

COVID-19: MCO'S ADVOCACY CONTINUES AS CASES SURGE

• As cases of COVID-19 increase at facilities around the state, remember the MCO Legal Department is keeping track of members who are **forced to use their own leave time (or go into lost time) due to close contact with an infected person or a positive COVID test.** If this applies to you, [please fill out this form.](#) It is very important that you give detailed answers. MCO staff may reach out to you if we need additional information.

• MCO has partnered with an outside law firm to assist members who have or had a **confirmed case of COVID-19.** Please contact The Law Offices of Charters, Tyler, Zack & Shearer, P. C. at (248) 321-4474. Advise them that you are a state corrections officer and contracted the virus. They will screen your case to determine if you are entitled to benefits. Please fill out our [website form](#), then call the law office.

• MCO still has an active grievance challenging the MDOC's forced use of leave time for Department-

mandated quarantines. We are also preparing a lawsuit on this issue.

• MDOC is now allowing staff who have had close contact to continue working if they agree to wear a surgical mask provided by the MDOC, being screened for symptoms twice per shift, and a daily COVID test.

• MCO is continuing to advocate for corrections officers in the media. Here's a recent article with quotes from President Byron Osborn:

[COVID-19 cases among Marquette prison staff double in one day](#) (Detroit Free Press)

• There have been 891 COVID-19 cases confirmed among MDOC staff and 7,104 among inmates. [MDOC posts the latest numbers \(broken down by facility\) here.](#)

Again, we thank all COs for their dedication in this continuing crisis. MCO leaders and staff appreciate you and are fighting for you. Stay safe.

MCO Crisis Fund raffle tickets on sale now

Interested in buying tickets for this year's Crisis Fund Raffle? MCO chapter leaders have raffle tickets for sale now.

The top prize is \$1,000 cash. Other prizes include hunting rifles and a stay at Kalahari.

[See a full list of prizes.](#)

The drawing will be Dec. 9 at the MCO Central Office in Lansing.

You don't need to be present to win.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Get your tickets now – see your chapter officials.

The Gun Raffle supports the MCO [Crisis Fund](#), which helps members facing catastrophe. To those who support the fund, we thank you.

MCO WELCOMES NEW E- BOARD MEMBER

Please join us in welcoming new MCO Executive Board Trustee Georgiann Stan. Georgiann is the vice president at WHV. She has been a corrections officer for 20 years.

Trustee Scott Waggoner recently retired. MCO leaders thank Scott for his service to the union and wish him well in retirement.

BRIEFLY...

The deadline to apply for the Closer to Home transfer list is Oct. 31. This is your only chance to apply for this list for the next year. [Details on how this list works and how to apply are on our website.](#)

The [Exchange Transfer List](#) will be cleared in early December. If you requested to be placed on the list before July 2020, your name will be removed. If you do not want your name to be removed, please email [Anita Lloyd](#) by Dec. 1.

Many people leave the Department or get a transfer without notifying MCO to remove their name from the list. Clearing the list once a year means the list is more useful and effective.

MCO membership dues were increased by 46 cents per pay period effective Oct. 4, 2020 as required by the [MCO Constitution and Bylaws.](#)

The biweekly dues went from \$23.11 to \$23.57, resulting in a total yearly increase of \$11.96.