

# THE Independent

June 2020

**2020  
STATEWIDE  
ELECTIONS**



**EDITION**

**SPECIAL**

**MEET THE  
CANDIDATES**



## New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

102 Hackett Boulevard- Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 427-1551 [www.nyscopba.org](http://www.nyscopba.org) [nyscopba@nyscopba.org](mailto:nyscopba@nyscopba.org)



TO: All Members

FROM: Heath Allen, Election Committee Chairman

RE: Positioning of names on ballot and in The Independent

DATE: June 8, 2020

Please find a copy of the positioning of candidates for the election ballot and The Independent for NYSCOPBA's upcoming Executive Board Elections.

Also below is the list of people who witnessed the positioning process, which consisted of a blind draw. If you should have any questions concerning the process, please contact the Election Committee at 888-484-7279.

### PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE DURING BLIND DRAW FOR POSITIONING OF THE CANDIDATES ON THE ELECTION BALLOT AND IN THE INDEPENDENT

#### ELECTION COMMITTEE

Heath Allen  
Tonney Vachaparambil  
Darrin Fitch  
Josh Powers  
Stephen Cox

#### WITNESSES

Stephanie Flanagan  
John Roberts

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**\*\*\*Please note Ballots will be mailed on August 3, 2020\*\*\***

If you have not received a ballot by August 10, 2020 or are in need of a replacement ballot, please contact:

The American Arbitration Association  
1-800-529-5218  
Monday – Friday (9:00 am – 5:00pm)  
or email: [uleros@adr.org](mailto:uleros@adr.org)



# New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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## **ELECTION BALLOT/ INDEPENDENT POSITIONING OF CANDIDATES**

**\*\* Please note that the positioning of all names was done by a blind draw\*\***

### **PRESIDENT- UNOPPOSED**

1. Michael B. Powers

### **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Tammy Sawchuk
2. Kevin Donnelly
3. Darin Fitch

### **TREASURER**

1. Joe Horacek
2. Robert Stevens
3. Frank Gilbo
4. Doug Westervelt

### **RECORDING SECRETARY -UNOPPOSED**

1. Chris Summers

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Alexander Eller
2. John Harmon, Jr.

### **WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT - UNOPPOSED**

1. Mark DeBurgomaster

### **CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Bryan Hluska
2. Christopher Fear

### **NORTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT- UNOPPOSED**

1. John Roberts

### **SERGEANTS LIAISON**

1. Mike Morosey
2. William Sellers

### **SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Dave Luther
2. Paul Mikołajczyk

### **MID-HUDSON REGION VICE PRESIDENT- UNOPPOSED**

1. Chris Moreau



MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT



#### Personal Information

Name: *Michael B. Powers*

Position Sought: *President*

Facility: *Riverview*

Seniority: *5/14/1990*

#### Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

It has been an honor to serve the members of NYSCOPBA as their President.

In these trying times there is much to accomplish and having the experience to deal with many a crisis, allows me to serve the members with that experience.

With the state senate leadership changing from Republican to Democrat - I have been able to establish a solid relationship with the Democratic Senate Leader and in the Speaker of the Assembly. Through those relationships I have been successful in obtaining the following legislation since 2017.

- A Military buy back bill
- OMH assault reporting requirements
- Additional paid leave for combat veterans for health-related Services
- Death Gamble passed in both houses two years in a row, with more work to do.
- Calls to Action via membership

I spearheaded efforts in killing and preventing legislation from coming to fruition from some very anti-law enforcement NYC legislators.

- Killed the Halt bill last year in the Senate by our countless hours of lobbying
- Killed 50-A last year - and attempting to do the same this year
- Orchestrated a strong public campaign against the Governor for the release of cop killers and violent felons, which ultimately got the attention of the Governor's office
- Most recently killed a Senate bill that would have released inmates in the event of a national pandemic such as COVID, or a natural disaster.
- Killed the Ombudsman Legislation

Successful in getting DOCCS to stop Visits and Transportation at the height of the COVID pandemic. Pushed to have double bunks removed during COVID and will pursue permanent removal - as well as pushing to place inmates in every other cell/cube to proper social distance, allowing for re-opening of consolidated dorms and to offset facility closures.

I am asking for your support.

Thank you.

