



DOC HOLDS 12 HR. SHIFT DISCUSSION

After receiving a formal request to meet, MCO and the Department had a meeting Thursday to discuss the DOC's proposal to consider 12 hour shifts. There are still many questions DOC needs to answer and MCO has not agreed to anything. As was shared with the membership at contract discussion meetings this fall, MCO did commit to the Department that we would seriously discuss the issue if requested, but needed to preserve the "mutual agreement" clause in the contract to keep the Department from unilaterally implementing the plan. There will be further meetings in the future.

NEWBERRY HU TO CLOSE

MCO was notified late yesterday that a housing unit will be closing at Newberry. According to the DOC this is a temporary move to save on overtime.

NEW OT PROCEDURE

Preliminary discussions occurred this week between MCO and DOC Labor Relations on implementation of the new overtime call in procedure. A computer model being developed by the Dept. is almost done and a couple of facilities are being considered for the role-out. There is a possibility there may be joint tutoring sessions including both facility administration and MCO chapter leadership.

RUO CLASSIFICATION ISSUE

MCO continues to push back against the Department's deliberation on eliminating the RUO class. MCO again brought up the issue to DOC's Deputy Director and Operations Chief at meetings Thursday. MCO has started a letter writing campaign to generate letters from members to the Director, the Governor and Civil Service.

CENTRAL MI PRISONER A LEVEL I?

A Level I inmate was disruptive, threatened staff, and resisted being taken into custody and restrained. Because of the open bay cube setting gas and other chemical agents cannot be used, thus forcing staff to improvise. Following orders from a Lt. staff sprayed the inmate with a fire extinguisher to eventually gain control. Officers were able to place him into a holding cell, however he continued his disruptive behavior by breaking out the holding cell lighting, flooding the cell and covering the window and threatening staff. As a result of this incident, three staff were treated at the hospital for injuries related to breathing in the extinguisher chemicals and from the restraint of a combative inmate.

This inmate has been the recipient of over 189 misconducts while in the system (in and out since the 80's), 42 of which have been Assaults on Staff. Proof the current classification system is a ticking time bomb.

ST. LOUIS HAS BUSY HOLIDAY

12.21. - Assault on staff while shaking down an inmate at the center yard shack.

12.23 - Assault on staff in the Seg unit when an inmate reached through his slot and grabbed an officer. Later that day a fight on the big yard left an inmate with a cut on his face which went down to his jaw bone and almost cut the bottom of his ear off.

12.24 - fight on the walk during chow between 4 inmates. Staff broke up and recovered shank.

12.25 - fight on the walk with one inmate needing stitches at hospital.

12.26 - two on one assault in chow hall. then an assault on a Sgt., and then threatening behavior on staff. Inmates had to be placed into another unit or on top-lock due to overcrowding in Seg.

12.27 - two on one assault in chow hall. One inmate suffered multiple stab wounds and two 11" shanks were found.

1.2.12 - inmate on inmate assault on big yard with razor blade. Astute officers in the monitor room caught the incident which only lasted seconds, and was able to direct yard officers to the assailant and the weapon.



ALGER TASER USE PROVES EFFECTIVE

Alger has had five major fights and two major assaults in the past two weeks. On Dec. 31st, a fight in the chow hall broke out. Inmates ignored orders to quit fighting and get on the ground so the Taser was deployed. The inmates quit fighting and complied immediately with no need for the officers to jump in and take them down. A similar story repeats itself on January 2nd, with two fighting in the day room, on January 3rd, with a fight on the big yard and on January 12th, with another fight during chow lines.

In each of these instances Tasers were used and officers were able to successfully gain control of the situation without having to wrestle with the inmates or suffer staff injuries.

Two other assaults, however, were severe enough that staff couldn't wait for the Tasers to arrive (due to the limited number issued during the pilot) and so staff had to jump in. On January 10th, an officer hurt his knee trying to break up an inmate on inmate assault and will be out for at least two weeks, and again on January 11th, an officer got hit in the head several times by a lock-in-a-sock while trying to break up an inmate on inmate fight.

In just a few short weeks the Tasers have proven to be an effective management tool that not only helps to bring control to a critical situation, but also effectively eliminates staff injuries as a result. Officers are reporting that they "are the best tools provided to staff."



Both MCO and the State are encouraged by these early results.

YARD STABBING AT COTTON

On December 22nd, a Level II inmate was coming back from med lines when he stabbed another prisoner puncturing his spleen and lung.

Also at Cotton:

On January 2nd, an officer performing a clothed pat down found a medicine bag. A disagreement ensued between the officer and the prisoner, with the prisoner ultimately assaulting the officer and refusing orders to cuff up. He was charged with dangerous contraband, disobeying a direct order and assault on staff. Citing that Seg. is full, inmates are being regularly returned to GP within days after incidents such as this.

IN MEMORIAM *Officer Clarence Hammond III,* 33, of the Macomb Correctional



Facility was shot and killed just hours after clocking out on Friday, January 13, 2012. Hammond was approached while parking his car in the parking lot of his apartment complex when according to a witness he was approached in a possible robbery attempt. The attacker fatally shot him in the head but ultimately did not take any belongings.

Hammond held a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Ferris and has been an officer with the MDOC since 2006. He leaves behind two sons, Shiloh, age 5, and 4 yr. old Chance.

Public visitation will be at O.H. Pye funeral home on Friday, Jan. 20th from 3-8 p.m.

Homecoming Service will be Saturday, Jan. 21st at 11 a.m. Christian Life

Church 24877 21 Mile Rd., Macomb. A collection is being taken up for his boys by A/ADW Kraft @ Macomb.



MCO OFFERS REWARD IN HAMMOND'S DEATH

The MCO State Executive Board has approved a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the death of Correctional Officer Clarence Hammond III.

Clarence Hammond III, 33, was a state corrections officer at the Macomb Correctional Facility in Detroit and a member of the Michigan Corrections Organization since 2006.

Officer Hammond clocked out from work at 10 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2012. Just over two hours later, still in uniform, he pulled into the parking lot of his apartment complex and was ambushed by a gunman who shot and killed him on the spot.

Police are actively searching for his attacker and are also looking into any possible connection to his position as a corrections officer.

Officer Hammond leaves behind two young boys, aged 4 and 5. A fund has already been established for the boys' education to which MCO is donating \$10,000.

"Corrections Officers everywhere take this personally. Working together behind the walls we become family and we mourn the loss of one of our own. While we don't know the circumstances surrounding his death at this point, we are concerned that this could be related to his position as a corrections officer. This is a dangerous job even after we leave the secure perimeter, and this is a reminder that we must stay vigilant at all times," states Michigan Corrections Organization President Tom Tylutki.

Anyone with information or who may have witnessed this incident is asked to contact the Madison Heights Police Department at (248) 585-2100. Those wishing to remain anonymous may call Crime Stoppers at (800)773.2587.



REPEAT OFFENDER AT WOODLAND

An inmate spat on staff at Woodland on December 23rd but was found to be "not responsible". The next day, however, he was let out for day room time and punched a female officer. The assaulted officer and a responding officer were treated in the clinic for their injuries.

INCOMING CONTRABAND

Alert officers at Central MI found 175 grams of Marijuana, 4.5 grams of Meth, 2.5 grams of Crack and two prepaid cell phones hidden in store goods and ink cartridges and mailed to the facility as "catch up" prisoner property.

URF MOBILIZATION

A mobilization of the west side of the facility on January 7th netted 17 shanks on the afternoon shift. Another mobilization on January 10th netted another 30 weapons.

Although positive that the facility is proactively seeking out these weapons, the number being found at this custody level is disturbing.

MULTIPLE OFFICERS INJURED AT LAKELAND

On Monday, Jan. 16th, an inmate on meds was furiously pounding the wall. An officer approached to stop the behavior and prevent injury to the inmate but the inmate turned and punched the officer instead.

Later a fight broke out in the pole barn with 6 inmates on one. Four officers were injured in breaking up the fight... one is hospitalized with a concussion, one received stitches to his face and the others sustained minor cuts and bruises.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS
ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JANUARY 27, 2012

FIGHTS AND SHOTS FIRED AT MARQUETTE

On December 17th, a two-on-one prisoner fight broke out. Two warning shots were fired and the incident contained.

Later that month two inmates fought in the kitchen cooler between chow lines. One inmate was beat so bad he suffered a broken jaw.

On the 22nd of December a prisoner attacked a food service worker during evening chow. In addition to the food service worker, two officers were injured - one with a dislocated shoulder.

Then on New Year's Day a fight on 2nd shift in G block resulted in a warning shot into the unit. One officer sustained minor injuries.

On Jan. 20th an inmate in Segregation broke up his light fixture and made three sharpened 8" shanks from it. Officers found another Seg. inmate in that unit with a 9" shank and an inmate from a different Seg unit was found with an ice pick type weapon.

FIGHTS AT CARSON CITY

On December 28th an inmate who refused to shakedown was found to have a shank in his shoe when he was strip searched.

Later that day staff responded to a loud noise in A-wing upper. An inmate was found with facial injuries. Inmate said he didn't know what happened however he was reaching down to recover a 7" shank. Another inmate in the cell denied what happened and a third inmate was found hiding under a bunk. All were given misconducts and sent to Seg.

And then a Code Blue was called to the same unit. Two inmates were fighting in the lobby. A third joined in. Two of the inmates ultimately received Assault and Battery on Staff charges due to staff injuries when they resisted staff.

MULTIPLE OFFICERS INJURED AT LAKE LAND

On Monday, Jan. 16th, an inmate on meds was furiously pounding the wall. An officer approached to stop the behavior and prevent injury to the inmate but the inmate turned and punched the officer instead.

Later a fight broke out in the pole barn with 6 inmates on one. Four officers were injured in breaking up the fight... one is hospitalized with a concussion, one received stitches to his face and the others sustained minor cuts and bruises.

UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31!



Applications can be found at www.mco-seiu.org, just put "scholarship" in the search box.

OFFICER HAMMOND HONORED



Officer Hammond was laid to rest on Saturday, Jan., 21, 2012, in the presence of his family and many of his brothers and sisters in law enforcement. Corrections Officers, union officials, and Honor Guards from across the country came to show their respects and mourn with Michigan COs.

MCO presented Officer Hammond's sister with a check for \$10,000 to be placed into a trust fund account for the education of his young boys. At least four facilities have set up their own fund-raisers as well. For those looking to contribute, you can also send a check to the MRF Employee Club with "Hammond Children's fund" in the memo line. They will then cut one check to the family once the trust fund is established.

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SEIU LOCAL 526M

421 W. KALAMAZOO

LANSING, MI 48933

517.485.3319

800.451.4878

WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG

MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG

FROM THE OFFICE OF MCO PRESIDENT TOM TYLUTKI, SEIU LOCAL 526M

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FIGHTING AND WEAPONS AT CHIPPEWA

At 2000 hrs. on January 18th a fight broke out between four inmates on the walk from the big yard. Weapons were involved and one officer injured his knee in breaking up the incident.

Then, at 0805 hrs. on the 20th, two inmates fought in the Quiet Room. A third prisoner jumped in and stabbed one of the inmates in the back of the head and backside. The other prisoner also sustained a pulsating stab wound to his forearm sending him to the hospital. Three RUO's and two ARUS's were also treated for exposure.

RTP INMATE ASSAULTS OFFICER AT MTU

On January 15th an RTP inmate took offense when an officer told him to take his medication and punched the officer in the face and head butted him. The officer was sent to the hospital for evaluation.

DISRUPTIVE INMATES AT GUS HARRISON

On January 7th an inmate in an Observation Cell was injuring himself. A squad of officers entered the cell to stop the behavior. While they were gaining control of the prisoner he spat on as well as hit two of the officers with closed fists.

An SSRTP prisoner took his food slot hostage on January 13th using a shank made from flat metal lashed between two Seg. toothbrushes. The inmate attempted to slash or stab anyone who came close to the cell door.

After refusing to cooperate a squad was brought in and chemical agents used to get the prisoner to give up the shank. He was placed in a dress-out cage but continued to resist and be self-injurious even during his ride out to Woodland.

TASERS @ ALGER

Two prisoners fought in front of Pine unit on Jan. 30th. After refusing orders to disburse a taser was deployed against one inmate and the situation was quickly resolved.

Inmates at Alger appear to be upset with the food (attendance at chow is down) and not surprisingly they want the tasers taken away from staff.

YARD FIGHT AT OAKS

Six inmates were sent to Seg for fighting and another two for failure to disburse after a brawl on the yard on Jan. 26th. The fight happened at dinner time in front of a tower closed at that time of day. Additional inmates were involved but could not all be identified.

The next day 2 units were locked down and shanks were found in 6 block. On Saturday 2 block was given limited movement and a fight broke out in the chow between two prisoners. An officer was injured when he was flipped over the rail.

TASERS USED @ DRF

On Jan. 1st a Level IV inmate assaulted staff during a shakedown. The taser was drawn and provided enough deterrent to gain compliance without deployment.

Between the 8th and the 15th, DRF had two inmates to Seg. for threatening behavior on staff and one for assault on staff. Another two Level IV inmates went to Seg. the next week for threatening behavior staff.

Donations to Officer Hammond's children's education fund can be sent to:

Macomb Correctional Facility
Attn: Macomb Employees
Club

34625 26 Mile Rd.

New Haven, MI 48048

Make checks payable to "Macomb Employees Club" and please put "**Hammond Children's Fund**" on the memo line of your check.

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ORGANIZATION**

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BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 3, 2012

DANA RICHARDS PUGSLEY

Officer Richards hired into the DOC in 1997 at the State Prison of Southern MI. She moved to Camp Branch in 2002, and Pugsley in 2009. Through her career she has held many roles and is regularly contacted on how to improve the workplace.

"Officer Richards takes her job seriously and works hard to get things done where others fail. She has earned great respect from staff and prisoners as a no nonsense, yet fair, firm and knowledgeable officer," notes Warden Harry.

For the last 12 years she has volunteered her time to the local FIA assisting the elderly and disabled with errands.

Officer Ball is an 11 year veteran of the DOC, having worked at the Oaks since 2001 where he is a RUO, member of the ERT, and is a Certified Trainer for Prisoner Management, Health Care and Weapons Certification.

"Officer Ball is at work to work. He has excellent work ethic and is a great role model for his fellow employees. He responds to an incident, evaluates the situation swiftly, and acts with just the right amount of force necessary to control the situation," states his nominator Warden Curtin.

