers as well as everyone else in the institution. MCO has met several times in recent months with the MDOC protesting its actions and has made many suggestions on ways to help lessen the burden. Those efforts bore little fruit and MCO decided enough evidence was now available to attempt a court challenge.

The TRO momentarily stops the Departments' actions until a "show-cause" hearing before the judge, scheduled for March 17, 2008. MCO lawyers will then make arguments that the court should keep the order in place until the matter is concluded through arbitration.

MCO President Tom Tylutki said MCO needed to try everything it could before someone gets hurt or worse.

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RIOT AT THE THUMB

While the Franklin Unit was being released for morning chow on March 2nd, approximately 8 inmates became defiant and ignored orders to disperse. At that point they began assaulting staff, with many participants and many onlookers the situation was critical. In all, 6 officers sustained injuries serious enough to require outside treatment. The main participants were issued tickets for Assault on Staff and Inciting a Riot, sent to Segregation and the Unit was put on lockdown.

This youth unit has been the source of several incidents in recent months, and officers have repeatedly warned the unit is not being handled properly. There are older prisoners in the program that should not be in with 15 yr. olds, some are true Level V's, but being given Level II privileges because of their age, and more.

STATEWIDE CRITICALS...

2.10.08 Forensic Center- Inmate, who charged at staff twice the previous day but was not secluded, attacked officers to the extent that one required hospital treatment for cuts and lacerations to the face.

2.18.08 Baraga Max- Officer who was picking up food trays had his arm grabbed and pulled into the cell where the prisoner stabbed him in the hand and wrist area several times. Officer was treated at a local hospital for his wounds and released.

2.11.08 - 2.19.08 Bellamy Creek- One officer assaulted while running med lines by an inmate who would not show his ID or submit to a shakedown and refused to cuff up. The inmate struck the officer in the head. Two officers were hurt while breaking up fights with one taken to the hospital for treatment. During the week 28 inmates were taken to Ad Seg. and three weapons were recovered.

ALSO OF NOTE:

Kudos to two Officers at the Straits who had been on the job less than a year last August when they responded to a call of a prisoner down on the yard. They performed CPR and successfully used the AED to revive the inmate. *Way to step up!*

LONG TIME LEADER RETIRES

For those of you who have crossed paths with Mary Ann Hocking (MCF) at some point in her 33 years with the MDOC, her silent departure should come as no surprise.

Last Friday Mary Ann respectfully resigned from the MCO Executive Board and announced that she was retiring effective March 2, 2008. While there was no farewell fanfare...credit should be given where credit is due.

For much of her lengthy career, Mary Ann served the members of MCO as a union official - several times on the State Executive Board and at the chapter level for the better part of 20 years.

While her staunch efforts to represent members will be missed... the time off is well earned.

Thanks Mary Ann!

DINNER PLANS?

If you live in the area, come on out tonight to the St. Mary's Hall in Carson City for a benefit evening for 2007 MCOY Steve Houck and his family. Proceeds will go to support the family's medical bills and other needs while Steve is undergoing medical treatment. Raffle prizes include a 42" LCD TV and gas cards, and local businesses and friends have donated gift baskets for a silent auction. Dinner, Drinks and Dancing for all.

If you aren't able to make it out tonight but would still like to help, donations can be sent to:

Carson City-Crystal High School
Attn: Devin Pringle
213 E. Sherman St.
Carson City, MI 48811



BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MARCH 11, 2008

MORE PRISONS AXED!

MCO received notification that the Department *will* be closing the Scott Correctional Facility and the Huron Valley Mens Facility - confirming rumors that members have recently heard. The Department is at the facilities this morning making the announcements. MCO President Tom Tylutki will be at each facility today to talk with affected members.

In cases like this the contract calls for meeting with the Department to determine the process. As soon as details are worked out more information will be forthcoming. The target date for a complete closing of HVM at this time is May of 2009. With a closure plan that will extend for over one year, the parties will have a longer planning period than is usually the case.

At this time it appears that the female prisoners will be consolidated at the Valley's. Treatment of the mentally ill inmates has yet to be determined. As the Department indicates, it will need to look at resources available for their accommodation.



SPECIAL BULLETIN UPDATE

On Tuesday of this week, communications went out from the Department and MCO regarding the MDOC's plans for the Scott and Huron Valley Mens Correctional Facilities.

While the Department, in doing so, provided general knowledge of their plans, they have yet to submit to MCO formal written notice of their intentions as required by the contract. What this means is that at this time, according to the collective bargaining agreement, MCO CANNOT request official meetings with the Department to discuss any details. At the point in which formal documentation is received, MCO will proceed to set up meetings and discuss plans.

As noted in the Bulletin, we will keep you informed as we move through this process.

Stay tuned...

OFFICER INJURED AT STANDISH MAX

On March 5, while doing rounds in the protection unit, an officer was attacked by an inmate when he called him out to shake down his cell. The inmate punched him in the face and tried to stab him with a pencil.

The officer pulled his PPD and responding staff secured the prisoner and escorted him to Seg.

The officer who was attacked sustained bruising and swelling to the face and a doctor determined that a piece of his cornea was missing.

The inmate involved was a former CO serving life for the murder of his wife.

MORE SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council is once again awarding two \$500 scholarships - one each to a high school graduate of a Monroe County high school and a Lenawee County high school.

Last year the Lenawee scholarship went unused because there were no applicants - so if you qualify make sure to apply!

Applications can be obtained by visiting our website at www.mco-seiu.org, or by contacting Sacha at MCO Central at (517) 485-3310.

*Application deadline is
Friday, April 11, 2008!*

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Larry O'Connor, 57, passed away unexpectedly while on vacation on March 6, 2008. Officer O'Connor had 12 years in with the MDOC at the Mound Correctional Facility.

PAROLEE PLOTS TO HARM

Steven Higgins, paroled in September, was apprehended last week by a Jackson County sheriff's deputy interrupting what is believed to be a plan to get back at his former prison supervisor. Higgins was found carrying a 9mm Ruger, a crowbar, and a hand-drawn map to a prison officer's home near Grass Lake.

Higgins is now charged with carrying a concealed weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of burglary tools.

FIGHT AT CHIPPEWA

A fight broke out during the Level IV chow on March 2, 2008, at the Chippewa Correctional Facility. Three prisoners were involved in the altercation that left several officers injured. Two weapons were recovered in the incident.



SPECIAL EDITION KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MARCH 20, 2008

RETIREMENT BILL INTRODUCED

On Wednesday, March 19, Senator Mark Schauer (D, Battle Creek), and Representative Fred Miller (D, Chair of the House Labor Committee), introduced legislation that would increase the state's portion paid into the defined contribution plan for all covered employees.

The Legislation requested by MCO, SB 1222 and HB 5914, encompasses all MCO members and would increase the defined contribution amount from 4% to 6% if it becomes law. It would also increase the state match for those employees who contribute additional funds from 3% to 4%, with an effective date of October 1, 2008.

MCO has struggled to get all members into the defined benefit plan for a number of years - that effort will not end. However, until that happens we need to move on to plan B.

Last year it was impossible to get this bill introduced because of the nightmare budget battle. While the prospects look better this year, we will still suffer a challenge because politicians don't want to do anything in a political year that looks like it will increase costs to state government.

As such, MCO needs members to take action. Sustained lobbying efforts will be needed to get this through. We need you. Call your state Senator and Representative... tell your friends, family, and co-workers to do the same.

This is a fight that will be at the top of the MCO legislative agenda, and if we don't get it this year we will request our friends in the Legislature to push it forward again next year. In a few weeks MCO will be sending out more information, including legislative lists and maps to be posted on your union bulletin board. Use these tools to help us put on the necessary pressure... this won't happen overnight.



pictured (l to r) MCO State Executive Board Members Adam Douglas, John Ost, Representative Fred Miller, Jim Johnson, Tom Tylutki, Bill Henderson, Larry Henley, Cary Johnson, Ray Sholtz, Senator Mark Schauer, Andy Potter, and MCO Executive Director Mel Grieshaber



SHOTS FIRED AT BROOKS

At 7 o'clock in the evening on March 20th, an inmate attempted to escape at the Brooks Correctional Facility while he was being escorted to a van for transfer to Huron Valley. A tower officer issued verbal warnings to get off the fence, however the inmate ignored them and three warning shots were fired as the inmate climbed to the top.

The prisoner, serving time for armed robbery, got tangled in the razor wire and was able to be caught and restrained.

Three officers were sent to the hospital for treatment of blood exposure encountered while stopping this escape.

Everyone did an excellent job in responding to this incident. And once again, goes to show the need for staffed gun towers.

Way to go guys!



MULTIPLE INCIDENTS AT HVM

An inmate walked away from officers, refusing a shakedown on March 15th. A show of force was used and the inmate turned and attacked three officers, placing one in a front choke hold.

The officers struggled with the inmate, eventually taking him down after he got off punches to all of them. One officer was treated at the local ER for a neck injury as a result of the choke hold.

Then, on the morning of March 27th, a "non-bond" inmate in the Infirmary assaulted a nurse when she entered his cell. The nurse was hit in the face and sustained a black eye, while the officer who restrained the inmate injured his shoulder.

The fact that there are no slots on the doors in the Infirmary, thus necessitating the need to enter the cell, has been an ongoing safety concern... which unfortunately was proven true this time.

STAFF ASSAULTED AT URF

On Monday, March 24th, a threat by an inmate to a RUO ballooned to a full struggle. It started at about 8 p.m. when the inmate threatened the RUO in the lobby of Neebish unit. The RUO radioed the threat in to the Control Center and then proceeded to the lobby office. The inmate approached her in the doorway to the office at which point she ordered him back to his cell and told him he had crossed the line.

The inmate responded by asking if he was going to the hole and then proceeded to swing his arm and strike the RUO in the side of the face and neck, taking her to the ground where he continued to hit her. Two responding officers were also injured in breaking up the attack and restraining the prisoner. The three officers were treated and released at the local hospital and the inmate received multiple assault misconducts.

OFFICER BEATEN AT MARQUETTE

On Monday, March 24th, a third shift officer was assaulted while locking an inmate up after showers. The inmate pushed her to the ground and attempted to choke her. The officer broke free, however the prisoner took her down again and stuck her numerous times to the head with a closed fist.

The responding officer also sustained injuries and both were sent to the hospital for treatment.

The officer received serious contusions and bruises to her head, including a 5" gash that required 5 staples to close, and a broken wrist.

The officer was released from the ER in good spirits that evening and was said to say "I'll be back!"

That's the Spirit!



TWO ABSCOND FROM TUSCOLA

On March 29th, at about 4 a.m. Zone 9 went off and an officer observed on the monitor an offender going over the fence and head off into the woods. After proper notifications were made and counts taken it was determined that in fact two offenders were missing.

One of the offenders involved had arrived at Tuscola two days earlier and at the time made it perfectly clear that he felt he didn't belong there. Staff were alerted to watch him as he stated he didn't intend to finish the program.

The two absconders were apprehended on Sunday morning when they tried to drive away from a gas station without paying for the gas.

