



## PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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*Patrolling the Toughest Blocks in the State*

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## Main Office Update

### Tours

4/8/20 John Eckenrode toured SCI Mercer

6/13/20 Larry Blackwell and John Eckenrode toured SCI Huntingdon

### Legislative Update

-We are in the process of resuming the Town Hall style meetings that we had prior to COVID. We are talking to a few legislators about attendance and site venues. This may take some time to organize due to COVID restrictions. When we finalize, we will be sure to put something out. We had two prior meetings with great turnout from the membership and great response from the legislators that attended.

When talking to legislators that have previously attended our town halls, they were surprised by most of the talk from the membership and were very happy to have attended. As always, we will be discussing staff assaults, misconducts, Hearing Examiner problems and I am sure that they would be interested in hearing about the COVID give a way.

-Larry will be attending a breakfast with US Congressman Scott Perry (R) He will be discussing eliminating the retirement penalty for retiring before age 55.

-We are asking for a meeting with Senator Dave Argall (R) to re-address the CO Bill of Rights.

Several bills made it out of committee prior to COVID. Since COVID and now policing reform talk they have been placed on the back burner. These bills have made it out of the House and are awaiting a vote in the Senate. We will be making a push to get these bills in the Senate for a vote.

-HB 44 Pam Snyder (D) Calls for Corrections Officer participation in the Parole process.

-HB 45 Pam Snyder (D) Stun guns

-HB-46 Pam Snyder (D) No CO Left alone.

-HB-256 Carl Metzgar (R) Makes a throwing assault a second-degree felony.  
-HB-257 Carl Metzgar (R) Defines assault by Prisoner  
-HB-259 Carl Metzgar (R) Calls for two Corrections Officers and 500 rounds of ammunition for guard towers.  
-HB-260 Carl Metzgar (R) Elimination of all inmate worn boots.  
-HB-261 Carl Metzgar (R) Proving for assault by Prisoner and assault by life Prisoner.  
-HB-263 Carl Metzgar (R) Puts restrictions on inmate accounts that are found guilty of assault while incarcerated.  
-HB-1441 Carl Metzgar (R) Act designating bridge in honor of Sergeant Mark Baserman.  
-HB-1855 Aaron Bernstien (R) If found guilty of a violent act while incarcerated, your minimum sentence would be extended by two years making you ineligible for parole at your original minimum sentence.  
-To read these bills in their entirety please go to the Pennsylvania General Assembly website.

-Larry held a Zoom meeting with State Representative Matt Bradford concerning COVID issues at Norristown.

-John has a conference call with Representative's Petraca and Struzzi concerning COVID issues at Torrance.

### **Grievance Department (Since March 4<sup>th</sup>)**

We received several favorable arbitration and pre-arbitration decision.

#### **SCI Houtzdale**

-Due Regard for Safety- SCI Houtzdale management was made to purchase 50 new radios with microphones and maintain them.

-Bid post staffing- They were made to bid their yard tower.

-Health and Safety- SCI Houtzdale owns a building that was being used for storage known to have asbestos. Management was forcing employees to enter the building to obtain and store items with no protection. SCI Houtzdale was forced to display signs that state the building has asbestos and provide PPE to anyone that enters the building.

Improper mandate- Several members were given vouchers for missed overtime and others were paid double time for being wrongfully mandated.

**Laurel Highlands-** Received a settlement for trainer's shifts being switched without a two-week notice. Thirty-five (35) members will receive sixty-three (63) vouchers. Four (4) members will receive halftime for Seventeen (17), eight (8) hour shifts.

**Central (K-9)- Bargaining Unit Work-** Work done inside of the institution is exclusive to H-1 Dog Handlers.

**Torrance- Discharge-** A member was Reinstated when removed for being accused of abusing a State Hospital Patient.

**Pine Grove-** Overtime/Pre-shift duties- Members were paid and credited with mandates for work done before shift.

**Greene-** Promotions- The Contract was not followed in promoting two COI's to COII. Two members that should have been promoted were promoted and received back pay.

**Phoenix-** Termination- The member was reinstated with back pay.

**Benner-** Legal Defense- A member at Benner was discipline for using force. That member received a ten-day suspension. The inmate involved sued the member. The Commonwealth refused to provide legal defense. The member was made whole for the suspension in a prior grievance. A separate grievance was filed for the legal fees. The Commonwealth reimbursed the member upwards of \$10,000.00.

We are still waiting on four decisions to come back from arbitrators.

### **Upcoming**

- The one-year contract will be signed June 26<sup>th</sup>. It will go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Corrections Benevolent Fund Golf Outing will be held August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Mountain View Country Club in Boalsburg. All proceeds made go to the Corrections Benevolent Fund. -- The CBF is an organization that provides relief to members in distress.
- E-Board meeting is scheduled for 6/21/20.
- The PSCOA filed a wrongful death lawsuit for Sergeant Mark Baserman's Widow.
- We are looking to resume Local Stewards Training in the very near future.

### **Uniforms**

We are still pursuing new uniforms for CO and Culinary staff. Prior to COVID the Uniform Committee met with members of management and finalized a prototype uniform. This uniform was turned over to the OPS committee for review. We have seen some movement on this. When we hear something concrete we will let you know.