

THE Independent

June 2017

2017
STATEWIDE
ELECTIONS

EDITION



SPECIAL

MEET THE
CANDIDATES



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

102 Hackett Boulevard- Albany, NY 12209
(518) 427-1551 www.nyscopba.org nyscopba@nyscopba.org



TO: All Members

FROM: Joe Bellinger, Election Committee Chairman

RE: Positioning of names on ballot and in The Independent

DATE: June 6, 2017

Please find a copy of the positioning of candidates for the election ballot and The Independent for NYSCOPBA's upcoming Executive Board Elections.

Also below is the list of people who witnessed the positioning process, which consisted of a blind draw. If you should have any questions concerning the process, please contact the Election Committee at 888-484-7279.

PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE DURING BLIND DRAW FOR POSITIONING OF THE CANDIDATES ON THE ELECTION BALLOT AND IN THE INDEPENDENT

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Joe Bellinger
Arnold Okonski
Heath Allen
Robert Patterson
Tonney Vachaparambil
Charlie Krom

WITNESSES

Stephanie Flanagan



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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ELECTION BALLOT/ INDEPENDENT POSITIONING OF CANDIDATES

**** Please note that the positioning of all names was done by a blind draw****

PRESIDENT

1. Steve Evertts
2. Michael B. Powers
3. Richard Harcrow

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

1. Lawrence McCormick
2. David Tessmer
3. Ann Hecht
4. Tammy Sawchuk

TREASURER

1. Doug Westervelt
2. Sean Carlson
3. Toby Hogan

RECORDING SECRETARY

1. Mark DeBurgomaster
2. Chris Summers
3. Sean Gittens

LAW ENFORCEMENT VICE PRESIDENT

1. Leonard Miles
2. John Harmon, Jr.
3. Gregory L. Tarbox

WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT - UNOPPOSED

1. Joe Miano

CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

1. Paul Lashway
2. Scott Carpenter

NORTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

1. Chris Hansen
2. John Roberts

SERGEANTS LIAISON

1. Monica H. Cooper
2. William Sellers

SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

1. Paul Mikolajczyk
2. Clarence M. Fisher, Jr.
3. David Luther

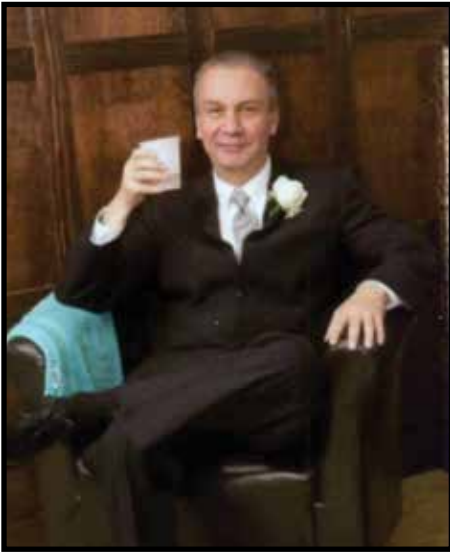
MID-HUDSON REGION VICE PRESIDENT- UNOPPOSED

1. Michael Mazzella

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

Personal Information



Name: **Steve Everetts**

Position Sought: **President**

Facility: **Southport**

Seniority: **07-12-1982**

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

My Brothers & Sisters,

My name is Steve Everetts from Southport Correctional facility and I am running for the position of N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. President.

I have been in the Department of Corrections for 35 years and I have worked my entire career down back and have been a facility steward on and off for 15 years.

I do not care what region you are from, or what division of N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. you fall under we are one union. And as President that how you will be represented. I will carry our message to Albany and tell it like it is, not piss on you and tell you it is raining. Ask yourself what has our leaders in Albany done for you in the past 3 years? Oh, wait our President did send a nice letter telling us how great our negotiated contract was.

I am sick and tired of our Union Officers in Albany and our Regions only showing up during election time, or for parties and then telling us they have no time to visit our facilities. Over the past 3 years only once did any members of our Executive Board tour our facility, and that was because our local Stewards invited Assemblymen and Senators to a tour and they wanted to rub shoulders.

As President expect to see me on your galleries, on your dorms, in your exercise yards. I will put my money in the coffee fund and drink a cup of coffee and discuss your issues face to face.

Representing the member's starts at the facility level, understanding our complaints and problems that not one of our current elected Officers ever had to work under in today's correction is key. Only by understanding what we go thru now, can we be represented in front of the State

I ask

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

Personal Information

Name: Michael B. Powers

Position Sought: President

Facility: Riverview

Seniority: 05/14/1990

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

I accomplished the following in my term:

AFFECT CHANGE: Through continuous negotiation with DOCCS/Governor's Office, I successfully worked toward policy changes for better equipment: including pepper spray, cell sense, K9 units for contraband detection, ban of hooded sweatshirts for inmates and the removal of canned goods and Glock transition.

HONOR INPUT OF MEMBERSHIP: Through member input and regional assistance, staffing numbers are on the rise. I continually pushed for more training, disputed revised directives and procedures (Search form 2077, Directive 4955), addressed concerns regarding K2, cell extraction, body scanners, assaults, post closures, job changes and Justice Center issues.

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC: Through public relations we continue to educate the public and elected officials about the stressors of the difficult jobs we perform. As a result, many Legislators have conducted research and reported on the current state of our prison system leading to meaningful discussions with the Governor's office and the Dept. I continue to travel across the state meeting with District Attorneys and Editorial Boards to discuss the increase in violence against staff, inmates, the rise in contraband and use of chemical agents and to seek prosecution for attacks on our members.