SHORT STAFFING, INCIDENTS PLAGUE BELLAMY CREEK

Between February 20th and March 16th, 106 inmates were placed in Ad Seg. - 30 for fights, 12 for threatening behavior, 7 for weapons, 7 for dangerous contraband, 5 prisoner assaults, and 3 staff assaults. The rest were for refusing to lock up, failure to disperse and creating a disturbance.

Positions have been cut and hospital runs are an almost daily event on every shift further aggravating the situation.

REMINDER: RAISE & DUES ADJUSTMENT

MCO members received a 2% wage increase effective April 1, 2008. As you know, MCO's bylaws direct that membership dues adjustments correspond to wage increases.

Thus, in conjunction with the recent wage increase, member dues were adjusted accordingly. For instance, with the 2% raise, an E-9 at the top of the scale will see an increase of \$956.80 in wages and \$11.18 in dues.

CRISIS FUND "RAISER" KICKS OFF

MCO is once again holding a cash raffle to raise money for the MCO Crisis Fund. Chapter leaders were sent tickets to sell in late March.

Tickets cost \$5/each (only 4,000 were printed) and the winners will be drawn at the May 10th Central Committee Meeting. We are raffling off the chance to win COLD HARD CASH! First prize in the drawing is \$5,000 in CASH, 2nd-6th prizes are \$1,000 each. **Get yours today!**



MCO WINS INJUNCTION!

After being postponed several times while the parties tried to resolve the matter, MCO had its day in court on Thursday, April 3rd. In March the judge issued a Temporary Restraining Order against the Departments, however MCO has now won a Preliminary Injunction against the MDOC and MDCH for violations of the 32-hour rule.

This means that the Departments cannot violate the 32-hour rule until an Arbitrator rules on the issue.

Please contact MCO Central if you continue to have issues with this contract violation.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS
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(517) 485-3310
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OFFICERS INJURED AT FORENSIC

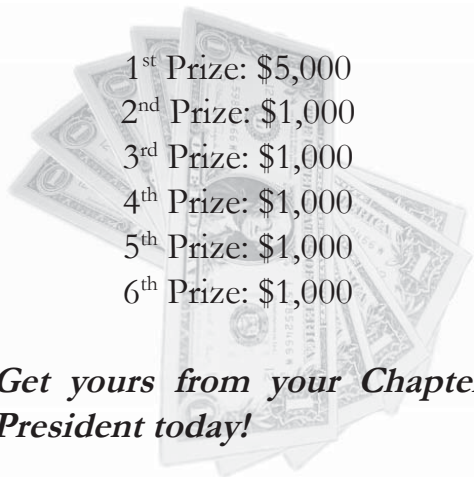
The Forensic Center has been through a rough couple of days this week. On April 8th a patient getting debriefed proceeded to punch the doctor. Officers responded, however one was slammed into the wall and is still off of work with head and neck injuries.

Then, the next day, a patient hit two officers with a large belt buckle to the extent that they are still off of work. The officers at the facility have long argued that the "patients" should not have their own belts for reasons just like this - especially in the Admission unit.

RAISE SOME FUNDS!

Only a few weeks left until the Crisis Fund drawing on May 10th... so get your tickets now!

Tickets cost \$5/each and only 4,000 were printed.

- 
- 1st Prize: \$5,000
 - 2nd Prize: \$1,000
 - 3rd Prize: \$1,000
 - 4th Prize: \$1,000
 - 5th Prize: \$1,000
 - 6th Prize: \$1,000

Get yours from your Chapter President today!

WEAPON FOUND AT BARAGA

An alert officer at Baraga Max last Friday noticed strange behavior by some inmates outside of Housing Unit 4 and investigated. What he found was a shank, nearly 7" long, made from fencing material.

The fencing material used for the Unit 3 and 4 yard modules have proven to be inadequate and cause ongoing problems.

The shank had a taped handle and was sharpened and ready to use.

Good Catch!

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

It's still early, (the deadline is June 1st) but now's the time to get those MCO Scholarship Applications in!

Remember, MCO gives out 20 scholarships and this year they have been increased to \$750/each.

Forms were sent out in the March MCO Report and can also be obtained online at www.mco-seiu.org.



Good Luck!

UNION FAMILY NIGHT

GRAND RAPIDS RAMPAGE

Friday, May 16th
7 p.m.

The Rampage welcome local union members, labor workers and their families for a night of exciting arena football and fundraising for the Labor Heritage Fund.

Tickets are just \$13 and \$3 per ticket will be donated to the Labor Heritage Fund. The first 5,000 fans receive a free (MADE IN THE USA) Rampage seat cushion.

To get your tickets, contact Justin Walker at (616) 559-1871 x 3052 or jwalker@rampagefootball.com. You can also order your tickets online at www.rampagegrouptickets.com/union08. Group leaders for groups of 10 or more people will get two free tickets.

Hurry, order deadline is Friday, April 25!



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LANSING, MI 48933

(517) 485-3310

1 (800) 451-4878

WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG



NOMINEES FOR MAY ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT

Tom Tylutki - MCO President*
Marcus Polychuk - VP Pugsley

VICE PRESIDENT

Andy Potter - MCO Vice President*

TREASURER

Bill Henderson - MCO Treasurer*

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jim Johnson - VP Kinross*

TRUSTEE

Brent Kowitz - President Florence Crane
Adam Douglas - President Mound*
Ray Sholtz - President St. Louis*
Carletta Andrews - Chief Steward Scott
Randy Burrow - President ARF/ATF
Larry Henley - President Alger*
Cary Johnson - Chief Steward Cotton*
John Ost - Vice President Egeler*
Phil Fleury - President HVM
Doug Bonno - VP Camps Region I
Rocky Isaacson - President Marquette
Rick VanAlstine - Chief Steward Baraga
Marcus Polychuk - VP Pugsley
Al West - President Ryan
Charles Beacham - VP Camps Region III
Keith Pelky - Chief Steward Pugsley

* DENOTES SITTING BOARD MEMBER

MDOC DEMANDS SECONDARY NEGOTIATIONS

MCO has received a request from DOC labor relations to enter secondary negotiations. At this time, MCO has declined to bargain over any area of the contract that does not require the union to enter into negotiations. Legal counsel is reviewing the DOC request. Although MCO is not interested in any additional bargaining at this time, the union will certainly sit down at the table to address any area we are obligated to deal with.

Stay tuned.....

FORENSIC OFFICER STILL OFF OF WORK

On March 17th, an officer was restraining a "patient" when he became combative and resisted. The officer sustained neck and shoulder injuries in the process and remains off of work at this time.

GROUND CREW FINDS CONTRABAND

On April 10th, while supervising a prisoner work crew from Deerfield, the Grounds Keeper Supervisor discovered a black bundle of tape while they were clearing up leaves and other debris on the outside of the wall, near 4 post at MR.

It was later determined that the contents of the 7" long package of tape appeared to be marijuana.

PERSONAL BALLISTIC VESTS APPROVED

After a long debate between the Health & Safety and the Uniform Committee, the Department has finally agreed to allow officers to purchase their own ballistic vest. The officer will have to sign a voluntary agreement with the Department that has several stipulations. Complete details will follow in the May issue of the MCO Report.





PRISONER ESCAPES FROM MID-MICHIGAN

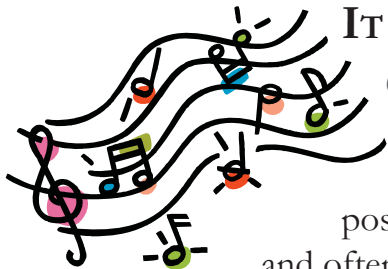
A Level I prisoner, Laytwan Jackson, escaped from a Ground Maintenance Detail just after 9 a.m. this morning. At the time of print, police are still searching for him and area schools are on lock-down.

Jackson, who is serving 2-15 years for 1st and 2nd degree Home Invasion, has been at Mid-Michigan since April.

At the time of his escape, Jackson was being monitored by NON-SECURITY staff. The Security Custody officer position that supervised the maintenance detail was cut by the MDOC approximately 8 months ago.

MCO BACK IN COURT ON OVERTIME ISSUE

MCO was back in court on Wednesday regarding the TRO we obtained against the DOC for violations of the 32-hour rule. The judge agreed that MCO had characterized her order correctly and that a preliminary injunction is in place at all facilities prohibiting violation of the 32-hour rule. The injunction will remain until an Arbitrator decides on the case.



IT MUST MEAN SUMMER!

CONCERT SEASON STARTS

MCO just received our first few tickets for the new Concert Season. We will be posting them on the website as we get them, and often times there isn't much notice so be sure to check out the list frequently at www.mco-seiu.org. Click on "Member Benefits", then the "Tickets" link.

ARBITRATION DATABASE ALERT

When the MCO Central Office switched over to a new server several weeks ago it had some unanticipated consequences on the Arbitration Database. As a result, those trying to access the database have been receiving an error message saying that they are not authorized to access the site.

This problem is in the process of being resolved, and normal function of the database should be returned shortly.

In the meantime, if you need access to an Arbitration, simply contact your Labor Representative at MCO Central and they can access it on your behalf.

IN MEMORIAM



RUO Randall "Mac"

MacDonald, 54, of the Pine River Correctional Facility, passed away

unexpectedly at work on Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

"Mac" started with the Department in 1982 at Western Wayne, moved to Saginaw in 1993 and has been at Pine River since 2000.

Officers found MacDonald unresponsive on the floor of the staff bathroom and immediately attempted CPR, however he failed to respond.

Officer MacDonald leaves behind a wife and two daughters.

A viewing has been scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 3rd, in Alma at Smith's Funeral Home. The Funeral will be on Monday, May 5, 2008, in either Alma or Mt. Pleasant.

OFFICER ASSAULTED AT HVM

On April 4, 2008, an inmate refused to lock up, threatened to kill, and then charged at an officer. The officer blocked the oncoming punch and deflected the inmate back to the floor.

A Major Misconduct for Assault and Battery on Staff was issued.



CENTRAL ELECTS!

PRESIDENT

Tom Tylutki, MCO - 118 votes
Marcus Polychuk, MPF - 11 votes

VICE PRESIDENT

Andy Potter, MCO - unopposed

TREASURER

Bill Henderson, SRF - unopposed

SECRETARY

Jim Johnson, KCF - unopposed

Elected officials in
bold type

TRUSTEE

Brent Kowitz, ACF - 76 votes
Adam Douglas, NRF - 80 votes
Ray Sholtz, SLF - 105 votes
Carletta Andrews, SCF - 15 votes
Randy Burrow, ATF/ARF - 25votes
Larry Henley, LMF - 55 votes
Cary Johnson, JCF - 67 votes
John Ost, RGC - 96 votes

Phillip Fleury, HVM - 76 votes
Doug Bonno, Camps Region I - 27 votes
Rocky Isaacson, MBP - 21 votes
Rick VanAlstine, AMF - 14 votes
Marcus Polychuk, MPF - 38 votes
Al West, RRF - 28 votes
Charles Beacham, Camps Region III - 7 votes
Keith Pelky, MPF - 35 votes



SECONDARY NEGOTIATIONS

The Department has now notified MCO that it is interested in opening almost every contract article that references "secondary negotiations." From the start MCO has indicated we understand that certain areas obligate the union to enter discussions and all we asked was for the Department to inform us of which articles/sections it intended to pursue so that we could respond accordingly. By citing virtually all articles possible, it appears the DOC is simply being obstinate. In any case, MCO attorneys are finalizing a legal opinion and it is assumed by next week the union will have its direction.

