



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JANUARY 10, 2005

New Contract on Web

The new 2005-2007 MCO Contract can be found on the OSE's website at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/ose/>

Simply click on the top link on the left side titled "Current Collective Bargaining Agreements" and then scroll down to find the Security Unit. Click on the dates of the new contract... this will open a new page which lists each article as an individual file.

MCO is working to provide the document in its entirety in one file through our own website in the near future.



State Vehicle Mileage Rate Increases

The State Rate for Private Vehicle usage was increased from 37.5 cents per mile to 40.5 cents per mile effective January 1, 2005.

This change is the result of an increase in the Federal Standard Mileage Rate by the IRS, which is what governs the State of Michigan rates.

DCH to DOC House Bill Signed

The House Bill 6085 which allows for a one time exemption of certain training requirements allowing forensic security aids to become corrections officers was

Critical at MTU

A physical confrontation between three prisoners in the rec yard at MTU in mid-November involved the use of a lock-in-a-sock as well as a shank.

Two officers took a prisoner to the ground in a bear hug maneuver and placed him in cuffs, but not before the individual was able to kick another inmate in the back and punch one of the Officers in the head.

The third officer restrained another inmate who had fled the scene. This individual had been observed hitting another inmate with the lock-in-a-sock

A shank was then found on the third inmate involved in the altercation.

At shift change there was a systematic shake down of all prisoners and of the yard in an effort to locate additional weapons.

One prisoner involved required medical attention at a local hospital, and the three officers were treated for minor blood exposure.

approved by the Governor on December 30th, and filed with the Secretary of State on January 4, 2005.

You are cordially invited to
a
Retirement Reception for

Fred R. Parks

celebrating nearly 27 years
of service
as Executive Director
to the

**Michigan Corrections
Organization
SEIU Local 526M**

January 21, 2005
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933

If you wish to contribute
towards a group gift, please
contact Cindy Sanderson at
(517) 485-3310.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS ORGANIZATION
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WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG



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JANUARY 26, 2005

New Member Discounts!

As many of you are aware, MCO has been actively expanding the Member Benefits Program. Some recent additions include:

Disney - Discounts on 3-Day or more passes... Save even more, up to \$50 per ticket, by purchasing tickets with no expiration date...so you can go again next year! Call Florida By Choice, Inc. at (407) 992-1001 now or follow a link through our website (which will be available later this week) and use Associate Code: MCO12105.

Great Wolf Lodge - \$129/night Sunday - Thursday for a Family Suite with 4 Waterpark passes, and only \$80 more for Friday/Saturday nights. Regular price is \$279/night. Call 866.GR8.WOLF or visit www.greatwolflodge.com to make reservations. Mention discount code: TMICHIGAN.

Reid Safety & Supply - a 10% discount to all MCO members on footwear including Red Wing and Wolverine, clothing such as Carhart, and safety supplies. Simply provide your MCO or State Employee ID Card to receive your discount. If you have any questions, just ask for Mike Norkus! Phone: (231) 767-3785 Toll-Free: (866) 787-3785 Fax: (231) 767-3863

American Mortgage Decisions - the facts you need and viable options concerning refinancing, second mortgages, debt consolidation, home improvements, and home purchases. As an MCO member, you're entitled to an exclusive rate reduction program at no additional cost, reduced Title Fees, Appraisal waivers (case by case), Prequalification credit checks at no charge, they will pay your lender fee (\$495 max), and rates consistently lower than local banks.

To take advantage of this great offer, please contact Tony Kogut at (517) 321-3500, Ext. 217 or via e-mail at: tkogut@mortgagehotlineinc.com



For more information on these and other benefits, visit our website at www.mco-seiu.org!

Unfair Labor Practice Denied

The ULP filed by MCO against the State regarding the reduction in gun tower staffing was denied by the Civil Service Hearing Officer last week. MCO is appealing the decision, to the Employee Relations Board. ***The fight continues...***

Classification Changes at Multiple Facilities

The Department's plan to convert Level 2 housing at Boyer Road and Ojibway to Level 1, and Level 4 housing at Mound, Ryan and Bellamy Creek to Level 2 is directly impacting the safety and security of officers in those facilities. MCO has taken action to oppose these budget driven decisions which put us all at risk.

NOTICE:

Effective this issue, the Executive Council voted to distribute the KYI electronically, with the exception that paper copies will be sent to E-Council for continued posting at the facilities.

Contact Sacha at MCO (sacha@mco-seiu.org) to add your e-mail address to the mailing list!



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

FEBRUARY 4, 2005

Assault at Mound on January 25, 2005

After a CO radioed for assistance to "take one to the hole" she was struck several times with a closed fist by the inmate who refused to comply with orders.

Responding officers took the prisoner to the ground and restrained him. They found the Officer face down, unresponsive, and bleeding severely from the facial area.

After treatment at the local hospital the officer was released with contusions, lacerations and a possible broken wrist.

Officers Injured While Breaking Up Fight

A brawl on January 28th, at HVM resulted in four officers being sent to the ER for treatment.

It all started when two prisoners started fighting in the 5 block dayroom. Officers responded immediately and sustained lacerations and contusions while attempting to separate and restrain the two inmates. In the process of breaking up the fight, another inmate joined the melee and swung punches at one of the inmates and the officers restraining him.

Perimeter Incident at Bellamy Creek

On the morning of January 28th, perimeter officers discovered suspicious footprints leading up to the fence along the big yard at Bellamy Creek. All indications are that contraband was thrown over the fence.

All movement was halted after lunch lines and Housing Unit 4 was shook down, however nothing was found.

Swift Action by CO's Prevent Injury

Officers at MTU acted quickly and were able to maintain control of 80 prisoners in the card room when a fight broke out between three prisoners. A lock-in-a-sock was found after the room was cleared, but had not been able to be used.

Officers Attacked at Cotton

January 31st proved to be a dangerous day for officers in the TD Unit at Cotton.

After being asked to submit to a pat search, a prisoner began to hit the officer involved about her eyes and face opening a cut down to the bone.

A responding officer, who had been doing a shakedown elsewhere, also took blows to the face resulting in the fracture of his orbital bone and severe lacerations to the face and eye area.

The officers were transported to Foote Hospital where they were treated for their injuries and possible blood borne exposure.

MCO Protests Diaper Changing Issue

The union continues to argue with the Department of Corrections over its attempts to require Corrections Officers to change diapers of mentally ill prisoners.

MCO's position is that changing diapers will undermine the ability of Corrections Officers to maintain the proper degree of authority and respect needed to manage prisoners.

This is not a direction Corrections should go and we will continue the fight!



DOC Plans Closures to Save Money!

The Department of Corrections announced this morning that Camp Tuscola and Camp Sauble, as well as the Buena Vista and Benton Harbor Centers are scheduled to close in June. In addition, they plan to change Camp Koehler to a Level I facility. Meetings were being held at the affected facilities when the announcements were made.

MCO will be meeting with the DOC to discuss the closures and to ensure that the Union Contract is followed.

There are still many vacancies in the state so *no officers will lose their job.*

Contract with Youth Prison Cancelled!

Ever since the 1990's when legislation was passed to allow for a private run youth prison, MCO has lobbied the State against this practice.

In an announcement by Governor Granholm today, the State will be discontinuing its contract with the Youth Prison located near Baldwin, Michigan.

The youth offenders will be brought into the Michigan Prison system within approximately 90 days.

The building is owned and operated by the Geo Group, and there remains the possibility that they could bring in prisoners from other states, federal or immigration prisoners.

MCO believes that there are

inherent security issues, higher rates of turnover and lower paid officers in private facilities, which put the public at risk.

We support the decision of the Governor and the DOC to rescind this contract... it is a step in the right direction.

Several Level I's to increase population

MCO was informed that the DOC plans to increase the number of beds at 10 Level I facilities in the state.

In response to this increase in population, MCO will be meeting with the Dept. to argue for increased staffing levels.

A list of the facilities that will be changing will be available soon.

CTO's Max Pay at Risk

The DOC is pursuing the elimination of "Max Pay" for CTO's, believing that it is not granted to them according to the contract and that the class has been receiving it inappropriately.

MCO is fighting back... It is the union's view that CTO's rate the high security pay and should continue receiving it. We will argue this issue as far as Arbitration if necessary.

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FEBRUARY 18, 2005

Donate Now to Annual Leave Bank!

The window period for making donations to the Central Annual Leave Bank opened February 7, 2005. Donations may be made by MCO members by completing the "Central Annual Leave Donation Bank-Donation Form" DMB-16-OSE. This form can be found on the OSE's website at www.michigan.gov/ose on the left panel under "Forms". The provisions for making donations can be found in Article 28, Section L, of the MCO Contract.

The window period to make a donation ends March 7, 2005.



Contract Finalization Continues

MCO and the OSE continue to proof the final language of the new Contract. This is a tedious and time-consuming process.

Once the final language has been approved, it will go to print and a copy will be provided to every MCO member. At that time, the complete document will be available on MCO's website as well.

In the meantime, a non-final version is available on the OSE's website at: www.michigan.gov/ose. Simply click on "Current Collective Bargaining Agreements" on the left side and then select MCO.

Forensic Sees Five Criticals Since Nov.

There's been a rash of critical incidents at the Forensic Center, the latest occurring at the "new" Forensic, which opened last week.

In November a patient just off assault precautions attacked a nurse, which resulted in leave for the nurse and four forensic officers.

December started with another attack by a patient with an assaultive record. Before the two officers who'd been attacked could even return from the hospital for treatment of their bites and head injuries, the same patient attacked a doctor, nurse and forensic supervisor while being debriefed. And later that month, an officer sustained ligament and bone damage to his arm while secluding a patient and remains on leave.

In January a female officer was kicked in the stomach by a patient who had a record of attacking women and who apparently believed the officer was pregnant. That officer is still on leave.

On February 10th, a patient sucker punched an officer in the face, causing significant injuries. This officer also remains on leave.

Gun Raffle Starts off with a Bang!

A statewide raffle to benefit the MCO Crisis Fund started off with a bang last month and is well on the way to making a significant donation to the fund!

Tickets sell for \$2 a piece and prize details are listed below.

Get your tickets from your Chapter President or contact Mike Taylor if you have any questions at:

mdtay@charter.net

Drawing will be held at May Central.



- 1st Prize: 700 BDM Remington 270 w/ scope (Leopold Rinds and base with Nikon 3-9MM scope)
- 2nd Prize: 700 Remington 30-06 Semi-Auto
- 3rd Prize: Spartan 20 Gauge Over and Under Shotgun
- 4th Prize: Remington 1100 16 Gauge Semi-Auto Shotgun
- 5th Prize: Remington Express 12 Gauge Shotgun
- 6th Prize: Knight Wolverine ss/Comp. 50 Cal 209

Drawing will be held May 5, 2005 - 2 p.m. at MCO Central Conference, Holiday Inn Conference Center, Lansing, Michigan. All prizes will be picked up at any Gander Mountain store or the Winners may take the cash equivalent. All proceeds will go to the MCO Crisis Fund. Must be 18 years old to Enter. Need not be present to win. State of MI Raffle License No. R79689

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

sc:opeiu459aflcio



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MARCH 2, 2005

Michigan Correctional Officer of the Year - 2005



Ken Hatfield was chosen as the Michigan Department of Corrections 2005 Correctional Officer of the Year!

Officers are selected based on their work ethic, MDOC policy compliance, communication skills and professionalism.

Hatfield has worked for the Department for 9 years, first as a CO, then CSR, RUO, CTO and then again as a CSR in the Absconder Recovery Unit since 2003.

In the past year he has been directly involved in the apprehension of approximately 134 escapees and parole violators.

One apprehension became life threatening when two

absconders exited their vehicle with guns. They then fled into a local restaurant, which was filled with nearly 85 patrons at the time, taking one hostage. Hatfield took a leadership role by constantly talking to the absconders, and simultaneously helping to get the patrons out of the restaurant safely. The absconder was ultimately shot and taken into custody. Hatfield's professionalism and calm demeanor were critical in managing this situation.

Ken has established an extensive network with Social Security, Telephone Agencies, the FBI, US Marshals Service and others to conduct the effective "safe street sweep" operation.

Ken also serves as a part time police officer in Portland, MI, and is actively involved in his community Crimestoppers program, giving talks to rescue

missions' staff, law enforcement agencies and other community organizations.

Other finalists included...



CO Cheryl Masker
Baraga



CO Tom Greenhoe
I-Max



RUO John Mayer
Carson City



RUO Mike Taylor
Marquette

New Insurance Cards for State Health Plan PPO Subscribers



Blue Cross Blue Shield plans to mail out new identification cards to employees enrolled in the State Health Plan PPO. These new cards will have a new prefix number on the card. This change is for administrative handling of your coverage, and does not affect your benefits in any way.

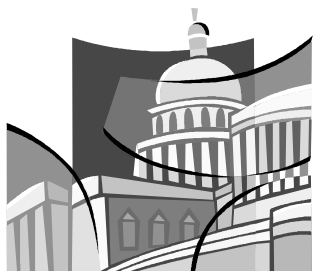
You will need to notify your medical providers of the change, the next time you need medical care. They will need the new ID number to properly process your claim.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MARCH 11, 2005

Bills Introduced for Retirement and Early-Out



Once again, a Bill has been introduced to give state employees the option to choose between the defined benefit and the defined contribution retirement plans.

