



New MCO Executive Board Appointments



In the wake of Ed Clements' Retirement, Dave Pasche (MTU) has been appointed as the new MCO Secretary Treasurer, Lori Conant (SMT) has been appointed as Trustee.

Congratulations Dave and Lori!



02/09/2023

2022 Gun Raffle Winners

Winners were drawn during the Executive Council Meeting held at the MCO Central Office on December 14, 2022. Congratulations to all the winners!

The gun raffle supports the MCO Crisis Fund, which helps MCO members facing a catastrophe.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket to support the MCO Crisis Fund!

1st Place - Don Baker, ARF
\$1,000.00

2nd Place - Lee Hall, CFP
Crossbow, CP400 with Illuminated Scope

3rd Place - Brandon Morrill, ARF
AR/Diamondback (5.56)

4th Place - Zachary West, ECF
Henry Golden Boy (.22 S/L/LR)

5th Place - Jennifer Dowland, TCF
Ruger American - Ranch (.350)

6th Place - Joe Goodman, SLF
Ruger American Predator/Bolt Action (6.5 Creedmoor)

7th Place - Terry Fuller, ECF
Ruger American - Ranch (.450)

8th Place - Kathy Fleming, DDC
Ruger 10/22 (22LR)

9th Place - Thomas Maiga, DRF
Savage / Bolt Action (.17 HMR)

10th Place - Hans Vogt, TCF
RTIC 20 Quart Cooler

December Executive Council Meeting



The MCO Executive Council convened on December 14, 2022 at the MCO Central Office. The MCO President and Vice President gave updates about legislative and state wide issues.

Each facility president participated in a breakout session regarding annual reauthorizations.

Lynn Gorski from the MDOC Wellness Unit gave a presentation regarding stressors of being a chapter official.

MCO 2023 Scholarship - [Click Here!](#)

Our MCO Scholarship Program will award 20 scholarships of \$750 each to children of MCO members who will be enrolled in college this fall. Deadline: April 1.

Eligibility:

- Child, stepchild, or adopted child of an MCO member in good standing according to the MCO bylaws.
- Graduate from high school or G.E.D. program by August 2023 and be enrolled as a college freshman by fall semester of 2023, or;
- Be returning to an accredited college or university as a sophomore, junior, or senior as of fall semester 2023.
- Winners from previous years will not be considered.

Big Buck Contest Winners



1st Place: Todd Mrowca (RGC)
Score: 128.5"

2nd Place: Marty Massa (STF)
Score: 117 3/8"

3rd Place: Kyle Naebeck (WHV)
Score: 111 3/4"

[Click Here:](#) To view photos of all entries into the contest.

BIG BUCK RIFLE DRAWING
(Ruger American Ranch .450)

WINNER: Justin Baricska, WCC

68 members across the state registered for this inaugural event, making it a success. Congratulations to all of our MCO Hunters!



OFFICER RENEE NICHOLS HONORED AS 2023 MDOC OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Renee Nichols, a Corrections Officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility has been named the 2023 Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year.

Officer Nichols was an Institutional Training Instructor for two years. She has been a Field Training Officer for six academies. Officer Nichols is the backup Grievance Coordinator and Hearing Investigator at the Saginaw Correctional Facility. She works well under pressure and is highly adaptable. Officer Nichols is often sought out for her creativity and attention to detail. She recently assisted in the creation of a new template and in updating the Visiting Room post orders, ensuring proper inventory and usage of children's tablets.

She volunteered as the Durand Band Booster Treasurer from 2019 to 2022. She was a Girl Scout Leader from 2012 to 2015 and was a 4H Leader from 2011 to 2015. Officer Nichols has been a firefighter with Venice Township since 2005.

Finalist for Officer of the Year:

Alfonzie Pipkins, STF

Officer Pipkins has received numerous Life Saving Awards from the department. He performed CPR on a prisoner for upwards of 45 minutes. The prisoner lived and returned to the facility less than a week later. Officer Pipkins has been a part of the STF Recruiting Team for two years.

He assists underprivileged children in the community, volunteers at the local YMCA, referees youth and High School basketball, and coaches sports in the community.

Mark Dunn, ECF

Officer Dunn began his career at Huron Valley Men's Correctional Facility. He has spent the past 25 years at the Oaks Correctional Facility. Officer Dunn is involved with the Segregation Epic Team and the Drug Epic Team.