MCO members can look through the contract (available as a .pdf on the main page of the MCO web site) to discover all the areas that mention secondary negotiations.

MENTALLY ILL TO MOVE TO MOUND

With the closure of the Scott Correctional Facility and the conversion of Huron Valley Mens to a women's prison it has necessitated the move of the mentally ill inmates who currently are at HVM. The Department has officially notified MCO that they plan to move the 2 and 3 block units of HVM to the Mound Correctional Facility sometime prior to May 2009.

Mound was chosen based on its proximity to mental health providers and related services in the Detroit metro area. The plan calls for a Crisis Stabilization Unit, Acute Care and other specialized inpatient mental health programming at Mound, while those with less serious illness will be placed in specialized units at other facilities around the state.

STABBING AT THE OAKS

There was a stabbing at the Oaks Correctional Facility yesterday, May 8, 2008 at the evening meal. The incident was between two inmates who lock up in different units. The assaulter was placed in Seg and the victim was sent to the hospital to have a pencil removed from his neck. No staff were injured in the handling of this incident.

CRISIS FUND CASH RAFFLE WINNERS!

1ST PLACE - \$5000

**PHILIPSON OMOROGIEVA
RRF**

2ND PLACE - \$1000

**ROD DENLEY
CAMPS REGION II**

3RD PLACE - \$1000

**ELAINE HARKNESS
MCF**

4TH PLACE - \$1000

**DAWN MULLER
SCF**

5TH PLACE - \$1000

**DAN COMER
ITF**

6TH PLACE - \$1000

**GREGORY PARKER
WHV**



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SECONDARY NEGOTIATIONS

As we stated last week, the Department has notified MCO that it is interested in Secondary Negotiations and more specifically opening almost every contract article that references "secondary negotiations." MCO's attorneys have finalized a legal opinion on how to proceed and which articles can/will be addressed. We have been in contact with the Department and have now set some June dates for bargaining discussions to begin.

CRITICALS

5.12.08 - An inmate in Kinross Seg assaults an officer when his cell was opened to go to shower. The officer escaped from the head-lock and shut the inmate in the observation cell area. ERT was activated.

5.1.08 - Glock explodes on New Recruit leaving her with minor burns to hands and face. The officer was treated and released and returned to the range to complete her qualifications!

5.12.08 - a HVM inmate escaped his left cuff and belly chains while being transported back to the facility after a visit to the ER. The inmate, however did not become disruptive and the CTOs returned to the facility.

IN MEMORIAM

Officer Frederick Burnham, 44, passed away on May 12, 2008. Burnham served 10 years at HVC before transferring to HVM in 2005.

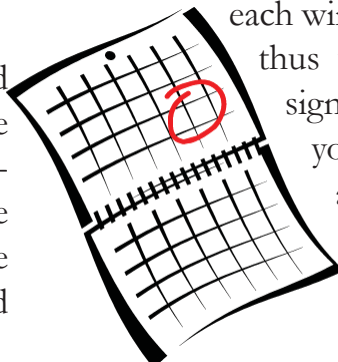


He leaves behind a wife and two sons, Joshua and Jordan.

SENIORITY BASED TRANSFER WINDOW OPEN NOW!

Seniority Based Transfers, administered by the DOC, are available to employees who met the conditions as laid out in Article 15, Part D, Section A, #2, of your contract. The window period to apply is May 1 - May 31, for a transfer that will occur between July 1 and December 31.

The list expires after each window period, thus you need to sign up again if you didn't get a transfer last time.



MCO SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER!

The MCO Scholarship deadline is fast approaching...and there haven't been many applications turned in yet!

MCO is proud to offer 20 scholarships, and this year they have been increased to **\$750 each!** Don't miss this great opportunity. Get your applications in today, the **deadline is June 1, 2008..**

Scholarship forms were included in the March MCO Report and can also be downloaded from the MCO website at www.mco-seiu.org.

Congratulations to the Joan Yukins class that graduated today.

MCO encourages everyone to welcome these new officers. They are sorely needed.



BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MAY 19, 2008

RUMORS CONFIRMED

DEPARTMENT PLANS CONSOLIDATION!

MCO confirmed today rumors that the Department is moving in the direction of consolidating certain institutions throughout the state...*in essence combining institutions together and then defining it as one worksite.* MCO has been informed it will be presented to the Appropriations Corrections Sub-Committee this week.

Under pressure from the Legislature, the Department has been consolidating business offices, and pursuing doing the same with prison stores and the like, as a result of the projected budget shortfalls for next fiscal year and beyond...but MCO is astounded to hear that the Department is again pursuing a poor decision by moving on to include custody operations.

MCO views this as a safety threat...returning to the days of long ago with massive prison institutions that were dangerous. *What's changed today?*

MCO lashed back at the Department, expressing our profound displeasure and protesting any move by the Department along this route. In addition, MCO is contacting the union's legal council to discover any legal paths available to us.

Stay tuned...



MORE BAD NEWS!

This week, the House Appropriations subcommittee on Corrections approved MDOC proposals to close a \$50 to \$60 million funding shortage. Several items will affect correctional officers.

Topping the list is consolidation of operations at contiguous facilities at particular locations --- in essence, creating one worksite! The Department indicated the move would allow cutting several positions as well as help to address overtime. MCO is strongly fighting this idea and is urging the Department to back off its proposal. Other drastic measures planned:

- Changing the relief factor from 1.8 to 1.75 (\$15,700,000 in savings)
- Reduction of training money (\$1.8 million)
- Closure of Scott Facility

MCO also objects to reduction in the relief factor and *more* training funds are needed, *not less*. Under the MDOC plan, savings will also occur with consolidating business offices, regionalizing prisoner stores/warehouses, central office reductions, prisoner healthcare and alternative work schedules for certain supervisors at some facilities.

On another matter, although MCO has tentatively set a few dates to discuss possible secondary negotiations, MCO continues to fight the Departments attempt to open bargaining.

Stay tuned....

COURT REJECTS APPEAL BY OFFICER BUDD'S KILLER

Inmate James Lamont Miller, who brutally stabbed and killed Officer Jack Budd at the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility in 1987, appealed to the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals his conviction for second-degree murder.

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor wrote in a 10 page ruling that in essence, Miller is years late in filing this appeal. His conviction on this charge was upheld by the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1994 and the state Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal.

Miller is currently housed at I-Max. He was subsequently sentenced to an additional life sentence for an attack on an officer at an Ionia facility the year after Budd's death.

COURT UPHOLDS SENTENCE FOR ATTACK

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled last week to uphold the 50-75 year sentence for the brutal lock-in-a-sock attack on Officer Jeffries at MTU in October 2004.

Inmate Joseph Erby Freeman appealed his sentence on the grounds that his request for substitute counsel was wrongly denied, that his attorney failed to secure the testimony of several alibi witnesses thus failing to provide effective counsel, that he was denied his constitutional right to a speedy trial, and finally, that because the sentence he received was the one suggested by the MDOC in its PSIR report there existed a conflict of interest.

The Court of Appeals ruled against each of these claims, upholding Freeman's charge and sentence for Assault with Intent to Commit Murder as a fourth habitual offender.

Freeman is currently housed at the Marquette Branch Prison with an earliest release date of June 2065.

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BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MAY 28, 2008

SECONDARY NEGOTIATIONS CALLED OFF!

With intense “behind the scenes” efforts, MCO’s battle to stop secondary negotiations has paid off. The Administration accepted MCO’s argument that additional bargaining was not needed, particularly since it has only been a few months since a new contract was implemented. MDOC Director, Pat Caruso, told the Department’s Labor Relations division and the Office of the State Employer to end its plan to enter negotiations.

Although secondary negotiations are relatively routine in other unions, MCO has not done formal secondary bargaining in over 25 years. “MCO considered the MDOC’s demands to bargain this year as more bad news and absolutely unnecessary,” said MCO president Tom Tylutki. “With this out of the way,” Tylutki continued, “we can get on to other important priorities and business of the union.”

MCO continues to combat other challenges including the Department’s plans to solve budget shortfalls referenced in last week’s KYI. In particular, MCO stands in opposition to consolidation of worksites at various locations throughout the state.

The fight continues....



PRISON CONSOLIDATION PLAN STOPPED!

Members can enjoy relief from two threats stopped by MCO this week. The Department is ending its plan to consolidate worksites at several locations throughout the state. Consolidation was one component of a Departmental plan to address budget shortfalls projected for next fiscal year. The Administration was convinced this was a bad idea and agreed with the union.

However, the Department has warned that it must find the savings somewhere else, so MCO advises members to "hold on to your seats!" Although other elements of the plan continue and include reduction of the relief factor from 1.8 to 1.75, it's good news that secondary negotiations are now off the table as well as consolidation.

BOOT CAMP UNDER THE GUN

Legislation reported out of the Joint Judiciary Conference Committee this week places a September 2009 sunset on the boot camp program. ***If analysis over the next year does not show the program works, or it's not replaced with something else, then the boot camp as it stands today would end.*** MCO continues to argue the boot camp program is needed and is successfully fulfilling its mission.

HB 5914 & SB 1222- RETIREMENT!

Contact your legislators today. Ask them for active support...tell them of your dangerous job and your role in protecting the public.

These bills would increase the state portion of the defined contribution from 4 to 6% and increase the match from 3 to 4% for all covered employees. You can find out who your legislators are by looking at the district maps that should be posted on your union bulletin board, or you can send an e-mail to them through MCO's Action Center on our website.

ARBITRATION DATABASE BACK ONLINE

After several weeks of adjustments to MCO's servers and software, the Arbitration Database is now back up and running on MCO's website. You can find the link through the "Online Tools" header, and when prompted, the username and password are both the word "portal".



UPCOMING CONCERTS

DTE

June 11 - True Colors, featuring Cyndi Lauper, Rosie O'Donnell, B-52's, and more

June 14 - John Michael Montgomery

June 19 - Newsboys

June 20 - Bachman-Cummings, founding members of The Guess Who

MEADOWBROOK

June 22 - ABBA the Tour

Call Cindy Kogut at MCO (517) 485-3310 to get your FREE* tickets today!

*Subject to availability. There is a nominal per ticket facility fee which includes parking (normally \$5, sometimes \$10 or \$15).



IN MEMORIAM

Officer Valerie Wyanna,

of the Ryan Correctional Facility, was tragically killed in an automobile accident on Memorial Day while on her way to work.

Funeral Services are Saturday, May 31, at 11 a.m. at Christian Tabernacle in Southfield.





AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTS ON PRISON FOOD SERVICES

The Auditor General's Office released a report today on the effectiveness of the Department of Corrections' efforts to manage food services costs.

The Report finds that while the DOC's efforts are moderately effective, they made three recommendations... one of which is to explore privatizing food service operations. The Report cited the states of Florida and Kansas who have utilized private contractors for food service operations and estimates the MDOC could save between \$10.2M and \$38M annually.

Although MCO is against any kind of privatization, it is especially true in corrections where it poses a grave security risk. The DOC has indicated that it is in fact taking steps to get information from private contractors.

GREEN TAG COMES TO OFFICER'S AID

An officer at the Kinross Correctional Facility began choking and was unable to breathe while eating his lunch on May 31, 2008. A green tag officer noticed he needed help and performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the food and allowing the officer to breathe freely once again.

Way to go CO!

BE A FAN OF HONOR

Cabela's

All Military,
Law Enforcement,
Corrections and
Public Safety
Personnel will
receive an
Employee
Discount* in the
store and may
enjoy free hot dogs
and a drink.



JUNE 28-29

LOCATION
CABELA'S, DUNDEE, MI

STORE HOURS
SAT. 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
SUN. 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

RAFFLES
RAFFLES WILL BE HELD ON BOTH DAYS.

* with valid ID



NEW CONCERT
TICKETS ARRIVING
DAILY!

DTE

June 29 - The Temptations/The
Four Tops (7:30 p.m.)
July 3 - Gin Blossoms, wsg Tripper
(7:30 p.m.)
July 4 - Ted Nugent, wsg We Are
The Fury (7:30 p.m.)
July 9 - Lou Gramm/Foghat (7:30 p.m.)
July 12 - Anita Baker (8:00 p.m.)

PALACE

June 26 - Shock vs. Sun (7:30 p.m.)
June 28 - Extreme Cage Fight War
USA vs. Canada BOGO as low as
\$10 (7:30 p.m.)
June 29 - Shock vs. Dream, Family
Night & Dog Day of Summer (6 p.m.)
*Special Dog Day ticket required to
bring dog*

MEADOWBROOK

June 28 - A Night of Comedy with
Tracy Morgan (8 p.m.)
June 29 - The Chronicles of Narnia
The Lion, The Witch & The Ward-
robe (2 p.m. & 7 p.m.)
July 3 - 1964 The Tribute (8 p.m.)

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Katie New, *Garden City*
Cassie Burke, *Ishpeming*
Ijeoma Nnanabu, *Lansing*
Samantha Dunne, *Engadine*
Gabriel Miller, *Perrinton*
Chelsea Dykema, *Marquette*
Tiffany Mann, *Inkster*
Kristy Gould, *Elsie*
Mikal Shell, *Techumseh*
Nicholas Cushman, *Sault Ste. Marie*

Jonathan Richard, *Pinconning*
Nathaniel Morgan, *Ontonagon*
Andrea Grove, *Montgomery*
Erica Higbee, *Portland*
Kelly Clarkson, *Jackson*
Travis Davidson, *Ypsilanti*
Jonathan Wetters, *Essexville*
Aerial Doucet, *Detroit*
Kyle Kestila, *Ishpeming*
Krystle Miller, *Vassar*

With a record response rate this year the MCO Scholarship Committee, comprised of Bill Henderson, Cary Johnson and Ray Sholtz, had some tough decisions to make. After extensive review of all of the applicants, 20 winners were selected, each of whom will receive an Education Scholarship from MCO in the amount of \$750.

Applicants were considered based on their eligibility, essay, letters of recommendation, need and academic performance.

Congratulations go out to all of the winners. Your hard work has paid off!



ANNOUNCEMENT

The MCO State Executive Board has authorized the hiring of two new staff. These jobs are part of a broader plan by MCO to build a stronger union. The Job Description is currently under construction with specific duties not yet determined, however the main functions will be to do more with officers at the local level...building a more involved, educated, and participatory membership.

The Job description and application information will be going out within the next few weeks and will be posted in the KYI as well. Interested officers who meet the criteria are encouraged to apply. A college degree is not required.

State tuned for more information.

CORRECTION:

In the article last week regarding a green tag officer saving another officer's life... the incident took place at KTF, not KCF as was previously reported. MCO regrets the error.

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OFFICERS COME TO AID

Corrections Officer Saves Life While on Vacation

An officer from the Chippewa Correctional Facility was vacationing recently in Mexico when a fellow patron of a restaurant began choking and turned blue. The officer performed the Heimlich, dislodged the blockage and the man began to breath freely once more.

Corrections Officers First on Scene

While driving on the Davidson Freeway an officer from the Ryan Correctional Facility came upon a van engulfed in flames and the driver hanging out screaming for help. The officer immediately pulled over and offered assistance.

The driver, believing that his legs were broken, couldn't move and the van was burning from the inside. The officer grabbed a hold of the driver along with two other men and they pulled him out and to a safe location away from the fire. A female officer from Mound also stopped to offer assistance. 911 was called and the responding EMS treated the occupants of the van for their injuries and took them to the hospital while the State Troopers secured the scene, handled traffic, and the Fire Department extinguished the fire.

BUDGET UPDATE

At the time of print, the State Legislature is working to finalize the budget with the hopes of doing so today or by Monday at the latest.

As you know, this includes a reduction in staff in the MDOC budget. MCO has already sent communications to the Director arguing that the reduction in staff is dangerous and that many positions throughout the administration can still be cut before digging into the officer ranks.

Stay tuned for a Budget Update next week...

KINROSS SEG FULL TO CAPACITY

June has brought a rash of critical incidents at the Kinross Correctional Facility.

Incidents include an officer assaulted in the Seg Unit, an inmate hanging himself inside his locker (successfully) and another inmate attempting to do so.

In addition, four inmates broke into a housing unit cell and robbed the inmates of their store goods while threatening the inmates who lock there with shanks.

NATIONAL HEADLINES

Corrections Officer Fatally Stabbed at Federal Prison

On June 13th, Jose Rivera, 22, an officer at the U.S. Penitentiary Atwater, was assaulted by two inmates with "homemade weapons" in a housing unit and stabbed to death.



Florida Corrections Officer Killed

Officer Donna Fitzgerald, 50, a 15 year veteran of the Tomoka Correctional Institution in Florida, was raped and killed.

Officials at the prison said that on June 25th, Fitzgerald entered a warehouse area after lights-out lockdown and found the inmate hiding and was attacked.

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BUDGET UPDATE

The Department of Corrections Budget passed last Friday, with the net result of \$50M in cuts to the DOC.

The budget continues to call for the closure of the Scott Correctional Facility, lowers the relief factor, and calls for \$6.4M in savings through eliminating 3.6 FTE's at each facility.

ESCAPE ATTEMPT FOILED

Kudos to the Officers at Carson City who, through keen observation, foiled an escape attempt.

You all did a great job making us look good... especially during these hard times.

KINROSS CRITICALS CONTINUE

6.26.08 - An inmate was stabbed twice in the neck. A prisoner was seen running away from the area but had time to stop at the trash can before entering his unit. Officers later found a 6 1/2" shank in the trash. It is believed to be a gang related incident.

6.28.08 - A prisoner approached the gate officers saying that he had a parole and was to be released. When the gate officer, who happened to be a green tag, made the inmate wait while he checked out his story, the inmate bolted out of the waiting area and back into the prison yard. Yard officers were notified and they restrained him, however he was ultimately only written an "out of place" misconduct.

6.30.08 - An inmate, who was speaking in low tones to another inmate lying on the top bunk, suddenly grabbed his leg and tried to pull him off of the bunk. A struggle then ensued and the inmate pulled out a shank and began stabbing the other inmate in the leg. A green tag saw the incident, called it over the radio and both inmates were taken to Seg.

INMATE ON INMATE ATTACK AT ALGER

On June 27th a prisoner working in food service threw a scalding hot pan of water in the face of another prisoner worker, and then began to violently stab him.

A Food Service employee, who was burned about the head/face in this incident, had the wherewithal to pull his PPD, alerting Kitchen Officers to the scene.

The inmate was restrained and the weapon secured. The Food Service worker spent the night in the hospital and is now recovering with a good prognosis.

JACKSON REP. OPPOSES RETIREMENT BILL

MCO is stunned to learn that Rep. Martin Griffin (D-Jackson), has indicated he doesn't support the recently introduced legislation that would increase the state's portion of the defined contribution plan for correctional officers.

As a result, MCO is asking *all* members in the Jackson area to call his office at (517) 373-1795 to protest his position and ask him to reconsider.

***Tell him he
needs to actively
support this bill!***



IN MEMORIAM



Retired Officer LaMart Hart, 58, passed away on June 26, 2008.

Officer Hart worked at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility for 8 years, before an inmate attack and residual injuries forced his retirement.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

An officer at the Newberry Correctional Facility was assaulted by a prisoner when the officer found what appeared to be a cell phone charger during a shake-down of the prisoner's property. The inmate shoved the officer to the ground and then ran to the bathroom and flushed an unknown object before staff could intercept.

At Baraga an officer was dressed out and another one bit in the hand while restraining an inmate who slipped a cuff.

An Inmate at Chippewa has been causing extensive problems...threatening and assaulting officers and nurses, throwing blood on staff, slipping his soft restraints, dressing out his cell and cell camera several times, and injuring an officer through the food slot to name just a few.

It took a phone call to Lansing over the July 4th Holiday weekend to get this situation addressed and the inmate properly placed in hard restraints for the safety of all.

REMINDER!

Call your legislators today to support HB 5914 and SB 1222 for an Enhanced Retirement for COs!

At the Kinross Correctional Facility a green tag officer offered a summary to an inmate who was in the bathroom during count without permission. The inmate retaliated and threatened to beat the officer.

In this instance the officer did not pull his PPD, however the Sgt. did find out and placed the prisoner in Seg. *Please use the PPD's when warranted... they are there for a reason!*



DONATIONS WELCOME!

Each year the Crisis Fund gives out nearly \$20,000 in aid to officers around the state who find themselves in crisis. Whether it be the result of a tragedy such as a home fire, an unexpected death or severe illness in the family or other tragedy, MCO does its best to send a little their way to help. *These funds come solely from member donations and monies raised through various fund-raisers held throughout the year.*

The single biggest fund-raiser is the annual Crisis Fund Golf Outing held at the end of August in Lansing. Through this event, nearly \$9,000

is raised each year for the direct benefit of our members. This is done through the sponsorship of golf carts, tees, the donation of prizes to be raffled off at the event and the costs those who pay to play.

Each year many of our officers, chapters, and the vendors that we work with contribute to this event making it the success that it is. We are working hard over the next month to put everything together for this year's event. **If you or a group of officers from your facility are interested in sponsoring a cart or tee, or have a donation of either cash or an item to be raffled off, please contact Cindy Kogut at MCO Central at 517.485.3310 or via e-mail at cindyk@mco-seiu.org so that we can get you taken care of and properly recognized!**

**FOR
THOSE OF
YOU WISHING TO
PLAY, GET YOUR TEAMS
TOGETHER AND SIGN UP
EARLY. IT IS FIRST COME-
FIRST SERVE AND WE
FILL UP FAST!**



UPCOMING FACILITY TOURS

MCO President Tom Tylutki, Labor Representative Karen Mazzolini and MCO Recording Secretary Jim Johnson will be touring in the UP the following dates...

