



PRESIDENTIAL
PONDERINGS

by





We are entrenched in a major battle to stop the privatization of prison beds as well as services like food service. It amazes me that some members think, “well, they won’t close my prison” or “the privatization of food service won’t affect me.” That couldn’t be further from reality.

It will begin a new chapter in the MDOC. It will be the start of the race to the bottom. Private prisons cut corners with low wages and benefits, low staffing levels and high turnover. The result is many states are bombarded with lawsuits and decide to get out of private prison contracts. Privatization has failed everyone except the administration of the private corporations. But here in Michigan, our legislators are irrationally committed to privatization.

As always, we encourage you to contact your legislators, inform them of the dangers of their jobs, and see where they stand on the issues surrounding private prisons and services within prisons. Let them know this is an important issue and you will be watching how they vote.

In solidarity,



12s APPROVED AT PUGSLEY; NO MORE VOTES THIS YEAR

Two prisons are now running a 12-hour shift pilot program and another facility will make the switch soon.

Newberry has been operating with 12-hour shifts since March. Muskegon reopened with 12-hour shifts in October.

The next facility to transition will be Pugsley, where members in a vote May 29 overwhelmingly approved the longer shifts 79-46.

Votes have also been held over the last few months at Baraga and St. Louis. Members at those facilities voted against 12s.

No other facilities will vote on the matter this year. The MCO-imposed deadline to submit a petition to hold a 12-hour vote was June 1.

MCO HAS DISCOUNTS FOR SUMMER FUN!

Members, look no further than MCO for some great discounts on summer entertainment.

Here’s a few discounts available now:

- Get general admission tickets to Noah’s Ark for only \$27.11.
- Cedar Point tickets are only \$42. Regular tickets are only \$33 the week of Aug. 5-11 only. To request tickets, call MCO Bookkeeper Cindy Kogut at (800)451-4878 ext. 17.
- General admission to Mt. Olympus (Wisconsin Dells) water park and theme park is only \$22 per person.

For booking instructions and more deals, visit mco-seiu.org/uniontools/discounts. New discounts are being added every week, so check often!



2013 CRISIS FUND GOLF OUTING IS AUG. 16

Summer is here, and the MCO Crisis Fund Golf Outing is right around the corner! The Golf Outing is the Crisis Fund’s largest fundraiser.

This year’s event is Aug. 16 at Ledge Meadows in Grand Ledge. The cost is \$65 per person, which includes a cart and tons of food. Please sign up in teams of four. MCO also needs sponsors for golf carts and holes. To register now, please call Cindy Kogut or Stephanie Short at (800)451-4878. The registration deadline is Aug. 9.



OFFICERS OF THE YEAR AND FAMILIES HONORED AT BANQUET

Ron McComb accepted the top honor at the Corrections Officer of the Year Awards Ceremony and Appreciation Banquet May 8. In his speech, he spoke about many of his rescues, which led to him earning 10 Life Saving Awards.

At this year’s banquet, MCO took photos of officers and their families. Thank you, officers, for letting MCO be part of your special day!

And congratulations once again to all facility officers of the year!



Left: The MDOC Honor Guard presents the colors at the Officer of the Year Awards Ceremony and Appreciation Banquet.

Center: Families mingle at the event.

Right: Officer of the Year Ron McComb and State Rep. Tom Leonard.



TOM PHILLIPS CLASS JOINS THE RANKS

The Tom Phillips Officer recruit training class graduated May 24. About 150 recruits and their families and friends packed an auditorium in Lansing for the event.

Phillips, who retired as the warden at Pugsley, gave the keynote address. He gave the recruits a few tips for success as a corrections officer – appreciate you’ll be in a strange environment eight hours or more every day; listen more and talk less; always speak the truth; keep friends who aren’t DOC employees; stay active outside of work; thank those who supported and helped you get to this point in your career; and refrain from using bad language.

DOC Director Dan Heyns also addressed the class. Heyns said he has heard of young people planning to use corrections as a stepping stone to another career, but he urged the recruits to stick with the profession.

“I’m confident that when all is said and done, you’ll find this career worthwhile,” Heyns said.

The Tom Phillips class is the second class to graduate this year.



Award recipients:

Robert Hart — Josephine B. McCallum Award
John Monville — Jack L. Budd Award
David Westhaus — Academic Achievement Award

Congratulations to all!

Tom Phillips (top left) gives the keynote address to the recruit class named in his honor. Training officers and DOC officials greet David Westhaus (bottom left) after he receives the top academic achievement award.



RETIREMENTS

<i>Raymond Anderson</i>	<i>Richard Ellingsen</i>	<i>Jeff Lantis</i>	<i>Richard Swajanen</i>
<i>Kim Badke</i>	<i>Jimmy Emory</i>	<i>Robert Luck</i>	<i>Katrina Talley</i>
<i>Wendy Baldwin</i>	<i>Felix Fulicea</i>	<i>Michael Lyons</i>	<i>Gaye Vreeland-Lindsay</i>
<i>Lloyd Bennickson</i>	<i>Donald Hudak</i>	<i>Kendall McHenry</i>	<i>Michael Ward</i>
<i>Terry Bolton</i>	<i>Bryan Janke</i>	<i>Randall Ollis</i>	<i>Donald Washington</i>
<i>Nathaniel Calhoun</i>	<i>Michael Kaunisto</i>	<i>A.J. Scott</i>	<i>James Wilcox</i>
<i>Garcia Davis-Phelps</i>	<i>Gerald Koernke</i>	<i>Robert Stahl</i>	<i>Martin Zbiciak</i>
<i>Eric Dixon</i>	<i>Joni Kubik</i>	<i>Alan Strange</i>	



MCO Report

Proudly Representing Michigan Corrections and Forensic Officers for over 40 Years

“I’m sticking with my union, because if it was not for the unions there would not be **any job security in the work place**, regardless of how good of a worker you are.”

- Carla D., URF

“I’m sticking with my union, because the **politicians won’t stick up for me.**”

-Paul R., ARF

“I’m sticking with my union, because **I need MCO to fight for me.**”

-Craig J., MRF

“I’m sticking with my union, because **the voice of many is more likely to be heard than a single voice.** Let’s stand united for a stronger presence than ever.”

-Todd W., RMI

“I’m sticking with my union, because they are **protecting the work place rights and safety of corrections officers** of Michigan as well as giving us a fair wage and decent benefits for a tough job that very few want to tackle.”

- David Weeks, SRF

“I’m sticking with my union, because **unions work and RTW states don’t. I have worked in both.**”

- Donald K., MTF

“I’m sticking with my union, because **working people are not special interest groups. Big business gets together to bargain with government, why shouldn’t I be able to?**”

-Stanley H., KCF

“I’m sticking with my union, because the state does not support its employees. **The only thing the state cares about is a balanced budget at any expense.**”

- Shane R., JCF

“I’m sticking with MCO because we as **correctional officers need a voice that will be heard by our heads of state** ... We are expected to uphold professionalism and security amongst murderers, rapists and other serious criminals. The only people we have to rely on for those long eight hours are our partners and MCO. We are responsible for keeping the worst of society under control and locked up so the rest of society can sleep safely ... MCO speaks for us and the dangers we face everyday and for that I’m grateful.”

