

Prison News and News Articles About / For Correction Officers: { Page 33 }

ARTICLE LIST:

[Prisoners deserve access to courts](#)
[Latin Kings kingpin gets 12 1/2 years](#)
[State unions raise stakes for Pataki](#)
[State worker says bosses retaliated](#)
[A TRICK GEORGE LEARNED FROM MARIO](#)
[Recovery of PAC funds](#)
[CSEA OFFICERS MUST STAND UP TO STATE](#)
[Support Of Civil Service Up-Grade-Heart Bill-Contract](#)
[PEF renews protests against Pataki](#)
[NYSCOPBA Proposes Anti-School Violence Plan
To Council 82 on Dismissal of Upgrade Application](#)
[Attacks prompt prison lockdown](#)

[Back to the Titles](#)

Prisoners deserve access to courts

Editorial

The Times Hearld-**Record** 6/16/99

Governor Pataki's campaign against prisoners' rights (yes, they have some) was ratched up last week when he proposed making them pay fees to file lawsuits. He says they have had a free pass to the courts and it's time to treat them like everybody else.

Hogwash.

For starters, prisoners aren't like everyone else. Most of them don't have any money for lawyers. And more to the point, since Pataki eliminated state-funding for Prisoner's Legal Services, most of them don't have access to any lawyers.

The supposed point of the legislation Pataki proposes is to reduce frivolous lawsuits filed by prisoners. But one of the primary accomplishments of Prisoner's Legal Services was to screen out frivolous lawsuits while getting court hearings for prisoners' legitimate complaints. It did this well.

But Pataki's budget ax has resulted in the agency being cut from 62 employees in six locations around the state to four part-time employees in New York City. Since other lawyers haven't picked up the slack,

prisoners are left to themselves and their prison law libraries. Would it be surprising then that frivolous lawsuits would increase?

Pataki says that the prisoners get special treatment by not having to pay, for example, the \$170 filing fee for a civil lawsuit. Or the \$75 to have a judge assigned. Or the \$25 to have a case come to trial. But he does not say where the prisoners should get the money to pay these fees. For most, it will be impossible. That amounts to denying prisoners access to the courts. And that raises the possibility that the state could be taking away the last chance for an innocent person trying to prove he or she has been wrongly convicted.

That is not only unfair, it is uncivilized. Legislators should bury this idea.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Latin Kings kingpin gets 12 1/2 years

The Times Hearld-**Record** 6/16/99

New York (AP) - The deposed leader of the Latin Kings, after apologizing to his family, friends and followers, was sentenced yesterday to 12 1/2 years in prison for conspiring to deal cocaine and heroin.

Antonio "King Tone" Fernandez, 32, stood with his head bowed as U.S. District Judge Reena Raggi handed down sentence in Brooklyn. It was the minimum term that Fernandez faced; the judge could have added another 27 months.

Fernandez, in a mismatched blue prison uniform, admitted his role in the conspiracy before addressing the court and about two dozen Kings in the audience. Fernandez, who had vowed to convert the Kings from a street gang into a socially concious organization, apologized for betraying his backers.

"I'm responsible for my actions," Fernandez said in a soft voice. "I want to thank the community for their support, and say I'm sorry. I'm sorry we didn't reach our goals. I want to tell my family I'm sorry."

At the end of the 20-minute hearing, Fernandez was lead from the second-floor courtroom by federal marshals.

He raised a clenched fist to his supporters, and they returned the gesture or flashed back the Kings' crown symbol.

Fernandez's attorney, radical lawyer Ronald Kuby, hugged the defendant before leaving. Kuby had stood with his hand on his client's shoulder when Raggi pronounced the sentence.

[Back to the Titles](#)

State unions raise stakes for Pataki

I'll tell you when I knew a disaster was brewing.

That was late last year, after the Legislature gave itself a 38 percent raise and, at the same time, heaped big raises on the governor and his commissioners. I wrote that I was for that -- that none of these people

had received a raise in a decade and that the 38 percent was comparable to what the average state worker had gotten during that period.

