

THE Independent

Winter 2017-2018

WORKERS' RIGHTS-UNDER ATTACK!!!!!!

- ◆ Working people are under attack from Washington DC politicians and corporate big business.
- ◆ As the US Supreme Court prepares to hear the Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) case in its current term, a new bulls-eye is on the back of unions and workers for whom they fight.

What is exactly at risk
as unions come under fire?

What do you have as a union member
that's worth fighting for?

The Union Difference*

Union workers participating in job provided health insurance: 79%

Nonunion workers participating in job provided health insurance: 49%

Union workers in a guaranteed (defined benefit) pension plan: 76%

Nonunion workers in a guaranteed (defined benefit) pension plan: 16%



Union workers with paid sick leave: 83%

Nonunion workers with paid sick leave: 62%

Union workers median weekly earnings: \$980

Nonunion workers median weekly earnings: \$776

***NYSOPBA will keep you informed
as the Supreme Court case proceeds.***

*AFL-CIO

President's Message

Michael B. Powers



The New Year is upon us as I look reflectively at the accomplishments of this Union, as well as look ahead at the challenges and priorities that continue to move this Union toward unity, safety and protection of our rights.

A retrospective look at 2017 accomplishments and efforts:

Executive Board: It has been a pleasure to work with the recently elected Board Members, as well as continuing to work with our re-elected officials. I consider it a privilege to serve this Union as President and will continue to work tirelessly for all members.

Probationary Employee Representation: Another successful Improper Practice Charge decision in favor of NYSOPBA's position that probationary employees be afforded the right to union representation (even when OSI claims the employee was "only a witness").

Paid Leave for Combat Vets: As a result of this Union's efforts, all state employees with combat experience are entitled to an additional 8 days of paid leave for health related services if they had combat experience.

Clear Bags/ Staff Allowable List: The Union came out strong against such requirements and researched the clear bag material for possible toxins. We compiled a long list of violations of rights and filed an IP against the Department, which is currently being heard at PERB.

Death Gamble Veto Response: Recognizing that the Governor could veto our priority bill, we prepared a press release condemning the Governor's actions if he, in fact, did veto the bill. When the veto was made public, the Union immediately went on the attack of Cuomo. Within 24 hours of the veto, we went public with radio, television and newspaper campaigns. We also engaged the legislative sponsors of our bill to ensure they launched their own attack.

Contract: We surveyed the membership to determine priorities for negotiation of a new contract. After tough negotiations, we were offered a contract that was not accepted. Negotiations will continue until a successor agreement is reached.

Workers' Compensation Impairment Guidelines: When the Comp Board issued draft guidelines several months ago, the Workers Compensation Bar (the lawyers that handle workers' compensation cases) reached out to NYSOPBA and asked us to fight these guidelines since they could devastate some of our Union members. We began our fight, which included a drive to NYC to meet with the Senate Labor Chair (Alcantara) in her district office to vocalize our opposition. Following several months of NYSOPBA advocating for changes, the Board issued revised guidelines that are now considered a victory by the Workers' Compensation Bar. In fact, this same group asked NYSOPBA to write a Letter of Support for the newly revised guidelines.

Right to Work/Janus v AFSCME: NYSOPBA continues to meet with other unions and educate members regarding the impact a Right to Work state would have on New York State union members.

ConCon: The Union pulled out all stops in fighting against the Constitutional Convention and, as you know, the convention proposal was defeated with a resounding "No" vote.

Equipment Upgrade: After insistent efforts of the Union, we were successful in obtaining a weapons upgrade by the Department, transitioning from the .38 to the 9mm Glock. Additionally, through many statewide Labor/ Management meetings, we were successful in attaining a pilot program instituting pepper spray in three facilities, which then expanded to seven facilities. The program will be fully implemented by Spring 2018.

Central Package Initiative: NYSOPBA has led the effort to initiate Central Package Room procedures which have been implemented at three pilot locations. With this initiative, we expect to see a great reduction in contraband entering the facilities through the Package Room, which will enhance security.

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President's Message continued...

Staffing: After the completion of all staffing reviews and based upon the findings, we have successfully added 355 new Corrections Officers in accordance with the MOU.

New Corrections Committee Chair: With the departure of Dan O'Donnell as the State Committee on Corrections Chair, I have met with the new Chair, Assemblyman Weprin, on many occasions to discuss current policy and bill introduction/ support. We have continually advocated against legislation that supports the inmate agenda.

Member Benefits: Over one million dollars have been distributed to members through the Rainy Day and Legal Defense Funds while fighting allegations by the Department of wrong-doing while performing job duties. In many of these cases, the member has been returned to work after a lengthy arbitration process and have received back pay (resulting in a refund to the Rainy Day Fund).

NYS Corrections Memorial: NYSCOPBA has long advocated for a memorial on the Empire State Plaza to recognize fallen Officers and Sergeants. In July of 2017, the new memorial was finally unveiled to rightfully honor their service and sacrifice.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018:

Safety for all members: Your safety, particularly protection from assaults, is our first priority. Although the NYCLU settlement that now guides policies within facilities cannot be changed, we continue to seek channels to protect members. We are seeking legislative changes to disallow shortening of SHU time when an inmate is violent toward our members. Additionally, we continue to address the

Department regarding issues with Use of Force incidents that adversely affect our members, and have a strong voice during the state's Workplace Violence meetings.

Contract: The Collective Bargaining Committee will continue to engage members and work toward a new contract.

Your Executive Board continues to meet and discuss the priorities of the Union for 2018 based upon feedback and participation of your Stewards, Chief Sector Stewards, Business Agents, Vice Presidents, Legislative Counsel, contract violations, violence in the facilities and more.

There is a multitude of issues that your Union officials work on daily on your behalf and which are not noted here. We have improved methods of communication and continue to request your participation in union efforts. It is unity that makes this Union strong. The successful efforts of this Union cannot be credited to one person. It is the hard work, ideas, energy and joint efforts of all that make us successful. There has never been a time of greater importance for NYSCOPBA unity than today.

I wish all of you and your families a Safe, Healthy, Prosperous New Year!

Michael B. Powers
President

NYSCOPBA Executive Board

Who We Are

President
Michael B. Powers

Executive Vice President
Tammy Sawchuk

Treasurer
Toby Hogan

Recording Secretary
Chris Summers

Vice President - Corrections North
John Roberts

Vice President - Law Enforcement
John Harmon

Vice President - Corrections Mid-Hudson
Mike Mazzella

Vice President - Corrections Central
Scott Carpenter

Vice President - Corrections South
Clarence M. Fisher, Jr.

