



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Main Office Update

I hope everyone is well. We wanted to give everyone an update on some things that are being worked on at the main office.

- Reminder: The contract survey will be mailed 07/31/19. You should receive this survey within three to five days. Please take the time to fill out the survey so that you may have a voice in determining what route we take in upcoming contract negotiations. At the bottom of the survey you will be asked to vote on whether you would like to see classification seniority re-instated.
- We met with the law firm to initiate time frames for the collective bargaining process. We have been reviewing the contract to identify suspect language that needs to be addressed. We have also put together a list of potential professionals to testify at arbitration if needed.
- We will be putting together a list of proposals. We will be using the surveys that are returned to us to help us put together that proposal. We will have a meeting with the Commonwealth in early September to discuss these proposals.

Healthcare

- Previously I reported that we had met with Emerson and Reid concerning our attempt to remove ourselves from the PEBTF. We are scheduled to have a follow up meeting that is tentatively scheduled for August 5th.

- We had a second meeting with Bill Einhorn. Mr. Einhorn is our PEBTF representative. Mr. Einhorn informed us that there was a PEBTF meeting and at that meeting it was voted on to have no plan changes for 2020.

Grievances

- We have been very successful on the grievance front in the last month. In the previous letter, we informed the membership that we would be meeting with the Commonwealth to review grievances and possible scheduling of these grievances for arbitration. We reviewed eight grievances. We received settlements for three of these grievances and have scheduled the remaining five for arbitration to be held on various days in the month of September.
- A Business Agent meeting was held on 7/30/19 to inform the Business Agents of any happenings that need to be relayed to the membership. We also discussed upcoming grievances and grievances that we can potentially schedule for another pre-arbitration meeting with the Commonwealth.
- EJAC (second step grievance hearing) was held July 12th in Harrisburg. Eleven grievance were presented to the panel. The Union was successful in arguing nine of those grievance and received favorable settlements. Two were deadlocked.
- WJAC was held July 25th and 26th. Thirty-five grievances were presented to the panel. The Union was successful in twenty-five of the thirty-five grievances and received settlements. One grievance was denied and nine were deadlocked. Collectively, (East and West) this was one of the most successful step two grievance meetings that we have ever had.
- We received three successful arbitration awards.
- Hank McNair has begun the process of cleaning up the Grievance management system. New grievance coversheets and grievance reports have been added to the website.

Institution tours

- The Eastern Vice President Mark Truskowski visited SCI Dallas, SCI Waymart and both Mark and Hank McNair toured SCI Phoenix.
- I made stops at SCI Somerset and Torrence Forensic unit.

Legislative

Larry Blackwell met with several Legislators asking for a comprehensive, independent review of the parole system. In the past two years there have been six thousand crimes committed by Pennsylvania parolees to include 92 homicides.

- We continue to review financial transactions. We will present a report of our initial findings to the State Board. Our State Board meeting will be held August 13th.

If you see a contract violation, report it to a Steward. The more we work together and hold Management accountable for their actions, the stronger we become. Please stay safe and watch each other's backs.

John Eckenrode
PSCOA Western Region Vice President