

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



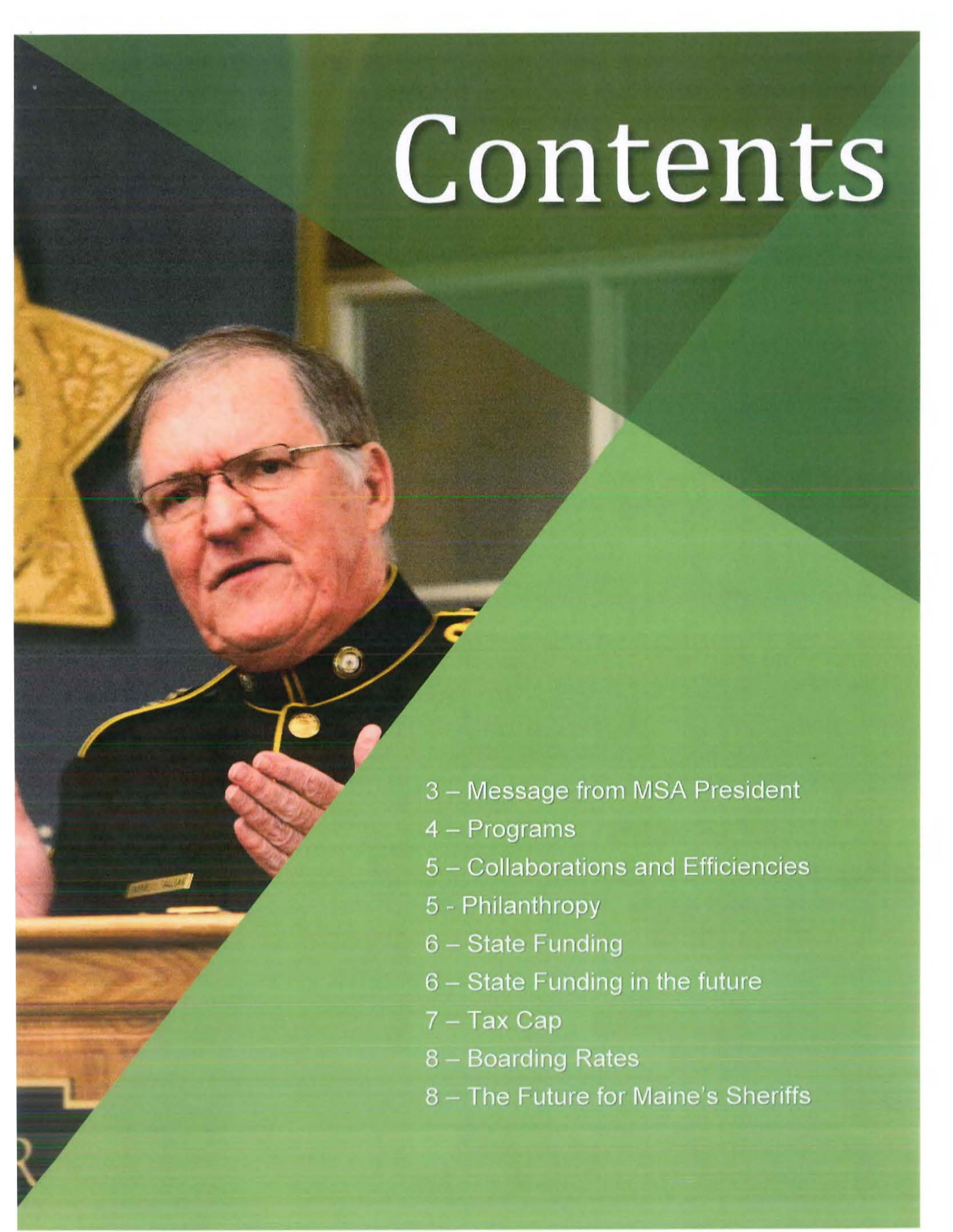
Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Maine Sheriffs Association
One Team, One Mission



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2016**

Contents

- 
- 3 – Message from MSA President
 - 4 – Programs
 - 5 – Collaborations and Efficiencies
 - 5 - Philanthropy
 - 6 – State Funding
 - 6 – State Funding in the future
 - 7 – Tax Cap
 - 8 – Boarding Rates
 - 8 – The Future for Maine’s Sheriffs

Message from MSA President,

To the Honorable members of the 128th Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Co-Chair - Senator Kimberley Rosen, Co-Chair - Representative Charlotte Warren, Senator Scott Cyrway, Senator Bill Diamond, Representative Patrick Corey, Representative Lois Galgay Reckitt, Representative Karen Gerrish, Representative Martin Grohman, Representative Lloyd Herrick, Representative Thomas Longstaff, Representative Donald Marean, Representative, Catherine Nadeau, and Representative Rachel Talbot Ross,



Maine's 127th Legislature worked collaboratively with Maine's Sheriffs and other county officials to find sustainable solutions for the jail crisis we were facing in 2015-2016. In turn, Maine's Sheriffs have worked tirelessly with each other to prove that the good faith effort put forth by lawmakers was an investment in the safety and well-being of Maine's citizens.

