



## BARGAINING ON WAGES AND HEALTHCARE KICKED OFF THIS WEEK

Bargaining for wages and health care is now under way.

Representatives from the Office of the State Employer (OSE) and MDOC met with the MCO Executive Board Wednesday to open negotiations. The Executive Board also serves as the bargaining team. Again this year, MCO President Tom Tylutki is leading negotiations for MCO.

At Wednesday's meeting, the bargaining team gave state officials several recent KYIs describing the dangerous work members do every day.

Last week, the bargaining team also attended an economic presentation given by the state. The state gives the presentation ahead of bargaining to help both sides understand the state and national economic

climate.

The bargaining team is moving forward with a good understanding of what members want, thanks to participation in the online survey. As of this morning, 1,272 people (about 20 percent of members) had completed the survey. This is a great improvement from last year, when the survey return rate was 14 percent. Board members examined the survey results last week. Thank you, members, for taking time out of your busy schedules to take the survey.

Remember, only wages and health care will be bargained this fall. Watch the KYI and the website for bargaining information. Don't miss any updates – please sign up for MCO emails with a valid, personal email address. Sign up at [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).

## MPF CLOSURE UPDATE: LAYOFF SLIPS ISSUED; MOST COs PLACED

Layoff slips were issued late last month to COs at Pugsley and the Oaks who didn't have the seniority to stay at the Oaks.

Twenty-five officers at Pugsley and the Oaks who received a layoff slip applied for the statewide expedited recall list. We are pleased to report that 24 of them will be placed at their first choice of facility. Recall notices will be mailed to those officers soon.

Some officers will be laid off because they chose not to apply for the statewide expedited recall list.

Closures are never easy. MCO leaders have been working hard to mitigate the impact of Pugsley's closure as much as possible. Thanks, members, for your support. More background on the MPF closure and an in-depth layoff packet is at [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).

## AROUND THE STATE: KCF INMATES AGAIN PROTEST FOOD; LMF COs ASSAULTED

**At least 500 inmates stood on the yard Sunday at Kinross in protest of Trinity food.**

They gathered at about 3 p.m., which is shift change. They congregated near the door to the control center, an officer said. At about 3:30 p.m., the yard was closed and the inmates returned to their units without incident. The demonstration was non-violent, and no injuries were reported.

This is the fourth time KCF inmates have protested food since the kitchens were privatized in December 2013.

**Two Alger officers were assaulted by inmates last week.**

One CO was punched several times while breaking up a fight during chow lines. Another officer was letting out Pine Unit (Level IV) for yard when a prisoner punched him.

The CO was taken to a hospital. Both have returned to work. There were also several inmate fights and assaults last week at LMF.

**Felony charges were filed late last week in the Newberry escape Aug. 16.**

Alize Montague, 19, is charged with prison escape, armed robbery, and taking a hostage. According to court documents, an inmate escaped from prison and then stole money from a woman while armed with a box cutter.

MCO staff have copies of Montague's charging documents, but they don't contain many details. Staff have filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for Michigan State Police records. MCO will continue to investigate this case until members, leaders, and staff have a full picture of what exactly transpired.

## STATE TAKES RUO/CMUO CASE TO COURT OF APPEALS

The RUO/CMUO classifications elimination is now filed at the Michigan Court of Appeals.

As expected, the state's attorneys are appealing the March court ruling that the classifications were improperly eliminated. The Court of Appeals has granted the state's request for Leave for Appeal, which means the March decision won't be carried out during the appeal.

Both parties will file written briefs. The Court of Appeals could also schedule a hearing.

MCO leaders and staff still stand firm in our belief that the state cannot arbitrarily cut worker's pay to save a buck. We will continue to fight, as we have been doing since the classifications were abolished in 2012. To see a timeline detailing everything MCO has done to hold the state accountable for this, go to [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).

Thanks, members, for your support.

## MILITARY MEMBERS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD HERO'S WALL

The traveling Michigan Vietnam Memorial Wall for Fallen Heroes will stop in Fowler soon, and the MCO Military Members Committee is looking for volunteers to watch over it to ensure it's not vandalized.

The Wall will be located at 126 S. Maple St., Fowler, MI 48835. Volunteers are needed Sept. 16 and 17 from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Times can be split according to your schedule. Any amount of time would be greatly appreciated.

This is yet another good cause that the Military Members Committee is participating in. The committee is honored that the VFW Hall in Fowler reached out to MCO to make this request.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to Cindy Kogut at [cindy@mco-seiu.org](mailto:cindy@mco-seiu.org) or call (800) 451-4878 x117.