



BUMPING REGIONS ESTABLISHED --- VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS ALLOWED

MCO and the DOC have agreed on the following bumping regions for the upcoming prison reorganization and closures:

Deerfield ⇒ Mich. Reformatory, Bellamy Creek, I-Max, MTU

Camp Branch ⇒ Lakeland & Florence Crane

Scott ⇒ Ryan, Mound and Huron Valley Womens

Huron Valley Mens ⇒ Parr Highway, Gus Harrison, Ryan, Mound & WHV

To minimize the impact, the Department has agreed to allow those officers within the bumping regions to voluntarily transfer to vacancies throughout the state. Forms for this purpose will be made available by Monday at every facility within the regions cited above. Any officer within the bumping regions interested in transferring to other parts of the state will be required to submit the proper form to your personnel office no later than the date specified therein. You may list as many requests as you want. The determination for placement will be made strictly on operational needs and by seniority. This part of the process only relates to those who are interested in the possibility of transferring to other destinations. Do not list any institution within any bump region listed above as that request will be discounted.

Note: There will be a different form for layoff and bumping when the institutions actually close.

RELATED NEWS: TOUR SCHEDULE

MCO President Tom Tylutki, MCO Staff and Board Members will be touring the facilities impacted by the closures next week.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

Tylutki & Kowitz - Camp Branch (1st & 2nd), Crane (2nd)

Potter - I-Max (1st), MTU (2nd)

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Tylutki & Kowitz - Lakeland (1st & 2nd)

Potter - Michigan Reformatory (1st & 2nd)

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Tylutki & Kowitz - Lakeland, Crane & Branch (3rd), CFP (1st)

Potter & Sholtz - Gus Harrison (1st & 2nd)

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Potter & Sholtz - Boyer Road (1st & 2nd)

Foldie & Douglas - Ryan (1st), Mound (2nd)

Friday, January 16, 2009

Tylutki, Potter, & Kowitz - Deerfield (2nd), IBC Dorms (1st & 2nd)

Dunlap & Douglas - Scott (1st & 2nd)

Foldie & Ost - Huron Valley Mens (1st & 2nd), WHV (1st & 2nd)

GENDER BASED ISSUES REARS ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN!

MCO recently learned it is the Department's intent to expand BFOQ assignments in the upcoming enlarged women's prison. The union's law firm has been contacted and is reviewing the issue.

NOTE: CLOSER TO HOME

Decisions regarding the Closer to Home Transfer List have been put on hold pending the closure of the above facilities.

Once the transfers and bumping is finalized, MCO will return to the list and make final determinations.



TRANSFER FORM REMINDER!

It has come to our attention there is a rumor spreading around the state that the voluntary transfer process within the layoff regions has been suspended by the MDOC. **This is not true!** The transfers have been suspended for another bargaining unit... but **not for MCO members.**

Please continue to fill out your transfer request forms and return them to your personnel office by the deadline of January 20, 2009.

OFFICERS ASSAULTED AT SALINE HOSPITAL

On December 21st, officers covering an inmate at the Saline Hospital were attacked when the inmate jumped off the bed, screamed "I'm going to kill both of you guys!", and then struck one officer in the head in an attempt to get his weapon. They ended up in a pile on the floor. The other officer repeatedly ordered the prisoner to stop resisting and when he refused used chemical agents to subdue the prisoner.

CRISIS FUND SEEKS YOUR HELP!

The Crisis Fund Committee has scheduled a meeting for January 23, 2009, in Marquette. If you have any ideas for fund-raisers or other means to generate monies for our members in need, please contact a committee member prior to the meeting. Committee Members include:

- Cary Johnson - Cotton*
- Larry Henley - Alger Max*
- Carletta Andrews - Scott*
- Byron Osborn - Chippewa*
- Rocky Issacson - Marquette*

MCO Vice President Andy Potter will also be in attendance. You can e-mail your ideas or comments to MCO at mail@mco-seiu.org and it will be passed along to the committee.

Thanks!

KINROSS KEEPS BUSY

- 12.20.08** - inmate stabbed on the yard returning from chow.
- 12.25.08** - inmate caught with shank.
- 12.28.08** - two inmates fight in unit with weapons, one hospitalized.
- 12.29.08** - staff prevent hit on inmate in same unit.
- 12.30.08** - inmate caught sharpening shanks in the technical school. Seven shanks were found by staff, including one hidden in what appeared to be an unopened box of oatmeal.
- 12.31.08** - inmate assaulted resulting in a deep laceration to the face and a trip to the hospital. Assailant not identified and another shank found in housing unit.
- 1.1.09** - a shank and a tattoo needle found by unit rover in porter closet.
- 1.3.09** - three inmates locked up for fighting, one injured possibly from a weapon.
- 1.4.09** - one inmate treated by health care and put in Seg. due to attack in weight pit. Two other inmates attacked in separate incidents in the yard and in the unit.

REMINDERS

The deadline to apply for the Union Plus Scholarships is January 31, 2009.... so get your applications in today!

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ESCAPE ATTEMPT AT THE THUMB

On Christmas Eve three prisoners worked together to plan an escape. Two served as lookouts while a third tore the screen in a dining hall window and climbed out. He then used a ladder fashioned out of bedsheets to try to make it over the fence. He was successful in making it to the top, but when he couldn't make it over the razor wire he climbed back down and finished his detail in the dining hall before returning to his housing unit.

The sheets were found shortly after and it was determined that the inmates had stacked the dining hall tables in such a way to block the officer's view of the window. All three were sent to Seg.

OFFENDER ESCAPES FROM TUSCOLA RE-ENTRY

On January 11, 2009, it was discovered that an offender was missing from a wood pile stacking crew.

A complete count determined that the offender was in fact missing. A subsequent review of the inmates telephone calls indicate he spoke with a relative about getting out of there, but that he wasn't going to get cut up by a fence. He is still listed as an Absconder at this time.

TOBACCO PLAYS A ROLE IN ASSAULT

On January 19th, a Level I inmate at the Cotton Correctional Facility slipped a cuff and assaulted an officer who was escorting him to L-Unit for substance abuse (tobacco).

That same prisoner was taken to the hospital for treatment of injuries he sustained in an altercation with another prisoner over tobacco prior to him assaulting staff. Both inmates were subsequently locked up - one for assault on prisoner, and one for assault on staff.

OFFICERS ASSAULTED AT GUS HARRISON

On 3rd shift, January 11, 2009, two Level II inmates exited their cell and walked towards the restroom. One of the inmates however continued down to the base and punched a CO repeatedly in the head and another officer in the face. The inmate was seen talking on the wing with the other inmate and some onlookers who gathered in the hall.

Several orders to disperse were given but the prisoners refused to comply and they were locked up for failure to disburse.

A few days later it was determined via a kite that the second inmate (who did not directly assault the officers) was in fact the orchestrator of the attack and that another attack was being planned - this time on a female officer.

Both officers were sent to the hospital - one for treatment of a severely bruised and swollen eye, and the other for a rib injury he sustained while restraining the inmate. Both are now back to work.

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TRANSFER UPDATES

MCO was again successful in convincing the Department to allow voluntary transfers out of the bumping region to vacancies all over the state to lessen the impact on those who remain. MCO met with officials from the MDOC on Friday, January 23rd, to review nearly three-hundred Voluntary Transfer request forms submitted by the deadline. At the end of the day, more than half of the officers who submitted requests were successfully transferred. In all, the approximate numbers for those transferring out of the regions are as follows: **Coldwater - 30, Ionia - 76 and Detroit - 47.**

This will open up more vacancies within the bumping region for those officers who are unable/unwilling to leave.

However, MCO was notified earlier this week that there will be layoffs from the Coldwater region. While the number started at 16, MCO advocated on their behalf with Director Caruso and the number now stands at 13. MCO and the MDOC are working on a process where the female officers of those 13 could be offered a job at Huron Valley Womens. All the officers could be placed **TEMPORARILY** at Gus Harrison/Parr Highway to address OT issues, until the end of Huron Valley Mens.

Layoff numbers for the Ionia and Detroit regions have not yet been determined.

KINROSS CONTINUES TO SEE INCREASE IN CRITICALS

January 27, 2009 - an inmate on second shift is slashed across the cheek, resulting in a 6" gash which required hospital treatment. The assailant was not caught.

January 28, 2009 - three inmates self-locked on 2nd and 3rd shift.

January 29, 2009 - inmate successfully hung himself in his cell.

TOBACCO FREE ON SUNDAY

The deadline is finally here for all state prisons to go totally tobacco free this Sunday, February 1, 2009.

Some facilities have already been experiencing an increase in agitation/assaults related to tobacco since purchasing and supplies have been gradually limited over the last few months.



MCOY FINALIST SELECTION UNDERWAY

MCO, MDOC and former MCOY winners are meeting today at MCO headquarters to review nomination forms and select the the finalists for the 2009 Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year.

After scoring each nomination, the top five finalists will be selected for a personal interview before the Corrections Officer of the Year Committee later next month.

At press time the finalists had not yet been identified. Next week's issue of the KYI will highlight the finalists and their accomplishments.

CLOSURE DATES MOVED

The closure date for Camp Branch has been moved up and is now slated for February 4, 2009.

In addition, the date to close the Deerfield Correctional Facility now stands at March 20, 2009.

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BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

STATE IN SEARCH OF \$50M

CONTACTS STATE EMPLOYEE GROUPS

The Office of the State Employer has alerted MCO and other state employee groups that they need to find another \$50M in savings to address shortfalls in the current fiscal year budget.

State Financial Director, Bob Emerson, will be setting up a budget presentation within the next few weeks.

The Governor's budget recommendations for FY '09-'10 are due to be presented this Thursday, February 12th, at which point further information may be available.



Stay tuned...



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BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

CORRECTIONS SLATED FOR DRASTIC CUTS

MCO is shocked to hear budget recommendations made today before a joint appropriations committee that include drastic cuts to the Department of Corrections as well as cuts to other Departments that will affect all state employees. In addition, employee concessions of \$50M are called for although details have not been given.

The state is facing a projected budget deficit of \$1.4B at this time. The Department of Corrections will see an overall cut in spending of 3%. These savings are to come in the following forms:

- \$156M from re-purposing and facility closures
(some yet to be determined)
- \$9.6M by cancelling Officer Recruit Training
- \$10.5M through departmental efficiencies
- \$1.7M in Central Office reductions

The MDOC has indicated several thousand prison beds will be eliminated this year due to increased parole levels and a reduced intake of new prisoners. According to the budget presentation, less prisoners will mean facility closures. Those facilities have not been identified at this time and the MDOC has said it still does not know which ones will be slotted to close. However, the Department is targeting October 1, 2009, as the date to accomplish its goal to obtain savings.

Recent reports by the bi-partisan Council of State Governments---Center for Justice, has made recommendations to the legislature that, if enacted, will continue to greatly reduce the prison population. Recent Auditor General reports also continue to attack conditions that could have a negative effect on correctional officers.

Under the collective bargaining agreement, MCO will be contacted when the Department determines which facilities it slates to close and the union will then sit down to address our contractual rights. MCO will continue to do its best to lessen the impact to our members. With an October 1 target date, events will undoubtedly move very fast once the process starts. The state has yet to formally notify MCO and other employee groups on what it has in mind regarding employee concessions.



BUDGET RECOMMENDS CUTS TO CORRECTIONS

Governor Granholm issued her Executive Budget recommendations for FY 2009-2010 yesterday. The state is facing a projected budget deficit of \$1.4B at this time. While the state may receive some federal stimulus funds, these are not seen as a fix to Michigan's on-going structural deficit and only a small portion of any funds received will be applied to this shortfall.

The Department of Corrections will see an overall cut in spending of 3%. The budget recommendations make use of the recent Justice Center from the Council of State Governments report that showed Michigan houses prisoners longer than other state prison systems. The state currently estimates releasing approximately 4,000 inmates who have reached or exceeded their minimum sentence meaning there will be additional prison closures prior to the start of the new fiscal year on October 1st.

In addition, there will be an increase in funding for oversight of parolees in the community through additional GPS tether systems and parole agents among others.

The Maxey Boys Training School is being re-purposed to house approximately 250 inmates from the Huron Valley Mens facility. The remaining 60 juveniles will be moved across the street to a separate building on the grounds.

Also sought in the budget is \$50M in concessions from state employees. Bob Emerson, the State Financial Director, is providing a budget review session with state employee union leaders in March.

MCOY FINALISTS SELECTED

Kirk DeWitt

St. Louis Correctional Facility

Howard Freeman

Macomb Correctional Facility

Donna Houtz

Lakeland Correctional Facility

Charles Levens

FOA Outstate Region Absconder
Recovery Unit

Phillip Thomas

Huron Valley Mens

Finalists will meet at MCO Central on February 26th for formal interviews before the Corrections Officers Training Council.

*Congratulations and
Good Luck!*

KINROSS SEG. OVERFLOW

1.30.09 - Fight breaks out in the 6 man room in Segregation - one inmate beaten severely in the face. There were 3 self-locks and 3 unmanageable inmates in Seg. as well.

1.31.09 - Inmate threatens nurse, three inmates assault prisoner on yard possibly with a weapon, 1 self-lock and 1 unmanageable - all were taken to Seg.

TOBACCO FREE AND BUSY

Level I prisoners at Boyer Road have taken to lighting things on fire in protest of the tobacco ban.

On Feb. 1st inmates set afire five trash cans in various places on the unit and then threw lit toilet paper rolls down the hallways. The next night they lit a trash can on fire, placed it in the caustics closet and then jammed the lock.

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TOBACCO INCIDENTS CONTINUE

CAMP CUSINO

The yard was closed as normal at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 14th. The next morning when the inmates were released to the yard it appears some found tobacco that had had been thrown over the fence overnight. The yard officer had been pulled to cover visits. Word got around about the tobacco and so 10 inmates jumped the three in possession of it, and one ended up stabbed.

The Camp was locked down and ERT activated on Monday to shake down the facility. Tobacco and several shanks were found. In all, 6 inmates were sent to Alger Max. Officers, ERT and ADW involved did a great job in handling this incident. **These are the low level inmates who are getting ready to be released.... watch out!**

BARAGA

On February 15, 2009, a prisoner from Unit 6 who was going to med lines at the same time as Unit 7 was going to chow, ran up behind a Unit 7 prisoner and stabbed him three times. Earlier a large quantity of tobacco was found on the Unit 7 yard, and it is believed that the inmates thought that the "hit" inmate was the snitch.

KINROSS CRITICALS AND SEG. OVERFLOWING

2.2.09 - assault in prisoner housing unit

2.6.09 - inmates set trash can on fire in housing unit, one prisoner self locks and another is found with a 7" shank

2.8.09 - Seg. overflowing

2.10.09 - Another self-lock and Seg. is still overflowing...results in inmates being released from Detention after serving a fraction of their Detention time

2.14.09 - fight in housing unit - inmates taken to Seg. along with another who threatened an officer

MCO TAKES THE PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS!