DEMAND RESPECT: For all job titles: We held a rally at the Capitol where 30 Legislators spoke in support of our issues. We secured legislative victories including Military Buy Back, Assault Reporting and funding for the Correctional Officers Memorial Wall to honor our fallen brothers and sisters

I have supported extended benefits, implementing the RDF, LDF funds during my tenure. Started a proactive approach to 'Right to Work' to protect existing benefits to the membership. I know what it is like to walk the hardest beat as an Officer/ Sergeant and President. I am seeking re-election to the office of President and I am asking for your support.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

Personal Information



Name: Richard Harcrow

Position Sought: President

Facility: Attica Correctional Facility

Seniority: Aug 29, 1983

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Fellow NYSCOPBA Members,

My name is Richard Harcrow. I've been a correctional officer for 33 years and I've worked at Attica for the past 30. I served previously as the State President of NYSCOPBA from 2002-2005. I am running and seek your vote for the office of State President once again.

My decision to run for office is driven by my desire to secure better terms and conditions of employment for the men and women of NYSCOPBA who I believe work the toughest beat in all of New York State.

The recent contract offer demonstrates clearly that the current leadership of NYSCOPBA is out of touch, or never did understand what officers walking the beat face every day. It's shocking to me that our leadership agreed to include affirmative penalties to be applied to staff for misconduct up to and including dismissal. Maybe the people negotiating the contract need to have penalties applied to them for negotiating a contract that failed to meet the members' approval. Perhaps 30, 60, or 90 days without pay would make them more sympathetic towards our dilemma. Thank each and every one of you that took the time to vote "NO" to that miserable offer.

NYSCOPBA needs to stand up on behalf of the officer and tell the truth about what's going on in correctional facilities across the state. We need the union to speak out about the heroic actions of officers and the horrific actions of the inmates. We need union leadership that won't be apologetic for telling the truth about how difficult and important our job is. We shouldn't feel bad for seeking fair treatment and just compensation.

I humbly ask for your vote to begin the change that is necessary.
Richardharcrow2017@gmail.com

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT

Personal Information



Name: LAWRENCE McCormick

Position Sought: EX. Vice President

Facility: GOWANDA

Seniority: 10-04-93

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

To the discouraged and disheartened correction officers throughout New York State,

There is hope and the hope resides in all of you. If you elect me, I will do my best to bring respect back to our job. (I am not like any of the previous leaders.) Example: If we vote down a contract overwhelmingly, the exact same one will not be brought back so we can get a retro-check before Christmas. Articles will not be left out of a contract because senior officers won't be affected. I won't be non-existent. I will not hire a stripper as my secretary.

Things I want to accomplish are the expansion of funds for both dental and eye care insurance for retirees, the setting up of a separate fund to help our officers in need, and the immediate freeze of all money dispersed through our PACT Fund which needs to be re-evaluated. We need to revise our TV ads to reflect our true job duties. Education of the young officers is crucial for their understanding of how badly that last contract would have affected them for the next twenty years.

Union dues need to be raised significantly. But, to accomplish the necessary goals it will take more than money. You will need to stand up for yourselves and your fellow officers. If you want to roll over, I am not who you are looking for as your leader. I am not a politician, I won't lie to you, nor will I come to your jail to beg for votes. I have more ideas to share and look forward to hearing your ideas.

In Unity,

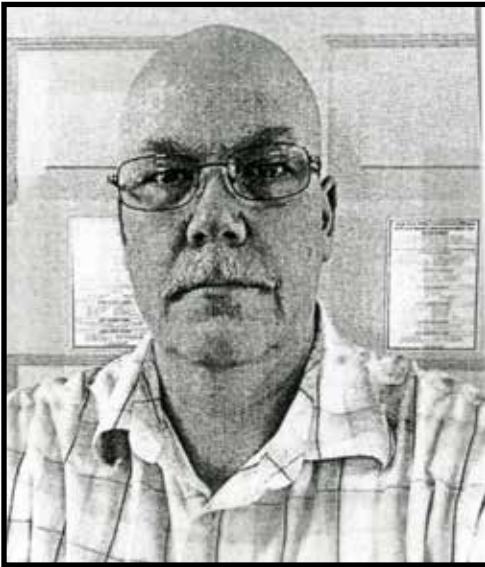
Lawrence McCormick

Lawrence McCormick

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT

Personal Information



Name: David Tessmer

Position Sought: Executive Vice President

Facility: Attica CF / Western Region Business Agent

Seniority: July 10, 1989, Sergeant August 7, 2006

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

I am asking for your support, and vote for the position of Executive Vice President of NYSCOPBA. I am not going to make you any hollow political promises. Our Union, now more than ever needs strong leadership. We need an Executive Board or members of the Board, willing to make the difficult decisions on behalf of our membership. We need leaders that are willing to take a strong stand on our issues. We need leaders that are not afraid to take on the Governor, or challenge his agenda, when his political agenda is detrimental to our members.

I believe the true power of any Union rests within the grassroots of the Union; the membership. The membership now more than ever needs to be engaged. The challenges facing today's Unions are complex, and are coming from multiple fronts. From Right to Work challenges, to open attacks on our rights to bargain collectively.

The effectiveness of any Union is tied directly to the level of membership participation and by the quality of membership participation. Each and every one of us is the UNION!

