

FAQs

Q: “Did Commissioner Schmidt respond to Danny Colang’s all Corrections email on July 22, 2009?”

A: No.

Q: “Have we attempted to contact Governor Sean Parnell?”

A: Yes, Danny’s letter was sent on July 8, 2009. (See Enclosed) We did not get a response so Danny followed up with an email and on August 3rd, Ms. Meg Buck responded. (See Enclosed) Later, Danny again emailed and on August 28th at 5:30pm we received a phone call stating that the Governor could not meet with us until the contract litigation was concluded. The reason for the litigation is the Palin Administration interfered with our contract, kept it from being funded and then proceeded to “void” it. If the new Governor reverses the voiding there would be no need for continuing litigation. In addition, when it comes to Corrections issues, we know the Governor is hearing from our Commissioner and we certainly want an opportunity to give our thoughts. We believe that once he hears both sides he will support Alaska Correctional Officers. We will continue to make attempts to communicate with the Department and the Governor and keep you informed.

Q: “Should we send copies of our notice of pay problems to Commissioner Schmidt so he is aware of what is happening?” or “Considering what the Commissioner emailed us on July 21st, should we not inform him of what is happening?”

A: Although a lot of you have asked this, it is more a question of personal choice and opinion than a question for the Association. The Association’s “opinion” is no. It will serve no purpose in the procedural process. Our opinion is that the Commissioner is fully aware of the health insurance deductions and sending a copy of your notice of pay problem to him will have no impact, regardless of what he said in his July 21st email. In addition, he certainly has received a copy of our ULP.

Q: “When will we hear back on our Superior Court case involving the contract/arbitration?”

A: As you can see on the ACOA home page, the original filing of the court case was just the beginning. Since then there have been many hurdles and many subsequent filings to move this issue forward to fruition. About two weeks ago with the filings completed, the case was ready for judicial review. With yesterday’s news, hopefully the timeframes for a resolution will be shortened.