

Brothers and Sisters,

Up until The Arizona Correctional Peace Officers Association became involved in what has proven to be one of the biggest scandals for the Arizona department of corrections, or any prison for that matter, to include the "Shawshank Redemption" and "Papillion", the atmosphere surrounding our work conditions was suffocating, to say the least.

Morale was down, staff safety was in jeopardy, the state prison facilities were continuing to decline into a state of dilapidation rivaling the fall of the Roman Empire, and it appeared that the upper administrators' ears had fallen deaf to the plea of the departments most cherished resource: Staff.

But then AZCPOA stepped in, took control of this sinking ship and forced department heads to take us seriously and the rest is history!

From media exposure to press conferences, AZCPOA has been your frontline liaison to ensure that these dreadful mistakes were eradicated once and for all.

We persisted in our mission for staff safety until the director had no choice but to cry uncle and relocate every inmate out of Morey Unit until each and every lock was fixed and our staff and inmates were in safe environment.

Our persistent campaign eventually forced Ryan back to the Joint Legislative Budget committee and ask for \$17.7 million to fix the Lewis cell door locks and fire alarms.

On Tuesday the JLBC agreed to produce the funds but repairs won't be complete until late 2020.

And that's only one phase of this decision. He will have to continue to ask for support to address the other units as well as the freedom of speech now prevailing amongst our ranks exposes other security problems that have been ignored for years.

We at AZCPOA will continue our campaign to revive this once thriving entity called The Arizona department of corrections until each and every one of you, AZCPOA members or not, are safe and serving proudly in what used to be, the jewel of prison systems.

We will get there again.