



VICE PRESIDENT ANDY POTTER NAMED AS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF

The MCO State Executive Board has chosen State Vice President Andy Potter to replace retiring Executive Director Mel Grieshaber.

The title has been changed to MCO Chief of Staff as a few duties may shift.

Since Grieshaber announced his retirement four months ago, MCO received about 35 applications. Eight candidates received personal interviews, including five current and former corrections officers and MCO leaders.

Potter brings experience and knowledge and can hit the ground running as MCO goes through change and planning for the future. More info about his background will be in the next MCO Report.

Grieshaber is retiring this spring.

AROUND THE STATE: VICIOUS ASSAULTS AT ST. LOUIS, IONIA, BELLAMY CREEK

Two violent fights broke out 10 minutes apart March 6 at ICF.

At about 3:15 p.m., five inmates were fighting in the Unit 4 A wing shower. Multiple ECDs were deployed to stop the brawl. Officers found a shank in the shower.

Just a few minutes later, officers responded to a fight between two inmates on the Unit 4 yard. The prisoners exchanged "deadly-force blows," and one of them had a weapon. A gun tower officer fired a warning shot into the shot box.

The prison was locked down for about three days, and a few more improvised weapons were found.

Officers attribute the violence to an internal gang dispute.

An intoxicated inmate punched a CO in the face and head last week at SLF during evening chow lines.

Officers pulled the Level IV prisoner to the side because he was yelling and disrupting the lines. He continued to yell and curse. Officers were cuffing him when he spun around and punched one of the officers. They went to the ground, and officers Tased the inmate. The officer went to a hospital.

Later it was determined the pris-

oner had been drinking spud juice.

An IBC officer was punched in the head last week. The Level II inmate was sent to segregation.

And Friday, at least half a dozen inmates went to seg after a fight in the chow hall. More details were not available.

Sewage backed up in the Level I kitchen at Marquette last week.

Officers say food service employees have been pouring grease into drains, which they say led to the backup. The grease should have been put in barrels.

COs had to make brown bag meals in the Level V kitchen for inmates.

MCO DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE IN CO OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Again this year, MCO is not taking part in selecting the officer of the year and will not have an official presence at the annual banquet.

MCO officials still believe the Department administration does not genuinely care about officers. This is seen through budget reduction measures that increase the level of danger behind the walls, including the closing of positions.

MCO and MDOC jointly started the banquet, which was formerly called the Corrections Officer of the Year Awards Ceremony and Appreciation Banquet, and hosted it together for many years. Last year, MCO withdrew from the banquet and officer of the year selection process.

Like last year, MCO will send plaques to officers of the year at all facilities congratulating them.

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