



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Main Office Update (November/December)

Once again it is time to let the members know of the progress and doings at the Main Office.

Legislative Update

- We have recently been very successful on the legislative front. On December 18th the following bills came out of committee for consideration in the Senate.

HB 44 (Snyder) Gives Corrections Officers the opportunity to submit written testimony or appear in-person to give testimony at Parole Hearings.

HB 178 (Petracra) Recommends badges for Corrections Officers.

HB 256 (Metzgar) Directs that an inmate that is charged with assaulting a staff member is charged with a second degree felony.

HB 257 (Metzgar) Mandates that an inmate convicted of assault against a staff member receive a consecutive sentence.

HB 1855 (Berstein) If an inmate commits a violent offense while incarcerated, they will not be eligible for parole for two years past their minimum.

HB 44 is still in need of a third consideration. We have received assurance from the House Majority Leader that this bill will be considered in January when the new session begins. The remaining bills have moved onto the Senate. While this is not a "cure all," this is definitely a step in reducing the violence in our jails and giving back authority to the men and woman that work inside.

11/19/19-We attended a meeting with Senator Jake Corman.

11/20/19- We hosted a dinner with the Republican House Judiciary

Committee. Dinners like these are instrumental in projecting the needs and concerns of the membership. At this meeting we spoke about the above bills and expressed the importance of having these bills passed and moved for further consideration.

Contract

December 20th there was a mediation session held at the main office. In the history of the PSCOA there has never been a tentative agreement reached for the membership to vote on. We have always gone to arbitration. I know that the members are waiting to hear the outcome of these meetings. Both sides have submitted proposals and the Commonwealth team will be taking the proposals to the powers to be. We have another mediation session scheduled for January 17th. After this meeting we should be able to either release a tentative contract to be voted on or tell the members that we are going to arbitration. It has never been done but we remain optimistic that we may be able to present a contract to the membership for consideration. As soon as we can, we will let everyone know what the status is.

Arbitration / ULP

Arbitrations We have received a successful decision from OA on a pending arbitration concerning women having the ability to express breast milk at the worksite. The memo that was released by the Secretary of Corrections provides a private area with seating. It allows for a gate clearance for equipment. It provides a secure location for storage. In the past women have been made to use their vacation time to express breast milk. This will now be done while on the clock.

We also received favorable decision out of Wernersville. Management changed the hours of a member to attend training. The member worked overtime in what the Association believed was a double time status. Managements position was that since they changed the member's hours of work it change the members twenty four hour clock. The arbitrator ruled in our favor and the member was properly compensated.

ULP's There are two upcoming ULP's. We filed a ULP for a SCI Houtzdale. Management at SCI Houtzdale has notified the membership of a unilateral schedule change without a meet and discuss. We also filed and withdrew a ULP for SCI Greene for failure to provide information for a suspension grievance. The information was finally provided at a step two grievance hearing so the ULP was withdrawn.

Tours of Institutions

John Eckenrode toured SCI Houtzdale on 11/27 and toured SCI Smithfield on 11/28
Mark Truskowski toured SCI Muncy on 12/16 and attended labor management and step one grievance hearing at SCI Phoenix on 12/19. He will be touring SCI Dallas and Retreat on 12/24.

Miscellaneous

Members of the Uniform Committee met with management concerning implementation of a new uniform for H-1 members. There have been several meetings about a new uniform for several years. The committee has agreed upon a new uniform **to submit** to the OPS committee for approval. The new uniform consist of BDU pants with a polo shirt. This has been a long drawn out process. I don't want to get anyone's hopes up but it is my belief that there is a good possibility that we may be approved a new uniform in the near future.

The Executive Board met on 12/12 and 12/13. Interviews were conducted for the vacant E-board positions. Congratulations to Rob Hendricks (SCI Greene), Jason Ocker (SCI) Houtzdale and Henry Powers (SCI Frackville)

The Executive Board also passed two new policies and amended an existing policy.

The amended policy concerns payment of a death benefit of one thousand dollars to a member, their spouse, son or daughter. This is an increase from two hundred and fifty dollars for the death of a spouse, son or daughter.

We passed a policy that no non-member(s) may attend local meetings and the meeting cannot be audio or video recorded.

We also passed a policy that if you are an elected official and apply to interview outside of the bargaining unit you must resign your position. For far too long we have witnessed Local Officials use their elected seat to better position themselves for management positions.

We would like to wish everyone and their family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe and look out for one another.

Team PSCOA