Officer Ball has served as a volunteer fireman for 16 years, and a medical first responder for 11. He participates in Shop-With-A-Cop and has been a T-ball coach for the Manistee Rec. Association.

JAMES KOTOWICZ - IONIA CORRECTIONAL

Officer Kotowicz has been an RUO at Ionia since 2000 and actively involved in the Secure Status Outpatient Treatment Program (SSOPT) since its inception five years ago.

"His ability to get along with his peers, the offenders, and his supervisors is exceptional and that is why he is crucial to our team and ensuring our facility runs smoothly and effectively," ARUS

Barber stated in his nomination.

Kotowicz formed the "Rock Runners" at ICF who run in charity 5k's and he volunteers in the interests of his four young children.

ROBERT MCGAFFIGAN

BROOKS

An officer since 1995, McGaffigan has proven himself to be professional, efficient, and not afraid to go the extra mile. He has been key to revising post orders in Seg. and in gang identification.

"RUO McGaffigan exemplifies the qualities desired in our correctional officer corp. He is committed to making his unit the best it can be," states Warden Berghuis.

McGaffigan is active with Special Olympics serving as a coach for basketball and poly-hockey, and his family (eight children) helps disadvantaged youth at the holidays providing clothing, coats, and presents.

JAMES BALL OAKS

2012
CORRECTIONAL
OFFICER
OF THE YEAR
FINALISTS

DAVID SHARP FOA

Hiring into the DOC in 1997, Officer Sharp worked as a CO at Jackson Central, then as a CTO, and became an Investigator with the Absconder Recovery Unit in 2010.

"Dave Sharp is a shining example of what an employee can be, if given the freedom and trust to do what needs to be done with little or no supervision," notes his nomination.

He leads the ARU for 2011 with 170 parole absconder arrests as of November and also serves as a United States Marshal Service Task Force Officer.

Sharp was a fire fighter for nearly 18 years, coached freshman and JV football, and now serves as a referee.



BUDGET INTRODUCED

Governor Snyder, in testimony before the legislature Thursday, introduced his FY '13 & '14 Executive Budget. The FY '13 Budget Recommendation totals \$48.2B, with \$47.6 of that being ongoing spending and \$600M in one-time funding.

Much of the discussion was on how he eliminated the \$1.5B deficit from last year and in fact ended up with a surplus. There was some discussion on how that surplus will be allocated, however his testimony lacked many specific details.

For the DOC, the Budget Recommendation is \$2.1B in ongoing funding and \$14.4M in one time funding which represents a 1.8% budget increase over FY '12. Specifically outlined is \$19.7M for updating the PPD system, facility security cameras and cell phone detection equipment.

The budget also assumes, however, a savings of \$11.1M by privatizing prisoner physical and mental health care services as well as the operation of the Woodland Correctional Facility. It also references a savings of \$21.4M through "efficiency measures" to reduce custody costs including staffing changes, prisoner clothing savings, technology savings and other "administrative cost" savings. Snyder will be making a special "Public Safety" address in March which may provide more details.

PRIVATIZATION BILLS UPDATE

House Bills 5174 and 5177 would allow the DOC to contract with the GEO Group to re-open the closed facility in Baldwin to hold MDOC inmates as long as the contract reflects at least a 10% annual savings.

The bills have passed out of the House Appropriations Committee, and now await a vote by the full House which could happen at any moment.

The facility in Baldwin was run by the GEO Group from 1999 to 2005 to house MDOC youthful offenders. Funding for that contract was cancelled in 2005 because a study by the Michigan Auditor General showed that the daily cost per inmate at the facility was greater than 33 of the State's 37 other facilities run by the DOC.

It didn't work then, so why would the Legislators expect a different outcome this time? **The Legislature seems determined to see history repeat itself... all at the expense of taxpayer dollars, state employee jobs, and accountability.** Apparently we need to remind them of just why it is the contract with the GEO Group was cancelled the first time around, and why privatization is not the answer when it comes to Corrections Policy.

MCO has launched a Speak Out so you can make your voice heard. Simply visit our website, or click through the link in your email to send a letter to your legislator today.

WARNING SHOTS AND GAS AT MBP

On Feb. 4th a fight broke out between 6 inmates in the Level V kitchen who belong to two STG groups. Another inmate, separate from the fighting, got up from his table and was going after an officer during the fight.

Officers deployed gas however it still took two warning shots to subdue the inmates.

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ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



VOTE ON PRIVATIZATION BILLS DELAYED

House Bill 5174 (that would allow the DOC to contract with the GEO Group to re-open the closed facility in Baldwin) came up in the House on Thursday. There were numerous amendments proposed and most failed. The bill was moved to a third reading and possibly a vote but instead the House moved to adjourn until Tuesday. While we do not know the reason for the delay, we can hope that it means they are not yet comfortable taking a vote.

MCO, along with the State Employee Union Coalition, introduced and personally delivered to all Representatives on Wednesday a report, "Pitfalls and Promises: The Real Risks to Residents and Taxpayers of Privatizing Prison Services in Michigan." The report, among other things, reviews Michigan's past experience with GEO Group and the youth prison in Baldwin, explores the elusive nature of calculating

costs and evaluating if contracts actually save money, highlights lawsuits and liabilities against GEO, and raises 20 questions that should be used in evaluating a private prison proposal. The full report, along with an Executive Summary and the 20 questions can be found on MCO's website.

MCO continues to push hard against this legislation and many of you have participated by sending a letter to your legislators or giving them a call. Please continue!!! The House will reconvene next Tuesday and will likely vote on HB 5174 & 5177. We need to use this time to keep the pressure on ask them to vote "NO"!

LAWSUIT FILED. LEGISLATURE CIRCUMVENTS THE PROCESS.... AGAIN.

The State Employee Union Coalition (comprised of MCO, UAW, SEIU517M, AFSCME and MSEA) filed a class action lawsuit on Monday against the state for changes made to the state employee retirement system through Public Act 264.

The lawsuit charges that PA 264 is unconstitutional because it violates Article 6, section 5, of the Michigan Constitution which states that the Michigan Civil Service Commission is the sole entity with the power to regulate all conditions of state employment.

MCO also filed a corresponding Unfair Labor Practice charge. Stay tuned. We will keep you updated as this moves through the legal process.



SEIU SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications can be completed online through MCO's website, or you can call to request a hard copy. Hurry! **The deadline to apply is March 1st!**

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ORGANIZATION

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DEPARTMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH RUO ELIMINATION

MCO received notice this week that the state intends to move forward with a Reduction In Force (RIF) of the E-10 classification. MCO has formally requested a meeting with the Department to continue our argument against this move. The notice contains no specifics as to how this will be implemented, something MCO has been seeking since the Department hinted at this move last December. The Department also has not emphatically indicated its position on other E-10 class positions besides the RUO.

Classifications are a prohibited subject of bargaining and are thus not a contractual issue. MCO is preparing to file a technical appeal to the Civil Service Commission to address this matter and will pursue any contract issues we view as a violation. MCO launched a letter writing campaign in early January targeting the members of the Civil Service Commission in preparation for this move. If you haven't sent your letters yet, please do! Just visit www.mco-seiu.org and search for "RUOs = STABILITY=SAFETY".

MCO continues to protest the Department's move to combine the perimeter security position with info desk or other positions and are obviously concerned it lessens the security of the institution. Several legislators also raised this issue in legislative testimony before the Corrections Budget Committee this week.

PRIVATIZATION BILLS STILL STALLED

MCO leaders and members have intensified their lobbying against the privatization bills this week. HB 5174 & 5177, that would allow the GEO Group to house state inmates at the closed facility in Baldwin, have been on the agenda every day this week. The House, however, has adjourned each day without bringing it up for a vote... behavior that indicates they do not have sufficient votes to pass the measures.

The Senate has now introduced SB 877 & 878 which mimic the House bills with one notable exception - *they only require a 5% annual savings*. MCO hand delivered the Prison Privatization Report to Senate offices this week and you can now send a letter to your Senator through our website.

TRAINING COUNCIL NAMES TWO COs OF THE YEAR



After a very competitive round of finalist interviews on Wednesday, the Correctional Officers Training Council ended up selecting for the first time, Co-Correctional

Officers of the Year.

Our congratulations to RUO Robert McGaffigan of the Brooks Correctional Facility and Investigator David Sharp from the Out State Absconder Recovery Unit for sharing this honor.

Recognition also goes out to the other finalists, Officer James Ball, RUO James Kotowicz, and Officer Dana Richards who have worked hard in their job, in their communities, and proudly represent the MDOC and MCO.





BULLETIN

MARCH 1, 2012

MORE \$ DRIVEN CORRECTIONS POLICY

DEPARTMENT TO ABOLISH E-10 POSITIONS

In a meeting requested by MCO this morning, the DOC officially confirmed what we have been hearing for weeks now... that it has moved beyond the discussion stage and will, in fact, be abolishing the RUO and CMUO classifications effective April 1, 2012. Further, the DOC will be eliminating 7 CRR FTE's (Thumb, Bellamy Creek, Cooper St., Parnall, Lakeland, Ryan and Newberry). *At this time, the DOC has stated it does not intend to pursue the elimination of other E-10 classifications such as CTOs and SAI Corporals.* The reason for the move is to find budget savings which the Department claims is close to \$8M.

MCO officials again protested the elimination of these classes, arguing that it is a mistake on the part of the Department for security and operational needs, not to mention the devastating effect on the individual officers. The change will affect nearly 2500 officers, or approximately 1/3 of the MCO membership.

MCO lobbied to have current officers in those positions grandfathered in and their pay froze (red-circled), however the Department formally rejected that proposal. RUOs and CMUOs, however, will be allowed to maintain their current shift.

The Department is currently drafting language that will simultaneously abolish those classifications while creating an equal number of E-9 officer positions to (in their words) "minimize the disruption and impact to officers at their work locations."

This action by the Employer is allowed under Civil Service Rule 4.4-1. MCO, as also granted under Civil Service Rules, is filing an appeal to the Civil Service Commission on the matter. We will keep you updated as this moves forward.

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SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



BILLS STILL STALLED

The private prison bills still appear on the House Agenda, however they failed to bring them up for a vote this week.

On the Senate side SB 877 & 878 have passed out of Appropriations Committee and are awaiting a vote by the full Senate. These bills mirror the house bills except that they only require a 5% savings by the private prison company.

MCO continues to keep pressure on the legislators and we need you to do the same!

NEW GRIEVANCE FORMS

Grievance forms have been updated to match language in the new contract.

The new forms became effective March 1, 2012, and are available on the website. Please dispose of all old forms immediately!

SHOTS FIRED AT MBP

One inmate was stabbed in the neck and face on February 29th during a four man fight on the yard. Officers responded and used gas however a shot was fired to gain control of the situation.

Earlier in the week there were multiple fights in the kitchen during chow lines. On the 24th it was a four man fight and gas was used. On the 26th it was a two man fight and again gas was used.

INMATE ON RAMPAGE AT COTTON

A Level II inmate, in a highly agitated state, began throwing pool balls at staff shattering a window in the process and sending glass into the officers. The inmate then ran to the next unit, up the stairs, and into a cell where he took another prisoner hostage.

The inmate continued to throw pool balls and padlocks at staff and smashed out the window in the door. The cell extraction team and gun squad were called out but the inmate surrendered before they entered the cell.

Two officers were treated and released at the hospital for injuries from flying glass.

TASERS CONTINUE TO SERVE AS DETERRENT

In several recent incidents at Carson City and Alger the tasers have been deployed during inmate fights.

While sometimes needing to be used, quite often just the appearance and threat of the taser is serving to control prisoner behavior and protect officers and inmates alike from further injury.

We are hopeful that they will soon be deployed statewide.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

MCO is proud to offer the 2012 MCO Scholarship Program. This program offers 20 scholarships to children of MCO members entering (or in) college.

Eligible students are a child, stepchild, or adopted child of an MCO member in good continuous standing for three years as of January 2012.

You can fill out the Scholarship Application online. Then just print and mail to MCO with the rest of the application materials. (Be sure to print/save a copy for yourself!) If you have any questions or need to request a hard copy of the application call MCO at 517.485.3310 and ask for Sacha.

***Submission deadline is
June 1, 2012.***

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ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
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MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



BULLETIN

MARCH 8, 2012

RUO BUMP NOTICES ISSUED

Department Forges Ahead!

MCO was alerted moments ago that the Department has moved forward and is issuing bump notifications starting today.

As MCO has indicated previously the Department is abolishing all RUO and CMUO positions and at the same time creating an equal number of Correctional Officers positions. The notice informs you that your position will be abolished and gives you the choice of whether to take a layoff or accept one of the newly created CO positions.

As indicated on the formal notice, ***you have until March 20, 2012, to return this letter to your Human Resources Office! If you fail to return the form by the deadline you will be laid off effective pay period ending March 31, 2012.***

MCO continues to argue this is an outrageous budget driven move and is not good corrections policy or public policy. **The Department's move is a mistake and we do not agree with it!**

MCO HAS BEEN PREPARING APPEALS THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE VENUES, INCLUDING THE CIVIL SERVICE PROCESS, EMPLOYING THE USE OF BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE LAWYERS.

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421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG

FROM THE OFFICE OF MCO PRESIDENT TOM TYLUTKI, SEIU LOCAL 526M

sc:opeiu459aficio



CAMERAS CAN'T RESPOND!

CAMERAS CAN'T STOP ESCAPES. KEEP PRISON PERIMETER VEHICLES

Your Community is in Danger - Call the Governor.



MCO kicked off statewide radio and billboard ads this week fighting back the Department's move to eliminate perimeter vehicle positions effective April 1st. These ads, a picket at the DOC on Wednesday, and all of the media outreach MCO has been doing are in response to the recent unilateral moves by the Department on the RUO's, the PSV's, and more.

State Employees are trying to be a part of the solution to the state's budget crisis, but in order to do that we have to be a part of the discussion. *We, as front line employees, see where there can be efficiencies, where things can be done in smarter ways that will save the state money... but they need to be SAFE savings!*



Nearly a hundred COs representing every facility in the state stood up on Wednesday and asked the MDOC to stop working against us and let us help find SAFE solutions for our state prisons.



APPEALS FILED ON RUO ELIMINATION

This week MCO filed formal appeals in all available venues on the Department's move to eliminate the RUO Classification. A contractual grievance has been filed with the Department, an Unfair Labor Practice has been filed, and a Civil Service Grievance has been filed for all affected RUO's in the Civil Service forum.