TEAM MCO is announcing that we will be leaving the amateur Polar Plunging league and will be joining the top dogs on the professional circuit. Currently we are a couple of members short and are looking for teammates to fill out our roster. This is an amazing chance to give back and get in on the ground level of this new extreme sport that will surely be bigger than all the major sports combined.

Our first event will be on March 28, 2009, in Kalamazoo, MI on the Western Michigan campus (Lawson Ice Area). We will be donating our first "pro salaries" to the Special Olympics of Michigan (registration is \$50.00 per person). *Contact Dustin Drabek (dustin@mco-seiu.org) or call (800)-451-4878 Let's raise some FUNd's!*

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Daniel "Danny" Baross,

31, of the Ojibway Correctional Facility died unexpectedly on February 10, 2009, at his home in Ironwood.

Officer Baross hired into the MDOC in January of 2007, joining his brother James, who was an officer at Ojibway and now works at Huron Valley Mens.

Danny leaves behind his wife Carla and three sons, Robert, Zachary and Tyler.

LAYOFFS AVERTED WITH DEERFIELD CLOSURE

MCO worked closely with the Department, even getting them to agree to go beyond the contract, when handling the closure of the Deerfield Correctional Facility.

As of this afternoon, all officers have been successfully placed (no resultant layoffs) as follows: 30 to Bellamy Creek, 21 to I-Max, and 20 to MR.



DONNA HOUTZ NAMED 2009 MCOY

Five officer of the year finalists gathered at MCO Central yesterday for their formal interviews before the Corrections Officers Training Council.

While all have proven that they are role models and leaders amongst their peers...only one could be chosen.

Congratulations to Donna Houtz of the Lakeland Correctional Facility for being selected as the 2009 Michigan Correctional Officer of the Year. Watch the March MCO Report for more information about these fine officers and all they do for the MDOC, fellow officers and their communities.

2 INJURED AT FORENSIC

A patient with an extremely violent history sucker-punched a supervisor in the jaw on February 25th. A responding FSA physically restrained the patient however he continued to resist by trying to break the officer's neck. The FSA remains off of work at this time.

LAKELAND SEES UPTICK IN INCIDENTS

Just as Kinross has been busy, so has Lakeland. Almost daily occurrences of inmate fights, setting fires in retaliation for living conditions (lack of tobacco), and more. Lowered classification levels continue to escalate the violence in the system as well.

KINROSS CRITICALS ARE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

2.22.09 - two inmates taken to hospital after fighting in their room. Possible weapons involved and they were placed in Seg. upon their return.

2.23.09 - 2 self-locks

2.24.09 - 1 self-lock, 2 to Seg. for possession of a weapon, 1 to Seg. for unmanageable, 1 to Seg. for threatening another inmate.

Staff have been doing a great job of discovering all of these weapons and handling the onslaught of criticals.

While Kinross is featured here, these events are occurring every day at facilities statewide... *stay on your toes guys!*

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Donald VanArsdall, 43, of the St. Louis Correctional Facility passed away on February 21, 2009, surrounded by his friends and family.

Officer VanArsdall hired into the MDOC in 1989, and leaves behind his wife Shannon and four children - Jessica, Don Jr., Nicholas and Karolyne. Memorials can be made to:

Pancreatic Cancer
Action Network
2141 Rosecrans Ave.
Suite 7000
El Segundo, CA 90245

IN OUR THOUGHTS...

Officer Francis Lee of the Scott Correctional Facility who underwent open heart triple bypass surgery two weeks ago. She is home recovering and we wish her well!

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BULLETIN

MARCH 11, 2009

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES HURON VALLEY TO CLOSE

The Department has notified MCO that the Huron Valley Mens facility will close effective April 4, 2009. We will have MCO officials on site today, Wednesday, March 11th, to answer any questions or concerns you may have and assist you through this process.

The Department will be moving some of the prisoners to the Maxey Boys Facility while the RTS unit will move to the former Camp Valley.

Those officers who had previously volunteered and were approved to transfer out of the bumping region *can* apply to transfer to the Maxey facility. *However*, the Maxey facility will not open with a full complement... thus there will be a limited number of CMUO and CMA positions available. **The forms to apply for a CMUO/CMA position are available at your facility today and they must be completed and returned by next Tuesday, March 17, 2009.**

We know that this is a very short timeframe to make this decision and MCO is diligently working to protect the rights of our members.

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EARLY OUT PURSUIT CONTINUES

MCO's continued pursuit of an "early-out" retirement for correctional officers took a step forward yesterday with testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Investigations, Intergovernmental Affairs and Oversight.

Correction officers were left out of previous state employee early-out's and the offering of one now specifically for Corrections could go a long way towards limiting the layoffs that are sure to be a result of the 2009-2010 budget.

Committee Chair George Cushingberry (D-Detroit) asked the House Fiscal Agency to investigate what the impact of a DOC-only early out would mean to the state's pension fund.

Committee Vice Chair, Darwin Booher (R-Ewart), however, challenged the union asking if we had proposed taking wage or benefit cuts in order to avoid layoffs.

MCO responded by reminding the committee that corrections officers work everyday in a stressful and violent environment where they are exposed to communicable diseases and more without any weapons. "They deserve every penny," urged MCO Executive Director Mel Grieshaber.



KINROSS

An inmate at the Kinross Correctional Facility was placed in Segregation on March 5, 2009, for possession of escape paraphernalia. In his possession were maps, train routes, research on passport requirements, Spanish language tools, and more.

RETURN RIGHTS FOR TRANSFERRED OFFICERS

Officers who completed voluntary transfer forms to move out of bumping regions in conjunction with the closures of Camp Branch Deerfield, Scott and Huron Valley Mens have return rights to the area for a period of one year from the date that they transferred out.

If you are one of these officers and are interested in returning to these areas **when or if** any openings occur, you need to contact Chad Jordan at (517) 485-3310 or via e-mail at chad@mco-seiu.org.

In the event that openings occur, only those officers who have contacted Chad indicating their desire to return will be placed according to seniority. **Officers must contact Chad to be considered for any future openings.**

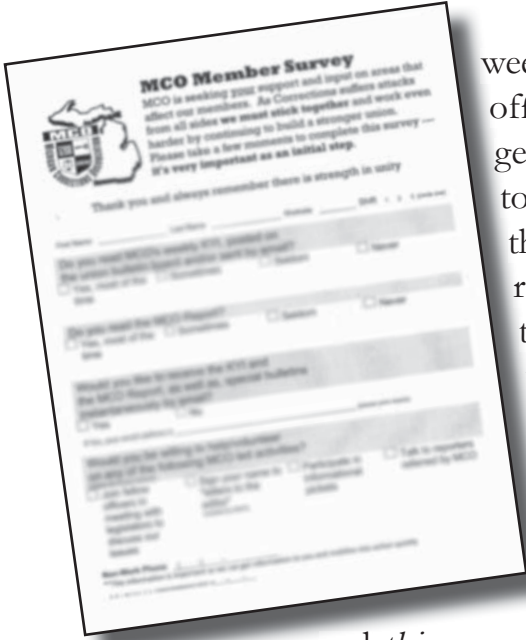
EVEN VALLEY AFFECTED BY TOBACCO LOSS

Last week HVM had 10 inmates go on 1 to 1 status and two fights due to tobacco. Another seriously cut himself and spent a few days in the hospital because an officer refused to provide him with a cigarette.

Aside from the tobacco issue, they had one inmate attempt to hang himself by jumping off of the railing of the upper gallery with sheets tied around his neck. An officer was able to cut him down before he could seriously injure himself.



MCO STARTS SURVEY EFFORT



MCO's new field staff, Chad and Dustin, have been at MTU this week touring all shifts gathering information from our members. Each officer is being asked to fill out a brief survey (4 questions) in an effort to get a better understanding of the membership. This is only one of the tools MCO will be using to build our union's strength. To help explore the effectiveness of our communications, the survey asks questions related to the weekly KYI and the monthly MCO Report. It also offers the opportunity for members to sign up to receive communications via e-mail. We further ask if members will volunteer to participate in certain activities such as meeting with state legislators, or signing on to a letter to the editor when needed.

With the Corrections budget and state employees under attack, we must continue to be proactive as well as reactive to everything. This survey is a vital component that forms the base of our efforts and *this year all members in every institution will be asked for input.* MCO is also striving to build supportive coalitions with other community and interest groups, deeper relationships with legislators of both parties, and expanded contact with media through an aggressive public relations effort. **Unity is needed more than ever and we are encouraging every member to become involved.**

YOUTH OFFENDERS ACT UP

Three youth offenders at the Thumb Correctional Facility broke out into a fight in front of food service on March 17th. One offender head-butted an officer causing a cut above his eye and sending him to the hospital where he received 11 stitches. The A/Sgt. was also injured while restraining a fighter.

Then, just an hour later, there was yet another fight between the youths of the Franklin B Unit.

The Seg unit there has become a revolving door of sorts letting one out a day who has not been to major court to make room.

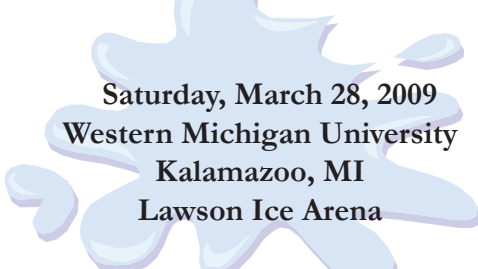
OFFICER ATTACKED AT VALLEY

An officer at Huron Valley Mens was knocked down by an Acute Care prisoner who then attempted to drag her into his cell.

Luckily officers saw what happened and immediately four responded and pulled the inmate off of the officer. The inmate was secured with TOBR as a result.

Three of the officers were treated in the clinic and the assaulted officer was taken home. The same inmate attacked a secretary last year.

LAST CHANCE TO RAISE SOME *FUND*'s



TEAM MCO is deep into training for the Special Olympics of Michigan Polar Plunge, but we still have room for more on our roster!

Contact Dustin Drabek (dustin@mco-seiu.org) or call (800)-451-4878 today to get your spot on the "coolest" team around!



BULLETIN

MARCH 24, 2009

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CALL FOR STATE EMPLOYEE CUTS

House Republicans today introduced a resolution that calls for major cuts to state employees.

- 5% cut across the board to state employee current wages
- immediate freeze to the 1% wage increase
- 5% increase in state employee and retiree health care premiums
- cancellation of the negotiated 3% pay increase for 2010

The House Republican leadership cites lower than expected revenues leading to an ever expanding deficit that must be addressed now rather than waiting until the next planned Revenue Estimating Conference in May.

This new proposal comes on the heels of a resolution introduced last week that called on the Civil Service to reduce state employee wages by 5%. It now appears that the Republican caucus has decided to expand on that, so MCO and our coalition partners are asking you to contact your legislators. *Tell them that we've already sacrificed many hundreds of millions of dollars over the last five years!*

The SEIU Michigan State Council has initiated an advocacy campaign so that you can contact your state legislators immediately and let them know that this is not the answer. If you haven't already received a message in your e-mail, you can go to our website at www.mco-seiu.org and follow the link on the front page. It takes just a minute of your time and if we mobilize our membership, family and friends to do the same then our voices will be heard loud and clear.



MCO CRISIS FUND RAFFLE UNDERWAY!

It's that time again! I know times are tight and most of us are struggling, however could you imagine the death of a loved one, a child with a serious illness, personal injury or having a house fire with limited or no insurance coverage on top of that? These are just a few of the reasons for the MCO Crisis Fund... and the 2009 Raffle is under the way.

Ticket prices have been dropped to just \$2/each or 3/\$5. There will be 10 prizes of \$1,000 each drawn at the May Central Committee Meeting on May 7, 2009.

Tickets were sent out to your Chapter Presidents and Chief Stewards this week (a limited number were printed!) so get yours today!



INMATE BEATEN

A prisoner from the Huron Valley Mens Correctional Facility remains hospitalized after suffering head injuries from being beaten and knocked unconscious by another prisoner. This attack happened on the 2-10 shift in the day room of the Acute Care Unit while an A/ADW and 6 staff members were in the unit.

CORRECTIONS BUDGET ON THE MOVE

The FY 2009-2010 Corrections budget was passed out of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Corrections and is now headed to the full House Appropriations where it will likely be heard next week. From there it moves to the full House where a vote is expected before the legislature breaks for Easter.



It is expected to arrive in the Senate for deliberations after the spring recess.

ONLINE UPDATES



In addition to the constant updates to our Member Benefits program, several additional tools have been added to MCO's website in recent weeks.

You can now find an updated Steward Manual and Test online under the "On the Job Tools" tab.

In addition, a new grievance form has been created for DCH employees. This new form now appears on our website in a .pdf that can be completed on-line and then printed and mailed.

The most recent version of the MDOC Employee Handbook was scanned into a .pdf format and is now found on our website under the Contracts and Bylaws section.

Keep in mind that as the weather warms up we'll be adding discounts for places like Cedar Point and free concert tickets... so be sure to check back often to find the best deals for your family getaways this summer!

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STATE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK GRIM

A presentation made by the Michigan Budget Director Bob Emerson and Treasury Officials this week to state employee unions provided a grim overview of the state's financial situation and future budgets. Much of the information was already well known through news reports in recent weeks. A significant portion of the presentation, however, focused on the specific MDOC costs. The presentation again cited the state's objective to gain between \$29M and \$50M in savings from state employees. How that is to be done, however, is uncertain at this time.



There was no direct indication at the presentation that the unions would be called back into bargaining. It is not yet clear at this point if the state will attempt to open the contract or find the savings in other ways.

OFFICER ALWAYS "ON THE JOB"

On February 3, 2009, Officer Patrick Daniels from Lakeland Correctional Facility was on hospital duty when he noticed a woman (civilian) slumped over in her bed. Officer Daniels alerted the nurses at the nearby station about the woman's condition. The hospital staff performed CPR and revived the woman before any permanent damage occurred. Officer Daniels' action and quick thinking saved this woman's life. Officer Daniels has been nominated for a Life Saving award by Warden Carol Howes.

Thank you Officer Daniels, you have set a fantastic example!

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Jeffrey Becker, 46, of the Oaks Correctional Facility passed away on March 1, 2009, at his home in Cadillac.

Officer Becker hired into the MDOC in 1993. He was assaulted by a prisoner in an incident nearly 3 years ago and has been off of work ever since.

He leaves behind his wife, Karen, a 20 year officer of the Oaks as well, and children Dennis, Jeremy and Bethiah.