Vice President - Corrections West
Joe Miano

NYSCOPBA was formed in 1998 and since that time has provided superior representation to our membership under the independent and democratic model. Our objectives are to improve the terms and conditions of employment, protect our members contractual rights, provide high quality representation in the collective bargaining process, communicate effectively with the membership, achieve legislative gains, and to promote the overall welfare of our members. NYSCOPBA is the largest independent law enforcement and public safety union in New York State. We are 21,000 members strong in virtually every sector of law enforcement, keeping New York Safe. We are Capital Police Communications Specialists, Community Correctional Center Assistants, Campus Public Safety Officers, Safety & Security Officers, Correction Sergeants, Correctional Officers, Forest Rangers, Security Officers, Security Screening Technicians, Motor Vehicle Investigators, Security Service Assistants, Security Hospital Treatment Assistants, Institutional Safety Officers and State Police Communications Specialists.

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Executive Vice President

Tammy Sawchuk



NYSCOPBA members, as we welcome in the New Year, we continue to face many challenges.

As many of you can personally attest to, violence continues to rise in our facilities. It is disheartening that the state continues their efforts toward policy changes that place our members in even more harm's way rather than ensuring their safety. As a union, we continue to fight against these changes. As union members, I encourage every one of you to write or call your local Legislators as well.

We continue to make demands of the Department to ensure the safety of our members. We now have OC Spray and vendor-only packages in some of the facilities, which is a positive step (though not enough). The Department needs to do more to make all facilities safe.

With the continued decline of penalties for inmates who put Security Staff, Officers and Sergeants in jeopardy, we are seeking all avenues to reverse this trend, including legislative measures. In particular, we are seeking legislation that prevents a reduction of time for an inmate who assaults an Officer. Reducing the number of SHU beds does not right size the overcrowding conditions in many of our facilities due to double bunking.

You are already aware these are unprecedented times to work in the Department. I am always mindful of the stressful conditions inherent in our jobs which are exacerbated by policy changes that seem to favor the inmate. We must stand together to fight this shift for our own sakes.

We have lost many members over the past year. They represent such loss to loved ones and to each one of us, as members. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

Peace to each of you; know you make a difference in your workplace and as a member of this Union.

NYSCOPBA Partners with Vested Interest in K9s

New York State Department of Corrections & Community Supervision K9's Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo will receive bullet and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

K9 Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo's vests are sponsored by New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by NYSCOPBA".

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 2,400 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 2.1 million dollars.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$1,050.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,795 - \$2,234 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs.

There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org.



Treasurer

Toby Hogan



As your newly elected Treasurer, it is my pleasure to work with all NYS COPBA members to advance the mission of the Union in a fiscally responsible manner and in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

I have worked closely with the Finance Committee to draft a budget for 2018 which was presented to and approved by the Executive Assembly. You will find the approved budget posted on our website under NYS COPBA Information, Executive Board on my webpage. You will also find the latest Treasury Report on my page.

CHANGES for Expense Reimbursement: Please note that the IRS mileage rate NYS COPBA uses when reimbursing approved mileage expense has **increased** from 53.5 cents per mile (2017) to 54.5 cents per mile beginning January 1, 2018. You will find new voucher templates with the new mileage rate on our website under the Stewards section and under Sector Treasury. You can also use the site index and search for Expense Voucher.

Our regularly-scheduled independent Annual Audit will be conducted in February 2018.

I thank you for your confidence in electing me as your Treasurer. Be assured that I will work diligently in safeguarding our treasury.

2018 BUDGET

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE INCOME

Union Dues.....	13,000,000
Interest Income.....	325,000
Retired Members Dues.....	206,250
Rental Income/Building.....	54,850
Miscellaneous Income.....	65,000
Employee Benefit Fund.....	980,660
Total Income.....	14,631,760

EXPENSE

Employee Payroll.....	1,272,000
Taxes & Fringe Benefits.....	400,000
Depreciation and Amortization.....	100,000
Equipment Lease/Rental.....	36,000
Insurance.....	60,000
Repairs/Maintenance (equipment).....	15,000
Member Benefits.....	1,295,000
Political Action Contributions.....	400,000
Legislative Related Expense.....	300,000
Postage & Mailings.....	75,000
Printing & Outside Copying.....	100,000
Office Expenses (supplies).....	125,000
Travel Costs.....	1,300,000
Professional Fees Accounting (Internal and audit).....	80,000
Consulting and Temporary Staff.....	158,000
Legal Fees (retainer, lobby, disbursements).....	2,750,000
Arbitration (State wide elections).....	50,000
Public Relations.....	900,000
Regional Public Relations.....	200,000
Occupancy.....	75,000
Association apartment.....	26,600
Miscellaneous Expenses (payroll fees).....	7,600
Sector Operations.....	1,011,000
Special Sector Funding.....	731,000
Charity \$500 per Sector/Special Assoc.....	-
Telephone.....	96,000
Training/Seminars/Regional.....	90,000
Union Leave.....	2,690,000
Building Expenses.....	288,660
Total Expense.....	14,631,760



Executive Vice President Tammy Sawchuk, President Michael Powers and Treasurer David Viddivo present a \$12,000 check to CPOF.



First Place Team: Damian Tyler, John Crossman, Nick Butler, and Zach Novak (Great Meadow CF). Also shown: Treasurer David Viddivo, Recording Secretary Michael Dildine and President Michael Powers

Recording Secretary

Chris Summers



I would like to personally wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I also want to thank you for being on the front line; it is appreciated every day. You walk the toughest beat there is. I know you don't hear this often enough, so I would like to say thank you for everything you do.

Thank you for electing me as your Recording Secretary. I look forward to working for you over the next three years. I have begun site visits at facilities throughout the state. So far, I have visited Five Points, Watertown, Cape Vincent, Franklin, Upstate and Bare Hill. My goal is to personally visit each and every facility.

The Department always wants to hold us to a higher standard than they hold their own people. DOCCS keeps adding more and more responsibility to staff; they want to fit 10 lbs. in a 5 lb. bag. There just isn't enough time in a day to do what they want, but they just keep pushing. The Department doesn't even want to follow their own directives, but they want you to. They are not only getting our members hurt, but if they keep this up, something worse is going to happen. This cannot, and will not, be tolerated. Please help us help you by providing information. If there is an assault on staff, a weapon found on an inmate or during a cell search, drugs or inmate fights, please keep us up to date with this information. The Department does NOT tell us about incidents. They like to play with the number of assaults and contraband (by keeping the numbers down) and make them look good.

Stay safe and watch each other's back. All we have is one another. Now, more than ever, we must come together, be united and not work against each other.