In this 2016 Annual Report, I will share some of our successes, our obstacles, and our future. Please note that all sixteen of your Maine sheriffs contributed to the data being presented.

In an effort to continue our working relationships with Maine's lawmakers, Maine Sheriffs held a Legislative Breakfast on January 19, 2017 at The Senator Inn, Augusta. Our intent was to bring to life some of the stories about Maine's jails that you'll read about in our annual report. We invite you to reach out to the MSA any time you need information or our support on proposed legislation.

Our work is based upon mutual respect and understanding, maximizing the impact of the full authority of the sixteen Sheriffs, while recognizing the differences between the sixteen counties. This allows us to preserve the critical autonomy and historical responsibilities of Maine's Constitutional Office of Sheriff.

And finally, I would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of Maine's lawmakers. We appreciate your trust and we endeavor to prove to you that Maine's Sheriffs stand strong and stand united in our mission to keep all Maine citizens safe.

Sheriff Wayne Gallant

Oxford County Sheriff

President of the Maine Sheriffs Association

Current Programs

All sixteen sheriffs were asked to share stories of successful programming that is taking place across the State of Maine. Programs that take place in several counties include:

- ⚙️ Faith-based services
- ⚙️ Alcoholics Anonymous
- ⚙️ HISET (formerly GED) – in many cases, the jails are issuing more HISET certificates than the local Adult Ed programs
- ⚙️ Work details to provide labor to municipalities
- ⚙️ Farm programs – filling the cupboards of local food pantries
- ⚙️ Domestic violence programming
- ⚙️ Alternative sentencing
- ⚙️ Pretrial services
- ⚙️ Several substance abuse programs including CARA in Kennebec; “Living in Balance” in Franklin; “Breaking Free” in Aroostook; and an Alternative Substance Abuse program in Somerset
- ⚙️ Anger management
- ⚙️ Nurturing Fathers programs
- ⚙️ ...and many, many more!



Above: Inmates loading harvest into vans for transportation to local food pantry.

Above left: Inmates being loaded into vans in the Penobscot transportation HUB.

Right: Inmates working in the HISET program formerly called GED.



Collaboration and Efficiencies

You've often seen our tagline, "One Team, One Mission" and it's a source of pride among your Maine Sheriffs. It was only when we began putting these successes on paper did we realize the enormity of our commitment to running Maine's jails efficiently.

We learned that Aroostook, Washington, and Piscataquis counties are regularly housing inmates for Penobscot. * Penobscot coordinates and handles the transportation HUB for the northern part of the state saving thousands to those counties. * Androscoggin offers alternative sentencing to other counties at no cost. They provide transportation services to neighboring counties at no cost. * Two Bridges Regional Jail has contracted with Waldo and Oxford Counties to house their inmates. * Franklin County hosted a five-week corrections school to help provide Academy-approved training to staff at Oxford and Androscoggin counties. Somerset donated staff for this training. * Hancock, Washington and Aroostook counties work together to manage their inmate populations, moving inmates with the help of the Penobscot HUB. * Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Knox, and Waldo counties worked together to secure a Pre-trial contract at a cost savings of \$50,000 annually. * Cumberland has opened a female pod and is switching out inmates to accommodate other counties, inmate for inmate. * Kennebec's Veterans' Block is open to inmates from any Maine county at no cost. * Two Bridges Regional Jail and Androscoggin have a joint medical contract saving in excess of \$50,000. * Video arraignments in many counties has reduced transportation and payroll costs. * Franklin County provides K-9 training for free to all sheriffs' offices which results in considerable cost and time savings.

Philanthropy

The Maine Sheriffs recognize the responsibility we have to affect change. We strive to find ways to make a difference for all of Maine's citizens. In 2016, our impact looked like this:

- ☛ Camp POSTCARD (Police Officers Striving To Create and Reinforce Dreams) – The MSA is one of the largest sponsors of this program. We contribute several thousand dollars to this program each year, staff from SOs around the state volunteer for the entire week, giving up their own vacation time, sheriffs conduct their June meeting on site incorporating cabin inspections into their agenda, sheriffs prepare and serve lunch after their June meeting to all campers.
- ☛ The MSA –awarded two scholarships to students seeking secondary degrees
- ☛ The MSA donated \$1,000 to the Special Olympics
- ☛ The MSA successfully raised enough funds to place wreaths on every grave of the lost members of the U.S.S. Maine during the country's Wreaths Across America event. Twelve counties sent staff, who volunteered their time, to place the wreaths on the graves in the Arlington National

Cemetery. Maine sent one of the largest groups of law enforcement in the country. All volunteers.

