



Spring-Summer Issue
May/June/July 2011



OER Network NEWS

“Senate Bills create new opportunities”

MSI Welcomes Public Acts 307 & 308



At approximately 3:15 a.m. Friday, December 3, 2010, the Senate passed Senate Bills 1484 and 1485 giving Michigan State Industries a "hat trick" - three new advantages under the "Correctional Industries Act". Former Governor Jennifer Granholm signed both bills on December 17, 2010 creating Public Acts 307 and 308.

PIECP

The first accomplishment was achieving the authority to engage in the federal Prisoner Industry Enhancement Certification Program, or PIE as it is often referred to. Passage of this new law opens the door for MSI to partner with the private sector for manufacturing and service opportunities. The first step in the process to be "Certified" as a PIE state was

the legislative authority. Michigan State Industries will now formally submit its application which includes addressing eight (8) other elements including policy changes and preparing for special accounting centers. Upon certification, Michigan will become the 44th jurisdiction approved for PIE by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance.

RECYCLING

The second major amendment to the Correctional Industries Act was authority to perform and charge the private sector for MSI's recycling services. This authority follows a discussion that occurred several years ago with the furniture manufacturing industry. That industry was in need of reclaiming obsolete office systems from its customers.

The furniture industry has long been engaged in completing the environmental loop from manufacture of items to its life's end. Michigan State Industries was approached by the Business Industry Furniture Manufacturer's Association (BIFMA) to fulfill the reclamation need. A pilot project was initiated with the assistance of the Departments of Technology, Management and Budget and Environmental Quality. The pilot was successful and BIFMA, and both departments assisted in supporting the legislative initiative.

Plans are currently underway to expand the reclamation and recycling opportunities for MSI.

(Continued on page 2)

OER Network News

Official Newsletter of Correctional Industries

Spring-Summer Issue
May / June / July 2011

(Continued from page 1)

NON-PROFITS

A void was filled in law to provide an opportunity for MSI to service its customers in the nonprofit industry. The Correctional Industries Act permits MSI to manufacture and sell goods and services to nonprofit organizations that have a special exemption under the Internal Revenue Service rules, specifically what is called a 501(c)(3) tax status.

One of the long time challenges for MSI has been when a private contractor is working on behalf of a nonprofit organization and all goods and services sold must flow through the private contractor. Consequently, this arrangement precludes MSI from offering those goods and services since the relationship is not direct through the organization.



Changes to the ACT now permit a third party - such as the private contractor - to act as a "fiduciary" between MSI and the nonprofit organization for the sale of goods and services. The law is effective immediately, and resolves an issue that has eliminated opportunities for sales for some time. Michigan State Industries will be seeking additional language that would resolve issues affecting goods and sales to government agencies as well.

Many thanks to those in the MDOC that assisted in the drafting, support and eventual passage of these valuable amendments, most notably R. Cole Bouck, who was the legislative lead for the department.

Prison Build Program Still Going Strong

The Prison Build Program continues to provide housing components and horticulture services to low income families. The Program, managed by the Prisoner Education division, is in its 11th full year of operation. While inmates and staff work with a variety of nonprofit organizations, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan is its predominant partner. In addition to the Habitat affiliation, the Michigan Army National Guard plays an integral role by picking up and delivering the wall panels throughout the state.

As the Program has progressed it has also experienced the changes in the housing market. More homes are being rehabbed by Habitat volunteers than new homes being constructed.

Hence, the number of wall panels for new housing has decreased while cabinet orders have increased.

To date the Program has accomplished the following this calendar year:

- Cabinets (ordered or built): 53
- Counter tops: 9
- Wall panels: 13
- Sheds: 14
- Horticulture packages (products for front landscaping): 59

For more information please contact:
Candee Smith at smithcj@michigan.gov





Gold Star Plate Officially Introduced

Families of military members who died in combat are now able to purchase a special Michigan license plate. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, military family members and others on Wednesday, July 6th officially introduced the start of production of Gold Star Family license plates at the Gus Harrison Correctional facility, Adrian, MI.