IN MEMORIAM

Retired Officer Sherman "Duffy" Norman Jr., 64, passed away on March 2, 2012. He retired after serving 18 years at Cotton.

Officer William Brannock, 48, of the Gus Harrison facility passed away on March 10, 2012. Brannock was a Marine Corps veteran and had worked for the DOC since 2000.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS
ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
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MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



HAVE YOU HEARD? HAVE YOU SEEN? COME ON OUT!

To piggy back on the launch of the billboard and radio campaign, MCO is running 1/2 page ads this Sunday, March 25, 2012, in the Muskegon Chronicle, Jackson Citizen Patriot, Sault Sunday, Ionia Sentinel Standard, Marquette Mining Journal, Saginaw News, Mt. Pleasant Morning Sun, Adrian Daily Telegram, and on Saturday in the Mining Gazette.

Individual MCO Chapters are also setting up pickets at or near their facilities in the coming weeks. Those already on the calendar are:

Ionia - Monday, March 26, 12:30-3:30, on Bluewater Hwy. between the Ionia and MTU facilities

Jackson - Tuesday, March 27, 12-4, on the corner of Cooper St. and Elm.

St. Louis - Wednesday, March 28, 12:30 - 4, on the corner of Crosswell and M-46

Muskegon - Thursday, March 29, 12:30 - 3:30, on Sheridan Rd. across from the facility

Detroit - Friday, March 30, 12:30 - 3:30, on Ryan Rd., in front of the Ryan facility

Baraga - Monday, April 2, 1:30- 4, US Hwy. 41 (Irene's Pizza lot)

Marquette - Tuesday, April 3, 12:30 - 3:30, US 41 in front of the facility

Alger - Wednesday, April 4, 12:30 - 3:30, corner of Industrial Drive and M-28

Newberry - Wednesday, April 4, 12:30 - 3:30, M-123 in front of the facility

Kinross - Thursday, April 5, 12:30 - 4, SE corner of Water Tower Dr. and M-80 across from the Dollar Store

Some other facilities have contacted us and we are working now to get them on the calendar. MCO is sending letters to residents who live within a certain radius of these facilities alerting them to the dangerous decisions being made and encouraging them to come out and support us. We need the Department to work with us and not against us in finding SAFE solutions for our corrections system. If there is a picket in your area, be sure to stop by even if it is just for a short bit before or after shift. ***Your community needs to know just how strongly we oppose these moves and that we are fighting for their safety as well as ours!***

**CAMERAS CAN'T STOP ESCAPES.
KEEP PRISON PERIMETER VEHICLES**



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BULLETIN

MARCH 29, 2012

COMMITTEE MAKES OUTRAGEOUS DECISION TO CLOSE PRISON

With a split vote, the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Corrections moved a budget this morning that does not fund the Michigan Reformatory. Similar to last year and the closure of Mound, legislators are dictating how the DOC finds savings rather than setting a budget and letting the DOC determine how to meet it. The budget also calls for opening a private prison. Partisan politics play heavy in this with the democratic members of the committee not being told of this de-funding and the vice-chair only finding out last night. ***MCO confronted several committee members about the unusual proceedings and objected to any more prison closures.***

The Senate Appropriations Committee met earlier this week and reported out its Corrections Budget for FY '12-'13. The Senate Committee's budget comes in at \$1.9B, \$67M below the Governor's recommendation. While the Senate version funds MR, it calls for competitive bidding of 1750 prison beds (not surprisingly this is the same number that the private prison in Baldwin can hold).

Several amendments were offered by the minority chair (Rep. Lindberg - D). His amendments to keep perimeter security vehicles and the RUO classification failed on a party line vote.

At this time there are differences between the two versions which could still change along the way. If the final versions passed by the House and Senate remain different, a Conference Committee will be established (made up of both House and Senate members) to reconcile the differences. The Conference Committee reconciled budget would then go back to the House and Senate for a straight up or down vote (no additional amendments allowed.)

While this is still early in the process, it is apparent they intend to take a "no holds barred" approach. ***Hang On and Stick Together... we'll keep you informed of new updates and actions you can take to get our voices heard. Continue calling your State Representative and Senator to express your opposition to these moves.***



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

APRIL 13, 2012

ROLLING PICKETS, ADS, AND OUTREACH MAKE AN IMPACT

For the last two and a half weeks over 800 members of MCO from all across the state have stood up asking to be a part of finding SAFE solutions in the Department of Corrections and pushed back on the dangerous elimination of the PSV and RUO positions that went into effect April 1st.

Pickets will continue with Saginaw scheduled for Monday, April 16th from 12:45 - 3:15 p.m. and the Oaks Correctional on Tuesday, April 24th from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

The community has supported us by making calls to the Director's Office and the Governor, standing on the picket line with us, spreading

the word throughout their neighborhoods and at their City Council meetings. The expanding support by other labor organizations, the communities, and the media is encouraging as we hold the line on this issue.

3 ON 1 STABBING AND LEVEL IV'S FIGHTING

An inmate was attacked by three others on the morning yard in early March at the Cotton Correctional Facility. One attacker stabbed the inmate in the back with a knife, one used a lock-in-a-sock and hit him on the head and the third followed up with punches. When yard officers responded the attackers fled. However, through camera footage, an RUO was able to identify the inmates involved from his housing unit.

On March 29th, six level IV inmates fought but injuries were limited to minor wounds to prisoners and none to staff.

The next morning, March 30th, more Level IV prisoners fought on the way back from morning chow. Two prisoners were sent to the ER with substantial injuries from razor blade cuts - one from ear to mouth and the other across his throat from ear to front. Staff sustained minor injuries in breaking up the fight. Staff had a difficult time identifying the prisoners as non-regular CO's were filling the RUO positions at the time of the incident.

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Lynn Bragg, 30, of the Huron Valley Womens Correctional Facility, passed away suddenly on March 29, 2012, after complications from minor surgery.

Bragg hired into the MDOC in 2010 and leaves behind her husband of eight years, James.

FOUR ON 1 ASSAULT AT NEWBERRY

Four prisoners ran into another housing unit and stabbed an inmate twice in the gut. RUO's responded immediately and were able to stop the attack, secure the attackers, and recovered two shanks. The prisoner required surgery for his stab wounds.

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sc:opeiu459aflcio



BUDGET MOVES THROUGH HOUSE

On Wednesday, April 18, the House Appropriations Committee passed the FY 2013 omnibus budget bill (HB 5365) along straight party lines. The Republican majority holds a 17-10 margin in Appropriations and despite strong opposition from their counterparts, passed the General Government omnibus by a tally of 17 to 9, with one democrat absent from the vote.

Like last year, while individual budgets are developed, they are all rolled into one "omnibus" budget bill and voted on as a whole. During brief individual summaries leading up to the omnibus vote, the Corrections budget proved to be a hotbed of disagreement and questionable cuts. Rep. Steve Lindberg (D- Marquette) took aim at the elimination of PSVs and RUOs and offered two amendments to reinstate those cuts, however Republicans were unanimous in their opposition-voting them down 17-9. Representatives Richard Leblanc (D- Westland) and Fred Durhal (D-Detroit) inquired into the MR closing and were less than impressed with Rep. Joe Haveman's (Chair of Corrections Subcommittee) lack of input from the MDOC and felt a data driven process which took economic impact into account should have been done. In addition, Mr. Leblanc highlighted a recent article in the Free Press where Director Heyns stated he needs every bed he has. Rep. Durhal then proposed an amendment to put the Reformatory back into the budget but this also failed 17-9.

The Senate has their own budget bills, however they are letting the House move theirs first. The legislature has indicated it intends to pass a budget before summer recess.

BROOKS PERIMETER TESTED

On Saturday, April 14th, the AA volunteer at the facility reported to the control center that on their way in they observed an individual driving around the service road with a video camera recording the facility. In response the front desk officer was sent out and they found the person still recording their visit to the facility.

This individual was clearly on property for a significant period of time and it just happened that a volunteer spotted them and reported it. ***Our question is... what happened to all those security enhancements the Department has been touting as the replacement for full time PSV patrols?***



IN MEMORIAM

Officer Jonny Daniels, 42, of the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility passed away suddenly from an apparent heart attack on April 15, 2012.

Daniels served in the U.S. Marine Corps and hired into the MDOC in 2002. He leaves behind his wife, Connie, and children Cassandra, Austin, Kaitlyn, Emalee and Dylan.

Memorial contributions can be made to Jonny's children through J. Gilbert Purse Funeral Home in Adrian.

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ACTION UPDATE

While the PSV and RUO changes went into effect April 1st, we will not step away from this fight for safe corrections solutions to the budget crisis.

MCO members, family, concerned community members, brothers and sisters from labor, and more have lined the streets, called the Director and Governor, and shared their concerns with neighbors and City Councils all over this state for the last three weeks.

Billboards were posted around the state and nearly 8000 radio ads aired in a three week blitz. In advance of each picket we printed newspaper ads and sent direct mail to residents within a 2 mile radius of each facility alerting them to the dangerous decisions being made in their back yard.

Similarly, MCO has filed grievances and an Unfair Labor Practice to fight the abolishment of the RUO class. The first hearing of the Civil Service grievance should be this summer.

And, MCO and the state employee unions have joined forces to sue the state on the new laws forcing defined benefit employees to pay 4% towards pensions, as well as the outrageous end of retiree health care insurance for employees hired after Jan. 1, 2012.

CORRECTIONS BUDGETS HEAD TO CONFERENCE

On Tuesday the Senate passed its version of the Corrections budget (SB 0951) 20 - 18, and on Wednesday the House passed its FY 2013 omnibus budget bill (HB 5365) 58-52, with five Republicans crossing over and voting no with Democrats.

Republicans voting no include Goike(R-Ray Twp.), Hooker(R-Byron Center), Lafontaine (R-Richmond), McBroom (R-Vulcan) and Outman(R-Six Lakes).

Since there are differences between the two Corrections budgets (House calls for closure of MR, Senate calls for layoffs, both call for privatization, etc.) a Conference Committee will be established to reconcile it into one budget.

Rep. Outman cited the closure of MR and the movement of those inmates to a private prison, a bypass of a core government function and responsibility, as the reason for his no vote.



CONTRABAND BUST

A prisoner at Lakeland discarded a cell phone into a potted plant while being escorted from the pole barns to the control center on April 18th. A body shakedown found two zip-locked bags - one with 3 oz. of marijuana and the other with 21 individually wrapped marijuana packets.

A shake down of his area of control found the cell phone charger and another 4 oz. of dope.

BROOKS

Two separate stabbings on April 12th at the entrance to the Level IV unit left one inmate hospitalized for four days with a collapsed lung and another stabbed in the head.

CHANGES @ NEWBERRY

Employees at the Newberry Correctional Facility were notified on Monday morning that the facility will lower its classification from a Level II facility to a Secure Level I.

At this time it is believed this change will go into effect on October 1, 2012.

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SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



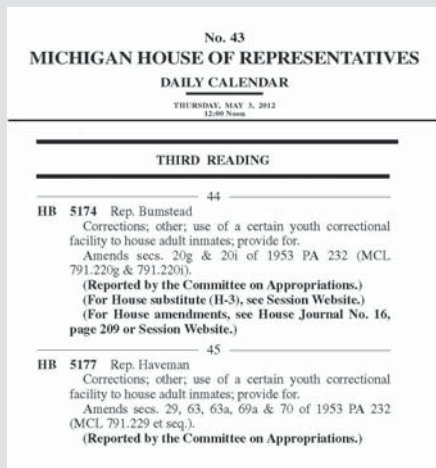
KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MAY 4, 2012

PRIVATE PRISON BILLS UP FOR A VOTE?

MCO learned early this week that the private prison bills (HB 5174 & 5177) were scheduled to come up for a vote on Wednesday. These bills would reopen the 1,700 bed private GEO facility in Baldwin, MI, and cause the closure of up to two state run facilities.



The Republican majority, however, called a caucus during Wednesday's session and we subsequently learned the bills were being pulled from the agenda.

While this is good, our fight is far from over. Many members have been contacting their legislators **and we thank you.** We have concerns, however, that the pressure on legislators to flip their vote to a "yes" is great.

MCO has set up a call in number that will get you patched through directly to your legislators. ***We need to you act now even if you've already made a call. AND, we need you to spread the word and share this number, 1-877-279-1443, with friends, family and co-workers.***

Please educate your lawmakers and their staff on why private prisons are dangerous and harmful to the communities and fail to deliver on savings! Ask your legislator to oppose any bill that would privatize prisons and especially call for a "NO VOTE" on HB 5174 & 5177.

1-877-279-1443

Call Your Legislator Today!

IN MEMORIAM



Officer William Myles, Jr., 52, passed away on March 31, 2012.

Myles worked for the MDOC from 1986-1999, and formerly served as a chapter president at the Scott Correctional Facility.

TASER SUCCESS CONTINUES

Two fights at Alger, one on April 25th and another on the 26th, resulted in ECD deployment. Again, with the ECD's, officers avoided injury while subduing the prisoners.

During the fight between two inmates on the 25th, when one inmate was tased and immobilized, the other inmate used that time to start beating on him. He ultimately was tased as well.

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sc:opeiu459aficio



CENTRAL ELECTS NEW STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Delegates to Central Committee met in Lansing yesterday and among other business elected a new State Executive Board. We are proud to welcome Brian Mahoney from Marquette and Dennis Beecham from Handlon MTU to the board, and we extend many thanks to former board members Bruce Waldron (DRF) and Cecil Pedrin (URF) for their hard work and service to MCO.

MCO President Tom Tylutki, Vice President Andy Potter, Recording Secretary Brent Kowitz, and Treasurer Bill Henderson were re-elected unopposed. With five Trustee slots, those elected with a majority of the votes were John Ost (RGC), Cary Johnson (JCF), Ed Clements (AMF), Brian Mahoney (MBP), and Dennis Beecham (MTU). Vote tallies below:

Cary Johnson, JCF - 75 votes	Bruce Waldron, DRF - 51 votes
Kacy Datema, RMI - 48 votes	Nicholas Soper, TCF - 18 votes
Russell Doyle, ARF - 10 votes	Cecil Pedrin, URF - 44 votes
Ed Clements, AMF - 54 votes	Brian Mahoney, MBP - 61 votes
John Ost, RGC - 54 votes	David Siler, WCC - 9 votes
Dennis Beecham, MTU - 57 votes	

**those in bold were elected as Trustees to the 2012 State Executive Board.*

IN OUR THOUGHTS

Officer Cheryl Gentry, of the Huron Valley Womens Facility, suffered a stroke and has now entered hospice care.