July 28 - Kinross (2nd shift)

July 29 - URF (1st & 2nd shift)

July 30 - Straits (1st & 2nd shift)

July 31 - Hiawatha (2nd shift)

SUMMER FUN DISCOUNTS UPDATED

Looking to have some fun with your family this summer without driving too far or spending too much? Check out our special MCO rates at the following destinations!

Great Wolf Lodge - Sandusky, OH and Traverse City, MI

Kalahari Resorts - Sandusky, OH, and Wisconsin Dells, WI

Mt. Olympus Theme Park

Cedar Point

Michigan Adventure
and more!

Rates updated regularly at www.mco-seiu.org. Just click on the tab for Member Benefits/Family Entertainment.



COPS DAY AT THE IONIA FREE FAIR

The Ionia Free Fair, which runs July 17th - 26th, is celebrating 20 years of COPS Day on **Wednesday, July 23rd**.

A Hospitality Center will be available for law enforcement personnel and their families from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. In addition, wristbands purchased at the Hospitality Center will allow you to ride all day for only \$11.

COPS Day is made possible, in part, with the support of MCO, Michigan One Community Credit Union, and the employees of MTU, Bellamy Creek, I-Max, Michigan Reformatory, Carson City and Deerfield Correctional Facilities.

An ID is required to enter the Hospitality Center. One ID is required for each group, and can consist of an ID Card, a badge, or a paycheck stub. In the event the employee cannot attend due to work, family members and guests may enter with above ID.

IN MEMORIAM

Officer James Franklin Taylor, Jr., 65, of the Cotton Correctional Facility, retired effective July 1, 2008, and died on July 4, 2008.



Officer Taylor served 23 years for the MDOC, and leaves behind a wife, four children and six grandchildren.

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INMATE SENTENCED IN INCIDENT WITH OFFICER

An inmate at Camp Lehman made an accusation against a female officer at the Camp. After investigation, the Officer was exonerated of any wrongdoing. The MSP detective in the case, Officer Tim Lenhard, asked and received a warrant from the prosecutor to charge the inmate with the felony of "making a false accusation of a felony".

The inmate originally made a plea of no-contest and was to receive 1 year and 1 day, however the judge in the case found that to be insufficient since the officer could have lost her job and her livelihood. The judge went further to sentence the inmate to 23 months to 4 years to be run consecutive to his current sentence.

We have great difficulties getting inmates charged when they assault an officer, let alone this type of incident, so this is a huge win for correctional officers everywhere.



(l to r) MCO Vice President Andy Potter, Officer Lisa Hanna, Crawford County Prosecutor John Huss, Assistant Prosecutor Dave Sabin, and MSP Detective Tim Lenhard.

OFFICER FIGHTS BACK DURING ROBBERY

An officer from the Brooks Correctional Facility was approached by a would-be robber after withdrawing funds from an ATM in Lake-ton. The suspect, who was armed with a knife, confronted the officer as he walked back to his truck ordering him to "give it up."

The officer instead used his DOC training and pushed the suspect against his truck, taking him to the ground in a struggle for the knife.

The suspect required treatment at a nearby hospital for the injuries sustained in the fight and was charged with the felony of "assault with intent to rob while armed."

CORRECTIONS BUDGET SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



The Governor signed the MDOC Budget on Tuesday, using one line item veto to eliminate \$980,000 in funding for an Intensive Probation pilot program.

The enacted budget of just over \$2B is \$40M less than the FY '07-'08 operating budget.

While it includes an additional \$1.8M for CO training and some other program increases, large savings were achieved through the regionalization of business offices, warehouses, and prison stores. Savings were also achieved through eliminating 3.6 FTE's at each facility.

IN OUR THOUGHTS

CTO Mark Baker, of the Oaks Correctional Facility, hit a deer while driving to work on his motorcycle earlier this week. As of yesterday he is at home recuperating from six broken ribs (some with multiple fractures), a lacerated lung, possible fractured sternum and stitches to his head.

We're glad to hear that you are on the mend and send our wishes for a full recovery your way...



MICHIGAN INVESTS! PUTTING THIS INTO PERSPECTIVE

Governor Granholm is following through with an announcement she made in her State of the State Address to invest \$300M of the state's \$60 billion employee pension fund to support Michigan businesses through a new Michigan Invests! Fund.

Two separate funds of \$150M each will be set up with professional managers that will invest in a variety of companies over the next two to three years.

These funds represent only 0.5% of the public employees' retirement fund. The rest of the funds are regularly invested by the Treasury Department.

The Business Leadership Council has been set up to identify investment opportunities and to monitor the two funds, with the goals of getting a good return on investments for the pensioners, and to encourage new futuristic business ventures to help the economy grow.

MCO JOB UPDATE

While the Job Description is still under construction, a few more details are available. At this time it is known that the job will be a salaried position, paying approximately \$45,000/year, and among other things will require some irregular hours including weekends.

*This will not be a typical MCO Labor Representative position...instead focusing on doing more with officers at the local level...building a more involved, educated, and participatory membership. The full job description and application process/deadlines will be posted in the KYI in the next couple of weeks. **Stay tuned...***

OFFICERS INJURED AT OAKS

On July 25th five officers (4 status and 1 red tag) were sent to the hospital for injuries they received while trying to secure an inmate.

The inmate was trying to conceal something and refused to submit to a shakedown while taking a swing at staff. Once officers secured him they escorted him to Seg. but on the way his bunkie jumped in and attacked the officers. Thankfully, they only received minor injuries.

FOUR FORENSIC OFFICERS ATTACKED

On July 31st a new emergency admit to the Forensic Center who had only been there 24 hours took a punch at an officer. Three other officers came to his aid to secure the "patient" and also sustained minor injuries and received treatment at the clinic.

INMATE "OUT OF PLACE" AT KINROSS

An inmate was found to be "out of place" on July 27th at the Kinross Correctional Facility. The inmate was near the perimeter and officers observed him throw something over the fence. After the inmate was placed in Seg. officers discovered a shank on the perimeter road that they believe is what the prisoner tossed.

TWO FIRES IN TWO DAYS

On July 14th a fire was discovered beneath HU #9 & #10 in the laundry room pipe chases, started by paper and rags. All inmates in those units were evacuated to the yards while the fires were put out. There was no way to determine how or who caused the fire, thus no charges by MSP at this time.

However, a fire in a laundry cart at 0240 the next morning appears to be intentionally set and officers are reviewing camera footage to see if a prisoner can be identified for arson. In this instance the laundry cart was pushed outside the building where it was engulfed in flames and destroyed.

In both cases, there were no injuries to either staff or inmates due to the quick and appropriate actions taken by the officers on duty.



BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

AUGUST 5, 2008

POSITION CLOSINGS

BARGAINING UNIT COULD BE SPARED!

In direct response to MCO's pressure via communications with the Director, Legislators, and even the Governor, Director Caruso has communicated to all Wardens statewide that when implementing the 2 positions/facility cuts they **DO NOT** have to be officer positions.

In these tough times it is the security of the institution that must be maintained above all else and these officer positions are key in that endeavor. *MCO is encouraging all Wardens to look to non-custody assignments when fulfilling this mandate... CO's have faced too many cuts already.*

We're aware that many officers stepped up to plate when asked to contact their legislators on this issue and we thank you for your efforts... this just goes to show what can be achieved when we all work together and speak with one voice!

Standing strong to fight another day...



UPCOMING FACILITY TOURS

MCO President Tom Tylutki and Labor Representative Jeff Foldie will be touring in the UP the following dates...

Aug. 11 - Ojibway (2nd shift)

Aug. 12 - Camp Kitwen (1st shift)
& Baraga (2nd shift)

Aug. 13 - Marquette (2nd shift)
& Alger Max (3rd shift)

Aug. 14 - Camp Cusino
& Newberry (1st shift)

OFFICER FEATURED ON druryoutdoors.com

Officer Greg Spitzley from MTU is being featured on the outdoor channel in a video contest "I shot it with my PSE."

Twelve hunters were chosen as finalists, and the winner will be selected by public vote at the end of August.

To watch the video Officer Spitzley submitted and vote (you can do so once every 24-hours), visit www.druryoutdoors.com. Click on 'TV/Bow Maddness/I Shot it with my PSE. You will need to register with the site once in order to place your vote.

Officer Spitzley's video is #6 "Ohio Buck".

Good Luck Greg!

INMATE STABBED TO DEATH

A Level IV inmate at the Cotton Correctional Facility was stabbed to death by another inmate on Saturday, August 2nd.

Both inmates were doing time for armed robbery. The attacker was placed in Seg. awaiting formal charges for the incident.

OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS MONDAY

It's that time of year again—open enrollment is Aug. 11 – 29—which gives all benefits-eligible employees the opportunity to review health benefits and make new or different choices for the coming year. It's also a chance to think about your stage of life and how the offerings might be relevant. Are you relatively healthy, or are you under the care of several specialists? Do you prefer one doctor to take care of all of your health care needs, or do you want to be able to see any doctor, whether they're in- or out-of-network?

Special meetings have been set up statewide during the Open Enrollment period. Visit MCO's website at www.mco-seiu.org for a complete listing of meeting locations, dates and times.



HVM SEES MULTIPLE CRITICALS

8.5.08 - an inmate in the Acute Chronic Care unit stabbed another prisoner with two homemade shanks while they were in the small yard. The shanks appeared to be made of glass from a mirror that the inmate had taped to his wrist.

The victim received lacerations to his neck and chest.

No officers were injured while subduing the inmates.

7.27.08 - Officers find a 11" shank in the window of a GP cell...Unit was shook down and other shanks, spud juice and stingers were found. Five inmates sent to Seg. as a result.

7.25.08 - Prisoner who required extensive reconstruction at UofM hospital during his last stint for repair of burns to his groin area, successfully burned the area again, requiring hospital treatment.

7.24.08 - institution placed under MRSA mobilization and all common area surfaces in all buildings cleaned with bleach.

7.10.08 - An inmate refused an order to "lock-up" and immediately took a fighting stance - swinging and kicking the officer in the stomach and legs.

The officer was able to take him to the ground and he was cuffed.



INMATE BARRICADES

HIMSELF AT MACOMB

On August 13th an officer found an inmate barricading himself in his cell and fashioning weapons out of razors and pens. After failed attempts to gain compliance, including the use of pepper balls, the staff breached the cell and extracted the prisoner.

The inmate did slash an officer several times, however only the ERT gear sustained damage. *All staff and supervisors did a great job in the struggle.*

STABBINGS AT KCF

Two inmates were attacked with shanks on August 11, 2008, with one receiving wounds to the chest area that required hospitalization. The other inmate sustained lacerations. In all, four inmates are believed to be responsible for the incident.