As an organization we need to rethink our priorities, modify our goals, and most importantly get you the members actively involved.

I have gained crucial experience the last five years as a Western Region Business Agent. Dealing with Contract enforcement, Disciplinary issues, Grievances and the day to day business affecting our members. I have been a Steward, a Chief Steward, and a member of the Grievance and Legal Committee. I have gained practical knowledge on the day to day operations of our Union, working as a Business Agent. I believe I have a strong foundation, on which to build and, with your assistance, we can move this organization in a forward direction. Thank You.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT

Personal Information

Name: Ann Hecht

Position Sought: Executive Vice President

Facility: Attica CF

Seniority: 8-1-94 as an Officer/11-26-16 as Sergeant

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

I began my career at the Gowanda Academy. I was the session leader of my class and awarded the Leadership Award by my peers. I spent approximately 1 year at Bedford, 5 years at Eastern, 9 years at Wyoming and 7 years at Albion. I was promoted to Sergeant in November 2016 and am a Sergeant at Attica CF. I have served as a steward at Eastern and at Albion. I have always been honest and straight forward. When I was a steward at Albion, I flew on my own time and expense to the US Department of Labor in Washington, DC. I went there to resolve a huge problem at my facility regarding FMLA leave, not being awarded properly. I felt I couldn't assist my fellow Officers until I could prove what was being done incorrectly at the facility. I have always given everything on behalf of the Officers I have had the honor of representing. Because so many of you reading this do not know me, I am and always will be 100% pro Officer/Sergeant. In 23 years in this department I have stayed true to myself and the others I have had the pleasure to work beside. I do not play games and I will not state anything that isn't true or I cannot prove to be correct. **WE ALL DESERVE RESPECT** and I will fight for every single person in NYSCOPBA. No matter how difficult, I will always tell you the truth and will never forget where I came from. I have and continue to work with the best people I could ever ask for. I believe we need to restore Integrity and Respect for **ALL. I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT.**

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT

Personal Information



Name: Tammy Sawchuk

Position Sought: Executive Vice President

Facility: Greene CF

Seniority: December 27, 1994

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Education: Courses in public policy, industrial labor studies, Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining from SUNY Albany, Cornell, and the Murphy Institute.

Experience: 22 Years combined experience as an officer, sergeant, steward and CSS in medium and maximum facilities; committee member of J&E, PAC, SHU Task Force: Executive VP.

As your Executive Vice President with the constitutional responsibility of overseeing the general operations of the organization. I have successfully fought to have previously denied Joint L/M applications approved, counsel with members who needed advice or an ear to listen; toured 36 facilities and listened to members with suggestions for improvement; successfully advocated utilization of 13.6 funds for suicide prevention and awareness training as a tool to stem the increasing rate of suicide among our members.

I have stood up for titles in this union by initiating ISO-specific and SHU-specific L/M meetings with the Department to provide a venue to address staffing, bullet proof vests, handling of recovered contraband, policy for violence by parolees, job descriptions, clear and uniform supervisory appointment and lockers.

I've been the voice of women of our membership and successfully mitigated issues such as lack of availability of woman's uniforms.

Every meeting, decision, email and letter I have made has been in support of this union. I attended press conferences, informational pickets, funerals, memorials, and charity events to raise funds for our members and causes important to NYSCOPBA. I was instrumental in organizing the rally for unity in Albany and advocated for a CO/CS memorial wall.

My experience and record show my dedication to the job and this union. I am asking for your support to re-elect me to continuing to fulfill what I pledged to do - stand my ground with you, refuse to back down from any challenge and to stay united. Thank you!

MEET THE CANDIDATES

TREASURER

Personal Information



Name: Doug Westervelt

Position Sought: Treasurer

Facility: Southport

Seniority: 08/10/1987

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Brothers & Sisters,

I'm Doug Westervelt from Southport Correctional Facility and I am seeking your vote for the position of Treasurer.

I have been in the Department of Corrections for almost 30 years and have been the Chief Steward of Southport C.F. for 12 years. I currently serve on the Finance committee for my region, and have served on the SHU Task Force since its inception. I have always had a strong voice for the membership and have never been afraid to address or confront anyone to make sure the members voices are heard.

I am a graduate of Mansfield University with a 4 year degree in Criminal Justice and Administration and for the past 30 years I have run a successful construction business where I have managed estimates, vendors, bids, billing, payroll and employees. I believe with my education and my experience with running a business combined with my knowledge of N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A.'s finances I will be a benefit to the members if elected as Treasurer.

Dealing with the finances of N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. and the details of the Treasurers duties are a huge responsibility and are not to be taken lightly. Ensuring N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. remains solvent so the membership can benefit and grow financially will always be my number one goal. Ultimately the union exists to serve the membership and by developing and following a sound financial plan I will strive to keep us as a union moving forward so N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. is around to serve its members for many years come.

I ask that when you cast your vote for Treasurer you consider me

In Unity

Doug Westervelt

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

TREASURER

Personal Information



Name: Sean Carlson

Position Sought: Treasurer

Facility: Green Haven

Seniority: 25 October 93

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Sean Carlson. I have been a Correction Officer for over 23 years. I have been a local Steward, Treasurer and Chief Steward at Green Haven for over 12 years. I also held the position of Treasurer for the Green Haven CERT team for over 6 years. Now I am asking for your support for NYSCOPBA Treasurer.

