

DON'T PITCH THAT MAIL! MCO CHAPTER ELECTION BALLOTS ARRIVING MID-SEPT.

Chapter election ballots are now in the process of being printed and mailed to dues-paying members eligible to vote for chapters that have a contested election.

Ballots are tentatively scheduled to be mailed next week. Look for yours to arrive the following week.

Ballots must be received at the address on the return envelope before Tuesday, Oct. 1. On the morning of

Oct. 1, the ballots will be retrieved, and the count will begin. Any ballots returned after that time will not be counted.

If there is no contested race for any chapter office at your facility, you will not receive a ballot. Instead, those who nominated themselves will automatically take office Oct. 2. See your union bulletin board for more information.

As a reminder, you must be a dues-

paying member for at least 180 days (as of count day) to vote, according to [MCO bylaws](#). If you have not paid dues for 180 days, you will not receive a ballot. New recruits who join within 60 days of hire are exempt from this rule and will receive ballots.

If you have any questions, contact MCO Member Engagement Associate Jim McHenry at jim@mco-seiu.org.

MBP INMATES PROTEST SHORTENED YARD TIME

Almost 30 Marquette inmates refused to leave the yard and received tickets in a non-violent protest Aug. 17.

Officers told inmates the yard would be closing early because staff had to move a problematic inmate who had dressed out a nurse to another cell.

Twenty-nine inmates from B-block (Level V) refused to leave. They were

mad about yard often being cut short for construction, move teams, and other issues, an officer said.

A facility administrator and an officer talked to the prisoners and they eventually returned to their cells. The prisoners received tickets and some of them were transferred.

No injuries or damage were reported. Great work to the staff who kept this situation under control.

This fall, take advantage of MCO's free college program

Now that the kids are back to school, are you thinking about returning to school yourself? Dues-paying MCO members and their immediate families can take online classes totally free – tuition, fees, and books included! [Full details are on our website.](#)

This is a great opportunity for new recruits who still need to get their required college credit to stay employed with MDOC. **Recruits, remember you only have 18 months to get your 15 credits. This time will fly by – look into taking classes now.**

Audra Walter, daughter of CO Pam Basal, said her employer offers

some college assistance, but “none of the programs are as good as this,” she said.

“It is fully funded, which takes away the financial stress, and it is completely online so I can take these classes anytime and anywhere,” Walter said. “My job requires me to travel on a frequent basis. It’s nice being able to do homework from the hotels in the evenings or while flying across the country.”

If you or your family are using MCO’s free college program, let us know. Email your story to Communications Director Anita Lloyd at anita@mco-seiu.org.



JONOVAN LUCKEY JOINS MCO STAFF

Please join us in welcoming MCO’s new Director of Government and Political Affairs, Jonovan Luckey.

Jonovan joins us after working as the

Political Field Director for Metro Detroit AFL-CIO. He also worked for the Michigan House of Representatives, SEIU Local 1, and a senate campaign. He holds B.A. degrees in Social Policy and Relations and Economics from James Madison College and the Social Science College at Michigan State University.

“It’s an honor to be able to represent the brave and selfless COs and FSAs who make up our membership,” he said. “I look forward to working with our rank and file members and leadership to strengthen our political and legislative programs so that we can build on the wins that MCO has already achieved, and have continued success advocating for the rights, safety, and well-being of our members.”

Feel free to contact Jonovan Luckey at jonovan@mco-seiu.org.