2ND ATTEMPT FAILS

The inmate who attempted to escape from Kinross in late June, made a second attempt on August 8th. This time, after being interviewed by an outside law enforcement agency, the inmate attempted to exit the gate and gain his freedom.

He was quickly tackled by several staff and escorted to segregation.

FIGHT AT BARAGA

A fight broke out on August 4th between at least four inmates when Unit 7 was returning from chow. The prisoners were bunched up on the walk, at a bend where it becomes a blind spot for post coverage, when it occurred.

A second call then went out to the back walk of Unit 7 where another inmate was swinging on staff, striking an officer in the face. Four prisoners were taken to Seg.

REMINDERS...

Open Enrollment ends August 29th. Visit www.mco-seiu.org for more information.

Closer-to-Home Transfer Window will open October 1st. Watch for more details as the date draws near.

OFFICER ATTACKED

Earlier this month an officer at the Florence Crane Correctional Facility was assaulted by an inmate while counseling him for being out of place at count.

The inmate threw a cup at the officer, striking him, and then pushed the officer to the ground where he continued the assault.

Responding officers were able to restrain the prisoner. As it could have been much worse, the officer was lucky to sustain only a sprained wrist.

KUDOS TO CAMP KITWEN

Last week three inmates at the Camp jumped another inmate. The officers did a great job - being quick and professional - in rounding up the inmates and putting them in holding cells while trying to ascertain the situation. Supervisors also did a great job of stepping in and helping out given that there are only 3-4 officers on duty at a time at the Camp.

Great Job Guys!

MORE INCIDENTS AT THE VALLEY

An officer at the Valley doing 1 on 1 coverage of an inmate was assaulted twice when the inmate took his food slot hostage and threw an unknown liquid at the officer. The first time it struck her in the face, and then as she was walking up the steps from the lower level, a second cup of liquid was thrown on her, hitting her in the side of her face, hair, back, arms, legs, and chest.

The inmate was placed in soft restraints for assaultive behavior.

In a separate incident, also on August 2nd, a Level IV prisoner claimed to have swallowed a piece of metal as well as other self injurious behavior in an attempt to get to a unit with air conditioning.



WARNING SHOT FIRED AT MACOMB

On August 24, 2008, during morning yard, an officer requested a prisoner to remove his hands from his coat... at which point the inmate complied however the officer noticed something in his left hand. The officer secured the inmate's hand, however the inmate pulled away and pointed a shank - threatening the officer.

When the inmate started to head towards the Unit, the officer called over his radio for the Unit officers to secure their door to prevent his access. At this point the inmate turned and started to run after the yard officer who was ultimately able to shield himself with the fence. When two responding officers arrived, the inmate turned and revealed two shanks which he then brandished as he ran towards them. When the prisoner attempted to stab the officers a warning shot was ordered, however the inmate failed to respond. In all, twelve officers surrounded the prisoner and he was eventually talked into laying down the weapons and was handcuffed and taken to segregation.

The original yard officer was treated and released at the local hospital for injuries sustained to his hands while warding off the attack.

INCIDENTS AT HVM

8.15.08 An inmate, who's behavior earlier in the week prompted officers to seek assistance from the Unit doctor for his anger management problems (but were denied), tried to kill himself after being told he was riding out. Staff were able to prevent his attempt and placed him in a shower cage however he fought back and two staff were injured in the process.

8.17.08 During the day shift an inmate used a broom handle to attack staff... One officer threw a chair to the RUO who then used it to block the oncoming broom stick from hitting staff. Six staff received injuries during the take down.

8.17.08 Later the same day, another inmate who tore up his cell injured a CO when she opened his food slot. The cell rush team entered and got the prisoner in bed. The unit was locked down and the officer sustained a potentially broken wrist.

MCO JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

As stated previously in the KYI, MCO will be hiring at least two new full-time staff. The new positions will not have the typical labor rep role but rather other duties to help build a stronger union. Some responsibilities include: helping to create an activist structure at the worksite; recruiting members into union efforts; planning and mobilizing members; implementing communications networks; creating and maintaining lists and databases; building community and coalition support for MCO issues; political action efforts; providing and supporting training; helping with contract and grievance issues.

Job qualifications include: writing skills; excellent communication and listening skills; creativity and good judgment; ability to work with a team; willingness to work irregular hours and occasional weekends; ability to travel and occasional overnight stays; high-level technological and computer skills including knowledge of spread sheets and database work; and a total commitment to the union philosophy.

The job is a salaried position starting at \$45,000 annual. Interested persons should send a resume and cover letter to MCO with ATTN: Sacha. Cover letter should state why you want the job and review how your talent and skills fit the above mentioned duties.

CLOSURE PREP STARTS

Starting on September 21, 2008, the number of RTP beds at ARF will increase to accommodate the RTP prisoners from HVM, thus allowing HVM to close one housing unit in preparation for the facility's Spring 2009 closure.



KINROSS BUSY

8.29.08 Inmate turns over to officer a .22 caliber bullet. Rumors of additional ammunition led to a unit evacuation, however none was found.

8.29.08 The same day another inmate in a different unit was taken to Seg. for possession of two completed shanks crafted from glass and two more that were not yet completed.

9.3.08 Inmate placed in Seg. for possession of a 9" shank.

9.3.08 Another inmate found drunk and also placed in Seg. for possession of spud juice.

ESCAPED INMATE FROM NEWBERRY CAPTURED


An inmate who walked away from Newberry on Tuesday was captured on Thursday hiding in the gift shop of the Toonerville Trolley.

Kevin Joseph Burg, 23, had a gate pass and was a porter at a nearby administration building. After failing to report for his 2 p.m. shift a manhunt ensued. ERT Teams from Alger, Newberry, and Kinross joined local law enforcement in the search. A DNR officer spotted a person matching the description late Wednesday night running off into the woods.

Burg, who was serving 3-15 years for breaking and entering is now being transferred to a maximum security facility and will face escape charges.



IN MEMORIAM



Retired Officer Rod "Bo" Parkkonen, 57, formerly of the Marquette Branch Prison, passed away unexpectedly on September 5, 2008, at his home in Traverse City. Bo retired in March of 2006 after serving over 30 years with the MDOC, all at MBP.

A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 20th, at 1 p.m. at Canale-Tonella Funeral Home in Marquette.

FORENSIC OFFICER SAVES LIFE

A "patient" began to turn blue and choke at the Forensic Center during dinner on August 27, 2008. The officer immediately intervened and performed the Heimlich maneuver, successfully dislodging the blockage and most likely saving a life.

MCO JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE NEW STAFF POSITION
GO TO WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG FOR DETAILS OF JOB
RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPLICATION PROCESS.

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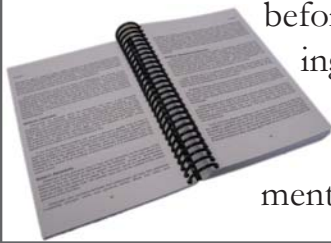
CONTRACT UPDATE

The MCO Contracts are done being printed and are now being bound. It is expected that they will be in the mail no later than October 1st.

Every MCO member will receive one mailed directly to their home address.

Because they are sent out "bulk" mail, it may take up to two weeks for you to receive them once they are placed in the mail. Please give them at least that much time

before contacting MCO for a replacement.



UPCOMING TOURS

Monday, September 22 - MCO
President Tom Tylutki at Lakeland

Tuesday, September 23 - MCO
President Tom Tylutki at Florence Crane and Camp Branch

Friday, September 26 - MCO
President Tom Tylutki, Labor Rep Cherelyn Dunlap and Centers President Jeff Fields at the Lawton Center

GOWARD OJT

Members of the Richard Goward Class, which started at the Academy in Lansing on September 8th, gathered at MCO on Thursday night to have some pizza and meet/greet Union Officials and staff.



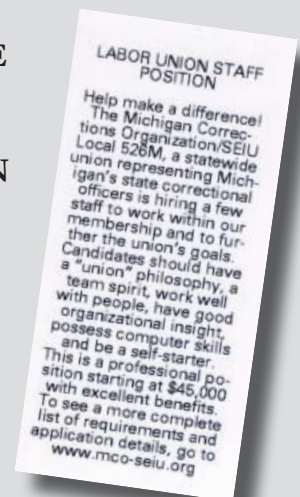
NOTE: THE JIM MACMEEKIN CLASS STARTED IN KINROSS ON SEPTEMBER 8TH AS WELL... ADDING ANOTHER 40+ OFFICERS TO THE RANK AND FILE.

MCO JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

THE FOLLOWING AD RAN IN SEVERAL PAPERS ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, COMPLETE
JOB DESCRIPTION, QUALIFICATIONS
AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS CAN
BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG





CONTRACTS ON THE WAY

Facing a variety of challenges, contracts have finally been printed and are being mailed.

To save costs they are being sent via Bulk Mail. If you do not receive your copy by October 15, call MCO.

CLOSER TO HOME TRANSFER Window Opens Next Week!

October 1-31st is the open window period for Closer-to-Home Transfers. If you are interested in placing your name on the list, you must submit a letter indicating your name, address, telephone, classification, current facility, and desired facility.

In order to be eligible for a Closer-to-Home Transfer, you must meet the following requirements:

You cannot have any current discipline.

You cannot be a probationary employee (unless you will reach status prior to December 31, 2008).

Your desired facility must be within a 40-mile radius of your home.

You cannot have transferred voluntarily in the 12 months prior to your application date.

Please mail or fax your letter to: Michigan Corrections Organization

Attn: Chereilyn Dunlap, Labor Relations Representative

421 W. Kalamazoo St.

Lansing, MI 48933

Fax #: (517) 485-3319

MCO will not accept any letters received before October 1 or after

October 31, 2008. Please keep in mind that if you have placed your name on the list during prior enrollment windows, you will need to re-apply. The list clears at the end of each year. For more information on the Closer-to-Home procedure and requirements, it is covered under Article 15, Part D, Section A, #5, on page 80 of your contract.

MCO JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE MCO STAFF POSITION IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION, QUALIFICATIONS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG



MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS

ORGANIZATION

SEIU LOCAL 526M

421 W. KALAMAZOO

LANSING, MI 48933

(517) 485-3310

1 (800) 451-4878

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BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

OEL ARBITRATION AND INJUNCTION DECISION RELEASED

The controversy involving the disputed violations of the 32-hour and high seniority exemption rules has come to an end. As you recall, MCO sought and gained a preliminary injunction barring the department from violating the 32-hour rule when mandating officers to work involuntary overtime **for gender or special qualification assignments**. The Court issued the injunction until the matter could be resolved at arbitration.

The Employer turned the case over to the Attorney General's office to be litigated at arbitration. The arbitration was held on July 25, 2008. The arbitrator delivered his written opinion on September 18, 2008, and sided with the department. An analysis of the opinion follows.

The matter before the arbitrator was whether the new contract provided an exception to the 32-hour and high seniority exemptions when the employer mandated staff to work involuntary overtime **for gender or special qualification assignments only**. The particular language in dispute is located in Article 17 F (g)(1). It states:

AN EMPLOYEE REQUIRED TO BE A CERTAIN GENDER, OR TO HAVE SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS OR ABILITIES TO PERFORM A PARTICULAR OVERTIME ASSIGNMENT, WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE **OVERTIME** PROCEDURE.

