



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Patrolling the Toughest Blocks in the State

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Main Office Update

Institutional Tours:

- 4/19 John, Mark and Hank toured SCI Coal Township
- 4/23 Mark toured SCI Muncy with State Representative Joe Hamm
- 6/21 Aaron toured Torrance State Hospital
- 7/1 John toured SCI Benner Township.
- 7/2 Aaron toured SCI Cambridge Springs

Legislative News/Events:

- Senate Bill 411 passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor. The bill consolidates corrections and parole. **Corrections Officers now have Peace Officers status while on duty.** The PSCOA was able to negotiate with lawmakers and the Department of Corrections to add the following language to the bill. This language can be found on page 37 of the bill: **“Powers of peace officers. A chief administrator, deputy superintendent or corrections officer of a State correctional facility may exercise the powers of a peace officer in the performance of that individual's duties generally in: (1) Guarding, protecting and delivering inmates. (2) Protecting the property of the department. (3) Capturing and returning inmates that may have escaped within the immediate area of a State correctional facility or mode of transport. For the purposes of this section, the immediate area of a State correctional facility or mode of transport shall encompass the curtilage up to and including one half of a mile.”** This was no small feat. It required a lot of lobbying to get this language added to the bill.
- Senate Bill 569 (Investigative Procedures Act) is currently sitting in the Labor and industry committee. The IPA is what was commonly referred to as the CO Bill of Rights. We changed a lot of language in this bill and included FSE's who were left out of the previous attempts to get this type of language signed into law. If you would like to read the bill, simply google Senate bill 569 2021 and will come up in word form and PDF. Nothing is a sure thing, but I believe this may be our best attempt at finally passing a bill that gives the H-1 membership certain due process rights and allows us to stay in a pay status and retain health benefits, until administrative type investigations are completed. We have worked hard to garner support for this bill. Most of the meetings that you see below were held to explain and lobby for legislator's support.

- State Representative Carl Metzger's 7 safety bills are currently in the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. Hopefully, these bills receive a vote in the next session.
- 4/15 John met with Auditor General Tim Defoor
- 4/20 John met with Representative Jim Gregory and Mark met with Representative Gary Day
- 4/21 John and Mark met with Representative Chris Quinn
- 4/21 John and Mark attended a breakfast for the North East Republican Delegation
- 4/22 The PSCOA hosted a Town Hall meeting for Members and Legislators in Selinsgrove
- 4/26 John and Mark met with Representative Aaron Kaufer
- 4/27 John met with Representative Jim Struzzi
- 4/30 John met with Senator Kim Ward
- 5/4 John met with Representative Tom Sankey and Pam Snyder
- 5/7 John met with Senator Bartolatto
- 5/13 John met with Senator Kearney
- 5/19 John met with Representative Benninghoff
- 6/3 Mark attended a Voices of Joe dinner
- 6/7 John met with Senator Mensch, Robinson and Representative Ferry
- 6/8 John met with Senator Kane and Representative Metzgar Ray and Hank attended the Tim Defoor inauguration.
- 6/9 Mark and Ray met with Senator Regan
- 6/9 John met with Representative Pisciotano
- 6/10 John met with Senator Baker
- 6/11 John, Ray and two members from SCI Fayette attended a Pam Snyder fundraiser
- 6/14 John met with Representative Scott Martin
- 6/15 John met with Representative Williams
- 6/21 Ray and Mark met with Senator Dush
- 6/21 John had a phone conference with Senator Toomey's office concerning the 72t tax
- 6/23 John met with Representative Kerwin

Trainings/Meetings:

- 4/14 We conducted a stewards training at SCI Dallas
- 4/19 We conducted a stewards training at SCI Albion
- 4/21/ We conducted a stewards training for SCI Mahanoy and SCI Frackville
- 4/27 We held monthly Business Agent meeting
- 5/10 New Cadet orientation
- 5/17 New Cadet orientation
- 6/7 New Cadet orientation
- 6/29 Business Agent meeting
- 7/7 New Cadet orientation

Executive Board Meeting:

- 5/11 We held a State Executive Board meeting. At this meeting, the Executive Board voted to implement a standardized set of bylaws for all locals. This was done to ensure that all locals are operating on the same set of rules and guidelines moving forward.
- The Executive Board also approved a motion that requires that a 15-day notice be given to the local and a vote be conducted after that fifteen-day notice on all local side letters once approved by the appropriate Regional Executive or designee.