UNOPPOSED



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# VICE PRESIDENT



## Personal Information

Name: Tammy Sawchuk

Position Sought: Executive Vice President

Facility: Greene Correctional Facility

Seniority: December 27, 1994

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

**Education and Experience:** Courses in public policy, industrial labor studies certifications from SUNY Albany, Cornell, Rutgers, Murphy Institute; 26 years combined experience as an officer, sergeant, steward, and CSS, member of the PAC and SHU Taskforce in medium and maximum facilities; Chair of J&E, and six years as Executive Vice President.

**Passionate Advocacy:** No one has brought awareness and advocated for support for Suicide Awareness and Prevention than me and I will continue to do so. I am pleased to sit on the Joint L/M Committee to advocate for Quality of Work Life improvements and Tuition Reimbursement for all members. I have been privileged to be an annual keynote speaker at Women in Corrections. I support the membership and their families by attending memorial services, fund raiser, and every event possible because **EVERY member matters.**

No one needs to remind you that these are tough times. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we have experienced leadership. I faced the crisis of COVID-19 head on and well before the state reacted. I utilized established relationships on the state and media fronts to garner the necessary changes to protect our members. Unfortunately, tough times will continue ahead. As EVP and member of this organization, I will continue to advocate every day for our members.

We are facing unprecedented times which call for strong leadership, experience, continuity and stability in times of crisis. During my tenure as EVP, I have been called upon to ensure operations continue through many changes to the Executive Board, including retirements, promotions and illness in accordance with the Constitutional duty as the overseer of the organization. It has been my experience that has enabled me to step in when needed.

**When you vote for me, you are voting for experience, advocacy, and strong leadership!**



MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

# VICE PRESIDENT



## Personal Information

Name: Kevin Donnelly

Position Sought: Executive Vice President

Facility: Cocksackie Correctional

Seniority: 12/2/1996

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

I am Kevin Donnelly and I am running to be the next Executive Vice President of NYSCOPBA.

I, like many of my sisters and brothers, have reached a level of frustration with our Department and our Governor. We have sat by for far too long as the Governor and Department have systematically made our jobs even more dangerous. I believe it is time for things to change. And I want to be the voice of that change.

I have nearly 20 years of Union Steward experience at Cocksackie. I have been an active member of the Executive Assembly for many years. I have also served on the Collective Bargaining, Health and Welfare, Grievance and Legal, and Judicial and Ethics Committies.

I will fight for our members rights and benefits... the members who work in the facilities every day. I have the experience, knowledge, and drive to fight for ALL our brave sisters and brothers.

I would like the opportunity to be your next Executive Vice President of NYSCOPBA so I can work hard for the membership that deserves nothing less than total committment, total accountability, and total dedication from their elected officials. I pledge that to you.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# VICE PRESIDENT

## Personal Information



Name: Darin Fitch

Position Sought: Executive Vice president

Facility: Mohawk C.F.

Seniority: 6/11/07

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

My brothers and sisters: I have served as a local steward, local recording secretary and as central regions election committee representative. I come from a family of state and county correctional officers. It runs in my blood. In my thirteen years with the Department of Corrections, I have witnessed the disciplinary system be destroyed by out of touch politicians and administrators. I have seen our members subjected to over authoritative and demeaning behavior by administrators who have either forgotten what it's like working in our position or who never actually worked there in the first place. I believe at some point we lost our way and started listening too much to the lawyers who have used us as political steppingstones to further their own agendas. It is time to end this! We have given back to communities that have forgotten us and only see us portrayed on their television as villains while the true monsters we keep at bay are cast as heroes. The state's current leadership needs to be reminded that for every inmate, offender and criminal there are victims. If you allow me to serve you, know that I will be accessible to our members on more than just social media. I plan to visit as many facilities, offices and stations as possible to understand and assist with our members issues. Thank you all for the work you do and the sacrifices you and your families make every day.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# TREASURER



## Personal Information

Name: Joe Horacek

Position Sought: Treasurer

Facility: Greene C.F.

Seniority: April 2, 2007

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

In the past 5 years I have become very involved with the union, formerly serving as Treasurer and currently as the Chief Sector Steward at Greene Correctional Facility. I strive to make the facility safer for all employees while keeping the rights of the membership a most important consideration. I have experienced many interactions with NYSCOPBA executives—mostly centered around concerns for members while attempting to positively affect the department.