- Brandy O., LRF

“I’m sticking with my union, because **without the union, we are left hanging in the wind** at the mercy of our employers who have shown in the past they do not have our best interests at heart.”

- Kim H., LMF

“I’m sticking with my union, because I believe by sticking together we can still make a positive impact and slow this administration down. As we have already seen the negative impact this administration has had on state employees and their families and **I don’t think they are done messing with our livelihood...**”

- Eric M., ARF

RIGHT TO WORK BATTLE LINGERS ON BUT MEMBERS STAY STRONG

Don’t let the furor over Right to Work evaporate. We still want to hear from you. Have you filled out a pledge and told us why you’re sticking with MCO?

Go to our website to read more testimonials from members like you.

MCO’s seven-week Right to Work education campaign has ended. Member turnout was very good at some chapters, while others had a poor showing. All in all, leaders found MCO members to be highly informed on RTW as well as other issues. Many members had good input and suggestions.

Right to Work lawsuits are still inching their way through the court system. (As you know from the 4% lawsuit, the courts move slowly.) Fortunately, the legislature has been so busy the last few weeks hammering out a budget they haven’t introduced new bills to hurt the working class.

The Michigan Supreme Court has now asked the Attorney General to weigh in on the Governor’s request for an opinion on whether state employees are covered by the new Right-to Work law. The State Employee Union Coalition’s legal view is that lawmakers and the Governor are overstepping constitutional boundaries by maintaining state employees are covered by the law. Although the RTW law took effect in March, it does not cover any private or public contract until the particular contract expires. MCO’s current contract ends December 31, 2012.

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MCO CENTRAL DELEGATES DISCUSS BARGAINING, RETIREES AND OTHER ISSUES

The Central Committee met in Lansing May 9. Delegates voted on a few changes to the bylaws and received updates on legislative pushes, training changes and upcoming bargaining.

The Committee voted to require MCO membership for 180 days before any current bargaining unit employee may vote in elections or on issues. The change will not affect newly hired employees who join the union. Central delegates thought the new bylaw would help stabilize chapters by encouraging employees to maintain membership, rather than suffer the disruption that occurs by allowing employees to jump in and out of the union just to vote on issues.

Delegates also voted to change Article 8 of the bylaws to address dues collection. Instead of assuming dues will be exclusively collected through payroll deduction, the bylaw now speaks to dues collected through payroll deduction “or any other means.”

STATE BUDGET BILL HEADS TO THE GOVERNOR

The \$33.6 billion general omnibus bill has been finalized by the Michigan Senate and now heads to Gov. Rick Snyder for approval. The omnibus budget covers appropriations for 17 departments (including the Michigan Department of Corrections) and was approved by the House in May.

The budget would fund the MDOC at a cost of \$2,056,646,800 for fiscal year 2013-14. While remaining relatively flat, it reflects a \$38 million increase (1.9 %) from FY '13.

Items worth noting were the full inclusion of \$9 million in new employee training funds which the House had previously eliminated and the Senate had reduced by 80 percent. The decision to fund state training comes after months of intense lobbying by MCO and the realization that the legislative alternative (shifting officer training to community colleges,

MCO will again coordinate bargaining with the State Employee Union Coalition. While on the topic of bargaining, MCO leaders asked delegates to remind members the 4 percent taken from their checks for retiree health care was not bargained. It was done by Republican lawmakers. The elimination of the RUO classification was an act of the Department of

Corrections and was also not bargained. MCO is doing all it can to speed up the resolution of both of these issues. See below for an update on the status of these fights.

There is now some talk of the Department considering sentencing reform and outsourced housing for elderly ill prisoners. The Department spends about \$350 million a year on health care.

MCO leaders brought up

the retirees returning to work part time while still collecting a pension. At last count, six retirees were working at two facilities. MCO has been opposed to this arrangement from the start, but the union must represent these part timers because they are in the



MCO bargaining unit.

The board also requested suggestions on the OEL pilot and ways to improve efficiency. Please write bargaining suggestions on the survey members will receive soon, and submit efficiency ideas online at <http://526m.seiu.org/page/s/efficiency-suggestions>.

Here's a special thank you to the Detroit Red Wings and MCO member Charles Chamberlain for donating items to the Crisis Fund raffle at the Central Committee meeting.

as outlined in PA 526 of 2012) is far from being operational.

MCO continues to oppose the training shift to colleges, arguing it is unwise, unsafe and deters potential recruits by requiring them to bear the full financial costs without the promise of an actual job. The Corrections Conference Report estimates nearly 400 new officers are currently needed to offset projected attrition. MCO believes staff shortages to be even higher.

The budget also includes \$10 million in assumed overtime savings by allowing retirees to return to work while collecting a pension. The original law (PA 432 of 2012) passed during the 2012 lame duck session with a sunset date of Sept. 30, 2013. That sunset is now in the process of removal (See HB 4664) despite strong opposition from MCO and oth-

er organizations. To voice your opposition, visit the MCO website and send an email to your legislator.

The Corrections Budget also adopted language “requiring the competitive bidding of the electronic monitoring center, and requests for information regarding prisoner clothing manufacturing, and a secure detention center with job training programming.” What this all means remains unclear but the push for further privatization or “competitive bidding” as Republicans like to call it remains a very real threat.

For more information and a brief summary of the Corrections Specific Conference Report visit <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2013-SFA-0197-R.pdf>.

oral arguments June 12. After the arguments, the Court will write an opinion. The Court has no deadline for writing the opinion. Please check KYIs and mco-seiu.org for the most up-to-date information.

We know the CSC and the courts move slowly. We are all frustrated with the pace of proceedings in these cases. Hang in there.

BARGAINING STARTS IN AUGUST; SURVEYS COMING SOON

Contract negotiations will start in late August with the MCO Executive Board sitting as the bargaining team.

Members are encouraged to return a bargaining survey that everyone will receive by mail in late June or early July. Surveys are one method of gaining input regarding the contract.

Other layers of input are member emails and comments made to team members through facility tours, phone calls and personal contact. In addition, the bargaining team meets with Chapter Presidents for contract review, input and discussion.

An initial decision has been made by the Executive Board to participate in coordinated bargaining with the State Employee Union Coalition again this cycle. Last time, the Coalition and the Office of the State Employer (OSE) mainly dealt with economic items. Individual unions negotiate bargaining unit specific issues.

Exchange Transfer List



If you are interested in placing your name on the Exchange Transfers list, (Article 15, Part D, Section A-6) please send the following information: your name, your home phone number, classification (E-9, E-10), etc.), current institution, desired institution and your facility's phone number. Please mail to: Anita Pere, c/o MCO Report, 421 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, or send via e-mail to anita@mco-seiu.org. Contact Anita when your name should be removed from the list. The Exchange Transfer List can also be found online at www.mco-seiu.org.