This year it is HB 4030, introduced by Representative

Vagnozzi, and it was referred to the Committee on Government Operations on January 27th.

The complete text of the bill can be found by visiting www.legislature.mi.gov and entering "4030" in the Bill Search box.

Another House Bill has been introduced offering an Early Out Package, HB 4422. A similar bill was introduced last term and died

at the end of the year. The likelihood of it passing this term is again very low.

Once again, the complete text of the Bill as introduced can be found by entering "4422" in the Bill Search Box at www.legislature.mi.gov.

HB 4422 was referred to the Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement on March 1, 2005.

Two Criticals at Forensic In One Night

March 8th proved to be an eventful evening at the Forensic Center. In two separate incidents, one officer ended up with a broken wrist, and another was bitten. They are both off of work at this time.

One of the incidents was at the hands of a patient who had previously been put in seclusion for an attack on a fellow patient.

And, the patient who attacked two staff was released from seclusion just one hour later! This just highlights why these events are occurring with more regularity.

Johnson to Lead E.U.P. Labor Council



Jim Johnson, MCO State Secretary and Kinross Vice President, has been elected as the new President of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Central Labor Council.

The purpose of the Council is to encourage community involvement and promote unionism throughout the Eastern UP. For more information on Council Events contact Johnson at (906) 495-2928.

Camp Kohler Viewed As a Closure

The MCO Executive Board has made a determination that the elimination of Camp Kohler will be considered a "closure".

CTO Max Pay

MCO is moving the CTO Max Pay issue to Arbitration. In the meantime, however, it is scheduled to be cancelled effective March 13, 2005.

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MARCH 18, 2005

OFFICERS RESPOND TO ACCIDENT

On March 7, 2005, a CO at Saginaw Correctional heard what he believed to be a car accident while he was conducting zone checks. He notified Control and two fellow officers responded to investigate.

They found a vehicle upside down in a half filled ditch on Pierce Road in front of the facility. They radioed the information to Control who in turn called 911 to report the incident. The Officers then entered the water and were able to pull the sole occupant to safety. They required some medical attention for their efforts...

Way to go guys!

EARLY OUT BILL NOT FOR COVERED EMPLOYEES

HB 4422 was introduced to downsize the government... not to benefit employees. As you are all painfully aware, Corrections is already "downsized" to the point of staffing shortages and vacancies.

It specifically states that the bill does not apply to "Covered Employees" which includes Corrections Officers and Conservation Officers.

Just as in previous years, it is unlikely that this bill will pass.

GUN TOWER BATTLE LOST, BUT WAR GOES ON!

This week, the Michigan Civil Service Commission ruled against MCO in the unions fight to stop the elimination or reduction of staff in the gun towers. For one year the MCO has fought the DOC decision to reduce staffing. MCO successfully obtained a preliminary injunction, which was upheld by the Michigan Court of Appeals while the Civil Service Commission process unfolded. With the adverse civil service ruling, the judge has vacated the injunction, allowing the Department to move forward with its plan.

In its fight, MCO held informational pickets around the state, purchased billboards, generated a letter writing campaign to media and various decision-makers as well as pursued the legal route.

President Tom Tylutki said, "we may have lost the battle, but at this point we have not lost the war. We will continue to fight for proper staffing of the gun towers as well as staffing on the inside." Tylutki stated he was sure the DOC would have gutted the staffing levels even more had MCO not fought hard. "MCO members deserve a lot of credit for sticking together and showing our solidarity", Tylutki said.

Closing of assignments and staffing patterns remain our biggest issue at this time and the union is continuing to argue and fight because safety is our first concern. *Stay tuned...*

TRANSPO RUN FROM BAD TO WORSE...

A run from Duane Waters Hospital to Standish didn't start off well, and ended worse. While at the hospital, the inmate spit striking an officer in the face. The prisoner was placed in a spitters mask, and secured in the van where he began kicking the plexiglass between the seats and ignored orders to stop. Chemical agents became necessary.

On route back to Standish the prisoner spit over the plexiglass in the van, striking the officers on the face and clothing. They stopped the vehicle on two occasions eventually using chemicals again and contacted the MSP. While waiting, the inmate urinated underneath the plexiglass into the front of the van.

With the MSP, the inmate was removed and placed in belly chains, however he spit in the face of a Trooper.

Back at Standish, the prisoner kicked several officers when they placed him in top-of-bed restraints.



New Labor Representative Regions

Effective no later than March 13, 2005 the following Labor Rep Regions will apply....

CHERELYN DUNLAP

Pine River	Mid-Michigan
St. Louis	Saginaw
Standish	Parnall
Camp Lehman	+ Assist Cynthia

JOHN BOWERS

Thumb	Huron Valley Womens
Mound	Camp Brighton
Ryan	Forensic
Scott	Camp Tuscola

RON PARKINSON

Huron Valley Mens	Baraga
Macomb	Ojibway
Alger	Camp Ottawa
Camp Cusino	Camp Kitwen
Marquette	+ Demarse Training Academy

RANDY EICHER

Egeler	Cotton
Cooper St.	Camp Branch
Florence Crane	Lakeland
Southern MI	+ Foote Hospital
	+ ULP's

DAVE VAN KOEVEVERING

Muskegon	Pugsley
West Shoreline	Oaks
Brooks	Centers
Camp Sauble	+ Weapons Qualifications

CYNTHIA BEAL

SAI Bootcamp
Parr Hwy
Adrian Regional

TANGEE LAZA

MI Training Unit	Ionia Max
Riverside	Carson City
Deerfield	Bellamy Creek
Boyer Road	+ ULP's

KAREN MAZZOLINI

Kinross	Hiawatha
Newberry	Chippewa
Straits	Camp Manistique
Camp Koehler	



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MARCH 25, 2005

MCO VICE PRESIDENT TO RESIGN

Mel Grieshaber, an MCO Board Member for the past 22 years, is resigning as Vice President of the Union in light of his new position as MCO Executive Director. His resignation will be effective Friday, May 6, 2005.

In the event of a vacancy, the Union President, is responsible for selecting a new Board Member from Central Committee Delegates, who must then be confirmed by the State Executive Board.

It is expected that this will be accomplished shortly after the May 5th Central.

GUN RAFFLE

ONLY 5 WEEKS LEFT!

If you need more tickets, contact Cindy Kogut at MCO Central. If you have extra tickets, please turn them in as other facilities need them!

MONROE/LENAWEE COUNTY AFL-CIO OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP

Two \$500 awards will be given to high school graduates from Monroe and Lenawee Counties. Consideration will be given to those with at least a 3.0 GPA. For an application and further details, contact Sacha at MCO Central. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2005.

Officer Credited for Critical Prevention

On March 9, 2005, an inmate entered a Level IV unit at Brooks appearing very agitated. An RUO on duty noticed and attempted to question the prisoner, however the inmate refused, ignored orders to stop for a shakedown, and ran to his cell. Officers prevented him from entering his cell. The prisoner then revealed a shank.

The Officers tried to talk the prisoner down, however he bolted into a library/study room and began stabbing an inmate in the back.

BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS

Recently you received a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan regarding your durable medical equipment, prosthetics and orthotics benefits. This letter indicated an effective date for the enhanced coverage of April 1, 2005, which differs from the October date indicated in your MCO Contract Summary.

The April date is correct! Through a signed Letter of Understanding, the implementation of the new program was hastened. As of April 1, you will pay no out-of-pocket charges when you use a Michigan SUPPORT supplier for covered services. If you use a non-SUPPORT provider you will pay 20% plus the

After they contained the inmate and acquired his weapon it was learned that he had been stabbed, just prior to this event, in the yard. **Keep Your Eyes Open!**

RUO Assaulted by Level I

A prisoner, refusing to remain in his cubicle at count time, struck the officer in the mouth and side of the head at Parr Highway on March 10, 2005.

The officer, who was alone in the unit at the time, was able to summon other staff via radio.

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1!

difference between the supplier's charge and BCBS approved amount. No deductible will be required whether you utilize an in- or out-of-network provider.

The toll free number for the SUPPORT program is 1-800-321-8074. Please call for help in finding a SUPPORT provider in your area or for any questions you may have.

Covered items include, crutches, respiratory equipment, diabetic supplies, and prosthetics to name a few.

BlueHealthConnection, also mentioned in your letter, will also begin April 1 rather than October 1. Call 1-800-775-2583 if you have any questions.

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

sc:opeiu459aflcio



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

APRIL 1, 2005

Prisoner Murdered in Unit with Closed Position

On Saturday, March 19th, inmates from one of the four wings in Unit 3 (a transition unit) at Standish Max were let out of their cells to go to the yard.

Upon release to the yard two prisoners began attacking a third. They knocked him to the ground kicking and stomping his face and head.

Yard officers from other Units responded as quickly as possible, but not before the inmate sustained major trauma to the head and neck.

At the time of the incident, there were only three officers in the unit... 2 RUO's and one CO. There are supposed to be four, however

the fourth position was closed that day. One RUO was in the bubble, the other was doing rounds in the Unit, and the CO was monitoring the prisoners moving to the yard.

The CO did a great job in holding the two offenders against the fence without handcuffs, while watching the victim in case he rose to retaliate. All while there were another 15 to 20 prisoners in the yard.

The prisoner victim died from his injuries four days later.

Although the incident could have been the same with the fourth position; it was certainly more dangerous.

MDOC Budget faces 3 Person Subcommittee

The Appropriations Corrections Cmte., lead by Republican Jack Brandenburg, immediately began discussing the suggestion by Rep. John Pastor (Republican) of selling the Jackson prison complex to a private company in order to avoid paying the cost to run the facilities, and in his view, potentially creating revenue.

The third committee member is Rep. Alma Smith (Democrat).

If you live in one of their districts, you should have received a letter from Mel recently.

Make your opinions known!

Seven Criticals at Carson City Since Start of Year

A fight broke out in the pool room between two prisoners on March 7, at Carson City. An Officer called a "code blue" and then entered the room with an RUO to break up the fight. While the inmates were being separated, one began to grab pool balls and throw them at the other inmate and the RUO restraining him. The RUO sustained injuries to his hand and the Officer was treated for blood exposure.

This is the latest in a string of criticals at Carson City. Luckily most have not involved harm to

officers, however they show the escalation of violence that we have been seeing statewide.

1. January 8, 2005 - 2 prisoners fight each other with a padlock on a belt. A shank was found later on the floor. Officers received treatment for blood exposure.

2. January 28, 2005 - inmates injure each other in fight; no officers harmed.

3. February 22, 2005 - prisoner strikes another in activity room resulting in superficial wound...no weapon was immedi-

ately found.

4. February 25, 2005 - inmate repeatedly strikes another inmate who is curled up on the floor in defense. Takes three officers to subdue.

5. March 2, 2005 - prisoner punched in the face during bathroom fight.

6. March 9, 2005 - another attack in the bathroom, where two prisoners assault a third resulting in abrasions and knots to the head.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

APRIL 8, 2005

Youth Prison Contract to Continue

Governor Granholm temporarily lost her fight to get rid of the private youth prison contract. A deal has been reached with the Legislature that will balance the fiscal year 2005 budget. The agreement includes Executive Order 2005-7, which was presented to a joint session of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, passage of the fiscal year 2005 Capital

Outlay budget bill; and passage of a supplemental appropriations bill which includes portions of the Governor's Jobs Today Initiative.

As you may recall, the Governor's original Executive Order proposed canceling the contract with the Youth Prison in Baldwin. This new agreement, however, prevents the closure for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Level IV Fight at MRF

On April 1st, a fight broke out between two Level IV prisoners in the Back Yard. Three C/O's responded and when they arrived one inmate threw a shank over the fence.

The situation was brought under control and thankfully the other Level IV's in the yard chose not to get involved.

At the time of the incident, the fourth CO assigned to the yard had been pulled to do computer work.

Ken Hatfield, Michigan's CO of the Year, was selected as one of five Finalists for the International Association of Correctional Officers 2005 CO of the Year Award. He will be traveling to Washington DC at the end of the month for the Awards Ceremonies.

Congratulations Ken!

Two Alger Assaults in Three Days

During the 2-10 shift on April 1st, an inmate thrust his arm out of the slot with a weapon and attempted to stab the officer who was passing out mail. The officer was hit in the stomach, but the weapon broke and did not penetrate.

Just two days later, another officer was assaulted while doing a six month move on an inmate. Out of his cell and in restraints, the inmate lowered his shoulder and rammed the officer.

Thankfully no officers were harmed in these events, but this just goes to show that incidents are happening even in our segregation units!

Stay Safe...

Critical at MTU

On the morning of March 28th, information came forward that there were shanks in one of the units. Officers immediately shook down the named inmates and found shanks in the area of 3 inmates, and 3 other inmates were found in possession of them.

While the facility didn't allow a shake down of the entire unit...at least the shanks were found and removed before any harm could be done.

The following day, another shank was found in the same unit, and it was locked down for 24 hours.

During the time the officers were shaking down the rooms of these prisoners, a fight broke out between two inmates in front of another unit. Officers had a tough time handling the fight because they were short positions.

Things don't look good for the summer and this is just the beginning.

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APRIL 15, 2005

Legislators Discuss Privitization and More...