During my tenure I've developed growing concerns over the current spending habits of NYSCOPBA and believe there is a need to reassess our financial structure. It is imperative we start investing in the great men and women that make up this organization rather than supporting lighthearted ideals that totally disregard the need to create relationships with communities in which we live and work. It is paramount that we build NYSCOPBA as a recognizable brand that reaches out and partnerships with communities to help educate and assist in building stronger ties through various support groups. I know I can make a difference in helping to change the current societal views toward us by shining a positive light on the values we hold true.

If elected, I would spend my time making our money and efforts work for all of us. We, the members, are a driving force and keeping our interests in the forefront is of the utmost importance and my number one priority. I am fully aware that this organization can thrive, and I am willing to put forth insurmountable effort to make that happen.

Please like and follow on Facebook  
Joe Horacek for NYSCOPBA Treasurer 2020



MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

## TREASURER



## Personal Information

Name: Robert Stevens

Position Sought: Treasurer

Facility: Mohawk Correctional Facility

Seniority: September 13, 2010

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Fellow Members,

I humbly ask for your vote to be your Treasurer. I am currently the Sector Treasurer at Mohawk CF and have held that position for nearly 4 years.

During that time, I have made improvements to our Sector. When the Labor/Management Grant Program ran out of money, I led efforts to pass motions to utilize our Special Sector Funds to keep replacing appliances at Members' posts throughout the Facility.

I began utilizing our Office Supply Budget for the first time to its maximum potential. For years, our Sector's office had been reduced to a dump for paperwork. The fax machine was so old, its manufacturer didn't make ink cartridges for it anymore. The telephone was stamped "Bell System Property - Not For Sale"

It is now an organized, functioning office with all the modern amenities necessary to do the Members' business.

I streamlined our Sector's documentation process by making all submissions via the NYSCOPBA website. Our sector routinely receives Statements with no missing documentation. In many cases, documentation is submitted before the checks are cashed.

When the Labor/Management Grant program was resumed, I secured grants to purchase new appliances, exercise equipment and to replace the roof on our QWL Building. Grants to install air conditioning and pave the parking lot of our QWL are still pending.

I have also been thinking beyond the Sector level. At the March 2020 Executive Assembly Meeting, I introduced an amendment to the NYSCOPBA Constitution Committee to create a special fund to be used by the Union solely to protect the NYS Retirement System from further degradation and raiding by greedy politicians and the courts.

As your Treasurer, I would bring the same streamlining, foresight and meticulous fiscal management I brought to the Mohawk Sector with me for the benefit of the entire Membership.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# TREASURER



## Personal Information

Name: FRANK GILBO  
 Position Sought: TREASURER  
 Facility: MORIAH SHOCK  
 Seniority: DECEMBER 5, 1994

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hello, my name is Frank Gilbo. I reside in Port Henry with my wife and two children. I have a degree from Clinton Community College in Criminal Justice. I have worked at Sing Sing, Great Meadow and Moriah Shock. It has been a pleasure serving as your Treasurer for the last two years. While we are in unprecedented times in NYSCOPBA history, I am proud to announce that we currently have the largest Warchest in our History! Thanks to wise investing and fiscal planning we have over 16 Million in our coffers, even with increasing the Special sector funding to \$39(from \$35) per member! When I took office, the Rainy Day fund was at 0 Dollars...now I can say we have 1.5 million and growing! Every Rainy Day Fund recipient has fully repaid or is in a payment plan. We also have a dedicated Rainy Day Separation fund to repay the retirees for their contributions according to the plan's original language. During my term I have received clean Audit opinions from an outside Auditor, as always, we have clear and transparent books and records available for all members to review. I have also set up our Bonds to mature using a "ladder" system starting in 2021, so we have 1 bond maturing every year up to 2029. This ensures yearly cash flow if needed for tough times. I would say this Executive Board has faced unprecedented problems, but working together we have solved them for the benefit of our members. Be assured, in these trying times, that your dues money is being used for your benefit and invested wisely! As always, I am available to assist you and answer any questions you may have. Thank You for your continued support. Stay Safe and God Bless!