As NYSCOPBA Treasurer I will work to safe guard every penny of your dues money so that the maximum benefit can be returned to the members. Our members can count on this.

During my career, I have never shied away from responsibility. I am hard working and reliable. I am not afraid to put myself under the gun for our members and I do so without looking for a pat on the back.

If I sound like someone you want to work for you then please vote for me for NYSCOPBA Treasurer. Thank you for your support.

In Unity,


Sean Carlson

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

TREASURER

Personal Information



Name: Toby Hogan

Position Sought: Treasurer

Facility: Hale Creek C.F.

Seniority: 1-22-90

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Brothers and Sisters of NYSCOPBA,
I am asking for your consideration and support to become your next
NYSCOPBA Treasurer.

I am not a politician. I am not going to tell you what you want to hear to get a vote.
I have served our union effectively with hard work and dedication to our members.
As Treasurer I will safeguard every cent of our dues and maintain our account to the fullest
to ensure that every benefit we receive is the best possible.

I have been involved in unions for over twenty years of my career, I have worked very
hard to represent our members in the most professional way. I worked at Great Meadow,
Sing-Sing, Green Haven and Coxsackie.

I attended Gulf Coast C.C. for Business and Criminal Justice. I owned a restaurant that I
ran for ten years.

I have the vision and education to help better our benefits for active duty members, also
our retired members.

We are the Forgotten Cops. That's why we need to stick together now more than ever and
prove to Albany that we are the best in the nation at keeping the public safe, deserve
respect and to dispel misconceptions that a few don't represent the many.

For the last year I have been compiling all of the Assault on Staff and Contraband issues
that our members deal with from each Facility and compare them with Albany's numbers
thus educating the politicians to help combat this growing problem. I will not stop
fighting for Safe Working Conditions, Respect and Decent Contracts. Our members
deserve to be protected from the violent inmates that the state has created.

With full dedication to our members I will represent NYSCOPBA with complete
professionalism.

In Unity,

MEET THE CANDIDATES

RECORDING SECRETARY

Personal Information



Name: Mark DeBurgomaster
Position Sought: Recording Secretary
Facility: Southport
Seniority: 09/18/2000

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

My name is Mark (Burgo) DeBurgomaster and I am asking for your consideration and vote for the position of Recording Secretary.

For almost 17 years in DOCCS, information is the one thing members struggle to receive. Too often rumors or misinformation have left everyone frustrated and searching for answers. Regional and Local representatives struggle with this issue daily in our facilities and are forced to scramble for answers daily.

If elected Recording Secretary I will not only maintain the association records, but fight to keep the members informed on issues that affect them directly and in real time. I believe an informed membership not only gives the union strength, but lets the membership be more involved with the decisions that will affect them, something that I feel is seriously lacking at this time.

For the past 12 years I have had the privilege of serving the members of Southport Correctional Facility, addressing their issues, fighting for their contractual rights and for their voice to be heard. I have also had the honor of representing the Western Region as their member on the Constitution & Bylaws Committee for the last 6 years, contributing to several amendments and the writing of the Legal Defense Fund and Rainy Day Fund.

Anyone I have worked with knows I am not afraid of challenging decisions made by DOCCS, Administrators, Lawyers, or even our own Executive Board members if I felt it was not in the memberships best interest. I believe members come first and that is what I will bring to Albany if elected.

Serving the members of NYSCOPBA is my number one priority. I ask that you consider me when casting your vote.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

RECORDING SECRETARY

Personal Information



Name: Chris Summers

Position Sought: Recording Secretary

Facility: Attica Correctional Facility

Seniority: 1-24-05

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

I've been working as an officer for 12 years. 10 of those years have been spent at Attica Correctional Facility. I have served as a steward for 4 years and chief sector steward for 2 years.

During my tenure as a union representative, I have fought tirelessly representing Attica officers in disciplinary actions such as; lockouts, arbitration hearings, OSI interrogations & safety concerns.

Over the past few years, NYSCOPBA members have seen New York State and NYSDOCCS abuse, attack & demoralize our membership with little to no resistance from our present union officials.

I have many more years of service ahead of me and I would like the opportunity to represent all the NYSCOPBA members as part of the executive team. I have a vested interest in seeing our members prosper and receive the representation they deserve from our union.

If you are looking for a representative who is a straight shooter and doesn't believe in playing region against region, I am the person for the job.

I am therefore requesting your vote for recording secretary. Thank you and in unity we stand.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

RECORDING SECRETARY

Personal Information



Name: SEAN GITTENS

Position Sought: RECORDING SECRETARY

Facility: HALE CREEK C.F.

Seniority: 5/3/04

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Vote Sean "the Gitt-man" Gittens for Recording Secretary

Thirteen years in the Department of Corrections and eight and a half years in the Navy brings all the experience needed to work in Albany for this membership. As a Navy Disbursing Clerk (Payroll) I worked in the Administrative field and earned an Apprenticeship in Office Manager/Administrative Services. Administrative work is my trade of Love and Labor. I was a NYSCOPBA Steward at Hale Creek from 2013 to 2015, and a member of the Legislative/Political Action Committee. As a Free and Accepted Mason I have companions and business contact throughout the Albany area. I also serve as the Lodge Secretary and Secretary of the Masonic Charities Committee. I would like the opportunity to serve my fellow Brothers and Sisters in Albany. The "Gitt-man" will get things done in Albny.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

LAW ENFORCEMENT V.P.

