

# **My Nomination for AOCE President**

## **By Sergeant Michael L. Van Patten**

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.” **Abraham Lincoln**

I have been nominated to run again for the AOCE President position and I have accepted this nomination to represent my fellow AOCE members that work in the toughest career fields in the world, in one of the toughest times ever.

“The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.” **Vince Lombardi**

I have been with the ODOC for over 26 years, I feel that with my past experiences in Negotiations, Arbitrations, Mediations, Grievances, Legislative work, Post Orders, Policy, and Rules development, Management / Labor meetings, training development, and historical knowledge of the DOC and AOCE, is an asset to all of us.

“In seeking wisdom, the first step is silence, the second listening, the third remembering, the fourth practicing, the fifth -- teaching others.” **Ibn Gabirol**

I am not running for the AOCE President position again for personal gain, for a promotional opportunity, or for self gratification. I am running because I know in my heart that I can still make a difference in our lives and our profession. I have made mistakes and I am not perfect, no one is, but I learn from my mistakes and experiences. I have developed the ability to pass these learning moments down to others so they might also grow and learn.

“One’s philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes. In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die, and the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.” **Eleanor Roosevelt**

The AOCE is a member driven organization designed to improve working conditions and the living standards of our members and their families. I CURRENTLY DO and will CONTINUE to ensure that the AOCE’s “Chain of Command” is followed within our bargaining unit to ensure that your elected Representatives have the backing to do the jobs that they are elected to do. Managers will not go around your elected Representatives. Who else knows the issues better, than the Representatives that work with you?

“Honor never grows old, and honor rejoices the heart of age. It does so because honor is, finally, about defending those noble and worthy things that deserve defending, even if it comes at a high cost. In our time, that may mean social disapproval, public scorn, hardship, persecution, or as always, even death itself. The question remains: What is worth defending? What is worth dying for? What is worth living for?” **William J. Bennett, United States Naval Academy**

Times have changed, with the economy, the ODOC budget, and the changing inmate population has all put unmeasured pressures on all of us to succeed with less. I encourage all AOCE Correctional Professionals to get involved, to help and support each other to ensure we ALL reach our number one goal, **“To go home safe at the end of the shift to our loved ones”** while following the rules, policies, procedures, post orders, and our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

AOCE Motto: Ex Unitate Vires (Out of unity is strength).

“We can form a single united body, while the enemy must split up into fractions. Hence there will be a whole pitted against separate parts of a whole, which means that we shall be many to the enemy's few.” **The Art of War by Sun Tzu**

As a UNITED Association we can all withstand anything. You all are Correctional Professionals' with individualized morals, integrity, honor, dignity, and respect, each having the leadership ability to move towards the one common goal of UNITY.

“The world needs more men and women who do not have a price at which they can be bought; who do not borrow from integrity to pay expediency; whose handshake is an ironclad contract; who are not afraid of risk; who are honest in small matters as they are in large ones; whose ambitions are big enough to include others; who know how to win with grace and lose with dignity; who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning, and ruthlessness are the three keys to success; who still have friends they made twenty years ago; who are not afraid to go against the grain of popular opinion and do not believe in ‘consensus’; who are occasionally wrong and willing to admit it. In short, the world needs leaders.” **Anonymous**

Periodically throughout the year there has been and will continue to be different safety, labor and training information sent out for your review on the AOCE web page, DOC Outlook, and e-mails. Different information gathered from around Oregon and the US. Every little bit of information and knowledge helps us in our everyday jobs and it is a good thing, just review them if you wish and when you get time.

## **Be safe and support each other!**