Name	Current Facility	Desired Facility
Dawn Kilbourn, E-9	IBC/ (616)527-2510	Jackson area
Chet Baldini, E-9	Alger/ (906)387-5000	MBP
Michael Flynn, E-8	IBC/ (616)527-2510	Muskegon area
Ameer Alkubani, E-8	MTU/ (616)527-3100	WHV
Christopher Balmes, E-8	IBC/ (616)522-9759	RGC
Crystal Epps	WHV/ (734)572-9612	DRC
Daniel Matz, E-9	OCF/ (906)787-2217	MRF/TCF/ICF
Vallen VanZyll, E-8	WHV/ (734)572-9612	LCF/Jackson area/Ionia area
Lynn Keeley, E-8	LRF/ (231)773-9200	TCF/MRF
Michael McBride	Alger/ (906)387-5000	MBP
Kristina Wood, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9612	TCF/DRC/MRF
Lawanna Hall, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9612	Thumb
Ahmad Salameh, E-8	ARF/ (517)265-3900	Macomb
Chad Smith, E-8	ARF/ (517)265-3900	SAI
David Slater, E-9	MTU/ (616)527-3100	Macomb
Craig Miller, E-8	RMI/ (989)941-9017	SRF/STF/SLF/TCF
Amy Bungart, E-9	JCF/ (517)780-5000	RGC
Petius Graham, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9612	DRC
Ray Hargett	MCF/ (231)773-3201	LRF
Brandon Bell,	ARF/ (517)265-3900	DRC/Macomb
Claude Terrell, E-9	SAI/ (734)475-1368	WHV/DRC/MRF
Stylianios Agapiou, E-8	RMI/ (616)527-2500	MRF/TCF/DRC
Brian Green, E-9	ARF/ (517)265-3900	Cooper Street/Lakeland
Paul Ferraro, E-8	KCF/ (906)495-2282	Thumb/Saginaw
Frank Malenski	Cotton/ (517)780-5000	Saginaw
Tyrone Ivory, E-9	ARF/ (517)265-3900	DRC/WHV/MRF
Jason Rinehart, E-8	ARF/ (517)265-3900	Macomb/Thumb
Paul McLaren, E-9	RGC/ (517)780-5600	DRC/Macomb/Thumb
Jordan Bonanno, E-9	MTF/ (231)773-1122	Detroit Reentry/Macomb
Tamiko Tomlinson, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9893	Detroit Reentry/Macomb
David Patterson, E-8	Alger/ (906)387-5000	Newberry
Mary Simms, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9893	Thumb
Mark Kalanquin	IBC/ (616)527-2510	Thumb
Vikas Vij, E-8	MTU/ (616)527-3100	Macomb
Lorrie Stanton, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9893	JMS/ARF/RMI/IBC/MTU/MR/ICF/JCF/SCF
Ernest Huizar	St. Louis/ (989)681-6444	TCF/SRF

E-COUNCIL MEETS IN LANSING



Executive Council members met in Lansing May 8. MCO President Tom Tylutki (above), MCO Labor Rep Jeff Foltie (above right) and Executive Director Mel Grieshaber addressed the group. Council members discussed concerns and opinions of members at their chapters. The Executive Council is made up of the Executive Board members and chapter presidents.



Please note:

- You cannot transfer to Woodland or Forensic Center. Officers at these facilities are a different classification. If you would like to work at one of these prisons, you must apply.
 - Those with the E-8 classification may not transfer until they achieve E-9 status. Many E-8 officers are on this list for planning purposes.
- Good luck!

Name	Current Facility	Desired Facility
Crystal Pieper, E-8	MTU/ (616)527-3100	STF/SLF
Barry McLemore II, E-9	ARF/ (517)265-3900	Detroit Reentry Center
Matthew Vasquez, E-9	MTU/ (616)527-3100	Thumb/Macomb
Ellis Farrar	MTU/ (616)527-3100	Macomb
Dennis Kellar, E-8	Alger/ (906)387-5000	SAI/STF/SRF
Rachel Snyder, E-9	St. Louis/ (989)681-6444	Saginaw
Jonathan Russell, E-9	MCF/ (12-hr)/ (231)773-3201	Alger/Marquette/Kinross/Chippewa
Nathan Bogal, E-9	Cotton/ (517)780-5000	Ryan/Macomb/Thumb
Tonya Wysong, E-8	RMI/ (616)527-2500	Macomb/Thumb/Saginaw
Francis Stites-Bennett, E-8	Brooks/ (231)773-9200	MRF/TCF/Detroit Reentry/SRF
Ty Hyatt, E-9	Baraga/ (906)353-7070	Marquette
Shannon Gatz, E-9	Central MI/ (989)681-6668	Saginaw/Thumb
Scott Johnson	MTF/ (231)773-1122	STF/SLF/SRF/TCF
Elaine Jeske, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9893	STF/SLF/SRF/DRF
Delandon Thomas, E-9	SRF/ (989)695-9880	Thumb
Ken Holman, E-9	Alger/ (906)387-5000	Marquette
Michael Martin, E-9	Thumb/ (810)667-2045	SAI/DRC/MRF
Nicholas Logan	Parnall/ (517)780-6004	Macomb/Ryan/Thumb
Darissa Littlejohn, E-9	WHV/ (734)572-9893	Cotton/Jackson area
Charise Mayers	Thumb/ (810)667-2045	Macomb/Detroit Reentry
Marlon Reese	Thumb/ (810)667-2045	Macomb
Brian West, E-9	Gus Harrison/ (517) 265-3900	Macomb/Thumb
Cindy Garcia-Flores, E-9	Pugsley/ (231) 263-5253	Saginaw
Brandon McBride, E-9	Gus Harrison/ (517) 265-3900	Ryan/Macomb
Jeffery Krummel, E-9	Woodland/ (734) 449-3320	Thumb
Dwayne Woods, E-9	Cooper Street/ (517) 780-6175	Macomb/Ryan/Thumb
Derrick Johnson, E-9	Parnall/ (517) 780-6004	Ryan/Woodland/Macomb/WHV
Roger VanPopering, E-9	Carson City/ (989) 584-3941	Saginaw/Central MI
Greg Delezenne, E-9	Gus Harrison/ (517) 265-3900	Egeler
Mike Bini, E-10	Central MI/ (989) 681-6668	Pugsley
Kirk Vogel	Oaks/ (231) 723-8272	Saginaw
Roy Betterly, E-9	Ionia/ (616)527-6331	MPF/STF
Kerry Krakhofer	Macomb/ (586) 749-4900	Baraga
April Magnan, E-9	Thumb/ (810) 667-2045	Macomb
J. Holtz, E-9	Muskegon/ (12 hr)/ (231)773-3201	Central MI/St. Louis/Carson City
Michael Rosier, E-9	Parnall/ (517) 780-6004	Detroit Reentry Center
Christine Henry, CRR	Gus Harrison/ (517)265-3900	Jackson Area

Statement of Activities 1st Quarter 2013

Revenues	Amount
Membership Dues	\$874,848
Non-Member Fees	\$29,266
Interest	\$3,581
From Affiliates	\$2,880
Total Revenues	\$910,575

