



AROUND THE BLOCK

PA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

First Quarter 2018

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Executive Vice President

Larry Blackwell
*Vice President
Western Region*

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*Vice President
Eastern Region*

John Chernavage
Secretary/Treasurer



Greetings!

Welcome to our new electronic newsletter! From time to time, we want to keep you informed about important developments related to our programming, benefits and efforts in the state capital. The following pages will provide detailed information on our progress on several fronts, including benefits and legislative efforts.

Let me first say, again, how privileged I am to serve as your president. Our leadership team is working on multiple fronts each and every day to improve the lives of our members and their families.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the local PSCOA officials who won their elections! And, just as important, thank you to those who are departing their leadership positions. We appreciate the dedication you showed to help your fellow PSCOA members and their families.

As always, we would encourage you to keep in touch with PSCOA. Don't hesitate to call our offices at 1-866-GO-PSCOA or visit our website at pscoa.org. We're also on Facebook and Twitter.

Sincerely,

Jason Bloom
President



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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(610) 633-1195

Larry Sonnie
(570) 295-0201

Mark Truskowski
(570) 760-1407

LEGISLATION UPDATE

STATE PRISON CLOSURES

We're working on Senate Bill 748 with a bipartisan group of senators on to create a transparent process allowing for advance notice and opportunity to prevent any possible prison closures. The legislation recently passed unanimously in the Senate's State Government Committee and now goes to the full Senate for consideration. Senate Bill 748 is sponsored by Sen. David G. Argall and co-sponsored by Sens. John Yudichak and Lisa Baker. Others are Sens. John Blake, Jay Costa, Kim Ward, John Rafferty, John Gordner, Wayne Fontana and Michele Brooks.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER BILL OF RIGHTS (HB 2005 AND SB 424)

Sen. Argall and Rep. Karen Boback are the primary sponsors of legislation that would create a bill of rights to ensure that corrections officers cannot be suspended without pay or benefits for indefinite periods of time. We've enjoyed solid support for this in the Senate, and we recently met with House leadership, and they've agreed to work with us to move the legislation forward.

PERSONAL WEAPONS IN VEHICLES

We are working with our allies in the Legislature on legislation that would allow corrections officers to protect themselves by securely storing personal weapons in their vehicles. Our legislation is being modeled after corresponding federal legislation. State House Majority Leader Dave Reed has agreed to sponsor the House legislation.

PENSION LUMP SUM EARLY WITHDRAW PENALTY

We recently had our attorney, Eric Stoltenberg, at the firm of Welby, Stoltenberg, Cimballa & Cook LLC, examine the issue of the taxation of your lump sum contributions from your SERS pension plan. Currently, if you retire before age 55 and elect to take your lump-sum contributions, any amount you withdraw from the lump-sum contribution prior to age 59-1/2 is subject to an extra 10 percent tax. This is in addition to the ordinary income taxes you would owe. Eric looked at the tax code and, the way it is currently written, we believe it is being treated correctly by the State of Pennsylvania. We are looking to see if we can get the tax code amended so that correction officers would be treated the same as police officers. As you may know, police officers do not have to pay the extra 10 percent penalty. If you retire after age 55 AND you roll your lump-sum contributions into the PA 457 Deferred Compensation plan (not an IRA), you would not owe the 10 percent penalty. If you retire after age 59-1/2, you can roll into an IRA and not have the 10 percent penalty. If you have more in depth questions, contact your tax advisor or feel free to reach out to Jeff or Mike at Front Street Financial at 717-562-0709.



Mike McConahy
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Deferred Compensation
Pension Planning
Investments
Life Insurance



Claims/General Policy Information
800-325-4368
Policy changes or Policy Additions
717-353-2409

PSCOA Group Benefits



Customer Service
1-800-699-8966

Homeowner and Auto Insurance



Customer Service
717-731-5456

Homeowner and Auto Insurance



RETIREE CHAPTER

Enrollment Information
(717) 364-1700
(866) 467-7262
Enrollment/Billing
(717) 562-0709

BENEFITS INFORMATION

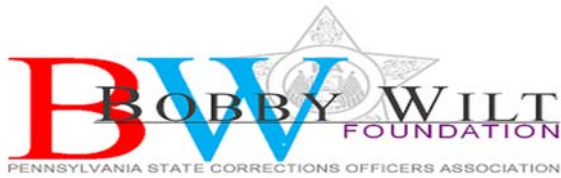
The PSCOA has continually strived to monitor and improve the benefits offered to its members. We evaluate the quality and cost of benefit plans offered to our members on an annual basis. Our goal is to ensure we provide the best opportunity for you to protect yourself and your families while taking advantage of any, and all, discounts available through your affiliation with the PSCOA. Current benefits include:

- **Front Street Financial** offers free pension and life insurance reviews and analysis to help you as you prepare for retirement. They offer a significant discount to their annual management fee if you choose to use them to manage your retirement, deferred compensation or personal savings. They are part of a veteran-owned registered investment advisor and have been working with the PSCOA since 2016.
- **Colonial Life** offers voluntary benefits to the PSCOA membership. These benefits are intended to help supplement benefits provided to you by the state of Pennsylvania. Products are paid for through payroll deduction and can be taken with you when you retire or change careers. Offerings include short-term disability insurance, group term life insurance, accident insurance and hospital indemnity insurance to help offset insurance co-pays.
- **Liberty Mutual** offers PSCOA members discounts on their homeowners and auto insurance. These premiums may now be paid for via payroll deduction to take advantage of additional premium reductions.
- **The PSCOA Retiree Chapter** was created to provide retired members of the PSCOA access to affordable dental and vision coverage upon retiring from the Department of Corrections. Dental coverage is currently offered through Delta Dental and vision coverage through Vision Benefits of America (VBA).
- **Allstate (NEW!!)** was just rolled out on March 1 as a pilot program to a select group of jails. They offer discounts on homeowners and auto insurance and payments via payroll deduction as well. If it goes well, the program will be expanded to all facilities soon.

PAYROLL DEDUCTION

Beginning the last week of December 2017 you should have noticed a change in the payroll deduction slot that handles your Colonial Life deductions. In order to expand the number of benefits available through payroll deduction, the PSCOA hired Front Street Financial to administer payroll deduction services for union members. This enabled us to add Liberty Mutual to the payroll deduction platform to take advantage of an additional 7.5 percent discount for members. Recently added Allstate is offering a discount as well. Throughout 2018, we will inform you as additional providers become available for this service and any others.

BOBBY WILT FOUNDATION



"LOOKING OUT FOR OUR OWN"
Bobby Wilt Foundation Committee

We would like to thank our SCI local sponsors for their monthly donations. The donations are used to support our PSCOA H-1 members and their families in times of need. We all know that throughout our lives we can be faced with life-altering events, such as fires, accidents and illnesses, that are not completely covered by insurance. It is in those instances that the foundation would like to provide financial assistance to our members and their families.

Donations to the Bobby Wilt Foundation can be mailed to:

PSCOA Headquarters
2421 N. Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110

2018 EVENTS

5TH ANNUAL BWF SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

May 15, 2018

At Nemaquin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, PA

12TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 21, 2018

At The Clubs at Colonial Ridge in Harrisburg, PA

IN MEMORY OF SGT. MARK J. BASERMAN **END OF WATCH 2/26/2018**

