

COMMENTS FROM CO-EDITOR

SYLVIA

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DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW, that correction officers receive 6 college credits for academy training and N.Y.P.D. receives 35 for their academy training? The reason for the disparity is that N.Y.P.D. spends approximately six months in the academy learning all aspects of their job, and are required to take college level courses as part of their training. Correction officers are only in the academy for a short training period, and are given basic fundamentals only. Our academy should be upgraded, not just to enhance our chances of receiving equivalent college credit, but primarily to instill a climate of professionalism in our department. If we do not consider ourselves professionals, then how can others look upon us as professionals?

DID YOU KNOW, that N.Y.P.D. are provided with 30 rounds of free ammunition each month upon request, with which to practice and improve their shooting skills, and correction officers are allowed, you guessed it, **NOTHING**.

DID YOU KNOW, that the Rules and Regulations concerning time off for blood donation has been rescinded (S.85, 5.86, 5.87)? Here again, we see the **failure** of the C.O.B.A. to include this as a contractual item instead of a gentleman's agreement. The P.D. wisely included this item in their contract; once it has been placed in a contract, it cannot be arbitrarily taken away, in addition to being another item with which to negotiate, if forced to make concessions.

DID YOU KNOW, that it was the BASOA Slate that first suggested the idea of having a lobbyist in Albany to expedite our bills? The C.O.B.A. has since tried to promote this idea.

DID YOU KNOW, that it was the BASOA Slate who first publicized and encouraged that a new meeting location site be considered? The C.O.B.A. is also taking this into consideration.

DID YOU KNOW, that it was the BASOA Slate who first recommended consolidation of all municipal police forces, to more effectively combat crime? The C.O.B.A. claims that they have attached an amendment to a similar bill, which is now being considered in the State Legislature (S.2083 A.2800).

DID YOU KNOW, that it was the BASOA Slate who first spoke out strongly against the present disciplinary proceeding and challenging the kangaroo court? The C.O.B.A. is also taking this matter into consideration. They have not introduced an original idea yet, because they are incapable. If they are adopting and using our suggestions, just think how more effective we could be if we were there working in your behalf. There should be no doubt as to whom you should vote for in this coming election. **VOTE FOR AND ELECT THE ENTIRE BASOA SLATE.**



As a candidate on the BASOA Slate, I have joined a working team that will fight for and protect your rights. **We will do the job for you, and prevent them from doing a job on you.** The grievance procedures that are now in practice must be changed. It is impossible for an officer to receive a fair trial under the present conditions; the line between the Judge (Hearing Commissioner) and the prosecutor is so thin that one has difficulty identifying where one role begins and the other ends. One solution would be to appoint a completely neutral person, one who is non-political, to serve as an arbitrator, to monitor the hearing proceedings.

Communications is another area where we need to apply a great deal of energy. The C.O.B.A. newspaper, which is supposed to be one of the main sources of informing our members, has become so political, catering to all the fraternal groups, that as a result it contains very little information pertaining to union business. When members are not properly informed, then rumors and hearsay replace fact and truth. You have an opportunity to elect people to office who will back you up 100%. This year we need strong leadership, support, and to elect the entire BASOA Slate.

Correction Officer Harold Williams, C-76),
Candidate for 1st Vice President
on the BASOA Slate

Before we can have an effective union, we must gain more unity among all correction officers. If we continue to fight among ourselves, we may never be an impressive labor organization. It is time that we put our personal and petty differences aside for the benefit of mutual and common goals. Additional training for correction officers is vitally needed. The better trained and informed we are, the more professional appearance we will project.

When elected, our Board will make frequent visits to the institutions, to let the membership air their grievances, rather than being desk jockeys like our present C.O.B.A. Board, who tries to handle things over the phone, when they are not in conference.

Our present C.O.B.A. Board tries to solve too many problems at one time, and never appears to resolve any. Our team will handle grievances on a priority basis and give more attention to those issues that affect all members equally; however, we will defend all grievances, whether minor or major, utilizing whatever means are appropriate.

We will also reevaluate our present benefits package, and with your approval, shop around for the best plan possible for your money.

In closing, I am asking that you support my candidacy and also vote for the entire team, so that we can work as a unit in your behalf.

Correction Officer
John Laterza (C-74)