



TWO IMPORTANT BILLS TO WATCH THIS SESSION

MCO testified this week on the gun bill, which is being considered by the Senate judiciary committee.

HB 4159 would allow current and retired COs who possess a CPL to carry firearms in pistol-free zones.

The committee will vote at a later date.

SB 218 would make survivors of COs who die in the line of duty eligible for health care benefits.

The bill would apply to public safety officers, and it specifically mentions cor-

rections, probation and parole officers.

If it passes, spouses and children of deceased officers will be able to continue to receive health insurance benefits.

This bill is now in the House of Representatives before the appropriations committee.

MCO has fought hard for these provisions. We'll continue to talk to legislators to get this bill passed. Members, call your representative and ask them to support this bill.

We'll keep you posted on these bills.

AROUND THE STATE: ASSAULT AT SLF; ARAMARK UPDATES

A probationary CO was punched in the mouth Tuesday while trying to break up a five-inmate fight. The officer's tooth was chipped.

The Level IV prisoners got into the fight in the chow hall during breakfast chow lines. The convict who punched the officer was transferred. SLF was locked down.

The officer did not miss work.

A dough cutter went missing last week at WHV. Inmate food service workers' cells were shaken down, but it was not found.

Love letters and a cell phone were found on an OCF Aramark worker

when she was shaken down June 6, officers said.

A stop order was issued.

An Aramark worker said supervisors told him to continue preparing lunch June 2 at JCF after an inmate found maggots in a potato-cutting machine, the Detroit Free Press reports.

The inmate told Aramark staff that wasn't appropriate. He reported the maggots to MDOC officials. Only then was meal service stopped, according to the story.

This is the latest in the case of maggots at Cotton Correctional Facility. Go to freep.com for more.

ABSOLUTE LAST CHANCE TO GOLF IN UP OUTING JUNE 19

This is your last chance to sign up for the UP Crisis Fund Golf Outing! Here are the details:

WHEN: Friday, June 19. Registration starts at 10:30 a.m. Shotgun start at noon.

WHERE: Newberry Country Club, 5073 M-123 South, Newberry, MI 49868

COST: \$70 for 18 holes with dinner. \$30 for dinner only.

SIGN UP: The sign up form is online at mco-seiu.org. Mail the form and

check to MCO Crisis Fund, 421 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933

TO SPONSOR OR GET MORE INFO: Contact Byron Osborn at (906)440-4232 or Charles Chamberlain at (906)293-6106.

All proceeds will benefit the MCO Crisis Fund, which helps members facing catastrophe.



IN MEMORIAM: POWELL AND ONWENU



A probationary employee at St. Louis passed away Tuesday.

Marvin Powell, 34, leaves behind six children, a wife, parents and many other family members.

Funeral services were this morning in Bay City.

Powell was part of the academies that started training in late March.

Please keep his family, friends and co-workers in your thoughts. Rest in peace, Officer Powell.

MCO member Franklin Onwenu died May 15.

Onwenu started with MDOC in 1987. Most recently, he worked at DRC.

Funeral services were held last week in Detroit.

Rest in peace, Officer Onwenu.

MCO LAUNCHES MILITARY MEMBERS' INITIATIVE, TWO OTHERS

Calling all veterans and current servicemen and women!

MCO is gauging interest in a meeting this fall for current and past military members and their families. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the challenges military members face and how MCO can better serve them.

We know a large percentage of our members are veterans or are active in the military. Will you help guide us through this initiative? To get involved, fill out the sign up form at mco-seiu.org.

This initiative is one of three the MCO Executive Board and central office staff are tackling to engage members. A listening campaign is under way, and a PTSD research and outreach campaign will launch early next year. For more details, go to mco-seiu.org.