Personal Information



Name: Leonard Miles

Position Sought: Law Enforcement Vice President

Facility: Rockland Psychiatric Center

Seniority: 14 years

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

My name is Leonard Miles and I am running for Vice President of Law Enforcement for the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association. I have been a Union Representative for most of my 14 years of service at Rockland Psychiatric Center, fighting the good fight and winning for my members. I also have a college degree in the field of Criminal Justice and I have been working in Law Enforcement for over 20 years. As a Union Representative I have seen how the Facility attacks my members and how they will come after them violating our Union Contract and my members Constitutional Rights, and not treating all members the same. When I have to represent my members I don't back down, I fight hard, and we win. I have moved cases out of the facility and winning cases for members with Human Rights and in Federal Court. So I promise I will fight for you and I will answer your calls for help, I just need YOUR VOTES.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

LAW ENFORCEMENT V.P.

Personal Information



Name: John Harmon Jr.

Position Sought: Law Enforcement Vice President

Facility: Central New York Psychiatric Center

Seniority: 1999

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Dear Law Enforcement Members:

I am asking for your support to be reelected as your Law Enforcement Vice President.

The past 6 years as your LEVP, there have been many accomplishments and victories that have included the following:

- Negotiated 1st LE only contract that closed the salary gap negotiated before me.
- Saved MidHudson Forensic PC from closure through legislative meetings and grassroots efforts of our members.
- Negotiated to save over 100 SSO positions that were slated for elimination due to OPWDD restructuring.
- Won a court decision keeping agencies from hiring part-time and hourly SHTAs and SSOs.
- Negotiated an agreement for alternative scheduling for our SUNY members.
- Introduced the most LE only legislation in NYSCOPBA's history. Including having SHTA Peace Officer and OMH Forensic Assault Reporting signed into law. Prioritized full-time 24hr Peace Officer powers for SSOs in state legislature and the removal of the Justice Center from some facilities.
- Had protective vests issued for all SSOs in NYS.
- Set up process as the only union in NYS that represents members at Justice Center Hearings.

I am the only candidate that has the experience and proven track record of helping every title in Law Enforcement. I have aggressively addressed our members' issues at their workplaces and have always held management accountable for their actions.

I continue to fight for the respect we deserve as Law Enforcement Officers from New York State. We deserve the same salary and monies that our other members receive and I have made it our mission to be paid what we deserve and no less.

There are no guarantees during these difficult times, but there is one if you reelect me. I am a Leader that works for you and will do everything in my power to protect your rights.

John Harmon Jr. – Law Enforcement Vice President

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

LAW ENFORCEMENT V.P.

Personal Information



Name: Gregory L. Tarbox

Position Sought: LEVP

Facility: St. Lawrence Psych Center

Seniority: 2/17/2000

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

NYSCOPBA

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of NYSCOPBA. My goal is to bring change and new ideas to the table. First and foremost I feel that the members come first and I am looking forward to hearing fresh ideas and input from everyone.

I have worked for New York State for over 22 years. I have worked in Direct Care and NYS DOCS. In February 2000 I started as an SSO and have maintained as SS01 until present. I have been involved with NYSCOPBA for approximately 14 years, holding a position as Shop Steward and then as Chief Sector Steward for the Central Region, addressing concerns of the membership. From September 2013 until March of 2015, I held the position of Staff Support Specialist in Albany where I assisted members statewide.

It is time to let the voices of all the dues paying membership be heard, regardless of title. Transparency of the agendas of elected officials is my goal. We need to address staffing levels and safety concerns at our facilities, as well as staff assaults.

I am aware that there are issues and concerns that differ from site to site, this is where my experiences in the various roles I have played will give me the ability to relate to, and work with the various titles. We need to push items forward towards legislation to benefit all our members.

With my years and experience in NYSCOPBA I am confident that I will be able to serve in the capacity of Law Enforcement Vice-President and with your support, looking forward to the opportunity to make a change.

In Unity

5/22/2017

MEET THE CANDIDATES

CENTRAL REGION V.P.

Personal Information



Name: Paul Lashway
Position Sought: Central Region Vice President
Facility: Mid-State CF
Seniority: May 14, 1990

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

First of all, I want to take a moment and thank you all for allowing me to represent you these last three years as your Central Region Vice President.

Here is a little about myself for those who don't know me. After high school, I spent three years on active duty in the US Army – light infantry. I received an honorable discharge, returned home and began my career with DOCCS in 1990. I started out at Bedford Hills then Taconic, Fishkill for 3 yrs. I then went to Marcy and Mid-State for 5.5 yrs. Camp Pharsalia was home for 10 yrs. until we closed and I returned to Mid-State where my item is at present.

I have been involved with NYSCOPBA since its inception as both a steward and a CSS for both Pharsalia and Mid-State, then as Central Region VP for the last 3 yrs. Along with serving as the CRVP, I am also the VP for the Veterans Committee. The committee and I have helped our veterans and pushed legislation giving our vets the right to buy back their military time up to 3 yrs.

The Central Region has donated to 20 plus organizations and charities such as Boy Scouts, Girls Travel Softball, Ride for Missing Children, Heart/Run Walk, Children's Dyslexia Foundation, & Troopers Helping Troops to name a few. Thank you to all who volunteer.

I am dedicated to making a difference. I have gained a vast amount of knowledge with contract articles and language. With your help we can continue the fight things such as the implementation of the clear bags and Dir. 4936 and to gain the respect we deserve from the state. This is our union, a strong union, let's stay united.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

CENTRAL REGION V.P.

