

## Greetings from M-PAC

Thanks to *Beyond the Bars* ' publishers for giving M-PAC this space to say hello. M-PAC's next meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, IBEW Hall, 16 Old Winthrop Road, Manchester (near Augusta); open to anyone interested in improving conditions for incarcerated people in Maine. Please invite your friends and family and contact M-PAC for directions.

Art, writing, or questions for *Beyond the Bars* should go to the Portland address on this newsletter.

We understand that some people recently experienced pat down searches that were seemingly outside of policy protections. M-PAC was informed that an investigation is underway and that some changes in procedures have been made so MDOC can be in compliance. Our hope is that any staff person who steps outside of humane boundaries – where he/she is in a position of power and trust – will eventually change or find other employment. We commend the administration and staff who treat incarcerated men and women professionally and respectfully.

Hopefully, the transition to Keefe is going easily and prices and supplies are acceptable. We look forward to hearing about the new medical contract starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. Most of M-PAC's advocacy issues come from medical problems. We are very sorry that so many men and women are dealing with difficult medical situations.

M-PAC volunteers are slow with responses to letters. We sometimes take action on situations you write to us about before replying. Please remember that we can't work on sentencing issues or appeals, even if these were wrong, nor can we make changes in work assignments or individual good time.

Best wishes from advocates throughout Maine.

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