Officer Dunn was a member of the Emergency Response Team for 15 years, from 1997 to 2012. He was instrumental in the Oaks Correctional Facility 12-hour shift conversion. He initiated the placement of refrigerators in the housing unit breakrooms for staff and bubble camera monitoring systems. While working with the Emergency Response Team, he assisted the community in search and rescue efforts.

He has been a volunteer track and baseball coach for Mason County Center Schools and travel baseball teams.

Jacob Poindexter, ARU

Investigator Poindexter has made numerous contributions to enhance the operation of ARU. He gathers information and concepts from training provided by the U.S. Marshals and other outside law enforcement agencies. He develops creative ways to locate and safely apprehend absconders. Investigator Poindexter brings a joyful and exuberant love of his career to work with him every day. He treats everyone with respect and exhibits exceptional communication skills. Investigator Poindexter has and continues to develop and foster relationships between local and federal law enforcement agencies and the department that are beneficial for the agencies and the department.

Tim Fluery, LMF

Officer Fluery is the Bid Officer in Spruce Unit. He ensures consistent and efficient daily operations of prisoner movement and security. He was instrumental in the conversion of Spruce Unit from a Level IV to a Level II.

He streamlined procedures to ensure smooth transitions of property when prisoners moved between levels. He was also instrumental in bringing the Rescue Dog Program from Lakeland Correctional Facility to Alger Correctional Facility. He is member of the Alger Correctional Facility Security Threat Group Team. He is part of the Department Mentoring Program that helps assist new employees in the department. He has been awarded the MDOC Life Saving Award.

Officer Fluery has been awarded two Letters of Accommodation: one for stopping the introduction of a cell phone into the facility and the second for preventing a prisoner from committing suicide. He has been an assistant softball coach for his daughter's team. Officer Fluery is a seasoned officer who has the respect of staff and prisoners alike.

Ray Sholtz, Chief of Staff at Michigan Corrections Organization and a member of the Officer of the Year selection committee, said *"After interviewing the top five candidates for Corrections Officer of the Year, it is clear that we have an incredible amount of talent in our department. All candidates had exceptional credentials and Officer Nichols was a great choice. It is a privilege to have her in our ranks."*

**Congratulations to all
Officer of the Year
candidates!**

MCO remembers our fallen Officers

This month marks the anniversary of two Officers killed in the line of duty.



Josephine McCallum

Officer McCallum was murdered on March 24, 1987 at the former State Prison of Southern Michigan in Jackson.

Officer McCallum had only worked for the MDOC for 46 days before being brutally attacked by an inmate. It was her first day on a solo assignment.

Officer McCallum left behind a husband and son.

Please take a moment to remember McCallum and Haight as you go about your day.



George Haight

Gatekeeper Haight died March 27, 1893 while working at what was then the Michigan State Penitentiary in Jackson.

Gatekeeper Haight was poisoned after he ate tainted food prepared by an inmate.

Gatekeeper Haight left behind a wife and five children.

Do you still need your college credits?

Eastern Gateway Community College summer semester starts June 5th! EGCC is free to all dues paying MCO members! Contact MCO Central office if you have any questions! (517) 485-3310

MCO is working hard for its members!

MCO backed legislation has been introduced in the Senate!

Senate Bills 165, 166, 167, 156, and 157 will provide the option for MCO members to enroll in a Hybrid Pension retirement plan!

Don't want to miss any future updates? Make sure you have subscribed to MCO's mailing list! You can do that on our website or [Click Here!](#)

To help show unity with MCO as we fight for our members to get a better retirement, we ask that you re-authorize your MCO union dues today!

[Click Here](#) to re-authorize your dues!

Scholarship reminder!

Don't forget, applications for the 2023 MCO Scholarship must be postmarked by April 1.

The 2023 MCO scholarship can be downloaded off of the MCO website or [CLICK HERE!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Austin at MCO Central office at austin@mco-seiu.org or (517) 485-3310 ext. 110.

The Detroit Tigers are offering discounted tickets for their June 12th game against the Atlanta Braves.

Each ticket package includes a discounted game ticket, a donation to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and Michigan Concerns of Police Survivors (MI-COPS), and an exclusive jersey to commemorate the event.