NYSOCOPBA placed a wreath at the NYS Correction Officers Memorial's Wreath Laying Service

Executive Assembly Motions

[January 9, 2017]

Motion: Accept recommendation of Collective Bargaining Committee to send to members for a ratification vote – Passed: Yes 187, No 86

[February 2017]

Motion: Accept the contract for Cindy Goss, MAP (Member Assistance Program) – passed unanimous

[April 2017]

Motion: Accept Garnet River Contract – unanimous

Motion: Accept Legal Defense Policy – unanimous

Motion: Accept Legal Defense Fund Summary Plan – unanimous

Motion: Accept Rainy Day Fund Summary Plan – unanimous

Motion: Accept Rainy Day Fund Policy - unanimous

Motion: Change the retirement policy eligibility – unanimous

Motion: Declare Impasse – passed

Motion: Refer Statewide Meeting motion to the Finance Committee – passed

Motion: Release NYSOCOPBA and State proposals to the EA – Passed: Yes 164, No 45, Abstain 14

Motion: Replace the Collective Bargaining Committee – ruled out of order

Motion: Review the February 15-16, 2017 EA video for accuracy – unanimous

Motion: Terminate Bolton St. Johns contract – unanimous

[June 2017]

Motion: Amend the Rainy Day Funds regarding reimbursement of funds – tabled

Motion: Accept the Regional Temporary Assistant Policy – tabled

Motion: Have the Collective Bargaining Committee follow the direction from PERB to meet with GOER to continue the negotiation process – passed

[September 2017]

Motion: Accept the contract for collection attorney Marainstrein & Marainstein, Esq. – passed

Motion: Hire Jocelyn Gleason – Health & Safety / Workers Comp. Specialist – unanimous

Central Region

Scott Carpenter



As we progress into 2018, many issues face not only the Central Region, but the membership of NYSCOPBA across the State of New York. In the Central Region, we are dealing with a steady loss of experienced senior staff due to retirement. With that comes newer rank and file members who at one point, were away from the area

and came to the facilities of the Central Region with a base of experience to interact successfully within a correctional setting. Now, several facilities are getting recruits straight out of the DOCCS' Training Academy. We now stand at the forefront of giving these trainees the tools they need to have a successful career in Corrections whether they remain in the Central Region or move on to a facility closer to their homes. I am confident that our members in the Central Region will meet the challenge and give these newest members of NYSCOPBA the needed skills for a successful transition from Corrections Officer Trainee to Corrections Officer.

In the Central Region, one of my promises to you was to come to your worksites and listen to your concerns. With that being said, I am proud to report that myself and the NYSCOPBA Central Region Business Agent, Jason Combs, have visited the facilities of the Central Region and attended your union meetings to gather more input and listen to your concerns. This will continue into 2018 and, as always, you are welcome to stop into the Central Region Satellite Office in Whitesboro at any time to express any issues you would like to discuss with your representatives.

Looking forward into 2018, our number #1 concerns are to provide you with representation you can be proud of and to work aggressively to obtain the compensation and benefits your hard work deserves. We will also work with our Communications Department and Public Relations firm to make sure your hard work and dedication are, as always, portrayed in a positive light. When negative press impacts your profession, we will look for ways to counter that negative press in a manner that reflects the nature of your professionalism and the difficult tasks you perform on a daily basis.



Watertown CF makes a donation of \$500 to Hospice of Jefferson County

Pictured from left to right is CO Tom Dier, Hospice of Jefferson County Director of Foundations Nicole Paratone and CO Jay Barrett. Officers' Dier and Barrett are NYSCOPBA Stewards out of Watertown CF.

Coming to a Mailbox Near You!



Open Enrollment for a Specified Disease (Critical Illness) will begin shortly.

Open Enrollment information will be mailed to your home this month.

It is a limited Open Enrollment opportunity with NO MEDICAL QUESTIONS asked if you enroll prior to the expiration date shown in your mailing.

STAY TUNED!!

Law Enforcement Vice President

John Harmon



I first want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and allowing me to serve another term as your Law Enforcement Vice President.

Many issues face the LE Members with agencies continuing to change and consolidate services. LE Members face the greatest challenges in NYSCOPBA due to the nature of our titles and jobs. With the challenges LE Members face every day, it is even more important to come together and support one another.

A fair contract for LE Members is essential to having and gaining the respect we deserve. I have worked diligently to ensure that the contractual needs of LE Members will be attained through collective bargaining.

Legislatively, we will be pushing an aggressive agenda this year. With the upcoming Supreme Court Case *Janus v. AFSCME* looming, NYSCOPBA is prioritizing legislation to protect the whole organization. However, LE will continue to push ahead with our legislative agenda and needs we deserve. Legislatively this year, SSO 24 Hour Peace Officer is the LE priority legislation. Other legislation of note is SUNY Member 25 year retirement, SHTA Retirement Fix, Justice Center Removal, Throwing Bill for LE Members,

OMH Visitation and several others. We will also be looking to fully implement SHTA Peace Officer and rework issues with the OMH Assault Reporting Bill.

Statewide Labor/Management Meetings are in the process of being scheduled for all LE titles. Your input is crucial for attempting to resolve issues that affect your worksite and job. Please contact your LE NYSCOPBA Representatives to address issues at the statewide or local levels.

I would also like to acknowledge the Creedmoor PC Safety Department for winning Safety Department of the Year. Great job by the Officers working a tough job in a tough area. Several of their members have also been acknowledged by NYSCOPBA for Valor in the past year.

I will continue traveling the state listening to your voices and working hard to etch our futures in stone so that every member and their families have a sense of safety and security financially, personally and professionally.

I will be working to make changes to help better communication from the members to the Albany Office. If any member has had or is having communication/contact issues or ideas to better communication with NYSCOPBA, please email me, jharmon@nyscopba.org.

Law Enforcement professionals like all of you deserve respect and working together, we will gain that respect and grow.



OPWDD Safety Officer Training Academy 2017 Graduating Class

Legislative Update

Dan Valente, Legislative Director

In 2016, NYSCOPBA was once again successful in getting priority legislation signed into law. NYSCOPBA's legislative successes would not be possible without the support from the thousands of members who have attended Lobby Days, PAC Seminars and political functions, as well as those who have taken the time to contact their local legislators on behalf of NYSCOPBA. Thank you to all who have taken the time to get involved in your union. Your participation is appreciated and vital to our continued success. Here is a brief summary of the bills that we successfully lobbied on in 2016:

Military Combat Veterans Bill Signed Into Law

In 2017, NYSCOPBA was once again successful in getting priority legislation signed into law. Specifically introduced by NYSCOPBA, Chapter 406 of the New York State Laws of 2017 was signed by Governor Cuomo in November. This new law will provide additional paid leave for healthcare related services to state employees with military combat experience. Many NYSCOPBA members are also members of our armed forces and are required to engage in combat during their military service. The experiences of combat can take its toll on these men and women, both physically and emotionally. By affording these brave men and women with additional leave for healthcare related services, we will be taking steps to assist our military veterans to more effectively assimilate back into society and their positions of public employment.