As was previously reported, the privatization of prisons is a current issue of the House Appropriations Sub-committee on Corrections. The committee has planned a hearing within the next 10 days regarding the Governor's attempt to discontinue the private youth prison contract. Other discussion on the issue of private prisons will undoubtedly occur as well.

MCO needs members to immediately write or call your state representative to let them know of our opposition to private prisons. Be polite but direct. Tell them as civil servants you are more accountable to Michigan's citizens. Tell them you need better staffing and that the \$18 million the state will save

by closing the private prison is money the DOC needs to properly staff the prisons—helping to keep staff, prisoners and the community at large safe. Tell them you oppose the whole idea of private prisons.

MCO has directly notified members who live in targeted districts for help, but we need all members to contact their own legislator too. This effort needs to happen NOW!

In regard to retirement legislation, MCO is planning an intense campaign on the issue in the very near future. We are all in this together.



**Let Your Voice
Be Heard**

MCO Fights Kinross Staffing Levels

President Tom Tylutki and Executive Director Mel Grieshaber met with RPA MacMeekin and Warden Metris on March 25th to discuss the staffing levels at Kinross in light of the substantial increase in the number of prisoners at the facility.

There is disagreement on the number of positions to be added to maintain the security of the facility which will be nearly 300 prisoners over normal capacity.

This issue is not finalized and will be revisited once all the prisoners have arrived.

Health Committee Appointments Made

An ad hoc Health Committee has been created according to Article 12 of MCO's new contract. The following individuals have been assigned as representatives for MCO.

ANDY POTTER

MCO Executive Board

CECIL PEDRIN

Chapter President at URF

CYNTHIA BEAL

MCO Labor Representative

Yard Incident at Gus Harrison

On April 13th, approximately 10 - 15 inmates in the Level IV Yard were involved in a fight while the yard position for that unit was closed. There happened to be three med runs out at the time, thus leaving the shift 5 positions short.

At least one inmate was taken out by ambulance, and several others required treatment.

Once again, we were lucky to not sustain any staff injuries.

Critical at Carson City

On March 23rd, an Officer was hit by a prisoner who was resisting his escort from Segregation to Health Services. Thankfully the Officer was not injured in this altercation.

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

sc:opeiu459aflcio



House Committee Continues to Pursue Prison Privatization

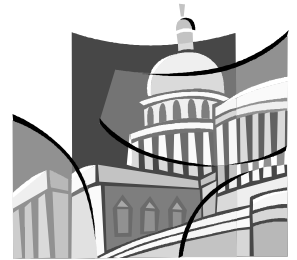
On Tuesday, April 26, the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Corrections held a two-hour hearing on prison privatization. Testifying before the committee, the Geo Group, which owns and runs the private Michigan youth prison, argued it was more cost effective than any other Michigan prison and reviewed its experience across the nation. In addition to the Geo group, the committee heard from the Reason Foundation and the Mackinaw Center. Both organizations are "think tanks" that advocate privatizing governmental services.

Even though several individuals and organizations that oppose private prisons were present at the hearing, the committee chair refused to allow any to speak. Anticipating committee resistance to any opposition, MCO Executive Director Mel

Grieshaber maneuvered his way into testifying last week before the committee. Grieshaber argued that MCO and public correctional officers everywhere are philosophically opposed to private prisons. He added that discontinuing the private youth prison contract would return \$18 million to the state system and help fund the appropriate staffing needed by officers working in the prisons. Some of the verbal exchanges between Grieshaber and one of the more conservative representatives was tense at times.

It is obvious the majority on the committee is very interested in pursuing the whole issue of private prisons and service in state government. In addition, comments made over the last few hearings indicated some hostility towards unions.

MCO has contacted all union members living in committee member districts and is doing the same this week on the senate side. Next week, chapter presidents will be receiving several items for posting on the union bulletin board. Please review and act by contacting your own legislators. Tell them to discontinue the private youth prison contract and remind them that correctional officer staffing is of utmost importance for our safety.



Sauble Closing Early

MCO just received notice that Camp Sauble will close effective Friday, April 29th, 2005. This is one month ahead of schedule.

NOTICE:

The company that we used to offer discounted Disney tickets, FloridabyChoice, has been bought out. We are actively searching to find a new vendor so that we can return these great savings to you in time for summer!

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KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MAY 6, 2005

MCO TO PICKET COURTHOUSE OVER MTU ATTACK

As you remember, Officer Jefferies from the Handlon Michigan Training Unit was brutally attacked back in October by an inmate with a lock-in-a-sock.

As a result of this incident Jeffereis sustained serious injuries to his head and face needing nearly 60 stitches and staples.

The Ionia Courts have dismissed the case with prejudice against the inmate responsible for this attack. This means that not only is he not going to be charged for this crime, but that charges cannot be brought back at another

time.

Both the Michigan Corrections Organization and the Michigan Department of Corrections feel that this is a grave injustice.

MCO will make that point clear at a picket on May 31st from 12 noon - 3 p.m. outside the Ionia Court House.

Come on out
and let them
know this will
not go away
without a fight!



PRIVATIZATION UPDATE



In recent issues of the KYI we have been keeping you apprised of the privatization debate going on in Lansing.

If you are interested there will be another hearing regarding the private youth prison in Baldwin. The House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Corrections will hold the hearing on Tuesday, May 10, 2005 from 10:30 - 12:30, on the 3rd floor of the State Capitol Building in Room 351.

GUN RAFFLE WINNERS!

The statewide Gun Raffle brought in over \$15,000 to the MCO Crisis Fund!

The winners of the guns are...

Michael Martin - Ryan
David Cropsey - Jackson
James Prince - Mid-Michigan
Jeff Johnson - Marquette
Mike Smith - Chippewa
Jon Olson - Parma

*Thanks to all for
your donations to
the Crisis Fund*



ANDY POTTER APPOINTED TO BE MCO'S NEW VP

At the Executive Board Meeting today, Andy Potter was appointed by President Tylutki to serve as the Vice President of MCO, filling the position vacated by Mel Grieshaber.

Potter was unanimously confirmed by the Executive Board. He is an officer at MTU, on the Health and Safety Committee, and was appointed by the Governor to the Corrections Officers Training Council. Until now he held the position of Board Member at Large for

MCO.

In the coming month Tylutki will appoint a new Board Member-at-Large to fill the seat vacated by Potter.

Grieshaber was honored at Central Committee this week for serving on MCO's Executive Board for 22 years... the longest serving Board Member in MCO's history.

Congratulations go out to Andy as we welcome him into his new role as VP!



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MAY 13, 2005

INMATE HITS FENCE AT RIVERSIDE

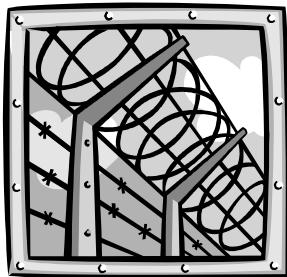
On May 9, 2005, a prisoner hit the fence at Riverside, right below closed 2-Post. The inmate stepped on the metal perimeter transponder box and used the camera pole to pull himself up.

A responding officer ordered the inmate to stop, however he was intent on escaping...his property

was packed, he was wearing gloves, and he ignored the order to halt. Luckily, the officer was able to grab the prisoner's pant leg and drag him down as he reached the top of the fence.

This is a classic case of an inmate taking advantage of the closed Gun Tower Post and then

using the new monitoring equipment installed to facilitate his climbing of the fence!



The DOC is investigating the costs to move the transponder boxes outside the perimeter fence to prevent a repeat of this

occurrence.

With fewer eyes in the sky, we need to be ever more watchful for opportunistic prisoners.

A great job was done by the responding officers to keep this "lifer" out of the community.

Keep Alert!

REMINDERS...



Ionia Picket on May 31st at the Court House...100 W. Main Street, Ionia, MI 48846 from 12 noon - 3 p.m. (more details to come)

MCO Scholarship Applications accepted until June 1, 2005. MCO awards 20, \$500 Scholarships each year. Applications and eligibility criteria can be found in the March MCO Report and online through our website at www.mco-seiu.org.



PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

MCO has been actively speaking out to the Legislators and to our membership about the hazards of low staffing, the private youth prison contract and privatization in general.

**WE ARE NOW GOING TO TAKE
OUR TALK TO THE STREETS!**

Starting with an informational picket at Marquette Branch Prison on Wednesday, May 25th. This is all part of a larger campaign that includes calling and writing legislators, testifying before the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Corrections, and more...

When they close positions and don't close activities, they are putting officers, prisoners, and the community at risk. By keeping the contact with the Youth Prison they are costing the state millions of dollars when those prisoners could be accommodated in the statewide system.

Stand up.... Speak out!

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MAY 20, 2005



MCO PUT ON NOTICE

This week, the MDOC informed MCO that it was their intent to move forward and staff housing units at all women's facilities **with female officers only**. The Department is waiting to see if the U.S. Supreme Court is going to hear MCO's appeal. If the court declines to hear the case, or if they uphold the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision, the MDOC will proceed with these plans. Any other gender sensitive positions, such as "intake", will be filled by female officers as well.

MCO fought this issue from the beginning, expending hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal costs because we believe "a uniform is a uniform." We won our case at the U.S. District Court level, but lost

when it was appealed to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The MCO Executive Board decided unanimously to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court last month.

At this time, there are no other details to share. The MDOC has indicated its willingness to work with MCO to provide as smooth a transition as possible. It could be many months before the Supreme Court will decide if it will hear the case, but MCO thought it important that members working at women's facilities be aware their future may be affected. MCO will keep everyone updated as new information is received.



BRAWL AND STABBING AT CARSON CITY

On May 9, 2005, a "code blue" was called in the Sports Room of the 900 Unit at Carson City. Two prisoners were observed exchanging blows with fists and a lock on a belt. The inmates ignored orders to break it up, and were eventually restrained, but not without one of them putting up quite a fight.

After the room was secured, officers were notified that there was another inmate in his cell who was bleeding. After inspection in the Health Center it was determined that he had been stabbed by one of the fighting inmates. The inmate was transported to the hospital for treatment and a shank was later found in a unit trash can.

Five officers were treated at the hospital for blood exposure. The two fighting inmates received major misconducts for weapons, assault on staff, and fighting.

SENIORITY BASED TRANSFER WINDOW

Seniority Based Transfers, administered by the DOC, are available to employees who met the conditions as laid out in Article 15, Part D, Section A, #2, page 79.

The window period to apply is May 1 - May 31, for a transfer that will occur between July 1 and December 31.

The list expires after each window period, thus you need to sign up again if you didn't get a transfer last time.

NOTICE:

MCO will be transitioning to the new website from Friday, May 20th to Saturday, May 21st. As a result, there may be some "down time" when you will incur errors attempting to view the site. MCO's web address will not change, however, and the new site should be up and working by Sunday morning.



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NOTICE: PICKET POSTPONED



At this time, MCO is postponing the picket scheduled for Tuesday, May 31st, in Ionia. The picket was intended to bring attention to the court case surrounding the attack on Officer Jeffries last fall.

Recent events have extended the court proceedings. Thus, we will be postponing the picket pending the results of an administrative hearing called by the judge.

At that hearing the judge will hear briefs from both the defense and the prosecution regarding legal standards of dismissing a case with or without prejudice. The judge had originally indicated he would dismiss the case with prejudice which would have meant the charges could never be brought against the prisoner again.



REPUTATION OF COs UNDER FIRE

The Senate and House Judiciary and Corrections Committees held hearings this

week in response to a series of Detroit News articles on sexual abuse in female prisons. The News basically charged abuse was rampant and the MDOC was doing nothing about it.

MCO's review of the articles found a total disregard for the truth of today's current conditions in the prisons. Among other things, the News wrote about several old convictions and identifies everyone as "guards", when, in actuality, classifications of all sorts were guilty. The newspaper's portrayal is unfair and maligns all

officers who carry high standards to the job every single day.

MDOC Director Pat Caruso, testifying before the committees, characterized the articles as scandalous, unfair and "old news." She defended the Department's program and its employees. Caruso pointed out, for instance, that of 31 convictions cited by the News, 29 of them had occurred before year 2000. She also noted that a court-appointed monitor found the MDOC in full compliance with legal settlements and the Detroit News was simply **WRONG!**

Legislators asked why male officers are still working in the housing units. An assistant attorney general and Caruso

told them as soon as the suit filed by correctional officers was over, the intent of the Department was to implement females only in the housing units in all women's prisons. Some lawmakers indicated interest in generating legislation to deal with the issue.

MCO is continuing to monitor and attack all inaccuracies in the News series and will always defend the great job officers do in protecting the public and each other. Hang in there!

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NEWBERRY AND CAMP MANISTIQUE ON SENATE CHOPPING BLOCK

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee on Corrections passed a budget for the MDOC that calls for the closure of Newberry and Camp Manistique, all while retaining the contract with the "punk" prison in Baldwin. This, despite the recent Auditor General's report which recommended canceling the contract, and the Senate and House Fiscal Agencies determination that several millions of dollars in savings could be achieved if such an action were to be taken. The decision by Senate Republicans to close Newberry came out of the blue without notification to either the Department or MCO.

The budget also supports the removal of male staff from female housing units at the women's facilities, and eliminating Hepatitis C funding. This bill, Senate Bill 268, reflects a reduction of nearly \$29 million dollars from the Governor's original budget proposal.