Governor Rick Snyder signed the bill authorizing the plate in May. A spouse, parent, sibling or child of a fallen combat veteran is eligible to purchase the plate. The bill was sponsored by Senator John Pappageorge, R-Troy, MI. who served 30 years in the military.

Valerie May and Carol Johnson were the first two recipients of the new plates. Valerie's son, Rollie was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968. Carol's son Gregory McCoy died in Iraq. Both mothers were touched by the design of the plate and the special focus given them and their sons. "It's amazing how much Michigan does remember", said Carol.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson was particularly impressed with the plate, the license plate operation and the commitment of those inmates and staff who manufacture them. She was

honored to be able to officially deliver the first two plates. "When you see somebody going down the road you know their family member made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms, our liberty, and our quality of life," she stated.

Each plate will be inscribed with an exact replica of the original banners placed in the windows of homes by Gold Star families during World War II.

The Blue and Gold Star banners were originally designed in 1917 by United States Army Captain Robert L. Queisser of the Fifth Ohio Infantry, in honor of his two



sons who were serving in World War I. It was quickly adopted by the public and by government officials. A Blue Star banner is made available for each family member in active duty. A Gold Star represents a family member that died during service.

The plate will cost \$5 in addition to normal vehicle registration fees. Additional information can



Pictured (l to r) are Valerie May of Midland, Sen. Pappageorge, Carol Johnson of Howell and Secretary Johnson.

be found on the SOS website at <http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127--258780--00.html>

Will Rondeau, MSI Plant Manager, License Plate Factory was touched by the event and stated:

"I felt honored having the actual moms come into our factory to make the first Gold Star plates. Their faces just glowed when they were able to make the license plate themselves in honor of their sons. Secretary of State Johnson is such a genuine person, and her willingness to be a part of this made me feel like she truly cares about the people from the State of Michigan. It was one of the most memorable days of my life....."



Prisoner Education

Horticulture Students Get On-the-Job Training

Providing students with opportunities to apply what they learn is not easy to do behind prison walls, but finding these opportunities is a task taken seriously by staff in OER Prisoner Education. The MDOC Prisoner Education, Horticulture program recently teamed up with the Dept. of Natural Resources for a very “**GREEN**” project.

The Tree Planting project is a grant funded program committed to improving the environment by planting trees in Michigan communities and campgrounds. Students participating in the program experience real time, real life “on the job” training. The program also instills soft skills such as strong work ethic, positive attitude, communication, and time management .

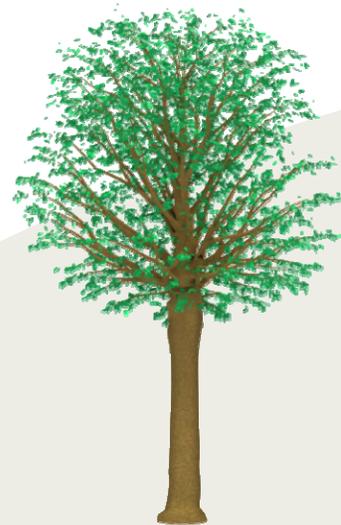
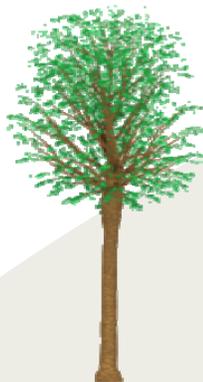
The Michigan DNR recently received a grant to plant and grow 10,000 trees in Michigan campgrounds. MDOC Prisoner Education students in the Horticulture program will plant seeds harvested from trees indigenous to a specific region, cultivate them, and return the trees to that same region for planting. Students enrolled in 13 programs across the State will have an opportunity to apply their book knowledge in meaningful work that gives back

to the community. This type of work experience opportunity, continuously provided through many community-based service learning projects undertaken by career and technical education programs, is critical to prisoner/students ability to demonstrate their employability upon their return to society.



Tree Trivia: Did You Know?