A couple of weeks ago she arrived at work unable to identify who or where she was and a Sgt. took her to the hospital. She appears to have had a stroke on her way to work.

Officer Gentry had recently been battling cancer as well.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her, her family and friends, as well as her MCO family inside the walls.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

There's still time to get your applications in for the MCO 2012 Scholarship program. Applications can be downloaded from our website or call to get a hard copy.

Submission deadline is June 1 so act quick!

1-877-279-1443

Call Your Legislator!
"NO" on Prison Privatization
HB 5174 & 5177

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ASSAULT AVERTED

In late April, officials at West Shoreline acted on an inmate tip and averted a plan by prisoners to attack and rape a female CO working in food service.

Apparently two inmates had crafted a plan but when a food service steward walked around the corner it made the inmates change course. Another inmate who was aware of their plans and watched it almost take place then came forward with details.

Kudos to the Administration for their swift actions and immediately investigating the incident and transferring those involved to a higher security level facility.

GANG ASSAULT AT SRF

On May 9th, eight inmates from a gang entered the housing unit from the big yard, closed the inner door, and then lined the sides of the entry hall and waited for the victim to enter. They all jumped the inmate, punching and kicking him, while one tried to stab him. Further, the prisoners blocked the entry doors to prevent staff from entering once the fight was called.

After watching video of the incident the officers who used to serve as RUOs in that unit were able to identify 7 of the 8 inmates involved in the attack.

ARUS's Potila and McClean did a great job stepping in and helping to quell the situation.

ECD AND GAS USED AT BARAGA BUSY ALGER

In separate incidents on April 26th at the Alger Correctional Facility, officers used a Taser and chemical agents to manage disturbances.

Just after 4 p.m. an inmate refused to exit his cell and after other methods were attempted a move team was assembled and chemical agents used in order to place the inmate in restraints.

Later, around 8 p.m., a fight broke out in Pine unit between two inmates with one receiving serious injuries requiring hospital treatment. In this instance the Taser was once again used to break up the fight quickly and without officer injuries.

Related News: As the Tasers are deployed at facilities, training on their use continues. Recently Brent Kowitz, MCO State Recording Secretary and officer at Parnall, "took one for the team" in a demonstration of taser use. ***Not only do we commend him for taking the hit, but especially for sharing the video of it!***

MCO SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARS!

Applications can be downloaded from our website or call to get a hard copy. ***Submission deadline is June 1st so act quick!***

4/29/12 - fight breaks out in common area when coming in from rec yard. One prisoner stabs another in ear with seg pen. Chemical agents used.

5/1/12 - An inmate dumping his trash while unit 6 GP was doing showers turned and jumped into the shower with another inmate and began punching him in the head. Once again chemical agents were used.

5/4/12 - Two kitchen workers fight after running chow lines. Chemical agents used.

5/17/12 - while locking up from GP chow lines, one prisoner assaults an officer in the commons area. This triggers two other inmates to run off the wing and swing at officers and the unit Sergeant. Chemical agents were used, Tasers drawn but not deployed. One officer and Sgt. treated for lacerations and one officer was dressed out the next morning.

1-877-279-1443

**Call Your Legislator!
"NO" on Prison Privatization
HB 5174 & 5177**

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BULLETIN

MAY 24, 2012

DOC HITS DETROIT AND TUSCOLA AGAIN

MCO has received notification that the Department of Corrections is announcing to staff at noon today the closure of the **Ryan Correctional Facility and the Tuscola Re-Entry Facility**.

It has now become apparent the rumors early this week regarding the possible reopening of Mound were completely false and that in fact the opposite is true -- even worse news for Detroit. MCO members are continuing to take blows as this Administration apparently re-designs this Department.

The Department will reopen the Ryan Facility under the FOA Division as a Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI) facility.

The dialysis unit at Ryan will remain open. A certain number of CO positions will remain at the facility for that unit as well as for any MPRI position needs. However, a significant number of officer positions will be eliminated.

In addition, the Department will re-open the Muskegon Correctional Facility. The West Shoreline Correctional Facility will remain open.

The Department has indicated a target date of October 1, 2012, for all facilities.

Under the terms of the contract, MCO will sit down with the Department to discuss the ramifications of this closure and to create a bumping area - with the goal of coming to a mutual agreement that will mitigate the impact to members as much as possible.

This process will take several weeks, so while it is understandably difficult, we ask for your patience. Any developing information will be passed along.

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

June 1, 2012

***** PLEASE POST AT YOUR FACILITY *****

Search for Communications Specialist

Last week, MCO Communications Specialist - Sacha Crowley left the MCO family to pursue other opportunities. Postings for the position have been placed on Career Builder and MCO is actively searching for a suitable replacement. In the meantime, MCO facebook, KYI and electronic email may look different and experience interruption. Please call your Labor Rep or MCO staff if you need immediate help.

Conference Committee Moves Corrections Budget

Tuesday, the FY 2013' - \$2 billion Department of Corrections budget, moved out of conference committee by a vote of 4-2 and will not include language to close the Michigan Reformatory and reopen the privately run Baldwin prison.

Due to MCO efforts, the decision by the Conference Committee did not come easily. Over the last several months, MCO has been fiercely fighting two separate privatization bills and lobbying politicians hard against cuts to safety and security.

Items in the budget still causing concern are the competitive bidding of prisoner mental health and prisoner health care. RFPs for the Woodland and SAI facilities and \$12.6 million in savings by re-classifying positions such as RUOS.

Omnibus moves quickly through House and Senate

For the second straight year, the House and Senate have obliged Gov. Rick Snyder's request and passed a general fund omnibus budget before June 1st.

The omnibus, which includes the Corrections Budget, sets FY' 2013 spending at \$34.35 billion and passed mainly along party lines. All Democrats voted "no", with three House Republicans (Hooker, Goike, Lafontaine) and five Senate Republicans (Rocca, Hune, Schuitmaker, Proos and Hildenbrand) joining them.

As we reported last year, the omnibus allows legislators to vote only once because all budgets are lumped together. This is important because crossovers and "no" votes could be based on any number of reasons not related to corrections. The bill now travels to the governor for his approval.

4% Lawsuit

The first phase of the 4% lawsuit is set for June 20, 2012. The parties have filed motions for Summary Disposition. This means that both parties are asking the Court to rule in their favor based on the law, and that there is no need for a trial. If the Court rules in favor of one side or the other, it is almost assured that the appeals process to the appellate courts will begin.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

June 14, 2012

***** PLEASE POST AT YOUR FACILITY *****

ACCRUAL OF COMP TIME HOURS RULE

Sometime around the middle of April 2012, the employer began disallowing members to accrue compensatory time guaranteed under the provisions of the 2010-2012 Contract Extension (150-200 hour limit). A class action grievance on behalf of all MCO members was filed on April 17, 2012. As of this writing, MCO is awaiting the employer's pre-arbitration response. It is anticipated that the employer will not grant MCO the relief requested. It is expected that the matter will need to proceed to arbitration for a final decision.

Anyone being denied accumulation of compensatory time hours under the 150-200 hour rule through September 30, 2012, should email Jeff Foldie at jeff@mco-seiu.org. Please provide your full name, work site, and employee ID #.

OCF SEEING INCREASE IN SHANKS

On May 23rd, four shanks were found in the toilet tanks of A-unit. On May 25th, an officer was shaking down a prisoner's area of control and found a steak T-bone that was sharpened into one of the nastiest shanks OCF has ever seen.

On June 1st, an officer was checking the loose dirt under one of the yard picnic tables and found a 14-inch shank crafted from an aluminum screen frame. The next day, three more weapons were found (another T-bone and two shanks).

RISE IN WEAPONS AND GANG ACTIVITY AT SRF

Over the past few weeks, SRF has seen a flurry of gang related violence and prisoner assaults involving weapons. On May 19th, four inmates were found with weapons and three were treated for stab wounds after what's believed to be gang related activity. On May 22nd, a level IV inmate was caught with a shank in his possession and another inmate was cut in the face.

On June 10th, ten inmates were involved in a yard fight that left two officers and four inmates injured. One officer was hit in the face by an inmate and received medical attention and the other injured his knee and is off work.

OFFICER SURVIVES CLOSE CALL IN JACKSON

On June 3rd, an officer at the Cotton Facility was assaulted by a level IV inmate after giving the attacker a misconduct ticket earlier in the day. The officer involved sustained lacerations to his face (near the ear) and had a shank held to his throat during a brief standoff with responding CO's. Fortunately, the officer survived the attack.

MCO applauds the quick action and skills of those involved. This type of incident reminds us all of the dangerous and sometimes deadly consequences of working Corrections.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

June 25, 2012

***** PLEASE POST AT YOUR FACILITY *****

COURT HEARS 4% PENSION CASE

On June 20, 2012 the Coalition of State Unions squared off with the Attorney General's Office to argue cross-motions for summary disposition on the 4% law suit. The sparring match took place in the courtroom of the Honorable Joyce Draganchuk. As indicated in the previous KYI, each party argued that the law was on their side and the judge should rule in their favor without a trial. The central arguments surrounded whether the legislature could act independent of the Civil Service in making a law which effected the retirement of state employees. Arguments lasted nearly one hour, and in that time Judge Draganchuk did not ask a single question of either lawyer. She ended the hearing by noting that she would review the arguments and render a written opinion.

LIMITED MOVEMENT ON 12HR SHIFTS

The MCO Executive Board and the Michigan Department of Corrections have agreed, in principle, to allowing a **voluntary - 12 hr shift -pilot program at the Muskegon Correctional Facility**, slated to re-open sometime this fall. Discussions surrounding this pilot remain ongoing and if specifics are hammered out, a Letter of Understanding would need to be written. Stay Tuned...

SHOTS FIRED AT ALGER

A routine shakedown turned ugly when an inmate, found in possession of a weapon, attacked two officers. A warning shot was fired and the prisoner was eventually tased to regain control. In addition, two separate prisoners ignored the warning shot and used the commotion to attack an OJT recruit. All prisoners were charged for assault on staff.

CONCERT TICKETS

Looking for excitement this summer? MCO, in partnership with DTE Energy Music Theatre, is once again offering a great summer lineup with both free and discounted tickets. Upcoming performances include:

June 27th (ZZ Top and 3 Doors Down)

June 28th (Ted Nugent, Styx and REO Speedwagon)

July 12th (Blues Balls of Fire, Foghat and the Fabulous Thunderbirds)

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and tickets visit www.mco-seiu.org or contact Cindy Kogut at 800-451-4878.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

June 29, 2012

***** PLEASE POST AT YOUR FACILITY *****

SLF – PRISONERS IGNORE MULTIPLE WARNING SHOTS, TASERS DEPLOYED

On Thursday, June 28th a group of eight prisoners began fighting while in line for their morning chow. The fight quickly escalated, forcing the Tower Officer to fire three warning shots and two ground officers to deploy their tasers twice. Fortunately, no staff were harmed and all eight prisoners were safely removed to segregation.

The fight appeared to have stemmed from an earlier incident, in which one group of prisoners stole property from another. In the aftermath, shakedown squads swept the unit, removed contraband and issued misconduct tickets where appropriate.

It should be noted, that while this story has a favorable ending, the prisoners complete disregard for the warning shot and tasers could have resulted in a much different ending. MCO encourages all members to stay vigilant and keep up the great work being done during these trying times.

DONALD MATHEW JOHNSON, II

Donald Mathew Johnson II (October 8, 1949 - June 23, 2012) passed away Saturday at the age of 62. He was a Corrections Officer at the Lakeland Correctional Facility for 20 years and served in the US Marine Corp in Vietnam from 1968-1970. Don received three Purple Heart Medals for wounds suffered during the conflict and was a Sergeant at Arms in the Grey Dragon Motorcycle Club.

LACK OF PERIMETER VEHICLE LEADS TO SECURITY BREACH AT WCC

On June 23rd an officer working the West Side Yard observed four women walking on the perimeter road. After notifying the control center, the officer approached the group and asked them who had authorized them to be on prison grounds. The Control Center dispatched an armed officer who asked the group for identification but only one claimed to have it. The women were then escorted to West Side lobby area, where they were apparently permitted to leave without further inquiry.

MCO ANNOUNCES THE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Antarae Robinson Mary Robinson - Brooks	Gabrielle George Aaron George - Thumb	John Thomas III John Thomas, Jr. - Parnall	Nicole Slater Kenneth Slater - Oaks
Maya Smith Ronald Smith - Egeler	Beverly Ansorge Darren Ansorge – West Shoreline	Jessica Nagele Charles Nagele – Baraga	Cayla Broton Robert McGaffigan - Brooks
Haley Smith Ronald Smith - Egeler	Ross Morang Michael Morang - Oaks	Mikkilea Blinke Leah J. Hall – St. Louis	Christopher White Christopher White - IMax
Joshua Vega Francisco Vega Sr. - Ryan	Hannah Meatte Al Meatte - Saginaw	Paige Murphy Jaime C. Murphy - Thumb	Tyler Barker Michael Barker – Carson City
Rachael Schuit David Schuit - Ryan	Jordan Tianen Dave Tianen - Marquette	Audra Basal Pamela Basal - Marquette	Lacey Evans Scott Evans - IMax



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

July 9, 2012

***** PLEASE POST AT YOUR FACILITY *****

VOLUNTARY 12 HOUR SHIFT PILOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT MCF

MCO and the Department have agreed to a Letter of Understanding implementing a two year, **pilot - 12 hour shift operation** at the Muskegon Correctional Facility. MCF is scheduled to re-open in September. If MCO does not think the program works at the end of the pilot, the union can unilaterally end it. The program can be ended in less than two years with mutual agreement. The 12 hour shifts will be filled by VOLUNTARY transfers, although there may be a few officers assigned to an 8 hour shift. Transfer forms will be obtainable at every facility and are due by July 20th. Chapter Presidents may also have forms available. Those who work the 12 hour shifts will receive an additional 4 hours pay for both birthday and personal leave and the initial shift pattern will allow officers to have every other weekend off. Comp time accrual allowed will be increased from 100 to 150 hours, and subject to the 150 hour cap may accrue 200 hours. For those officers wishing to review details, please speak to your Chapter President who has a copy of the Letter of Understanding.

IN MEMORIAM - SHAWN RADCLIFFE, JR.