Sheesh, the screaming I got. Hundreds of state workers called me, furious. They pointed out that, OK, so maybe the average state worker in 1998 was making 38 percent more than the average state worker had made a decade earlier -- and that was the case, by the way; I'd checked with the state comptroller's office.

But, the workers insisted, that was because Gov. George Pataki had slashed the state work force in the mid-1990s, dumping lower-paid workers with less seniority.

"I've been with the state for 18 years," one guy told me. "And I guarantee that I'm not making 38 percent more than I was making 10 years ago. I just went a couple of years with no raise at all, supposedly because the state's finances were screwed up.

"And now these guys do this for themselves?" he fumed. "Wait until union negotiations next year."

So, I wasn't surprised when the contract negotiated between the state and the Civil Service Employees Association went down this spring. The contract called for an 11 percent hike over four years. No way, said the CSEA membership.

So, the union went back to the table to use the framework of what they'd hammered out as a basis for further negotiations. And, basically, the Pataki administration told them to go pound sand.

For months now, negotiations have been at a standstill both with the CSEA and with the Public Employees Federation, the other big state workers union. Union members have taken to the streets with signs and slogans that illustrate their frustration. The other day, the governor spoke in Detroit, telling out-of-staters how ducky everything is in the Empire State under his leadership. Meanwhile, as he spoke, New York state union members were outside, demonstrating against him.

During a lengthy, ill-spent career in the news business, I've been union, and I've been management. In negotiations, the usual drill is for the union to come in and demand a 100 percent increase in everything. The company responds with an offer that would permit workers to go on with their jobs at the same salary and benefits. Then each side gets serious and settles down to business.

Only it seems that the state hasn't gotten serious here. Each side blames the other, of course, but it's hard to see how stalled talks would benefit the union leaderships. If this administration has a plan here, nobody can figure it out.

George Pataki had a great first term in office -- a great first two years, actually. Since then, though, his administration has lumbered along, accomplishing little, and leaving everybody who deals with it with the distinct impression that nobody is really in charge. We're seeing that here, too.

When the crunch came, state workers did their part. They took no raises and saw their numbers depleted in cutbacks. Now, with the state awash in cash and with legislators and top state officials taking big raises for themselves, workers want a decent contract.

By law, the unions can't strike. In a pinch, though, they can go to the Legislature and have a contract imposed on this administration. That hasn't happened in decades.

If this administration doesn't start talking turkey, though, it could come to that.

Contact Dan Lynch at 454-5412

[Back to the Titles](#)

State worker says bosses retaliated

By John O'Brien

A state psychologist claims his bosses retaliated against him for testifying against the state two years ago in a prison guard's civil rights lawsuit.

Louis deBroize is suing the state, prison officials, the director of a state psychiatric facility and the state Office of Mental Health for \$1 million. He claims they removed him from his counseling job at Midstate Correctional Facility in Oneida County because he testified about the psychological effects that prison guard Keith Muller suffered from being exposed to secondhand cigarette smoke.

In 1997, a jury awarded \$420,300 to Muller for being forced to work in smoky areas. A federal judge ordered the state to give Muller his job back. The judge reduced the verdict to \$300,000, plus \$70,000 in back pay.

DeBroize has worked as a psychologist at Central New York Psychiatric Center in Marcy since 1987, and he had been working in the facility's extra service program by counseling inmates at Midstate.

At Muller's trial, he described the psychological effects on Muller of being harassed and constantly exposed to cigarette smoke on the job. Muller was suicidal at one point and resorted to alcohol as a result of the on-the-job stress, deBroize testified.

A couple of months after the verdict, officials at the psychiatric center told deBroize they were not renewing his appointment to the extra service program. DeBroize still works at the psychiatric center.

The facility's director of operations, Bruce Bradigan, told deBroize he was removed to "give some other people a chance at the extra service program," the lawsuit said.