Voted to keep the private prison and close Newberry:

Senator Alan Cropsey (R) - Dewitt/Ionia Area	YES ✓
Senator Cameron Brown (R) - Sturgis/Coldwater Area	YES ✓
Senator Valde Garcia (R) - Howell	YES ✓
Senator Mike Prusi (D) - Ishpeming	NO ✗
Senator Michael Switalski (D) - Roseville	NO ✗

MCO and the Department do not support this and MCO continues to fight! Among other things, MCO has contacted the local city and county governments of Newberry as well as the school district and is coordinating efforts with them. Letter writing, calling and media interviews have already begun to let the legislators and the Governor know how these closures would impact the citizens and officers of Luce County and the Upper Peninsula. A date for an informational picket in Newberry will be set shortly.

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

RUO Cary Gross from the Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson has been appointed as the new Executive Board Member to fill the vacancy created when Andy Potter became Vice President.

Cary has worked at Cotton for ten years, serving the last five as Chief Steward.

Congratulations Cary!





HOUSE BUDGET CLOBBERS CORRECTIONS

Thursday night, the House of Representatives passed an omnibus budget bill that determines funds for every department, including the MDOC and DCH. The MDOC bill retained the private youth prison contract and eliminated funding for the Newberry prison and Camp Manistique. The bill passed on a straight party line vote with every Republican voting for the bill and each Democrat voting against it.

Having been left out of all decisions, Democrats protested the entire process. Even though certain Republicans claimed they were trying to work out a deal to save Newberry, in the end they voted to eliminate the funding. In recent weeks, MCO lobbied aggressively for support and asked all legislators to vote against the bill if it included the private prison and ended funding for Newberry and Manistique. MCO immediately launched a member activism campaign coordinating with local leaders to harness community involvement as well. Legislators acknowledged they had received hundreds of e-mails and phone calls from concerned constituents. Apparently ignoring their input, the majority party moved ahead with its plan to pass a budget that will harm hundreds of working families.

Governor Granholm and the MDOC oppose the private prison and the closing of Newberry and Manistique. They are fighting to save the U.P. facilities and insist the state does not need the private prison. The fight is not over. Next week the Senate is scheduled to vote on all budget bills. MCO will continue to advocate for our members and is asking all members to continue contacting your legislators.

ALL MEMBERS ACROSS THE STATE NEED TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT!



Call or e-mail your state Senators and Representatives



Contact the Governor and MDOC Director...thank them for speaking out against this budget and supporting our officers and communities and ask them to stand their ground!

***Watch the website for constant updates and links to
articles, reports and media coverage!***



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JUNE 15, 2005

SENATE PASSES DOC BUDGET

The MDOC budget passed the Senate on Wednesday with a straight party-line vote. Every Republican voted for it and every Democrat against. Although Senator Prusi was successful in amending the bill to establish some funding for Newberry, he and the Democrats voted against the budget because it maintained funding for the private prison and other harmful components. The Prusi amendment put \$100 in as a line item to fund Newberry and Camp Manistique. This has the effect of "holding" a place for future discussion. Without the amendment, there would have been no ability to negotiate with the House because the House budget version eliminated all funding for Newberry. Senator Prusi and other legislators convinced the Senate majority leader and Senator Cropsey to hold a hearing regarding the Newberry issue. Committee Chairman Cropsey has scheduled the public meeting for Tuesday, June 21st in Lansing.

MCO continues to fight. Closing the private prison will save money according to all reports. Not only does keeping Newberry makes sense, but the MDOC cannot suffer any more cuts to it's budget. Correctional officers are doing "more with less" and safety is of utmost importance.

A press conference was held in Newberry on Wednesday featuring MCO president Tom Tylutki, Chapter president Gary VanSickle and MSEA president Jack L. Yoak, among others. An informational picket is being held Friday at the prison to show support for the Newberry community. MCO members, family and friends should continue contacting legislators in both Houses, especially the members of the Senate Sub-Committee on Corrections (Cropsey, Brown, Garcia, Switalski and Prusi). Senator Cropsey has emphasized the point on numerous occasions that he is abso-

lutely sure that the shortages in this and future budgets will mean the closing of at least one prison. Caruso, when asked by legislators which facility to close, responded that as long as they kept funding the punk prison, "I'm not playing your game."

PAPERS FILED!

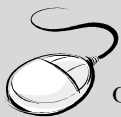
The lawyers today filed the appeal regarding the gender-based lawsuit to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court will decide at some future date if they will hear this case.

INMATE STABBED AT SOUTHERN MI

On the afternoon of June 10th, a prisoner was stabbed in the back of the head in a housing unit. One inmate was placed in seclusion for assault causing serious injury, and two more for conspiracy to commit assault.

Alarmingly the unit was not locked down for a search and the weapon was never found. And, despite the fact that a shank had been found earlier in the day in a Level IV unit, the facility operated as usual. Apparently there was no concern of reprisal as the next morning several officers were even pulled off their assignments for training.

NEW CONTRACT ON WEB



The new contract, in its final form, is now available on our website at www.mco-seiu.org. Simply click on the "On the Job" button!

The contract is now at the printers. Once finished, a copy will be mailed to every MCO member. It will take approximately two weeks to print plus mailing time.

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

sc:opeiu459aflcio



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JUNE 24, 2005

BRAWL AT THE OAKS LEAVES OFFICER INJURED

As prisoners from housing unit #2 were returning from the morning meal on June 15th, a brawl broke out in the commons area between six inmates. Responding officers were able to separate the individuals but not before the Tower officer was forced to chamber a round.

Two shanks were found; one on the ground, and one on an inmate. One officer and an inmate required medical treatment at a local hospital. The officer received a wound to his lower right arm while breaking up the fight and the inmate had a puncture wound to his right eye.

Major Misconducts were written on all six inmates and they were placed in segregation. Reviews of the videotapes showed all officers acted appropriately to break up the fight.

MEMBERS FORCED TO STAFF WHV COMPENSATED

As a result of a Letter of Understanding between MCO and the MDOC, those officers from Western Wayne who were forced to staff Huron Valley Womens before transferring to the facility of their choice will be receiving compensation for their mileage to the WHV facility. The Department is currently reviewing and calculating the funds for those eligible and will be making payments in the weeks to come.

FIVE OFFICERS SENT TO HOSPITAL FROM STRAITS

On June 16th, an inmate, who had worked his way down from a level four, threatened an officer with bodily harm. An ARUS attempted to stop him from attacking the officer when she was grabbed by the wrist and received a blow to her eye. The inmate continued to fight; striking three more officers in the process.

Eventually they were able to place the prisoner in leg irons and belly chains. His behavior, however, remained threatening and the ERT extraction team from URF was called in to take him to the Seg unit at URF.

The five officers who were sent to the hospital were treated and released with minor injuries.

Apparently this inmate had received multiple tickets and accrued 5 points while in secure level one at Coldwater awaiting review of a threatening behavior ticket... which he beat and was then sent to KTF three weeks ago.

PRIVATIZATION FIGHT TAKES TO THE CAPITOL

On Tuesday, June 21st, officers lead by Newberry President Gary VanSickle, MCO officials, Newberry citizens, DOC officials, Legislators and the Governor gathered at the capitol to rally against privatization and the closure of Newberry and Camp Manistique.

According to the Governor... ***"This will not pass my desk!"***

Later that day they packed the Senate Hearing Room for a special hearing on Newberry before the Sub-committee on Corrections. Along with Newberry officials who testified about the devastation these closures would cause to the UP, Warden Kurt Jones from Carson City testified to the security threat a flat 3% cut to each facility (Rep. Casperson's proposal) would cause. Mel Grieshaber, MCO Executive Director, also testified on the fiscally irresponsible choice of the Legislators to support privatization over more efficient state run facilities.

Discussions will continue as the House and Senate must now resolve the differences in their bills before submitting one to the Governor.



BULLETIN

JUNE 28, 2005

The MDOC has formally notified MCO of its intent to immediately place female officers in select positions at all female facilities. The Department won the gender based lawsuit at the Court of Appeals level, however MCO members have made an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Former MDOC Director, Bill Martin, started moving the Department down this road in 1999 after a series of news stories and legislative hearings.

The current Senate version of next years Corrections budget calls on the MDOC to implement this plan. The Department has indicated it is pursuing an ambitious schedule with completion at Scott within 30 days, followed by WHV within 60 to 90 days, and then Camp Brighten within 90 days.

Details of how such movement of officers will occur are unknown at this time. MCO is reviewing the contract and seeking further legal opinion on the matter. The MCO Executive Board is scheduled to meet next week with this critical issue at the top of the agenda.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JULY 1, 2005

CLINTON FALL FESTIVAL CAR RAFFLE COMING SOON!



A chance to win a car and a \$1.00 donation for every ticket sold to the MCO Crisis Fund. A deal you just can't drive by!

WE MUST CONTINUE THE PRIVATIZATION FIGHT!

Steps were taken this week by the Senate and House to move forward with the Corrections Budget. As the Senate and the House each have different versions, the bill will now go to Conference Committee where they will develop one bill to be proposed to the Governor.

It is critical that we keep the pressure on our legislators and let them know that if anything is to close, it should be the more costly private youth facility in Baldwin. And further, that Newberry and Camp Manistique should remain open.

Last week, a website, www.upatrisk.com, was launched which highlights the attack by the Republicans in Lansing on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan: the prisons, universities, and more.

The website offers an easy online form to send a letter to legislators, and an easy form to spread the word to friends and families.

OFFICER RECEIVES LIFESAVING AWARD

As a result of actions taken in February of this year, Officer Pohl, Chapter President at the Brooks Correctional Facility, received the MDOC's Lifesaving Award in June.

Back in February Officer Pohl, a volunteer firefighter for the community of Spring Lake, arrived at a scene to find a woman suffering a heart attack. He used the external defibrillator to administer two shocks and restart the victim's heart. The family, victim and local fire chief all credited his quick response, calmness, initiative and professional skills for saving this life.

Officer Pohl also recently received a Citizenship Award for his commitment and making emergency care and training available in his area.

Way to go Pohl!

MCO CONTRACTS... ON THEIR WAY!

The new contracts are being stuffed into envelopes and addressed as we speak. They will be placed in the mail on Tuesday and should be arriving at your homes over the next couple of weeks!

LIVE AMMUNITION FOUND IN YARD



On June 26, 2005, a prisoner at the Straits alerted an officer that he had found a live 32 caliber handgun round in the yard. The prisoner then lead the RUO and a Sergeant to where the ammunition was found. It was tied in what appeared to be the finger of a latex glove, and while tarnished, is believed to be usable.

Metal detectors were used to search the area, but as of this time, no additional ammunition has been found.

OFFICER ATTACKED AT PARR

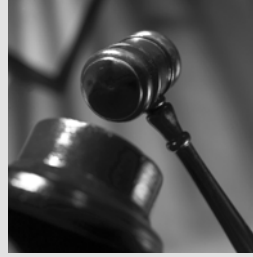
On Monday, June 25th, an officer took numerous hits to the head and was knocked to the ground at least twice by a prisoner. Officers responded to the duress call quickly and intervened.

This was a level V prisoner who had been waived down to I, but was back as a PV.

The officer was taken to the hospital for treatment and released.



GENDER LAWSUIT MOVES FORWARD



In recent days, the MDOC officially notified MCO of its intent to remove male officers from certain positions in female prisons. The Department indicated it would discuss implementation of the plan, however, MCO would be required to withdraw its appeal.

The MCO Board has rejected the conditions set by the Department and is continuing our appeal on the gender-based lawsuit to the U.S. Supreme Court.

This agenda was started by former MDOC Director, Bill Martin, in 1999. MCO has been fighting the issue for the last six years and will not compromise while we still have a shot in the Supreme Court.

The MDOC says it will move forward regardless.

ALGER SEGREGATION UNIT WRECKS HAVOC

On July 5th, 2005, an inmate, returning to segregation after his major misconduct hearing, incited fellow Seg inmates to break out their cell door windows.

Within a short period of time, seven prisoners had broken the door windows, light fixtures, and began to flood their cells. One inmate broke out the back window as well. An eighth prisoner flooded his cell, but did no further damage.

The facility was locked down and the ERT team brought in to move prisoners out and place them in TOB restraints.

Two of the inmates resisted during the movement and chemical agents were used.

Several of the prisoners involved had come to Alger from I-Max in recent months.

Great job by all officers on duty and MCO commends the Alger Administration for their quick actions.

INMATE AT KINROSS DESTROYS CELL

On July 1st, an inmate in the segregation unit at KCF became violent; destroying his door, trashing his cell and threatening staff.

Dressed out in cell riot gear with gas, staff lined up to rush the cell, at which point the prisoner decided to comply.

The inmate, after being placed in restraints, was transferred to the Chippewa Correctional Facility.

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JULY 15, 2005

INMATE ATTACKS OFFICERS, BITING ONE

On July 8, 2005, a Level II inmate at MTU began to threaten officers and drag a chair down the hall. When ordered to put the chair down and go to his cell the inmate swung the chair, striking an officer.

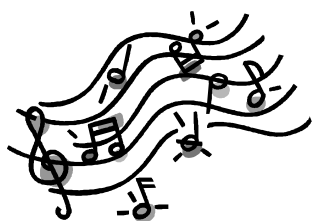
A responding officer attempted to restrain the prisoner but was punched in the mouth with a closed fist. Two officers and a Lt. were finally able to take him down, however during the struggle one officer was bit on their arm.

