



AROUND THE STATE: SLF, ECF COs ASSAULTED

A St. Louis officer was working the unit 2 small yard Tuesday when he noticed two inmates hiding something.

When he attempted to shake them down, one of the prisoners threw spud juice on him and attacked him. A PSV officer saw the assault and called for backup. COs had to use Tasers to stop the fighting.

The injured officer suffered scrapes on his face. He went to a hospital for treatment.

An Oaks officer was punched in the face Monday while responding to a five-prisoner fight.

The scuffle broke out at lunch time in front of the chow hall. A warning shot was fired, and a Taser was used to stop the fighting. No serious injuries were reported. The officer didn't miss work. The inmates, all Level IV, are now in segregation.

The altercation was gang related, a CO told MCO.

GOVERNOR SELECTS NEW OSE DIRECTOR

The new Office of the State Employer director has experience in law enforcement and with the Michigan Civil Service Commission.

Marie Waalkes is currently OSE's employee health management director. In 2013, she sat on MCSC's impasse panel when MCO and other state employee unions went to impasse on contracts.

Waalkes served 25 years with the Michigan State Police. She started as a trooper and worked her way up to major. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a law degree.

MCO leaders don't know much about Waalkes. Obviously we weren't happy with the decision the impasse panel made in 2013, but we're hopeful that with Waalkes' background in law enforcement, she will have some understanding of the pressures corrections officers face.

The OSE director is appointed by and answers to the governor.

COs WORKING 12s TO VOTE AHEAD OF BARGAINING

The State Executive Board has authorized a vote at 12-hour shift pilot facilities to gauge interest in continuing 12-hour shifts.

The results of these votes will help the bargaining team understand members' desires. The Board cannot predict what the next contract will look like, but these votes

will be taken into consideration at the bargaining table. Only dues-paying MCO members at the four prisons on 12-hour shifts are eligible to vote. Preparations for implementing the vote are underway.

There will not be any 12-hour shift votes at other facilities for the rest of this year.

TEACHERS' PENSION ARGUMENTS AREN'T LIKE MCO'S

You may have heard that the state Supreme Court decided a case yesterday that concerns teacher pension contributions. The Court said legislation requiring teachers to pay toward their pension fund is legal.

This ruling does not affect the Coalition of State Employee Unions (which includes MCO) lawsuit on the four percent pension contributions. It has no impact on our pension case, and we're still

hopeful our suit will prevail. The arguments in the teachers' lawsuit were based on a different constitutional provision.

The Court of Appeals and lower courts ruled in our favor on the four percent, and we prevailed several years ago when the legislature tried to skim three percent of state employee pay.

We'll let you know when the Supreme Court decides on our case.

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