



SUPREME COURT WILL DECIDE RTW, 4 PERCENT

The Michigan Supreme Court will review the Right to Work and 4 percent lawsuits, the Court announced Thursday.

Both suits have been sitting with the Supreme Court for several months. In August 2013, the Court of Appeals ruled RTW applies to state workers. The Coalition of State Employee Unions asked the Supreme Court to consider the case.

In September 2013, the State requested the Supreme Court take on the 4 percent lawsuit. The Court of Appeals ruled the legislature overstepped its authority when it

demanding defined benefit recipients contribute 4 percent of their earnings to pensions.

The Court of Appeals rulings in the 4 percent and RTW cases contradict each other — one acknowledges the Commission's authority while the other disregards it.

The CSEU's argument in both suits is consistent: only the Civil Service Commission can change state employee salary and working conditions under the Michigan Constitution.

The Court has no deadline for issuing a ruling in either lawsuit. We'll keep you updated.

READ BARGAINING DOCS, CONTRACT ONLINE

The 2014-2015 contract, a summary of changes and several documents filed with the Civil Service Commission are now on the MCO website.

Edit marks are still in the contract, but it is the final language.

We hope these items help members understand the how hard MCO fought for this contract. Please read these documents and take the time to understand them.

MCO appreciates the support members showed throughout bargaining. We're stronger together.

AROUND THE STATE: AMF OFFICER ASSAULTED; GANG ACTIVITY AT OCF

A Baraga CO sustained minor injuries in an attack Thursday.

The officer was in a CO office in a general population unit when an inmate jumped him. A sergeant pulled his Taser but didn't deploy it. Another officer came to help, and the inmate was restrained.

The attacked officer went to a hospital, but he returned to work later in the day.

The assailant is in seg.

Last week at Baraga, staff found three weapons made from metal pipe covers. The covers have been removed.

An Ojibway inmate was assaulted twice Jan. 24 and the beatings are believed to be gang related.

The hurt prisoner was beaten

before dinner chow and again after. Inmates kicked and punched him in the head. Alleged members of the Gangster Disciples thought he snitched on a gang member for threatening behavior, an officer said.

Six inmates involved in the attacks have been sent to higher level facilities.

The attacked convict wasn't seriously injured.

IN MEMORIAM: FORMER SMF PRESIDENT TOM KERRINS

A former MCO chapter president passed away last week.

Tom Kerrins, 53, died Jan. 25 at his home in Traverse City. A Celebration of his life will be at 11 a.m. Feb. 8 at the Sisson Funeral Home in Gladwin. Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m.

Kerrins was MCO chapter president at the former Standish Maximum Correctional Facility. He was working at Central Michigan Correctional Facility when he retired in 2010.

Please keep Kerrins' family and friends in your thoughts.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3310
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG