

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR LONG-TIME MCO LABOR REP.

Contributing Writer: J. Martin Foldie, Esq.



A Celebration of Life gathering and luncheon honoring long-time MCO Labor Rep. John Bowers will be held at 1 p.m. this Friday, April 29, at Coral Gables Restaurant in East Lansing.

John passed away on Friday, March 11, 2022. John was a valued member of the MCO family. Starting his career with MCO in 1989, he spent 20 years working on behalf of corrections officers and forensic security assistants. Throughout his career John represented the members in 49 arbitration cases, winning the vast majority of them.

As a Labor Relations Representative, John had other duties aside from litigat-

ing issues in arbitration on behalf of members. John's duties included traveling to facilities to meet with management to resolve issues in-house. John's mild-mannered, and friendly approach to reaching out to administrators was warmly accepted and successful. John understood that to successfully represent members it was important to build upon the labor-management relationship. He believed that the best way for the parties to resolve problems was through the exercise of joint-problem solving.

However, he also understood that when the parties could not resolve the issues in-house, it was important to agree to disagree and advance the issue to arbitration. Always well prepared, John had a unique understanding of the facts, controlling contract language, and excelled in delivering his arguments in a concise and eloquent matter.

During his tenure with MCO, he went back to school and obtained a master's degree in Labor Relations from Michigan State University so that he could better serve the membership. John loved his co-workers and truly viewed them as family. He will be missed.

For John's obituary and full details for his Celebration of Life luncheon, please visit the Estes-Leadley [website](#).



AUSTIN BROWN JOINS MCO STAFF



Please join us in welcoming MCO's new Member Support Specialist, Austin Brown.

Austin joins us after three years of experience as a union rep, union steward, and executive board member with BCTGM local 3G (Kellogg workers union) and a year and a half with UFCW 951 as a labor relations specialist/Union Rep, representing members at JBS, a meat processing plant, Knouse Foods, Meijer, Kroger, and Rite Aid.

He is currently attending Eastern Gateway Community College to obtain a business management degree with a human resource focus.

"I am excited to join the members and staff of MCO to help build a stronger membership, so we are able to keep the current contract benefits and fight for more things they deserve," he said. "Part of my job as a Member Support Specialist is member engagement and I look forward to figuring out a way for our members and staff to be able to be more engaged in the union and making their collective voices heard."

Feel free to contact Austin at austin@mco-seiu.org.

NEW MCO CONTRACT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2022-24 contract is available on the MCO [website](#). Current members will receive a physical copy of the contract in the mail as soon as they are printed.