Personal Information



Name:	Scott Carpenter
Position Sought:	Central Region Vice President
Facility:	Midstate Correctional Facility
Seniority:	Officer – 12/27/94 Sergeant – 9/13/10

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

As a candidate to represent you for Central Region Vice President, I will only promise what I can deliver. I promise that I will give you the representation you so desperately deserve. I will also promise to include you in the process at every step along the way for representation that you can be proud of. When I say I will come to you and represent you at your work-site, I mean it. When elected and within the first 30 days of my position, I will reach out to all Chief Stewards to create a schedule to come to your meetings, walk your work-sites, listen to your concerns.

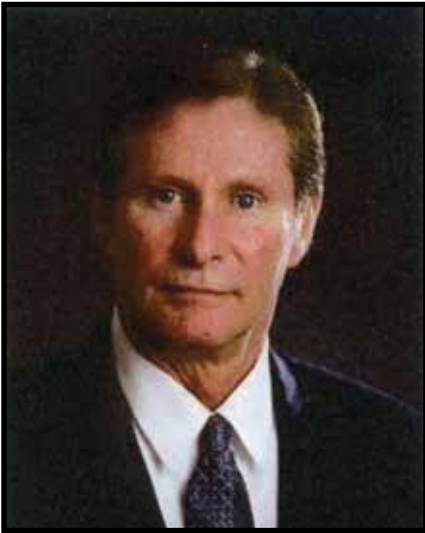
I have been in this department for over 22 years and have seen some disturbing trends. I will be there at your side at your most desperate hour when you are seeking answers due to a department that is less concerned with your well-being and more concerned with how they look to a liberal media that forever vilifies you and the profession you hold. I will demand that this department stay true to their word and hold you as the best trained professionals they claim you are in one breath and in the next treat you worse than the population we are charged with keeping secure.

I have had the honor of working with many people from all areas of this great State. I will never forget the lessons I have learned while on the road to the Southern and Western Regions while working my way back to the Central Region and vow that your concerns are my concerns. In short, my pledge is simple... to give you the representation you deserve.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

NORTHERN REGION V.P.

Personal Information



Name: Chris Hansen

Position Sought: Northern Region Vice President

Facility: Washington Correctional Facility

Seniority: April 29, 1979

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Re-Elect Chris Hansen as your Northern Region Vice President

It's been a pleasure serving as your regional representative for the past ten years; as your Northern Region Business Agent from 2007 – 2014 and Northern Region Vice President from 2014 – 2017. I strive to represent each member of the northern region with the respect and dignity you deserve.

During my time as a union official, I have developed and strengthened relationships within DOCCS, the Legislature, media outlets, and local politicians that are pertinent to the goals and success of our union. I will continue to utilize the skills I've obtained to assert influence in many areas that positively affect our membership.

Three years ago the union, and especially the northern region, faced a significant challenge. In the face of that challenge, every facility in the northern region and many beyond rolled up their sleeves to help in any way – from the CERT teams to the road patrols, from donations to overtime hours, we pulled together in unity which made me very proud of the members I serve.

As your vice-president, I continue to be committed to visiting every prison on a regular basis. It is vital to speak with members directly- where they work- so I have a full understanding of the issues in each facility. If re-elected, I will continue this practice and meet you where you are at.

I want to thank each person who has assisted me in representing you, especially Rick Brunelle, all of our Chief Sector Stewards, Stewards, NYSCOPBA staff, and those who volunteer their time for their brothers and sisters. I have enjoyed representing the northern region for the past ten years and hope to continue the privilege of representing you.

Chris Hansen – Experience in the Norther Region

MEET THE CANDIDATES

NORTHERN REGION V.P.

Personal Information



Name: John Roberts

Position Sought: Northern Region Vice President

Facility: Clinton

Seniority: 12-03-07

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

My name is John Roberts and I am seeking your support to become the Northern Region Vice President.

It is time for a change. It is time for new leadership. With ten years in corrections at both Fishkill and Clinton, fourth consecutive term as Steward at Clinton, and volunteer board member for Correctional Services Trust (CST), I am motivated and determined to move the membership forward through the tough times ahead.

We are challenged daily as we enter our facilities and my goal is to work with the membership to resolve these issues. NYSDOCCS and the Governor have limited our member's effectiveness in performing their job duties. The disrespect shown by our own Governor is unacceptable. We are not guards, we are professional correctional security staff. Bringing respect and ensuring our members of safe work practices are of the utmost importance.

Assaults on our staff are growing exponentially and the illegal substances found and used by the inmate population is beyond out of control. Working together and having our voice heard on these dangerous issues is at the forefront. I will lead our members on a united front to address these matters that impact our members and their families daily. I ask for your vote so that as a team we can make positive changes that benefit our brothers and sisters.

**MEET THE
CANDIDATES**

SERGEANTS LIAISON

Personal Information



Name: Monica .H .Cooper

Position Sought: Sergeants Liaison

Facility: Sing Sing/Fishkill/Downstate

Seniority: Dept: June 96

SGT: Aug. 08

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

After many years of learning from past Union stewards and observing past mistakes made, I decided to run at my local level as a steward. Not only was it my first time running, I was elected to be the Chief steward. I have made it my mission to make the members more educated and informed about what our Union can and will do.