The prisoner continued to struggle and the Unit was locked

down. Even once he was restrained in handcuffs and leg irons and being walked backwards to segregation, the inmate made threats against staff, continued to resist and at times had to be carried.

Two of the officers required treatment at the local hospital. One suffered a fractured thumb and possible spinal injury, while the other drank the "cocktail" and began treatment for HIV prevention.

FREE TICKETS FOR UPCOMING CONCERTS



MCO has lawn tickets available for the following events:

July 24th - **ABBA**

7:30 pm DTE Energy Music Theatre

July 30th - **HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH**

7:30 pm Jerome-Duncan Ford Theatre

August 12th - **THE GUESS WHO**

7:30 pm Jerome-Duncan Ford Theatre

August 18th - **YES**

7:30 pm DTE Energy Music Theatre

August 20th - **WILLIE NELSON**

7:30 pm DTE Energy Music Theatre

August 25th - **TED NUGENT**

7:30 pm DTE Energy Music Theatre

September 9th - **RANDY TRAVIS**

7:30 pm DTE Energy Music Theatre

For complete information, driving directions and maps, simply click on the Events Calendar on the MCO Website!

To request your free tickets, simply contact Cindy Kogut at MCO Central: (517)485-3310, (800) 451-4878 or via e-mail at: cindyk@mco-seiu.org

ALSO:

July 31st -

Detroit Shock vs. Phoenix Mercury

5 pm with a band to play after the game.



CLINTON FALL FESTIVAL



CAR RAFFLE KICKS OFF!

The tickets have been mailed so get yours today! Tickets sell for \$2 each, with \$1 of that going to the MCO Crisis Fund.

1st place - choice of one of the following:

2005 Jeep Wrangler

2005 Ford Mustang

2005 Chevrolet Cobalt

\$15,000 in cash

2nd place - \$2,500 cash

3rd place - \$1,500 cash

And, there are incentives for those selling the tickets.

- ◆ Seller of the 1st place ticket receives \$1,000
- ◆ Seller of the 2nd place ticket receives \$250
- ◆ Seller of the 3rd place ticket receives \$150

And, for those of you able to attend, the 32nd Annual Clinton Fall Festival is September 23 - 25, 2005.

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KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JULY 22, 2005

BACK TO BACK INCIDENTS AT HVM

On Monday, July 18th, a fight broke out between two inmates in one of the units. Yard and Unit staff cleared the day room and managed to break up the fight without sustaining any injuries. The inmates, however, were not so lucky and one was transported to the hospital for bite wounds.



On Tuesday, July 19th, a fight broke out in the big yard. Four inmates were fighting each other behind the field

house and there was at least one weapon in play. One inmate began chasing his assailant towards the tower, where the tower officer was in the window with weapon ready. The yard crew responded to the tower alert and broke up the fight before shots were necessary. No staff were injured, however, one inmate needed treatment at the hospital for a stab wound.

Great Job handling these situations and watching each other's backs!

INMATE ESCAPES AT MOUND

On Monday, July 18th, a Macomb prisoner escaped while on a work detail outside the fence at the Mound facility. He remains at large and the incident is currently being investigated.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Legislature is now in the process of reconciling the two different Budgets that came out of the House and Senate. At this time all public hearings have concluded. However, MCO continues to work behind the scenes talking with legislators, the Governor, and other decision makers on this and other issues.

It is uncertain how long this reconciliation process may take, however some speculate that it could last all summer.

Please be vigilant in contacting your legislators and letting them know that making a fiscally irresponsible decision to continue the contract with the "punk prison" in these poor economic times is not in the best interest of Michigan citizens. Additionally, the proposed closure of Newberry and Camp Manistique is a poor operational decision and would further devastate the economy of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

TEE OFF FOR THE MCO CRISIS FUND!

Once again it's time for the annual



MCO Crisis Fund Golf Outing.

We've got a new course this year and are looking forward to a great event for a great cause. It is first-come-first-serve to register to play so sign up today!

Information about the event should be posted on your union bulletin board and a Registration form, as well as being in the July/August issue of the MCO Report, can be found on the main page of the MCO website at www.mco-seiu.org.

If you can't make it out to play but would still like to make a donation to the Crisis Fund, individuals and/or Chapters can also choose to sponsor a hole or a golf cart. For more information, to register, or to be a sponsor, contact Cindy K or Stephanie at MCO Central.

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JULY 29, 2005

SPEAKER DEROCHE CHANGES OPINION ON NEWBERRY CLOSURE

House Speaker Craig DeRoche made an announcement yesterday, July 27th, that he no longer supports the closure of the Newberry and Camp Manistique Correctional Facilities. Citing economists' projections that there will be more revenue than they projected in May, he believes that this additional money should be spent to keep the facilities open and lessen the cuts to NMU.

Representative Casperson spoke out as well indicating that lack of prison capacity and a greater understanding of the effect the Newberry Prison's closure would have on UP economics are key factors to consider.

This is not a done deal. There is a special Revenue Estimating Conference scheduled for August 17th where they will set a new revenue forecast for the current fiscal year ('04-'05) and for the fiscal year '05-'06. If it is determined that there are extra funds, it is DeRoche's belief that they should be used for Newberry and NMU.

The Senate appears to be wavering on their stance as well, however they will not make any decisions pending the outcome of the Revenue Conference.

MCO supported the UP fight and lead the downstate fight against these proposed closures... generating thousands of contacts from constituents to their legislators, lobbying of the administration and legislators, Letters to the Editor statewide and obtaining support from various labor and community groups.

The fight isn't over until it's over... so keep up the pressure and lets put this proposal to rest!

PRISONER FOUND GUILTY IN ATTACK ON OFFICER

An Ionia jury found a MTU prisoner guilty yesterday of "great bodily harm less than murder" for his part in the attack on Officer Jeffries last October. Officer Jeffries sustained serious injuries to his head and face from the assault which involved a lock-in-a-sock, requiring nearly 60 stitches and staples.

Another prisoner has also been charged in this incident however his case has not gone before a jury. It is being reviewed and we expect to have some movement on it in the next couple of weeks.

INSURANCE OPEN- ENROLLMENT WINDOW

The time has come again when you have the opportunity to review and make changes to your group insurance. The Open Enrollment for State -Sponsored Group Insurance will be from August 15 - 31, 2005.

You will be receiving a detailed brochure in the mail shortly on how to make changes to any of your coverage. Your benefits will remain the same if no changes are made.

SHOT FIRED AT CARSON CITY

On Thursday, July 21st, two inmates began to fight in the big yard at Carson City. The responding officer was able to separate and restrain one of the inmates however the 2nd prisoner then turned and attached the officer.

The tower officer acted quickly and fired a warning shot, at which point everyone dropped to the ground. Responding yard officers then came on the scene and restrained the 2nd inmate.

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

sc:opeiu459aflcio



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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

AUGUST 5, 2005

ASSAULT ON STAFF AT CAMP LEHMAN

On July 29th, a prisoner entered the Control Center area without permission during formal count, a dispute ensued, and he left. The two officers who followed to cuff the prisoner sustained injuries in the process. Two assault tickets were written on the inmate and he was transferred to Standish.

At the time of the assault, one housing unit rover had been pulled off assignment to work the visitor room.

The Camps have seen a dramatic change in the type of prisoners they receive in recent years. At one time, Camp Lehman had approximately 340 inmates, 250 of which were crew eligible. As of two days ago, they had approximately 570 inmates, with less than 50 of them crew eligible.

Lehman currently has only 70 staff to handle these increased numbers.

OFFICER ATTACKED AT MARQUETTE

On Monday, August 1st, an officer was attacked while locking up prisoners after morning chow. Video footage shows that the officer was unlocking a cell on the 2nd gallery when he was sucker punched from the side by an inmate. Despite the prisoner's attempts to change his appearance after the attack by removing a cap and rolling down his pant legs it was determined that he was the only one in the area.

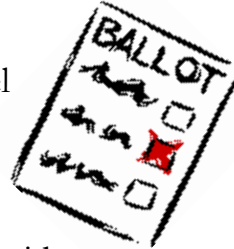
The officer required hospital treatment for his injuries. Marquette has been fighting lower critical staffing levels, and picketed in June.

AUGUST IS NOMINATION WINDOW FOR CHAPTER OFFICE

Chapter Level elections will be held in September at all facilities statewide.

If you are interested in running for a position on the chapter executive board, you can nominate yourself during the month of August.

To nominate yourself, simply write the following: "I (name) accept the nomination for (position) at the (name of your facility)" and give it to your Chapter Election Committee.



NEW HEALTH CARE CARDS

Between now and the end of the year, those employees enrolled in the State Health Plan PPO administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield will receive new health care cards. The new cards use a unique ID Number instead of the employee's Social Security Number.



NEW DISCOUNT RATE AT BAVARIAN INN LODGE

MCO has now secured a special rate for MCO Members at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth.

The Lodge offers an indoor 18-hole miniature golf course, five indoor pools, three indoor whirlpools, and more!

Special rates are \$109/night Sunday through Thursday in August, September and November, and \$99/night Sunday through Friday in October and December.

Certain restrictions apply. You will need to ask for the **Rate Code: MCO** in order to get these rates. Contact the MCO office or visit our website and click on the icon for family entertainment to get all the details!

Check out the Bavarian Inn and other local entertainment on the web at www.bavarianinn.com!

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

AUGUST 12, 2005

ESCAPED INMATE AND WORKER CAUGHT

On Saturday, August 6th, an inmate from the Baraga Max facility escaped with a food service supervisor.

The pair were eventually tracked, through their use of a cell phone, to northern Wisconsin where they were arrested just after midnight on Sunday.

The inmate, who was serving six life sentences and had escaped on two other occasions while in the Saginaw County Jail, has been extradited and is now at Marquette awaiting further charges. The food service worker is fighting extradition and is in jail in Marathon County Wisconsin on \$50,000 bond.

A food service officer has also been arrested and charges will be filed for assisting the escape.

The Union has been assured by the MDOC that it was not the fault of the other Baraga officers that this occurred.

We want to acknowledge the officers at Baraga who have been struggling over this situation. While it may be easy to take this personally, you did your job!

Hang in there!

CMI TO BECOME LTD ADMINISTRATOR

Effective October 1, 2005, CMI, which currently handles the State's Workers' Compensation claims, will also handle Long-Term Disability claims.

Broadspire, the current LTD Administrator, and CMI will be working together to make the transition as smooth as possible to avoid any interruption in service.

Letters will be sent next week to current LTD recipients with more specific information about the transition, and another letter will follow in September with phone/fax and claims specialist information.



OFFICERS ASSAULTED AT CARSON CITY 5 SENT TO HOSPITAL

On August 9th, an inmate came around the corner of the officer's desk and began to strike the officer about the head with a lock-on-a-belt. A responding officer attempted to restrain the inmate, who then turned and began to strike this officer in the shoulders with the weapon.

The prisoner was quickly taken down and placed in handcuffs and leg irons, however he continued to resist and kick, further injuring additional responding officers.

In total, five officers required hospital treatment: two for blood exposure, one for shoulder and back injuries, one for contusions to the arm and shoulder and

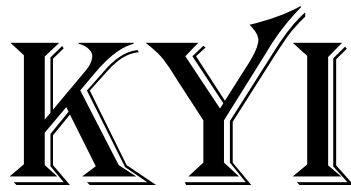
another who received a fractured orbital bone and cuts to his right eye requiring stitches.

The prisoner was transferred to I-Max and received misconducts for Assault on Staff, Assault and Battery and Possession of a Weapon.

This inmate had been moved to Carson City from the Oaks less than a month ago and waived down from a Level IV to a II.

In addition, he had three prior assaults on staff and one prior assault on an inmate.

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

AUGUST 19, 2005

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE AT CARSON CITY



On August 5th, a prisoner, who had just arrived from SLF that day, walked up to the fence and attempted to escape. In his own words, "I was going to climb the fence. I want to go home."

When the prisoner arrived at Carson City he was instructed to report to the Food Service building to eat, then to Health Services, and finally to his Unit. He did report to Food Services, eat, and leave. But instead of reporting to Health Services, he was spotted by the tower officer approaching Zone 9 without permission. The tower officer ordered the inmate to halt, however he continued to the fence and set off the alarm in the Control Center.

Responding ARV and yard officers instructed the prisoner to lie down to be restrained at which point he complied. It was at this time that he confirmed his intention to climb the fence.

A major misconduct was written for attempted escape and he was placed in segregation. It was determined that further evaluation of the prisoner was needed and at this time a transfer is pending.

OFFICER BRUTALLY ATTACKED AT I-MAX

Yesterday, in a housing unit at I-Max, an officer was beaten in the face and head by a prisoner. The officer remains hospitalized after receiving two breaks to his orbital bone and a broken nose, which will require extensive surgery at a later date to repair.

Two other officers were also injured while taking down the prisoner and placing him in cuffs, leg irons and a spitter's mask. The

inmate continued to resist and threaten staff while being restrained. In all, nearly twenty officers responded. The inmate remains in segregation.

This particular prisoner has a record that includes 7 "Assault on Staff" charges. Incidents like this further our concern and push our argument on the current classification system and the need for a Level VI Prison.

STATE HAS GREATER THAN EXPECTED REVENUE

A special Revenue Estimating Conference was held on Wednesday, August 17th, where it was determined that due to greater than anticipated revenues, the General Fund will have a net year-end balance of \$65.6 million for FY '04 - '05, and \$75.6 million for '05 - '06.

What does all of this mean? Well, it means that there may be enough money to keep the Newberry and Camp Manistique Correctional Facilities open. **However**, there are a lot of hands in the pot for these funds and it is expected to be several weeks at best before any decisions are made. Stay tuned!



MCO MOURNS LOSS...

OFFICER IN TENNESSEE GIVES ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Officer Wayne "Cotton" Morgan was fatally shot while escorting an inmate from a hearing in Kingston, Tennessee on August 9, 2005.

Officer Morgan was shot by the wife of the inmate; a former prison nurse who had been fired last year for sneaking food to a

prisoner. She and her inmate husband then escaped and eluded police for two days before being captured in Ohio.

These are challenging times; we need to uphold the integrity of our profession and the security of our institutions.

Stay alert. Be vigilant. Be safe.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

AUGUST 26, 2005

BRAWL AT BARAGA AS THEY COME OFF LOCK-DOWN

On Monday, August 15th, a prisoner with a history of Assault less than Murder and Assaulting an Employee/Escape, was working in the kitchen. A dispute erupted between the food steward and the food worker.

Officers attempted to settle the issue but one thing lead to another and the prisoner instead

turned and knocked out one of the officers. A second officer tried to restrain the prisoner but he was taken to the ground as well, having his head beat into the floor.

Both officers required hospital treatment for their injuries.

This was their first full day off of lock-down from the escape.

CHARGES AGAINST 2ND OFFENDER IN MTU ATTACK DISMISSED...NEW ONES TO BE FILED

Judge Miel, of the 8th Circuit Court in Ionia, dismissed the charges, without prejudice, against prisoner Freeman for his brutal attack on Officer Jefferies last fall.

Dismissing the case without prejudice means that charges **can** be filed again at a later date for this incident.

Earlier this year the case against Freeman ran into conflicts

between the prosecutors office, the DOC and the prisoner's attorney on the release of information.

It is our understanding that this has now been resolved and Prosecutor Ron Schafer will file new charges in the coming weeks.

The other inmate involved was convicted of "great bodily harm less than murder" last month.

TWO CRITICALS IN TWO WEEKS AT LAKELAND

The first incident occurred when an agitated prisoner who had been pacing, speaking unclearly, and yelling, began walking toward food service. As he neared the gate the inmate swung a fist at two officers who then tried to restrain him. He resisted, landing on the ground.

Once cuffed, he was escorted to Temp. Seg. and placed in a shower/dress out area to be processed. While there he became argumentative and refused to be processed for nearly an hour before finally complying.

Four officers received injuries while restraining the prisoner.

The second incident occurred when an inmate became upset over being moved to a different housing unit. He was agitated, swearing, and threatened the RUM. He was ordered to turn around to be cuffed however he refused, continued to resist, spit in the RUO's face, and attempted to strike the RUM. It required numerous officers to eventually restrain and cuff the inmate, all while there were 20-30 prisoners in the area as the Unit store was being passed out at the time. The RUO required treatment for blood exposure.

ENROLLMENT WINDOW DRAWS TO A CLOSE

This is just a reminder that the Open Enrollment for State-Sponsored Group Insurance Plans will be concluding next Wednesday, August 31st. This is your chance to review your current information and make changes if necessary.

If no changes are needed, then no action is necessary. Your current benefits will remain the same for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

To make changes, simply log in to your MI HR Self-Service Account and click on the "Open Enrollment" button. If you do not have Internet access, you can call (877) 766-6447.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

LEGISLATURE BACK IN SESSION

The Legislature is back in session and behind the scenes negotiations are going on between both Houses and the Governor. The State Budget is at the top of the priority list, with a looming deadline of October 1st for the new fiscal year.

MCO continues to lobby on the hiring of much-needed Corrections Officers, continued funding for the Newberry and Camp Manistique Correctional Facilities, and the discontinuance of the contract with the private youth prison in Baldwin, among others.

Please continue your efforts as we are being heard!



HB 4030 NEEDS YOUR HELP!

HB 4030, which would give state employees the choice between the Defined-Benefit and the Defined-Contribution Retirement Plans, is still sitting in committee.

Majority leaders have indicated that they are not going to take up this issue.

We need any and all MCO Members to call, write, fax, or e-mail your legislators and let them know how important this is!

When talking to your legislator, remind them of how dangerous and stressful our jobs are and why they can't ignore the retirement system for state workers!

OAKS ASSAULT LEAVES TWO HOSPITALIZED

On August 29th, a prisoner failed to report to the dayroom and lingered in the B-wing base housing unit. After ignoring repeated orders to report to the dayroom, the RUO exited the bubble and ordered the inmate to lockup. The prisoner turned and struck the RUO in the face with a closed fist, took him to the ground, and continued to kick him in the face and left chest. The A-wing RUO responded and attempted to stop the attack, but she was struck in the left eye area and fell to the ground as well.

Responding officers ordered the prisoner to calm down and he was successfully placed in restraints and sent to segregation without further incident.

An ambulance was called -one officer required a stretcher- and they were taken to the hospital. Both officers were admitted and both required surgery. One sustained two broken ribs, a nose broken in two places, and cuts to the face. The other officer had her left orbital (eye) socket blown out.

The inmate involved was a Level IV serving time for Uttering & Publishing and Assaulting an Employee/Escape.



Chapter Elections will be held around the state during the month of September. Please watch your Union Bulletin Board for more information and the date and time of your facility's elections.

MURDER-SUICIDE AT BELLAMY CREEK

Police are investigating an apparent murder-suicide involving a Sergeant and a Food Service Worker from Bellamy Creek. The two individuals, Beth Thompson and Edward Elvert, were found shot to death the morning of September 1st, by Thompson's daughter.

Elvert was hired in 1981 and promoted to Sergeant in 1986 and Thompson had worked in food service since 1998.

The case is currently under investigation by the Sheriff's Department. No suicide notes were found.



Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF FOR CORRECTIONS OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

As you are aware, there are numerous agencies collecting funds to assist those individuals suffering in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. MCO has spent the last several days researching how to best channel funds specifically to fellow Corrections Officers and their families in the affected areas.

The North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS) and the MDOC have found a way and we strongly encourage members to help out our fellow brothers and sisters in Corrections during these trying times.

The MDOC, in conjunction with NAAWS, is designating one day this week (Thursday) to raise funds specifically for the CO's and their families in the Gulf. NAAWS is narrowly focusing its attention on those most in need, primarily line staff...corrections officers, food service workers, secretaries, maintenance staff, etc. Make your check out to NAAWS (Hurricane Relief) and bring it in to work that day.

If you would prefer to donate directly to NAAWS, please make the check payable to **NAAWS (Hurricane Relief)** and mail to: Gloria Hultz - NAAWS Executive Treasurer

PO Box 11037

Albany, NY 12211-0037

Other agencies collecting donations for those in need include:

SEIU - In addition to the International's contribution of \$100,000, SEIU has established the SEIU Hurricane Relief Fund to specifically assist SEIU members and their families.

Checks should be made payable to: SEIU Hurricane Relief Fund and mailed to:

SEIU Hurricane Relief Fund

1313 L Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

Or, you can donate online at www.seiu.org *NOTE: Contributions to this fund are NOT tax deductible.*

THE SALVATION ARMY - make the check payable to The Salvation Army and mail to:

The Salvation Army

P.O. Box 4857

Jackson, MS 39296-4857

please mark the check "disaster relief"

Or, you can donate online at www.salvationarmyusa.org

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS - make the check payable to American Red Cross and mail to:

American Red Cross

P.O. Box 37243

Washington, DC 20013

please mark the check "disaster relief fund"

Or, you can donate online at www.redcross.org



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

BUDGET AGREEMENT REACHED

FUNDING FOR NEWBERRY AND CAMP MANISTIQUE!

This morning a tentative “target agreement” was reached between the Governor’s Office and both Houses of the Legislature. In addition, the amounts going to every budget were agreed upon and will not be changed.

The next step calls for each budget to go through Conference Committee. The Conference Committees will be established next week with members from each House. Thus, there will be a Conference Committee for Corrections, one for DCH, etc.

After the Committees have reviewed their budgets, they will report them out and each House will have to vote.

It is our understanding at this point that our efforts were successful and the “target” includes funding for the Newberry and Camp Manistique Correctional Facilities.

Congratulations to the Newberry officers, community, and MCO members statewide who lobbied and influenced decision makers in this effort.

Funding for the youth prison in Baldwin is included in the “target” as well. MCO continues to lobby the Administration to end the State’s contract with MYCF.



QUELLING THE “RUMORS”

There was some information floating around the MDOC that was incorrect. Corrections and Forensic Officers will be receiving their \$575 in Uniform Allowance this October as scheduled.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

PRISONER IN MTU ATTACK SENTENCED



The primary assailant in the October 2004 attack on Officer Jeffries at MTU was sentenced to 9-20 years for "Assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder" by an Ionia jury on September 6th.

Officer Jeffries was beat with a lock-in-a-sock and ended up with lacerations to his face and head requiring nearly 60 stitches and staples.

The other inmate involved was charged and sentenced last month.

PROBATIONARY OFFICER STEPS UP

A Probationary Officer at Macomb acted quickly and effectively last Saturday, September 3rd, when an inmate came out of food service clutching his throat and unable to respond when asked if he was okay. The Officer applied the Heimlich maneuver accurately and the prisoner's life was potentially saved.

***Kudos for the keen eyes
and quick actions! Keep it up!***

OFFICERS USE VACATION TO HELP IN KATRINA AFTERMATH

RUO's Ross and Abbatoy from the Muskegon Correctional Facility are heading out to Mississippi for their vacation, but there will be no relaxation. With family members from the area, they have first-hand reports of the damage and destruction and decided their time off would be better spent helping those in need.

All three Muskegon Facilities have made donations to help defray the costs of their trip.

MCO has heard from other officers as well, who, due to their position as volunteer Fireman, etc., have special skills that are in demand. It is expected that some will be heading south to work with FEMA in the recovery process. The recovery and clean-up process will be a long one, and in the end, everyone will be touched by this event in some way.

MCO is very proud of the many officers who have donated their time, money, and supplies. In addition, the quick action taken by several facilities to coordinate their own fundraisers was impressive and speaks well for the corrections officer community.

.....

NEW DEAL AT THE DELLS!

For select dates, MCO members can stay at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells for just \$99/night! *And, that includes 1 wrist band for each registered guest for full use of their 125,000 square foot Indoor WaterPark!*

For reservations, call 1-877-KALAHARI, give your date of arrival, mention booking package WEPR-0905 (Wisconsin Employees Promotional Rate & the company you work for)

Offer valid the following dates for a limited number of rooms!

September - 13-14, 16, 21-23, 25-27, 29, 30

October - 2-6, 9-12, 16-19, 23-26, 30, 31

November - 1, 6-7, 9-10, 13-17, 20-22, 27-30

December - 1, 4-8, 11-16

*\$99 rate for specified dates only & based upon availability, not valid in conjunction with any other discounts or coupons. First nights deposit required at time of reservation. \$99 rate does not include tax or other incidentals and is good for up to 4 persons per suite - Add \$20 per additional guest in suite (plus tax).

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

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KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

OCTOBER = \$ IN YOUR POCKET!

MCO Members will see additional funds in their paychecks over the next month due to the end of BLT, the increased Uniform Allowance, Longevity payments, and the 1% raise from our new contract!

BLT ends effective October 22nd, thus it should be reflected for the final time in your Nov. 3rd paycheck. Longevity payments are also made at this time. The Uniform allowance and the 1% wage increase are effective October 1st.

Don't forget, you'll get another 1% in April!

BUDGET AWAITS GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE



The House and Senate approved H.B. 4831, which is a combination of several budgets including Corrections and Community Health. The bill includes funding for both the Newberry and Camp Manistique Correctional Facilities as well as the privately run youth prison in Baldwin.

MCO continues to pressure the Governor to line item veto the funding for the private prison when the Bill lands on her desk.

CLOSER-TO-HOME TRANSFER WINDOW NEARS...

October 1-31st is the window period for Closer-to-Home Transfers. If you are interested in placing your name on the list, you must submit a letter indicating your name, address, telephone, classification, current facility, desired facility (within a 40 mile radius of your home) and if you have any current discipline in your file.

Please send or fax this letter to:

Michigan Corrections
Organization

Attn: Cherelyn Dunlap
Labor Representative
421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Fax# (517) 485-3319

MCO will not accept any letters received before October 1st or after October 31st.

Please keep in mind that if you have placed your name on the list during prior enrollment windows, you will need to re-apply. The list clears at the end of each year.

For more information on the Closer-to-Home procedure and requirements, it is covered under Article 15, Part D, Section A, #5, on pages 79-80 of your new contract.

Additional information will be included in the October MCO Report and future KYI's.

NEW CLASS TO START OCTOBER 24TH!

A new class, consisting of 120 new employees (50 of which are female), will be the first class to move through the Michigan State Police training facility.

The new class will help lessen the impact of the changes at female prisons and will facilitate transfers of officers frozen at the Huron Valley Complex as a result of the HVC closure.