NYSCOPBA would like to thank the bill sponsors, Senator Tom Croci and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, for their efforts in seeing that this legislation became law. Also a special recognition should be made to NYSCOPBA's Veterans Committee for its continued advocacy on behalf of all members of the military and its Brothers and Sisters of NYSCOPBA.

Death Gamble Legislation Vetoed by Governor Cuomo; cites cost

For the first time in NYSCOPBA's history, we were successful in getting our "Death Gamble" legislation passed by both houses of the legislature. Unfortunately, the bill was vetoed by Governor Cuomo citing the fiscal costs of providing such a benefit. The death gamble legislation would have permitted beneficiaries of DOCCS security personnel, who have attained 25 years of service, to elect to receive a payment in a lump sum, for an amount equal to the pension reserve that would have been established had the member retired on the date of his death, or the value of the death benefit and the reserve-for-increased-take-home-pay, if any, whichever is greater. Due to the

All of NYSCOPBA's

legislative initiatives would not be possible without the support and participation from the thousands of members who have advocated on behalf of your union. By attending lobby days, PAC seminars, political functions, responding to calls for action, or taking the time to contact your local elected officials, you will ensure that your issues continue to be heard. Thank you to all who have taken the time to get involved. Your participation is appreciated and vital to our continued success.

nearly \$14 million cost associated with this legislation, the Governor vetoed the bill. In the veto message, the Governor indicated that the matter could be a subject considered in the collective bargaining process. NYSCOPBA contends that retirement benefits are statutorily prohibited subjects of negotiations. Nevertheless, NYSCOPBA will be pursuing the reintroduction of the legislation and we will request to have language included in the adopted 2018-19 NYS Budget.

NYS Voters say "NO" to Con Con

On Election Day 2017, New York voters resoundingly rejected Proposition One, which if approved, would have called for a state constitutional convention; opening up the state constitution for review and potentially jeopardizing many hard fought rights and benefits that the labor movement has achieved over the years. The question of convening a state constitutional convention is automatically put on the ballot for voters to decide every 20 years; therefore we will have to wait until 2037 until the question is once again put before the voters.

NYSCOPBA members came out in droves to get the word out to VOTE NO on the Con Con. Our message was heard loud and clear. 83% of New York voters opposed a constitutional convention and the proposition was defeated. Thank you to all members of NYSCOPBA, your friends, families and neighbors for getting out to vote NO to the Con Con.

2018 Legislative Session and Executive Budget

The 2018 legislative session kicked off in January with the Governor's annual State-of-the-State address. The executive budget proposal was presented on January 16th and NYSCOPBA will be analyzing and taking positions on the Governor's budget proposal. NYSCOPBA will provide updates on any major policy proposals affecting

continued on next page...

NYSCOPBA members that could be contained in the budget. Once the budget is introduced, the legislature is consumed with coming to an agreement on the spending package prior to the April 1st deadline. NYSCOPBA will ensure that our members' voices are heard and that the necessary allocations are provided in the budget to protect our members and provide for safer working conditions. During the budget negotiations, very little legislation is acted upon by the legislature. However, once the budget is negotiated, NYSCOPBA will continue pursuing the objectives contained in NYSCOPBA's legislative agenda until session concludes in late June.

2018 Legislative Agenda

The NYSCOPBA legislative agenda is developed based on recommendations and ideas received from NYSCOPBA members. Input from the membership, Executive Board, Legislative/PAC Committee and the Executive Assembly is essential to our success as we gear up to move legislation in the upcoming legislative session. Members are always encouraged to submit new ideas for legislation so that we can continue to fight to improve working conditions and safety for all NYSCOPBA members. That being said, 2018 is shaping up to be an unusual year.

The 2018 legislative agenda will be consumed by the Supreme Court Case **Janus v. AFSCME** and the continued attack on public employees and the unions that represent them. While we will be pursuing many of our stand alone pieces of legislation (Death Gamble, aggravated harassment, peace officer status legislation, among others), much of our time, effort and resources will be directed at achieving legislation to combat the impact of Janus. Much like the Friedrich's Supreme Court case from last year, this case will determine if mandatory union dues violate a public employee's constitutional rights under the First Amendment. The lawsuit is aimed at reversing a decades-old ruling by the court which affirmed the right of unions to collect fees from nonmembers. Labor unions in many states (New York included) can require workers to pay a fee if they decide to become nonmembers. The fair-share fee payers still receive all of the rights and benefits covered under the negotiated contract, but agency fees collected by unions cannot be used for political activities. Janus argues that public-sector collective bargaining and political lobbying are indistinguishable, and thus violates a person's 1st amendment.

The case is expected to be argued before the Supreme Court in February and a decision is expected before the end of The Court's session in June. NYSCOPBA has been working closely with many other public employee unions to develop legislation that will mitigate the impact of Janus and the adverse decision that is anticipated. Working with other organizations, we hope to have legislation in place

and signed into law before the 2018 legislative session concludes in June.

As always, please refer to the NYSCOPBA Legislative webpage for a complete list of bills of interest. Click on the "Bill Tracker" link and you will be able to view all of the significant legislation that NYSCOPBA is tracking.

Please visit the NYSCOPBA Legislative webpage at <http://www.nyscopba.org/legislative> for updates on the Legislative Agenda, lobby days, legislative activities, legislative scorecards and all other legislative and political updates. If you have any questions regarding legislation or political action activities, please contact Dan Valente, Legislative Director, at 518-427-1551 X306, or by email at dvalente@nyscopba.org.



Terrence Murphy: Members of the the Nyscopba PR, who work at Green Haven Correctional Facility, came to discuss some important legislation that we are trying to pass in the Senate. I have an immense amount of respect of correctional officers - especially since seeing the environment they work in firsthand. Thank you for protecting us; now it's New York's turn to protect you!



Senator Pam Helming: Today, I had the opportunity to tour Auburn Correctional Facility and get to see firsthand the job that our brave Corrections Officers do on a daily basis to protect our communities. Thank you to Al Mothershed, Joe Miano, Chris Duryea, Keith Jacques and Dan Valenti from NYSCOPBA PR for joining me and for your tremendous advocacy on behalf of Corrections Officers across New York State.

Western Region

Joe Miano



I hope everyone had a happy Holiday Season and wish all NYSCOPBA members a happy and safe New Year. I want to thank the members of the Western Region for their continued support in the fight against the Constitution Convention vote that was voted down this past November. I would also like to thank the 3,200 members who filled out the Workers' Comp comment cards in opposition of the proposed changes to

Workers' Comp scheduled loss of use for injured workers.

We are now facing yet another attack on unions and the way union dues are collected. Please pay close attention to the information that will be mailed to the membership and posted on the NYSCOPBA web site.

With never ending changes from DOCCS in recent years, it is important to know your rights as a union member. If you have any questions on your rights, check with your local Union Officials or contact the Western Region at 585.382.3120. Lastly, I would like to remind everyone to make sure you are up to date with your beneficiaries; i.e. life insurance. We have had several claims recently with members passing away and NOT having the proper beneficiary receive the benefit.

As always, stay united and informed. Stay Safe.



NYSCOPBA Donates to Erie County Medical Center

NYSCOPBA donated \$10,000 to the Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, NY, for the new Emergency Department. NYSCOPBA will have a room named in the discharge area of the new Emergency Department. Shown in the photo from left to right: ECMC CEO Tom Quatroche Jr., Western Rregion VP Joe Miano and Dr. Michael Manka, Chief of Emergency Medicine.

Mid-Hudson Vice President

Mike Mazzella



As we begin 2018, let me first start by thanking all of you for allowing me to represent the Mid-Hudson Region for another three year term. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you for the past six years; and I look forward to assisting this membership with the issues we will face

together this term.

There are many challenges that will be thrown our way in the near future. One of those challenges will be what is known as the *Janus v AFSCME* decision. This federal case is slated to conclude this year and we are expecting an adverse decision that could cause harm to all unions. We are keeping a watchful eye on this; and we are working on ways to provide uninterrupted service to our members.

Another issue we must be wary of is changes in sentencing guidelines and the pro-inmate attitude that has virtually swept the nation. The inmate population could continue to dwindle. NYSCOPBA is aware of the possibility that this could adversely affect our membership; and we are working on ways to combat this situation.

One other issue we are contending with is a successor agreement to the last contract. I can assure you that the Collective Bargaining Committee is working hard to negotiate a fair and equitable agreement. If one cannot be reached, we will move towards binding interest arbitration.

Even as we face these issues, NYSCOPBA is dedicated to promoting our members in a positive light. We have sponsored the Hudson Valley Wing Fest, the WSUL Heart-a-Thon and are planning to sponsor The Lap4Life, Tour de Force and other major events. Sponsoring these events not only provide funds to worthy organizations and charities, but also provides vehicles to get our name and cause out in the public eye.

With your help and interaction, we will make 2018 a year to be proud of.

Southern Region

Clarence M. Fisher, Jr.



Greetings. I hope you all had a great Holiday Season and that you have a prosperous 2018. This election was a success as many of you participated in such an invaluable process. My win will allow me to continue being an aggressive advocate, while protecting your rights. So much has occurred since my last article,

so let's catch up. There has been an increase in violent conduct from inmates. The inmates became more confrontational and aggressive towards staff in 2017. Somehow, the roles of security staff and inmates have changed to oppressor and victim in the media. DOCCS is going above and beyond to protect itself from the onslaught of negative press and inmate lawsuits, leaving our members to play the role of fall guy. OUR MEMBERS ARE THE FOREFRONT OF DOCCS! We have to be honest with ourselves. There are a few (very few!) staff members that have crossed the line, and their unlawful deeds are what sells newspapers. However, there is never talk about the 99% who are constant professionals. The members I have had the honor of working side by side with for over two decades are the people who have saved lives, and through whose efforts DOCCS actually operates. No, you don't hear about that in the papers. Don't feel disheartened; there are many people out there who appreciate what we do, including some of our politicians. The rules to our job have changed and we must change with them. NYSCOPBA has given us access to all changes by sending out emails and placing them on the NYSCOPBA website. If there are new rules to the game, we must learn them so that WE can win the game.

There is a MAJOR issue heading our way called *Janus vs. ASFCME*. This case is in the Supreme Court right now. This case is basically about an employee's choice on whether to join a workers' union or not. However, there are things you need to know about the condition of workers that belong to a union as opposed to the ones that don't. First, job protection. When there is a union fighting for its members instead of an individual fighting for himself/herself, there is always a better outcome. The union provides resources, such as attorneys and experts, to protect your rights as an employee. Next, collective bargaining. Sometimes we don't like our contracts, but our contracts are about more than money. They are about our benefits, discipline procedures, job protection and rights of the member. If you worked for a company that had no union and had to

ask your boss for a raise and better benefits, no matter how hard you have worked for that company, it would solely be up to the boss. Don't even mention if the boss' nephew wants your job!

There is so much more but I have limited space in this article. For more information, go to your Local general membership meetings. Be a part of the solution. Those that say "There is nothing I can do" haven't tried!



Clinton CF sector donated \$750.00 to the Knights of Columbus of Peru, NY. The money will go towards helping the less fortunate people in the local community.

Sergeants Representative

William Sellers



I would like to start by thanking all the members who voted for me in this past election. I promise to continue fighting on behalf of all Sergeants. Your support is greatly appreciated.

As we enter 2018, I would like to congratulate all the new Sergeants that were appointed from the 2014 list. That list is going to expire in February and the new list will be activated. I ask all permanent Sergeants to guide and help the temps as they go through their probationary period. The first year is stressful and the Senior Sergeants play a crucial role in the completion of probation. Remember that your probationary period does not start until you are permanent.

Thanks again for your support.

Northern Region

John Roberts



With the holidays behind us, I hope everyone is safely making it through this very cold winter. Since the election, it has been a very busy time for the Northern Region. I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with numerous members throughout the

Northern Region during facility tours. The amount of internal investigations are greatly increasing. Please continue to be diligent in your duties and as a reminder, negative comments on social media work against us.

NYCLU settlements have severely impacted our disciplinary system. It is crucial during this time to ensure that you are utilizing all necessary tools provided by the Department to include batons, OC spray and handcuffs. Please remember to watch out for your fellow Officers to ensure everyone is safe and secure during these extremely difficult times.

As a reminder, please know your rights when dealing with outside police agencies, as stated on page 133 of your contract book. It is imperative that you speak with your union representatives prior to being questioned and do not speak with any agencies at your residence without proper legal or union representation. If you are assaulted by an inmate, it is your right to report it to your local police agency. If an incident happens to you, we do not automatically know about it. Please know your rights and contact Rick Brunelle or myself at any time for assistance. We are here for you.

The Northern Region will sponsor our Annual Charity Golf Tournament on May 29, 2018, at the Malone Golf Club. Contact Frank Gilbo at 518-546-7271 or 518-424-9968.

I would like to express a huge thanks to all the Northern Region facilities for the generous donations to their local communities during the Holiday Season. Please continue to submit photos from your local events.

Stay safe and thank you for the hard work you do.