Expenses	
Arbitration	\$5,157
Books, dues and subscriptions	\$169
Collective Bargaining	\$4,330
Computer expense	\$6,481
Continuing Education	\$6,714
Contributions	\$600
Depreciation	\$17,085
Insurance	\$19,367
Leased Equipment	\$4,195
Legal and Accounting	\$10,840
MCO Report	\$4,625
Meetings and Conferences	\$33,849
Office and Administrative	\$14,380
Organizational Unity Materials	\$3,223
Organizing	\$26,982
Pension Contribution	\$31,524
Postage	\$2,045
Repairs and Maintenance	\$56,097
Salaries	\$151,192
Social activities	\$872
Taxes - Payroll	\$15,875
Taxes - Per Capita	\$283,689
Telephone	\$10,347
Utilities	\$10,826
Total Expenses	\$720,464
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$190,111

MCO STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Tom Tylutki, President
Cary Johnson, Trustee
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Brian Mahoney, Trustee
Andy Potter, Vice President
Bill Henderson, Financial Secretary
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Alfred West, FOA/ Corrections Centers
Frank Malenski, Cotton
Paul Jones, Egeler
Rebecca Fettes, Forensic Center
Russell Doyle, Gus Harrison
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Joe Hemenway, Parnall
Matt Paulie, Pugsley
Kacy Datema, Michigan Reformatory
Michael Guerin, Saginaw
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Ray Sholtz, St. Louis
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Kim Sheffer, West Shoreline
David Siler, Woodland

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Karen Mazzolini, Labor Relations Representative
Cherelyn Dunlap, Labor Relations Representative
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Anita Pere, Communications Specialist
Cindy Kogut, Bookkeeper
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Stephanie Short, Receptionist/ Secretary
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MCO's 24-HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE

When a critical incident occurs at your facility, contact MCO's 24-Hour Answering Service by dialing 1-800-451-4878 or 517-485-3310 ext. 29.



The MCO REPORT is an award-winning publication of the Michigan Corrections Organization, Service Employees International Union Local 526M. The editor reserves the right to refuse any incoming articles that are detrimental to MCO, SEIU Local 526M and its policies and the policies of the SEIU. All articles or letters must be submitted by the first of the month prior to the next issue

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If you have changed your address, phone number, or e-mail, please inform MCO immediately at 1-800-451-4878 (phone), 1-800-327-5266 (fax), or complete the online form on our web site.

Visit us on the web at: www.mco-seiu.org
Editor - Anita Pere



"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause." --Samuel Gompers

MCO Memorial Bible Program

If you lose a loved one and would like a bible in his or her memory, please fill out the request form and submit it one of the following three ways:
1. Submit it to your chapter president to mail
2. Mail it to Stephanie Short, c/o MCO, 421 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933
3. E-mail your request to stephanie@mco-seiu.org

MCO MEMORIAL BIBLE REQUEST	
MCO Member	
Relationship to Deceased	
Chapter, Chapter President	
Deceased's Name	
Deceased's Date of Death	
Religious Preference	

HENDERSON REPLACES POTTER ON COUNCIL

Saginaw officer and MCO Treasurer Bill Henderson has been appointed to the Correctional Officers Training Council.

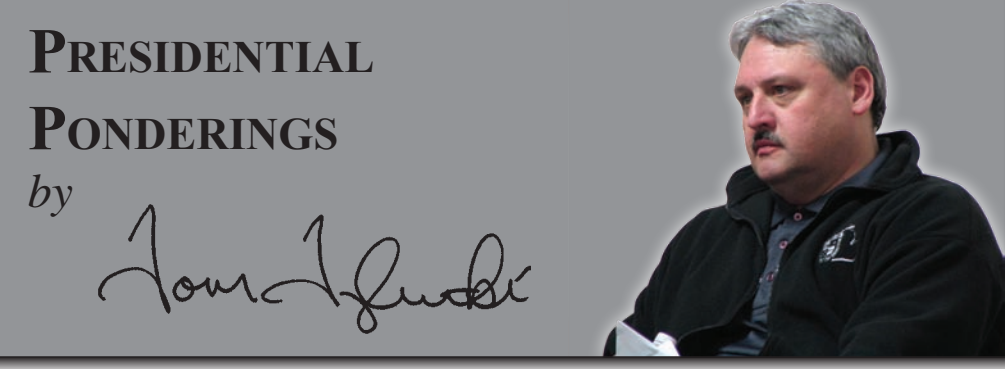
Henderson has been an officer since 1992 and an MCO Executive Board member for more than a decade. Gov. Rick Snyder appointed him to replace Andy Potter, who was removed from the council earlier this year. MCO officials weren't happy about Potter's removal, but they're pleased the governor agreed to the union's request to put Henderson on the council in Potter's place.

Henderson took the oath of office May 8.



Bill Henderson, left, with Tim Elkin, chairman of the DOC Training Council.

PRESIDENTIAL
PONDERINGS
by *Tom Ivers*



Much has happened since we last spoke. MCO was successful in winning the 4 percent pension lawsuit at the Court of Appeals, with the Court ruling lawmakers overstepped their bounds. The State has appealed to the Supreme Court. The portal-to-portal hearing was canceled, and it's our understanding the judge will rule based on documents submitted to the court. MCO is trying to get officers the compensation they are owed. Check our website for the latest information.

The RUO technical appeal has been filed with the help of our outside law firm, Sachs Waldman.

As of this writing, we can't predict how the impasse panel will rule on our contracts. I hope you read our cover story on impasse. We need backing from all of you. Talk to your coworkers. We're stronger in this fight and all things when we stick together.

We are also in court challenging the view that state employees fall under right-to-work. As we've said before, state employees are under the authority of the Civil Service Commission. Only the commission can regulate our working conditions and salaries. The governor and legislature overstepped their bounds (are you seeing a pattern here? We need to elect leaders who respect our state Constitution and working people. More on that later.)

Since the inception of right-to-work laws, well over 100 agency fee payers have signed back into the union. I have spoken with several of them, and the general theme is they understand why the governor, Senate and House enacted Right to Work. RTW backers hope members will stop paying dues and unions will be weakened. They don't want you to have a voice in challenging this administration in court on issues like the 4 percent, portal-to-portal, RUO classification, right-to-work and other violations we'll undoubtedly encounter. Who knows what's around the corner with this administration?

We continue to advocate against privatization. Our members have been circulating Aramark's hiring ads published in newspapers. Aramark boasts starting wages of more than \$10 an hour. Continue to contact your legislators. Remind them of the tragedies, high turnover and document falsification at private prisons in other states. Remind them prison privatization in Michigan has been a failed experiment.

If you aren't happy with the politics of our state leaders, next year is your chance to turn the tables. Vote for lawmakers that appreciate the job we do and advocate for our safety and fair compensation. MCO will share endorsements. Stay strong, safe and united. Stronger together is the bedrock of our union.


Tom Ivers

CSEU REPORT CONDEMNS OUTSOURCING, MANAGEMENT RATIO

The Coalition of State Employee Unions released a report in November attacking the state's inefficiencies and demanding collaboration to streamline operations.

The Pure Michigan Waste report is an update of problems outlined in the 2011 New Solutions report. After that report was released, the state agreed to form a New Solutions Committee with frontline workers and managers. But the state was just paying workers lip service. Little has been accomplished, and many of the problems cited in the 2011 report have gotten worse.

