



IMPORTANT UPDATES ON RTW, 4% AND PORTAL-TO-PORTAL LAWSUITS

The Michigan Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments in the Right to Work and 4% lawsuits for Tuesday, Jan. 13.

The RTW suit will be heard at 9:30 a.m. and will be followed by the 4% case.

MCO was notified yesterday of the firm date and times.

In both cases, state employee unions are arguing the Michigan Constitution gives the Civil Service Commission sole

authority over state workers' employment conditions. The legislature stepped out of bounds when it passed RTW for state employees and a law requiring those in the defined benefit plan contribute 4% of their wages to their pension plan.

Meanwhile, MCO attorneys were in Cincinnati yesterday for a hearing on the portal-to-portal lawsuit. Attorneys argued the case before three judges on the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Our attorneys tell us the three judges randomly selected for the panel – Eugene Siler, Jeffrey Sutton and David McKeague – have conservative records.

The court doesn't have a deadline for making a decision.

The portal-to-portal suit involves certain so-called "pre-shift" and "post shift" work which MDOC requires these officers to perform, but for which they are not compensated.

AROUND THE STATE: ICF INMATE STABBED IN THE HEAD; FOOD PROTESTS CONTINUE, THIS TIME AT AMF AND SRF

An ICF inmate needed surgery last week to remove a piece of a pen lodged inside his head.

He was injured in a yard fight with another prisoner who allegedly got tired of attempts to recruit him into a gang. The alleged "recruiter" was stabbed in the head with a pen, officers say. The stabbed inmate went to two hospitals, but has returned to the facility. Both inmates are Level II.

Four inebriated Level II inmates got into a fight Monday.

And yesterday, an ICF administrator issued a memo concerning the food trays. A sergeant now has to monitor the loading of food trays into the food cart, and a housing unit supervisor must monitor tray delivery.

More than two dozen seg inmates at Baraga refused to return food trays

after a meal last week. They were upset about portion size and poor quality, officers say. The same day, Level I inmates refused to leave the chow hall in protest of the food.

Two units were also shaken down that day. Officers found one shank buried in the snow on the yard. The previous day, an inmate was found with a weapon and a large piece of metal was discovered missing from a light fixture.

Seg inmates at Saginaw threw food, flooded cells and covered windows Tuesday. Portions were small and items were missing, an officer said.

On Sunday, one inmate jumped on a table because he was mad about portion sizes. He received an incite to riot misconduct. Then Wednesday, an Aramark worker was stop-ordered for overfamiliarity, an officer said.

IN MEMORIAM: CO FAHS

 A 26-year member of MCO passed away in October.

Charlotte Fahs worked at Macomb and was an MCO chapter official. She retired in January of this year. She is survived by a daughter, a brother, a sister, grandsons, nieces and friends.

To read Fahs' obituary, visit jowet-tfuneraldirectors.com.

Quick notices...

The 2014 holiday packet, which includes next year's pocket calendar, was mailed to members early this week. Please allow two weeks for shipping. If you do not receive your packet in about two weeks, please contact the MCO central office and we will get you one.

The Exchange Transfer List will be cleared in early January. Many people leave the Department or get a transfer without notifying MCO to remove their name from the list. Clearing the list once a year means the list is more useful and effective.

If your name is on the list now and you do not want it removed, please email anita@mco-seiu.org by Jan. 1.

NOTICE ON PERFORMING ROUTINE ROUNDS

Corrections officers are stretched thin, and the issue is only getting more serious. Please take this as a reminder to record in the log book if you cannot make your rounds because you are busy with other duties.

It's impossible to be in two places at once, and the Department cannot expect that of anyone. Officers are expected to do rounds, but if you cannot, clearly write down why in the log book so there is a record.