DeBroize had received highly favorable job reviews and was regularly reappointed to the extra service program for years, said his lawyer, Norman Deep.

"It was too coincidental," Deep said.

DeBroize is one of only a few black psychologists who counsel a largely black population of state prison inmates, Deep said.

"I don't think the state can come up with a logical reason to take their one black psychologist out of the position of providing counseling services for inmates," Deep said.

Spokespersons for the state Department of Correctional Services and the state Office of Mental Health declined to comment because deBroize's claim is the subject of a lawsuit.

In the Muller case, the jury found the state illegally retaliated against Muller by firing him for disobeying an order to work in areas that contained secondhand smoke.

Friday, June 25, 1999

[Back to the Titles](#)

A TRICK GEORGE LEARNED FROM MARIO

Gov. Pataki traveled to Detroit on Wednesday to propose a 13-percent federal income tax cut, a leaner-and-meaner federal bureaucracy and a bunch of other nifty stuff presumably meant to broaden his appeal to right-thinking Republicans nationwide. "It wasn't a great speech," reported a local political columnist, "but it was reasonably solid."

Meanwhile, back in Albany, there was no evidence that negotiators were any closer to agreement on a new state budget - fully 84 days into New York's 1999-2000 fiscal year.

This prompts a query: If Pataki can't get his own budgetary ducks into some semblance of a row, what gives him the standing to lecture the nation on fiscal restraint?

What's particularly irksome is not the refusal of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to permit New York to live within what can reasonably be termed its means; that's an old story.

No, it's the growing body of evidence suggesting that Pataki is buying into Silver's irresponsibility - and may well be about to agree to a scheme which would add recurring spending to the budget without identi-fying permanent sources of revenue to support it.

It's called "one-shot" budgeting - a long-standing Albany practice that was raised to an art form by former Gov. Mario Cuomo and, unhappily, embraced by Pataki as well.

"One-shots" go down easily at first - but they're virtually guaranteed to be budget busters at one point or another down the line. It is a mark of the stunning lack of self-discipline exhibited by Pataki and Silver that such gimmicks are even being discussed - though the benefit to each is clear.

Silver gets hundreds of millions of dollars more to spend, which is all he ever wants. Pataki, at the same time, would get to claim that spending growth is being held below the rate of inflation - which would be technically true but actually false.

At this point, it appears that state Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno is the chief impediment to a deal. If he caves in, it's Christmas in June (or July, or August.)

If he doesn't, maybe he ought to go give speeches in Detroit.

New York Post

[Back to the Titles](#)

Recovery of PAC funds

FYI---The following letter was mailed to the law offices of Hinman, Straub, Pigors and Manning on May 20, 1999 and has yet to be responded to. Additional copies have been hand delivered to local NYSCOPBA interim officials at Green Haven CF and I personally gave a copy to Regional Vice

President Diane Davis. To date I have not been responded to by any official at any level or from the law firm. Over \$1,000,000.00 is potentially recoverable from AFSCME either in a class action or on a pro se member by member basis. As a member of NYSCOPBA I requested legal guidance in good faith. This money would be a tremendous boost to a fledgling organization or to it's individual members (an estimated \$40 to \$50 each). I can afford to lose the money but what I can't afford is representation which is not responsive to legitimate inquiry. More than 6 weeks have elapsed since the letter was delivered-more than enough time for the dreaded AFSCME to have squirreled the funds away where they may never be found. I fear we may have fallen asleep at the switch and it cost us a million!!!

May 20, 1999

Mr. William F. Sheehan
Hinman, Straub, Pigors and Manning
121 State Street
Albany, NY 12207-1693

Dear Sir:

This letter is intended to initiate a legal inquiry relative to recovery of unused Political Action Funds currently on deposit with AFSCME Council 82. The funds in question were assessed on the membership as a result of a constitutional amendment of the Council 82 constitution at its 1997 convention. The \$2.00 bi-weekly assessment per member was specific in nature in that it was in addition to the regular dues assessment required of Council 82 members and was deemed "dedicated funds" to be placed on deposit in dedicated bank accounts according to the following schedule - \$1.50 per member to the Political action account and \$0.50 bi-weekly to the Legislative account.