MCO SCHOLARSHIP APPS NOW AVAILABLE!

The MCO Scholarship Applications are now available for download from MCO's website at www.mco-seiu.org. A hard copy of the form will also be included in your March MCO Report.

Each year, MCO awards 20 scholarships for \$750 each. The application deadline is June 1, 2009.

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OFFICERS INJURED IN FIGHT AT THUMB

Three officers were injured on April 5th, while breaking up a fight between three youthful offenders at the Thumb. The offenders were returning from food service when they broke out into a fight on the walkway. Officers quickly responded however one took a closed fist punch to the face and another had to take an offender to the ground.

All three officers required hospital treatment for their injuries - one returned to work, one will be returning on light duty, and one is still off.

All prisoners were sent to Seg., however Seg. has become a revolving door with one in and one out and no inmate ever serving their entire detention time.

SHANK AT CHIPPEWA

The keen observation of an officer at the Chippewa Correctional Facility not only found a shank hidden in an inmates cell, but after close inspection determined the source of the metal. The shank was crafted from metal taken from the prisoner issued fans. These fans are issued two to a cell in all Level III and IV units so watch out!

TENSION AT HVM DUE TO PENDING MOVE

On April 3rd, all available yard staff were called to the Housing Unit 2 Day Room due to at least four inmates cutting on themselves and threatening officers with parts from a broken satellite receiver.

Inmates continued to act up by breaking out cell windows and jamming open their food slots when medication was delivered after the Day Room incident. It is believed that this is in reaction to the cancelling of some yards, groups, and Day Rooms due to staffing shortages because of the pending move to Maxey.

ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT...GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

The MCO Crisis Fund Raffle Tickets are going fast, so be sure to get yours while they last.

Tickets are just \$2/each or 3/\$5. There will be 10 prizes of \$1,000 each drawn at the May Central Committee Meeting on May 7, 2009.

Find your Chapter President and Chief Steward to get yours today!



IONIA AREA MEMBERS! SPECIAL MEETING WITH STATE REP. CALLEY

What: Meeting with Rep. Brian Calley (R-87th District for MCO members who work at the Ionia Area prisons and their families)

When: Tuesday, April 14th

Where: Ionia Theatre
203 W. Main St.
Ionia, MI 48846

Time: 2:30 p.m.



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CALLEY MEETS WITH IONIA AREA OFFICERS

Between 70 and 100 officers gathered at the theatre in Ionia on Tuesday for a town hall styled meeting with State Representative Brian Calley (R-87th District). Officers and Calley exchanged questions for nearly an hour and a half with topics ranging from his stance on a CO Early Out, the GOP proposal to cut 5% of state employees' pay, prison privatization, and more.

COMMENTS BY CALLEY...

"Number one, the concept or the notion that Michigan should institute private prisons I think is absolutely absurd. The function of taking away someone's freedom is inherently a function of government something that CANNOT be turned over to a private company, period. It is not a negotiable subject to me, it is not something that I'm even willing to consider.

Secondly, I don't deny to the Governor that there are places and ways to save in Corrections, I would start at the top instead of starting with the people that actually do the work.

And third, this so called House Republican plan to ask across the board every state employee to take a 5% pay cut. That is not a concept or resolution that I support. The legislature doesn't have the ability to open and change your contracts. The governor can make changes within that contract - whatever the contract allows her to do - without legislation. And, she can always go back to the OSE and say she wants to negotiate and open the contract for concessions. But that is all part of a process that involves you and involves your union."



MICROWAVES CONTINUE TO POSE PROBLEMS

Another microwave incident occurred recently at the Mound Correctional Facility when an inmate boiled water with Vaseline and then threw it on another prisoner causing severe burns. As you recall similar events occurred in December at the Huron Valley Mens Facility. It appears that the corrective actions taken to prevent this type of incident are not being adopted uniformly across the state.

PERSISTENT FIGHTING AT PARNALL

Between March 21st and March 26th, there were multiple fights between inmates at the Parnall Correctional Facility. Several of the fights resulted in hospital treatment for prisoner injuries including staples to the head in one case. In addition, several shanks were found - one on a prisoner who was out of place in the yard and one in a cube.

A fight also broke out between two prisoners in A Unit on April 7th resulting in an officer being assaulted while trying to break it up.

CLOSURE UPDATES

MCO has been updated on the current timeline for the closures of the Huron Valley Mens and Scott Correctional Facilities.

Scott's closure date has been moved back and is now set for May 17, 2009.

Effective April 20th, the RTS Unit will move from Huron Valley Mens to the Macomb Correctional Facility.

REVENUES CONTINUE TO DROP...BUDGET WORSE OFF

March revenue numbers are in and they don't look good. Presently they are averaging down nearly \$100M a month. If this trend were to continue, the state could be short \$1B by the end of the fiscal year.

A May revenue estimating conference will reveal where things stand in balancing the current FY'08-'09 budget.



MORE MALE OFFICERS TO TRANSFER

MCO was successful this week in getting the Department to allow several additional male officers from Scott to go to Huron Valley Womens than the Department was originally planning. This will help in the movement of officers as we near the upcoming closure of the Scott Correctional Facility.

OFFICERS INJURED IN ALTERCATION AT ACF

A Level I inmate at the Florence Crane Correctional Facility refused to leave his area for a shakedown on April 18th. Additional yard staff were called in to assist however he still refused to be handcuffed.

Four officers moved in to restrain him at which point he revealed a lock in his hand which he began swinging - striking one officer in the arm. He continued to resist all the way to segregation, spitting in another officer's face on the way.

All four officers were taken to the hospital to be treated for exposure and sprains.

UNIFORM ORDER NOTICE!

According to MCO Uniform Committee Co-Chair John Ost, the Department recently discovered a glitch in the ordering process for uniforms. If you have placed a uniform order since February 16th, 2009... your order is currently being processed.

However, if you placed an order *prior* to February 16, 2009, you will need to re-order.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Corrections budget is now working its way through the Senate side of the legislature. Earlier this week in the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee meeting the Department was grilled by Senator Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt) about which facilities they were planning to close. Cropsey noted that October 1st is only a few months away and time is getting short for that kind of action.

The Department refused to name any facilities under duress, stating that it had not yet made those determinations. Ultimately the MDOC did acknowledge that its goal is to make the announcements by the end of May or earlier if possible.

EARLY OUT BILL

Representative Rick Jones introduced HB 4813 this week that would allow for an Early Out retirement for state employees with a multiplier of 1 ³/₄ %. The bill was referred to the Committee on Labor and no further deliberations have been set.

Representative Jones stated that he felt upwards of 5,000 state employees could take advantage of the out, and estimating that the state would only replace 3,000. The continued problems with Early Out plans is that they are very costly when that many employees take advantage of them.

As you know an Early Out for Corrections Officers has been discussed, which would only involve a few hundred employees - not the thousands as noted above - however no formal legislation has been introduced at this point.

CORRECTION:

An article in last week's KYI incorrectly noted a microwave incident at Mound. It was, in fact, at the Macomb Correctional Facility.

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Find your Chapter President and Chief Steward to get yours today!



KNIFE MAILED TO FORENSIC CENTER

A "patient" at the Forensic Center was allegedly given permission by his social worker to order a magazine. What was not disclosed was that the magazine came with a free knife.

When the package arrived it was delivered to the ward where the patient signed for it. Thankfully an officer opened the package revealing a 7" long pocket style knife. The knife was immediately retained by the officer and concealed so as to not be visible to the other patients.



SHOP-WITH-A-COP FUND-RAISER

COME ONE, COME ALL!
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009
10:00 A.M.

MANISTEE HIGH SCHOOL
Games start at 10:00 a.m., with the championship game expected to tip off around 4. The cost is a \$2.00 donation for adults and \$1.00 for kids. Pizza and pop will be for sale to help out the Manistee Wrestling Team.

There are 8 teams competing for the bragging rights and a trophy that they will be able to take back to their department for the year. So come on out and route for your fellow MDOC officers!

OFFICER SAVES LIFE

An inmate at the Ojibway Correctional Facility began choking during breakfast chow on March 19th. The observation and quick actions taken by one of our own saved the inmate's life.

CORRECTIONS BUDGET TAKES NEXT STEP



The FY 2009-2010 Corrections budget (HB 4437) was passed (63 to 47) out of the House on Thursday and transmitted to the Senate where it is expected to be taken up after Easter.

The state indicated it is on track to release approximately 4,000 inmates by the budget deadline of October 1. Accelerated parole hearings resulted in around 800 paroled in January, 1,246 in February and another 1,461 by mid-March. This will ultimately result in the closure of another 3-4 prisons, which the state says will be identified by late May.

LEGISLATIVE MEETING SET

MCO has a meeting scheduled the week of April 13th with Representative Brian Calley (R) to discuss correctional issues and other concerns of officers and MCO. Watch your union bulletin board next week for an announcement with the time and location in Ionia.



EXECUTIVE ORDER TO BE ISSUED

Revenues have continued to come in lower than projected at the January Revenue Estimating Conference. Another estimating conference is scheduled for May, however in anticipating the changes, the Governor gave the legislature this week a 5 day notice that she will be issuing an Executive Order next week outlining additional cuts.

In the meantime, the Governor's office is meeting with the legislative leadership to try to come to an agreement about where the cuts will occur. If they can't come to an agreement than the Governor will move forward with cuts on her own. Her order will go into effect immediately unless rejected by the House and Senate Appropriations... which meet early next week.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDER INJURES OFFICER

A youthful offender at the Thumb Correctional facility - with a history of problems while incarcerated - was caught destroying state property in Segregation. An officer moved in to restrain him and was assaulted in the process - requiring hospital treatment. He is still off of work at this time.

This is not the first time that this offender has destroyed state property, nor assaulted staff. The revolving door of the Segregation Unit at the Thumb continues to pose problems.

STABBING AT FORENSIC

A patient (who fought with another patient earlier in the day) stabbed a nurse three times in the leg with a pen. He then threw a chair at a Supervisor, hitting him in the hand. This patient has a history of being assaultive on staff and the incident is currently being investigated by MSP.

MULTIPLE OFFICERS INJURED AT MAXEY

An officer was assaulted on April 26th when an inmate from Unit 9 went after him with a food tray during chow. Officers responded immediately to pull the inmate off, however they received injures in the process of taking the inmate down. As of this time, four officers are either off of work or on restricted duty as a result.

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Henry Lee Stewart, Jr., 53, of

the Ryan

Correctional

Facility, passed

away unexpect-

edly at his home

on March 22, 2009.

Stewart had just retired from the MDOC having worked at

Ryan, Western Wayne and the

Huron Valley Mens facilities. He

leaves behind his wife Linda (a

CTO at Ryan), daughter Shabria,

son Kenneth, and two step-sons

David and Michael.

Officer Edward W. Dodds,

38, of the Hiawatha Correctional

Facility was killed in a one-car

roll-over accident while on his way

home from work early in the morn-

ing on April 20th.

Dodds started with the DOC

in March of 2006 and is survived

by his wife Amy, and children Jake,

Haley and Joel.

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BULLETIN

MAY 5, 2009

EXECUTIVE ORDER CALLS FOR \$300M+ IN CUTS

Governor Granholm issued Executive Order 2009-22 this morning which calls for just over \$300M in cuts to the current fiscal budget to try to fill an expected \$1.3B shortfall.

Approximately 38,000 state employees will be asked to take 6 furlough days, and 100 state troopers will be laid off in June. The Security bargaining unit was not specifically targeted in this Executive Order because the Department is already suffering an ambitious schedule to cut costs.

The Department of Corrections has already taken hits with the closures of the Deerfield Correctional Facility, Camp Branch, and Huron Valley Mens, along with the pending closure of the Scott Correctional Facility. In fact, most of these closures were expedited several months earlier than planned to obtain additional savings.

The FY '09-'10 budget calls for the release of nearly 4,000 additional prisoners (and the resulting loss of approximately 1,000 positions) which will mean additional prison closures before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. The Department has not yet identified which prisons will be on the chopping block, however they have indicated the decision will be made by late May. It is yet unclear what the impact will be to MCO members from these additional closures however it is likely that layoffs will occur.

Stay tuned...



Michigan's Toughest Job.



Support Michigan Corrections Officers



MCO LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN

At Central Conference on Thursday MCO introduced a new campaign that will be spreading statewide in the coming weeks. Watch for billboards like the one you see above, and others, as part of our educational outreach to gain public and legislative support for CO's during these tough economic times.

More information will be coming shortly on the many aspects of this campaign which include radio, blogs, facebook, twitter and more. In the meantime, become a fan by typing "Michigan Corrections Organization" in the search box on facebook, or by following "mcoreports" on twitter!

IN MEMORIAM

Officer Phillip Patrick Gibbs, 30, of the Parnall Correctional Facility, passed away unexpectedly at his home on May 2, 2009.

Gibbs worked as a CO in Jackson for the past 11 years and leaves behind a son, Drew and a brother, Officer John Gibbs of the Carson City Correctional Facility.

A trust has been established for his young son.



Retired Officer William E. Cherrette, 81, passed away on November 24, 2008 in Marquette. Officer Cherrette was a founding member of the Michigan Corrections Organization and his name appears on the original charter.

Cherrette retired in 1980 after working 27 years as a CO at the Marquette Branch Prison. His son, John, is an officer at Marquette, and his grandson, Richard is an officer at the Straits.

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BULLETIN

MAY 14, 2009

HOUSING UNITS TO CLOSE

DEPARTMENT LOOKS FOR SAVINGS

MCO has been notified that the Department of Corrections will be making the following changes to seek savings in the current fiscal year budget.

Alger Max - 2 housing units to close

Pine River - will go from a Level I to a Level II facility (reducing from 8/bay to 7/bay)

Marquette - closing C block, and double-bunking the base unit in G block

Standish Max - move the Protection Unit back to the Oaks, and make a double-bunk Level IV unit

The Department has indicated these changes will not result in the layoff of any MCO members at this time.



JACK - N - JILL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Ojibway Correctional Facility is putting on a Jack-N-Jill Softball Tourney on May 29th and 30th to raise funds for the local Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.

Games will be held at Randa Field in Ironwood. Entry fee is \$100 plus 2 SB-12 softballs and will be accepted up until game day.

For further information, please feel free to contact Mary Lynn Veda (906) 663-4252 or Steve Lehto at (906) 932-9880.



ASSAULT AT MAXEY

A pat on the back goes out to the four officers at the Maxey Facility who were able take down two assaultive prisoners and handcuff them without injury.

On May 10th, one prisoner removed the stainless steel door handle from the day room door and attempted to assault the officers while another inmate in the day room charged at them stating "let's get these b@#*#" and began throwing punches.

KINROSS AREA

MEMBERS!

