



## ***EPIC News – April 2019 EDITION***

### **EPIC News is now on the MDOC Home Page**

Have you missed a past edition of the EPIC Newsletter? You can now find it on the MDOC homepage. On the right side of the page, under Quick Links, click on Newsletters and you will find both the Corrections Connection and the EPIC News.

### ***Upcoming Events Brought to You by The Employee Engagement Committee:***

The Employee Engagement Committee is a 501(c)(7) non-profit organization that was formed in 2017. It is administered by the EPIC Section. One of its major goals is to improve engagement among MDOC staff. Each year, a number of employees are selected by the Director through an application process to serve on the Employee Engagement EPIC Team, which sponsors events and activities for all of you. Through fundraising efforts of this team, they are able to offset the cost of events and/or offer discounted pricing to you throughout the year. This year's team has been extremely busy planning the Employee Recreation Day, the 2020 Dogs of the MDOC Calendar and a number of day or weekend activities as noted below. Please spread the word and join us for some fun and camaraderie!



The Department's 2019 Employee Recreation Day is approaching and there are many fun activities planned as part of the day's festivities, including a number of popular returning activities, some new events and several that are being offered at no cost to attendees. Registration is open now and there are discounts available for dinner and golf for those who register before May 15. A registration form, which includes instructions on payment, can be found [HERE](#). Please join us for a day of fun and camaraderie!

## **Event Details:**

When: Friday, June 7, 2019

Where: Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand River Ave. in Lansing

More information on the venue is available at <http://royalscot.net>, or by calling 517-321-6220.

## **Activities:**

### **Golf (*the morning golf session is full*)**

An 18-hole, four-person scramble begins with a shot-gun start at 8 a.m. Single golfers will be placed as needed. The cost to play is \$35 per person, or \$30 per person if registered by May 15 and includes a cart and lunch. A Two-person scramble with 9 holes that will begin at 1:30 p.m. The cost to play is \$15 and a cart is included.

### **Dinner**

Social hour begins at 4:30 p.m. with dinner served from 5-6:30 p.m. The meal will include steak and chicken, meatless lasagna, potatoes, vegetables, salad, rolls and dessert for \$18 per person, or \$10 per person if you register by May 15.

### **Ongoing Events**

- NEW THIS YEAR! Euchre & Poker Tournaments with sessions beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Bowling will be offered for \$5 per person. The cost includes shoes and lane time. Open and tournament bowling will be available from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with playoffs from 3-4:30 p.m.
- 3 on 3 Basketball will be held from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The cost is \$40 per team (bracket play).
- A 3-Point Basketball/Free Throw Contest will also be held. There is a \$5 entry fee.
- Canvas Painting will be offered in one-hour sessions for \$10 per person per session.
- The Silent Auction returns this year with great items available to bid on throughout the day.

### **Complimentary Events**

There will be a wide array of FREE events including bingo, bag toss, Bubbleball, cards, pool and a photo booth. The MDOC store will have items available for guests to purchase at discount.

### **Accommodations**

Discounted off-site lodging blocks are available for both June 6 & 7 at the Quality Suites Lansing - 517-886-0600 - Mention MDOC Employee Engagement. Rooms must be booked by May 23.

### **Event Registration**

Please complete the registration form. Checks should be made payable to:

MDOC Employee Engagement Committee

Mail your registration and payment to:

Grandview Plaza, 4th Floor

c/o: Kathy Keiffer

P.O. Box 30003 Lansing, MI 48909

or

You may turn your registration and payment in to your local EPIC liaison. Payment is also accepted by PayPal or credit card.

## *Detroit Tigers Law Enforcement Appreciation Night*



Are you a Tigers fan? If so, you'll want to check out this great opportunity. MDOC employees are eligible to join the Detroit Tigers for Law Enforcement Appreciation Night on June 4th at 7:10 p.m. against the Tampa Bay Rays! Each Law Enforcement Appreciation Night ticket purchased will come with seating for one, a limited-edition Tigers hat and a donation to the MI-C.O.P.S organization. Tickets will range from \$27-\$43 and are grouped together so MDOC staff and their families can sit in the same general sections. Tickets must be purchased by May 14th.

