



## MCO MEMBERS LAY FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT CO SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

A group of MCO military members met Thursday and brainstormed ideas to build resources for veterans and active military corrections officers.

They came up with a few focus areas for future work. Members decided on those areas after a day of hands-on exercises and in-depth discussion. They shared memories of their service, why they love the U.S.A., and what influenced them to join the military and the Department of Corrections. Many participants said they were grateful for the discipline the military instilled in them.

Consultant Simon Greer facilitated the meeting. He encouraged the veterans to dig deep and take ownership of the projects they envision.

“Don’t come up with a program MCO in Lansing should do, come up with something you will put time into,” Greer said.

Members left energized.

“I appreciate the fact that MCO is doing something totally new. They’re really

going past the normal parameters and thinking outside the box,” IBC member Lonnie Pohl said.

“I’m glad we all seemed to come together. We’re all from different branches and walks of life, but we came together to do something big,” SRF member Stephen Gibas said.

The meeting was the first step in MCO’s Military Members’ Program, led by Executive Board member and veteran Ray Sholtz and assisted by Cindy Kogut, who is part of MCO support staff and has a

son-in-law is serving in the Army. Ed Clements, also a veteran, and the rest of the MCO Executive Board attended the meeting. The Military Member’s Program is one of MCO’s three strategic initiatives for member strength and future growth.

MCO leaders kept Thursday’s group small to encourage camaraderie and full participation. More members may be invited to future meetings for the military initiative. So far, about 100 corrections officers have shown inter-

est in the military initiative. If you are a veteran or active serviceman or woman, you can sign up for the military initiative on MCO’s website.

Read more about MCO’s initiatives for a stronger union at [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).



MCO Board member and military initiative leader Ray Sholtz, top left, with participants at the meeting. See more photos in our Facebook group or on our Flickr page at [flickr.com/photos/mcoshots](http://flickr.com/photos/mcoshots).

## GUN BILL MOVES FORWARD IN STATE SENATE

After months of waiting and countless hours of work, two bills that would allow certain current and retired MDOC personnel to carry in weapons free zones have passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

For those who have been closely monitoring this issue, the delay with HB 4159 was created by a technical change in law that required certain language in the bill to be addressed.

To fully correct the problem, SB 516 was drafted and MCO commends the

hard work of Sen. Rick Jones and Rep. Joel Johnson for championing this issue forward.

MCO considers this a top priority and will continue to collaborate with the legislature and MDOC to make it a reality for correctional professionals.

The bills will now be voted on by the full Senate, however, no date has been given as to when that will happen. In the meantime, we urge all members to contact their Senator and urge a “yes” vote on HB 4159 and SB 516.

## KINROSS MOVES TO HIAWATHA THIS MONTH

The old Hiawatha facility should be up and running by the end of the month.

Kinross Correctional Facility inmates and staff will soon move to Hiawatha, which will be called Kinross once it opens. The Hiawatha Correctional Facility, closed since 2009, had \$8.9 million of upgrades over the past months.

MDOC officials say renovating Hiawatha was less expensive than updating Kinross.

## AROUND THE STATE: OFFICER ASSAULTED AT LMF; RARE WEAPON FOUND AT MCF

**An Alger inmate punched an officer in the face Wednesday after being told to leave the dayroom.**

The CO noticed a prisoner in the dayroom, where he wasn’t supposed to be. When the officer told him to leave the room, the inmate punched him. The of-

ficer’s nose was broken, but he returned to work the next day.

**A knife was found last week in a porter closet at Muskegon.**

An officer uncovered it during a routine shakedown of 2 unit, a Level II.

This was a very rare and dangerous find, officers say.

**Lunch was delayed at Cotton after mold was discovered on cabbage.**

It happened Sept. 29. The tainted cabbage was removed from the line.