There is no question as to the AFSCME Council 82 ownership of all assets arising from the collection of regular dues up to the cessation of representation on or about May 24, 1999. These regular dues rightfully represent compensation for the operating and administrative costs of Council 82, including distribution of per capita taxes to all locals and to the international union (AFSCME). Any and all of these funds on deposit with AFSCME, Council 82, or the local unions are clearly tracable to the regular dues assessment, and are, therefore, unrecoverable.

Argument does exist for the ownership of the unused portions of the dedicated special assessment. The Political Action Fund and the Legislative Fund, which surely total several hundred thousand dollars and accrues at the rate of over \$50,000 per bi-weekly pay period, are strictly controlled by Internal Revenue Service regulations. They must, by law, be kept segregated from all other union revenue in non interest bearing accounts. Once on deposit in these accounts, no withdrawl is permitted for any other purpose than the dedicated function - in this case, political and legislative action in behalf of the funds contributors. By their very nature, these are services for which the funds must be on deposit before the dedicated usage may be performed.

In this specific case, the collective bargaining unit effectively becomes a TRUSTEE for the said funds as well as the EXECUTOR for their disbursement according to the will of the assessed contributors. Since deficit spending of Political Action Funds is prohibited under Internal Revenue Service rules, disbursement of these funds is a future obligation of the TRUSTEE and EXECUTOR. Argument should be advanced that Council 82 cannot complete these obligations in good faith due to irreconcilable conflicts of interest. Additional argument should be advanced to prohibit assumption of these funds into

the general treasury of Council 82 (for which there exists an Internal Revenue Service prohibition). In light of possible future representational challenges initiated by AFSCME Council 82, it is reasonable to suggest AFSCME Council 82 might be tempted to use the funds in question to finance a political campaign designed to discredit NYSCOPBA. How ironic it would be for the affected membership to be so mis-served by their own contributions.

By virtue of the recently completed representational vote, the affected membership has certified NYSCOPBA as their collective bargaining agent. Aside from everyday organizational and administrative duties, it is a natural extension that this election also passed the torch relating to the TRUSTEESHIP over the unused portion of all the dedicated funds derived from the speial \$2.00 bi-weekly assessment and as EXECUTOR for all future disbursements.

Therefore, I appeal to the legal department of NYSCOPBA to immediately research the legal ramifications of this issue, as outlined above, and pending a favorable finding, to take all necessary legal steps to freeze the specified assets in Council 82's Political Action and Legislative accounts and to pursue all avenues of remedy in the courts to effect transfer of these funds from AFSCME Council 82 to NYSCOPBA.

Sincerely Yours,

Sgt. Donald E. Premo, Jr.
Green Haven Correctional Facility

[Back to the Titles](#)

CSEA OFFICERS MUST STAND UP TO STATE

Letter to the Editor: The Legislative Gazette June 1, 1999

As we New York State public employees enter our second month without a contract, we look for ways to show support for our negotiators at the bargaining table. We want them to know that we are all solidly behind them, for as long as it takes. If there's a rally at the Capital, let's hope there's a big turnout, and most importantly, let's hope that our officers can show the same solidarity that exists among the members.

Four years ago, a similar rally drew a substantial number, though it couldn't live up to the CSEA hype about being the "mother of all protests." After promising solidarity on the steps of the Capitol, our officers caved in the following day, for zeros, and left PEF, Council 82, UUP, and a lot of smaller unions - and their members - on their own.

