



ALASKA CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

"Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"

April 30, 2007

Correctional Officers,

Many of you met Brian Dawe and have heard him speak at our Annual Meetings. If so, you know his passion for Correctional Officer issues. Brian is the Executive Director of the *American Correctional Officer (ACO)* and the *American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network (ACOIN)*. Brian stood with us when we fought against privatization; stood with us as we lobbied for legislation to punish prisoners who assault COs with bodily fluids and blood-borne pathogens; and continues to stand with us as we deal with overcrowding and understaffing. Your union maintains an Organizational membership in the *American Correctional Officer* and we encourage you to become personally involved in the *American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network (ACOIN)*. Please read on to learn about these organizations.

American Correctional Officer is a national non-profit coalition of organizations, associations and unions and is run for and by Correctional Officers working in county, state and federal correctional facilities. Its mission is to promote the well-being and safety of publicly employed Correctional Officers and professionals, to improve working conditions, to share practices that can benefit all, to educate the media, general public, and elected officials on the challenges C.O.s face, to provide information, research and mutual support for members, to establish communications and networking, and to provide a national voice for our profession. Check out the ACO website at <http://www.americanco.org/>.

At an individual level, *American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network (ACOIN)* offers Correctional Officers the opportunity to join and participate in the *American Correctional Officer*. In addition to access to a wealth of professional reports, studies, and archives, they have resources to keep you better informed and connected with other Correctional Officers from across the nation who face the same issues as us. Joining gives you access to the "Member's Only" portion of ACO's website, provides you with monthly e-mail updates, ACO's "Lockdown" quarterly newsletter, and their twice a year, Prison Privatization Report.

Besides the professional reasons for joining, there are personal benefits. At the General Individual Membership level (\$15 a month) you get \$110,000 worth of Accidental Death and disability coverage on and off the job. With an ACOIN Family Membership (\$20 a month) you get \$110,000 Accidental Death and disability coverage and an additional \$55,000 benefit for your spouse. Also, a major portion of your ACO dues are tax deductible. At the 2007 Annual Meeting, Mr. Dawe heard about two of our members' battles against cancer. He committed to donating five dollars of every Alaskan ACOIN member's monthly dues to cancer research. Check out the ACO website and ACOIN application for other benefits as well.

Your Board whole-heartedly supports ACO and ACOIN. An ACOIN application is enclosed. The decision is yours, but we feel all Correctional Officers benefit through ACO and ACOIN's staunch support of our profession.

Your ACOA Board members

P.O. Box 210290 • Anchorage, Alaska 99521
Phone: 1 (907) 646-2262 • Fax: 1 (907) 646-2286
Website: www.acoa.us