Read the Pure Michigan Waste report and CSEU news at workingformichigan.org.



DETROIT DETENTION CENTER UP AND RUNNING, THANKS TO MDOC OFFICERS

Work at the Detroit Detention Center is demanding and all-around different from working in a prison, DDC officers say.

"It's nothing like a prison," Officer McCallum said. "(The detainees) are leaving and coming back really fast ... It's a lot of work, faster pace (and there's) not so much of a set schedule."

Officers at a city lockup don't control movements to different places like the chow hall and yard, but they more than make up for it with other responsibilities.

On a Friday afternoon this summer, about three officers were escorting detainees to and from video arraignments. Another CO scanned an arrestee's fingerprints and took his mug shot. Other officers worked on computers in the unit command post.

There's always something going on, Officer Dalton said. Officers in the women's unit walk over to the men's unit to help out when things get hectic, she said.

Many officers said they don't mind the stress of the job because they're working closer to home.

CO Jones said she's happy to be back on day shift. The days are busy, but the time flies. The day she spoke with MCO, officers had already processed five bookings.

DDC opened in August at the former Mound Correctional Facility. DDC will soon replace all five of the Detroit Police Department's five precinct jails.

Detroit police and state corrections officers work hand-in-hand at DDC. Police work in the bubble, which is also used for storing evidence. Police use an old visiting room for writing reports. The detective's bureau is on the facility's second floor. Police also man the front desk 24 hours a day.

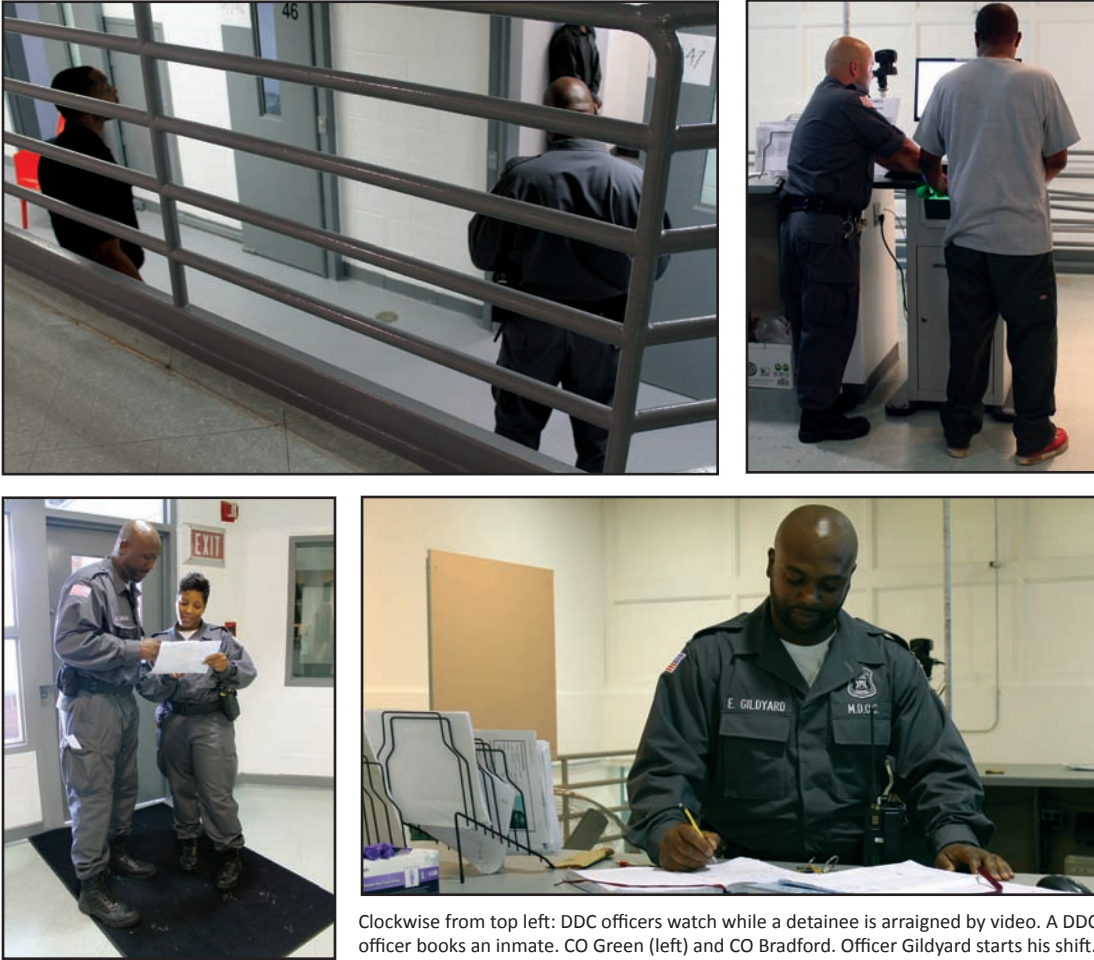
MDOC employees work in the housing units. They are trained in jail management, video arraignments, fingerprinting and administering breath tests.

"To date, the staff at the DDC have met these challenges..." said Jimmy Waters, administrative assistant at the prison.

Besides managing hundreds of detainees, corrections and police officers coordinate with courts and other police departments and outside agencies. Several law enforcement agencies have told MCO leaders the DDC officers are very professional.

"We cannot brag enough about the staff here at the DDC as they are essential in the way we do business," Waters said.

- Here's a special thanks to Jimmy Waters for his contributions to this story.



Clockwise from top left: DDC officers watch while a detainee is arraigned by video. A DDC officer books an inmate. CO Green (left) and CO Bradford. Officer Gildyard starts his shift. Officers Dalton (left), McCallum and Peraza talk to MCO Recording Secretary Brent Kowitz.



CORRECTIONS OFFICERS SHOW DISDAIN FOR GOVERNOR THIS SUMMER AT IONIA FREE FAIR

About 20 officers staged a silent protest in July during the Governor's Lawn Party at the Ionia Free Fair.

When the governor spoke, the officers turned their backs to him to show the Michigan Department of Corrections logo printed on the back of their T-shirts. The COs picketed outside the fair for about an hour before the protest.

The officers took action to raise community awareness of dangerous budget cuts that threaten the safety of the Ionia community and other communities throughout Michigan. Most of those at the protest work at the Ionia prisons, but at least one CO drove several hundred miles from the western U.P.

The media took notice. The Ionia Sentinel-Standard, The Lansing State Journal and other outlets reported on the protest.



Corrections officers turn their backs to Gov. Rick Snyder in protest during his speech at the Ionia Free Fair Governor's Lawn Party.

Statement of Activities 2nd Quarter 2013

Revenues	Amount
Membership Dues	\$1,027,437
Non-Member Fees	\$29,008
Interest	\$2,133
From Affiliates	\$2,880
Total Revenues	\$1,061,458
Expenses	
Arbitration	\$8,150
Books, dues and subscriptions	\$929
Collective Bargaining	\$959
Computer expense	\$4,766
Contributions	\$8,400
Depreciation	\$17,251
Insurance	\$54,452
Leased Equipment	\$4,952
Legal and Accounting	\$8,450
MCO Report	\$6,612
Meetings and Conferences	\$64,924
Office and Administrative	\$2,609
Organizational Unity Materials	-\$207
Organizing	\$20,017
Pension Contribution	\$36,770
Postage	\$2,133
Repairs and Maintenance	\$7,610
Salaries	\$211,784
Social activities	\$13,699
Taxes - Payroll	\$15,647
Taxes - Per Capita	\$285,545
Telephone	\$9,658
Utilities	\$8,347
Total Expenses	\$793,457
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$268,001



MCO Report

Proudly Representing Michigan Corrections and Forensic Officers for over 40 Years



FINAL CONTRACT DECISION UP TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Bargaining this year has been a frustrating experience. Many MCO members have encouraged the bargaining team with their show of support and solidarity, whether in private chats or public actions like traveling to Lansing to demonstrate outside the Impasse Panel meeting (pictured above). Over the years, members have said they want to see MCO fight, and we're putting up the biggest fight in recent memory.

Here's a recap: The State refused to bargain economic items with the Coalition of State Employee Unions, even though two years ago the Governor said the process was successful. This was an attempt to divide and weaken the unions at the table. The result was time-consuming, inefficient bargaining.

It became clear early on that the State was not only going after everything that had money attached to it but also pursuing more concessions, shifting costs to the employees. The Office of the State Employer targeted wages and benefits. In the case of MCO, OSE proposed eliminating high security retention pay, reducing the uniform allowance to \$125, defining comp time as time not worked for purposes of calculating overtime (like A/L and S/I), and deleting a Letter of Understanding that

protects the meal period. If the meal period is eliminated, it would reduce the work day to 7 ½ hours. The state has also proposed allowing MDOC to instate 12-hour shifts at up to 12 facilities over the next two years.

MCO has agreed to several non-economic items and achieved a few gains, so those issues are not before the Panel. But the MCO bargaining team, in good conscience, decided not to send a negative and concessionary agreement to the members for a vote. The team would rather fight and argue our issues before the Impasse Panel and Civil Service Commission. Arguments were made to the Panel on Nov. 13. The three-person panel will make recommendations to the Commission by Nov. 27, and the Commission will make a final decision at its meeting, Dec. 18.

MCO is fighting on many fronts — the RUO suit, the 4 percent pension lawsuit, right-to-work lawsuit, portal-to-portal suit and prison privatization, as well as several challenges from MDOC regarding staffing and other matters. As we face multiple attacks, we must show solidarity and send a message to the State that MCO is strong and correctional and forensic officers are sticking together.

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CENTRAL: GOVERNOR HOPEFUL VISITS; RTW SURVEY SHOWS MEMBERS ARE STRONG

Bargaining was the most-discussed topic at the October Central Committee meeting in Lansing. MCO Executive Director Mel Grieshaber reminded delegates any printed update on bargaining will get into the hands of the media, and releasing information in public may be considered bargaining in bad faith.

Grieshaber also revealed the results of a Right to Work survey. In May, 300 members took a phone poll about their feelings toward MCO and Michigan’s right-to-work law. About 10 others participated in focus groups. More than 85 percent of respondents said it’s likely they’ll stay in the union once right-to-work comes into play. More than 75 percent of those surveyed said having a voice in the workplace is a good reason to stay in the union.

Mark Shauer, a Democrat planning a run for governor, paid the Central Committee a visit.

One delegate asked Shauer if

he would support giving new state employees health care when they retire — a benefit eliminated for people hired after 2009. Shauer said he would be in favor, because the state should be taking care of its retirees.

Privatization, recruit academies and the portal-to-portal lawsuit were also covered at the meeting. Delegates also voted to establish an MCO chapter at Detroit De-tention Center.

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

- **Marvin Ceplina** won 1st prize, a Bushmaster M4 Carbine Optics Ready 5.56/.223 (\$950 retail)
- **Jason Bierman** won 2nd prize, a Remington Versa Max Sportsman 12 Ga. Semi-Auto Shotgun (\$950)
- **Jason Roberts** won 3rd prize, a Terminator Cross bow with case (\$850)
- **Michael Gill** won 4th prize, a Browning X-bolt Hunter 300 Win. Mag. (\$800)
- **Milton Green** won 5th prize, a Remington CDL Classic Deluxe 30-06 Spfd. (\$800)
- **Trent Miller** won 6th prize, a Mossberg Silver Reserve II 20 Ga. O/U Shotgun (\$550)
- **Greg Bush** won 7th prize, a Savage Model 212 12 Ga. Slug Gun (\$550)

Thanks for supporting the Crisis Fund!



Officers listen at the MCO Central Committee meeting in October.

THE FIGHTS! MCO VICTORIOUS IN RECENT ARBITRATIONS; LAWSUITS AND OTHER CHALLENGES STILL PENDING

MCO wins sick time during deer season arb

Officers cannot be required to get a doctor’s note if they call in sick on the first day of hunting season, according to an arbitrator’s decision handed down in early October.

Last year, all COs at St. Louis, Central Michigan and Carson City were told they’d have to submit a doctor’s note to take sick leave on certain days in mid-November that coincided with the first days of deer hunting season.

MCO immediately filed a statewide grievance. The arbitrator sided with MCO.

However, the Department doesn’t have to reimburse any costs to those who called in sick last year.

Union checks DOC on strip searches

An arbitrator has ruled a grievance accusing the Department of an unreasonable strip search may proceed to arbitration.

In August, a female officer at MRF was strip searched when she arrived at work. She agreed to the search, but if she hadn’t agreed, she may have been disciplined and possibly even fired. No contra-band was found. The woman filed a grievance, but the Department argued its policies on searches are non-grievable.

Four percent issue sits at Supreme Court

In September, the State asked the Michigan Supreme Court to examine the 4 percent issue. This came after the state lost the 4 percent case at the Michigan Court of Appeals.

State employee unions filed a brief asking the Supreme Court to deny the State’s request and let the lower court’s ruling stand.

The Supreme Court hasn’t taken any action on the case. The Court judges may take as long as they like to respond to the case.

Portal-to-portal court hearing canceled

A Nov. 14 court hearing in the portal-to-portal lawsuit was canceled. The judge was taking bereave-

ment leave.

It is MCO officials’ understanding the judge will instead rule based on briefs and other documents submitted to the court. The judge had not made a decision at publication time.

Supreme Court silent on right-to-work

The Court of Appeals in August ruled Right to Work applies to state employees. State employee unions have asked the Supreme Court to take up the suit. The Supreme Court hasn’t scheduled any hearings or even confirmed whether it will hear the case. Again, there’s no deadline for the Supreme Court to act.

State to address RUO appeal

The Attorney General’s office has until Dec. 13 to respond to MCO’s appeal in the RUO challenge.

The Civil Service Commission in June sided with the Department of Corrections’ elimination of the RUO classification. MCO reviewed thousands of pages of documents the CSC used in making its decision and filed an appeal in October.