Click [HERE](#) to purchase MDOC exclusive tickets!

## *Get Away to the Great Wolf Lodge*



MDOC employees are eligible for discounted rates on a one-night stay and four water park passes at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City.

Rates will be reduced to \$109 per room and resort fees will be reduced from \$29.99 to \$14.99. The offer includes a one-night stay in a room with two queen beds and a sofa sleeper, and four water park passes for adults or children ages four and older. There is no cost for water park passes for children three and younger.

The offer is valid for stays on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019 and rooms must be booked by Aug. 29, 2019. Rooms at the discounted rate are limited.

Each room must be booked individually by calling the toll-free reservations line at **1-866-962-9653** by Aug. 29. Callers should identify themselves as MDOC employees and use the group code **Reservation#1909MDOC**.

Great Wolf Lodge is located at 3575 N. US Highway 31 S. in Traverse City. For more details on the hotel and water park, visit <https://www.greatwolf.com/traverse-city>.

## *Staff Wellness Unit Coming to the MDOC*

As reported in a previous edition of the EPIC News, the Wellness EPIC Team recommended, and Director Washington approved, the development of an Employee Wellness Unit in the MDOC. This unit will be managed by an Employee Wellness Program Coordinator and will include both a Peer Support Program and a Chaplain's Program. The purpose of this unit is to assist staff with such issues as stress, alcoholism, PTSD, suicide, depression and other issues that are unique to the Corrections profession. Staffing of this new unit is now underway. Once on board, they will begin developing resources and programming that will assist with the physical, mental and emotional health and well-being of our employees. Additional information about each of these programs will be shared once they are fully developed.

## *Stress Management Tool*



A comprehensive stress management tool is now available for use. This is a completely free tool that is being offered through the Employee Service Program. This tool allows employees and their family members to create an individualized stress management profile and plan. It is a resiliency-based model, and offers many tips including relaxation techniques, meditation, and resources for instituting positive thought processes. It is designed to help you identify and deal with stress in your life.

The direct link to the tool is as follows: <https://www.mystresstools.com/registration/mich-esp>.

It is also available on the MDOC website under *the Quick Links Section*, labeled *Stress Management Tool*.

## *MDOC Shooting Team News*

The Michigan Department of Corrections Shooting Team Organization is anxious to start the 2019 shooting season. There currently are fourteen approved worksite chapters throughout the department. All MDOC staff (CFA, FOA, BOA and Executive staff) who have an interest in improving their firearm skills are encouraged to join an existing chapter, or request information from the Shooting Team Organization on how to start up a new chapter. The Shooting Team Organization will be announcing activities and events as dates become available. The first event on the schedule is the seventh annual Marquette Branch Prison Police Pistol Combat Competition to be held on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a great event that draws participants from all over the state and boasts participation from multiple agencies. The Marquette Branch event will feature Police Pistol Combat and Bullseye pistol disciplines. See additional details below.



*MBP's Shooting Team Chapter cordially extends an invitation to their Annual Police Pistol Shoot Competition, to be held on Wednesday, June 19th, 2019, to all eligible staff and shooting teams. The shoot will begin at 0800 hours and end at approximately 1300 hrs. The cost is \$20.00 for the initial shoot which includes a BBQ lunch. Each additional class will be \$10.00 each. There will also be a bullseye shoot at the end of the day (\$5) along with a (\$1) turkey shoot. Medals/prizes will be given away in all classes. Vendors will be in attendance all day from different law enforcement equipment specialists showing off the latest guns and equipment for purchase. A pistol will also be raffled off again this year for participating shooters.*

There are several other Chapters who have expressed interest in hosting a sanctioned event. Chippewa/Kinross will be hosting their fourth annual pistol shoot in the early fall which will follow the same format as the Marquette event. Any chapter wishing to hold such an event can petition the Shooting Team Board for approval and the Board will assist the organizers in any way possible to make their shoot a success.



Interested in purchasing an MDOC Shooting Team Challenge Coin? Email your request to Jo Meyers @ [meyersJ4@michigan.gov](mailto:meyersJ4@michigan.gov). For \$15, a coin will be shipped to your home address.

