



## MEMBERS STEP UP FOR VETERANS, MCO CRISIS FUND, AND OTHER GREAT CAUSES

MDOC staff around the state have been organizing some great events to honor and serve others.

- Cotton employees held a cookout and raffle Nov. 10 in honor of Veterans Day. All proceeds will be used for care packages for deployed troops. Staff also donated candy for the packages. Thank you Warden Brewer for buying the first 200 hotdogs!

- WCC held cookouts Nov. 9 and 10 to celebrate veterans. Thank you, WCC Employee Club, for sponsoring this event.

- ICF had a cookout Oct. 26 to benefit a retired CO who needed a wheelchair ramp at his home. Employees raised nearly \$1,000! Way to go, ICF!

- Macomb recently held a cookout to benefit the MCO Crisis Fund. They raised more than \$1,100. Thanks, MRF staff!

- Looking ahead, the Manistee Shop with a Cop event is Dec. 12.

Oaks Officer Mathew McShane organizes the Manistee Shop with a Cop, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Volunteers are needed to shop with kids. If you are able to volunteer, email McShane at [manisteeshopwithacop@yahoo.com](mailto:manisteeshopwithacop@yahoo.com).

ECF officers are among many COs around the state that participate in local Shop with a Cop programs. Officers, let MCO know if you volunteer with Shop with a Cop this year. Send stories, photos, or other info to [mail@mco-seiu.org](mailto:mail@mco-seiu.org).

- An MCO member at Parnall has asked for our help to support a grieving veteran in his community who lost his son. He is seeking donations of outdoor Christmas items. Donations can be dropped off at the MCO central office today before 4 p.m. Our address is 421 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

*Thanks, members, for supporting these causes!*

## LET MCO MEMBER ENGAGEMENT HELP!

If you volunteer in your community, MCO's Member Engagement staff wants to help you expand your efforts.

For example, Cotton's annual Veterans Day fundraiser started when Cary Johnson (JCF chapter chief steward and executive board member) found out CO Nugent was building care packages for deployed troops and volunteering in other ways for military members.

"I thought, 'what a great idea. Maybe MCO can get involved so we can help Officer Nugent in his great work, and support our soldiers even more,'" Johnson said.

If you volunteer in your community, or are planning a fundraiser at your facility, let the MCO Member Engagement team know. They can assist members in organizing special events and spreading the word. Whether you're reaching out to vets, kids, or other groups, the engagement team might be able to help.

"During our listening tours last year, members told us it's very important to them that they see their communities thrive. Our union is here to help in that. It's a great thing when we can contribute to communities and lift up officers at the same time," Johnson said.

To reach the Member Engagement team, call the MCO central office at (517)485-3310 and ask for member engagement, or you can find contact info at [mco-seiu.org/about-us/staff/](http://mco-seiu.org/about-us/staff/).

Also, if you are an active duty military member or veteran, please sign up for MCO's Military Members' Outreach Program at <http://526m.seiu.org/page/s/military-members-outreach-program>.

## AROUND THE STATE: LCF CO FINDS CONTRABAND BETWEEN FENCES; 20-MAN FIGHT AT RMI

**A Lakeland officer found two basketballs full of contraband between the perimeter fences Monday.**

The CO was checking zones at the beginning of second shift when he saw the basketballs. Several cell phones, suspected heroin, suspected cocaine, marijuana, lighters, rolling papers, toothbrushes, and dental floss were inside, officers said. The balls were found between the fences behind B building.

Also from LCF, an inmate was stabbed earlier this month in the head and chest. He was taken by ambulance to a hospital. A 7-inch weapon was recovered from the scene, an officer said. Officers say the as-

sault was gang-related.

LCF is Level II.

Information on these incidents was omitted from facility shift reports sent to officers, they said. COs said they received information from inmates, which they then verified with supervisors.

**MCO has heard many accounts of facilities leaving critical information off of shift reports. Communication with front-line staff has deteriorated. We feel this is inefficient and dangerous for staff. We will be developing a campaign around this issue and other safety concerns.**

**A warning shot was fired to disperse a brawl involving about 20 inmates at Michigan Reformatory.**

The fight happened Saturday on the Level II small yard. Officers believe it was gang related. A dozen inmates were sent to seg.

No officers were injured.