The language in the previous contract read:

AN EMPLOYEE REQUIRED TO BE A CERTAIN GENDER, OR TO HAVE SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS OR ABILITIES TO PERFORM A PARTICULAR OVERTIME ASSIGNMENT, WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE **OEL** PROCEDURE.

The Employer's position was that this one-word change created an exception that allowed them to disregard the 32-hour rule and high seniority exemptions when assigning involuntary overtime for special qualification assignments. MCO argued that the word change was merely an edit, and had no practical effect on the prior existing rule.

After hearing a full day of testimony by MCO and Employer witnesses, the arbitrator ruled that the change in the word did provide an exception in the cases of assigning mandatory overtime to gender or special qualification assignments.

Appreciating the concerns that MCO placed into the record concerning the possible effects the change could have on its members, he nevertheless agreed with the Employer. The arbitrator held, "Where contract language is clear it must be enforced regardless of the original expectation of the parties or the equities involved."

In his ruling, the arbitrator instructed the department, that **when mandating overtime for gender or special qualification assignments**, it must first attempt to "jockey" the schedules in accordance with 17F(1)(f) **before utilizing the exceptions to the 32-hour and high seniority exemption**.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MCO PRESIDENT TOM TYLUTKI, SEIU LOCAL 526M

sc:opeiu459aifcio



WORK CREW STATUS

MCO has been receiving communications from members around the state regarding the cancellation of work crews this week.

This was part of the Corrections budget (SB 1095) that passed in July and placed into effect with PA 245 of 2008.

MCO has been notified and held preliminary meetings with the Department this week on the next steps, however we do not have any specifics yet, nor any numbers, but will be forthcoming as soon as we do.

The legislature cut the increase in the Work Crew's fee in half, reverting it to its prior level, and then took an additional \$2.5M from the program, noting that only the work crews from SAI were to continue.

These changes went into effect with the start of the new fiscal year on October 1st.

DEADLINE IS MONDAY!

Monday, October 6, 2008, is the deadline to register to vote in time for the November election.

To register, you must be at least 18-years-old on or before Election Day and be a US Citizen. You must be a resident of Michigan and of the city or township in which you register. To register, simply go in person to any Secretary of State office or Department of Human Services office.

You can also go to www.jennifergranholm.com where you can print off a pre-filled voter registration form that you can mail in.

If you've already registered, take a moment and make sure your friends, family and neighbors are also registered. The right to vote is an important - and critical - responsibility that we have. It guides the direction of this country and our future.



STAFF SAVE LIFE AT FORENSIC

A "patient" inmate was found hanging from a sheet over his door at the Forensic Center on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Officers responded immediately and with some rescue breathing the patient was revived.

CLOSER TO HOME WINDOW NOW OPEN

October 1-31st is the open window period for Closer-to-Home Transfers. If you are interested in placing your name on the list, you must submit a letter indicating your name, address, telephone, classification, current facility, and desired facility.

Please mail or fax your letter to:

Michigan Corrections Organization
Attn: Cherelyn Dunlap, Labor Relations
Representative
421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Fax #: (517) 485-3319

For more information on the Closer-to-Home procedure and requirements, it is covered under Article 15, Part D, Section A, #5, on page 80 of your contract.



CONTRACTS ON THE WAY

The contracts were dropped in the mail late this week.

To save costs, they are being sent via Bulk Mail. If you do not receive your copy by October 20th, call MCO.

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SHOP-WITH-A-COP FUNDRAISER



Officers from the Oaks facility and surrounding area are gathering on Saturday, October 11th at *The Grounds Cafe* at 129 Washington Street in Manistee to raise funds for their annual Shop-With-a-Cop program.

There will be a silent auction, raffles, and live music starting at 3 p.m., with Brother Stomp at 6 p.m. Hotdogs or brats, chips and pop come with a \$5 donation. **All are welcome!**

TOUR SCHEDULE

MCO President Tom Tyluki and Labor Relations Representative Karen Mazzolini will be touring the UP next week....

Monday 10.13.08 - Straits (3rd shift)

Tuesday 10.14.08 - Straits & Chippewa

Wednesday 10.15.08 - Steward Training in Newberry

Thursday 10.16.08 - Uniform Committee Meeting, Transportation Meeting, and OJT for the MacMeekin Class (Kinross)

Friday 10.17.08 - Region I Presidents Meeting (Newberry)

CLOSER TO HOME WINDOW REMINDER

October 1-31st is the open window period for Closer-to-Home Transfers. If you are interested in placing your name on the list, you must submit a letter indicating your name, address, telephone, classification, current facility, and desired facility.

Please mail or fax your letter to:

Michigan Corrections Organization
Attn: Cherelyn Dunlap, Labor Relations Representative
421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Fax #: (517) 485-3319

MCO NOMINATION OF CAMPS REGION III VICE PRESIDENT

Due to the promotion of the current Vice President, the MCO State Executive Board has opened Nominations for Camps Region III Vice President from October 15 - November 15, 2008.

Submit your written acceptance of nomination before the close of the Nomination period to:

MCO REGION III
NOMINATIONS
421 W. KALAMAZOO ST.
LANSING, MI 48933

For further information regarding chapter nominations in these events, please refer to Article 19 of the MCO Constitution and Bylaws, which can be found online at www.mco-seiu.org under "On the Job Resources."

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OFFICER ATTACKED AT GUS HARRISON

An officer on 2nd Shift at ARF was letting a Level 4 RTP prisoner out of their cell for med lines on October 11th, when the prisoner grabbed her wrist and attempted to pull her into his cell.

The officer was able to break loose and get help from base, however she sustained a torn rotator cuff in the process and sent home on medical leave.

Responding officers were able to control the prisoner and place him back in his cell.

This all occurred in 4 block, which just lost a rover and a unit officer when the Department ordered each facility to cut two positions. As you know, after extensive efforts on the part of MCO, wardens were directed that the cuts did not have to come from custody positions. At Gus Harrison, however, they did anyway.

In addition, the inmates in 4 block came from Huron Valley. The officers at Gus Harrison were to be trained on how to handle this distinct population, however the officer that was attacked had not been properly trained.

MCO PRESIDENT TOUR SCHEDULE

MONDAY - OCTOBER 27

Ojibway (1st shift)
Camp Ottawa (2nd shift)

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 28

Baraga (1st shift)

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 29

Marquette (1st shift)
Alger Max (2nd shift)

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 30

Newberry

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 31

MacMeekin Class Graduation
Kinross

Seniority Based Transfers Coming Up!

November 1- 30th is the Seniority Based Transfer window for transfers that will occur between January 1 and June 30th, 2009.

This list is administered by your personnel office and more information can be found in Article 15, Part D, Section A, #2, of your contract.

BRAWL AT CAMP OTTAWA

On Monday, October 20th, an officer responded to a loud noise level and found three prisoners beating on a fourth. Once backup arrived, they succeeded in breaking up the fight.

It was later determined that there were two more inmates involved. In all, two prisoners were treated for injuries and 6 were rode out to higher security levels.

At the time of the incident, there were only 4 officers on shift, one of which was assigned to food service and thus unable to respond immediately.

Kudos go out to these officer for acting swiftly and decisively in preventing this incident from escalating.

Only 1 Week Left!

If you are interested in placing your name on the Closer to Home Transfer list, you must submit a letter indicating your name, address, telephone, classification, current facility, and desired facility by October 31, 2008.

Michigan Corrections Organization
Attn: Chereyn Dunlap, Labor Relations
Representative
421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Fax #: (517) 485-3319



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



OCTOBER 31, 2008

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT CRITICAL OF MDOC STAFFING

This week the Auditor General released an Audit of the MDOC staffing levels and associated costs.

While the Audit had several conclusions and corresponding recommendations, of key interest to MCO was its finding that custody positions are understaffed resulting in exorbitant spending for overtime.

In addition, the report also noted what MCO has long been arguing... that this extensive overtime is dangerous! Working extended hours in a hostile environment is not good for the officers and not safe for everyone involved... officers, prisoners *and* the community.

The Department has countered that they hired over 700 officers last year and plan to hire an additional 500 this year. In truth, however, these numbers do not make up for the losses we've sustained due to retirements and other attrition.

MCO's RESPONSE...

The recent Auditor General Report on Department of Corrections (DOC) personnel costs confirms much of what the Michigan Corrections Organization (MCO) has been saying for a number of years. As the exclusive representative for the state's correctional officers, we have been calling for increased staffing since 2002. Although the report says DOC needs to determine the optimal balance between continued overtime needs versus hiring more officers to alleviate overtime, for MCO there is a more important reason: Appropriate staffing levels equate to safety, keeping everyone who works or lives in and around the prison SAFE! Although the prisoner population continues to increase, the report shows the number of correctional officers has actually decreased. Increased prisoner to officer ratios create a more dangerous environment. The report supports hiring more correctional officers, and even though DOC has hired officers over the last two years, the statistics show hiring has not kept up with attrition. Correctional officers face stress and danger every day in protecting the public and deserve every dollar they make. The projected hiring plans of DOC and the legislature are inadequate and should be adjusted immediately to save money as well as keep us safe!

Mel Grieshaber, Executive Director

Michigan Corrections Organization/SEIU

THE ABOVE LETTER TO THE EDITOR WAS SUBMITTED ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, TO THE FOLLOWING PAPERS: *THE DETROIT FREE PRESS, THE DETROIT NEWS, CADILLAC NEWS, TRAVERSE CITY RECORD EAGLE, MUSKEGON CHRONICLE, IONIA SENTINEL STANDARD, SAGINAW NEWS, ADRIAN DAILY TELEGRAM, MARQUETTE MINING JOURNAL, ANN ARBOR NEWS, SOO EVENING NEWS, LANSING STATE JOURNAL AND THE JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT.*

REMINDER... BE SURE TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH!

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND PROPOSALS, REFER TO THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE MCO REPORT WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS
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SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
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FROM THE OFFICE OF MCO PRESIDENT TOM TYLUTKI, SEIU LOCAL 526M

sc:opeiu459a1c1c0



MERCURY SPILL AT HVM REQUIRES HAZ MAT

On the 2-10 shift of October 29th, an officer discovered what appeared to be mercury in the prisoner bathroom in the Food Service Building. The area was immediately secured and Food Service evacuated.

Haz Mat was brought on scene the next morning, investigating the spill and with the help of Marine Pollution Control workers were able to clean up the area.

A thorough search revealed that the mercury came from a bakery oven --original equipment installed in 1981.

Allowing for sufficient time to pass and verification that air quality levels were within approved levels, the facility resumed normal operations later that evening.