I took this position with great pride and dignity and to bring about much needed change and leadership. I believe united we can bring about change and I have dedicated my term as Chief Stewart to do so. During my term, through labor management meetings and determination, I have helped bring about future changes that will benefit the safety of my fellow co-workers: More officers for high risk areas, better lighting in our court yards, enhanced security for our front lobby Officers and constantly encouraged the Administration to see my co-workers as individuals and not as a body filling a post.

As your Sergeants liaison, I will continue to fight for the recognition that I believe all Sergeants deserve. We as Sergeants have a great responsibility that is sometimes lost in the daily operations of our jails, I will fight to ensure that we, as Sergeants are not taken for granted for the jobs that we do. I will fight for you with the aggression that I am known for.

With the new policies and procedures that have been forced upon all of us, the road ahead will be rough, that is a fact and I will ensure that we Sergeants are given the respect and credit that we all deserve for the jobs that we do. Thank you in advance for your vote.

It's time for a change and the time is now. PLEASE VOTE!

In solidarity Monica Cooper

MEET THE CANDIDATES

SERGEANTS LIAISON

Personal Information



Name: William Sellers

Position Sought: Sergeant Liaison

Facility: Ogdensburg Correctional Facility

Seniority: Sergeant- 4/07
Department- 9/84

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

I have been a Sergeant for ten years and I have 32+ years of service with the Department. In 1989, I was elected to a Steward's position and remained in that position until 2003 when I was elected Chief Sector Steward. I continuously served as Chief until I was promoted to Sergeant in 2007. I have had the privilege to work as a Sergeant at Bedford Hills, Woodbourne, Gouverneur and Ogdensburg. In 2011, I transferred home and I was re-elected Chief Sector Steward. I continued to serve the members in that capacity until 2014 when I was called to be the Special Assistant to the President of NYSCOPBA.

In the summer of 2016 I was unanimously voted to the position of Sergeant Liaison by the Executive Board of NYSCOPBA. I currently hold that position. It has been a challenge and a pleasure to represent all Sergeants statewide and I am eager to continue to work and fight on behalf of the Sergeants.

The landscape will continue to change and present new challenges to be addressed. Recent changes have increased the responsibilities and the paperwork making the position more stressful. I will use all the tools at my disposal to press the Department for a reduction in both. The only promise I can make to each and every Sergeant is that I will fight every day and every battle with integrity and honesty. I will be persistent. I am proud of the Sergeants of NYSCOPBA and realize the vital role you play in the safe operation of every facility statewide. I am honored and privileged to be one of you and would like to continue to serve you as your Sergeants Liaison.

In Unity,

Bill Sellers

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

SOUTHERN REGION V.P.

Personal Information

Name: Paul Mikolajczyk

Position Sought: Southern Region VP

Facility: Sing Sing Prison

Seniority: Entered DOCS 7/24/89

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

In 2002 you elected me to SRVP to FIGHT for our issues. The work done then led to the advances obtained in the 2004 contract, (25yr step, 1st addition in over 20years) over a 150% increase in our location pay. Since then individuals charged with working for us have chosen not to fight for our issues. This is a fact , since 04 there have been nearly 70 Executive Assembly's with all those opportunities you hope there would be at least ½ that number of motions from the floor by southern region leaders? This authority is spelled out in article 10.d of our constitution.

So am I worthy of your support, I authored & made original motion for Binding Arbitration, I authored & made motion for Location Pay study used for the 04 contract, I Authored & 2nd motion (Sector Reporting Policy) I Authored/ made 05/13 Sing Sing mandate (hiring of an Arbitration panel member) passed unanimous 6/13 EA. .I authored & made motion at Sing Sing mandate (NYSCOPBA not go back to the table, but to go to impasse towards Arbitration) passed 04/17 EA with 1 no vote.

What I will do going forward is use every opportunity to fight for longevity pay & finical compensation for were we work , that at least equals that of the other (24/7) state LE agency. I will do all that can be done within the scope of EA members, to stop any contract on the floor of the EA that will not take care of our monetary needs. I will fight for real Law Enforcement Training & equipment to keep us safe in our prisons.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

SOUTHERN REGION V.P.

Personal Information



Name: Clarence M. Fisher Jr.

Position Sought: Southern Region V.P.

Facility: Sing Sing C.F.

Seniority: 1/15/96

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

Greetings to my brothers and sisters of NYSCOPBA. I want to thank the Southern Region Business Agent, all of the Southern Region Chief Stewards, The Executive Board and office staff at NYSCOPBA and ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN REGION for all of your help during my first term as Southern Region Vice President. The last 3 years have been very challenging and very rewarding. I have learned so much during this time and I am now able to apply this knowledge for the benefit of all the members. I have established relationships with many members of the NYS Legislature and have brought some of them into our facilities. In the past 3 years, we have had some major victories in the region. We have also had some tragedies, but we have gone through the good times and the bad times together. You are part of my family. There is un-finished work ahead of us and the best way to accomplish our goals is together! We will get respect from our management and we will fight for a fair living wage..I would be honored to continue to be your representative and I will continue to work as hard as I can for US!

MEET THE CANDIDATES

SOUTHERN REGION V.P.

Personal Information



Name: David Luther

Position Sought: Southern Region Vice President

Facility: Sing Sing

Seniority: October 17, 1994

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

In 2005, I was elected as a NYSCOPBA Steward for the Men and Woman of Sing Sing. Shortly after my election, I became the Secretary to the Local Sector. During my tenure as Secretary, I put in place a recording system that kept constant communication with the NYSCOPBA Office and kept our members informed as to the workings of the facility and the issues affecting the Union as a whole. I have endeavored to keep a line of communication open for all our members to utilize.