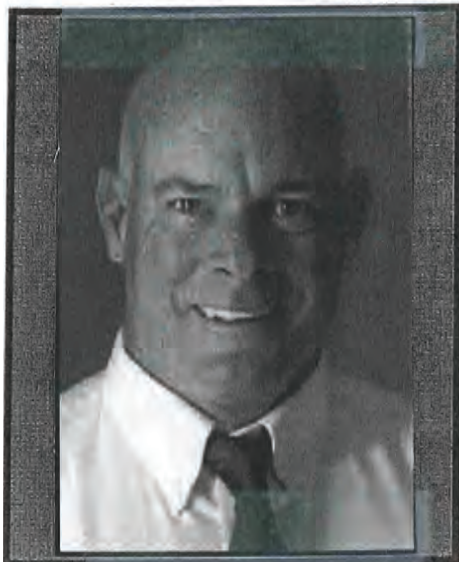




MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

## TREASURER

## Personal Information



Name: DOUG WESTERVELT

Position Sought: TREASURER

Facility: SOUTHPORT

Seniority: 08/10/1987

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Brothers & Sisters,

I'm Doug Westervelt from Southport Correctional Facility and I am seeking your vote for the position of Treasurer.

I have been in the Department of Corrections for almost 33 years and have been the Chief Steward of Southport C.F. for 12 years and a Steward for the past 3 years. I currently serve on the Finance Committee for my Region and have served on the SHU Task Force since its inception until 2018. I have always had a strong voice for the Membership and have never been afraid to address or confront anyone to make sure the Members voices are heard.

I am a graduate of Mansfield University with a 4 year degree in Criminal Justice and Administration and for the past 33 years I have run a successful construction business where I have managed estimates, vendors, bids, billing, payroll and employees. I believe with my education and my experience with running a business combined with my knowledge of N.Y.S.C.O.B.A.'s finances I will be a benefit to the members if elected as Treasurer.

Dealing with the finances of N.Y.S.C.O.B.A. and the details of the Treasurers duties are a huge responsibility and are not to be taken lightly. Ensuring N.Y.S.C.O.B.A. remains solvent so the Membership can benefit and grow financially will always be my number one goal. Ultimately the union exists to serve the Membership and by developing and following a sound financial plan I will strive to keep us as a union moving forward so N.Y.S.C.O.B.A. is around to serve its Members for many years to come.

I ask that when you cast your vote for Treasurer you consider me.

In Unity,



MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

RECORDING SECRETARY



#### Personal Information

Name: Chris Summers

Position Sought: NYSCOPBA Recording Secretary

Facility: Attica Correctional Facility

Seniority: January 24, 2005

#### Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

To the Bravest men and women who work the frontlines of one of the hardest careers there is, I am seeking your vote as NYSCOBPA Recording Secretary.

It has been an honor to serve you the last three years as your Recording Secretary. During my time in office I have toured 50 worksites. My goal was to visit everyone; but due to the coronavirus pandemic, I was unable to do so because the Department denied my gate clearance(s).

I believe I have shown my dedication to the membership and their needs by always trying to make myself available.

I have 15 years of service and have a vested interest in seeing our members prosper from equitable contracts. Holding the Department & State accountable when they do not follow their own directives and policies or uphold the contract that was negotiated.

Prior to & during this pandemic you have seen how little this department & Governor thinks of you, your safety & your economic wellbeing.

UNIFIED, I believe that we can accomplish all that needs to be done to secure a safe working environment; benefits and gain the respect that we deserve.

Watch each other's back and stay safe during these dangerous times.

In unity,  
Chris Summers



UNOPPOSED

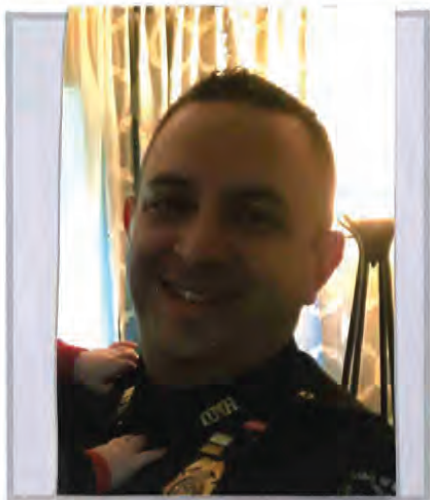




MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

LAW ENFORCEMENT V.P.