Shawn Radcliffe, Jr., a 38 year old corrections officer from Marquette Branch Prison, passed away Friday, June 29th as a result of an accident on Lake Michigamme.

Prior to his time in Corrections, Shawn served as a Marquette County Deputy Sheriff and received his Corrections Certificate from Northern Michigan University. Shawn loved camping, fishing and boating and was a Green Bay Packers fan. He leaves behind two sons (Bryce & Christian) as well as a multitude of friends, family and co-workers.

GANGS CONTINUE TO THREATEN SAFETY

Keeping with the recent uptick in gang violence, a prisoner was stabbed on the yard of NCF during the afternoon of July 4th. The victim suffered a collapsed lung, along with multiple stab wounds to the neck, wrist, shoulder and chest.

Staff were able to identify the attacker and place him in restraints, however, the entire incident is believed to have stemmed from a gang related theft. Keep your eyes peeled and please report any incidents to MCO Central office.

MORE CONCERT TICKETS

It's not too late to get your tickets for the DTE Energy Music Theatre summer concert series!!!

New shows include:

Friday, July 13th - Maze w/ Frankie Beverly, Patti Labelle, The O'Jays & Babyface wsg Tank

Sunday, July 15th - Santana

Thursday, July 19th - Puss in Boots

Friday, July 20th - 1964 The Tribute (Beatles)

Friday, July 27th - The Temptations wsg Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr.

Sunday, July 29th - Michael W. Smith wsg Jeremy Camp



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

July 16, 2012

***** PLEASE POST AT YOUR FACILITY *****

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST UPDATE

Last week, MCO held interviews to fill the vacant Communications job and hopes to conclude the hiring process sometime within the next few weeks. We appreciate your continued patience and if you have any questions about available discounts, concert tickets or updates please contact our staff at MCO Central Office.

SHAKEDOWN AT MTU LEADS TO DRUGS, STAFF INJURIES

During a shakedown on July 12th, a prisoner assaulted two officers in an effort to retrieve 11 bags of drugs being seized. According to staff, the inmate grabbed one officers' hand to make him forcibly drop the cargo and when another officer interfered, the inmate continued to fight back. Eventually, the taser was deployed, however, both officers were sent to the hospital for treatment.

DISCOUNT VACATION TICKETS

Summer is heating up with great MCO discounts for the entire family. Call today and book your next trip to one of these great parks or destinations:

Michigan Adventure, Muskegon MI
Cedar Point, Sandusky, OH
Kalahari Resorts, Sandusky, OH
Mt. Olympus, Wisconsin Dells, WI
Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, MI

C.O.P.S. DAY AT IONIA FREE FAIR

The 24th Annual C.O.P.S. Day will be held next Wednesday, July 25th at the Ionia Free Fair. A special Hospitality Center will be set up inside the Fair Administration Building offering toys, discount wristbands, and light refreshments. Bring the family and join us as we recognize the brave men and women of Corrections, Police, Fire and Public Safety.

MRF TO HOLD 1ST ANNUAL CLARENCE HAMMOND MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING AUGUST 10TH, 2012

The purpose of this Memorial Golf Outing is to raise money for the scholarship fund set up for slain Officer Clarence Hammond's two young sons. The outing will be held at the Rattle Run Golf Course located at 7163 St. Clair Highway, East China, MI 48054. For further information or anyone wishing to sponsor a hole, please contact Joe Scott (586) 749-4900 ext. 102 or Shane Jackson (586) 749-4900 ext. 158.



FROM THE OFFICE OF MCO PRESIDENT TOM TYLUTKI, SEIU LOCAL 526M



TWO RGC OFFICERS INJURED

One corrections officer was expected to miss a week of work and another will have a lengthy recovery after a violent scuffle with an inmate at Egeler Correctional Facility July 12.

The prisoner disobeyed a corrections officer's request to lock into his cell and hit the officer in the face and body. Another officer arrived and broke up the fight. The prisoner then knocked the second officer to the floor and tried to push him off a fourth-floor gallery — a 50-foot drop.

One of the officers used his Taser to debilitate the convict.

Both officers were taken to Allegiance Hospital. The first officer suffered a broken nose, fractured sinus cavity and a broken rib. He has not returned to duty.

The other officer was expected to return to work last week.

C.O.P.S. DAY AT THE IONIA FREE FAIR

Corrections officers can get toys, refreshments and discount wristbands July 25 at C.O.P.S. Day at the Ionia Free Fair. Visit the hospitality center in the Fair Administration Building. C.O.P.S. Day honors corrections officers, police officers, firefighters and other public safety workers.

REGISTER NOW FOR GOLF OUTING

Register now for the MCO Crisis Fund Golf Outing Friday, Aug. 17 at Ledge Meadows in Grand Ledge. The \$65 registration fee includes a cart, 18 holes, brats and dogs at the turn, a free driving range and free dinner.

Teams should have four golfers each and be ready for a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Winners get trophies and participants can win door prizes. The golf outing is the MCO Crisis Fund's biggest fundraiser. The Crisis Fund gives out more than \$15,000 each year to officers.

Reservations are going fast. The entry deadline is Aug. 10. To sign up or get more details, call Cindy Kogut or Stephanie Short at (517)485-3310 or (800)451-4878.

MCO HIRES COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Anita Pere is MCO's new Communications Specialist. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism. She was a crime, court and government reporter for an Oklahoma newspaper. She'll be writing KYI briefs as well as other publications and updating the MCO website. Feel free to contact her at anita@mco-seiu.org.

CORRECTION

The June 29 KYI contained an error. The correct information is that a lack of a perimeter vehicle led to a security breach at Huron Valley Complex June 23. MCO apologizes for this error.

UNION MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The new MCO Communications Specialist will upload current discounts to the MCO website in the coming weeks. Union members can get special deals at concerts and amusement parks like Michigan's Adventure, Kalahari Resorts, Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, Mt. Olympus and more!

Planning a visit to Cedar Point? MCO members can get a coupon for \$32 admission Aug. 6 through Aug. 12. See voucher for more details. To print the coupon and see other special deals, go to mco-seiu.org, click Union Tools, then under Benefits click Discounts. Check mco-seiu.org every day for updates.

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421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
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MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



REGISTER NOW FOR CRISIS FUND GOLF OUTING AUG. 17

Teams are signing up now for the MCO Crisis Fund Golf Outing Friday Aug. 17 at Ledge Meadows in Grand Ledge.

Registration is \$65 per person and includes a cart, 18 holes, brats and dogs at the turn, a free driving range and dinner.

Teams should have four golfers each and be ready for a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The best teams will win

trophies. If you don't golf, hole and cart sponsorships are available and appreciated.

The golf outing is the MCO Crisis Fund's biggest fundraiser. The fund gives out more than \$15,000 each year.

The entry deadline is Aug. 10 and reservations are going fast. To sign up, call Cindy Kogut or Stephanie Short at (517)485-3310 or (800)451-4878.



C.O.P.S. DAY AT THE IONIA FREE FAIR

Several hundred corrections officers and more than 1,000 kids stopped by MCO's table at the Ionia Free Fair C.O.P.S. Day July 25. MCO representatives passed out whistles, frisbees, water bottles, bracelets and other goodies. Squirt guns were a favorite with the kids.

C.O.P.S. Day honors corrections officers, police officers, firefighters and other public safety workers. It's an annual event at the Ionia Free Fair.

ACCRUAL OF COMP TIME HOURS RULE

Sometime around the middle of April, MDOC began disallowing members to accrue compensatory time guaranteed under the provisions of the 2010-2012 Contract Extension (150-200 hour limit). A class action grievance on behalf of all MCO members was filed April 17. MCO is still awaiting MDOC's pre-arbitration response. It is anticipated the employer will not grant MCO the relief requested. It is expected that the matter will need to proceed to arbitration for a final decision.

Anyone being denied accumulation of compensatory time hours under the 150-200 hour rule through September 30, 2012, should email Jeff Foldie at jeff@mco-seiu.org. Please provide your full name, work site and employee ID #.

UPDATE ON RUO ABOLITION HEARING

The tentative dates of Sept. 4-6 for the grievance hearing concerning the abolishment of the RUO positions has been adjourned. The adjournment is the result of the hearing officer's requirement for expert testimony. When new hearing dates are scheduled, they will be shared with MCO members.

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ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



BULLETIN

JULY 30, 2012

MCF officer transfers/recalls identified

One hundred thirty-one corrections officers have been identified through transfer and recall to reopen MCF on the 12-hour shift pilot program in accordance with the Letter of Understanding.

Muskegon Complex Personnel Manager Becky Wright will distribute transfer approvals as well as shift preference forms for Brooks and West Shoreline officers identified for transfer. Those receiving recall notices will receive them by mail.

For identified officers working outside the Muskegon area facilities, transfer approvals will be sent to the human resources office at the officers' current facility. These notices will be hand delivered. If they cannot be hand delivered, the human resources office will mail them to officers.

Officers selected to transfer or recall to Brooks or West Shoreline will also be notified soon.

Identified MCF officers need to return the shift preference form to their human resources department by the close of business Aug. 10.

Those not selected due to seniority or operational needs at their facility (in accordance with the L.O.U) will also be notified.

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ORGANIZATION

SEIU LOCAL 526M

421 W. KALAMAZOO

LANSING, MI 48933

517.485.3319

800.451.4878

WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG

MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



MDOC ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER ACADEMY

A new academy begins Sept. 17, and the MDOC Training Division reports more than 200 men and women will learn what it takes to be a Michigan corrections officer.

MCO received confirmation of the class this week. Union representatives will address recruits Sept. 17.

Next month's academy is the second in three months. Combined, these academies will train more than 250 recruits.

MCO is continuing to encourage the employer to fill these vacancies in effort to stem mandatory overtime and increase safety and security in facilities.

MCF OFFICER TRANSFERS/RECALLS IDENTIFIED

One hundred thirty-one corrections officers will work 12-hour shifts at the Muskegon Correctional Facility when it reopens this fall.

The officers have been identified through transfer and recall in accordance with a Letter of Understanding.

Transfer approvals and shift preference forms will be distributed to Brooks and West

Shoreline officers identified for transfer. For identified officers working outside the

Muskegon area facilities, transfer approvals will be sent to the human resources office at the officers' current facility.

Identified MCF officers need to return the shift preference form to their human resources department by the close of business Aug. 10

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT FOR GOLF OUTING AUG. 17

MCO is still signing up teams for the Crisis Fund Golf Outing Friday, Aug. 17 at Ledge Meadows in Grand Ledge. The registration fee is \$65 per person and includes a cart, 18 holes, brats and dogs at the turn, a free driving range and dinner.

Teams should have four golfers each and be ready for a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

The golf outing is the MCO Crisis Fund's biggest fundraiser. The Crisis Fund gives out more than \$15,000 each year to officers.

The entry deadline is Aug. 10. To sign up or get more details, call Cindy Kogut or Stephanie Short at (517)485-3310 or (800)451-4878.

MDOC DENIES COMP TIME GRIEVANCE; ISSUE GOES TO ARBITRATION

As expected, MDOC has denied MCO's grievance filed in response to the department's failure to honor the compensatory time guarantee in the 2010-2012 Contract Extension.

One of MCO's conditions for agreeing to the extension was a provision allowing officers up to 200 hours of compensatory time instead of only 150 hours.

The employer argues that provision expired

Jan. 1, 2012. MCO argues this provision remains in effect until Sept. 30, 2012.

The parties have filed for arbitration and are awaiting the assignment of an arbitrator and arbitration dates.

Anyone being denied accumulation of compensatory time hours under the 150-200 hour rule through September 30, 2012, should email Jeff Foldie at jeff@mco-seiu.org.



BULLETIN

AUG. 8, 2012

MDOC SHARES ANTICIPATED DETAILS ON RYAN, TUSCOLA; URGENT COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED CONCERNING RUOs

MDOC AND MCO DISCUSS CHANGES AT RYAN, TUSCOLA

MCO has not yet received formal notice of Ryan's repurposing or Tuscola's closure, but MDOC has shared some **projected** information on these transitions. Once MCO gets formal notice – which is required by contract – the union will share all confirmed details with members.

MDOC **projects** 85 correction officer and five CTO positions will be eliminated when Ryan closes as a prison and opens as a reentry center. In response to several requests from Ryan officers, MCO and MDOC have reached an agreement to give interested Ryan officers the opportunity to transfer to Huron Valley, Adrian, Jackson facilities or Ionia facilities.

Here's a **projected** timeline of Ryan's repurposing and Tuscola's closure:

- early October – Ryan inmates will be relocated. (Note: MDOC projects Muskegon will reopen Oct. 1. Some Ryan inmates may be relocated to Muskegon. The dialysis unit will stay at Ryan).
- mid October – Tuscola closes
- late October/early November – Ryan opens as a reentry center

The union will negotiate bump regions for both facilities' officers once formal notice is received. MCO will then set up meetings to discuss contractual issues and answer questions.

URGENT MEETING WILL REVIEW MCO'S FIGHT AGAINST RUO ABOLISHMENT

MCO has called an urgent Executive Council meeting Aug. 16 to review the status of MCO's fight against the RUO class abolishment and to review the process/procedure civil service is implementing.

The meeting will be at 10 a.m. at the MCO central office in Lansing.

MCO's long, involved battle contesting the abolishment of the RUO positions has made some significant movement. During pre-hearing discussions Aug. 7, MCO was advised the Civil Service Classification Department would conduct a full classification review of the abolished positions. The classification review will be at every facility in the state.

MCO continues to fight the abolishment of RUO positions and related pay cuts. MCO has made the union's position clear – the classification and its pay grade must be reinstated.

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ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG

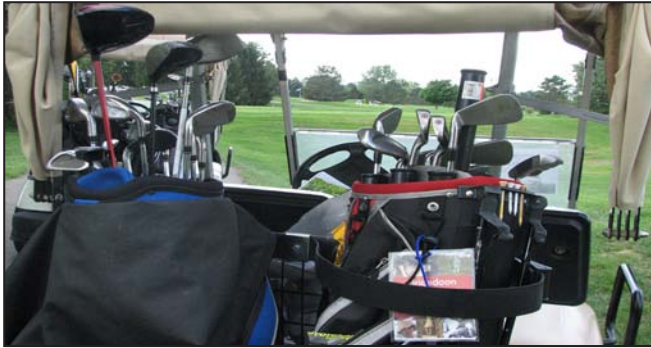


PICKET PLANNED WEDNESDAY IN U.P.

