



THANK YOU, VETERANS! MCO, MDOC HONORS THIS WEEK THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY

Saturday, Nov. 11 is Veteran's Day, and MCO would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all veterans and men and women currently serving in our armed forces. Your sacrifice doesn't go unnoticed.



MILITARY MEMBERS

Facilities statewide held events to honor veterans and military members this week. To all corrections staff who had a hand in recognizing veterans this week, we thank you!

What did your facility do? Email Communications Director Anita Lloyd at anita@mco-seiu.org with photos and a description of your facility's events. We may post them in our members only [Facebook group](#) or our Flickr page.

All veterans, current military members, and their families are invited to a special dinner Nov. 11 at VFW Post 701 in Lansing.

What: A special veteran's day dinner, hosted by VFW Post 701's auxiliary.

When: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.

Where: VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing, MI 48917

Cost: \$8 per plate for adults, \$3 per plate for kids. Veterans eat free.

This is another great event being shared by the MCO Military Members' Committee. Get more military committee news [on our website](#).

NOVEMBER IS FSA OPEN ENROLLMENT WINDOW

The Employee Benefits Division (EBD) encourages you to log into your Self-Service account Nov. 1 through Nov. 30 for Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Open Enrollment, your annual opportunity to enroll in a Health Care and Dependent Care FSA. Health Care FSAs allow you to put aside pre-tax dollars for health care expenses not covered by any medical, dental, or vision care plan. Dependent Care FSAs allow you to put aside pre-tax dollars to cover child/elder care expenses (such as day care) for your eligible dependents so you can work.

When you elect a Health Care FSA, your account is funded with the full amount you've chosen at the beginning of the year. A Dependent Care FSA works a lot like a Health Care FSA, except funds are available as contributions are deducted from your paycheck.

The State of Michigan offers a Grace Period for the 2018 and 2017 Plan Years of 2-1/2 months following the end of each plan year (March 15, 2019). During this time, balances remaining in either your Health Care FSA or Dependent Care FSA plan may be used to reimburse eligible expenses incurred during the Grace Period. You must enroll each year to participate; elections do not carry over year-to-year.

For more information or to review FAQs, visit www.mi.gov/FSA.

If you would like to speak with someone at MCO about FSAs or other Member Benefits, contact Tara Nichol at tara@mco-seiu.org.

- Story provided by OSE

AROUND THE STATE: MRF CO ASSAULTED

A Macomb inmate punched an officer in the face Sunday, breaking his nose.

The CO was working in housing unit 4, a Level IV unit, when an inmate assaulted him. The officer also suffered bruising. The unit inmates were agitated because the meatless dinner trays had less food than the regular trays, officers said.

TISM was on site Monday for a crisis management briefing.

Almost 90 inmates complained of gastrointestinal issues this week at Alger, halting all transfers to and from the facility.

The kitchen and units were cleaned

with bleach and sanitizer last weekend.

No staff members have reported symptoms.

The cause of the gastrointestinal issues hasn't been confirmed, but the leftovers from Nov. 3 meals were discarded as a precaution.

MBP officers had to fire a warning shot to stop a five-inmate fight on the Level V yard Oct. 28.

One weapon – a 5-in. sharpened piece of metal with a handle made from a latex glove – was found. Officers said the fight stemmed from an internal power struggle among members of a gang. No serious injuries were reported.