Town Hall Meeting
Rep. Gary McDowell
May 21 - 8 pm
May 22 - noon & 2 pm.
Kinross Twp. Hall

Watch your bulletin boards for more info!

SCOTT CLOSURE UPDATE

The closure date for the Scott Correctional Facility has been pushed back from May 17 to May 21, 2009.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Revenue Estimating Conference today projected a \$1.6B deficit for FY '09-'10 and asked all Depts. to trim 8% from their proposed budgets.

CONCERT SEASON IS UNDERWAY

MCO has started to receive concert tickets including the upcoming John Michael Montgomery concert at DTE on May 30th and John Fogerty on the 29th at Meadowbrook.

Check out the "Tickets" section of our website under Member Benefits regularly to see any new additions. Then just call Cindy Kogut at MCO to request your free tickets!

CRISIS FUND RAFFLE

WINNERS

Congratulations to the \$1,000 winners of the 2009 MCO Crisis Fund Raffle whose names were drawn at Central on May 7th~

Rod Denley
retired from Camp Lehman

Adam Bernhardt
Chippewa

Mike Leo

Terry Bridges
SAI

John Clements
Baraga

Mike Zak
Saginaw

Shelley Gainer
Mitch Gainer's wife -Oaks

Julie Cabana
Muskegon

Chris Sanchez
Parnall

Brenda Taylor
CFP area

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OFFICER SAVES NEIGHBOR'S LIFE

On the afternoon of April 29th, a CO from Marquette Branch Prison entered a house engulfed in flames in Ishpeming to rescue the homeowner, a 72 year old man confined to a wheelchair. The officer pulled him to safety while another neighbor called 911.

As of May 5th, the homeowner was still listed in critical condition in a Milwaukee Area Burn Center. Fire department Chief Ed Anderson stated "I'm sure he (the officer) saved the gentleman's life,"

Way to go CO!

KNIVES MAILED TO PATIENT AT FORENSIC

On May 20th a package arrived at the Forensic Center and was taken to the wing command to be opened by staff per policy.

The patient claims he ordered a wristwatch, however what was found in the package instead were two lock blade knives. The matter is being investigated since this has happened with this company before.

SENIORITY BASED TRANSFERS

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, of your contract. The window period to apply is May 1st - May 31st, for a transfer that will occur between July 1st and December 31st of this year.

The list expires after the conclusion of each window period so if you placed your name on the list the last time and did not get a transfer, you will need to sign up again for consideration.

REMINDER!

Each year MCO awards 20 scholarships of \$750 each to eligible children of MCO members who are pursuing a college education. Scholarship Applications were included in the March issue of the MCO Report and can also be found online at www.mco-seiu.org.

Please take the time to apply! In these tough times every little bit helps and MCO is proud to help out our own officers and their families in each and every way we can.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by June 1, 2009, and include a 500 word essay describing your general knowledge of MCO and its importance to the membership.

OCF EMPLOYEE CLUB 6TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009

TIME: 8:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START

PLACE: GOGEBIC COUNTRY CLUB

ENTRY FEE: \$35/PERSON

Four person teams, scramble format, and the public is welcome to participate. There will be raffles, prizes, and a 50/50 drawing... and burgers, brats and chips available for purchase.

All proceeds go to fund scholarships for area youth entering the Law Enforcement field.

To sign up please mail your team name, member's names, number of carts needed and a check made payable to OCF Employee Club to Kim Corcoran, 225 W. Ash St. Ironwood, MI 49938 by June 7th.

As you know, the Department indicated the end of May was its deadline for naming which facilities will be closing before Oct. 1.

As that deadline draws closer without an announcement MCO understands that all officers' anxiety is increasing. MCO awaits the same word. Once it does come down, however, we will issue a Special Bulletin to inform you immediately. Per the contract, the union will then demand to sit down with the Dept. to discuss and come to an agreement on bumping and other issues to minimize the impact on members.



CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED NEXT WEEK

Due to the continued decline of the prisoner population and ongoing budget constraints of the current and next fiscal year, the Department has indicated that several facilities will likely close by October 1st. While the naming of specific facilities on the chopping block was expected by the end of May, the Department is now indicating that **this announcement will come next week.**

MCO will keep you informed of any developments via a Special Bulletin, so watch your bulletin boards and/or sign up to receive these updates via e-mail. Simply visit our website at www.mco-seiu.org and click on the "Sign up for Action Alerts" button.

Once an announcement is made, then MCO will sit down with the MDOC under the terms of the contract to discuss the ramifications on the membership. It is always our intent to mitigate the impact to MCO members as much as possible, however as previously indicated, there is concern that layoffs will be unavoidable this time around.

CONCERT TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

MCO offers free tickets to many concerts at DTE, MeadowBrook, and the Palace each concert season. Watch our website for constant updates to tickets available for MCO members. Then, just call MCO and ask for Cindy K to get your tickets!

New tickets added this week:

Creedence Clearwater Revisited - June 12th

Clay Walker - June 13th

The Music of Led Zeppelin: A Rock Symphony - June 20th

Legends of Motown - June 21st

TNA Wrestling "Slammiversary" - June 21st*

(*voucher for \$5 off lower level reserved seats)



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BULLETIN

JUNE 5, 2009

CLOSURES ANNOUNCED

MULTIPLE FACILITIES HIT

MCO has been notified that the Department of Corrections will be closing the following facilities due to the continued decrease in the prisoner population.

Standish Max Correctional Facility

Muskegon Correctional Facility

Hiawatha Correctional Facility

Five Camps

(Lehman, Cusino, White Lake, Kitwen and Ottawa)

Under the terms of the contract, MCO will now sit down with the Department to discuss the ramifications of these closures - with the goal of coming to mutual agreements that will mitigate the impact to members as much as possible. An initial meeting has already been set up for Tuesday, June 9th.

This process will take several weeks, so while it is understandably difficult, we ask your patience. Any developing information will be passed along through regular KYI's and Special Bulletins when necessary. Please watch your bulletin board or sign up for e-mail delivery to stay informed of the latest developments.

MCO President Tom Tylutki is on hand at the Standish Max Correctional Facility today to speak with members and will head to Camp Lehman from there. Tom will be at Camp White Lake on Monday (1-3 p.m.) as well. All affected facilities will be visited over the next few weeks. MCO is currently working to set up meetings/tours of the Muskegon area facilities for the end of next week, and the Upper Peninsula the week following.

RELATED NEWS:

State Representative Gary McDowell has agreed to introduce legislation for an Early Out Retirement for covered positions on behalf of MCO. The final language is still being formulated however the goal is to work with an assumption of 70 points (combination of age and years of service). Please stay tuned as we will provide you with all details once the legislation is introduced. If this legislation were to pass and officers could retire earlier, it may help in mitigating the number of layoffs that will occur as a result of the above closures.



BULLETIN

JUNE 5, 2009

MORE BAD NEWS HANDED DOWN

MCO has just learned of more bad news from the Department. The Alger Maximum Correctional Facility will be lowered from a Level V to a Level IV facility and double bunking will occur.

Further, the Department has indicated that there will be an elimination of line up pay by next pay period.

As usual, stay tuned. The best source of immediate information is via e-mail and Special Bulletins on your bulletin board. We will also use facebook and twitter to direct you to relevant breaking news.



BULLETIN

JUNE 10, 2009

BUMPING REGIONS

ESTABLISHED

MCO has met with the Department and have mutually agreed to the following bumping regions.

Camp Ottawa - Ojibway

Camp Kitwen - Baraga

Camp Cusino - Alger

Hiawatha Correctional - Kinross, Straits, Chippewa

Muskegon Correctional - Brooks, West Shoreline

Camp Lehman - Pugsley

Camp White Lake - Huron Valley Womens, Maxey

Standish Max - Saginaw, Tuscola Re-Entry, St. Louis, Mid Michigan and Pine River

Although more information will be forthcoming via bulletins, meetings and other communications... what we do know at this time is that by the end of this week Voluntary Transfer Request Forms will be distributed at every facility within the above listed bumping regions for voluntary transfers OUT of said bumping regions. A list of current vacancies in institutions outside of the bumping regions can be found on the MCO website, however you should not base your decisions on the current list as it does not take into account if/how many the Department will go over at an institution, how many will voluntarily transfer out of a particular facility, or how many supervisors may bump back into the bargaining unit. Thus, you should simply list facilities you would be willing to transfer to in order of preference anywhere in the state. **YOU CANNOT REQUEST TO TRANSFER TO A FACILITY WITHIN YOUR OWN OR ANY OTHER DEFINED BUMPING REGION.** You can list as many facilities as you wish.

Following shortly thereafter, Preference Forms will be distributed by the Administration directly to all officers AT THE CLOSING FACILITIES. All forms are to be turned in to your facility...not MCO.



OFFICER ASSAULTED AT MAXEY



When an officer opened the cell door to pass a food tray on May 29th, the pris-

oner inside punched him in the face and then exited the cell to continue the assault. The officer defended himself until assistance arrived and the prisoner was then placed on top of bed restraints.

The prisoner involved had recently been found guilty of "Incite to Riot" yet was not transferred out of the facility as is customary. Further, if the facility had food slots this incident could not have happened.

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Patrick "Pat"

Hale, 44, passed away at home on May 29, 2009.

Hale served in the Army Reserves for 8 years and recently retired with 18 years from the MDOC in Adrian and most recently Jackson.

He leaves behind a wife Julie, son Patrick, and daughter Kelcie.

FORENSIC SUFFERS MULTIPLE CRITICALS

5.22.09 - "patient" exits cell after wake up call and as he passes by wing command he grabs the IS sheet and tears it up. It should be noted that this prisoner was on IS list for assault. Officers determined that the inmate was covered in feces and proceeded to escort him to the shower room. While undressing, the patient grabbed the officer and started hitting him in the head repeatedly. Another officer who was currently working a 1:1 in the vicinity came to his aid. The officer sustained small lacerations and contusions to his face, inside upper lip, and near the eyes.

6.2.09 - "patient" already on 1:1 coverage due to a repetitive assault history struck an officer in the head with such force that he was almost knocked out. The officer was treated and released from a local hospital.

MCO AT THE CAPITOL

Mel Grieshaber, MCO Executive Director, testified on Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary and Corrections Committee against SB 476 introduced by Senator Roger Kahn (R-Saginaw).

The bill, if passed, would require the MDOC to put out for bid all contracts for goods and services. While it specifically refers to food services and transportation, the bill is worded such that it could be applied more broadly.

Mr. Grieshaber testified to the point that "There is inherent danger in the job, and to the public, when transporting prisoners. This is something that should be handled by highly trained professionals. It would be dangerous to the public to place this in private hands."

SPEAK UP, BE HEARD!

MCO has initiated a letter writing campaign to make it easier for you and your friends and family to let your legislators know how you feel about the recent closure and line-up announcements.

If you haven't already received the information via e-mail, then simply go to our website at www.mco-seiu.org. There you will find all the background information and can send a letter to your local legislators and the Governor with a few clicks of your mouse.

Take Action Today!

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS ORGANIZATION
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LANSING, MI 48933
(517) 485-3310
1 (800) 451-4878
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KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JUNE 19, 2009

CORRECTIONS BUDGET

The Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee passed and sent to the full Committee this week a Corrections Budget for 2009-2010 of \$1.938M. Once passed by the full Senate, the differences between this, the Governor's, and the House's budgets will need to be reconciled.

This budget would require the Department to find savings of 3%, plus it cuts 10% from central staff's budget.

LINE UP ISSUE FOUGHT

This week MCO filed an et. al. grievance on the elimination of line up. Please stay tuned for updates on this matter as it moves through the grievance process.

Further, MCO sent a letter to Governor Granholm and Director Caruso requesting they rescind this dangerous decision.

CLOSURE MEETINGS

Last week MCO President Tylutki along with other MCO officials and Labor Reps were on hand at multiple union meetings in Muskegon, Standish and Kinross.

Hundreds of officers gathered to ask questions and get information during these unsettling times. In addition, MCO reached out to the local media to bring our messages to the forefront of the discussion regarding the pending closures, classification, and dangerous elimination of line up.

ASSAULTS AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN SAME DAY

June 16th was a busy day at the Baraga Max Correctional Facility. In the morning a fight broke out in the school which was quickly brought under control. However, while transporting one of the prisoners to the hole, the inmate bucked and resisted staff. He had to be taken to the ground and leg-irons were applied. Because he still refused to cooperate, staff had to carry him to the unit where he was strip searched.

Then, later in the day while feeding c-wing, an officer noticed a cell door window covered by a towel. The inmate was found trying to hang himself for the second time in a month. Staff took him down at which point he began to be combative. Wrist and Leg restraints were applied and the prisoner carried to health services where he was assessed and placed in a suicide prevention cell.

In all instances staff response was quick and no one got hurt.



IN MEMORIAM

Officer Steven Houck, of the Carson City Correctional Facility, passed away this morning after a year and a half battle with cancer. Officer Houck was the 2007 Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year.

Steven worked for the MDOC for nearly 20 years, all at Carson City. Off the job he also served as Varsity Football and Power Lifting coach.

Officer Houck leaves behind his wife Amy, and their 5 sons-Tom, Caleb, Chris, Ryan and Evan, ranging in ages from 22 to 7.



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

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KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

JUNE 26, 2009

TRANSFER UPDATE

The MDOC and MCO have met throughout the week to process over 350 Voluntary Transfer Forms that were submitted.

Tentatively 170 transfers will be granted, however they are under review due to existing return rights from prior closures which complicates the process. *Do not call...*the Dept. will notify you when transfers are finalized.

CORRECTIONS BUDGET PASSES SENATE

The full Senate has now passed the Corrections Budget for FY '09-'10.

The Legislature will now break for their summer recess, returning after the 4th of July holiday. At that point, they will reconcile the differences between the House, Senate and Governor's versions.

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Thomas Koegler, 43, was killed on June 20th, after he lost control of his motorcycle.

Officer Koegler was currently serving as a staff sergeant with the Michigan National Guard and had also served with the Army in Desert Storm (90-91) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2006-2007).

He joined the rank and file in 2005, serving as a CO at the Muskegon Correctional Facility.

He leaves behind a daughter Jacquelyn and son Jeremy.

CONCERT TICKETS

MCO has free* tickets to the following concerts... Simply call MCO and ask for Cindy Kogut and we'll mail them right out!

DTE Energy Music Theatre

July 4 - *Staind*

July 8 - *Blue Oyster Cult/Over The Rainbow*

July 11 - *LASERSPECTACULAR featuring the music of Pink Floyd*

July 12 - *70's Soul Jam*

July 17 - *Alan Parsons Live Project featuring The Orchestra*

Meadow Brook

July 9 - *1964 Tribute*

July 16 - *ABBA The Music*

July 18 - *100 Years of Broadway*

*some tickets have minimal charges (usually no more than \$5 - \$10, and some include parking)

SEIU - MCO SPECIAL DAYS

MCO has secured three days in August when SEIU/MCO members can get in to Cedar Point for just \$27.50 each! This is a savings of \$16.50 per person! And Seniors or children under 48" tall are just \$16.99/each.