Special Olympics Annual Polar Plunge

The New York State Special Olympics held their annual Polar Plunge in Plattsburgh on Sunday, November 19, 2017. Members of Altona CF were on hand to present a check for \$1000 to the charity. Members in the photo are: Roger Trombley, Steve King, Travis Smith, Dave White, Adam Trudeau, and John Postigione Jr.



Santa Express

Clinton Sector Stewards present a \$4,000 check to "Santa" Officer Shane Muller who runs a charity helping kids in need have a wonderful Christmas experience they would go without otherwise.



Clinton CF Staff delivers for the Clinton County Christmas Bureau

Security and Civilian staff contributed to 2 fundraisers held throughout the month of November, which brought in \$1300 worth of toys. Above: Officer Ed Ducharme and Officer Jason Goodspeed from Clinton CF.

2017
YEAR IN
REVIEW



Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP

The attorneys in the Albany Office of Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP have had the privilege to represent NYSCOPBA since its inception; for over nineteen (19) years. On a daily basis, we work hand-in-hand with members of the NYSCOPBA Executive Board, NYSCOPBA staff, and local stewards to represent NYSCOPBA and its members, covering a wide variety of legal issues. Along with providing legal services on a day-to-day basis, we also help prepare materials and present at NYSCOPBA Steward Training. As we begin a new year, we wanted to provide you, the NYSCOPBA members, with a look back at the year 2017, including a small sample of some of the matters we addressed on behalf of NYSCOPBA.

- There were 481 DOCCS Interrogations in 2017 where we provided representation.

- We received five (5) favorable decisions from judges in Justice Center cases filed against NYSCOPBA Law Enforcement members. In each of these five decisions, the Judge found that the Justice Center failed to meet its burden of proof to demonstrate abuse or neglect. Based on these decisions, each of the charges against these members are dismissed and sealed.

- Approximately 342 Notices of Discipline were issued to members through mid-November, 2017. Out of those cases, 198 of them are being specifically addressed by this office.

- ❑ Out of those 198 cases, fifty (50) have been demanded to arbitration, many of them already completed. Every NYSCOPBA member is provided union and legal representation throughout the disciplinary process.

- ❑ Although we do not have complete data for this year, in 2016, our attorneys handled 285 arbitration hearings. We received decisions in twenty-eight (28) disciplinary cases in 2016 (in all cases, the agency was seeking termination). In nineteen (19) of these cases, the member was not terminated (67.8%). Out of those nineteen (19), ten (10) were found completely not-guilty.

- There are currently twelve (12) active disability retirement cases. Out of these twelve (12) cases, we have completed hearings and filed briefs in four (4) of them.

- We have many Article 78 proceedings in Supreme Court on behalf of individual members. Some include

individuals who have been terminated on probation in "bad faith." Others were medically separated after one (1) year of cumulative Workers' Compensation Leave, who we believe are entitled to two (2) years of leave based on their injury being the result of an assault by an inmate or a patient. Of note, we received a decision returning a member to employment after he had been terminated for not having a "valid" driver's license. The judge granted the petition and re-instated the employee to his position, with full back-pay and benefits, based on the fact that a conditional driver's license is considered a valid driver's license.

- During the past year, we have filed approximately seventeen (17) Improper Practice Charges with PERB. We have also appeared at sixteen (16) conferences before PERB Administrative Law Judges, and had hearings in at least two (2) cases.

- ❑ In the past year, we have also settled or otherwise resolved approximately six (6) Improper Practice Charges. We have also received five (5) decisions from ALJs or the Board in Improper Practice cases. Three (3) of these decisions were favorable for NYSCOPBA. Of note, we received a decision finding that the State of New York committed an Improper Practice when it unilaterally changed its prior practice and began charging fees for promotional Civil Service examinations. We received a decision finding that DOCCS's denial of a probationary employee's request for Union representation during an OSI interview constituted interference and was a violation of §§209-a.1(g) of the Act, even though DOCCS asserted that she was "only a witness" and not the subject of the investigation.

- ❑ We also filed papers with PERB seeking an injunction to stop DOCCS from implementing the new clear bag, pending the hearing and decision in the Improper Practice charge. We were successful in convincing PERB that there were grounds for an injunction, which is an incredibly high burden. Unfortunately, for an injunction at PERB, a Judge must also agree to grant the injunction, which did not occur.

- We addressed contract grievances at approximately twenty-four (24) triage sessions; arbitrated approximately twenty-eight (28) grievances before Master Arbitrator Joel Douglas; arbitrated three (3) grievances at full arbitration;

continued on next page...

Legal Update continued...

and resolved approximately sixty-eight (68) other grievances (through settlement or other closure).

- Our governmental relations representation has resulted in many successes, including: successfully opposing workers' compensation proposed guidelines; lobbying for the enactment of a new law that provides additional disability leave to combat veterans; passing death benefit legislation that, although vetoed, will be a priority bill in both houses of the legislature; assisted the Executive Board in spearheading efforts to successfully defeat the "Con Con" proposition; and successfully advocated for the defeat of a whole host of bills detrimental to law enforcement generally and the union specifically.

Our work is made possible by the assistance and involvement of NYSCOPBA representatives at the statewide, regional, and local level. If you, as a member, are faced with an issue related to your employment, please contact your NYSCOPBA representative for assistance. If your matter requires attention from our office, we will work with your NYSCOPBA representative to review and address the matter.

Thank you for a great year and we look forward to continuing to work for this outstanding union and its membership.



Albany Medical Center: Thank you to NYSCOPBA for once again supporting our annual Radiothon. James Miller, representing NYSCOPBA, was on air discussing why the organization supports this event each year. NYSCOPBA is now matching any donation during this hour. We are so grateful for your generosity!



On Wednesday, June 14, 2017, Pipes & Drums participated in the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's Memorial and Medal Ceremony. Five members of the Department were recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty at the ceremony. The ceremony also remembered the lives of 43 of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. Rest in Peace to our Brothers and Sisters who paid the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.



On May 31, members of Lakeview Shock participated in the New York Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run in Dunkirk, NY. The torch is carried by law enforcement personnel throughout the state on its way to Albany and the Special Olympics Summer Games which started at Siena College last evening. Thanks to all the members who participated and helped raise money for such a good cause.



Clinton Correctional Facility members Matt Liberty, Josh McMillan, Matt Dion and Justin St Louis attended the MAKE A WISH golf tournament. The Clinton sector donated \$500 to the tournament.



Fort Edward UFSD: We recieved an AMAZING \$1500 donation from Nyscopba PR to our Backpack Program!!

RETIREMENT

corner

by Bill Naylor, Retirement Specialist

Sign up for Retirement Online

Retirement Online gives you an easy and secure way to review your benefits and conduct transactions in real time. You can do things like update your contact information, view or update your beneficiaries, apply for a loan (active members only) or create an income verification letter (retirees only). Retirees also can view their most recent pension stub online prior to receiving an advanced payment or direct deposit being deposited. Go to <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/index.php> to register.