Contact MCO Central office for Discount information! (517) 485-3310

Michigan Corrections Officers Honored During C.O. Week

For the past 4 decades, the Michigan Corrections Organization has requested a proclamation from the Governor of the State of Michigan to recognize the first full week of May (Sunday-Saturday) as Correctional Officers Week in Michigan.

That advocacy for our members and the message that comes with it, has always been one of reflection, pride, compassion, and appreciation. This year we celebrated May 7-13 as Correctional Officers week in Michigan but it's worth noting that MCO also took up this fight in Washington D.C. in the 1980's, playing a key role in ushering in National Correctional Officers Week and making sure our brothers and sisters around the country are recognized for the work they do.

On behalf of the MCO State Executive Board, thank you for your service, continued dedication, and sacrifices.

MCO Supports Parents of Murdered Children Organization

MCO Executive Board member, Marcus Collins presents Parents of Murdered Children Organization with a donation on behalf of MCO at their annual bowling event.

POMC is an organization that focuses on parent wellness after losing children to senseless violence.



When asked about POMC, Executive Board Trustee, Marcus Collins said *"POMC's yearly bowling event is so gratifying. It hurts to lose a loved one, but losing one to violence leaves such a void. This event truly showed MCO's dedication to seeing those mentally affected see support."*

2023 Central Conference

The MCO Central Delegates convened on Tuesday May 16th, in Lansing. The MCO President and Vice President gave updates about legislative and statewide issues. Other Board members reported on the Uniform Committee, Wellness, and the MCO Crisis Fund.

The Central Committee approved bylaw changes; these bylaw changes bring our current bylaws up to speed with the changing of technology.

Central Delegates and MCO Central Office Staff broke off into regions to kick start 2023 Re-Authorization. To reauthorize your MCO dues [CLICK HERE!](#)

Retention Bonus

MCO has been notified by the Office of the State Employer (OSE) that the \$3,000 retention bonus will be added to the 8/3 paycheck. We will keep you updated if there are any changes.

This bonus is a result of many months of Union Advocacy and Union Negotiations with the Governor's office and OSE to address the staffing crisis.

This type of advocacy is made possible because of our membership density. As a reminder, you can reauthorize your Union dues by [CLICKING HERE](#) or by calling the MI-HR Service center at (877) 766-6447 and let them know you want to reauthorize dues deduction EC01.

COPS Day at the Ionia Free Fair is Wednesday, July 19th

All day wristbands are \$15.00 with identification for all Military, Corrections, Police, EMS, or Fire. See Hospitality inside the Administration Building.



MCO Crisis Fund Golf Outing

Ledge Meadows Golf Course
1801 Grand Ledge Highway
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Please join us for a day of fun on Friday, September 8th. Registration starts at 8:15am with a shotgun start at 9:00am. Proceeds go to the MCO Crisis Fund, which disburses funds to MCO members in their time of need.

- \$75 per person includes: cart, 18 holes, brats and dogs at the turn, drinks, free driving range with luncheon afterward.
- Teams: four-person scramble.
- First 32 paid teams are eligible to participate (*hurry, teams are filling up fast*).
- Prizes awarded to winners of Men's, Women's and Mixed.
- 50/50 raffle, money and prize holes.

If golfing isn't your thing, but you would like to support the Crisis Fund, please consider sponsoring a cart or tee. Cart signs are \$25 or 5 for \$100 and tee signs are \$100.

Checks or money orders should be made out to:

MCO Crisis Fund
421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933

All Player and Sponsor Registration Materials must be received by 4:00pm on Thursday, September 1, 2023.

Chapter Elections

Chapter elections will be held electronically through a link that will be located on the MCO website. The nomination period is September 1 - September 30. MCO Central Office will use the month of October to prepare the ballots. Voting will occur on November 1. Count day is November 2. **Only dues paying members are allowed to vote.**

To reauthorize your Union dues from your computer:

<https://hrselfserv.michigan.gov/lawson/portal>

To reauthorize your Union dues from your mobile device:

<https://hrselfserv.michigan.gov/lawson/somnet/UnionDues/UnionDuesMobile.htm>

Staffing Crisis Spotlights

MCO is doing a series of reports on the corrections officer staffing crisis and how it is impacting current officers and the prisons they work at. The reports focus on individual prisons and include statistics on staffing levels, corrections officer overtime, and closed positions. Each week, these reports are being sent directly to every legislator in Michigan, the Governor's office, and media outlets. We are urging our elected officials to take immediate, impactful steps to address this staffing crisis.