- In one year, an acre of trees can absorb as much carbon dioxide as is produced by a car driven up to 8,700 miles.
- Trees provide shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs by \$2.1 billion.



LPI

Lean Process Improvement Creates Successful Outcomes

SyteLine 8.02
&
MDOC Uniform
Process

BACKGROUND

In March 2010, a cross-functional group of Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) employees gathered for a four-day work group to discuss the Michigan State Industries order entry process using Lean Process Improvement (LPI) methods. LPI brings together people who work in a process to examine and recommend the best ways to improve their work. During each session team members discuss, analyze, and come up with solutions to improve the current process.

The last day of the session the results are presented by the team to the sponsors for their approval and implementation, then plans can be created. Many recommendations were presented and approved to move forward, but two in particular stood out on the list. The team recommended that MSI upgrade their current software to provide a more standardized ordering system for most of their products, especially MDOC officer uniforms, and be able to track the order from beginning to end.

IMPLEMENTATION

During the first week of March 2011, MSI successfully upgraded its Enterprise Resource

Planning (ERP) system, SyteLine, from version 6.02 to 8.02. This concluded several months of intense planning, testing and piloting of the new system. The MSI Core team worked diligently together with DTMB and Infor (SyteLine vendor) to identify, migrate, and fine-tune existing business processes. The upgrade was deployed with relatively few problems thanks to the dedication and planning of the Core Team. While a few issues remain and are being worked on, the upgrade as a whole was very successful!



The team also created training documentation using a new module, EPAK, to supply initial user training as well as cross-training capabilities for the future. MSI is very excited about how this new tool can be used to document MSI-specific processes while also providing a mechanism for training its users. EPAK will be a valuable asset for years to come. To build on its successful upgrade, MSI has now turned its attention toward integrating barcode scanners and electronic signatures with SyteLine. The ability to incorporate barcode scanning technology with the SyteLine

(Continued on page 6)



OER Network News

Official Newsletter of Correctional Industries

Spring-Summer Issue
May / June / July 2011

(Continued from page 5)

ERP system was identified as one of the process improvements resulting from the Officer Uniform Lean Process Improvement (LPI) exercises. Barcode scanning was also identified as being crucial to improving efficiencies in customer service. The MSI team has initiated discussions with Infor and DTMB to keep the forward momentum going. More to follow in coming months!

The second recommendation called for a tracking system / database for ordering MDOC officer uniforms. Database creator, Deputy Tom Mackie, Marquette CF, assisted by Joyce Cram, MSI Area Manager (retired), designed an online form and approval process to track the initial uniform request through final approval. Implementing a form of this magnitude was not an easy task. Complex query statements had to be written, and numerous item records were added to properly track and approve uniform orders. The online form is housed on MDOC facility computers across the state.

The form eliminates the need for a paper uniform requisition request at the MSI Distribution Uniform Center and MSI Factory. It also features triggers to eliminate duplication of orders, and a built-in Uniform Return / Exchange request form.

Training for the new order process along with training manuals were provided to MDOC officers during new employee school and at each facility level. Sponsors of the new uniform ordering process approved new policy directives and procedures to be written and added to the MDOC uniform policy. Memorandums were also issued by CFA Operations Manager, and Sponsor Ed Mize to all MDOC facility Wardens with approval to facilitate the new uniform ordering process. As with any new software system or process, change comes with challenges and obstacles that have to be overcome. The real value is a paperless system that will streamline data reporting for years to come.



OER Network News is a Publication of the Office of Employment Readiness

Michigan Department of Corrections / William D. Wilson Jr., OER Administrator

Publisher/Editor: Tujauna S. White, Marketing Specialist, whitet8@michigan.gov., Phone: (517) 373-4299

Contributor / Editor: Mike Green, Sales & Marketing Mgr., Phone: (517) 241-6288

Contributor: Candee Smith, Prisoner Education, Phone: (517) 241-7308

Contributor: Robin Stinson, MSI Accounting, Phone (517) 241-5646