CRITICALS AT GUS HARRISON

- When an officer opened a double-bunked cell on October 21st, to let out one inmate for med lines, the other inmate exited the cell as well. Upon being ordered to return to his cell he became loud, started yelling obscenities, and then punched the officer in the mouth. Staff responded and took control of the prisoner, however he struggled - kicking and punching the staff. One officer is still off of work as a result of damage to his knee. The prisoner was found guilty of "assault on staff" despite his attempt to plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

- An inmate who was upset that he was not getting snack bags became angry and shoved his tray out of the food slot and onto the floor on October 26th. He then reached through the slot and punched an RUO in the stomach and struck another officer in the face with assorted items he ejected through his slot before they could get it shut. He was eventually cuffed and escorted to Seg.

STABBING AT STRAITS

On Halloween a prisoner at the Straits was stabbed multiple times by a prisoner out of another unit. It is believed to be gang related. The stabbing was very bold --happening right in front of the unit officer. The assaulter violently stabbed the inmate as he chased him down the hallway and through the unit lobby even with staff in pursuit. The quick staff response led to the shank being located when the inmate threw it onto the roof.

Two days prior there was another stabbing on the basketball court where an inmate was slashed across the hand and required medical attention. The shank in that incident was never found.

Recent activities at the facility have indicated there may be an increase in gang behavior.



REMINDER... NOVEMBER IS THE SENIORITY BASED TRANSFER WINDOW PERIOD

THESE TRANSFERS ARE CONDUCTED BY YOUR PERSONNEL OFFICE AND THE LIST CLEARS EACH TIME SO IF YOU PUT YOUR NAME IN BEFORE BUT WERE NOT TRANSFERRED YOU WILL NEED TO RE-SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION.

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OFFICER ASSAULTED AT ST. LOUIS

An officer at the St. Louis Correctional Facility was brutally assaulted while talking to an inmate who's cell he was about to shake down. The RUO sustained a concussion, cuts to his face and bruising, and the responding officers also sustained shoulder, back and other injuries while trying to subdue him.

The prisoner is serving time for 1st degree murder and felony firearms, and his record shows at least two prior assaults on staff dating back nearly 10 years. He recently had a custody reduction from Level IV to III at SLF.

KALAHARI SANDUSKY

\$98 Getaway!

Includes Hut or Desert Room for a family of four, includes water-park admission. \$98 plus tax, per night, based on availability on the select dates listed below: Must use company code: GETAWAY.

November 9-13, 16-20, 23-26 and 30, 2008

December 1-4, 7-11 and 14-18, 2008

January 4, 5, 14, 19-21, and 26-28, 2008

GREAT WOLF LODGE SANDUSKY

Regular Price: \$279/night

MCO Price: - get an additional 15% of their best available rates (could be savings up to 50-60% off standard rates. Must mention company code: MICH489A to take advantage of this offer.

GREAT WOLF LODGE TRAVERSE CITY

Regular Price: \$279/night

MCO Price: - get an additional 10% of their best rates and 15% off spa services!

Must mention corporate code: MICH489C at time of reservation. You must present your company I.D. at time of check-in.

2009 FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT OPEN ENROLLMENT NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2008

Flexible Spending Accounts allow you to pay for essential health care expenses that are not covered or are partially covered, by your medical, dental and vision insurance plans. In addition you can pay for dependent care expenses, with a special tax advantage.

By contributing a portion of your payroll dollars into your account on a pre-tax basis, you can save 20% to 40% on the cost of eligible expenses.

You can find additional information and details regarding the 2009 FSA in the brochure you received in the mail from the State of Michigan, or go to www.michigan.gov/employeebenefits, select "Flexible Spending" from the left menu.

To sign up for a FSA account, please log in to your MI HR Self-Service account and complete the on-line enrollment. If you need assistance, please contact the MI HR Service Center at (877) 766-6447 (toll free), (517) 335-0529, or (517) 241-8046 (TDD), Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Please note: Anyone who wishes to participate in 2009 must enroll, even if you are currently enrolled in the 2008 plan.





SEIU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2009 - 2010 application period for all SEIU Scholarships has begun! A link to the online Scholarship application can be found on MCO's website at www.mco-seiu.org through an article on the front page. If you do not have internet access, simply call Sacha at the MCO Central office and a hard copy can be mailed out.

All applications should be filed online or postmarked by March 2, 2009, and the winners will be announced in the spring of 2009.

Applicants must either be SEIU members or their children who are in good standing for 3 years.

There are several different scholarship opportunities available. If you choose to fill out your application online, you will need to fill in an "access key" in order to access the application. This "access key" information can be found on the same page as the links to the application.

A MESSAGE FOR SEIU MEMBERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Fulfill Your College Goals with
an SEIU 2009-2010 Scholarship

SEIU awards 52 scholarships each year.

Find out more about the:

- SEIU Scholarship Program
- SEIU Jesse Jackson Scholarship
- SEIU Moe Poner Scholarship
- SEIU John Geagan Scholarship

Contact SEIU Local **526M**

Apply Now!

All of the above scholarships are open to SEIU members and their children. The John Geagan Scholarship is also open to SEIU local union staff.

Application information is also available at www.seiu.org. and at www.applyists.net
Applications must be postmarked by March 2, 2009

IN MEMORIAM

Officer Shane Tropp,

40, of the Pine River Correctional Facility, passed away on Monday,

November 17th. Shane suffered a fatal heart attack while being prepared for transfer to a rehabilitation facility where he was to undergo continued treatment for blood clots that formed after two back surgeries he had in October and November.

Officer Tropp hired into the MDOC in 1999 and he was a top 10 Academic Honors recipient. Recently Tropp retired from the Michigan National Guard after twenty years of service to his country.

Shane leaves behind a fiance Cathy and a daughter Brandi.

Funeral services were today in Alma with burial at the North Star Cemetery.

Funeral services were today in Alma with burial at the North Star Cemetery.

IN OUR THOUGHTS...

Officer Douglas Green, 46, of the Oaks Correctional Facility was airlifted to the hospital in Grand Rapids after his car left the pavement and struck trees in the median of SB US 31. Green lives in Novi and was returning home from work.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO KYI NEXT WEEK DUE TO THE HOLIDAY. SEE YOU IN DECEMBER!



HOLIDAY PACKAGES ON THEIR WAY!

The MCO holiday packages, with their highly sought after pocket calendars, were dropped into the mail on December 1st.

Due to such a large quantity being sent via bulk mail, and the already heavy postal load this time of year, please give them **at least** two, if not three, weeks before contacting MCO for a replacement!

IN OUR THOUGHTS...

An RUO of the Huron Valley Mens Facility suffered 2nd degree burns to his face and possibly permanent damage to one eye as a result of an inmate attack on November 28th.

The inmate heated a mixture of Vaseline and water in the microwave and then proceeded to the officers station where he threw it in the officer's face and fled. Officers were quick to respond and secured the inmate, however there is currently an investigation under way and two nurses have been suspended as a result of their failure to respond and assist the officer in the incident.

MCO has been in contact with the Detroit Free Press in conjunction with their recent reporting of this issue and are pursuing the removal of microwaves with the Department.

The officer was hospitalized for two days and is now recovering at home. Our thoughts go out to him for a full recovery.

Sergeant Steven Sampier II, 30, of SAI was murdered in his home on November 25th, and then his house set on fire to cover up the crime. Steven served with the US Army 82nd Airborne Division and has been a corporal at the SAI Bootcamp since 1999. He was admired and respected by his fellow officers and recently promoted to Sergeant.

An investigation continues into his untimely passing.

MEETING SCHEDULED

Union President Tom Tylutki and Labor Relations Representative Jeff Foldie will be at Camp Valley on Tuesday December 8th, at 2 p.m. to discuss with members the planned re-organization for the facility.

This re-organization is unique in that it is impacted by BFOQ work assignments and the gender-based lawsuit.

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS

SEIU & Union Plus are accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. For downloadable forms and more information visit MCO's website or call and ask for Sacha.

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BULLETIN

DECEMBER 10, 2008

CUTS MADE TO BALANCE BUDGET DOC TAKES A HIT AGAIN

Michigan State Budget Director, Robert Emerson, is submitting today to the Joint Appropriations Committee, the Governor's Executive Order making cuts to the current FY '08-'09 budget. Cuts, which will affect the entire state budget, include at least \$43M to be carved from the Department of Corrections.

In order to achieve the necessary savings, and citing dramatically slowed prisoner intake leaving 2,500 open beds, the EO calls for the closure of Camp Branch and the Deerfield Correctional Facility. Other savings will come, from among other things, the postponement of the Academy planned for January.

At this time the state is indicating a target date of April 1, 2009, for the closures. Once official notice is given to MCO, we will meet with the Department.

As things develop, MCO will keep you informed through bulletins and other means on all information we receive. MCO President Tom Tylutki will be at the Deerfield Correctional Facility today, and at Camp Branch on Thursday, meeting with members to explain contractual rights.

This Executive Order is considered to only address part of the budget shortfall. It is being done now to start the process, however once the results of quarterly revenues and other factors are determined, further cuts could be likely.



BUDGET CUTS DETAILED....

As you know, MCO issued a Special Bulletin on Wednesday regarding the Governor's Executive Order 2008-21 which cut nearly \$146M from the current FY '08-'09 budget.

Of those cuts, just over \$26M were in the Department of Corrections, primarily achieved through the closure of the Deerfield Correctional Facility and Camp Branch.

CUTS TO CORRECTIONS:

\$3,611,000 cut from New Custody Staff Training
\$61,800 from Information Technology Services and Projects
\$716,900 from MPRI Education
\$3,158,500 from Prison Food Service
\$111,100 from Transportation
\$10,555,500 from the closure of Deerfield
\$5,810,200 from the closure of Camp Branch

In addition, included in the cuts to the Department of Community Health, \$1M was cut from the Center for Forensic Psychiatry.

RELATED NEWS:

TOUR SCHEDULE

MCO President Tom Tylutki and Labor Relations Representative Tangee Laza are currently planning to tour Ionia Area Facilities who will be impacted by this closure.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008

Deerfield	1 st shift	11:30 a.m.
IMAX	2 nd shift	2:15 p.m.

Thursday, December 18, 2008

MTU	1 st shift	11:30 a.m.
IBC	2 nd shift	2:15 p.m.

RICHARD GOWARD CLASS GRADUATION TODAY

One hundred new officers joined the MDOC this afternoon in ceremonies held in Lansing as the Richard Goward Class graduated.

Named after Officer Richard Goward, 32, of the St. Louis Correctional Facility, they have some very big boots to fill. Officer Goward was killed in Iraq in April of 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and left behind a wife, Karen, and two young daughters, Nicole and Tessa.

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**Michigan Corrections Organization
Service Employees International Union Local 526M**

421 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933
Phone (517) 485-3310 Fax (517) 485-3319
www.mco-seiu.org

Bulletin

MCO met with DOC officials on Monday, December 29th, to verify the number and location of current vacancies and to begin developing bumping regions for Deerfield, Branch, Scott, and Huron Valley Mens.

MCO and DOC also discussed allowing voluntary transfers. All transfer requests will be required to be on official forms created by MCO. No transfer requests are being accepted at this time. The process will not occur until after the bumping regions have been established.

MCO hopes to have the bumping regions finalized by Friday, January 9th.

PLEASE POST