Is it any wonder that the GOER offers us zeros now? If 2 percent was "a fair deal" according to CSEA ads, then really how much more insulting is a zero? I find only zeros only 2 percent more insulting than the offer CSEA members just rejected, especially in the context of record budget surpluses, and massive raises for the legislature and executive staff. This, after we survived years of give-backs, zeros, layoffs and uncertainty.

Recently eight other unions bought ads calling the first CSEA contract offer a "sellout." Thses people know that CSEA's leadership has traditionally been the weak link, so they can't sit by and let it happen

again. The leaders of PEF, UUP, and the new prison guards union would like to be confident at the negotiating table, knowing that there'll be no cave-ins like in 1995, and even earlier this year from CSEA headquarters.

But can they count on us? It is no secret that CSEA's leadership is still carrying a grudge against PEF for splitting off from us in 1977. Maybe we'd all be better off if PEF's bargaining unit had voted differently back then, but it's over and done with. Ever since, PEF members have demanded results from their officers that they could not achieve at the bargaining table, causing many turnovers in leadership. Mr. Benson knows that he must deliver, but he can't very well if CSEA caves in.

When CSEA members rejected that last offer, nobody was happier than PEF members, except maybe Mr. Benson himself. This old animosity in CSEA headquarters must be eliminated, not just hidden from view. If we're going to work together to achieve honest and fair agreements at the table. It's detrimental to the members. PEF's dramatic walkout when offered zeros was a signal that they will not cave in.

The new prison guards union, NYSCOPBA, will be treated like they have the plague by CSEA's leadership, because they unloaded AFSCME Council 82. No matter that these union members were justified. AFSCME wants this new union to fail miserably, and CSEA may be pressed by AFSCME to help them fail. If they can, even at our own members' expense. There will be no solidarity with this new union from CSEA's current leadership, even though most CSEA members probably wish we could get rid of AFSCME too. AFSCME shafts me!

The prison guards rejected a former contract four years ago, and now their own old corruption union, so the resolve of these guys cannot be questioned. That's good for the rest of us, but they also know that CSEA's leadership is rooting against them, to the detriment of both unions' members.

Mr. Quirk from the NYS Court Officers Association, along with the leaders of seven other unions that bought ads against us, will all get the cold shoulder from CSEA's officers at the rally (if they're even invited) because they dared to buy ads that question publicly the leadership of CSEA. But, thank God they did. It helped get the vote out. CSEA's officers won't be saving them seats at the rally either.

If there's a rally at the Capitol, the members of all these unions SHOULD all be there with their officers making speeches, promising unity and solidarity. But so much of the unity and solidarity is dependent on the leadership of CSEA. Our contract rejection gave our own negotiators some real bargaining power - member resolve, that they haven't had in a long time. It also gave members of these other unions real hope that things might finally change, for the better. CSEA members must make sure that our officers get the same message.

Tell the officers what we want, firm resolve, genuine solidarity, and no cave in. These other unions are willing to stand with us, for as long as it takes. CSEA's members showed they are willing but so must our officers.

Pat Ellis, Albany

[Back to the Titles](#)

Support Of Civil Service Up-Grade-Heart Bill-Contract

gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us

Date: Thursday, July 01, 1999 11:38 AM

Sir,

My name is Michael B. O'Sullivan I am a New York State Correctional Officer I have been now for 15 years 6 months and 24 day's and God willing I will continue in this position for another 9 years 5 months and 7 day's at which time I will have my 25 years needed for retirement. We as New York State Correction Officers recently filed for an Up-Grade which was denied by Civil Service. We then filed an appeal with Civil Service and it has now come to my attention that our appeal was also denied.

I have seen many changes in this department since November 7 1983 a criminal that is more violent than ever diseases such as AIDS - HEPATITIS - TUBERCULOUS that have killed Officers and Inmates alike.

My wife Louise and my Daughters Heidi & Cassi as well as myself have had to receive inoculations for these diseases. I have been assaulted with urine and feces as well as physically assaulted.