Did you know?

MCO is proud to offer exclusive discounts for dues-paying members to popular attractions like Kalahari and Great Wolf Lodge. MCO also has discounts on hotels, sporting events, car rentals, F45 Training Gym, Glock, Sigsauer, CPL classes and more.

Union Plus offers everything from Disney World to Advanced Auto Parts to pet insurance.

Visit the MCO website for more details. <https://www.mco-seiu.org/member-resources/benefits/>



2023 Chapter Elections - The following Chapters have contested races and will conduct elections:

Alger (LMF)	Earnest C. Brooks (LRF)
Bellamy Creek (IBC)	Gus Harrison (ARF)
Carson City (DRF)	Kinross (KCF)
Central Michigan (STF)	Thumb (TCF)
Chippewa (URF)	Woodland Center (WCC)
Cooper Street (JCS)	

Voting will be conducted online **November 1, 2023**. All eligible members at facilities with contested races will receive voting instructions in the mail and at their personal email address. There will be a link to the Election Portal on the [MCO Website](#). Chapters with uncontested races will not need an election.

Closer to Home Transfer List- October 1st through the 31st is the Closer to Home Transfer application window period. To be eligible to apply for a "Closer to Home Transfer," employees must:

1. Have status at the time of transfer.
2. Have NOT voluntarily transferred during the 12-month period prior to the application date.
3. Have no record of disciplinary action or unsatisfactory service rating during the two years preceding the date of the filling of the position.

Send requests to MCO Attention: Stephanie Short (must be in writing and will be accepted via mail: 421 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 or email: stephanie@mco-seiu.org).

REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE:

name	personal email address
employee ID	current work location
address	desired work location
personal phone number	how far you currently travel for work

September 25, 1973 - Officer Earl DeMarse, a 26-year officer, was attacked in the auditorium at Marquette Branch Prison. Fifteen minutes into his shift, he came to Central Control bleeding profusely from multiple stab wounds. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.



His death brought many safety concerns of officers and their families to light. A training academy was one solution proposed. The academy was established and named in honor of DeMarse.

DeMarse and his sacrifice will never be forgotten. He is among those honored on MCO's Fallen Officers Memorial, and a stretch of highway in front of Marquette Branch Prison has been renamed in his honor.

Rest in peace, Officer DeMarse.

2023 Big Buck Contest - Members can hunt where they want and when they want between October 1st and December 15th.

- 1st Place – \$300 Cabela's Gift Card
- 2nd Place – \$200 Dick's Sporting Goods Gift Card
- 3rd Place – \$100 Cabela's Gift Card

All members who register will be entered into a random drawing for a Henry Single Shot 450 Bushmaster!

For more information and to register, click [HERE](#) or email austin@mco-seiu.org.

Crisis Fund Gun Raffle - Interested in buying tickets for this year's Crisis Fund Gun Raffle? MCO chapter Presidents have raffle tickets for sale now!

Prizes are:

- 1st \$1,000
- 2nd TenPoint Titan M1 Crossbow
- 3rd Ruger American Predator (6.5 Creedmoor)
- 4th Henry Golden Boy (.22 LR)
- 5th Ruger American – Ranch (.450)
- 6th Ruger American (.350)
- 7th Smith and Wesson M&P 15-22 Sport (.22 LR)
- 8th AR/Del-Ton Inc Echo (5.56)
- 9th Ruger 10-22 Carbine (22LR)
- 10th RTIC 20 Quart Cooler

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held on December 13th.

Proceeds support the [MCO Crisis Fund](#), which helps members facing catastrophe. To those who support the fund, thank you.

Benefits Open Enrollment (BOE) runs from Monday, October 16th through Monday, November 6, 2023.

BOE is your annual opportunity to enroll in or change your benefit elections for health, dental, vision, life, and disability insurance as well as Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts.

Visit www.mi.gov/selfserv to complete the BOE process online through HR Self-Service.

Visit [MCO-BOE](#) for more detailed information.

Upcoming Pay Dates - The negotiated 2% base pay increase took effect on October 1, 2023. Per the MCO bylaws, bi-weekly dues will increase by 50 cents per pay period effective October 26th, 2023.

The negotiated longevity payment for those eligible will be on the October 26th check.