## Personal Information



Name: ALEXANDER ELLER

Position Sought: LAW ENFORCEMENT VP

Facility: CENTRAL NY PSYCHIATRIC CENTER

Seniority: 14 YEARS (JANUARY 2006)

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Dear brothers and sisters,

My name is Alexander Eller and I am running for the position of NYSCOPBA's Law Enforcement Vice President. I have served as both an officer and a sergeant for the NYS Office of Mental Health for over 14 years. I have also had the honor of serving as a union steward from 2017 – 2019. Along with my position as sergeant, I currently hold the title of Director of Academy Training for the NYS OMH Peace Officer Academy. I am certified as a law enforcement general topics instructor. I also hold special certifications in Ethics, Use of Physical Force & Deadly Physical Force, OC Spray, Defensive Tactics, and other areas.

I feel that we, as members of law enforcement, have a responsibility to keep members of our campuses and communities safe from those that would attempt to cause them harm. In order to do that, we need to be provided the equipment to enable us to do our jobs as safely as possible; so that we can return home to our families unscathed. I believe the most appropriate way to do that is to educate not only management, but the commissioners of the various agencies that employ us, and the legislators who attempt to speak on our behalf. I can be that person who advocates for each and every one of us, in order to achieve the various goals that NYSCOPBA has been working on for their law enforcement sector over the past several years.

I have worked tirelessly in my current position to fight for our members. If you choose to vote for me this election, we can create positive change for all of our NYSCOPBA Law Enforcement members. We can be stronger together. Thank you.



## MEET THE CANDIDATES

# LAW ENFORCEMENT V.P.



Name: John Harmon Jr.

Position Sought: Law Enforcement Vice President

Facility: Central New York Psychiatric Center

Seniority: 1999

Dear Law Enforcement Members:

I am asking for your support to be re-elected as your Law Enforcement Vice President.

There is nothing greater than helping and achieving success with our Law Enforcement Membership. Together, we have accomplished many great outcomes by stopping members from losing their livelihoods and keeping facilities from closing. I have always been honest and true to every one of you with nothing but hard work to ensure that all Law Enforcement Members are fairly represented.

I have and will always promise all of you that I will continue the fight to ensure your rights are protected and management is held accountable for their actions or lack thereof. I have always taken pride that by working with our union representatives and communicating with membership that many agencies and facilities know that they must work with NYSCOPBA instead of against us.

Several of the accomplishments achieved over the last few years are:

- As promised, **negotiated the CO salary schedule for all LE Members.**
- Saved many facilities from closing and members from being displaced including MidHudson Forensic PC saving 300 NYSCOPBA positions and multiple OPWDD facilities saving over 100 SSO positions.
- Introduced the most LE only legislation in NYSCOPBA's history. Including having SHTA Peace Officer and OMH Forensic Assault Reporting signed into law with prioritizing full-time 24hr Peace Officer powers and ¾ Disability for SSOs in the state legislature that have garnered support.
- Set up the only appeal process to help members fight the Justice Center.
- LE Membership has increased due to pressures especially on OMH, OPWDD and SUNY to hire.

There are no guarantees during these difficult times, but there is one if you reelect me. A proven Leader that always works and fights for you.

John Harmon Jr. – Law Enforcement Vice President



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# WESTERN REGION V.P.



## Personal Information

Name: **Mark DeBurgomaster**

Position Sought: **Western Region Vice President**

Facility: **Southport CF**

Seniority: **09/18/2000**

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

To my Brothers and Sisters of the Western Region,

My name is Mark DeBurgomaster and I am seeking to be re-elected as your Western Region Vice President.

In December of 2019 I was honored to become the Western Region Vice President and complete the term for this position. With over 19 years in the Department and 16 years of experience at the local level serving as a Steward, Chief Steward, and the region's representative on the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, I already knew what our region expected from their Regional Vice President and I felt confident I could meet the expectations and demands of the job.

Moving forward we have so much to address with the State and DOCCS; their lack of respect for us as Corrections Officers & Sergeants, the work we perform every day with flawed policies and directives, their disregard for our Contract, and all while we face the constant threat of closures. These are only some examples that need a strong voice to fight against their indifference.