We as Correction Officers supported your initial run for Governor and have supported you in the changes you have made concerning crime in New York State. This support does not come from a Union representing Correction Officers although I am aware of the PAC Fund and the financial support we again as Correction Officers have given you.

Although those were not funds that came from some mysterious union account those were funds that came from my pocket and the pockets of every other Correction Officer in the State Of New York. Why then when it comes to Law Enforcement is the Correction Officer who works behind the walls forgotten.

You have made so many changes concerning crime in New York making it a safer place to live so why are not the Correction Officers being compensated for the excellent job they do day in and day out. We as Correction Officers work behind the wall or fence in a community within our own community only in this community we are surrounded by murders - thieves - rapist - child molesters - drug addicts -ect. and our always out numbered. I feel we our penalized for doing the excellent job that Correction Officers do every day.

I believe that the Government as well as the general public have an out of site out of mind way of dealing with the prison system in New York State. Which we as Correction Officers can accept when it comes to the felons of New York but feel it is time the Government and the general public recognize, remember and compensate The New York State Correction Officer for the job he does day in and day out.

We as Correction Officers are probably the most important link of the Criminal Justice System as with out this link how safe would our communities be.

I think that the time has come that Correction Officers be thought of as more than just a guard we are Law Enforcement Officers That Walk The Toughest Beat In The State when most other Law Enforcement Officers no longer even walk the beat.

I am appealing to you Governor as it is my feeling that you can get the Correction Officers Of New York

the Up-Grade, The Heart Bill and a Fair Contract. In this year when we have such a budget surplus and raises have been given such as 38% Governor it's time to take care of your Correction Officers.

Michael B. O'Sullivan

[Back to the Titles](#)

PEF renews protests against Pataki

ALBANY - The Public Employees Federation went back to protesting Gov. George Pataki's public appearances Thursday after a one-week "cease-fire" failed to produce concessions in contract talks, a PEF spokeswoman said.

"We ceased the cease-fire," spokeswoman Denyce Duncan Lacy said. Lacy said PEF President Roger Benson met with officials from the governor's Office of Employee Relations on Wednesday and asked them to improve their previous contract offer, which calls for no increases in base pay over the next four years.

"The response was `no,' " Lacy said. "They were unwilling to increase their salary proposal from the four zeros." PEF protesters have been dogging Pataki's public appearances since April, when the administration first put its contract offer on the table. The union, representing 52,000 mostly white-collar state workers, called the cease-fire last week after an unusually raucous demonstration by PEF, the Civil Service Employees Association and AIDS activists at a ground-breaking ceremony in downtown Albany.

The truce formally ended Thursday afternoon when PEF members picketed outside a Pataki appearance on Long Island, Lacy said.

[Back to the Titles](#)

NYSCOPBA Proposes Anti-School Violence Plan

NYSCOPBA PROPOSES FIRST-IN-THE-NATION ANTI-SCHOOL VIOLENCE PLAN

By Denny Fitzpatrick

In the aftermath of the tragedy at Columbine we have witnessed many proposals designed to prevent another large and devastating loss of life in our schools. While offered in good faith, many of these proposals represent a cosmetic approach that will not reach certain children predisposed to violence.

The New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) is the new union representing correctional officers and other law enforcement professionals statewide. Our members are defined by their professionalism and dedication on the job and a strong commitment to their communities and families off the job.

If we are going to prevent violent acts from happening in our schools it has to be with a program that does not automatically polarize our citizens and elected officials. We must move beyond the gun issue and other issues that carry passionate ideological beliefs.

NYSCOPBA has been very impressed with Governor George Pataki's Task Force on School Violence. It is an effort that will help find solutions that both major parties can agree upon. We have written to the Chairperson of the Task Force, Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue, and offered our help in setting up an outreach program that will help teachers, principals and other school personnel identify a potentially violent child.

