



## PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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*Patrolling the Toughest Blocks in the State*  
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### Main Office Update February

#### Reminder

We created the PSCOA HQ Only Facebook page to put out information. The intent of the page is not for members to ask questions. At times there are far too many comments to go through and we do not always see questions. We **do** want to answer your questions. If you have **ANY** question concerning **ANYTHING** about your union, please feel free to email any elected official or call. Email addresses and personal phone numbers are available on the PSCOA website. [www.pscoa.org](http://www.pscoa.org).

#### Legislative update

- We have met with several Legislators concerning staff safety. Hank McNair and Mark Truskowski met with Representative Todd Stephens. (R)
- John Eckenrode met with Representative Stephanie Borowicz (R)
- John Eckenrode, Aaron King and Officers of the Albion local (President Jeff Moore, Vice President Josh Blair and Secretary Mike Hall) met with Senator Laughlin (R) to discuss the lack of discipline in our jails and how that lack of discipline is contributing to the staff assault epidemic.
- Larry Blackwell and John Hall (SCI Phoenix/member of the PSCOA Legislative Committee) met with Representative Melissa Shusterman. (D)
- Larry Blackwell met with Senator Tom Killion (R)
- Larry Blackwell met with Senator Mike Regan (R) and Senator Lisa Baker (R)
- We are still working with Senator Pat Toomey (R) on the 72T tax exemption for employees that retire before the age of 55. As it stands today if you retire before the age of 55, there is a two percent penalty for every year. If you retire at age 50, you will be penalize ten percent. We are hopeful that we can get the current law amended this spring.
- We conducted our first Town Hall meeting for members at SCI Greene and SCI Fayette. In attendance were Representative Pam Snyder (D), Senator Pat Stefano (R) and Senator Camera Bartolotta (R). We have received positive feedback from both the membership and

the Legislators that were in attendance. There was a confidence vote taken at the meeting concerning Secretary Wetzel. No surprise, the Secretary received not one vote of confidence throughout the day. We are currently working on scheduling another Town Hall. The place and time will be determined by the availability of the Legislators. It is our plan to make our way across the state. It is important that we all come together as one and face this together. Together we win, divided we beg.

### **Political Action Fund**

As you can see we are very active on the political front. We have a Political Action Fund (P.A.C.) This is a fund that we use to support Legislators and Candidates that support the PSCOA. The fund is completely voluntary. We are not AFSCME or the Teamsters. We are a public safety employee union. We want people in office that support the causes of our membership. We know that there has been concern about who gets money and there should be. We may not always support the party that you affiliate yourself with. We have changed the political philosophy of the past. Make no mistake, we will support both parties if they support the membership. Take a look at who we have been talking too and that will give you an idea of where the majority of our support will fall. We are asking that every member consider making a P.A.C. contribution. You can give as little as one dollar. At our first state board meeting we released a complete report of all P.A.C. money expended. We will continue to do so that you can see which candidates are being supported. If you decide to give to the P.A.C. and see that your money isn't being spent the way that you see fit, you can cancel your contributions.

### **Tours of Institutions**

- Mark Truskowski and Hank McNair toured SCI Retreat and SCI Dallas
- John Eckenrode toured SCI Greene and SCI Fayette
- Larry Blackwell toured SCI Fayette
- Mark Truskowski toured SCI Muncy
- John Eckenrode and Ray Johnston toured SCI Albion (2/7/20)
- Larry Blackwell, Hank McNair, Mark Truskowski and John Eckenrode attended the annual Coal Township retiree dinner.

### **Arbitrations/ULP's**

- We received two favorable arbitration wins
- We received eight settlements prior to arbitration
- We received one unfavorable decision concerning bid posts. We feel that the arbitrator ruled outside of his authority and we will be appealing his decision.
- We will be giving a detailed report at the upcoming state board meeting of all grievances handled at the main office.
- ULP's** We have two upcoming ULP hearings. One from SCI Houtzdale and one from SCI Waymart

## Trainings

-Hank McNair, Mark Truskowski, Curt Heitzman and John Chernavage conducted a stewards training for **40** local stewards at SCI Phoenix.

-We will be conducting a President/Vice President training at the upcoming state board meeting. We do intend to set up some stewards training at different sites across the state.

## Contract

-We attempted to negotiate a fair contract for the H-1 membership. There has been a lot of talk about a standardized schedule change. The Commonwealth informed us that if we would entertain a Camp Hill style color group, it would be “worth our while”. We did entertain their proposal but needless to say they were not in the same ballpark as we were. The schedule change was **not** a PSCOA proposal. We merely entertain it because we would not be doing our due diligence to the membership if we did not. If we would have come to an agreement with the Commonwealth, it would have been submitted to the entire membership for a vote. There is no way that the H-1 membership would agree to the wage increase that they were offering and an **increase** in cost to the members for health benefits. Not only did the Commonwealth want a standardized schedule, they also wanted us to agree to withdraw from **all** side agreement in every jail on training and leave. They also wanted to eliminate all grievance resolves and arbitrations that we have won in the past concerning training.

We have given copies of both the Commonwealth’s and the PSCOA’s proposals to the Business agents. They were instructed to take them to the membership for viewing. Since we are going to arbitration we will be adding to the proposals. When the arbitrator ask for our final proposals, we will release them to the membership. We do not have a date scheduled to arbitrate the contract yet. We have struck for the neutral arbitrator. His name is Tom Leonard. When we do reach an agreement on a date we will let you know.

## Upcoming

-State Board meeting February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

-February 18<sup>th</sup> we will be holding a statewide Labor Management meeting with DHS concerning the State Hospitals. The Local Presidents and Vice Presidents from Norristown and Torrance have been invited to attend this meeting.

-\*February 19<sup>th</sup>, The PSCOA will be conducting a press conference on the steps of the Capitol building. We will be making a statement about staff safety/staff assaults. The press conference will began at 11:00am. We have received commitments from several legislators to attend. If you are able all current and retired H-1 members and their families invited to attend.

Team PSCOA