



American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network

Serving America's Corrections Professionals

FAQ

What is ACOIN?

ACOIN is a coalition of public correctional officers and the unions and associations that represent them.

Is ACOIN a union?

No. While ACOIN has always and will always support our nation's unions, it is not a union. We do work with dozens of unions from Alaska to Florida on our mutual quest to support, advance, and assist the corrections profession.

What is ACOIN's Mission?

To raise our collective voices, change the public perception about our profession, and advocate for the physical safety and mental health of all correctional staff. To provide an information and research network and support system for all corrections professionals. To combine our intellectual and practical knowledge and make it accessible so that all officers and staff benefit. To seek out and share best practices in the field of corrections.

How does ACOIN work?

Officers and the unions that represent them make ACOIN work – they *are* ACOIN. Ninety-five percent of the issues that we deal with are universal to our profession, and it stands to reason then that the solutions must also be universal. ACOIN researches those universal issues and seeks out industry best practices to share with all our members. Envision ACOIN as the information hub of a huge spoked wheel, with each spoke another union or officer whose experience adds to our collective knowledge and strengthens that wheel. When you join ACOIN, it's as if you joined every union that affiliates with us. You have access to our shared research, archives, and experience on the issues we all face. We all benefit from the mutual support ACOIN members show for each other.

What is the Intelligence Network?

We receive questions from officers and their union representatives nearly every week on issues that include assault rates, communicable disease, 12-hour shifts, staffing ratios, handling of drones, cell phone jamming, policy changes, legislation, PREA, privatization, jail and prison closings, and consolidation. We get questions about anything and everything that affects corrections.

We activate our Intel Network and find the best answers to those questions, provide them to the requesting union or officer, and archive them for all similar future requests. After 37 years, our archives are substantial.

We also do special reports and projects. During the summer and fall of 2019 we completed a staffing audit on a county jail for our members with the NJSPBA in New Jersey. We gathered intel and issued a report on non-contact visitation and its security implications for our members in Pennsylvania and a report on policy and procedure during oral searches after medication disbursement for Connecticut. We testified before the Massachusetts Public Safety Committee on Presumptive Workers Comp legislation for PTSD and Communicable Disease. In the spring of 2019, we established the COPTSD156 Coalition specifically to address the number one killer of correctional staff: PTSD and depression.

We are also frequently asked to provide expert testimony at legal and legislative forums and contract and disciplinary arbitrations. Brian Dawe is the ACOIN founder and Executive Director. He started his career as a State Correctional Officer in Massachusetts in May 1982. He is often asked to provide expert testimony in these forums and has appeared as a keynote speaker at dozens of conventions, rallies, and union meetings from coast to coast.

Who joins ACOIN?

ACOIN is a membership-driven organization. Every dollar raised comes from correctional officers and the unions that represent them. Public Corrections Professionals comprise our membership, the men and women for whom corrections is more than just, “do your eight and hit the gate.” Unions are our biggest supporters, because they understand better than anyone “strength in numbers,” and when those numbers have a commonality of interest – in our case, corrections- that strength is multiplied tenfold. National powerhouses like the Teamsters, AFSCME, UMWA, SEIU, and many FOPs’, PBA’s and independent unions join ACOIN because they understand and embrace that basic premise.

As ACOIN members, one call to us gains you access to all our members and affiliates.

What does it cost to join ACOIN?

There are two types of membership: individual and organizational. The fee is \$10 per month or \$99 per year for individual members. For our organizational members it’s \$500 per year if you have less than 500 members, and \$1,000 per year for all organizations with more than 500 members. There is no better deal, no greater benefit for you or our profession then sharing literally hundreds of years of correctional expertise with each other.

What is unique about ACOIN members is that they join not just for what they can gain by their membership, but by the opportunity to share what they know and have learned with others. They join because corrections for them is not just a paycheck, it’s a career. They want to be the best they can be, not only for their own safety and security but for the men and women who they work beside everyday as we patrol some of law enforcements toughest beats. Join us.