



CONGRATULATIONS TO CO OF THE YEAR CARY JOHNSON AND ALL FACILITY WINNERS!

MCO leaders and staff are proud to announce Executive Board Member Cary Johnson has been selected as the Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year!

MCO leaders believe this is the first time an Executive Board member has been named department Officer of the Year.

The Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council made their selection this morning after interviewing the five finalists.

Johnson has been a CO for 21 years. She is the MCO Cotton chapter Chief Steward. For 13 years, she has been a trustee on the MCO Executive Board. Over the years, she has received an MDOC Lifesaving Award and a Warden's Coin of Excellence. Johnson is the Security Threat Group team leader at Cotton. She serves on numerous MCO committees and has taken part in countless volunteer projects, including the Traumatic Incident Stress Management Team and MCO's Flint water delivery.

"Johnson is involved in anything 'corrections,'" her nominator wrote. "She has dedicated her career to ensure that her 'brothers

and sisters' are treated fairly."

Johnson is married and has one son.

Finalists:

Phil Allen, Woodland Center Correctional Facility

Allen, a 23-year MCO member, "has a high moral value second to none," his nominator

wrote. WCC houses mentally ill inmates, and Allen is able to de-escalate tense

situations, keeping

an environment of calm in his housing unit. Allen also serves on the Emergency Response Team. He is an Assistant Scout Leader with the Boy Scouts of Michigan and participates in Shop With A Cop every year.

Allen is married and has one son.

Karolyn Holden, Oaks Correctional Facility

Holden has been an MDOC officer for 20 years. She works in a high-stress segregation unit, but is able to keep the unit calm

through communication and de-escalation techniques. She is a trainer and she frequently steps up for tasks. She serves on the EPIC Committee for Professional Development. Holden also led a girls' group at her church and has supported women's organizations.

Holden is married.

John Klapish, Saginaw Correctional Facility

Klapish has been a corrections officer for 30 years. He works in a unit with handicapped and special needs inmates. "He is well versed in policy and procedure and is often consulted by fellow staff for this reason," according to his nomination materials.

Klapish volunteers with his church, local high school, and civic organizations. He is married and has two adult children.

Sherlyn Wilson, Thumb Correctional Facility

Wilson, a 14-year corrections officer, works in the control center. She is always positive, professional, and detail-oriented, her nominator said. She volunteers with the MDOC Honor Guard and the TCF Employee's Club. She is also a driver for the Mass Transportation Authority in Flint.

Wilson recently retired from the Air National Guard. She has one adult daughter.

Congratulations to CO of the Year Cary Johnson, the finalists, and each and every facility officer of the year!



From left: CO Klapish, SRF; CO Johnson, JCF; CO Wilson, TCF; CO Holden, ECF; CMO Allen, WCC.

ARU INVESTIGATOR, U.S. MARSHALS NAB ABSCONDER

An Absconder Recovery Unit member helped apprehend a fugitive in west Detroit Tuesday.

An ARU investigator and a task force led by U.S. Marshals found parole absconder Edward James Burgett sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle. Task force members parked their vehicles around Burgett's and gave loud orders for him to surrender. Instead, the vehicle was forcefully driven toward the task force officers, which is considered deadly force. The ARU investigator and two other

task force members had to discharge their weapons. The suspect was shot. His injuries weren't fatal, and the absconder is expected to be taken to DRC after being discharged from a hospital.

ARU investigators are MCO members. The MCO Legal Team met with the investigator in Detroit Tuesday.

MCO leaders and staff thank this investigator and all ARU members for putting themselves in harm's way to keep the public safe from violent fugitives.

REMINDER: EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Don't forget to take the Employee Engagement Survey by Feb. 28.

It's important for all employees to take the survey and let their voice be heard. The Department uses responses to identify and address areas of concern to staff. The survey is being administered through a third-party company, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Answers are anonymous.

Check your state email for a link to the survey.