



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS ADVISORY

Sept. 7, 2022

ORW union members to hold picket Sept. 12

OCSEA members at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, Chapter 8010, will hold a picket outside the institution on Monday, Sept. 12 from 6 a.m.-4 p.m. to protest working conditions at the prison.

Like many state institutions, the Ohio Reformatory for Women has been plagued by understaffing and retention issues, which has caused excessive mandatory overtime. At ORW, it's not unusual for Correction Officers to work 4 or 5 days of back to back overtime every single week. On top of that, ORW management has frozen the union's bid process and won't allow employees to move to other positions even when there's an opening. But the worst part is: Management refuses to work with local union leadership to fix the problem.

Correction Officer Tom Holden, the OCSEA Chapter President at ORW, said there has been zero cooperation with management and employees are just walking out the door left and right. "Our officer of the year just quit, so you know it's bad," he said. He said the lack of respect for front line custody staff and the lack of any work/life balance is just pushing staff out.

The sad part is, the problem is fixable, said Holden, even with the decreases in staff. "Basically, they are holding us hostage because they refuse to sit down with us to fix the problem," he said.

Holden acknowledged that there are many state facilities going through similar hardships. "We fully understand everyone's suffering. This is our battle. We could just use any support you can give," said Holden, who encourages any OCSEA members and supporters to join him and his union members on the picket line.

What: Union Picket at the Ohio Reformatory for Women against excessive overtime and working conditions

Where: Ohio Reformatory for Women, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville, OH 43040

When: Monday, Sept. 12, 2022 from 6 a.m.-4 p.m.

Additional: Food and drink available.

OCSEA represents approximately 27,000 state employees who work in a wide range of security, regulatory, administrative, direct care, maintenance, customer service and other positions, including 8,100 who work in the Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction. For more information, contact Sally Meckling, 614-865-2602 or 614-404-3881 (cell).