Looking to join a Shooting team Chapter? If you love competitive shooting, or just want to improve your shooting skills, join one of the chapters below or start a new chapter at your work location. For more information, email the MDOC Shooting Team Organization at [MDOC-Competitive-Shooting-Team@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-Competitive-Shooting-Team@michigan.gov)

The following locations have approved worksite chapters in place (Chapter Presidents noted below):

- Baraga Correctional Facility - Shawn Minerick
- Carson City Correctional – Jacob Erickson
- Central Michigan & St. Louis Correctional Facilities - Joseph Dubois
- Chippewa & Kinross Correctional Facilities - Mike Bauers

Ionia Complex (RMI/MTU/IBC/ICF) – Christopher Cook  
Lakeland Correctional Facility - Lucas Losinski  
Macomb Correctional Facility – Eric Herbert  
Marquette Branch Prison - Matt Cody  
Newberry Correctional Facility - Dustin Auge  
Oaks Correctional Facility - Brian Majerczyk  
Thumb Correctional Facility - Paul Dyep  
Women's Huron Valley - Adam Zwolensky  
Woodland Center Correctional Facility - Robert Thompson  
Parnall Correctional Facility - Chris Wyse

**Locations pending approval:**

Brooks Correctional Facility

NOTE: The MDOC Shooting Team Organization is still accepting donations. Money collected will be used to hold fundraising events throughout the year, which will allow the Department to sponsor Shooting Teams for local, regional and national shooting competitions. If any worksite is interested in making a donation, please e-mail the MDOC Shooting Team Organization or mail donations to the MDOC Shooting Team Organization Board Treasurer Jo Meyers, 8525 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, MI 49682.

*EPIC Happenings Around the MDOC*



**Grandview Plaza** hosted a weight loss challenge from January 7 – March 26. Participants paid \$30 per person to enter. All entry fees collected were paid out to the top three females and males losing the biggest percentage of body weight. In total, a combined 298.25 inches and 383.20 pounds were lost! The winners are pictured below:



Left to Right:

Laura Schneider – ladies inch pot winner  
Shelly Lawson - ladies 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, 14.42% lost (26 pounds)  
Sue Brown-Ward – ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, 11.57% (27.8 pounds)

Sandy Wilson, ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, 12.63%, (21.2 pounds)  
Michael Eagen, men's 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, 11.49%, (23.4 pounds)  
Tom Ward, men's 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, 17.05% (44 pounds)  
Michael Keck, men's 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, 8.40% (18.8 pounds)  
Andrew Fotenakes – men's inch pot winner

If other work locations are interested in doing something similar, please contact Kathy Keiffer at 517-335-2245 and she will provide you with the participant summary of rules, a weight loss challenge participant agreement and documentation to help track weight loss information.

Lakeland Correctional Facility Weight Loss Challenge: The Lakeland Correctional Facility hosted a very successful six-month weight loss challenge from October 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. They had 36 participants who each paid \$10 to enter. In this weight loss challenge, a leaderboard was sent out each month to help motivate those participating. The intent was to encourage those who wanted to lose some weight and improve the quality of their health and also to help during the holidays. *Congratulations to the top male percentage loser Russ Rurka and the top female percentage loser Kirsten Losinski!*

### Kudos at RGC

One of the themes that RGC/DWH wanted to focus on after the release of the 2017-2018 employee survey was to **“make sufficient effort to get the opinions of people who work here.”**

To this end, they established a Kudos program and set up an Employee Suggestion Box.

### What are Kudos?

- Small cut out colored paper (generally in a shape), available in the front of the Employee Suggestion Box.
- When a co-worker is observed going above and beyond, staff can fill out a Kudo to let them and their co-workers know.
- Staff can place Kudos in the Employee Suggestion Box to be displayed on the Bulletin Board or placed in the recognized staff person's work area.
- Employee Suggestion Box is checked weekly for any new Kudos.
- This has been a great way of recognizing good deeds among peers!

### Employee Suggestion Box:

- Employee Suggestion Box was posted by the timeclock and is checked weekly for new suggestions.
- Suggestions are turned over to the Warden and responded to accordingly.
- Employees can remain anonymous when submitting a suggestion.