MCO chapter officials will hold a picket in Sault Ste. Marie Wednesday to protest reduced staffing and dangerous conditions at state prisons, specifically recent cuts at Chippewa Correctional Facility in Kincheloe. A prison gun tower has been shut down and Perimeter Security Vehicles have been eliminated.

The picket is from noon to 4 p.m. near Advance Auto Parts, 3701 Interstate 75 Business Spur in Sault Ste. Marie. Corrections officers and others concerned about prison and community safety are welcome to participate.

MCO RAISES MONEY FOR CRISIS FUND



On Friday, MCO held it's annual Golf Outing to raise money for the MCO Crisis Fund. All proceeds from the event go into the Crisis Fund, which gives donations to members facing a tragic situation or disaster.

The fund is supplied by voluntary donations.

Andy Potter, MCO vice president and chairman of the Crisis Fund Golf Outing, thanks MCO support staff and volunteers for putting together another successful golf outing. He also thanks the participants and everyone who donated to the fund. MCO hopes to see you again at next year's event.

URF INMATE DIES AFTER VIOLENT FIGHT

A Chippewa inmate died Aug. 11 after he was beaten and strangled by another inmate the previous day.

The inmate was unconscious when officers found him Aug. 10. They started CPR, and while

en route to a hospital, the man's pulse returned. He was pronounced dead the next day.

The inmate responsible for the beating is a convicted murderer serving a life sentence. He is now in segregation.

FOUR COs HONORED WITH LIFESAVING AWARDS

Four Cotton corrections officers have been awarded Lifesaving Awards for resuscitating an unresponsive inmate Aug. 12.

The inmate stopped breathing and was unresponsive while outside the prison's health services office.

One officer called for assistance and started CPR. A sergeant called for a defibrillator and an ambulance, while another corrections officer took over chest compressions. The officers helped the man start breathing again before the ambulance arrived.

Warden Debra Scutt approved Lifesaving awards for COs D. Pratt, R. Marienfeld, J. Krause, and C. Ellison. MCO applauds them for their swift actions to save a life.

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FORMER RUOs THWART ESCAPE ATTEMPT AT BROOKS SUNDAY

Two Brooks officers (formerly RUOs) discovered Sunday evening a prisoner left a person-shaped bag of clothes on his bed and threw a blanket over the bag. The inmate was later found hiding in a garden, waiting for the right moment to make an escape.

The former RUOs noticed the prisoner's bunkmate was acting

strange. The inmate, who usually does not cause problems, wouldn't go to his cell. The COs walked into the cell and found a bag of clothes under a blanket on the bunkmate's bed.

Officers began to search. One CO started a grid search of the garden and found the inmate covered in dirt. The convict made

a rope from several bed sheets and also had a water jug. Brooks officers believe he knew there is no PSV and calculated that into his escape plan.

This close call is yet more proof prisons need PSVs and RUOs who are able to recognize subtle changes in a prisoner's demeanor.

OFFICERS, SUPPORTERS PICKET URF CUTS

About 85 people stopped by a picket Aug. 22 in Sault Ste. Marie to raise awareness of staffing cuts at Chippewa Correctional Facility.

MCO chapter leaders at URF organized the event. At Chippewa, only one gun tower remains operational, and only for eight hours

a day. Perimeter Security Vehicles have been eliminated. MCO believes these cuts endanger prisons and communities.

Many of the participants at Wednesday's picket were Chippewa and Kinross corrections officers concerned for their safety.

MEMBERS, FAMILIES ATTEND ANNUAL PICNIC

The heat didn't stop hundreds of corrections officers and their families from coming to the MCO Children's Day Picnic Saturday in Belleville.

They enjoyed food, bounce houses, outdoor laser tag, train rides, a photo booth, volleyball and more. Three hundred kids got a backpack full of school supplies.

The annual picnic is sponsored by MCO and employee clubs at facilities in the southeast region.

CORRECTION

The Aug. 21 KYI contained an error, stating four Cotton officers have been given Lifesaving Awards. It should have said they were nominated for Lifesaving Awards. MCO regrets the error.

BARGAINING ON BALLOT, COURT RULES

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled Monday the "Protect Our Jobs" measure should be on the Nov. 6, 2012 ballot.

If passed, the initiative will put the right to collectively bargaining in the state Constitution.

Judges heard arguments in the case Aug. 22 and announced their decision Monday.

Opponents of the ballot proposal are appealing the decision to the state Supreme Court, media reports say.

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SEIU LOCAL 526M
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LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



BULLETIN

AUG. 30, 2012

MDOC GIVES MCO FORMAL NOTICE OF RYAN REPURPOSING, TUSCOLA CLOSURE

MCO received formal notice this afternoon about **the closure of Tuscola Reentry Center and the repurposing of Ryan Correctional Facility**. The Department notified the union in a letter emailed this afternoon.

Under the terms of the contract between MCO and MDOC, MCO will now sit down with the Department to negotiate bump regions and discuss the ramifications of this closure — with the goal of coming to a mutual agreement that will mitigate the impact to members as much as possible.

Discussions will take place Sept. 4. In the near future, MCO officials will schedule meetings with members to discuss contractual issues and answer questions. Dates, times and locations will be given to respective chapter presidents next week and will be posted on chapter bulletin boards and the MCO website.

While these changes are understandably difficult, we ask for your patience. Any developing information will be passed along through regular KYIs and Special Bulletins and our website. Please watch your bulletin board or sign up for e-mail delivery to stay informed of the latest developments.

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421 W. KALAMAZOO
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MCO OFFICIALS MEET WITH MEMBERS TO DISCUSS RYAN, TUSCOLA

MCO President Tom Tylutki and union officials have planned visits at five prisons over the coming weeks to discuss ramifications of the repurposing of Ryan Correctional Facility and the closure of Tuscola Reentry Center.

Officials are speaking with

Ryan members today. Tomorrow they will visit Tuscola members from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

They will visit Macomb from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 11; Thumb from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 12; and Saginaw from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 18.

Check your chapter bulletin

board or speak with your chapter leaders for more meeting details.

Approximately 85 jobs will be eliminated at Ryan and 18 positions will be nixed at Tuscola.

The bumping unit agreed to by MCO and MDOC will be discussed at the meetings.

HEARING DATE, ARBITRATOR SELECTED IN COMP TIME DISPUTE

MCO and MDOC's dispute over the compensatory time guarantee will go to arbitration at 10 a.m. Dec. 20 at the MCO office in Lansing.

MCO and MDOC agreed on arbitrator Barry Goldman. MCO expects the arbitrator will make a decision about 60 days after the hearing.

The employer argues a provision in the 2010-2012 Contract Extension that allows COs to get up to 200 hours comp time expired Jan. 1, 2012. But

MCO argues the provision allowing for up to 200 hours of comp time accrual remains in effect until Sept. 30, 2012.

The department is now allowing officers to accrue only 150 hours.

Anyone being denied accumulation of compensatory time hours under the 150-200 hour rule through September 30, 2012 should email Jeff Foldie at jeff@mco-seiu.org.

RECRUITS GRADUATE FROM CAROL HOWES TRAINING CLASS LAST WEEK

Nearly 50 men and women graduated from a recruit class last week. They were recognized Friday at a ceremony at Ionia Correctional Facility.

Graduate Matthew Schultz received the Josephine B. McCal-

lum Award and graduate Kenneth Chileshe received the Jack L. Budd Award. The top academic achiever was Christopher Balmes.

The class was named in honor of Carol Howes, who retired

from the Department of Corrections in May after more than 40 years of service. Most recently, she was Warden of Lakeland Correctional Facility.

A new class with about 200 recruits begins Sept. 17.

E. COLI SPREADS AT SRF; QUARANTINE CONTINUES

E. coli has sickened 96 people – 89 inmates and seven employees – and prompted a quarantine at Saginaw Correctional Facility. Media reports attribute Saginaw County Health Department officials as supplying details on the outbreak. The quarantine started Aug. 30 and is still in effect.

The quarantine means visitors may not enter the facility.

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OFFICERS FOIL VISITOR'S PLANS TO SNEAK DRUGS INTO LMF

A woman visiting an Alger inmate Monday was arrested for sneaking six small bags of drugs into the prison.

Two visitors came into the facility, and when staff noticed one of them acting strange, they

directed a camera to focus on her. COs then saw the visitor unbutton her pants, reach into her pants and produce bags of marijuana compacted down to the size of nickels, MCO has been told.

The Michigan State Police arrested the woman. Officers later searched the inmate, but he did not have drugs.

MCO thanks LMF officers for their vigilance and quick thinking.

CRISIS FUND UPDATE — GOLF OUTING STATS, NEW CHAIR

The MCO annual Crisis Fund Golf Outing in August raised about \$7,000 for officers facing a tragic situation or disaster.

Fundraisers like the Golf Outing have allowed the Crisis Fund to help about 40 corrections of-

ficers and their families in the last year. Also over the last year, the Crisis Fund has generated more donations than in any previous year-long period.

The fund's next big fundraiser is the Gun Raffle Oct. 17 at the

MCO Central Conference. Delegates will sell tickets, and you don't have to be present to win.

Dennis Beecham, an MTU officer and MCO board member, is the new chair of the crisis fund committee.

EARLY OUT STORIES SEEM TO BE UNTRUE, MCO STAFF FINDS

MCO Central has been receiving calls from members inquiring about an early out retirement rumor.

MCO staff can't find any bills and haven't heard

any talk about early out retirement for corrections employees. At this time, MCO thinks talk of early out retirement is most likely untrue.

Briefly...

Cotton officer assaulted

A Cotton officer is still on leave after being punched by an inmate Sunday.

He was taken to a hospital in a private vehicle.

The CO suffered broken bones in his face and bruising.

Level 1 incidents pick up

More than 10 level 1 inmates at Carson City were disciplined during the last week of August for everything from fighting to possession of tattoo needles. **When administrators reduce inmate levels, more violent acts occur among lower level inmates.**

Submit critical incident reports online at mco-seiu.org.

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RYAN, TUSCOLA LAYOFF AND BUMP NOTICES COMING IN OCTOBER

Corrections officers affected by the repurposing of Ryan Correctional Facility and the closure of Tuscola Reentry Center are sched-

uled to receive notices from the Department Oct. 3, MCO has been informed. Layoffs will be effective Oct. 27. The bumps and expedited

recalls will take effect Oct. 28.

Again, MCO will share information about Ryan's repurposing and Tuscola's closure as it is confirmed.

DENNIS STRAUB CLASS BRINGS IN MORE THAN 200 RECRUITS

About 200 men and women in the Dennis Straub recruit class started training Monday in Lansing.

Recruits are slated to go to 16 facilities. MCO addressed the class this week and impressed upon them the importance of collec-

tive bargaining. The class was also informed of the budgetary challenges MDOC and MCO specifically face in the coming months.

MCO's RUO CLASSIFICATION DISPUTE WITH MDOC CONTINUES

Classification studies should begin soon in the RUO dispute.

In late July, the Department of Corrections filed a motion to dismiss the case, contending that the hearing officer did not have jurisdiction. MCO filed a response arguing the hearing officer did have jurisdiction.

Then on Aug. 31, the hearing officer ordered that the hearing be held in abeyance for six months while classification studies examining the RUO position are

performed. When those studies are completed, the hearing officer will rule on the Department's motion to dismiss. It is expected that the losing party will appeal the decision.

If MCO ultimately wins, it is expected that all employees currently working or retired will be made whole for their losses.

Briefly...

OEL letter online

The OEL Letter of Agreement concerning modifications to the new overtime pilot is now on the MCO website. Read it at mco-seiu.org/files/2012/09/OvtPilotLOA20120917.pdf

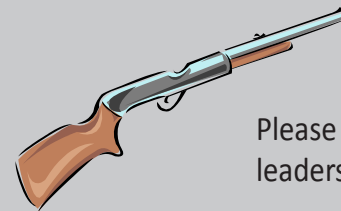
Give a kid a good Christmas

Matt McShane, a CO at Oaks, and other Oaks staff members are among those planning the Manistee County Shop with a Cop Shoot-out. The fundraiser is a four person golf scramble to raise money for kids to buy Christmas gifts for their families and maybe a little something for themselves, too.

The event is Sept. 29 at The Heathlands in Onkama. To sign up or get more information, call The Heathlands at (231)889-5644.

Crisis Fund gun raffle

MCO Central Committee delegates will get their raffle tickets in the coming days.



Please see your chapter leaders to buy tickets!

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS
ORGANIZATION

SEIU LOCAL 526M

421 W. KALAMAZOO

LANSING, MI 48933

517.485.3319

800.451.4878

WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG

MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



UNIONS CELEBRATE VICTORY ON 4 PERCENT LAWSUIT

As you may recall, the State Coalition of Unions argued motions for summary disposition on the 4 percent lawsuit on June 20 before the Honorable Judge Joyce Draganchuk.

Today MCO was informed that the judge ruled in favor of the unions, giving us a total victory. The unions attacked the new legislation that took 4 percent of the members' pay arguing that it was unconstitutional. Only the

Civil Service Commission, under authority of the Michigan Constitution, may regulate conditions of employment and fix rates of compensation.

In this particular case, the legislature passed a law to take the 4 percent from the members and put it towards an Employee Savings Fund. Draganchuk wrote, "The Court will not belabor what is clearly the latest attempt by the Michigan Legislature to delve into

the realm of decision-making power held by the Commission... the legislature can neither regulate the conditions of employment in classified service or fix rates of compensation... When a statute contravenes the provision of the Michigan Constitution, it is unconstitutional and void."

It is expected that the State will immediately appeal and ask that the funds be held in escrow until there is a final ruling on appeal.

COLORADO PRISON SERGEANT DIES IN VIOLENT ATTACK

MCO staff and members are mourning the loss of Sgt. Mary Ricard, a Colorado corrections employee who was slain by an inmate earlier this week.

It's a blow to corrections workers around the country any time one of our brothers or sisters dies in the line of duty.

Ricard and Sgt. Lori Gann were attacked while overseeing breakfast preparations Monday at Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility. A criminal investigation into the attack is ongoing.

Ricard was working on her day

off.

Gann is in critical condition at a Colorado hospital.

Ricard, 55, was a Colorado DOC employee for nine years. About 2,000

people are expected to attend a



Sgt. Mary Ricard

public memorial service Monday in Ordway, Colo.

Gann is a member of "Colorado Wins," a union that represents various state employees, including those in corrections. "Colorado Wins" is affiliated with SEIU, MCO's parent union.