Save the dates!
August 21, 22 & 23

We don't have the vouchers yet - but we wanted to let you know as soon as possible so you could make your summer plans! Watch MCO's website for a printable voucher that you will be able to redeem at the ticket box for the discounted rates. And the more people that go, the better deal we get next year so spread the word!

MONROE/LENAWEE SCHOLARSHIP

deadline July 10th!

Two \$500 Scholarships to be awarded - one each to a 2009 graduate from a Monroe County high school and a Lenawee County high school who meet the criteria.

Scholarships are provided by the Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and applications can be found online or call MCO at 517.485.3310.

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BULLETIN

JULY 1, 2009

EARLY OUT RETIREMENT BILL INTRODUCED!

Representative Gary McDowell (D-107th District) introduced HB 5197 Tuesday which if passed would offer a 70pt. Early Out Retirement for Covered Employees in the Defined Benefit plan.

70 pt. plan (combination of age plus years of service equal to at least 70 to qualify)

2% Enhancement until age 62

Drops to 1.75% at age 62 (instead of the current 1.5%)

We need to hit the ground running! Start writing, calling, and e-mailing your legislators today and ask for their support! MCO will be launching an e-mail advocacy alert later today - watch for it and spread the word.

There's no guarantee that this will even get to a hearing, that's why we need your action now to make this visible. Watch for our updates on the website, in KYT's, Bulletins and more.



INFORMATIONAL PICKETS

Pugsley/Traverse City Area

Wednesday, July 15th
12 - 4 p.m.

Corner of M-31 & S. Airport Rd.
(in front of Grand Traverse Mall)

Hiawatha Area

Friday, July 17th

8 - 8 p.m. (main push from 12-4)

Corner of Ashmun Rd. and
M-129

Sault Ste. Marie



CONTINUE THE PRESSURE!

MCO has already heard from several legislative offices that they are getting letters, calls and faxes from their constituents regarding the proposed Early Out for covered positions. Our message is getting noticed... but we have to keep the pressure on!

Rep. McDowell sponsored the legislation and has introduced it, however it will not start the formal process of moving through the legislature until they return from break next week.

In the meantime, the language of the bill and a link to send a letter to your legislator can all be found on our website at www.mco-seiu.org.

21ST ANNUAL COPS DAY

July 22, 2009

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

A Hospitality Center set up to serve free pop, popcorn and MCO toys for the kids will be available to those who present a valid State ID. Ride wristbands - good for all rides all day long - will also be for sale for only \$11 each.

Verification is needed with a State ID or a paycheck stub or another State document to get your party into the Hospitality Center and to purchase the \$11 ride wristbands. Current and retired staff and their families and friends are welcome.

Simply park in one of the Ionia Free Fair lots and then follow the red signs to the Hospitality Center (located near the back of the Fairgrounds.) Our friends in Public Safety, Police Departments, Fire Departments, Sheriff's Departments and Court Employees are also welcome with proper ID.

Come join us for a wonderful day at the Ionia Free Fair, where there are a ton of free things to do!

MUSKEGON PICKET

Officers from the Muskegon area gathered with MCO officials on Tuesday, July 7th, for an informational picket in front of the facility.

During the course of the picket State Rep. Mary Valentine (D-91) came out and talked with officers for the better part of two hours about our safety concerns regarding the plan to close 8 facilities, release 4,000 inmates and eliminate line-up. Officers exchanged ideas about waste in the MDOC, the type of prisoners that are qualifying for early release, and the uncertain success rate of the MPRI program.

Thanks to Officers Dyer & Sanders and the rest of the crew who worked so hard to organize this picket.



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MACOMB LOCKED DOWN AFTER HOSTAGE SITUATION

The Macomb Facility was locked down on Thursday after an RTS prisoner, who was working as an aid, attacked a secretary. He approached her as she unlocked her office in the morning, shoved her into her office and attempted to jam the lock with a piece of broken paperclip.

The secretary was able to scream and pull her PPD which alerted unit officers. Officers arrived on scene, broke into the office, and took the inmate to the ground.

The prisoner involved is currently serving 40-70 yrs. for 7 counts of CSC 1st, and had planned his attack - padding his shins with newspaper in case of a fight, bringing shoelaces to bind her with, and attempting to jam the lock to prevent entry by responders.

The inmate rode out to I-Max, and the secretary who was not seriously injured is already planning to return to work. **Good Job Guys!**

REMINDER!

21ST ANNUAL
COPS DAY

July 22, 2009

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Ionia Free Fair

FACILITIES BUSY

STATEWIDE

Facilities around the state are seeing an increase in incidents likely due to classification changes.

At the Handlon Michigan Training Unit 15-20 inmates broke out into a fight on the yard. It took warning shots fired to gain control of the melee.

The Baraga Max Correctional Facility has also seen an increase in prisoner brawls, refusals to shake down, and more. Many of their incidents are occurring in Unit 5, where inmates are released to from the hole. The revolving door then continues as they get sent back to the hole for acting up.

SPREADING THE WORD

Standish - Community members and officers have kept up the fight in Standish, picketing every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the last several weeks.

Pugsley - Officers, friends, and family members gathered on Wednesday, July 15th, in Traverse City. Special thanks goes out to Officer Kip Smith who was vacationing in northern Michigan and decided to stop by and spend a few hours on the picket line with his fellow brothers and sisters in corrections.



Sault Ste. Marie - the line started bright and early this morning in the Sault where officers gathered at 8 a.m. despite 50 degree temps and scattered showers. Representative Gary McDowell stopped by for several hours to speak with officers and concerned community members.

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CONTINUED ATTACKS ON CORRECTIONS

House Republicans released on Wednesday a plan to address the structural deficit in the state of Michigan through a combination of cuts, reforms and the use of reinvestment funds.

Once again, Corrections has been targeted. Immediate cost savings they seek through cuts in the MDOC include:

- Restore phone user fees for prisoners (\$5M)
- Eliminate pay increases for FY '09- '10 (\$9.3M)
- Food service contracting/privatization savings (\$10M)
- De-fund regional prison administrative offices (\$1.4M)
- Reduction to central offices (\$10M)
- Reduce overtime (\$15M)

Further, they seek reforms in Corrections (and other areas) that while not providing immediate savings would (according to them) move towards a more efficient and stronger Michigan. For Corrections, this is stated simply as "Examine opportunities for privatization of services in prisons."

THANK YOU!

Special thanks go out to the following people and businesses who stepped up to support our officers on the picket line last week.

Pugsley

CitiMac Coffee Shop for much needed coffee on a cool afternoon!

Sault Ste. Marie

USA Mini-mart (over 100 hot dogs and condiments donated)

Aaron's manager Julie Kible who provided donuts and bathrooms

Scott Nason - News Director with YES FM who spent time talking with officers on the line.

LAYOFFS BEGIN

Officers in the Kinross Area began getting layoff notices on Wednesday in preparation for the scheduled closure of the Hiawatha Correctional Facility on August 8th, 2009. At this time approximately 50 officers are set for layoff.

While MCO is saddened that our brothers and sisters must suffer these layoffs, we are pleased that the Department went beyond the contract allowing MCO to process Voluntary Transfers which helped lessen the impact. In addition, the Department agreed to go over compliment at several facilities.

IN MEMORIAM



Officer Randy Allen,

49, of the Macomb Correctional Facility was

killed and his wife

Margaret critically injured on

June 26th, when

a car crossed the

median and struck their motorcycle.

Officer Allen hired into the MDOC in June 1993, serving his entire time at Macomb...most recently as the bid officer at the information desk.

Officer Glenn Griswold, Jr.,

55, of the Forensic Center, passed away on June 27, 2009.

Griswold first served the state at the Oakdale Center before moving to the Forensic Center in 1992.

He leaves behind his wife Chris, daughter Amber, and son Glenn.

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INCIDENTS STATEWIDE

7.16.09 Cotton - 2 staff were attempting to place a prisoner in restraints when he attacked them, biting one in the face and kicking another in the knee. Both were treated at a local hospital.

7.16.09 Cotton - The quick actions of yard staff saved the life of a prisoner who attempted suicide by cutting his arm from his wrist to his elbow while calling his wife from the yard phones.

7.19.09 Baraga - fight in Unit 5 yard, two go to hole.

7.20.09 Baraga - When a prisoner was being returned to his cell (after restrictions for covering his cell door window) he pulled the restraint strap and the officer's arm into the food slot cutting the officer. While working to get the officer's arm free they lost control of the restraints and the cuff key which the prisoner promptly used to remove his cuffs and then break the sprinkler head. Chemical agents were used and the officer required stitches.

7.21.09 Pine River - A prisoner assaulted 2 RUO's sending one to the hospital.

WARNING SHOTS FIRED

Carson City

Approximately 20-30 Level IV inmates stayed in the small yard at Carson City instead of going in for count on July 19th, 2009. At least four separate fights ensued. Officers responded however it took a warning shot to get final control. One RUO was treated for blood exposure from restraining an inmate. Eight inmates were ultimately taken to Seg.

According to officers, there had been previous problems with both Level IV units, however the afternoon shift was unaware due to the elimination of line-up.

MTU

On July 15, 2009, at about 1935 hours, the first call went out over the radios of a fight in the Rec. Yard. A second, and a third call eventually went out with more officers responding each time. Finally a warning shot was fired and the siren blown before the melee was shut down. Inmates appeared to be starting fights with anyone, kicking prisoners who were being restrained, and more. At least 10 prisoners went to Seg. no less than 6 shanks were found and two officers were injured.

“ All the officers that responded to this incident and the officers that maintained the security of the rest of the institution, deserve every penny earned. You come onto a situation like that, knowing how dangerous it is, continuing into it with eyes wide open, and you don't know if you'll walk out on your own two feet or if someone will be carrying you out on a stretcher... either to the hospital ...or morgue.”

OFFICERS USE AED TO SAVE THEIR OWN

On Monday, June 22nd, the front desk officer at MR called for the AED when an officer near the time clock appeared to be suffering from a seizure or heart attack. Officers who responded with the AED found him lying on the ground with no detectable pulse or breathing.

Staff immediately called for an ambulance and hooked up the AED which found no heart beat and instructed them to shock the officer. Once shocked, CPR was administered and after about five cycles the officer began to gasp and come back. Thanks to the quick actions taken by these officers and staff, a life was saved. Great Job Guys!

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Friday, August 21, 2009
Ledge Meadows
1801 Grand Ledge Hwy.
Grand Ledge, MI

Bud Kouts Chevrolet is once again sponsoring a Hole-In-One with your chance to take home a 2010 Chevy Camaro!

Cost is \$65 per person which includes cart, 18 holes, brats and dogs at the turn, free driving range and a luncheon with raffle prizes, trophies, and more afterwards. Four person scramble with 9 a.m. shotgun start.

This is one of the biggest fund-raisers for the MCO Crisis Fund, which gives out over \$20,000/year to our officers and their families in times of need. So go to www.mco-seiu.org, print off your registration form and send it in ASAP as spots fill up fast!

REMINDER!



MCO SEIU Fun Days
August 21-23, 2009

Tickets only \$27.50

Print your voucher at
www.mco-seiu.org today!

ALGER CHANGES BRING INCIDENTS

During the first week of July the 3 Seg. units were reviewed and the "best" 88 inmates consolidated into the Cedar Seg. unit. This unit was then re-designated as a General Population unit.

On July 15th and 16th in Alger's regular GP unit they had two fights on the big yard. The first with 2 fighters plus 3 inmates who failed to disburse, and the second with 2 fighters - all going to Seg.

Then, in this new GP unit made up of inmates who were in Seg. the week before, they had a fight during a.m. chow on the 18th with two fighters - one of whom required ER treatment for his injuries. Later, during lunch chow on the same day, an inmate pulled out a soap in a sock and proceeded to assault another inmate.

FIGHTING INCREASES AT MARQUETTE

(#) indicates number of inmates involved

- 6.22.09 - fight in library (2)
- 6.24.09 - fight in chow hall (2)
- 6.27.09 - a.m. fight in chow hall (4), lunch fight in chow hall (4)
- 6.28.09 - fight in gym, weapon later found (2)
- 7.5.09 - fight in chow hall (3)
- 7.7.09 - fight in O-dorm (broom handle weapon found) (3)
- 7.8.09 - Sgt. assaulted (1)
- 7.9.09 - fight in P-dorm (2), refusal to double bunk (1)
- 7.10.09 - fight in yard in a.m. (2), fight in chow hall at lunch (3)
- 7.13.09 - fighting outside chow hall (4) and failure to disburse (1)
- 7.14.09 - fight outside chow hall (3), possession of weapon on way to yard (1), refusal to lock up (1)

RETURN RIGHTS FOR TRANSFERRED OFFICERS

Officers who completed voluntary transfer forms to move out of bumping regions in conjunction with a closure have return rights to the area for a period of one year from the date that they transferred out.

If you are one of these officers and are interested in returning to the area **when or if** any openings occur, you need to contact Chad Jordan at (517) 485-3310 or via e-mail at chad@mco-seiu.org.

In the event that openings occur, only those officers who have contacted Chad indicating their desire to return will be placed according to seniority. **Officers must contact Chad to be considered for any future openings.**



BULLETIN

AUGUST 12, 2009



MCO TESTIFIES ON GITMO AND CALIFORNIA

This morning the Judiciary Subcommittee on Corrections Reform held the first of what is planned to be several hearings to discuss the possibility of housing out-of-state inmates and Guantanamo Bay detainees in Michigan.

Today's hearing focused on getting local perspective from officials of the Standish community about the effects of, and community concerns and or preferences regarding the potential housing of out-of-state inmates or Gitmo detainees at the fated Standish Max Facility. Subsequent hearings will deal more with logistics, legalities, and physical plant issues involving officials from the MDOC and MCO.

Speaking today were the Standish City Manager, city councilmen, Arenac County Commissioners, business owners and more. Representatives Moore, Sheltroun and Mayes who represent the area also spoke on behalf of their constituents.

The hearing was summed up with comments by MCO's Executive Director, Mel Grieshaber.

"We have been and continue to push for the housing of California inmates at the Standish Max facility, or any other state for that matter as we've learned this morning that Pennsylvania is in the mix too. We have the highest trained officers in this country and I am confident they can handle the job. Further, when it comes to housing inmates from other states, we have other facilities that should be considered as well. However, in terms of Guantanamo Bay detainees... we'll leave that up to the community. It would not be our officers staffing a federal or military facility... they would lose their job. We don't want to see military personnel coming in and taking over foreclosed homes left by our officers who were pushed out."