These ideas have had a positive impact. Staff enjoy seeing kudos in the various work areas and appreciate having their suggestions evaluated.



***Employee Recognition Coins: The Department honors staff for their outstanding service to the Department.***

The Office of Good Government symbols of **Excellence, Leadership, Teamwork** and **Customer Service** are designed to recognize state employees who go above and beyond normal expectations. A list of employees who have received these coins during the months of February and March, along with a list of those who have received Warden's coins for exemplary service, is below.

Congratulations to all who have been recognized!

**Office of Good Government Coin Recipients – February 2019**

- Betts, Johanna, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Brazee, David, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Brown, Kevin, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Davis, Paul, Brooks Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Gooden, Donnise, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Irvin, Cory, St. Louis Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- LeClair, Jessica, Marquette Branch Prison, Teamwork Coin
- Lewis, Donyal, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Lutjens, Christopher, Marquette Branch Prison, Excellence Coin
- McElroy-White, Lisa, FOA-Washtenaw Probation Office, Customer Service Coin
- O'Brian, Matthew, FOA-Berrien Parole Office, Teamwork Coin
- Rice, Jeffrey, Cooper Street Corr. Facility, Excellence Coin
- Rood, Jeffrey, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Veteran Coin
- Smith, Mark, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Stevenson, Brenda, Brooks Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Terhaar, Branden, Muskegon Corr. Facility, Teamwork Coin
- Yarid, Ravi, Parnall Corr. Facility, Customer Service Coin

**Office of Good Government Coin Recipients – March 2019:**

- Chism, Ryan, FOA-Troy Probation, Teamwork
- Dietrich, Brock, FOA-Oakland County Probation, Leadership
- Golfen, McKinsey, FOA-Troy Probation, Teamwork
- Jones, Kevin, FOA-Pontiac Parole, Teamwork
- Joyal, Kurt, Baraga Correctional Facility, Teamwork
- Kaines, Justin, FOA-Troy Probation, Teamwork
- Lundin, Jordan, Marquette Branch Prison, Leadership
- Murdaugh, Latanya, FOA-Troy Probation, Customer Service
- Reynolds, Renae, FOA-Troy Probation, Teamwork
- Schmidt, Amy, FOA-Troy Probation, Teamwork
- Smith, Cheri, FOA-Pontiac Probation, Teamwork
- Smith, Ryan, FOA-Pontiac Parole, Teamwork
- Verhey, Brian, FOA-Troy Probation, Teamwork
- Wayne, Heather, FOA-Pontiac Probation, Teamwork
- Woolfork, Gary, FOA-Troy Probation, Teamwork

**Wardens' Coin Recipients – March 2019:**

- Chisholm, Dawn, Marquette Branch Prison
- Corning, Kevin, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility



- Dell, Brian, Egeler Correctional Facility
- Doolittle, Nicole, Ionia Correctional Facility
- Getter, David, Macomb Correctional Facility
- Hull, Annette, St. Louis Correctional Facility
- Long, Ted, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
- Ogle, Drew, Marquette Branch Prison
- Pietrzyk, Edward, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
- Ruhl, Jeffrey, Cotton Correctional Facility
- Schell, Adam, Egeler Correctional Facility
- Smith, Michelle, Macomb Correctional Facility
- Stuchell, Jared, Parnall Correctional Facility
- Welton, Doug, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility

MDOC Login



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Just a reminder that the MDOC on-line store has great merchandise available for purchase. They have added many new and exciting items to the store. They have recently updated the website to make it easier to navigate, place orders and pay upon checkout.

If you have visited the store and placed an order, THANK YOU! If you haven't yet had an opportunity to shop on-line, please feel free to access the store via the following link: <http://cvsdbusybees.com>

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the EPIC Section by telephone, email, or through the mailbox.

You can also follow the store Facebook page at [facebook.com/cvsdbusybee](https://facebook.com/cvsdbusybee)

***We want to hear from you!***

**What would you like to see featured in future editions of the EPIC News? Do you have any suggestions for improving processes at your worksite or Department-wide? Send us your ideas via the EPIC mailbox at [MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov)**

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