The AG’s office asked for an extension in filing a response to our appeal. Their deadline is now Dec. 13.

Help is on the way — nearly 300 recruits started training in October. Because of the class size, the training is taking place at the Michigan State Police Academy and another location in Lansing.

MCO officials met the new officers and handed out a new booklet with membership details, including union benefits, history and structure. Recruits should know being a member is invaluable.

Students listened as President Tom Ty-lutki and Jeremy Tripp, assistant for govern-mental and community affairs, emphasized just how important it is to vote as a state employ-ee and corrections of-ficer. They were shocked to hear Rep. Greg MacMaster, chair of the House corrections committee, used to be a weatherman!

Another class starts in December.

Exchange Transfer List



Name	Current Facility	Desired Facility
Mercedes Heath, E-8	SMT/(517)780-6314	MRF/DDC
Thomas Richardson, E-9	LRF/(231)773-9200	Ionia area
Josiah Bush, E-9	NCF/(906)293-6200	URF/KCF
Shawn Brunett, E-9	ICF/(616)527-6331	TCF/MRF/JCF/CS/SMT/RGC/SRF
Reid Desrochers, E-8	LMF/(906)387-5000	URF/KCF/LRF/MCF
Frank Gordon, E-8	LMF/(906)387-5000	KCF/URF
William Wilson, E-9	NCF/(906)293-6200	KCF/URF
Roger Carter, E-9	MRF/(586)749-4920	DRC
Richard Koski, E-8	LMF/(906)387-5000	MBP
Christopher Bates, E-9	MBP/(906)226-6531	AMF
Matthew Korona, E-8	RGC/(517)780-5600	SAI
Lou Ann Kasprzycki, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9612	Jackson area
Josh LaTendresse, E-9	LMF/(906)387-5000	MBP
Mike Berro, E-8	JCS/(517) 780-6175	DDC/DRC/MRF/WHV
Richard Hartman, E-9	RGC/(517)780-5600	SMT
David Slater, E-8	MTU/(616)527-3100	DRC/MRF
Jody Bauer-Dillman, E-9	MBP/(906)226-6531	AMF
Josh Joyal, E-9	URF/(906)495-2275	AMF
Kalil Terrance, E-9	ICF/(616)527-6331	RGC/JCS/JCF/SMT
Joseph Stangenwald, E-9	LMF/(906)387-5000	AMF
Brent Sowa, E-9	URF/(906)495-2275	LMF
Michael Lange, E-9	ARF/(517)265-3900	WHV/SAI/
Nicholas Tipa, E-8	JCS/(517) 780-6175	SAI
Jeffrey Hunter, E-8	RGC/(517)780-5600	DDC
Jeremy Randall,	SRF/(989)695-9880	STF
Brandon Williams, E-8	SMT/(517)780-6314	Detroit Area
Dennis Vowell, E-9	LRF/(231)773-9200	URF/KCF/NCF
Ahmed Bazzi, E-8	SMT/(517)780-6314	Detroit Area
Jeff Harshman, E-8	ICF/(616)527-6331	JCS/SMT/JCF/ARF/MTU/IBC/RMI
Brian Mays, E-9	IBC/(616)527-2510	DDC/DRC/MRF
Edmund Stone, E-9	ECF/(231)723-8272	MPF
Courtney Wilson	JCF/(517)780-5000	DDC/TCF/DRC/MRF
Jeremy Bolen, E-9	MTF/(231)773-9200	LCF
Robert Dockery	MRF/(586) 749-4900	DRC/DDC
Rick Holmsberg, E-9	IBC/(616)527-2510	RGC
Joshua Mills, E-9	LCF/(517)278-6942	RGC
Anglea Thompson	MRF/(586) 749-4900	DDC/DRC
William Bridges	MRF/(586) 749-4900	DDC
Amber Brown, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC/DRC
Amber Dotson	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC
Tara Tucker	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC
Maurice Simpkins, E-8	ARF/(517)265-3900	MRF/TCF/DRC/DDC/WHV
Damon Robinson, E-8	LCF/(517)278-6942	DDC
Marilyn Zachery	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC/DRC
Rita Wise, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	DRC/DDC
Melanie Coleman, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	DRC/DDC
Andrea Anderson	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC
Michele Albritten,	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC
Gustavo Regus, E-9	JCS/(517) 780-6175	DDC/DRC/MRF
Lula Margiljic	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC
Thesia Wilson Upshaw	MRF/(586) 749-4900	DRC/DDC
Kevin Chaffin, E-9	IBC/(616)527-2510	St. Louis area/DRF
A.E. Smith	JCF/(517)780-5000	DDC/DRC
David Cox, E-8	JCS/(517) 780-6175	MRF/DDC/DRC/WHV
Marilyn Joe, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	DDC
Hector Wilson, E-9	MTF/(231)773-9200	LRF
Toni Glover	MRF/(586) 749-4900 ext. 120	DRC/DDC
Fred Hill, E-9	RGC/(517) 780-5600	DRC/ WHV/DDC
Nicholas Simovski, E-9	RGC/(517)780-5600	MRF/DRC
Fred Raby, E-9	ARF/(517)265-3900	DRC/DDC
Dennis Keith, E-9	LCF/(517)278-6942	Jackson area
Scott Saatio, E-8	KCF/(906)495-2282	MBP
Stephanie Madison, E-9	MCF/(231)773-3201	IBC
Malcolm Cook, E-9	MCF/(231)773-3201	DRC/MTU/Jackson Area
Nathan Brown, E-8	LRF/(231)773-9200	ECF
Ryan Smith, E-8	SMT/(517)780-6004	TCF
Derrance Parker, E-8	RMI/(616)527-2500	DRC/MRF/WHV
Robert Walker, E-9	ECF/(231)723-8272	JCS/JCF/RGC/MRF/SMT/SRF/DRC

Please note:

- **This list will be cleared out Jan. 2, 2014. If you wish to remain on the list, email anita@mco-seiu.org.**
- **You cannot transfer to Woodland or Forensic Center.** Officers at these facilities are a different classification. If you would like to work at one of these prisons, you must apply.
- **Those with the E-8 classification may not transfer until they achieve E-9 status.** Many E-8 officers are on this list for planning purposes.

