

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT GENERAL ACOA OVERVIEW

Below is a brief overview of happenings at ACOA. For your convenience we have put the overview by subject should you prefer to skim.

GENERAL STATUS

ACOA's first year was busy and successful. We finished the year financially sound (see [FINANCIALS](#)); we dealt with member and organizational issues professionally and effectively (see [GRIEVANCE REVIEW](#)); and we continue to achieve our goals. ACOA built and strengthened relationships with Legislators and key State officials. We received many reports that our approach and professionalism had a major impact with Legislators and that we've gained their respect and "ear". At the session's end we received a note signed by almost all of the House members thanking us for our encouragement as the special session drug on and on. Last but far from least, contract negotiations are off to an excellent start and, although there are no guarantees, we look forward to continuing to achieve our objectives.

Hard to believe that it was just last fall that ACOA got up and running. The staff (Deb, Jen, Jim, and now Pat) performed superbly. As you have probably heard, we have hired Pat Beegle as our new Business Agent. Pat is intelligent, articulate, and has a unique understanding of the world of Corrections. Pat has 23 years of Correctional experience, the majority of which was as a C.O. and sergeant. The change-over from Jim to Pat went smoothly, due in part to Pat's being a quick learner and in part to Jim's staying on part-time to handle Arbitrations and being available as a resource for Pat. Tremendous thanks to both of them.

As always, there are places to improve and there is much more to be done, but we have had a great start. Your Board members have worked hard and an overwhelming majority of the members have stepped forward to assist and to show support for their association. We thank each and every one of you for that; you are responsible for the success ACOA has enjoyed.

FINANCIALS

ACOA finished its first year with over \$200,000 in assets. We had an independent audit conducted by Lockitch, Clements & Rice P.S., certified public accountants out of Seattle. The preliminary audit is completed and a finalized audit is due any time. Once we have the audit, it will be available to the membership.

There were two main reasons for taking a very frugal approach our first year. First, during the campaign, "*no money in the bank*" was a legitimate concern mentioned by many Officers for not voting for ACOA. We needed to do what was necessary to secure ACOA financially, if for no other reason, than peace of mind for those Officers

concerned. Second, contract negotiations and the ever-present possibility that negotiations could lead to expensive interest arbitration had to be provided for. Obviously, financial security allows us to bargain for a fair and just contract, without the hesitation that could come from not having the money required to follow through however necessary.

As I mentioned in a previous letter, we would not be where we are had it not been for members' support. Communication, travel and other vital areas were under-funded in order to build the financial base needed to secure our future. If you, the membership, had not been understanding and supportive, more money would have had to be spent and we would not be where we are today.

GRIEVANCE REVIEW

As we stated previously, issue-wise, we had a good first year. We currently have ten outstanding grievances. Two additional grievances were informally resolved and we await an arbitrator's decision on three that were arbitrated in July. Two of the ten that are outstanding are very recent and eight await arbitration. We are close to resolving at least three, if not more of the eight that await arbitration. In addition to grievance issues, we have averaged three to five other issues a week (discipline/contract disputes/member assistance requests/other). To have such a high percentage of the issues that are brought to ACOA solved/resolved prior to arbitration means that most Correctional Officers do not have to wait nine to twelve months for resolution to their issues. Except for one temporary filing to maintain time-frames, we have not had any disciplinary grievances. Having the work-load Corrections has with so few grievances/arbitrations says volumes for Jim, and now Pat, and the State officials we work with.

ELECTIONS

Seven Corporate Board seats were up for election recently. Of those, six were Board members who ran for re-election and won. They were:

AMCC:	Larry Rendon
CIPT:	Paul Courtright
KCC:	Carl Thompson
PCC:	Beth Hauser
WWCC:	Curtis Brown
YKCC:	Vince Polk

The seventh Board seat up for election this year was for Pt. MacKenzie. Todd Rahm was elected as the new Board member. He replaced Officer Ned Entwisle. Welcome aboard, Todd! Ned stepped down to concentrate on working with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF). Alaska may be hosting CPOF's convention in 2007. Ned has been working on Correctional Officers' behalf through many unions and for many, many years. He is a trusted advisor and I look forward to his advice and guidance for years to

come. From the membership, the Board and the office staff, thanks to Ned for his dedication.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER SOLDIERS

Not too long ago, a Correctional Officer on his way to Iraq asked us to look out for his family if anything should happen to him. His request put a lump in our throats and left us wondering how we could help in any substantial way if the worst should happen. Then we came up with something that could go a long way toward helping the Officer's family...a life insurance policy. We will be taking out policy for each C.O. that is shipped out to war. It won't replace the person, nothing can, but it will help with expenses during a trying time. If you know anyone who will be activated, let us know in time to have him sign insurance paperwork.

Also, to do a small part to help in helping the families of Correctional Officers fighting in Iraq, we are taking care of the seasonal tire changeovers for them. If you know of someone currently serving, let us know.

Thanks to a suggestion by Sgt. Marie Gage, we sent care packages to those in Iraq. These overtures show that these Officers are in our thoughts and we pray for their safe return.

OFFICERS HELPING OFFICERS

Being on our own allows us the ability to take care of our own. ACOA has been able to offer assistance to Officers experiencing personal tragedies. This past year there has been a premature baby, multiple house fires and other tragedies in which we have been able to assist. We cannot take away the hurt, but the knowledge that, through ACOA, their fellow officers are there for them might help lessen the burden and stress of those in need.

C.O. BUSINESSES

A lot of Correctional Officers and retired Correctional Officers have businesses. We have made a link to those businesses on the webpage, under the tab "C.O. Networking". If you have a business or know a C.O. with a business, let us know. A little Correctional Officer networking can't hurt.

YOUR ASSOCIATION

Thoughts? Ideas? Suggestions? We have come a long way. Officer support and participation has made ACOA work. We look forward to hearing from you.