



AROUND THE STATE: ARAMARK STILL DOMINATES STATE NEWS; ELLIOT PLEADS GUILTY TO ESCAPE

Aramark was back in the spotlight this week.

On Monday, an Aramark worker at SLF was caught with drugs. Five prisoners were found with heroin, cocaine, marijuana and tobacco. Nearly 40 bags of drugs and tobacco were confiscated.

On Wednesday, the Michigan Civil Service Commission heard testimony on Aramark. It was at least the third time unions and others have taken to the commission about the contract.

MCO Deputy of Government and Community Affairs Jeremy Tripp spoke before the commission and pointed out that Aramark problems are not improving.

“We also remain baffled why the \$98,000 fine for documented contract violations was suspended due to political pressures,” Tripp said. “What type of message does this send to Aramark? As far as we can tell, the message is ‘Do business as usual.’”

Commissioner Robert Swanson accused the Department of Corrections of misleading the commission on the suspended \$98,000 fine. MDOC Spokesperson Russ Marlan spoke about the fine at the March 19 MCSC meeting and didn’t say it had been canceled.

“I’m concerned because I don’t feel like we’ve been dealt with forthrightly by the Department,” Swanson said.

Suspending the fine “was a personal decision by the director,” Marlan said.

Marlan also threw out deceptive figures about the number of state employees accused of bringing in contraband, where he compared state employee numbers going back almost three years to Aramark’s nine months on the job. Marlan also didn’t mention that there are roughly 13,000 correctional employees and about 350 Aramark workers. And, Marlan did not mention that approximately 100 Aramark employees

have been fired for a wide range of other issues.

Michael Elliot, the convicted murderer who sneaked away from ICF in February, pleaded guilty this week to escape.

Elliot, 41, also pleaded no contest to carjacking and kidnapping charges in Ionia County.

His sentencing has not been scheduled.

Shanks were found on the ground after a fight yesterday at SLF.

Five inmates from Housing Unit 2, a Level IV, were involved in the fight.

The prison was locked down after the brawl.

ECF inmates were mad Monday evening when the chow hall ran out of several substitute meals.

The scheduled meal was scalloped potatoes and ham, but inmates ended up receiving everything from potatoes with soy meat to a chicken patty with bread, an officer told MCO.

“It was a complete mess,” he said.

Chow lines ran from 4:25 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Chow usually ends at 6 p.m.

Officers found marijuana inside one inmate’s salad dressing container and another inmate’s sock at ARF Sept.13.

Several inmates tested positive for marijuana use that day and the next day.

A 5-in. shank was also found Sunday at Gus Harrison.

Recent meal shortages at ARF:

9/10 - Green beans shortage. Beets substituted.

9/9 - Unit six ran out of sloppy joes. 15 servings short.

9/6 - Unit six ran out of chicken salad. 30 servings short.



PAYMENTS COMING SOON

Attendance and sick leave incentives, dry cleaning allowances and lump sum payments will be dispersed in October and November.

Uniform allowance	\$575	Oct. 23
Lump sum	.5% of annual salary	Nov. 6
Longevity	varies by years of service	Nov. 6
Attendance/physical	varies by amount of sick time used	Nov. 6

The payments will be added to regular pay checks.

The 2% raise will take effect Oct. 1.

For more details, see Art. 27 and Art. 37 of the contract.

GET READY FOR NOV. 4 ELECTION



The midterm elections are right around the corner, and MCO wants you to cast an informed vote.

In the weeks leading up to the election, you’ll find web posts about candidates and events where you can meet them.

The fall MCO Report will have lots of information about the election. The fall issue will arrive at member’s homes and be posted on the MCO website in October.

The Facebook group is also a great place to keep up with news on the governor’s race. Search for Michigan Corrections Organization on Facebook. The group is for members only.