- Each year, one county plans the annual MSA conference which includes a two-day training open to all law enforcement in the state.
- One of our most notable successes is the creation of the Maine Sheriffs' Association Leadership Academy. Sheriffs and Chief Deputies from across the state have worked together to create a leadership curriculum for SO staff members, including Corrections Supervisors. Different counties take turns hosting this week long Academy to help defray costs. The MSA purchases textbooks and materials for the training. This is currently the only in-state training for corrections supervisors.

State funding

The funding changes that were implemented in the 127th legislature, under PL335, had the best of intentions. Last minute changes in the wording changed the funding formula and we believe this was an unintended change. Previously, the funding the county jails received from the state came in two separate allotments. One portion was for jail operations and the other community corrections portion had a designation that required 20% to be applied to programming. In 2016, the formula changed to 30% to be applied to programming – for all funding, not just the community corrections portion. This has caused confusion among counties that are looking to ensure compliance in their operations and we are looking to work with the 128th legislature to correct this language.

State Funding in the Future

The sheriffs are very cognizant of the funding challenges faced by the 128th legislature and we are grateful for the supplemental funding we received in 2016. We fear, however, that the supplemental funding may be in jeopardy in 2017. We asked sheriffs around the state for likely scenarios if their county's portion of the supplemental was not received in 2017. Some of their answers are below, many of these concerns were echoed from York to Aroostook:

- Kennebec needs to increase its staffing levels to meet the difficult inmate population, the new housing unit which is scheduled to open in May 2017, and to increase its programming in the facility. The growing opioid epidemic and increase in gang activity has created great challenges with housing, supervision, and amount of transports moving these inmates from one jail to another and for court appearances. Decrease any funding would be detrimental to Kennebec County Correctional Facility.

State Funding in the Future - continued

- ❏ Hancock: Without additional state funding, Hancock County Jail would be placed in a very dangerous situation. It would be forced to reduce staff and end inmate programs. Hancock County Jail staff is currently operating at the minimum state standards. If I were forced to reduce staffing, I would be forced to reduce my inmate population. This would have a major negative impact on all other jails. Additional state funding is critical to safe operation of The Hancock County Jail. Penobscot would further reduce staff, putting additional strain on counties that are taking their excess numbers.
- ❏ Piscataquis: We would have to look at canceling our services with Charlotte White Counseling. They are expensive. Would have to look at cutting employees as that is another big cost. We cannot down size any more than we already have.
- ❏ Franklin: Because of the current law, we cannot raise enough money through taxation to keep our doors open through the 4th quarter of the year. The current funding we receive is the only thing that keeps us going. Without it, we would be in a crises situation starting at the end of March and would have to shut the doors. We run very thin margins and have cut all we can cut. We already operate one less staff member per shift than what we previously operated with before the jail was turned into a 72 hour facility in 2008.
- ❏ Waldo: Without the additional funding, our re-entry center will close.
- ❏ Aroostook: I currently have an operational budget deficit of \$351,199. This includes the statutory funding from the state. The state needs to lift the 3% correctional tax cap so we can properly budget at the local level and leave the state where it belongs...out of the county jails.
- ❏ Oxford County is spending over \$600,000 a year in costs above their cap to house inmates through their contract agreement.

Tax Cap

Maine's sixteen Sheriffs have unanimously agreed that we need to pursue lifting the 3% tax cap but were quick to point out that many counties will not need to increase taxes above the 3%, or at all. They hear from their constituents and recognize the financial hardship incurred by raising taxes. They hope that each lawmaker remembers that the Sheriffs' budgets are governed by county finance committees – professionals (**also elected**) who must weigh the budget line items carefully. They



must be educated on the reasoning behind any requested tax increase and when it comes to corrections, the number one priority used to make these decisions is the safety of the people entrusted to them.

Boarding Rates

Sheriffs from across the state have shown their ability to work together and collaborate in many ways. However, the transferring and holding of inmates from one county to another is severely hampered by their inability to negotiate a fair boarding rate. While certain counties struggle with over-crowding, other facilities have access capacity and are more than willing to take inmates, yet can't afford to house them without some level of funding. There are marginal costs associated with housing inmates from other counties, but these costs are not the same in every case. Allowing the counties the ability to negotiate a boarding rates will go a long way to offsetting the overcrowding in certain facilities, thus making for a safer and more efficient county corrections system.

The Future of Corrections in Maine

Through diligence and dedication, Maine's Sheriffs have worked together unanimously to find proven, sustainable solutions. We are committed to improving what we are already doing, including but not limited to information management, collaborative opportunities and best practices.

We hope the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety have found this information to be useful. We will continue to look for opportunities to work with the members of the 128th legislature and we appreciate every opportunity to do so. We encourage all members to reach out to their Maine Sheriffs as needed.