



MEMBERS, LOOK FOR THE NEW MCO FACEBOOK GROUP NEXT WEEK

MCO is bringing back Facebook but doing things a little differently this time.

MCO will create a closed Facebook group for members only. The new Facebook group launches Tuesday, July 8. Starting that day, you can search for Michigan Corrections Organization and submit a request to join. All requests will be reviewed by MCO central office staff, and only dues-paying members will be allowed to join.

Also, there are new guidelines for use. You can review them in the “about” section displayed on the right when viewing the group.

The Facebook group will be monitored and overseen by an advisory committee of MCO members.

Please note that your request could take a day or more for approval. We anticipate receiving multiple requests every day during our first several weeks,

so it could take some time for staff to review and approve your request.

This group is intended for MCO dues paying members only as a way to more effectively communicate and build solidarity while we’re getting attacked on all sides. Please continue to contact your labor rep for contract and grievance questions.

We hope you will find it beneficial. Please join next week!

AROUND THE STATE: MORE KITCHEN PROBLEMS AT RGC, SMT, JCS

JCS inmates observing Ramadan staged a sit-in at the chow hall Tuesday to protest the sack lunches they were receiving twice a day instead of hot meals. More than 20 inmates participated.

Officers say in past years, Ramadan observers went to the chow hall for two hot meals a day, one before sunrise and one after sunset. This year, they were given sack lunches to take to the units.

After the protest, the deputy warden held a meeting with the inmates and an Aramark representative. They started getting hot meals today, officers say.

Three pallets of potatoes were trashed Tuesday at RGC after an officer noticed they were crawling with maggots. Inmates were trying to pick out the edible potatoes, like an Aramark supervisor reportedly told them to do, an officer tells MCO.

“When I looked closer, they all had maggots on them ... the maggots were crawling all over all of them,” the CO said.

A lieutenant and eventually the warden were called to the kitchen. The warden ordered the potatoes to be thrown away.

Maggots were discovered in serving line equipment at Parnall June 27. As many as 60 SMT inmates had symptoms of food-borne illness this week, but the cause of the sickness hasn’t been confirmed.

Maggots were found in a crack where the sneeze guard meets the serving line. The crack was supposed to be sealed with caulk.

All transfers to or from SMT have been suspended due to the illness.

In an interview this week, Rep. Joe Haveman, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations and the former chair of the House corrections budget committee, said it’s too soon to know if Aramark should go.

Haveman said he’s not ready to return to state-run food service, adding “perhaps we just picked the wrong

contractor.”

“Whenever a private contractor comes in to work for us, the unions are right there to flyspeck every problem they have,” Haveman said in the interview on Current State, a public radio talk show. “When the state employees and the unions themselves are doing this work, there is not someone reporting back to the news media every time there’s a problem. Just to say this was a problem since Aramark came in, I don’t think is fair.”

Corrections officers with decades of experience tell MCO they’ve never seen anything like the food problems they’re seeing now, and an MDOC spokesman was quoted by the Detroit Free Press as saying he can’t recall anything like an outbreak of maggots in a prison kitchen. In media reports this week, even Gov. Rick Snyder expressed frustration with Aramark’s service.

Haveman said he is personally meeting with Aramark soon.

Read articles about kitchen sanitation and other MCO and MDOC news at mco-seiu.org.