I'm not known for being politically correct and I'm not a politician. My only concern is the representation of our region's members. Everything else comes second. I make only one promise and that's to always put you, the member, first to ensure your voice is heard.

Our region is made up of over 6,200+ members who demand their Regional Vice President stand up for them and fight. It has been my privilege to serve you these past 7 months doing just that. I respectfully ask when you cast your vote for Western Region Vice President you consider me as your choice.

In Unity

Mark DeBurgomaster  
(mdeburgo@Hotmail.com)

# UNOPPOSED



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# CENTRAL REGION V.P.



## Personal Information

Name: Bryan Hluska

Position Sought: Central Region Vice President

Facility: Mohawk C.F.

Seniority: 6/26/06

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Brothers and sisters I'm seeking your vote to be your Central Region Vice President. I am your current VP and have been in the position for nine short months. Before that I was a steward at Mohawk CF for 6 years, 4 of those as Chief Steward. I previously held a seat on the recall committee and I'm currently the chairman of the OSI oversight committee.

While chief at Mohawk, I made the memberships' concerns, issues and contractual rights my top priority and I have brought that initiative to the entire central region.

While your Vice President, I have used the media countless times to educate the public of our struggles with the department. I've made calls when I needed to, to your administrations, Assistant Commissioners and have worked closely with our local politicians to get our message to the department. I have kept the membership informed of any changes, progress and issues that have arisen. I have toured all jails and plan on touring the jails every three months, recently with the COVID-19 pandemic I was unable to because my gate passes were denied by the department.

I have worked closely with your local sectors and I am in contact with your chief stewards on a weekly basis. Even during the pandemic I held zoom meetings weekly to stay abreast of any problems that were occurring in the facilities so I could address them. I will continue to work with the local sectors as a team and you can rest assured that our region now has a voice to stand up for us.

The officers that work the compounds are the backbone of this Union and your issues are my issues. Every. Single. Day I will not forget any of you, nor will I forget where I came from.



MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

## CENTRAL REGION V.P.



## Personal Information

Name: Christopher Fear

Position Sought: Central Region Vice President

Facility: Midstate Correctional

Seniority: June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1998**Personal Essay- Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped**

My name is Chris Fear I graduated from Holland Patent central school in 1992 with a regents Math Science diploma. I studied in the fields of accounting, economics, and business management at Mohawk Valley Community college. I've worked for the department since June 1998 at Greenhaven, Auburn, and Midstate. I've been a union steward since 2015 and currently serve as treasurer for Midstate's local and I hold a seat on the finance committee in Albany.

As I've worked for the department, I've witnessed countless changes, none of which have resulted into better conditions or treatment of our members.

As Central Region Vice President I will fight to improve our conditions and treatment by management, by being our voice in Albany and seeking avenues to get our perspective to be known both legislatively and publicly. I believe that through social media and a strong P.R. campaign we can have significant dialogue with local legislators throughout our region and state that would help get our voices heard in the halls of Albany.

If elected I vow to do everything possible to protect everyone, from the new officer, to the seasoned veteran, to the sergeants we represent from both internal and external forces. I will do all that I can to stand with members who are in danger and attempt to guide us through tumultuous times where media portrays us as the "bad guys."

I'll seek avenues to secure us better options in retirement like enhancement to tier V and VI plans or 30 year 60 percent. I will stand by the side of our membership, those who are brought up on disciplinary charges, those who need guidance, and those who just need an ear. My door will always be open.

In solidarity I thank you for your consideration for Central Region V.P.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# NORTHERN REGION V.P.



## Personal Information

Name: John Roberts

Position Sought: Northern Region Vice President

Facility: Clinton

Seniority: 12-03-07

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

### Re-Elect John Roberts as your Northern Region VP

It has been an honor serving as your Northern Region Vice President. In 2017, I asked you to elect me because it was time for a change. I promised to lead our members on a united front to address issues affecting our members and families. In the last three years I was able to do this by developing and strengthening relationships within DOCCS, local politicians, and media outlets. These relationships are necessary to achieve the goals of our members and address issues that arise daily.