Open Your Social Security Account

Create your account today and take away the risk of someone else trying to create one in your name, even if they obtain your Social Security number. It's an important step in protecting yourself from identity theft. Go to www.ssa.gov to register.

FAS Consultations vs. Request for Estimate

Determining your FAS is the most important step in planning for your retirement. The consultation is when you make an appointment with an Information Representative at one of their Consultation Sites and go over FAS and beneficiary options. A Request for Estimate is when you submit a RS6030 form and can only be requested every 18 months. The main difference is that during a consultation, the representative only has an hour to calculate your FAS. It is a ballpark figure. The Request for Estimate, once submitted, takes approximately 4-5 months for retirement to complete. They audit your retirement account as if you were retiring during that time. It is the most accurate number you can get without actually retiring. You still need to be within five years of retiring to make the request.

Retiree Chapter Life Insurance ...

As a Retiree Chapter Member, you are covered by a \$20,000 group life insurance policy. Renewed membership in the Retiree Chapter is contingent upon us setting up automatic dues deductions. To do this, we need your retirement number. **Submit your retirement number to us as soon as you get it.**

Dental Options in Retirement

Upon retirement, you lose dental coverage. If you choose **COBRA**, you need to sign up within 60 days of retirement. COBRA coverage is a continuation of the same plan you had while an active employee. COBRA lasts 36 months. Once it expires, you can sign up for a **Direct Pay policy with EmblemHealth** or options through **Norvest: Basic Dental Plan** - Covers basic and preventive services. **Enhanced Dental Plan** - Includes all services covered by the Basic Plan as well as major care. Open Enrollment is from January – February with changes effective in April. You are required to continue coverage until the following April.

Vision Options in Retirement

Upon retirement, you lose vision coverage. If you choose **COBRA**, you need to sign up within 60 days of retirement. COBRA coverage is a continuation of the same plan you had while an active employee. COBRA lasts 36 months. Once it expires, you can choose the free **Davis Vision Discount**, which is a pre-purchase discount services plan offered to Chapter Members, as well as their dependents. **Norvest** also offers the **VSP Vision Plan**. There is a monthly cost for this plan and it operates more like an insurance plan. Open Enrollment is from February – March, with changes effective in May. You are required to continue coverage until the following May.

Retiree Chapter \$100 Eyeglass/Contacts Reimbursement Program

Only a few Chapter Members are taking advantage of the \$100 eyeglass/contacts reimbursement program. This is an easy and valuable benefit that can be combined with any other vision benefit.

Medicare Coordination with the NYS Health Insurance Program

Under the Empire Plan, when you or your dependent/domestic partner become Medicare eligible, you (or your dependent/domestic partner) must sign up 3 months prior to turning 65 for Medicare Parts A & B (**do not sign up for Parts C or D**). Effective the day your Medicare becomes primary, your Empire Plan becomes secondary.



NYSCOPBA Members Donate Bicycles to Local Charity

NYSCOPBA Members from Clinton Correctional Facility donated 75 bicycles to the Clinton County Christmas Bureau that will go to low-income families in Clinton County.

Officers brought the bikes to the charity on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. The bikes, which cost \$3000, were purchased from Taylor Rental in Plattsburgh. Taylor Rental sold the bicycles at cost to the Officers who, in turn, delivered them to the Christmas Bureau.

In addition, members from the Clinton Correctional CERT Team (Corrections Emergency Response Team) raised money throughout the year to purchase 75 bike helmets that will accompany each bike as a gift. The helmets were purchased through Maui North in Plattsburgh.

Clinton County Christmas Bureau is a local all-volunteer charity whose sole mission is to provide Christmas for low-income families in Clinton County through the help of the local community. "The Christmas Bureau serves 800 families in Clinton County and we rely on organizations like NYSCOPBA to help provide a joyous holiday season", stated Tammy Sears - Clinton County Christmas Bureau.

"I would like to thank Taylor Rental and Maui North for helping our members provide Christmas gifts for those less fortunate in Clinton County. Our members are committed to helping the communities they work and live in. They volunteer and raise money throughout the year for local charities and I commend everyone who participates. Hopefully, providing these bikes and helmets to the Christmas Bureau will put a smile on some children's faces on Christmas morning and that you can never put a price on." – John Roberts, NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.

Workers' Compensation Updates

DETERMINING IMPAIRMENT (SLU)

New York Workers' Compensation Guidelines for determining Impairment are new as of 1/2018. The new guidelines determine schedule loss of use awards. You can find a link on the NYSCOPBA website under Workers' Compensation and Disability.

Schedule loss of use awards are for impairments to:

- a. Extremities (including nervous system impairment that impacts use of extremities)
- b. Loss of vision
- c. Loss of hearing
- d. Facial disfigurement

Any Member that has been treated once prior to 1/2018 will fall under the old 2012 impairment guideline for determining schedule loss of use awards. This info is also on the NYS WCB site under Changes to Impairment Guidelines. Below is a message from the chair at the WCB:

Date: December 28, 2017

Workers' Compensation law §15(3)(x), enacted as part of the 2017 executive budget, called upon the Board to implement new Permanency Impairment Guidelines for Scheduled Loss of Use (SLU) evaluations, with an effective date of January 1, 2018. The Board is pleased to announce that SLU Guidelines have been adopted, and are available on the Board's website. The enabling regulation is set forth at 12 NYCRR 325-1.6, and is also available at the Board's website. The Board is appreciative of the many thoughtful comments received during the initial public comment period and the subsequent public comment period.

The 2018 SLU Guidelines will replace chapters in the existing 2012 Medical Impairment Guidelines with respect to SLU, and will take effect January 1, 2018. The 2012 Guidelines remain unchanged for determining non-schedule permanent impairments. For SLU claims that have at least one examination conducted before January 1, 2018, the Board will consider the issue of SLU to have been joined under the auspices of the Guidelines in effect at the time, and as such the Board will determine the claimant's degree of permanent disability using the 2012 Guidelines. Where the first medical evaluation of SLU occurs on or after January 1, 2018, the question of SLU will be evaluated under the 2018 SLU Guidelines.

V

valor [val-er] *noun*
 boldness or determination in facing
 great danger; heroic courage; bravery

ALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS



CO Bruce Delaney, Auburn CF, accompanies CO Gregory Edgar, in receiving his award. Also shown is NYSCOPBA President Michael Powers and Western Region VP Joe Miano.