MCO Vice President Andy Potter and Executive Director Mel Grieshaber are attending services for Ricard this weekend.

Please join us in praying for Gann's quick recovery and for peace for the grieving families and friends of both of these women.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER INJURED IN MOTORCYCLE WRECK

One of our own needs prayers and well wishes also.

John Gibbs was on a motorcycle when he swerved to miss a deer Sept. 5.

He suffered broken ribs, a bruised spleen, a punctured lung and other injuries.

He is in the critical care unit at a Lansing hospital.

Gibbs is a Carson City steward and former MCO chapter official.

Please keep Gibbs and his family in your thoughts.



APPEAL FILED IN FOUR PERCENT LAWSUIT

The state has filed an appeal to last week's court ruling that the legislature was wrong to require state employees to hand over four percent of their income to remain in the state retirement benefits package.

Last week, Judge Joyce Draganchuk found that the 4 percent legislation was unconstitutional. Now the question is, "What happens to the money that was taken from the members and was placed in the fund?" It will probably remain tied up for now.

As you recall, these same questions arose when we were successful in winning the three percent case at the trial level.

In the 3 percent case, the following chronology

occurred:

1. The judge issued an order that the state stop enforcing the 3 percent and reimburse the employees from the escrow account;

2. The same day, the state moved for a stay pending a decision at the court of appeals;

3. The judge ordered the state to stop taking the money out of employees' checks, but ordered that the monies already accrued be held in escrow until the final ruling on appeal;

4. The court of appeals kept in place the preliminary injunction requiring that the monies collected be put in escrow and expedited the hearing;

5. Ultimately the

Court of Appeals ruled in our favor; and

6. The Supreme Court denied the State leave to appeal, and the monies were returned to employees.

MCO expects that a similar process with regard to the holding of the funds will occur. Unfortunately, the statute in this case was not as narrowly tailored as the three percent case. There are a number of other legal issues that must be considered in this case while it goes up on appeal.

MCO's lawyers and the other coalition lawyers are meeting in the next few days to determine a strategy to defend the lower court's decision.

THREE KCF INMATES

STABBED IN ONE DAY

Three inmates were stabbed at Kinross in separate incidences Sunday.

Sunday evening, officers noticed about 40 inmates gathered in the yard. About six inmates were stabbing another inmate. The yard was closed and inmates were searched before being allowed back in the housing units. After the yard was cleared, officers found 17 discarded shanks. About 15 inmates were sent to segregation after the fight, which reportedly started over a stolen cell phone.

Later that night, two other inmates were stabbed. One was in the shower when he was attacked.

PSV PREVENTS CONTRABAND FROM ENTERING LRF

An officer in a Perimeter Security Vehicle stopped contraband from entering Brooks Sept. 29.

A van entered the visitor's parking lot and stopped in front of a housing unit. Inmates were in the yard.

The PSV pulled up in front of the van. Michigan State Police were called, and they determined the van's driver had been drinking. There was an open beer in the van.

A woman in the van had marijuana and a medical marijuana card, and a male passenger had tobacco. The man, who is on parole, has a nephew locked in the unit near where the van stopped.

Perimeter Security Vehicles are a vital part of prison security!

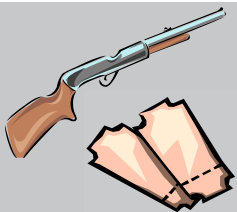
INMATES AT REENTRY FACILITIES ESCAPE

Two convicts are still on the run after escaping from Lake County Reentry Sept. 29, and another man who walked away from Tuscola Reentry has been located in Detroit.

The two men who left Lake County are suspected of stealing cars to flee

the state. They were under the supervision of a sheriff's office when they escaped.

The Tuscola inmate left the facility Monday and was found Wednesday in Detroit. He had been serving time for drug convictions.



Please see your chapter leaders to buy MCO Crisis Fund raffle tickets! Guns and a deer hunt at Hopkins Trophy Whitetail Ranch will be raffled at MCO Central Oct. 17. Help fellow officers in need — support the Crisis Fund!



RETIREES WORKING WITH MICHIGAN'S MOST DANGEROUS?

MDOC generates bills to allow retirees to work part time and still draw pension

MCO needs your help to defeat two bills that would allow retirees to work up to 1,040 hours a year while they collect a pension.

The Department of Corrections was the driving force behind Senate Bill 1053 and House Bill 5881. They say the move will save about \$10 million a year by cutting overtime costs. MDOC hasn't shared details about how they arrived at that figure.

MCO's chief concerns with letting retirees work are safety and

security.

If the bills pass, retired corrections officers — who may not have worked in a prison for many years — could start working again, even though they lack valuable knowledge about the inmates, other officers and routines at the facility. And since the retirees would be allowed to work at occasionally, they may never develop a full awareness of the facility environment.

The bills don't sufficiently address MCO's concerns regarding re-

tirees' training and a whole host of other issues. The Department has not answered our questions, either.

Please call your state senator and representative now or go to MCO's website to send an email that will tell them about the dangers of your job and that letting retirees back in would jeopardize the safety of officers and facilities. There is a hearing on these bills next week, so it's important you act now! We'll keep you posted on any action on these bills.

LEVEL 2 INMATES FIGHT OVER THEFTS

Officers used Tasers earlier this week to break up a brawl between six Brooks convicts — all of whom were Level 2 inmates.

The prisoners were returning from the yard when the violent fight started outside a housing unit. The fracas stemmed from thefts.

Officers found several weapons, and approximately 20 inmates were put in segregation.

MCO has complained for years that the Department often classifies inmates to lower levels in attempts to save money. Budget-driven corrections is terrible policy!

4 PERCENT CASE BACK IN COURT THIS WEEK

The Coalition of Unions was back in court on Wednesday because the AG's Office filed for a "stay" on the decision concerning the 4 percent case. A stay stops the action of the judgment of the court.

Unfortunately for the AG, the Unions were successful in arguing to the judge that a stay was not necessary, because she has not yet

ordered the state to do anything; the judge only declared that the legislation was unconstitutional.

Within the next month or so, the parties will be back before the judge to argue on the constitutionality of the overtime calculation as it relates to retirement. Once the judge rules on that portion, the case will be positioned to go before the Court of Appeals.



PROPOSAL GUIDE COMING SOON

Wondering how you should vote on all those state ballot proposals? The next MCO Report will include detailed information about the ballot proposals, including MCO's recommendation on certain questions. Voting on these proposals is just as important as voting for candidates — make your voice heard Nov. 6!



NO ACTION TAKEN ON RETIREE BILLS; MEMBERS SEND HUNDREDS OF EMAILS ALREADY

No hearing or other action took place this week on two bills that if passed would allow MDOC retirees to work part time while still collecting a pension.

The department generated House Bill 5881 and Senate Bill 1053 to save on overtime costs. MCO is opposed to

letting retirees return to work because it could hamper the safety and security of the facilities.

MCO had heard the Senate may address the bill this week but that didn't happen.

Our members deserve a big thanks for speaking out against these bills. As

of late Friday, corrections officers had expressed their concern by sending legislators hundreds of emails through the MCO website.

If you haven't called or emailed your legislators about these bills, please take a moment to do so now. Go to mco-seiu.org to get started.

CIVIL SERVICE RUO CLASSIFICATION REVIEW BEGINS

The Civil Service Classification Review Office will start interviewing former RUOs next week, MCO learned Thursday.

Auditors will start at facilities in the Upper Peninsula. They will eventually

make it to every prison in the state. The auditors will be asking questions about duties of former RUOs to help them determine if the classification should be reinstated. *MCO is continuing to fight for former RUOs.*

PUGSLEY INMATE STABBED BY THREE OTHER PRISONERS

Three MPF inmates stabbed another inmate with a homemade shank Oct. 7.

The injured prisoner recovered at a hospital and was transferred to another

facility. Two other inmates were assaulted in another incident the same day but were not admitted to a hospital.

Pugsley is a Level 1 facility.

MCO TESTIFIES IN FAVOR OF ALLOWING COs SPECIAL CARRY

On Wednesday, a bill that would amend the handgun licensure law to allow current and retired correctional officers to carry in pistol-free zones was passed with bi-partisan support out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Under HB 4435, the prohibition against carrying a concealed pistol on certain premises (i.e. schools, sports arenas, bars, churches, hospitals or uni-

versities) would be lifted as long as an individual was both licensed under the handgun licensure law and was a current or former state corrections officer.

MCO supported the bill and testified on its behalf at committee.

It will now move for a vote before the full Senate. It will then return to the House for final approval. An earlier version passed the House 99-9.

GEORGIA OFFICER

STABBED TO DEATH

Another corrections officer was killed in the line of duty last week, this time in Georgia. Larry Stell, 46, is the second corrections officer to be slain on the job in less than three weeks.

Stell was a corrections officer at Telfair State Prison in Helena, Georgia. An inmate stabbed him Oct. 11 while inside what has been described as a dormitory area. Stell had been on the job just more than a year. A private funeral was held Oct. 14.

In late September, Mary Ricard, a prison sergeant in Colorado, was killed on the job.

Be safe out there.

PRESIDENT TOURING FACILITIES

MCO President Tom Tylutki will be in the field touring certain facilities in the Upper Peninsula next week:

10-22-12 1st shift at Baraga; 2nd shift at Marquette Branch Prison

10-23-12 2nd shift at Alger

10-24-12 1st and 2nd shifts at Newberry

10-25-12 1st shift at Kinross; 2nd shift at URF

10-26-12 Labor Management at URF



ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 6!

Check your mailbox or the MCO website for the MCO Report before you go to the polls. You'll find MCO's recommendations on ballot proposals and more. You can find other helpful voter information on our website, mco-seiu.org.



Here's a look at what's happening at facilities around the state...

• Carson City officers used Tasers to break up an inmate fight Oct. 16. After the fight, officers found in the vicinity a shank sharpened out of a piece of metal. In an adjacent area they found a toothbrush with a razor blade attached.

• Oct. 15, a DRF prisoner swallowed a needle and several pens, batteries and even razor blades. He was treated at a local hospital and released back to the facility.

• Bleach, tattoo guns, razor blades and shanks were among the contraband found at DRF this month.

• A Saginaw inmate was taken to a hospital by ambulance after a fight Oct. 22. The injured inmate was stabbed several times.

• A Baraga officer used a Taser to break up a recent fight. On Oct. 24, an inmate sucker-punched another convict and knocked him out. That spurred a fight between the attacker and another prisoner. Officer Kenny Stevens ordered them to stop fighting, but when they didn't, he deployed his Taser. One of the prisoners involved was taken to a local hospital for serious head

injuries.

No officers were injured.

• Stevens also recently gave an inmate the Heimlich maneuver. The CO quickly responded and dislodged a hot dog from the man's throat.

Stories like these from facilities around the state illustrate MCO's belief that every prison is a community and corrections officers are its police force, EMTs and all-around first-responders. COs strive to keep not only staff, but prisoners safe, too. It's all in a day's work for those who have Michigan's toughest job.



See more photos at flickr.com/photos/mcoshots



ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 6!

Once again, MCO is reminding you to vote Nov. 6. The proposals on this year's ballot are some of the most closely-monitored ballot initiatives in the country. Just this week, even the New York Times published a story about Prop 2, which would put the right to collective bargaining in our state Constitution. See your MCO Report or mco-seiu.org for voter information and MCO's recommendations.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS

ORGANIZATION

SEIU LOCAL 526M

421 W. KALAMAZOO

LANSING, MI 48933

517.485.3319

800.451.4878

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MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



UNKNOWN SUSPECT THROWS CONTRABAND OVER FENCE AT KINROSS

Drugs, cell phones and other contraband were thrown over a perimeter fence at Kinross this week.

A car pulled up near the E unit at about 4:15 a.m. Tuesday and threw 11 packages over the outer fence. Some of them did not make it over both the outer and inner fence.

A yard cop reported the event, but by the time the command center could dispatch an officer in a PSV, the suspect was gone.

Inside the packages were 28 cell phones, six grams of heroin, two pounds of marijuana, two pounds of tobacco, a creatine workout supplement and lighters.

Incidents like this provide

more evidence of the crucial role routine PSV patrols play in prison safety and security.

Not only did PSVs enable officers to get quick descriptions of those trying to get contraband over fences and prevent inmates from escaping, but, as a visible policing presence, they deterred these crimes!

SHANKS FOUND AT DRF



A Carson City officer found these home-made shanks hidden in a laundry bag. They are more than eight inches long and were whittled from file hangers. *Watch your partner's back!* Send weapons photos to anita@mco-seiu.org.

HOLE FOUND IN FENCE AT SRF

On Wednesday, Saginaw officers found a large hole in the facility's inner perimeter fence.

The hole was big enough for a person to pass through to the outer fence, officers say. The damaged part of the fence was near a housing unit.

THUMB OFFICER ASSAULTED

A Thumb officer was hospitalized Wednesday after an inmate punched him about five times. The prisoner hit the CO after being told to clear the housing unit base.

And on Monday, an inmate charged at an officer and rammed into her with his shoulder. She and another officer entered his cell for a shakedown and noticed he hid something in his pants. The convict became combative when one officer tried to handcuff him. The prisoner was hiding marijuana and cigarettes, the officers found.

Election Update

Michigan voters struck down Proposal 2, which would have put collective bargaining rights in the state Constitution. Needless to say, MCO is disappointed with this outcome. There are already accounts of legislators ramping up another Right to Work push. MCO will keep you posted.

Check out the results of key races and questions at mco-seiu.org.



ICF INMATE INJURED IN CHOW HALL STABBING

ICF officers helped keep a prisoner alive as blood gushed from three stab wounds in his neck.

The inmate was stabbed by another prisoner Nov. 11 while he was in the chow hall for lunch.

He was stabbed with an inmate's homemade shank fashioned from a chow hall cup attached to a piece of steel.

Officers immediately called for health care workers and began treating the wounds. The convict

was taken to a hospital for treatment.

One officer was also evaluated at a hospital for blood exposure.

Officers believe the assault was gang related. Michigan State Police are investigating.

SHOTS FIRED FROM GUN TOWERS AT TWO JOINTS

An officer in a gun tower fired one shot to break up a prisoner fight Friday at Marquette. One inmate was using a rock in a laundry bag as a weapon. No serious injuries were reported. Officers later found a shank concealed in

one of the inmates' gloves.

Shots were also fired from a gun tower at Bellamy Creek last week. An officer in the tower thought an inmate had a weapon.

No one was injured.