Most of the cadets are slated for the UP, Coldwater, and the female facilities.

Another school is scheduled for January 2006, with an additional 100 or so cadets, to help fill vacancies statewide.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

GOVERNOR VETO'S MYCF FUNDING!

Governor Granholm today signed the Corrections budget which includes funding for both the Newberry and Camp Manistique Correctional Facilities and she vetoed the funding for the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility in Baldwin.



MDOC officials are already meeting with employees at the facility about state job opportunities and plans are being made to move the prisoners into the MDOC system over the next two weeks.

BILLS INTRODUCED FOR GENDER BASED ASSIGNMENTS

Two bills were introduced this week in the House by Representatives Lemmons III, and Lemmons, Jr., that pertain to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

These Bills, HB 5219 and 5220, add language that would require **only female** employees to hold CO and RUO positions at female facilities and **only male** employees to hold CO and RUO positions at male facilities.

MCO absolutely opposes these bills and will fight them as they move through the legislative process.

OFFICER NEEDS OUR HELP

CO Doug Larivee from HVM has been suffering from several severe illnesses and needs our help. Fellow officers recently donated the maximum number of sick leave days allowed under our contract (30 days) as Officer Larivee had already exhausted all of his leave options.

Officers Dettloff and Keirns have established a P.O. Box to accept donations, made payable to Doug Larivee. They will ensure that the funds get to him to help in this time of need.

**Send to: C/O Dettloff
Doug Larivee
P.O. Box 223
Brighton, MI 48116**

FIVE OFFICERS INJURED IN CRITICAL AT I-MAX

On Friday, September 23rd, a Level II inmate, upset that his gambling game was broken up, went to his cell, grabbed one of his socks, filled it with a cue ball, and then attacked the officer who shut down the game. The officer sustained serious injuries to his head and chest, as well as a concussion. Four responding officers also required hospital treatment for their injuries and all are still off of work at this time.



TWO CRITICALS AT MARQUETTE IN ONE WEEK

During lunch movement on Wednesday, September 14th, one inmate turned and attacked another in the yard, striking him about the face and neck with a closed fist. There were no officers in the immediate area and thus the tower officer fired a warning shot to break up the brawl. Everyone hit the deck and officers responded to the scene and gained control.

On Saturday, September 17th, two prisoners began to fight in the yard. A responding officer took one inmate to the ground. The other inmate, however, continued to kick the pinned prisoner and struck the officer in the process. Another officer responded and restrained the second inmate, but he sustained injuries during the struggle with the resisting prisoner. Both officers were taken to the hospital where they were treated for a variety of injuries including concussions, contusions, and one has a chipped bone in his elbow.



BULLETIN

OCTOBER 3, 2005

U.S. SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR MCO's GENDER BASED LAWSUIT

MCO received notification today, October 3, 2005, that the Supreme Court denied the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, meaning that Court has declined to review the Sixth Circuit's decision in the gender based lawsuit.

Back in June of this year, with MCO's support, Corrections Officers Roslyn Everson, Randy Fox, Stennis George, Richard Idemudia and Brenda L. Sebastian filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court, seeking review of the Sixth Circuit's decision in *Everson v. Michigan Department of Corrections*, 391 F.3d 737 (6th Cir. 2004).

The Sixth Circuit's decision reversed a decision by United States District Judge Avern Cohn, which had found that the Department violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by removing all male officers from the housing units in the female prisons and replacing them with women officers. Judge Cohn concluded that the Department had failed to prove that gender was a bona fide occupational qualification for the position of Corrections Officer, based on evidence that some male officers—only a very small minority—might engage in sexual misconduct with female prisoners—and therefore that the blanket exclusion of all male officers was unjustified.

The Department's efforts to remove males from housing units began back in 1999 when Director Bill Martin ordered it done during settlement discussion with the US Dept. of Justice under the Engler Administration in response to challenges from several women's prisoner advocate groups.

MCO has fought this for the last six years through every step of the court system maintaining that "a uniform is a uniform" regardless of gender. While we have lost this fight...we are doing everything we can to mitigate the impact, including lobbying for 50 females in the new class who are being hired specifically for those positions, thus limiting forced movement of existing members.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

OCTOBER 7, 2005

PRISONER KILLED AT CAMP CUSINO

On Monday evening, October 3rd, a prisoner at Camp Cusino was fatally stabbed in the chest with a prison-made weapon.

The inmate, David Allan Green, of Bridgeport, 21, was serving time for larceny and felonious assault. His earliest release date would have been approximately one month away.

Two prisoners are suspects in the murder at this time; one of whom has 10 Major Misconducts and 5 Minor Misconducts on his record. The second suspect was charged with possession of dangerous contraband *prior* to his placement at the Camp.

It is MCO's view that **these inmates should not have been housed in a low security facility** and MCO continues to be concerned that because of continuing budgetary pressures, the MDOC will be too lenient in classifying prisoners and may waive them down to lower level prisons to save money.

MCO President Tom Tylutki spent the last couple of days touring Camp Cusino and other UP facilities. A Labor Management meeting is being set up to discuss issues raised by the officers during his tour.

CHANGE IN PHARMACY CO-PAY FOR SELECT DRUGS

Effective October 1, 2005, the co-pay for "non-formulary brand name" drugs increased from \$15 to \$30. For an up to date list of formulary drugs, call Express Scripts at (800) 505-2324 or visit them on the web at www.express-scripts.com.

This list changes regularly, so while you may see a drug listed as formulary on the web, you should confirm it with Express Scripts via the phone before changing prescriptions.

To limit your costs if your prescription is non-formulary, either ask your doctor if there is an alternative drug that *is* on the formulary list, or use the mail order service to receive a larger supply of your medicine per co-pay.



ATTENTION!



October 1-31st is the window period to place your name on the Closer-to-Home Transfer List. For requirements and qualification criteria see your October MCO Report, the Sept. 23rd KYI, or page 79 of your contract. If you are interested in placing your name on the list, you must submit a letter indicating your name, address, telephone, classification, current facility, desired facility (within a 40 mile radius of your home) and if you have any current discipline in your file.

Requests must be made in writing and either mailed to:

Michigan Corrections Organization
Attn: Cherelyn Dunlap
Labor Representative
421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933

Requests may also be faxed to: (517) 485-3319

Or e-mailed to: cherelyn@mco-seiu.org.

IMPORTANT! - If you e-mail your request, please put "Closer-to-Home" in the Subject line of your e-mail!



MDOC OFFERS JOBS TO YOUTH PRISON EMPLOYEES...

MAKES PLANS FOR THEIR TRANSITION TO THE STATE PRISON SYSTEM

As you know, the Michigan Department of Corrections has been meeting with the employees of the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility in Baldwin since the days following the Governor's veto of their funding. The MDOC has extended job offers to those employees of MYCF that are interested and are currently "auditing" their records for verification of their credentials. Upon employment with MYCF, these Corrections Officers were required to go through the same 16-week Academy and meet the same requirements as established by the MDOC, even though they were to be employed at the private facility.

While most of these officers have already met the requirements and taken the necessary training, they will need to attend some form of "Orientation to the MDOC." If, after the audit, the MDOC finds that there are some individuals who do not meet the standards, they will make them go through the Academy prior to employment.

It is also the Union's understanding that MYCF Supervisors will need to go through the MDOC Training Academy and will start out working as Corrections Officers. *All* new officers from MYCF will start out like any other "new hire"...with zero State time and zero seniority within MCO.

The fight MCO launched against the punk prison during the recent budget battle was not one of pitting one community against another, nor officers against officers. It was a philosophical fight; related to wage, benefit, and safety issues, and dates back to the opening of the facility in the mid-90's. The recent efforts by MCO members statewide to save the Newberry and Camp Manistique Correctional Facilities show just how effective we can be when we all work together; with solidarity and determination. MCO supports workers, and is hopeful that the addition of these officers to our ranks will ease staffing shortages and increase safety on the job. Brothers and Sisters of MCO, please welcome these individuals as they enter the State system, and let us work together as we have many more battles before us.

UNIFORM ALLOWANCE TAXES CLARIFIED



A large number of calls to MCO has recently indicated that there is confusion regarding the taxation of the Uniform Allowance.

The IRS requires that taxes

be deducted from payments that are considered to be "non-accountable." A non-accountable payment means one in which no receipts are required to substantiate the payment. MCO has verified this through our independent CPA Firm.

Thus, to ensure IRS compliance, the HRMN system has been changed to deduct the Income

taxes, Social Security, and Medicare taxes at the time the payment is made.

The Uniform Allowance has always been subject to these taxes, however in previous years the taxes were paid at the time of tax filing rather than at the time of payment.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

OCTOBER 28, 2005

CENTRAL COMMITTEE ADOPTS BYLAW CHANGES

The Central Committee voted on Wednesday to approve significant changes to the MCO bylaws. The approved changes were part of a package prepared by the Bylaws Committee who undertook a thorough review of them at the request of the May Central Committee meeting.

These new bylaws must now be submitted to SEIU for their

approval; which is expected.

Once approved, MCO will print new copies of the MCO/SEIU bylaws and mail them out to every member.

Most of the changes were "housekeeping" so to speak; cleaning up language and removing unnecessary items. A more comprehensive summary will be included in the next MCO Report.

WEBSITE ADDS NEW FEATURES!

- MCO Member Discount at WhiteTailGear
- Steward Manual Online
- Online Critical Incident Report Form

NEW ACADEMIES PLUS BALDWIN HIRES = STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



A new class of 113 (75 female) started at the Academy on Monday, October 24th, and the new hires from the Baldwin Facility (100+) are expected to start at various facilities beginning November 7th. These two groups plus the expectation of another Academy in late January/early February means that we should see several hundred new officers this fiscal year.

While this will go a long way to help our staffing shortages, it is not a fix.

TWO HOUSE BILLS NEED OUR ACTION

As we mentioned several weeks ago, Representatives Lemmons, III, and Lemmons, Jr. have introduced HB 5219 and 5220 which would prohibit male officers from working in any female prisoner housing unit, and would prohibit any female officer from working in any male housing unit.

These Bills attempt to discriminate against officers based on gender.

Central Committee Delegates



received information on these Bills as well as maps and contact information for your representatives in Lansing. Please watch for this

information on your Bulletin Boards so that you can call your legislators and be heard. Let them know that this is discrimination.

Officers of each gender bring qualities to the job that help manage the prisoners and MCO has always believed that a "uniform is a uniform."

SENIORITY BASED TRANSFER WINDOW PERIOD TO OPEN

The window period for Seniority Based Transfers will open next week on November 1st and run through November 30th for transfers between January 1st and June 30th.

Seniority Based Transfers are administered by the MDOC and are available to employees who meet the conditions as laid out in Article 15, Part D, Section A, #2, page 78 of the contract.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

NOVEMBER 4, 2005

ERROR IN SOME LONGEVITY PAYMENTS

According to the MDOC, there were problems with approximately 280 Longevity payments.

Letters have gone out to all the HRO's with instructions on how these are to be handled. All corrections will be made centrally through DCS and **not** manually at your Human Resource Offices.



WEAPON USED IN CRITICAL AT I-MAX

A fight broke out in the chow hall at I-Max on October 27th between two prisoners. What started out as a verbal incident escalated to exchanged punches with clenched fists and then the introduction of a homemade weapon.

The responding officers did a great job in separating the two inmates before more serious injuries occurred. And, more importantly, they did it with minimal harm to themselves.

As it was, the inmates sustained severe lacerations to their arms, cheek, and mouth. One inmate sustained a cut the full length of his face and sustained substantial blood loss. Both inmates required hospital treatment for their injuries. Luckily only one officer required treatment and that was for possible blood exposure.

Once again recognition needs to go out to the officers for getting this dangerous situation under control safely.

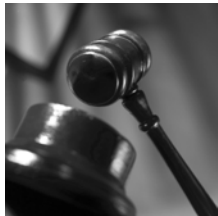
NOTICE!

Although the Department has indicated its continued interest to classify gun towers as an E-8 position, it is putting the issue on hold for the moment.

We will keep you updated.

STATE SUED OVER PUNK PRISON

On Thursday, November 3rd, the GEO Group, the Village of Baldwin, and Webber Township together filed a lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Michigan Department of Management and Budget for the wrongful termination of GEO's lease of the youth prison in Baldwin.



RETIREMENT STATEMENTS HIT THIS WEEK

State employees should have received this week their 2005 member statement summarizing wages, service and contribution amounts credited to you during the 2004-2005 fiscal year as reported by your agency to the Office of Retirement Services (ORS).

A new statement is sent each year. If you find any inaccuracies in the statement, call ORS directly at (800) 381-5111.



IN MEMORIAM

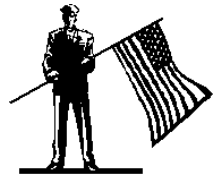
Officer Lisa Bullock, from the Scott Correctional Facility, was found unconscious while on duty on Friday, October 28th. Despite emergency efforts, she passed away.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SALUTING OUR
VETERANS



NOVEMBER 11, 2005

OFFICERS JOIN MDOC

Officers from the former private youth prison started at MDOC facilities this week. MCO has met with some new hires and hopes to reach all within the next week or so.

UPDATE ON OFFICER'S PASSING

It was determined that Officer Bullock, 35, of the Scott Correctional Facility, suffered a massive heart attack on the job.