CO Gregory Edgar, Auburn CF

On November 14, 2016, at approximately 8:10 a.m., Correction Officer Gregory Edgar was walking across the second floor parking garage walkway to report for his tour of duty in the DOCCS Secure Medical Unit at Upstate Hospital in Syracuse, NY. As he was walking, he saw a young male yelling and threatening the receptionist at the reception desk. At this time, Officer Edgar saw the young male pull out a black handled knife and lunge toward the receptionist. Officer Edgar ran down the stairs and verbally engaged the man and told him to drop the knife and to calm down, asking the man how he could get help for him. Multiple hospital staff assisted in getting the man to drop the knife on the ground and calming him down, then getting him to sit in a wheelchair and be escorted to the E.R. for further medical attention. Correction Officer Edgar went above and beyond his tour of duty.

CO Jason Grasso, Green Haven CF

On October 27, 2017, at approximately 12:30 hrs, Off Duty Correction Officer Jason Grasso from Green Haven CF, was on Main Street in Beacon when he observed a disturbance happening behind the Beacon Post Office. He then saw several subjects chasing another subject towards his direction. Officer Grasso observed that one of the subjects was his barber, who yelled to him that the person that they were chasing had a gun and tried to rob the barbershop. Officer Grasso stepped into the road as the group was approaching and engaged the suspect, stating that he was an off-duty Peace Officer and to show him his hands. The suspect refused that direction and Officer Grasso drew his personal firearm. He again ordered the suspect to show his hands, to which he complied. Officer Grasso then ordered the suspect to the ground and held the suspect there until police arrived. A Kimber 9mm firearm that was believed to be used by the suspect during the crime was found near the scene.



Mike Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Region VP and CO Jason Grasso



Michael Powers, NYSCOPBA President; John Harmon, Law Enforcement Vice President; SSO James Robinson, Creedmoor PC; SSO Anthony Henderson accepting Award for SSO Eric Harris, Creedmoor PC

SSOs Robinson and Harris, Creedmoor PC

Two Safety and Security Officers who work at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center are credited with freeing a driver trapped inside a vehicle that hit a fire hydrant and flipped over several times this week. The accident occurred on Tuesday, February 21, at approximately 6:40 PM. Officers James Robinson and Eric Harris were on patrol in their vehicle near Hillside Avenue and Winchester Boulevard when they observed a vehicle hit a fire hydrant on Hillside Avenue and flip multiple times. Both Officers ran to the car and realized the driver was trapped inside. They opened the door and cut the seat belt, which was holding the driver inside the car. The Officers pulled the driver to safety as NYPD officers arrived on the scene. The driver, who was conscious, was transported by Emergency Medical Services Units to Long Island Jewish Hospital for treatment.

The following day, Safety Security Officer Robinson was on mobile patrol at approximately 5:20 PM when he stopped at a deli located right outside the psychiatric center. While he was in the deli, an outpatient resident walked in and was choking. The patient stumbled backwards and fell to the floor. The store manager noticed the patient fell and wasn't breathing. He informed Officer Robinson of what was happening. Officer Robinson immediately began CPR on the patient. After several seconds, the patient began to cough and breath again. Emergency Medical Services Units were called to the scene and transported the patient to Long Island Jewish Hospital.

"I would like to commend both Officers Robinson and Harris for their quick and alert actions this week during two emergencies that occurred outside of Creedmoor Psychiatric Center. Both Officers are a credit to their profession and exemplify the professionalism of our NYSCOPBA members that far too often goes unnoticed", stated John Harmon, Law Enforcement Vice President.

V

valor [val-er] *noun*
 boldness or determination in facing
 great danger; heroic courage; bravery

VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS



Clarence Fisher, Southern Region VP and CO Jose Candelario

CO Jose Candelario, Sing Sing CF

CO Jose Candelario, Sing Sing CF, came upon an accident involving a motorcycle and a truck. The motorcycle was going at a very high speed and exploded on impact. Both the bike and truck were engulfed in flames. Officer Candelario pulled CO Hilliard and another occupant away from the truck. He then performed CPR on CO Hilliard until the paramedics arrived. Sadly, CO Hilliard did not survive the accident.

CO Jose Candelario's bravery and quick response in such a dire situation went above and beyond his tour of duty.

CO Steve Barr, Riverview CF; and CO Tim Barr, Ogdensburg CF

Two off-duty Correction Officers quickly responded to a woman showing signs of cardiac arrest during a local high school football game. On October 13, 2017, Officer Steve Barr (Riverview Correctional Facility) was watching the Ogdensburg Free Academy football game with his brother, Officer Tim Barr (Ogdensburg Correctional Facility). Officer Steve Barr noticed a woman, who was sitting directly in front of him, in distress. He quickly attended to the woman and realized that she was experiencing an apparent cardiac event. Officer Steve Barr was able to detect a faint pulse, but both Officers realized that the woman was not breathing and required life-saving measures. Using their training, Officer Tim Barr administered CPR while Officer Steve Barr retrieved an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Medical personnel responded to the scene and assumed treatment of the woman. She regained regular breathing and appeared awake and alert while medical personnel readied her for transport to a local hospital.



CO Steve Barr; John Roberts, Northern Region VP and CO Tim Barr

"I would like to commend both Officers for their quick response to the medical emergency that occurred at the local football game in Ogdensburg. Both Brothers recognized that the patron was in distress and, without hesitation, used their years of first-response training to assess the medical situation and administer CPR. Their immediate response provided crucial assistance and care until medical personnel arrived. We commend the quick thinking of two of our Brothers and hope for a speedy and full recovery after this local football game took a frightening turn." – John Roberts, NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.



Michael Powers, NYSCOPBA President; Mike Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Vice President; Valor Award Recipient Gilbert "Butch" Wilson, CO, Green Haven CF; Sean Carlson, Chief Sector Steward, Green Haven CF

CO Gilbert Wilson, Green Haven CF

On January 25, 2017, Correction Officer Gilbert Wilson from Green Haven Correctional Facility was aboard JetBlue Flight #548 from Tampa Florida to White Plains NY. While the plane was in flight, an emotionally disturbed passenger got up from her seat and attempted to open the main cabin door. She was quickly subdued by another passenger. The flight crew publicly announced that they needed an able-bodied passenger to help and Officer Wilson answered the call immediately. Officer Wilson agreed to sit with the emotionally disturbed passenger and kept her restrained so that she would not harm herself or others. He also employed outstanding communication skills which kept the passenger calm. Once on the ground, after the flight had declared an emergency and diverted to Jacksonville Florida, Officer Wilson was the consummate professional with Airport Police and the FBI. He gave a very clear picture of what had occurred to FBI Special Agent Silverstein and other investigating agents. His actions were swift and helped de-escalate a potentially hazardous situation.

The above situation was reported to DOCCS by FBI Special Agent Alex Silverstein. Officer Wilson has performed above and beyond his call of duty and is therefore recommended to receive the NYSCOPBA Valor Award.