LEGISLATURE UPDATE: MAJORITY PARTY CHATTERS ABOUT RTW

Election season is over and legislators are returning to the Capitol for lame-duck session. The exact number of days they'll meet hasn't been determined. MCO and other groups that closely follow the legislature hold their breath during this time because anything could happen.

MCO is especially concerned about rumblings of new Right to Work fights. Republicans have a two-thirds majority in the legislature and have made statements to the media about their desire to introduce Right

to Work legislation.

MCO staff has also heard about legislators' idea to introduce Right to Work for public employees who do not risk their lives on the job. No bill has been introduced. Even though MCO adamantly believes corrections officers have a more dangerous and life-threatening job than any other state employees, MCO would oppose such legislation if it were introduced.

Watch your KYI for more updates on the lame duck session and Right to Work.

STF INMATE SLASHED

A Central Michigan prisoner needed more than 100 stitches after an inmate slashed his cheek, ear and neck Nov. 12.

The attacker went to the victim's housing unit, snuck down a back hallway and cut a man with a homemade weapon. No weapon has been found and the assailant has not been identified.

The injured inmate was transferred to another prison for his protection.

In an unrelated incident at STF, two Level One inmates were caught injecting heroin in a bathroom Saturday.

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ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



RETIREES BILL PASSES OUT OF HOUSE, NOW GOES TO SENATE

The bill that would allow retirees to work part-time and still collect a pension narrowly passed out of the House Appropriations Committee and the entire House of Representatives Thursday.

The bill passed the House with 58 for and 48 against. (Go to the mco-seiu.org to see how your representative voted on this.)

A few representatives on the Appropriations Committee were swayed to vote for HB 5881 because of a provision added this week that would make the legislation expire Sept. 30,

2013, meaning retirees would have to stop working on that date.

Rep. Joseph Haveman, who introduced the bill, said it is intended to fill immediate vacancies and isn't a long-term fix. He said MDOC needs to do a better job of recruiting potential hires. The bill would save up to \$10 million, the department says.

MCO Executive Director Mel Grieshaber testified against the bill. MCO is concerned because, as written, it would allow any retiree to return to work, regardless of time away from the facility. Officers, as well as many wardens, have

told MCO they don't want to see this pass, Grieshaber told the committee.

Rep. Richard LeBlanc specifically mentioned MCO's letter to representatives when he spoke against the bill at the committee hearing. MCO's safety and security concerns are legit, he said.

The measure must now go to the Michigan Senate for consideration. The Senate reconvenes Tuesday.

Now more than ever, it is imperative you contact your Senator and ask for a NO vote! Go to the MCO website to contact your senator!

STILL NO ACTION ON RIGHT TO WORK

Discussions by the Governor, House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader are continuing on whether Right to Work legislation of some sort will move forward during the lame duck legislative session.

On Thursday, nearly 300 workers, including MCO, gathered at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Lansing for a briefing before heading to the Capitol to talk to legislators — asking lawmakers not to take up this divisive issue.

MCO has been lobbying and mem-

bers have been contacting legislators as well.

If members and friends have not contacted their legislator, please go to the MCO website to easily contact them.

Efforts will continue until the legislature ends its term this year so be ready to mobilize when more intense actions are needed.

We need to stop lawmakers who are trying to completely remove unions and workers from the table!

MORE GOOD NEWS ON THE 4 PERCENT LAWSUIT

The final issues have been heard and ruled upon at the trial level on the 4 percent issue. Judge Draganchuk ruled in favor of the unions once again.

Draganchuk ruled that the legislature's attempt to expand the Final Average Comp formula from three to six years was unconstitutional.

The parties are now preparing a joint stipulation to move the entire lawsuit to the Court of Appeals on an expedited basis.

Scholarship information available now

Scholarship applications for the 2013-2014 academic year are now on the MCO website.

SEIU, Union Plus and MCO offer scholarships for children of active MCO members. Requirements differ for each application, so it's important to read all rules and instructions before starting applications. The first

scholarship deadline is Jan. 31.

To request a scholarship application be mailed to you, call MCO Central at 800-451-4878.

Good luck!



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BULLETIN

DEC. 6, 2012

The Michigan House of Representatives passed a Right-to-Work bill shortly before 5 p.m. today. There were 58 yes votes and 52 no votes.

H.B. 4054 will go to the state Senate for a probable Tuesday vote. Go to mco-seiu.org to find a link to the bill.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, could be the day Right-to-Work becomes law. **MCO is asking members and supporters to come out again Tuesday to voice their frustration with this legislature and governor for their continued attacks on working-class people. Thousands of union members and labor supporters sounded off at the Capitol today. Let's get even more there Tuesday.**

Stay tuned to the MCO website and bulletins for a time and other details.

In unity, there's strength.

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THOUSANDS DEMONSTRATE AT THE CAPITOL *FINAL RIGHT TO WORK VOTE TARGETED FOR TUESDAY*

MCO members, along with thousands of other union members and friends, rallied at the Capitol Thursday, calling on lawmakers and the Governor to oppose so called Right to Work legislation. Ignoring the workers inside and outside the building, the Republicans in both the House and Senate held its initial vote, passing the anti-worker legislation. A final vote is expected this coming Tuesday and the Governor has said he will sign it.

The Right to Work (for less) bills would cover both private and public sector workers.

A massive Labor rally is being organized to take place Tuesday. All available MCO members and friends are requested to volunteer

to attend the protest, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a short march to the Capitol. See the special bulletin on the MCO union bulletin board or visit MCO's website for information.

Many employers and rich CEOs are within reach of their long term goal to weaken and undermine a labor union's ability to represent workers. The middle class needs to

stand up now. We need a meaningful voice at the table and that voice starts with workers themselves. In unity there is strength! See you Tuesday!

Go to MCO's website to find out how your legislators voted on Right to Work.



HANDGUN AMMO, BUT NO FIREARM, FOUND AT IONIA CORRECTIONAL

Five rounds of handgun ammunition were found Wednesday sitting inside a toilet at ICF.

The bullets were found in a staff bathroom in the Health Care building. A prison lieutenant and inspector took the .22-caliber ammo and put it in an evidence locker.

In response, the Ionia Complex Emergency Response Team came to the facility. Prisoners were relocated and both Health Care and inmates were shook down. No firearms were found.

One Level II inmate had contraband that appeared to be stolen from the Health Care building,

including pens and a clip board bearing prescription brand names, alcohol-based hand sanitizer and feminine hygiene products.

If this isn't proof current inmate Levels are artificially low, what is?

Watch your back.

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BULLETIN

DEC. 7, 2012

MICHIGAN WORKERS ARE UNDER ATTACK AND MCO NEEDS YOU IN LANSING!

WHEN: 8 A.M., TUESDAY, DEC. 11, 2012

WHERE: LANSING CENTER (333 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING, MI, 48933)

Tuesday, December 11th at 8:00 AM labor organizations from across the state will meet at the Lansing Center (333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI) and make the short march to the Capitol around 8:30. Participants will rally both inside and outside the Capitol so please come prepared for the weather. It is **IMPERATIVE** that we have the largest crowd in history at this rally. **Bring your Local Union banners to display outside and wear your union colors.**

Please notify your co-workers, retirees, friends and family and tell them to bring as many people as possible. We need everyone to turn out to show our displeasure with this terrible Right to Work legislation.

Members, friends and family are asked to contact and visit with their Legislators while in Lansing and make it clear that **Right to Work is Wrong for Michigan.**

If you have any questions, check the MCO website or call 517-485-3310 for more information.

MCO will only have a few parking spots available. Please plan to park near the Lansing Center or on a side street.

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800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG

FROM THE OFFICE OF MCO PRESIDENT TOM TYLUTKI, SEIU LOCAL 526M

ap:opeiu459aficio



BULLETIN

DEC. 11, 2012

Moments ago, Gov. Rick Snyder held a press conference in which he announced he had officially signed SB 0116 and HB 4003 making Michigan the nation's 24th Right to Work state. The move comes just hours after the Michigan House of Representatives finalized the measures by separate margins of 58-52 and 58-51. Republicans needed 56 votes for passage.

Massive outrage over this contentious issue drew a crowd of over 13,000 Michiganders to the state capitol, however, their voices of opposition fell on deaf ears.

The bill was not given immediate effect, meaning it will not be implemented until 90 days after the end of the legislative year.

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RIGHT TO WORK IS WRONG FOR MICHIGAN BUT PASSES ANYWAY

This has been an ugly week for most workers and the middle class throughout Michigan.

In a historic move, the Governor and legislature has passed a new law that attacks and undermines the power and influence of labor unions. Without any public hearings or real debate, the legislature approved Right to Work bills in a matter of a few hours. Holding the majority in every branch of government, the Republicans immediately began their public relations spin by calling the legislation “freedom to choose” bills. In reality, the new laws should be

called Right to Work for Less!

There are still many unanswered questions, but MCO members should know that all aspects of our contract are in full force until Dec. 31, 2013. It’s possible that at some point after the contract ends, employees in the MCO bargaining unit will choose not to belong or pay dues to the union, but that will not be the case until 2014. There is also a viewpoint that civil service employees may not be covered by the new law. MCO’s legal team is reviewing the issue. It’s possible the Governor and legislature overstepped their

bounds.

Those politicians who support so called Right to Work have sided with the Chamber of Commerce and rich CEOs. No matter how much they say they support collective bargaining, they know that if they can get employees to opt out of the union, then the unions’ influence will diminish. We can’t let them do it! We must remain strong and united! We are planning chapter meetings to start in the new year. MCO will send more detailed information as it’s available.

Hang in there and be safe!

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR GOP; CORRECTIONS GETS COAL

If it was controversial, it passed. If it favored one party over another, it passed.

This week, Republicans from the Governor on down drew a line in the sand and let Michigan workers know their rights and safety on the job were of no concern to the current GOP agenda.

Among the bills affecting corrections officers was SB 878, which passed the House by a vote of 56-50 and the Senate 21-17. The bill, which awaits the Governor’s signature, allows the Michigan Department of Corrections to outsource the housing of DOC inmates to a private facility, most likely the

GEO Group which has a 2,400 bed facility in Baldwin, MI. This could lead to the closing of one, possibly two, state prisons.

HB 5422 was also passed, legislation which seeks to further diminish the state’s role in training new DOC employees. Under the approved bill, authority to conduct new employee schools will be given to certain community colleges and the cost of training and education will be shifted to the potential recruit. What this will mean for long term recruitment and retention remains unclear, as future employees will be saddled with rising costs and the burden of debt with no

promise of an actual job offer.

Finally, HB 5881 — contentious legislation allowing retirees to re-enter the workforce and continue collecting a state pension — was approved 58-48 and 24-14. Despite MCO’s repeated inquiries, many questions regarding training and workers compensation coverage remain unanswered and serve as a potential risk to both retirees and current staff.

The current legislature can’t do any more damage. The Lame Duck session wrapped up early this morning. Republicans will lose five house seats when the legislature reconvenes in January.



ICF OFFICER HIT BY CAR TUESDAY OUTSIDE PRISON

ICF officer Josh Maxim was hit by a car after work Tuesday night and is recovering at home.

Maxim had jumped out of his car to check on another officer involved in a car wreck. Jason Jones' car was T-boned as it turned onto the highway outside ICF. Jones wasn't injured.

Maxim got out of his car, and then was hit by a car on the highway.

Maxim suffered a broken ankle and knee injuries. Several officers who saw the car hit Maxim say he's lucky the damage wasn't worse.

Officers Dan First, Max Martin and Michelle Gradisher called for help at the scene. All officers involved were leaving ICF after second shift.

MCO staff hopes Maxim has a speedy recovery.

COMP TIME ARB SETTLED

MCO and MDOC have reached a settlement in the compensatory time arbitration and those affected will see some opportunity for relief starting Jan. 1.

More than 100 members will benefit from the settlement. They will be notified by letter.

To read the settlement agreement, go to MCO's website.

HERE'S A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT A FEW FACILITIES:

DRF

11.20.12 - Tasers deployed to break up fight; one prisoner armed with a shank. Also, an ARUS found an 8-inch sharpened piece of steel pushed under his door.

11.29.12 - inmate stabbed another inmate in the head.

SRF

11.18.12 - inmate had sharpened piece of metal fencing; another inmate slashed while returning from breakfast

12.4.12 - inmate's cheek punctured and back cut; officer found 8-inch shank in trash



Shanks found recently at DRF.



Did you get your calendar?

The MCO Holiday packet, including the pocket calendar and wall calendar, were mailed early this month. If you don't receive yours by Dec. 24, please call MCO Central to request a packet.

Happy Holidays!



2013-2014 scholarship information available now

Scholarship applications for the 2013-2014 academic year are now on the MCO website.

SEIU, Union Plus and MCO offer scholarships for children of active MCO members. Require-

ments differ for each application. The first scholarship deadline is Jan. 31.

To request a scholarship application be mailed to you, call MCO Central at 800-451-4878.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS
ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3310
800.451.4878

WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG



QUICK RESPONSE FOILS LCF INMATES' ESCAPE ATTEMPT

Two inmates tried to escape Lakeland Correctional Facility early Christmas Day.

The prisoners, who are serving life in prison, used a rope made from bed sheets to try to get over the fence. They attempted their escape just before 2 a.m. on Christmas. Officers quickly responded with Tasers and weapons drawn. The inmates obeyed officers' orders and neither was Tased. Local law enforcement and Michigan State Police also responded.

The convicts left their housing unit through a window in the activity day room and went over a yard fence. Their movements tripped an alarm they couldn't hear, and the electronic monitoring officer called for help. The EM officer took out the PSV to respond.

Some LCF officers have said the two inmates took their time walking across the prison grounds because they knew there were no routine PSV checks.

Once the alarm was triggered, prison staff responded quickly.

They deserve our thanks for a job well done.



DRUGS, PHONES FOUND DURING PERIMETER CHECK AT STF

Drugs and cell phones were discovered Sunday at Central Michigan Correctional Facility.

A yard officer found the contraband during a perimeter check at about 4:30 a.m. The officer found two packages, each containing two Pringles-brand chip containers bound with duct tape. Marijuana, tobacco, rolling paper, scales, toothbrushes with an unknown substance stuck in the bristles and containers of an unknown liquid were in the packages. Also found in the packages were cell phones, a cell

phone that looks like a watch and phone chargers.

A prisoner disarmed the alarm on the door of the recreation room in the D unit apparently to sneak out and get the contraband.

Law enforcement is investigating.

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800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG