



## GUN BILLS PASS BOTH CHAMBERS, AFTER YEARS OF WORK FROM MEMBERS AND STAFF!

Amid a flurry of legislative action, two bills that would allow certain active and retired corrections personnel to carry a concealed weapon in gun-free zones passed the legislature last week.

HB 4159 passed the Senate 28-8 and was concurred in the House 82-23. SB 516 passed the House 83-23 and was concurred

in the Senate 28-8. The bills are tie-barred and will now make their way to the governor for his approval.

This legislation has been in the works for several years and marks a significant win for MCO. We want to thank every member who took the time to write a letter, call their legislator and get involved. We could not have

done this without you!

Upon receipt of an enrolled bill, Governor Snyder has fourteen days to consider the bill. MCO has every reason to believe the Governor will sign this package and intends to work collaboratively with the MDOC to make sure implementation is clear and simple.

## COTTON, MCO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED AND THOSE SERVING NOW ON VETERAN'S DAY

Thank you, veterans, for your service!

MCO is spearheading an initiative to help us better serve the many corrections officers who are retired or active military members. We know they face unique challenges – whether it's facing deployment, getting re-acclimated to civilian life, or navigating Veteran's Affairs. A group of corrections officers met in Clare last month as the first step in this initiative.



The JCF cookout raised money for care packages for deployed service members. JCF members, MCO Executive Board members, MCO staff and JCF and MDOC administrators attended.

Halloween candy for the troops, and held a cookout Tuesday. Money raised at the cookout is being donated to the American

Legion Post 29 (in Jackson) for care packages for deployed service men and women. Officer Nugent, Officer Fridd and Officer Contero were some of the veterans who worked the grill during the cookout.

Cotton Chief Steward Cary John-

son, who also serves on the MCO Executive Board, said she was inspired by MCO veterans who gathered at the Clare meeting

in October.

“When I returned to work, I started talking to the JCF veterans about MCO’s initiative, trying to get them to sign-up and get involved. I have known Officer Nugent for a long time, knew that he had been deployed several times, but never knew the various things that he does since his return for veterans both deployed and in the community. I knew that this was exactly one of the various things that MCO was talking about when connecting with its members.”

The JCF fundraisers are just one example of what we can do through the military initiative. Supporting each other in new ways, like these fundraisers, is a key component of MCO’s initiatives for future strength.

Go to our website to sign up to show your interest in the military members’ initiative or to learn more about MCO’s initiatives.

Thanks again to all veterans and active service members!

## BARGAINING UPDATE: CONTRACT SUMMARY, BALLOTS IN MAIL

The contract summary and ballot were sent to members Nov. 6.

Please read the summary and the voting instructions carefully. Ballots may be disqualified if instructions are not followed.

If you do not receive your packet, or you believe there’s a problem with your packet, please call or email Stephanie at the MCO central office immediately. Her email is stephanie@mco-seiu.org and the office number is (517)485-3310.

Ballots must be received at the address on

the return envelope before Monday, Nov. 30. Chapter presidents will retrieve the ballots and the count will begin. Any ballots returned after that time will not be counted.

Once the votes are tallied, MCO will publish the results in a bulletin and at mco-seiu.org.

Meanwhile, the MCO Executive Board wrapped up their member contract meetings last week. If you attended a meeting, thank you. We all have busy lives, but taking time out for the union strengthens our solidarity and enables union leaders to fight on members’ behalf.

## DUES INCREASE NOTICE

MCO membership dues will increase.

Dues will go from \$22.44 to \$22.89 a pay period, equaling an increase of \$11.40 per year. This is only 45 cents per pay period. This is a 2 percent increase.

MCO bylaws call for an automatic dues increase whenever there is a wage increase. Bargaining unit members received a 2 percent wage increase Oct. 1.