

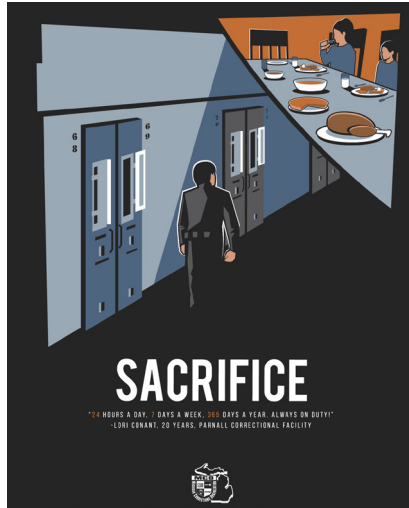


## MOVE FORWARD: CORRECTIONS AND FORENSIC CAREERS REQUIRE SACRIFICE

Corrections staff are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Prisons never close, and dangerous situations can unfold any time of the day or night. Corrections staff work holidays, weekends, and evenings. They routinely miss holidays, special events and moments with their families. In addition to regular shifts, many officers are mandated to work overtime, sometimes more than once a week, due to the staffing crisis.

That is why this month's value in the Move Forward Campaign is Sacrifice. Through the campaign, we'll introduce a new value, accompanied by a values poster, every month until Labor Day 2018. Look for this Sacrifice poster in

your facility soon. [Read more about Move Forward.](#)



This month's value in the Move Forward campaign is sacrifice. [Click here to view the poster larger on our website.](#)

Every day when corrections staff go to work behind the walls, they make a sacrifice. Not only do they sacrifice their physical and mental health, but they sacrifice moments with their families and friends. Compounding this problem are officers' irregular hours and forced overtime.

While corrections staff aren't the only profession to work long and irregular hours, they make the most of it because what they do matters across the state. They know that sacrifice is going above and beyond in their work place to make a positive impact on those incarcerated and their coworkers.

And, as always, let's not forget that due to the unpredictable nature of this work, some corrections officers have made the ultimate sacrifice. [Read more about our fallen officers.](#)

If you are off work around the holidays, please take a moment to think of the corrections staff sacrificing their bodies, minds, and time with their own families to keep Michigan safe.

Read the full Sacrifice story at [mco-seiu.org/moveforward](http://mco-seiu.org/moveforward).

## IN MEMORIAM: FORMER MCO PRESIDENT KARY SOWELS

Former MCO President Kary Sowels passed away last week.

Sowels started as a corrections officer in 1989 and served as an MCO chapter leader. Over the years, he worked at Huron Valley Men's, Cotton, Pine River, and Central Michigan. After his time as MCO president, he returned to work until he retired from Central Michigan in June 2015.



President Kary Sowels.

Sowels was a passionate leader who worked tirelessly for safer working conditions. A private service was held Saturday.

What follows is an obituary submitted by Sowels' family, which has been edited for length. [Read the entire obituary online.](#)

*Kary L. (Butch) Sowels passed away peacefully on Monday, December 11, 2017 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born on June 23, 1953 in Pontiac, MI to Orval Alfred and*

*Caroline Eleanor (Burnell) Sowels. Kary married the love of his life Christine K. Conley. They met on a school bus in high school. Christine admired his tenacity to finish any project he started and his amazing energy. He was a true workaholic at home and work.*

*After 25 years working with the Michigan Department of Corrections as a correction officer, he retired in 2015. He served on the MCO (Michigan Corrections Organization) executive board several years and then as the President from 1996 – 2004. He was a true warrior fighting for the rights of working men and women.*

*Kary's primary focus after retiring was to spend as much time as possible with family.*

*In lieu of flowers please contribute to the Camp Lor Memorial at Isabella Bank in Kary's name.*

## SAI TRAINEE ESCAPES

An SAI trainee briefly escaped Dec. 16 before being found in an unoccupied home.

Matthew Aires Genter was gone for less than two hours before he was found, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Genter is accused of climbing the fence and escaping just after 3 p.m. After staff performed a routine afternoon count, a trainee was sent to his work assignment in another part of the facility. When he didn't show up for his assignment, an informal count was announced, and staff discovered he was missing. MSP found him in an unoccupied house. He was treated at a hospital for what seemed to be a self-inflicted injury.

Excellent job to SAI staff, ERT, ARU, and other law enforcement who helped in the search.

**Read more facility news in our [members-only Facebook group.](#)**