In 2012, I was elected by the SSCF Stewards to be the Chief Sector Steward. In that position I have challenged any and all Directives and Policy changes that have affected our Member.

Most significantly, I spearheaded the legal challenge against the clear bags, including securing a waiver for members.

I have inundated the Administration with Grievances, Improper Practice Charges, Phone calls and E-mails. I continue to hold the Department accountable to meet the Contractual obligations that they have agreed upon.

I have encouraged and supported the Sing Sing Unity movement. We have expanded upon our members' personal interest and community activities.

In Albany, I have been your advocate in the Capitol as well, on the floor of the EA pushing for Legislative Laws as well as Department changes that best afford our members an opportunity for a safe work environment. Within the Union, I have supported the programs that best reflect the need of the members.

I will continue to advocate and challenge, all that affect, our members in the Southern Region and create a strong united front, utilizing good communication and honest and fair dealing.

I will not make outlandish promises but will continue to be your voice and remain unwavering, till our voices are heard and our needs are met.

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

MID-HUDSON REGION V.P.

Personal Information**Name:** Michael Mazzella**Position Sought:** Mid-Hudson Region Vice President**Facility:** Current NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson VP / Green Haven**Seniority:** 09/07/1993**Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped**

Brothers and Sisters of the Mid-Hudson Region of NYSCOPBA:

The last 6 years has been challenging and satisfying at the same time. It's challenging in that we are faced with a department that is changing for the worse. The liberal agenda to abolish Special Housing Units has emboldened inmates and puts our members in harm's way. The satisfying part is that I'm in a position where my abilities are utilized to assist members with the many issues that they may face.

Since taking this position in 2011 and then hiring Larry Flanagan as my Business Agent in 2013, we have one of the most efficient regions in NYSCOPBA. Since 2011, I have handled over 525 disciplinary cases, more than 800 interrogations by OSI in Albany, had multiple press releases regarding staff assaults and an article printed in the Poughkeepsie Journal bringing to light what Correction Officers face on a daily basis. That article set a record for the most on-line interactions in the Journal's history. There is no one more experienced for this position.

In addition, I have secured funding for multiple charitable events sponsored by Thunder 102, Police Unity Tour, Tour De Force and Lap4Life which brings positive attention to our profession and Union. The NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Night of Unity with the HV Renegades is another event that allows members to socialize with each other in order to build a stronger bond. The Mid-Hudson Region of NYSCOPBA Facebook page continues to grow and is a great resource. I provide information and answer our members' questions continuously.

I have made myself accessible to you 24/7/365. You can be assured that I have your back and if you re-elect me as the Mid-Hudson Regional Vice President, I will continue to do so.

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MEET THE
CANDIDATES

WESTERN REGION V.P.

Personal Information



Name: Joe Miano

Position Sought: Western Region Vice President

Facility: Albion

Seniority: June 29, 1987

Personal Essay - Any words in excess of 300 will be cropped

My name is Joe Miano I am seeking the position of NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President. I have been serving as your Western Region Vice President for the past 2 years prior to that I was a Business Agent in the Western Region since 2009. I have held the position of local Sector Steward and Chief Sector Steward in NYSCOPBA I also held several local positions in C82 prior to the inception of NYSCOPBA.

These are trying times for NYSCOPBA as a union and especially difficult times for the members in the facilities. With the constant changes that DOCCS is making we as a Union need to create new ways of dealing with DOCCS. I always have and will continue to fight for the men and women in the Western Region and will be your voice in Albany. In the past 2 years I have visited all facilities in the Western Region and have taken your message to the rest of the Executive Board in Albany. It is also imperative to have the right people working for the membership in leadership roles of the union.

I have enjoyed working for the members of the Western Region for the past 8 years and will continue to fight each and every day for you and putting the members FIRST. All members need to vote in this election to show support for your union.

If anyone has any questions please contact me at miano013@aol.com Thank You



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2017 STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

***Ballots will be mailed on
August 4, 2017***

**If you have not received a ballot by August 11, 2017,
or are in need of an absentee ballot,
please contact:**

The American Arbitration Association

1-800-529-5218

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

or

uleros@adr.org



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Mike Dildine

Vice President - Law Enforcement
John Harmon

Vice President - Corrections Central
Paul Lashway

Vice President - Corrections West
Joe Miano

Who We Are

NYSCOPBA was formed in 1998 and since that time has provided superior representation to our membership under the independent and democratic model. Our objectives are to improve the terms and conditions of employment, protect our members contractual rights, provide high quality representation in the collective bargaining process, communicate effectively with the membership, achieve legislative gains, and to promote the overall welfare of our members. NYSCOPBA is the largest independent law enforcement and public safety union in New York State. We are 21,000 members strong in virtually every sector of law enforcement, keeping New York Safe. We are Capital Police Communications Specialists, Community Correctional Center Assistants, Campus Public Safety Officers, Safety & Security Officers, Correction Sergeants, Correctional Officers, Forest Rangers, Security Officers, Security Screening Technicians, Motor Vehicle Investigators, Security Service Assistants, Warrant & Transfer Officers, Security Hospital Treatment Assistants, Institutional Safety Officers and State Police Communications Specialists.