Since 2017, I have handled dozens of successful arbitrations, been a part of hundreds of OSI Q&A's, and successfully negotiated the return of our members to work while off duty criminal charges remain pending. I have been able to utilize my knowledge of the contract to the fullest advantage for our members. I have done this by regularly challenging members' suspensions through the suspension appeal processes and exercising our members' right to an expedited arbitration process. Additionally, I have remained an active voice in the media promoting not only our members and unions achievements, but to make sure the community knows when DOCCS or the Governor make decisions that are against our members. I also remain in regular contact with our local politicians to ensure our members voices from the Northern Region are in fact being relayed and heard in Albany.

Challenges remain ahead for our members. Potential jail closures being one. I will continue to be a voice that promotes the Northern Region and make sure our objections are heard.

I have been available to all members 24/7. I will continue to have the members' best interest in mind and will fight non-stop to achieve our goals if you re-elect me as the Northern Region Vice-President.

# UNOPPOSED



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# SERGEANTS LIAISON



## Personal Information

Name: **MIKE MOROSEY**

Position Sought: **SERGEANT LIAISON**

Facility: **COLLINS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

Seniority: **9-12-05 SGT 3-18-19**

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

I have been a union steward since 2014, and was elected to chief sector steward in 2015. I held that position until I promoted to sergeant and then became a sergeant representative. Our group of stewards turned the local union into a super effective, organized local which led to our membership being active in all phases of our union. As a chief sector steward, I've been through countless interrogations and arbitrations in which many of the members involved were sergeants.

The sergeant job duties in facilities have changed dramatically since our last election; the paperwork has skyrocketed, additional investigations, and an increased scrutiny in every decision made. I believe that the Sergeant Liaison position should be working diligently to reduce all of those.

As the Sergeant Liaison, I will be extremely active in every aspect of the position. Whether it's streamlining the promotion process to aid new sergeants, informing current sergeants of the upcoming changes in their duties, and being involved when a sergeant is under interrogation or arbitration.

As the department changes, it brings many new issues and challenges that we as sergeants are faced with. I have fought hard at my facility to implement needed change with great results. I promise that I will be a vocal and visual advocate to bring change for us all.

In Unity,

Mike Morosey



MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

## SERGEANTS LIAISON



## Personal Information

Name: William Sellers  
 Position Sought: Sergeant Liaison  
 Facility: Ogdensburg C.F.  
 Seniority: 9/24/84

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

My Name is Bill Sellers and I have had the Distinct honor of serving AS your Sergeant Liaison For the last 4 years. I have more than 35 years of State Service, 13 of those years are at the rank of Sergeant. My home Facility is Ogdensburg C.F. Other Facilities I have worked at are Clinton, Sing Sing, Albion, Bedford Hills, Woodbourne, AND Gouverneur.

I was Elected to my first Union Position in 1987. Helping members navigate through the Disciplinary System and making sure every member receives due process has been a passion to me. Honesty and Integrity are traits that I bring to all situations I encounter. I represent all members fairly and equally. Knowledge and experience are qualities you can depend on.

I am 59 years old and I still have the fire and desire it takes to get the job done. I promise that I will give 100 percent dedication to all members of NYSOPBA.

I graciously ask for your vote so I can continue the high honor of representing the Sergeants of NYSOPBA.

Thank You Bill Sellers



MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

## SOUTHERN REGION V.P.

**Personal Information**

Name: Dave Luther

Position Sought: Southern Region Vice President

Facility: Sing Sing / Southern Region Vice President

Seniority: October 17, 1994

**Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped**

I am currently the Southern Region Vice President and by the time the election is concluded, I will have served the Southern Region as Business Agent and Vice President for 2 years. In that period of time I have been able to:

\*I selected and with the confirmation of the Chief Stewards, from all our region, appointed the first Woman Business Agent in NYSCOPBA history. This created a fair representation of the diversity of our region.

\*I lobbied and secured Photo and Fingerprint equipment for Taconic Correctional Facility.

\*I lobbied and secured Chemical agents for every post at Edgecombe Correctional Facility.

\* I have lobbied and fought against the HALT Legislation and lobbied against the practice of double bunking. I have toured all our facilities with a multitude of Senators and Assembly persons to prove why these issues are not good for our members.

\* I have requested and waiting to schedule Suicide Prevention Training and PTSD Training for all the Stewards in the Southern Region.