HEARING SET FOR EARLY CO RETIREMENT

HB 5197, which would provide for an Early Out Retirement for covered positions, will be the subject of a hearing next week. While still a long shot, MCO has continued to work behind the scenes on this bill and remains hopeful. It is our understanding that this is a first hearing and there will not be a vote on the bill at this time.

For anyone who plans to attend, please contact Jeremy at MCO as we would like to gather at MCO Central just prior to the hearing.

Wednesday, August 19, 2009
House Office Building Rm. 327
12 noon

CHIPPEWA ACTIVITY INCREASES

In the last 25 days the officers at Chippewa have faced 10 fights, 10 Threatening Behaviors on Staff, 3 Possessions of a Weapon, 1 Attempted Possession of a Weapon, 8 Assault on Staff (five of which involved multiple inmates), 4 inmates deemed Unmanageable, and multiple weapons found in general areas of the facility.

The kitchen/food service area has been particularly problematic as of late. On June 25th duress was called in the kitchen when an inmate threatened a food service worker. While being escorted the inmate resisted resulting in both escorting officers needing hospital treatment for their injuries. The very next day there was a fight in the kitchen between three inmates. Two officers went to the hospital for treatment with one receiving stitches in the face from being hit, and another suffering from a shoulder injury.

Another fight broke out in the kitchen on August 2nd, in which a very large shank was recovered. Four officers were sent to the hospital for treatment for blood exposure.

A RUO was assaulted with a food tray on August 3rd, and others were spit upon by an inmate who was threatening staff. Chemical agents were used before the inmate could be put in soft restraints.

On August 5th a fight broke out in the yard between three inmates. Another three were running to join in when they were restrained and charged with Failure to Disperse. Another fight in the kitchen broke out later that day between two inmates. One resisted staff by biting. Two officers injured their knee while gaining control of the inmate, another injured his shoulder and his knee and yet another hit his head. All were sent to the hospital for treatment.

YOUTH ACTING UP

Just after a.m. chow on 9.2.09 at the Thumb, 25-30 youthful offenders began fighting. Minutes later, when officers were just starting to gain control, two more fights broke out back in their units. Once subdued, the youthful offenders were placed on lock-down status. One officer was injured while breaking up the main fight, however he returned and finished out his shift after receiving treatment at a local hospital.

REMINDER!



MCO SEIU Fun Days
August 21-23, 2009
Tickets only \$27.50

Print your voucher at
www.mco-seiu.org today!

YARD FIGHT AT SAGINAW

On Wednesday morning a prisoner was taken to segregation for refusing to shakedown at which point a weapon was located. Then, just after 10 a.m., multiple prisoners engaged in a fight on the yard. In all 9 inmates were escorted to segregation. One prisoner was taken by ambulance for treatment of injuries he sustained in the fight.

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BULLETIN

AUGUST 12, 2009

CALIFORNIA SAYS “NO”

MCO was alerted this afternoon through a MIRS/Capitol publication and other media that the state of California has declined the deal to move prisoners here to Michigan. We, like others, had to read this in the media rather than being contacted by the MDOC.

Of course if no other states pursue this avenue, this affects the closures of the Standish and Muskegon facilities and the officers within their bumping regions.

At this time there are no other pending offers however we still encourage discussions with the state of Pennsylvania.

This is all of the information that we have at this time. Please do not call... just watch for further Bulletins and announcements on the web and via facebook.



HEARING HELD ON EARLY RETIREMENT BILL

The MCO Executive Board and several additional correctional officers attended the House Committee on Labor hearing on Wednesday regarding HB 5197 - Early Out Retirement for CO's. The overall reception was very positive.

MCO Executive Director Mel Grieshaber and CO Mike Craft from the Cotton Facility testified on behalf of MCO. Mike, who has served the state for two decades, testified to the mental challenges, stressful environment, attacks, and more related to being a CO in the state of Michigan.

"When we get hurt on the job we want to get right back up on that horse... because when we don't it sends the wrong message to the inmates. I'm proud of the job I do, it allowed me to raise my family and three kids, but I'm ready to leave."

The committee chair, Rep. Steve Lindberg, as well as several other Committee members, asked poignant questions and of particular interest was that several of them noted that they very much appreciated the job that CO's do. Two Reps. had direct experience with Corrections through law enforcement and volunteer effort in prisons and spoke to harsh environment that they saw CO's working in and that they wished all Legislators could tour facilities without the VIP treatment.

The big damper on the hearing was the final testimony from one of the Deputy Director's from the Department of Management and Budget who testified that there were huge costs involved if this bill passed as written. The Committee Chair and other Reps. questioned his figures and asked for them to be put in writing for clarification.

As we indicated in last week's KYI this was an initial hearing however MCO has learned this afternoon that the Chair, Rep. Lindberg, will hold a second hearing scheduled for August 26, 2009, at 12 noon in room 327 of the House Office Building.

MCO remains hopeful that our efforts are at least continuing to move the issue. If we can persuade the Committee to report the bill out then the big job for MCO members will be to lobby the rest of the Representatives in the House. If the bill passes the House then the next hurdle will be the Senate.



REMINDER!



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EARLY RETIREMENT BILL MOVES

The MCO Executive Board and several additional correctional officers attended a second House Committee on Labor hearing on Wednesday regarding HB 5197. There was no testimony at this hearing (as we spoke last week), however the committee did report out the bill to the full House along party lines -with 6 Democrats voting for the bill and 4 Republicans against.

Now, the hard part comes. We need members to contact your legislators in the House and let them know that you

support this bill... that we were left out of the previous Early Out's by the state, that we do a tough job, and that by allowing a few hundred officers to retire early we can mitigate the layoffs our brothers and sisters are facing... officers the state just spent over \$17,000 a piece to train just a year or two ago.

If the bill passes the House the next hurdle will be the Senate where our job will be even tougher - especially in light of an unknown budget which is still being worked on behind closed doors.

We have a Get Active campaign on our website for this bill, so if you haven't participated already, please take the time to send a letter to your legislators and then use the "Tell A Friend" feature to spread the word.



RESPONSE AVOIDS INCIDENT AT KCF

8.12.09 - several serious inmate on inmate assaults involving shanks.

8.13.09 - inmates were gathering and posting on the yard, so the administration locked up assailants/suspects to avoid an incident. The siren was blown, the yard cleared, and shake down squads formed.

8.14.09 - rounding up of assailants/suspects continued, filling Seg. unit and seclusion cells.

This rapid response by Administration protected the safety of staff.

DATE SET!

MCO and the officers at Camp White Lake were notified today that the Camp will officially be closed effective 9.19.2009.

REMINDER! CHAPTER LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

August is the nomination window for those wishing to run for a chapter office in the September elections. To run for a position on the chapter executive board, simply nominate yourself by submitting your name to the Chapter Elections Committee during August.

Simply write the following: "I (name) accept the nomination for (position) at the (name of your facility)" and give it to you Chapter Election Committee.

INMATES AT SRF DEMONSTRATE

During the afternoon yard August 16, 2009, approximately 60 inmates from HU500 gathered every ten minutes and walked one lap around the track and then sat down at the picnic tables. This pattern continued until the conclusion of yard when they all gathered again and slowly exited the yard.

An inmate from the 600 yard was given a "Creating a Disturbance Misconduct" for cheering them on.



CORRECTIONS TARGETED BY BUSINESS COALITION

A business group called "One Voice for Reform" on Tuesday released a list of 20 things they think should be addressed before any further state budget considerations.

On that list are several that target Corrections and state employees:

- Pool health care for public employees.
- Privatize food service, mental health and transportation in prisons.
- Increase minimum retirement/years of service for all public employees to be eligible to retire.
- Increase state employee and retirees health care premium co-pays.
- Reduce mandatory minimum sentences and increase parole rates for all crime.
- Reduce state worker benefits to national average.

NOTE: Attorney General and Gubernatorial Candidate for 2010, Mike Cox, introduced a 92 pt. plan this week which supports many of the harsh benefit reductions suggested above.

INMATE MURDERED AT MACOMB

On Friday, September 4, 2009, prisoner Lee, 34, was killed in a Level IV unit while it was broke for activity between 1400 and 1500 hrs. Officers conducted rounds at 1420 and 1440, but when the unit was locked down at 1500 hrs. his bunkie found the cell door window covered. Officers entered and found prisoner Lee unresponsive.

Video surveillance has identified a suspect who is serving a life sentence for murder among other crimes. Lee was serving time for 1st degree CSC on a minor under the age of 13. The case is currently under investigation by the Michigan State Police.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES *HB 5133 - SAI Program*

The SAI program was due to expire at the end of September. HB 5133 passed out of the House on Thursday rescinding the sunset mostly along party lines and now goes to the Senate. Some republicans are already arguing that a sunset is still needed on the program.

HB 5197 - Early Retirement for Covered Employees

This Bill still sits before the full House. If it comes up for a vote in the House and passes then it will move over to the Senate. Keep those phone calls and letters to your legislators coming and we'll keep you informed of any movement!

FMLA & Physical Fitness Payment Grievance

An et. al grievance was filed by MCO today in both the DOC and DCH against the Departments' decision to count FMLA sick leave usage against physical fitness bonus payments. There is no need to file a grievance if you are affected by this action as you are covered by the et. al grievance.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS LOCKED DOWN

After three days of fighting over the Labor Day weekend, the youthful offender units at the Thumb Correctional Facility were locked-down for an indeterminate amount of time.

It all started on Thursday, September 3, when 30 or so inmates were coming in off of the yard and a fight broke out. One officer was injured and treated at a local hospital for torn ligaments and tendons in his hand. Five inmates who could be identified were sent to Seg. and the two youthful offender units locked-down for the remainder of the night.

The next day, within 30 minutes of being released from lock-down, 15-20 inmates started another fight in the yard. The units went back on lock-down and another 11 inmates were sent to Seg. (thus causing the release of the inmates sent the day before to make room). One additional inmate was sent to Seg. for possession of a weapon.

On Sunday the units were let out of lock-down once more, however when one unit was coming back from lunch 8-10 inmates again fought and the units went back on lock-down. In all, 19 prisoners have been transferred out to other prisons and the units remain locked-down at this time.

You may remember that the youthful offender units were also locked down in early August after 25-30 inmates brawled.



MCO AMONG UNIONS CALLED FOR "GIVEBACKS"

MCO was called to a meeting this week with the Office of the State Employer for "discussions" regarding the budget. OSE indicated that due to massive current and projected budget shortfalls it was looking for a variety of possible employee concessions.

Although informal at this point, OSE indicated that discussions had to be made within a short time. Among some items given to MCO as well as their associated savings - future line up pay, longevity, deferral of the upcoming 1% pay increase, and massive increases in the employee share of health insurance premiums and deductibles.

MCO challenged OSE on a variety of items and OSE could not answer certain questions. The OSE will be responding to MCO soon. *Any further info will be shared as quickly as we get it.*

"RESCUE MICHIGAN"

AMENDMENT WOULD CAP STATE WORKER BENEFITS

Leon Drolet, a former House Rep., began solicitations for funding last week of what he is calling the "Reform Michigan" initiative.

Mr. Drolet is currently raising funds to do the necessary research and legal preparations for a constitutional amendment ballot proposal that would cap the cost of all public employee benefits to the average cost of private sector worker benefits.

It is claimed that the state of Michigan could save as much as \$5.7B over an undetermined amount of time if this amendment were adopted.

CORRECTION

It is HB 5311 that refers to the continuation of the SAI program.

BUDGET DEAL CLOSER

While still a long way from decided, a bipartisan budget deal was arrived at on Wednesday that calls for \$1.2B in cuts and no tax increases. This target is normally arrived at in the spring, allowing the legislature to work through their own proposals, however this year's \$2.8B hole posed particular problems. Now House and Senate conference committees will work on detailed departmental budgets to come up with specific numbers.

DOC budget Conferees are Reps. Wheeler-Smith, Durhal and Proos, and Senators Cropsey and Brater. The target for the DOC budget is \$78M less than the Governor's recommendation which some are saying could equal the closure of another three prisons beyond the 8 already scheduled.

CLOSURE RELATED NEWS Department Bids on PA prisoners

This week it was announced that Pennsylvania is seeking bids from 5 states to house their prisoners. The MDOC is planning to submit its bid prior to the Oct. 3rd deadline which would include the use of the Muskegon and Standish facilities.

Kansas off Gitmo list

While Fort Leavenworth in Kansas has been eliminated from consideration to house the Gitmo detainees, no formal discussions nor proposals have come from the federal government for the use of Standish Max - the only other facility known to be under consideration.

CONSOLIDATION NOTICE

Due to the Chippewa/Straits, Carson City/Boyer Road, and Gus Harrison/Parr Highway facilities consolidation, it has been agreed that a new gas mask exemption list should be created.

Employees at the consolidated facilities have until September 30, 2009, to sign up for the gas mask exemption list. These new lists will allow for 10% of the facility's new consolidated compliment to be exempt from gas mask requirements. The new list will be effective until next June when the annual sign-up for all facilities occurs.



CHIPPEWA DISTURBANCE SIGNALS TENSIONS

Last Saturday at 8:30 p.m. approximately 100 inmates who had been out on the big yard gathered and refused to come in. Further, they began chanting and encouraging other inmates to join in. Staff responded, chemical agents and the shotgun squad were authorized, and the stand-off lasted nearly 30 minutes. Officers were eventually able to bring them in without injury.

Extra staff were held over and added for the following day due to continued concern that another incident might occur. The 120 Seg. cells at the facility were full at the time so all of those that participated in the disturbance were released back to their bays. It was not until late Monday that some of the participants were identified and rode out to higher security facilities.

The now consolidated Chippewa facility houses 2400 inmates. The protest happened on the Straits side where prisoners are housed in open bay, 8 to a cube settings (made originally to house 5). The prisoners were protesting overcrowding and the recent closure of the small yard, which had been done because of an increase in incidents on the yard and the crowded space made it difficult to monitor/identify the culprits.

On Monday, September 21st, a fight broke out in the commons yard on the other side of the facility. Multiple prisoners were involved with 8 or 9 going to Seg. for fighting, 2 for failure to disperse and 2 of the inmates had weapons on their person (a 6.5" shank and a lock-in-a-sock). Four officers were sent to the ER for treatment of blood exposure.

In both instances staff did an excellent job in handling what could have been an explosive situation.

MCO was in communication with several media outlets telling our story as well as correcting errors they'd published regarding this incident and its implications. Beyond our quotes in the Associated Press, Detroit News, and on air interview with WLNS, MCO has issued a guest-editorial to all the major dailies in the state cautioning legislators and the Governor to tread lightly when it comes to further cuts to Corrections. You can only cut so much before things start to break. This could prove to be a warning sign.