Grievance Department:

- 4/23 we held a Pre arbitration meeting with the law firm, Business Agents and witnesses concerning due regard out of Greene
- 4/29, 4/30 Western Joint Committee met in State College
- 4/30 Pre-Arbitration meeting with the law firm, Business agents and witnesses concerning an SPI case out of Somerset
- 5/3 Conducted a Pre-Arbitration meeting and reviewed pending lawsuits
- 5/4 Arbitration at SCI Green (Due Regard) staffing levels
- 5/5 Arbitration at SCI Somerset (Suspension Pending Investigation)
- 5/28 Western Joint Committee was held in State College
- 6/2 Pre-Arbitration Review with the Office of Administration
- 6/3 Pre-Arbitration settlement on a termination out of SCI Camp Hill
- 6/4 Arbitration at SCI Frackville (Harassment)
- 6/8 Benner Pre Arbitration settlement
- 6/9 Eastern Joint Committee pre-meet
- 6/10 6/11 and 6/14 Eastern Joint Committee meeting was held in Harrisburg
- 6/15 Forest Arbitration settlement (discipline)
- 6/23 Western Joint Committee pre-meet was held
- 6/24, 6/25 Western Joint Committee meeting was held in State College
- 6/28 Arbitration settlement SCI Greene (discipline)
- 6/29 Camp Hill Arbitration settlement (leave)
- 7/5 We received a pre-arbitration settlement concerning discipline out of SCI Somerset.
- 7/7 Somerset Arbitration for a use of force termination

Contract:

- We had many meetings in the last year concerning the contract. We met with our law firm once a week, every week beginning back in April to get ready to present at arbitration. Leading up to the arbitration, we solicited information from union leaders from nearby states concerning pay and working condition language. We used the information that was obtained from the contract survey that was conducted a few months back. We gathered and used information that was given to us when we spoke to members at local meetings and when touring jails. We reviewed every page of our current contract, looking for areas that we felt needed language upgrades. That is how we came up with the proposals that were presented to the panel.

The PSCOA presented to the panel May 24th through the 27th. The Commonwealth presented June the 16th through the 18th. The transcripts from the arbitration were received on 7/6/21. Both sides have 30 days to write briefs, starting from 7/6. Executive sessions will be scheduled after the briefs are turned in. At this point there is nothing to report moving forward. I hope that we have a ruling from the arbitrator soon. There is no way for me to give you a possible date.

Main Office Audit:

- Last year, John and Ray began the process of reviewing spending of all Main Office Official and Business Agents, Current and Past. The internal review has been completed. All spending from the Main Office for the last seven years has been turned over to an independent auditor.

Current Officers, Business Agents and prior Officers and Business Agents expenditures have been turned over to the auditor. There is a lot of documentation to review. This will take some time. We hope to have the results of the audit in a few months.

Upcoming Events:

- August 17th PSCOA/Altoona Curve Baseball game. There are 350 tickets available, but they are selling fast. If you are interested, please contact a local officer. There will be a dinner buffet served from 5:30-7:30. There is also a \$10 dollar entry for a chance to win the opportunity to throw out the first pitch. Deadline to buy tickets is 7/25. Game starts at 6:30.
- August 24th the Corrections Benevolent Fund will hold its second annual golf outing four-man scramble at the Mountain View Country Club in Boalsburg. (State College) Openings are still available.
- September- We are setting up a Baseball game with the Allentown Iron Pigs. It will be the same type of event as the Altoona Curve game. When we get a date set up, we will let you know.

John Eckenrode

President

PSCOA