\*During the Pandemic I tracked and reached out to as many members as possible to give them direction as to the ever changing policies being sent to us by the Department.

\* I return every call, text or email that I receive. Availability and Communication makes the world of difference. I spoke to Stewards and Administration every day.

\*I have been working with Administration to have Plexiglas shields in all our visit process areas to help against the threat of COVID 19 infections.

\* I become personally involved in every NOD and work to get the best outcome for our members. As of this date we have not lost one member due to an arbitration decision.

I would like to continue our fight and continue to represent the members of the Southern Region.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# SOUTHERN REGION V.P.



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## Personal Information

Name: Paul Mikolajczyk  
 Position Sought: SOUTHERN REGION V.P.  
 Facility: SING SING PRISON  
 Seniority: STARTED 7/24/89

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Just 21 years ago, we brought an idea forward, our UNION should for its members. Brake Pattern Bargaining stop Contractual Give Backs & Not Accept any Zero's. That's just what we achieved with NYSCOPBA.

Until 2009, since then we have jumped right back to what I like call (Collective Begging).

Since 2009 & though our current contract. With zero's & give backs, our salary will increase 25% in 14 years, (1.71% per average). Our location pay will increase 13% over 14years. 7 ZEROS' to Expanded Duty Pay & Shift differential for our current contract.

These are some of the reasons I am asking you the members to reelect me to office. I am the only candidate that was there from the beginning, fighting for our independence,

My plan going forward.

I will fight for contracts that are at least equivalent to other correction officer /jailor's here in New York. I will fight until we pay no more for our health insurance, than lowest amount paid, by any other correction officer/jailor's in our state. The dangerous profession of being of bring a correctional officer is hard on bodies & there is no reason why the state should dilute our workman's compensation benefits. I aim to stop this & attempt to restore benefits we are currently losing.

I will continue to fight for better equipment & advanced training along with open practice time on our rifle ranges, so members can become proficient with our firearms. I will seek a computer program for the assigning of Overtime, that will have accountability for all.

I will fight for a Disability retirement that is equivalent to other agencies

I promise you the member this, I will not lie, mislead or hide issues from you. I will give it to you straight and clear.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

# MID-HUDSON REGION V.P.



## Personal Information

Name: Chris Moreau

Position Sought: Mid-Hudson Regional Vice President

Facility: Green Haven Correctional Facility

Seniority: April 1st, 2013

## Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

First I'd like to congratulate Mike Mazzella on his up-coming retirement, but more importantly thank him for his decades of service to our members, not just locally, but across the state.

My name is Chris Moreau. I'm the Chief Sector Steward at Green Haven C.F., and I'm asking that you consider me to serve as your next Mid-Hudson Regional VP. I'm not asking that you do so blindly. I've worked side-by-side with many of your local Sector Stewards and Chief Sector Stewards who can attest to my dedication to the Region.

Locally, as CSS, I've helped members navigate through our Disciplinary Process, being there for them during interrogations, grievance hearings and arbitration. I've fought with numerous Administrations to improve working conditions within the facility. I'm proud of the help I've provided my members at GHCF, in addition to my relentless effort to keep them informed as to the happenings throughout the state.

Regionally, as well as on the State level, I'm very active in NYS politics. I serve NYSCOPBA's Legislative Department as a member of the Political Action Committee. I'm also a member of Assemblymen Colin Schmitt's Law Enforcement Advisory Council. I'm in constant contact with State and Local Legislators in an attempt to lobby their support for our membership. Additionally, I serve on NYSCOPBA's 'OSI Oversight Committee', tasked with pointing out and rectifying any improprieties the State's Investigative unit may use against our brothers and sisters.

As a member of the Executive Assembly I've prioritized increased transparency at the Executive level and will continue to do so as your Regional VP. Its time we re-energize the membership and start steering the Union in a more aggressive direction, and with your blessing, I'd like my hands on the wheel.

Be smart, be safe, watch backs.

In Unity,

Chris Moreau



# UNOPPOSED







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NYSCOPBA's Office on 102 Hackett Blvd.

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## Who We Are

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, Warrant & Transfer Officers, Security Hospital Treatment Assistants, Institutional Safety Officers and State Police Communications Specialists.