To read MCO's response... visit our website at www.mco-seiu.org.

SHANKS AT CARSON CITY

An anonymous kite tipped off the midnight shift on August 21st that multiple shanks were hidden inside the door of a Level IV cell. The inmates were removed, searched, and placed in the TV room while their cell was shook down.

Upon investigation, four screws used to secure the inside handle to the door were discovered loose and easily removed by hand along with the handle itself. Officers found a total of 14 shanks hidden inside the hollow door. All were metal and sharpened to a point and most had cloth handles.

It appeared that the metal came from a desk in the cell, and a thorough search of all cell desks was called to look for evidence of tampering.

NO BUDGET DEAL YET

The budget continues to be worked on, however the Corrections budget still sits in Conference Committee at the time of publication. Once passed out of Committee it must be passed by the House and the Senate before going before the Governor.

Stay tuned...

MCO has been formally notified by the DOC that elimination of line-up will continue after the new fiscal year on October 1, 2009.



BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

CLOSURE DATE SET

MCO was officially notified by the Department this morning that a **closure date of October 31, 2009**, has been set for the **Standish Maximum Correctional Facility and Camp Lehman**.

A proposal has been submitted to the state of Pennsylvania to house their prisoners in any of our closing facilities, however they asked for proposals from five states and it will be several weeks before a decision is made.

No word yet on a closure date for the Muskegon Correctional Facility.



BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

CLOSURE DETAILS *STANDISH & CAMP LEHMAN*

Those officers in the Standish and Camp Lehman bumping region who were granted Voluntary Transfers out of the region will be notified this week by their Human Resource Office. If an affected officer is not at work it will be mailed to their house. Voluntary Transfers out of region will begin effective the pay period starting October 18, 2009.

It is MCO's understanding that the following number of Voluntary Transfers are to be granted:

Standish - 28
Saginaw - 12
Pine River - 14
Mid-Michigan - 12
St. Louis - 3
Camp Lehman - 17
Pugsley - 16

The Department is working on calculating the remaining bumps/layoffs.

Officials from the MDOC will be on site in the next couple of weeks to deliver the bump/layoff notices. Anyone being laid off must receive a two-week notice.

CONTINUATION BUDGET PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE

AVERTS STATE SHUTDOWN

While the Legislature continues to work towards a budget, the Senate last Friday and the House today passed a 30-day Continuation Budget to avert a State Government Shutdown at midnight tonight. The continuation budget includes \$1.3B in cuts... part of the solution to addressing a \$2.8B budget shortfall.



CONTINUATION BUDGET PROVIDES 30-DAY STOP GAP

The Legislature and Governor signed a 30-day Continuation Budget this week to allow the state continued operations while they hammer out the final FY '10-11 budget. At this time the Corrections budget was passed out of the House and Senate, however a "motion to reconsider" was immediately placed upon it by Senator Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt) thus preventing it from moving on to the Governor for her signature. The budget as it stands includes additional cuts beyond the \$120M already scheduled. This equates to approximately \$841 in per prisoner savings.

UP ACTIVITY

9.20.09 - A fight between two prisoners breaks out during noon chow. As officers responded, two more inmates joined in and then a 5th prisoner jumped off of a table onto the back of an officer.

Later, during evening chow, three more fights break out simultaneously in b-block. Staff responded and secure the inmates, however two were treated and released at a local hospital for their injuries.

9.16.09 - fight between seven inmates near the chow hall at Alger Max results in shots fired. One officer struck in the face.

9.21.09 - Inmates at Newberry throw their bunks out into the hallway after being placed in the unit.

CLOSER-TO-HOME TRANSFERS

October 1-31st is the open window period each year for Closer-to-Home Transfers. As you recall, the Closer-to-Home transfers were suspended this year due to the massive closures and resultant bumping of officers throughout the state. It is not known at this time whether next year's list will be temporarily suspended.

However, if you are interested (whether or not you put your name on the list last year) you must submit a letter indicating your name, address, telephone, classification, current facility, and desired facility to MCO, Attn: Chereyn Dunlap. See October MCO Report for details.

FIGHT AT CARSON CITY

Two Level IV inmates began exchanging punches on the sidewalk on the way to chow on August 28th at the Carson City facility. The fight escalated from hits to face and head to wrestling on the ground and a full on fight. Two officers responded and restrained the inmates, however one officer was stuck in the face with a closed fist punch. Both were sent to segregation. The officer was treated at a local hospital for contusions and then returned to finish out her shift.

SAI GRANTED ONE YEAR EXTENSION

The SAI program was due to expire at the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2009. HB 5311 was introduced to rescind the sunset on the program.

While the House passed version extended the sunset to 2012, the final version passed by both houses and ordered enrolled only extends the sunset until September 30, 2010.

VOLUNTARY RETURN RIGHT FORM ONLINE

Just a reminder that the Voluntary Transfer Return Request Form is now available online at our website at www.mco-seiu.org. If you voluntarily transferred due to a pending closure and wish to be considered if/when any openings occur, only those officers who have formally notified MCO of this interest will be considered. Complete our online form to put your name on the list should any openings occur.



FIGHTS, SHANKS, AND ATTACKS

BELLAMY CREEK

- in two and half weeks, 46 inmates sent to Seg., 20 of which were for fighting. One involved a shank and rocks-in-a-sock, and shanks have also been recovered on the yard after fights. Inmates have been ganging up and jumping on other inmates on the yard and the walkway to chow.

MAXEY

- prisoner approaches officer on 9.21.09 to ask a question, however he then strikes the officer three times in the jaw.

GUS HARRISON (N)

- when breaking D wing for chow on 9.15.09 inmate approaches officer and punches him in the face. Officer sent to ER with facial injuries. He suffered a broken nose, a fracture of his right cheek, and a severe concussion. Staff and Nurses responded quickly and handled the situation especially well given that it was a time of mass movement and when most nurses are leaving for the day.

- between 10.1.09 and 10.3.09 there were four threatening behaviors, four assaults on staff, and 1 assault on prisoner in the RTP unit. Prisoners were hold-

ing food slots hostage, flooding cells, spitting and throwing feces on officers, and kicking hard enough to cause leg irons to come off.

KINROSS

- an inmate in the day room refuses shake down on 10.2.09 and becomes disruptive. Officers respond, but in the process of securing the inmate four receive injuries ranging from jammed fingers to a torn rotator cuff and blood exposure. On the same shift they find an inmate bleeding from his eye apparently the result of a punch from another inmate, and another prisoner was found to have been stuck four times in the back.

SAGINAW

- 9.24.09 to 10.2.09 six inmates sent to Seg. for possession of a weapon either on their person or in their cell.

- four fights, two resulting in inmate injuries between 9.25.09 and 10.4.09.

- total of five inmates sent to Seg. for "incite to riot" for protesting the new feeding plan in the 600 unit where they are fed in-unit if they have sanctions.

FALL/WINTER MCO FAMILY GETAWAY DEALS AT KALAHARI!

Stand up and surf or boogie board on the FlowRider®! Experience the thrill of the Zip Coaster uphill water rollercoaster! Enjoy the family raft ride, huge wave pool, transparent roofing system, lazy river, indoor/outdoor whirlpool spas and so much more incredible wet fun!

MCO members are eligible for a special rates at the Kalahari Sandusky and Kalahari Wisconsin Dells starting under \$100/night for select dates this fall/winter. The rate includes a Hut or Desert Room for a family of four and waterpark admission.

For complete information and contact information, check it out on our website under Member Benefits/Entertainment. We are constantly getting updates, so be sure to check back frequently for added dates, or lower rates!

Sandusky dates:

October 1, 11-15, 18-22, 27-29th
November 1-5, 9, 12, 15-19, 22-24, 29, 30th
December 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, 20-24th

Dells dates:

October 1, 4, 8, 13, 22, 25-27th
November 3, 8-11, 15-19, 22-24, 29, 30th
December 1-3, 7-11, 13-17, 20-24th

* Must mention booking code: GETAWAY. Up to two additional guests may stay in the room for \$20 plus tax, per person, per night. 1-877-KALAHARI



ALGER LOCKED-DOWN AFTER TWO ASSAULTS

During breakfast yesterday, October 15th, a fight broke out between two prisoners in front of the chow hall. While that incident was being handled and the participants escorted to Seg, another, larger fight, broke out in front of the 300 building.

A group of inmates were walking together when at least two attacked a third with a weapon. Shortly they were joined by at least two more in the assault. A warning shot fired from Post #5 and immediate orders to the group were pivotal in preventing this from escalating.

The facility was ordered locked-down and the inmates involved were strip searched. A second weapon was found in the shower stall after the shakedown. One of the inmates was sent to the hospital for stitches to the face.

It was ordered that the noon meal would be served in the units and the shakedown of Pine Unit to commence immediately with Food Services to follow.

Then, at 0945 hours, a duress was called in Spruce Unit when a prisoner threatened an ARUS, taking him to the ground. A responding officer received treatment at a local hospital for cuts sustained while securing the inmate.

As you recall, the Alger Max Facility was recently downgraded from a Level V Max facility to a Level IV facility.

BACK TO BACK INCIDENTS AT STF

10.12.09 - 2232hrs. - fight breaks out in B unit between 2 inmates. In the process of securing the prisoners, three officers are injured and sent to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries including loose teeth, and x-rays for injuries to arms, shoulders, and back. One offender was returned to the unit, the other rode out for SLF.

10.13.09 - 1747hrs. - another fight breaks out between 2 inmates this time in E unit. One officer was sent to the hospital for a knee injury. Both inmates remained at STF, but moved to different units.

LAYOFFS NOTICES DELIVERED

Officers began receiving their layoff/bump notices on October 15th. MCO will be sending information packets to the affected individuals at their home address with information to help in this process.

Further, the Department has indicated it is willing to consider Exchange Transfers between officers affected by the bumps to help mitigate the burden some extended travel could cause.

CORRECTIONS BUDGET SIGNED WITH LINE-ITEM VETOS

HB 4437, the Corrections Budget, was signed by Governor Granholm on Monday, October 12th, however she used her line-item veto power to make changes.

Granholm vetoed a \$40M cut in overall spending, equalling about \$840 per prisoner, stating, "a negative appropriations of the magnitude included in the bill would present a threat to the security and order of the state's correctional facilities." The governor instead directed the MDOC to find \$20M in cuts through various efficiencies. While this is \$20M in addition to the \$120M in cuts obtained through the current round of closures, it is \$20M less than the legislature sought.

Further, she vetoed a provision to fund the county jail reimbursement program at the stated level of \$16.6M, reflecting a \$4.3M increase. Instead she supports that it be returned to the lower 2008-2009 level.



ALGER FACILITY PLANS PICKET

With the Alger facility being waived down from a Level V to a Level IV in recent months, and the resultant double-bunking of these inmates, the number and level of critical incidents has dramatically increased. In



the last 90 days alone, warning shots have been fired 3 times to quell disturbances and just last week the facility was locked down due to multiple fights. In response, the local officers with the help of MCO Central have organized a picket to alert the public to the brewing situation at the facility.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Join local correctional officers at an informational picket to demand Lawmakers protect our safety *inside and outside the prison walls...*

Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
On M-28 at the Industrial Rd. intersection

CARSON CITY CRITICALS

9.8.09 - a Level IV inmate attacks and begins to hit and stab another prisoner in the neck and body on their way back to the unit from evening chow. At the same time two other groups of inmates begin to exchange punches. When ordered to stop, they simply started punching a different inmate.

Five officers responded and were eventually able to secure all the fighters. Several inmates were treated for minor cuts/abrasions and two shanks were later found on the ground. No officers were injured.

10.8.09 - A fight breaks out between two inmates on the yard around noon. Officers respond, secure the prisoners and escort them to Seg. without further incident. One inmate was treated for a split lip and the other charged with a major misconduct for assault resulting in serious physical injury.

10.9.09 - inmate walks into unit bleeding from the mouth. Officer responds and inmate ultimately requires hospital treatment. While there were no staff witnesses... prisoner stated he was told he had a door call and when he stepped out he was attacked and knocked unconscious.

UNIFORM ALLOWANCE GRIEVANCE

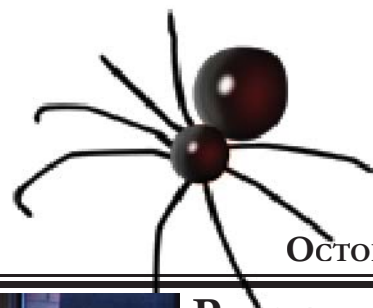
MCO has filed an et. al grievance on the Department's decision to pro-rate employee's uniform/dry cleaning allowance that appeared on your 10.15.09 payroll.

The Department pro-rated the allowance for those who have used at least two weeks/full pay period sick leave.



WORK CREW WALK-AWAY CAUGHT

A Baraga work crew inmate walked away from Camp Kitwen on Monday afternoon but was apprehended not far from the former Kitwen facility about 10:15 Monday evening by MDOC ERT teams and local law enforcement. **Good Job guys!**



Leaders used role-modeling to practice Labor Management and Disciplinary meetings.

PRESIDENTS & STEWARDS IN TRAINING

MCO Central has been a busy place this week with Central Conference on Wednesday and then two days of Advanced Training for our newly elected Chapter Presidents and Chief Stewards.

FOA RECOGNIZED AS CHAPTER

Central Committee delegates voted to recognize Field Operations Administration (centers) as a Chapter of MCO thus allowing them representatives to the Central Committee. The closure of the camps program and increase in centers necessitated the change.

SAGINAW STAYS BUSY

- 10.7.09** - 12" shank found when shaking down porter closet. Also that day two inmates fight - one stabbing the other.
- 10.8.09** - Inmates upset with the new feeding schedule flush sheets, towels, food, and trash and successfully back up the sewage system causing the big yard to flood and be shut down for clean up.
- 10.11.09** - Officer finds two shanks and two exposed razor blades when checking a laundry bag.
- 10.14.09** - missing screwdriver found hidden in the register in a cell.
- 10.16.09** - two inmates fight... one had just been released from Seg.
- 10.17.09** - another fight between two inmates... three staff respond.
- 10.18.09** - another shank found when shaking down a wing water closet.
- 10.21.09** - shank found on inmate during a shakedown. Inmate was placed on NBTL because there was no room in Seg.
- 10.22.09** - three inmates fight, one getting stabbed in the neck. After treatment all sent to Seg. Also that day staff find spots of blood leading into the unit. The trail led to an inmate who indicated he had been stabbed near the ear while on the small yard. Inmate was treated at local hospital.

