



The Arizona Correctional  
Peace Officers Association

**Check and Mate  
Newsletter**

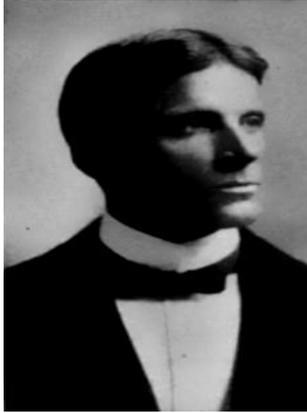
*No. 13*



*A bi-weekly newsletter to inform Union members on important grievance results, trends, procedures and important information relevant to a better quality of work life.*

*In This Issue:*

*-Be Strong! Lessons from a famous poem.*



## The Check and Mate Newsletter No. 13

*A bi-weekly newsletter to inform Union members on important grievance results, trends, procedures and important information relevant to a better quality of work life.*

### Be Strong!

Be strong!  
We are not here to play, to dream, to drift;  
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift;  
Shun not the struggle- face it; 'tis God's gift.

Be strong!  
Say not, "The days are evil. Who's to blame?"  
And fold the hands and acquiesce- oh shame!  
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!  
It matters not how deep intrenched the wrong.  
How hard the battle goes, the day how long;  
Faint not- fight on! To-morrow comes the song.

Be strong!

### By Maltbie Davenport Babcock

This poem, written during the late 1800's, is as relevant today, as it was back then when it was first written by Maltbie D. Babcock, a poet and clergyman of yesteryear.

The important message contained within its lines apply to all of you currently working in the trenches of, what appears to be, troubled times

*indeed, within the Arizona dept of Corrections.*

*Our staff our getting assaulted, more and more frequently, than ever before, and this administration seems disinclined to hold the responsible inmates accountable or to regulate sufficiently to ensure that this doesn't happen again.*

*Staffing on the units are at a dreadful all time low and the administrators running the facilities believe they are fooling everyone by posting below the sane CORE staffing numbers allowed and subjecting our staff to further danger.*

*The lower administration, from the Warden on down, appear to have lost their courage and their authority to do the right thing, no matter what, through the fear that is constantly barraging them from the upper administration looming above them and loyal to this director that has proven to all, through his actions, that staff safety rates lower in his book than the imagined perception that he is competent and that the department is running as smoothly as ever under his guidance.*

*Our staff are being subjected to having to zip tie their lips shut through the false perception of "Speak no Evil or ye shall forever burn within the confines of established policies that forbid ye from speaking to the media!"*

*The truth, therefore, is being covered by this dreadful administration's avalanche of lies and incompetence.*

*Just look at what transpired at Yuma recently following the aftermath of the riot that occurred earlier this year. Yuma staff are still, as we speak, being subjected to the code of silence as to what really transpired there, even after an NBC report exposed the lie that the riot was spontaneous.*

*Our staff in Lewis complex are still being exposed to life threatening conditions because the upper administration is failing to take action on the recent ongoing staff assaults.*

*What is needed now more than ever is steadfast courage to do the right thing. Be strong! Have courage! Have faith! These three qualities are related to one another and depend on one another.*

*And this message applies to upper administration as well. Take care of your staff and be courageous, even if it means putting your career on the line because you disobey a ludicrous order that will obviously endanger the lives of your staff.*

*Do what you have to do. Don't follow the herd!*

*And to our line staff: if your administration is endangering your lives, speak out! Let us know. The Arizona Correctional Peace Officers Association will fight for you as we have been doing through media exposure and through our YouTube channel:*

*“AZCPOAWolfDen”*

*Remember this: courage depends on the many and not the few.*

*Benjamin Franklin said the following concerning teamwork and courage during the signing of the Declaration of Independence:*

*“We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.”*

*Enough said.*

*Until next time: Stay safe, stay strong, and watch each other's six.*

*Yours in Solidarity,*

*Carlos Garcia*

*Executive Grievance*

*Coordinator*

***Deeds not words!***