She leaves behind four children, under the age of 13, who will be raised by her sister.

Vice President Andy Potter attended the funeral services and presented the family with a MCO Memorial Bible and a check from the MCO Crisis Fund.

LOCKDOWNS AT MTU

Twice in as many weeks, MTU has been locked down. Two weeks ago it was due to an assault between two prisoners over coffee. On Wednesday night it was over an alleged cell theft. The incidents appear to be racially motivated.

Thus far, no staff have been injured and no weapons have been used, however one was found during shakedowns yesterday.

BUDGET DRIVEN CORRECTIONS HITS SEG UNIT AT KINROSS

Since the Kinross Correctional Facility added 296 inmates in June, its segregation unit population has exploded. For the past month it has been full beyond capacity and as a result the KCF Administration has been releasing prisoners from seg early. At times, as many as 5 inmates in one day have been released, and at least one inmate had as many as 10 days left in his detention.

The segregation unit has 4 empty seclusion cells on the upper two floors of the unit. However, the Administration refuses to use them because it may create overtime.

This is a clear example of money driven corrections. In

addition, the Warden recently considered using two of these cells, on a general population floor, to house MRSA quarantine cases with the cell doors being left open.

The increase in the KCF Seg population is mainly due to inmate fights. At this time, 35-40% of the inmates in the Seg unit are there for fighting. The remainder of the Seg population consists of inmates threatening staff, unmanageable inmates, and other misconduct problems.

With winter fast approaching, MCO knows that inmate assaults and fights will increase, as well as MRSA cases. The KCF chapter and MCO will be closely monitoring this ongoing situation.

SHOTS FIRED AT MARQUETTE



On October 25th, and again on the 28th, shots were fired from the Gun Tower to break up inmate on inmate fights in the yard.

No staff were injured and officers were able to regain control.

SENIORITY BASED TRANSFERS

The Seniority Based Transfer window period is open now through November 31st.

To apply, the request must be placed in writing and submitted to your personnel office.

For more information and the conditions in which vacancies are filled based on seniority, look to your contract - pgs. 78-79, Article 15, Part D, Section A, #2.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

NOVEMBER 18, 2005

CRITICAL AT NEWBERRY

On November 15th, an officer was escorting a non-bond prisoner to the hearing inspector. As they were passing down the hallway between units an inmate jumped out and attacked the officer punching him in and about the face. Responding officers intervened and thwarted further assault.

The officer sustained bruises and lacerations to his face and head. He was sent to the hospital for treatment and later released.

CLARIFICATIONS ON OFFICERS FROM BALDWIN

While it was understood from the beginning that the officers joining the MDOC from Baldwin were to be considered green tags in terms of seniority, overtime and state time...the issue of whether they would actually wear green tags has been in question. The original indications were that they would be issued black tags.

MCO has been actively arguing against this and received notification this week that they will, in fact, be wearing green tags.

In addition, they will be required to qualify with a shotgun. Rifle qualification is optional and at the discretion of their intended facility.

CHIPPEWA SEES RASH OF SHANKS

On October 22nd, a fight broke out between four prisoners - two of whom had weapons. Skillfully, officers were able to break up the fight without sustaining any injuries.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, however. Since November 1st there have been 12 incidences where shanks, other weapons, or dangerous contraband have been found, either hidden within the facility or in the possession of an inmate.

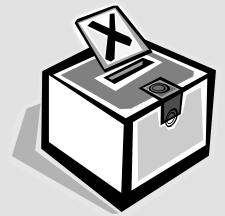
CO ELECTED MAYOR OF MANISTEE

Robert "Chip" Goodspeed, who with 424 votes recently won re-election to his third term as a city council member, was just elected as the Mayor of Manistee.

The city's charter directs that the city council appoint a Mayor each year from among the city council members. Goodspeed was just starting his fifth year as a councilman and was nominated for the mayoral position along with the incumbent.

Goodspeed won the election in a 4-3 vote.

Goodspeed, a CO at the Oaks, has been with the MDOC for nearly 10 years.



Way to go Chip!

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Russell Andrew Hearn, 45, passed away on November 11, 2005, of a massive heart attack.

Hearn has worked for the MDOC for five years at the Ojibway Correctional Facility.

He leaves behind a wife and two daughters.

Officer Allen Dale Langson, 49, passed away on November 17, 2005, after a year-long battle with cancer.

Langson worked as a CO at the Marquette Branch Prison for 20 years.

He leaves behind a wife and three children.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

DECEMBER 2, 2005

KALAHARI RESORT OFFERS WINTER RETREAT

The Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells is offering a special \$99 rate for an African themed guest room for the following dates:

December 4th-8th.

and

11th-16th.

A wrist band for each registered guest is included for full access to their 125,000 sq. ft. Indoor Water Park.

Simply call 1-877-KALAHARI and use the booking package WEPR-0905 "Wisconsin Employees Promotional Rate" and then mention MCO/MDOC as your employer.

Check them out online at www.kalahariresort.com

*offer not valid in conjunction with any other discounts or coupons, first nights deposit required at time of reservation. \$99 rate does not include tax or other incidentals and is good for up to 4 persons per suite. Add \$20 per additional guest plus taxes.

INMATE FIGHTS BREAK OUT AT SAGINAW

Two inmate-on-inmate fights broke out at Saginaw on November 30th within five minutes of each other.

No officers were injured and the situation was controlled.

NEW MANAGEMENT TAKES OVER BARAGA

Effective Monday, December 5, 2005, MDOC Deputy Director of Administration and Programs Barry McLemore will assume the position of Warden and Deputy Warden Naples from Marquette will assume the role of Acting Deputy Warden at the Baraga Correctional Facility.

Local Chapter Leadership and President Tylutki will be meeting with McLemore in Baraga at 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

We will keep you updated as more details become available.



EXCHANGE TRANSFER LIST WILL CLEAR

It's almost the start of a New Year, and thus it's time to do something housecleaning. The Exchange Transfers List which appears on the last page of the MCO Report will be clearing as of January 1.

So, if you would like your name to remain on the list you will need to contact: Sacha at MCO Central (sacha@mco-seiu.org) with your updated information ASAP!

Please include the following:

Name
Rank (E-9, E-10, etc.)
Current Facility
Desired Facility
Phone # of Current Facility

CENTRAL MINUTES COME ONLINE

With approval by the Executive Board at their November meeting, the MCO Central Conference Minutes will now be posted on the website at www.mco-seiu.org.

As with the Executive Board Meeting Minutes, they will be held back one meeting because they are not approved until the next Central Meeting.

All Central minutes have been posted since the election of this board in May of 2004.

To view them, simply click on the icon for Meeting Minutes on the website and scroll down below the "E-Board" section to the "Central" section.





BULLETIN

DECEMBER 8, 2005

ATTENTION: FORMER FSA'S AT HVM & WHV

Former FSA's will be receiving from your Union Officials a Shift Preference sheet.

This Preference sheet must be filled out and returned to your local MCO Chapter Officers no later than Wednesday, December 21, 2005.

A snapshot of bargaining unit seniority as of November 19, 2005 was taken to determine seniority for purposes of shift adjustments.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

DECEMBER 9, 2005

CIVIL SERVICE AUDITS GROUP INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY OF DEPENDENTS

As you recall, during the Group Insurance Enrollment held in August of 2004 all employees were asked to review their covered dependents. At that time an amnesty period was established for employees to drop ineligible dependents without suffering a penalty.

During fiscal year 2005 the State of Michigan began a state-wide audit of dependents. MCO informed our members of this undertaking in the May issue of the MCO Report.

The last department to be audited is the MDOC, which began Monday, December 5, 2005.

A mailing has gone out to all MDOC employees who have dependents enrolled in state sponsored group insurance plans

requesting documentation such as birth certificates and marriage licenses to prove their eligibility. *Responses are due by January 20, 2006.*

If you have any questions or need direction in locating the requested documents, please refer to page two of the cover letter you received for contact numbers and related websites.

DCH Employees completed this process in the spring of this year.

For those DCH Employees who failed to respond to the initial request, a certified letter from the Civil Service has been sent out indicating that you have until December 16, 2005, to provide these documents or penalties will be assessed.

The penalties Civil Service will impose may include, but are not

limited to, removal of dependents from benefit coverage, recovery of premiums and claims paid for ineligible dependents, and where appropriate, other corrective action. MCO is under the impression that they are exploring disciplinary action as well.

In addition, if your dependents are removed for lack of response, you will not have the opportunity to re-enroll eligible dependents until August 2006.

It is critical that you start the process of gathering your information as soon as possible. With the holidays falling during the submission period, it may become difficult to obtain official documents from state offices in a timely manner in order to meet the January 20th deadline.

ESCAPE MATERIALS AT KINROSS

The 3-11 shift was locked down on December 8th after the Inspector received a tip that there was escape paraphernalia in one of the four-man rooms.

A grappling hook and other materials were found exactly where they were supposed to be according to the tip.

MCO Recording Secretary Jim Johnson, who works the unit where the materials were found, stated, "That's why minimum staffing levels are necessary...with the huge yard area at KCF, I feel we still fall short of proper staffing. It shouldn't take a serious incident like this to make the Department notice shortfalls."



ESCAPE AT GUS HARRISON!

Two inmates, serving time for murder and rape, escaped this morning by hiding in the Trash Compactor truck.

They were spotted when they left the truck and the police were notified. They stole a vehicle and drove to Blissfield where they were apprehended within 40 minutes of the escape.

One of the prisoners was treated for a broken leg.



KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

DECEMBER 16, 2005

SENATOR SCHAUER FIGHTS FOR MCO, TAKES ON PRIVATIZATION

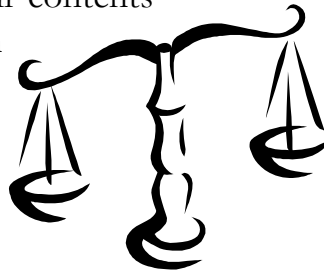
State Senator Mark Schauer rolled out two new bills requested by MCO in a press conference at MCO Central on Monday.

The first of his bills would mandate that all prisons in the state of Michigan be run by the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The second bill simply removes language that was added to PA 232 in 1996 that referred to the youth prison and privatization.

When the legislature receives a bill number MCO will pass along that information so that you can read the full contents and then contact your legislators and let them know your views.

The passage of these bills would end the threat of private prisons in Michigan for good.



INMATE COLLAPSES IN CHOW LINE

On Monday, December 12th, a prisoner collapsed in the chow line at the Brooks Correctional Facility.

Four officers responded and after several rounds of resuscitation were able to revive the prisoner.

Hats off to the quick action and training of these officers who ended up saving the life of this inmate.

CTO COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

Pursuant to Letter of Intent #2, pg. 200 of the 2005-2007 Contract, a CTO Committee has been established at the request of MCO to address issues affecting the CTO Classification.

Andy Potter, MCO Vice President, serves as chair of the committee, with the following members:

Dennis Clarkson - Jackson
Linda Jackson - Huron Valley
Jim Killips - Kinross
Randy Eicher, MCO Staff Rep

MCO has requested a meeting to be scheduled for mid-January with the MDOC.

CO EXPLORING RUN FOR STATE HOUSE

RUO Mike Taylor, from the Marquette Branch Prison and currently serving on the MCO State Executive Board, is exploring a run for State Representative in the 109th District.

Taylor has worked at Marquette for the last 20 years and served in various union positions during most of that time.

In addition, he devotes significant time to civic, community and charitable efforts, including the Jaycees, Easter Seals, and serving as referee-in-chief for junior hockey, a trainer for USA Hockey, and is a foster parent for

the juvenile court system.

While it is still early in the process, we're very excited at the thought that one of our own could represent us in Lansing!



MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
(517) 485-3310
1 (800) 451-4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG

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

sc:opeiu459aflcio



DECEMBER 22, 2005

REGIONAL TRAINING KICKS OFF NEW YEAR

As we've been mentioning, MCO is switching to a smaller, region-based training model instead of bringing large groups of people to Lansing. This should allow for more in-depth discussions and the ability to tailor the training to region specific issues, in addition to being more cost effective. The Labor Reps are planning to hold their training sessions around the state during the months of January and February.

Labor Representative Karen Mazzolini, who represents the Upper Peninsula, kicks off the program with training scheduled at five different locations throughout the week of January 9 - 13th. Officials in her region will be receiving notification shortly with the dates, times, and locations of the training, to be posted on your union bulletin board.

The State Executive Board has mandated that all who attend the training must pass the Steward Training Test. *So, if you are in Karen's region, you need to get busy!* And for those of you in other regions, this is a reminder to get it out of the way so that you are not racing against the clock once training is scheduled for your area.

The Steward Training Manual/Test can be found on our website at www.mco-seiu.org. Just click on the "On The Job" button and then on "Steward Manual." The test questions are at the end of the manual...simply print out the questions, mark your answers, and drop them in the mail to Stephanie at MCO Central.

For those of you without Internet access, just give us a call and we can put a paper copy in the mail to you that day.

OFFICER SENTENCED

CO Jody Axley was sentenced on December 14th to 54-86 months in prison and ordered to pay \$72,500 in fines and costs for her part in the escape of Garfield Lawson III from the Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility in August.

Best Wishes for the New Year!

The KYI will be back on

January 6th



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