REMINDER! ALGER PICKET

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Join local correctional officers at an informational picket to demand Lawmakers protect our safety *inside and outside the prison walls...*

Tuesday, November 3, 2009,
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
On M-28 at the Industrial Rd. intersection

WE KNOW FOR SURE THERE ARE SOME CARS COMING FROM OTHER UP FACILITIES... SO ASK AROUND TO COORDINATE TRANSPORTATION.





ALGER PICKET ENDURES UP WEATHER!



Officers turned out from Alger, Kinross, Newberry, Baraga, Ojibway, and Ypsilanti to brave the UP weather to picket at the Alger Correctional Facility on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. The recent level change at the facility which now houses 800+ double-bunked Level IV inmates (who were Level V a few months ago) has led to an increase in critical incidents, assaults, and more. Concerned community members also joined us on the line and talked with officers about what they're facing inside. We received TV coverage on the local stations as well as front page news in two area newspapers. Thanks to everyone who showed up... our message was heard!

RECENT ALGER INCIDENTS

10.25.09 - Staff on the 2-10 shift find three shanks... A full shake-down is called for all GP units due to the disguised nature of the shanks found. One was crafted from a food service lid and as a result the kitchen was shook down and all metal lids removed from the kitchen.

10.29.09 - 9+” sharpened shank found on inmate... who stated it was intended for an officer with whom he says he had a disagreement.

MID-MICHIGAN INCIDENTS

9.19.09 - metal from a food service tray is fashioned into a shank and found in the food service inmate bathroom.

10.18.09 - Tennis balls full of drugs found between the interior and exterior perimeter fences.

10.20.09 - Officers find detailed maps of Michigan and specifically southeast Michigan on a prisoner and he was thus placed on non-bond status and left at the facility.

SENIORITY BASED TRANSFER WINDOW

OPEN

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

The window period to apply is November 1 - November 30th, for a transfer that will occur between January 1st and June 30th.

The list expires after each window period, thus you need to sign up again if you didn't get a transfer last time around. Contact your personnel office to complete the necessary paperwork.



BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

PENNSYLVANIA TO VISIT

In a meeting late today with the Department, MCO was notified that officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections will be visiting the state next week.

The PA DOC plans to tour and assess the compatibility of the Standish Max and Muskegon Correctional Facilities with their needs...similar to when representatives from California and the Federal Government toured Standish earlier this summer.

It is our understanding that Pennsylvania has narrowed its search to only a few states, with Michigan and Virginia in the lead. MCO remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached between Michigan and Pennsylvania to benefit both states by utilizing our closed/closing facilities.

MCO has maintained contact with several Pennsylvania media outlets, corrections and union officials about our highly trained and professional corrections staff in recent months.



MCO TOURS WITH PENNSYLVANIA



MCO President Tom Tylutki and Vice-President Andy Potter toured the Muskegon Correctional Facility yesterday, and the Standish Max Correctional Facility today with officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the MDOC.



The tours allowed PA DOC officials a chance to see first hand what our facilities and staff have to offer. It is our understanding at this time that at least one other state is also under consideration by PA to house up to 2,000 of their inmates for up to four years. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, like Michigan, is unionized. Tom and Andy were present to answer questions regarding the union contract and implications/procedures for how an agreement would operate if they were to come here to Michigan, as well as to show MCO's cooperation and support.

ST. LOUIS LOCKED DOWN AFTER 3 OFFICERS INJURED

A chow hall brawl that resulted in 3 injured officers and a facility lock-down was the culmination of numerous fights in the previous 24 hours.

On Monday, November 16, 2009, a fight broke out in the Unit 6 big yard during day shift and two inmates were sent to Seg. Later the same day, another fight broke out (also in Unit 6) and two more inmates were sent to Seg. On Tuesday morning yet another fight broke out in the Unit 6 big yard with two more prisoners taken to Seg. One officer injured his back while breaking up the fight and was treated and released at the local hospital.

Because of all the problems, it was ordered that the chow lines would be run slow and to shake down the Unit 6 prisoners. Officers found shanks on two inmates who were sent to Seg. before they could make it to the chow hall. Despite these precautions, however, a fight broke out in the chow hall among 10 inmates. Staff responded quickly and got the room under control, however two officers and a Lt. were injured in the process.

Both officers were taken to the hospital via ambulance and treated for their injuries. One suffered heart related symptoms and another sustained back injuries.

The facility was locked down and expected to maintain that status through at least Wednesday.

IN MEMORIAM

Officer Maurice Steward, 44, of the Mound Correctional Facility and husband to Mound Chief Steward Gwendisha Steward, passed away unexpectedly on Friday,



November 13, 2009,

following a retirement party for co-workers. It appears he collapsed in the parking lot from a heart attack.

Officer Steward started in 1996 - working at Scott, Western Wayne, Huron Valley Mens and Mound.

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



STATE UNION MEMBERS TO VOTE ON CHANGES TO CONTRACT

MCO APPROACHED FOR TALKS

The Office of the State Employer has again held a discussion with MCO after Local 517M agreed to have its members vote on a modification of its contract. The UAW is scheduled to meet again with the OSE December 3, 2009.

The state is asking the unions to help find cost savings this year and basically tipped its hand, telling the unions that when negotiations occur next summer, it will be proposing changes to the health insurance premium share with the employer paying 75% and the employee, 25%, and a dramatic increase in deductibles.

Local 517M Bargaining Teams have a Tentative Agreement that includes the following major items:

- Extend the current contract 1 year
- Freezing current premium share/deductibles until Sept. 2012
- Increasing premium share to 80/20% for new employees hired after April, 2010
- Potential furlough days reduced from six to four this year
- 34 BLT hours

MCO will be consulting with Chapter Presidents on Monday in light of these events to discuss the issues surrounding the state's economic status, future bargaining and how to best protect MCO members. Input from members is welcomed. Any feedback you may have, e-mail Chad or Dustin at the MCO office and they will compile the information. chad@mco-seiu.org or dustin@mco-seiu.org

CRITICALS AROUND THE STATE

ALGER:

- 11.7.09** - Inmate assaults another, sending one to ER for injuries.
- 11.8.09** - Inmate busts cell door window and barricades door. Move team assembled and once inmate was gassed he complied with orders and removed from cell without further incident.
- 11.8.09** - Bunkies assault a third inmate. Officer has glasses broken while breaking up fight and was taken to ER for evaluation of neck injury.

GUS HARRISON COMPLEX:

- 10.26.09** - Prisoner climbs inner yard fence and runs towards fencing separating north and south sides. Staff respond immediately ordering inmate to ground.
- 10.29.09** - Fight breaks out on evening yard between at least 6 inmates. Three are identified and sent to Seg. Video footage shows additional inmates running towards disturbance as if to join in before yard officers arrive and gain control.
- 11.5.09** - Prisoner climbs HU 5 small yard fence during a.m. chow lines. Prisoner was ordered down, but when he came off the fence he turned toward the officer and stabbed him with a pencil in the face/neck area. This was the same inmate who attempted escape on 10.26. He is an RTP inmate who thus didn't serve a detention for his prior escape attempt and was consequently able to try again.

CARSON CITY:

- 11.23.09** - While making rounds, officer finds inmate crouched over toilet cutting his left wrist with a razor blade from a disposable razor. Inmate ignores orders to cease and back up to door to be cuffed. Officers respond from yard and they extract inmate from cell. He resists, tries to tear open his wound, and hides his arm under his body to keep from getting cuffed. Eventually he was restrained and sent to the hospital for treatment. There he refused treatment and attempted to grab the doctor and/or the syringe in his hand. Officer applied goose neck pain compliance at which point the inmate complied with the doctor's treatment. He was returned to the facility and placed in Seg. on suicide watch.



BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

DECEMBER 11, 2009

ALWAYS ON DUTY



OFFICER SAM OLIVO

CARSON CITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

STAY STRONG!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Officer Sam Olivo, a 22 year veteran of the MDOC, was brutally attacked while supervising a prisoner work crew out of Carson City on Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

It is our understanding that the work crew was breaking for lunch at the time of the attack. Four inmates were inside the back of the van eating when the fifth prisoner closed the door locking them in. He then came around the van and attacked Officer Olivo - first with a pick ax, then a pitch fork, and finally kicking him with steel toe boots. The inmate then dragged Officer Olivo to the tool trailer where he threw him in and left him for dead. The prisoner got in the state van and took off. It was nearly two hours later that the authorities were alerted to the escape when Olivo staggered several hundred yards across a field before being found by a resident who took him in and called 911. *To the Palmer family of Carson City... we can never thank you enough.*

The inmates were all captured, four initially and the fifth an hour later near Eaton Rapids.

Sam remains in critical condition with life-threatening head trauma. The first 72+ hours are critical for reducing the brain swelling and preventing/treating infection. An officer has been stationed with him 24 hours a day. As of this afternoon he is off the respirator and showing some signs of response.

Over 50 officers and several members of Officer Olivo's family showed up on just hours notice for a Silent Vigil at the Capitol building on Wednesday night. It was meant to honor and show support for our brother and to make a point to the many prominent officials showing up for a Reception with Speaker Andy Dillon that evening.

This incident obviously highlights what we've been saying for years... that prisoners are unpredictable, that they can easily escalate the nature of their criminal behavior, prisoners are being pushed down into lower classifications too quickly for budgetary reasons, and that we are short staffed. ***No officer should work alone.***

MCO has spent all week handling the media... and links to articles and coverage can be found on our website at www.mco-seiu.org and through our facebook page.

The Blue Light Players, a local youth musical acting troupe are donating all of their proceeds from their Holiday Showcase to Officer Olivo's family. More information can be found at bluelightplayers.weebly.com.

We've already heard of many facilities that are passing the hat or holding benefits to help out Officer Olivo. For that we thank you. It has been requested that we try to fill his room at the hospital with cards as he is in ICU and unable to have flowers. If you don't already have a plan at your facility for sending in cards, you may send them to MCO Central and we will personally deliver them to the hospital.



STATE E-COUNCIL MEETS TO DISCUSS STATE BUDGET

On Monday, December 7th, the State Executive Council was called together to discuss the recent agreement that Local 517M came to with the OSE. MCO is under no obligation to open our contract with the state. The OSE is, however, approaching state employee unions to find savings and indicating that when normal contract negotiations open up next summer health care among others will be hit.

The agreement that 517M came to with the OSE (see 12.2.09 KYI) protects health care until September 2012. The consensus from E-Council was that in the best interests of MCO members, MCO should at least talk with the OSE. These are not formal negotiations at this point, just talks. MCO will come back to the E-Council with the results of those talks if it is determined that MCO is moving to any type of tentative agreement.

Another issue that came up:

What about our scheduled 3% increase?

The Governor has indicated she still supports the increase, however once she submits her budget recommendation, the House and Senate could overturn or modify it with a 2/3rds majority.

OFFICER ATTACKED AT HURON VALLEY WOMENS

On December 4th, an inmate at Huron Valley Womens was transferred from the RTP unit to the Acute Care unit and removed from all meds. Unlike protocol, she was not placed on 72 hours observation or any restrictions, and allowed to walk the unit freely.

On December 6th, her ADL box was searched for contraband which was found and confiscated. She immediately exited her room, grabbed a metal mop wringer, and began assaulting the RUO about the head, face, arms, neck and shoulders. She then threw a fan and a metal first aid kit at the officer, hitting her in the head.

The other officer on the unit called in yard staff and it took multiple officers to eventually secure the prisoner.

HOLIDAY PACKAGES IN THE MAIL

The annual MCO Holiday packages with your calendar books went in the mail last week. We have heard from members that they have started to receive them this week.

Please give it until the 21st. If you haven't received yours, or there is a problem, then give Stephanie at MCO a call at 517.485.3310, 800.451.4878 or drop her an e-mail at stephanie@mco-seiu.org and she'll get another out to you ASAP!

OAKS AREA SHOP-WITH-A-COP

Reminder that this Sunday, December 13, 2009, is the Oaks area Shop-With-A-Cop! It will be held at the K-mart at 10 a.m. Any and all officers are needed as there are 30 kids this year. Also, if you have wives, husbands, or other family members available to help wrap that would be great!

Any further questions can go to Officer McShane, at: mmschane2734@yahoo.com



HO HO HO!



OFFICER ATTACKED AT COTTON

A verbal altercation between an officer and a Level IV inmate turned serious on December 9, 2009, when a second officer intervened. The second officer was punched and put in a choke hold to the point of near unconsciousness. According to witnesses, and confirmed by the prisoner himself, he was trying to kill.

This comes after several weeks of increased activity in the Level IV unit there, including multiple shanks found, inmate fights and stabbings, assaults on staff, and two units being locked down briefly after a yard fight.

MSEA GETS 5 FURLOUGHS

Yesterday, December 17, MSEA which represents 4,300 state workers, failed to come to an agreement with the OSE on \$3.2M in concessions. The state is looking to find \$50M in savings among all state unions.

MSEA was then notified that as a result, those employees are being hit with five furlough days, starting in January.

GRATIOT COUNTY PROSECUTOR CHARGES INMATES IN ASSAULTS

Two trials were held this week in Ithaca as a result of two separate assaults on officers at St. Louis Correctional last August.

The first incident occurred on August 15th, when three officers were attacked. The inmate was convicted on 3 counts of "Assaulting a Corrections Officer" on December 16th, and will be sentenced in January.

The trial on December 17th, attended by MCO Vice-President Andy Potter, was for an August 28th assault. As of this printing, the trial continues.

MCO has met with Gratiot County Prosecutor, Keith Kushion, regarding these cases and is pleased to see the inmates being held accountable and convicted for these violent acts.

OFFICER OLIVO UPDATE

Officer Sam Olivo, who was brutally attacked last week while supervising a work crew out of Carson City, continues to improve. He has been moved out of ICU at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing and is expected to be transferred to Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center as early as today.

Sam continues to send along his thanks for all the support he has received from officers around the state.

Nothing more could be said to better demonstrate the strength, determination, and dedication of this officer, than the fact that he is already talking about coming back to work... *Here's to a continued and complete recovery!*

PA UPDATE

While news is expected any day, as of this printing there has been no decision yet regarding the use of the Standish and Muskegon Facilities by the state of Pennsylvania.

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BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

DECEMBER 21, 2009

PA INMATES HEADED TO MICHIGAN

MCO was notified today that Pennsylvania has chosen Michigan to house over 1000 of its state inmates. It will be a 3 year contract for the Muskegon Correctional Facility, with a target start date of February 1, 2010.

The MDOC at this point does not expect there will be any need to layoff staff during the transition - while moving Michigan prisoners out, making facility changes to meet contractual specifications, and finally the transfer in of PA inmates.

MCO continues to hope that other states and the Feds will look at and consider other closed facilities in the state for future use.