Name	Current Facility	Desired Facility
Anthony Lamb, E-9	ARF/(517)265-3900	Jackson area
William McQuade, E-8	IBC/(616)527-2510	SLF/STF
David Guardiola, E-8	RGC/(517)780-5600	DRC/MRF/DDC
Dawn Kilbourn, E-9	IBC/(616)527-2510	Jackson area
Chet Baldini, E-9	Alger/(906)387-5000	MBP
Michael Flynn, E-8	IBC/(616)527-2510	Muskegon area
Ameer Alkubani, E-8	MTU/(616)527-3100	WHV
Christopher Balmes, E-9	IBC/(616)522-9759	RGC
Daniel Matz, E-9	OCF/(906)787-2217	MRF/TCF/ICF
Vallen VanZyll, E-8	WHV/(734)572-9612	LCF/Jackson area/Ionia area
Lynn Keeley, E-8	LRF/(231)773-9200	TCF/MRF/MPF
Michael McBride	Alger/(906)387-5000	MBP
Kristina Wood, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9612	TCF/DRC/MRF
Lawanna Hall, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9612	Thumb
Ahmad Salameh, E-8	ARF/(517)265-3900	Macomb/DRC/DDC
Chad Smith, E-8	ARF/(517)265-3900	SAI/LCF
David Slater, E-9	MTU/(616)527-3100	Macomb
Craig Miller, E-8	RMI/(989)941-9017	SRF/STF/SLF/TCF
Amy Bungart, E-9	JCF/(517)780-5000	RGC
Petius Graham, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9612	DRC
Ray Hargett	MCF/(231)773-3201	LRF
Brandon Bell,	ARF/(517)265-3900	DRC/Macomb/DDC
Claude Terrell, E-9	SAI/(734)475-1368	WHV/DRC/MRF
Stylianos Agapiou, E-8	RMI/(616)527-2500	MRF/TCF/DRC/DDC
Brian Green, E-9	ARF/(517)265-3900	Cooper Street/Lakeland
Frank Malenski	Cotton/(517)780-5000	Saginaw
Tyrone Ivory, E-9	ARF/(517)265-3900	DRC/WHV/MRF
Jason Rinehart, E-8	ARF/(517)265-3900	Macomb/Thumb/DDC
Paul McLaren, E-9	RGC/(517)780-5600	DRC/Macomb/Thumb
Jordan Bonanno, E-9	MTF/(231)773-1122	Detroit Reentry/Macomb
Tamiko Tomlinson, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	Detroit Reentry/Macomb
David Patterson, E-9	Alger/(906)387-5000	Newberry
Mary Simms, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	Thumb
Mark Kalanquin	IBC/(616)527-2510	Thumb
Vikas Vij, E-8	MTU/(616)527-3100	Macomb
Lorrie Stanton, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	SMT/ARF/RMI/IBC/MTU/RM/ICF/JCF/JCS
Ernest Huizar	St. Louis/(989)681-6444	TCF/SRF
Crystal Pieper, E-8	MTU/(616)527-3100	STF/SLF
Barry McLemore II, E-9	ARF/(517)265-3900	Detroit Reentry Center
Matthew Vasquez, E-9	MTU/(616)527-3100	Thumb/Macomb
Ellis Farrar	MTU/(616)527-3100	Macomb
Dennis Kellar, E-8	Alger/(906)387-5000	SAI/STF/SRF
Rachel Snyder, E-9	St. Louis/(989)681-6444	Saginaw
Jonathan Russell, E-9	MCF(12-hr)/(231)773-3201	Alger/Marquette/Kinross/Chippewa
Tonya Wysong, E-8	RMI/(616)527-2500	Macomb/Thumb/Saginaw
Francis Stites-Bennett, E-8	DDC/(313)368-8300	TCF
Ty Hyatt, E-9	Baraga/(906)353-7070	Marquette
Shannon Gatza, E-9	Central MI/(989)681-6668	Saginaw/Thumb
Scott Johnson	MTF/(231)773-1122	STF/SLF/SRF/TCF/MRF
Elaine Jeske, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	STF/SLF/SRF/DRF
Delandon Thomas, E-9	SRF/(989)695-9880	Thumb
Ken Holman, E-9	Alger/(906)387-5000	Marquette
Darissa Littlejohn, E-9	WHV/(734)572-9893	Cotton/Jackson area
Marlon Reese	Thumb/(810)667-2045	Macomb
Brian West, E-9	Gus Harrison/(517) 265-3900	Macomb/Thumb
Cindy Garcia-Floras, E-9	Pugsley/(231) 263-5253	Saginaw
Brandon McBride, E-9	Gus Harrison/(517) 265-3900	DRC/MRF/DDC
Jeffery Krummel, E-9	Woodland/(734) 449-3320	Thumb
Derrick Johnson, E-9	Parnall/(517) 780-6004	Ryan/Macomb/WHV
Roger VanPopering, E-9	Carson City/(989) 584-3941	Saginaw/Central MI
Greg Delzeenne, E-9	Gus Harrison/(517) 265-3900	Egler
Mike Bini, E-10	Central MI/(989) 681-6668	Pugsley
Kirk Vogel	Oaks/(231) 723-8272	Saginaw
Roy Betterly, E-9	Ionia/(616)527-6331	MPF/STF
Kerry Krakhofer	Macomb/(586) 749-4900	Baraga
April Magnan, E-9	Thumb/(810) 667-2045	Macomb
Christine Hemry, CRR	Gus Harrison/(517)265-3900	Jackson Area

SPECIAL INTERVIEW: FORMER FEE PAYER TELLS MCO WHY HE REJOINED

Right-to-work and other setbacks for working people have persuaded more than 100 MCO fee payers to become full members. One of them, Greg Poll, Parnall, shared his frustrations with MCO Communications Specialist Anita Lloyd.

Anita Lloyd: You became a member because you were upset about recent attacks on working people or corrections officers. Specifically, what issues concerned you the most and led to you signing back into the union?
Greg Poll: It comes down to Rick Snyder. He’s done more damage in his two years to MCO and Michigan corrections officers than I’ve seen in my previous 19. I signed back up into the union because this is by far and away the worst I have ever seen it as far as attacks on correc-

tions officers. Not only are we facing staff reductions, overcrowding and prisoners being waived down to lower security levels prematurely, but our governor has illegally taken money from us that the union has fought in court and won back for us. He also looks for any little loop hole to take money out of our pockets, like eliminating the RUO positions, and closing positions on all shifts daily, which puts staff safety in jeopardy. Now he wants to privatize services that he claims will save money but we all know it is all done with smoke and mirrors. Not only will it not save money, but it will most likely cost more in the long run. How long will it be before he tries to privatize all corrections officer positions?
AL: What about attacks on working people in general? Other than struggles with your

job and (attacks on) corrections officers, are you concerned about the middle class in general?
GP: Oh, absolutely. The wealthy get their cut and the people that don’t work get their cut. The middle class gets screwed all the way around.
AL: What do you think your job would be like without the union?
GP: Guaranteed less money, less benefits, and a much more dangerous work place. I know my bring-home (pay) is significantly less (than it used to be). But, you can cut that in half again, easy. And, the things that they’re doing, as far as paroling convicts and putting them back out on the streets with no regard to public safety is ridiculous.
AL: Right-to-work — were you really mad when that happened?

GP: Right-to-work is great if you want the right to make less money, have less benefits and have (less safe) working conditions. The whole right-to-work thing is obviously just a front to destroy unions.
AL: You believe that?
GP: Oh, absolutely. I mean, that’s what right-to-work is for.
AL: OK. Anything else you want to tell us?
GP: I want to encourage all corrections officer to get out and vote, and get your families out (to) vote also. Vote to get people like Rick Snyder out of office. And I’m a true conservative down to the core, but I’ll tell you what, guys like him, he may be a Republican but he’s not a conservative. He’s an elitist. He and his rich buddies are going to have money and the rest of us are going to go broke.

MCO STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Editor - Anita (Pere) Lloyd



“Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause.” –Samuel Gompers

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