For years the Department of Correctional Services has operated an outreach program at every facility. All employees at the facility - not just correctional officers - participate. They are encouraged to report suspicious, odd or changed inmate behavior in order to develop critical information that will prevent gang activity, weapons possession, drug use and potentially violent attacks. A written set of procedures governs the program and a coordinator receives periodic Department training so early outreach can be effectively implemented.

We believe our early outreach program, which has been very successful, can be adapted to New York's public schools. In addition to teachers and principals, our public schools employ child psychologists, mental health workers, social service workers, drug counselors and domestic violence experts. Early outreach begins with the appointment of a "central coordinator" within the school who is responsible for receiving important information from school personnel. Of course, the information would be subject to strict rules of confidentiality.

The major component to the early outreach program are "observation" forms filed with the central coordinator's office by program participants. The information obtained by the coordinator will help identify those students exhibiting serious behavioral changes that could lead to a violent act. Strong mood swings, radical changes in dress, academic decline and a sudden refusal to participate in school activities are examples of the information that would be referred to the coordinator's office. This will give the school the ability to take any necessary steps to address the problem.

Our members are ready to volunteer their off-duty time to create an early outreach program and teach a course to school volunteers. Once the course training is completed the volunteers could enter the schools and teach the early outreach program to school personnel.

If Governor Pataki and Lieutenant Governor Donohue decide to move forward with NYSCOPBA's early outreach program it will be the first program of its kind in America's public schools. It will be a unique partnership whereby a state employee union is actively working to help schools, parents, teachers and children. We do not believe the sole function of a union is to pursue parochial and selfish goals.

A school that does not chronicle important behavioral changes in its students and take steps to remedy the problem is prepared to become another Columbine. We must do everything humanly possible to protect our children and schools from the ravages of violence. The NYSCOPBA early outreach program will help accomplish this goal so we can ensure that our schools are havens of learning, safety and security.

Denny Fitzpatrick is the Director of Public Relations for NYSCOPBA. His long and distinguished career in the corrections field includes implementing the crisis intervention program at Great Meadow Correctional Facility.

[Back to the Titles](#)

To Council 82 on Dismissal of Upgrade Application

Letter from the State N.Y.S. Civil Service Commission To Council 82 on Dismissal of Upgrade Application

The following is the text of the letter that was sent by Nicholas J. Vagianelis, direction of commission operations of the Civil Service Commission, to Council 82 counsel, Robert Hite, on June 28, 1999

At its meeting of June 28, 1999, the State Civil Service Commission discussed the matter of the appeal filed by Law Enforcement Officers Union Council 82 from the Sept. 3, 1998, determination of the Director of Classification and Compensation which reaffirmed the appropriateness of the grade levels for Correction Officer; Correction Sergeant, G- 17, and Correction Lieutenant, G-20.

The commission noted that Law Enforcement Union Council 82 was recently decertified as the official representative of Correction Officers and Correction Sergeants, replaced by a new organization, the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association(NYSCOPBA). Council 82 remains the certified representative for Correction Lieutenants.

In view of the significant changes which have occurred and the Commission's concern that it would be inappropriate to rule on the merits of an appeal submitted by an organization which no longer represents the vast majority of the positions covered by the appeal, the Commission voted to dismiss the pending appeals without prejudice.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Attacks prompt prison lockdown

July 9, 1999 - COXSACKIE - Several inmate attacks on guards and other inmates prompted prison officials to order a lockdown Friday at the Coxsackie Correctional Facility to search for weapons and other contraband. Four corrections officers sustained minor injuries attempting to restrain fighting among inmates, prison officials said. The officers were not hospitalized However; several inmates assaulted suffered serious injuries requiring outside medical attention. None of the injuries were life threatening.

The lockdown at the maximum-security prison began at 8:30 a.m. Friday Department of Correctional Services spokesman Jim Flateau said he expected it to last "at least a couple of days." All 1,070 inmates at the maximum-security prison in Greene County were confined to their cells while officers conducted their search. The last lockdown at Coxsackie was in December 1998 and lasted four days.
