

CSG



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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HELEN E. HANKS
COMMISSIONER

PAUL D. RAYMOND, JR.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

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November 8th, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

For inclusion on the Governor and Council Consent Calendar, pursuant to MOP 1200, I. (D), authorize the NH Department of Corrections (NHDOC) to pay the Correctional Leaders Association (VC# 424623), Iona, ID, the amount of \$5,555.00 for membership dues effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. 100% General Funds.

Funding is available in account, Commissioner's Office: 02-46-46-460010-71010000 as follows:

Account:	Description	FY24
026-500251	Membership Fees	\$5,555.00

EXPLANATION

The Correctional Leaders Association (CLA) is an organization whose membership consists of persons who are appointed to serve on a full-time basis to be directly responsible for the administration of the correctional facilities or system of a jurisdiction. These persons include heads of state correctional agencies, Los Angeles County, the District of Columbia, New York City, Philadelphia, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, US Military Correctional Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines) and any United States territory, possession, and/or commonwealth. The CLA provides a collaborative forum for the members to share ideas concerning issues of public safety, security, healthcare practices and orderly facilities to improve the corrections profession.

1. *How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?*

The CLA (formerly ASCA) has been in existence since 1960 with the NHDOC being a member since at least 1984.

2. *Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?*

No.

3. *How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?*

All 50 states are eligible members of CLA. The NHDOC is the only organization representing the State of New Hampshire.

4. *How is the dues' structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)*

According to the CLA, there is a three-tier dues system based on the size of the prisoner population. NH is in the lowest tier.

5. *What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?*

NHDOC participation in CLA allows our chief executive officer to gain information that assists the NHDOC executive team to anticipate and identify public policy, legislation, and litigation issues and to pro-actively act on these issues; one of the most effective methods of acquiring this information is through CLA organized surveys with correctional agencies from the other states and membership on specific national committees (i.e. Behavioral Health Committee, Recruitment and Retention Committee, Reentry and Community Corrections Committee and Restrictive Housing Committee). CLA facilitates numerous conference opportunities for members to attend which include presentations from non-profits engaged in providing services in correctional facilities, vendors who present on new technologies (e.g., contraband detection systems, drone detection, risk assessment software and many others), and program sharing by CLA members. These conferences assist all members in advancing correctional and field service operations by sharing program design and outcome data. CLA also coordinates a grant information network and works with other national, organizations to provide training for correctional staff at different levels. These conferences are additionally made available to Deputy Commissioners and other correctional staff for the same purposes described above.

6. *Are Training or educational/research materials included in the membership?*

Research on multiple issues of interest to state correctional departments takes place throughout each year with research findings disseminated to the membership electronically and in hard copy. These have included corrections officers wage analysis, restrictive housing operational practices and implementation of medication-assisted treatment to list a few.

7. *Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams?*

No.

8. *Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.*

There have been a number of CLA conferences that were accessed by the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Wardens and Directors (This represented 4 employees) throughout this membership year. These occurred in Washington D.C, Florida, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Agendas included discussing with Congressional delegates the issues facing correctional organizations national and state specific – staffing, employee wellness and technology; Technology as a resource to support stressed staffing levels, correctional specific peer-to-peer programs, Medicaid 1115(a) Waiver opportunities and health and wellness programs for residents.

9. *Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization).*

Commissioner Hanks is a member of CLA with voting privileges and is the committee chair of the Behavioral Health Committee, a committee member of the Recruitment and Retention Committee, the Reentry and Community Corrections Committee, and the Restrictive Housing Committee described as follows:

Behavioral Health Committee

The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee was established to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and current initiatives regarding substance abuse and mental health treatment and services. Substance abuse is the leading cause of increasing prison populations and specifically, female prison populations. Mental health issues are also a major contributor to increases in incarceration. The Committee focuses on prevention, alternatives, institutional care, case management, release planning, continuation of care and best practices with limited resources. Specific goals include:

- Identification of good, evidence-based best practices;
- Collaboration with Federal partners such as National Institute of Corrections (NIC), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA);
- Collaboration with organizational partners such as Council of State Government (CSG), National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD);
- Advocacy for both preventative and community-based alternatives; and
- Collaboration with state and local partners such as state mental health directors and state substance abuse directors.

Recruitment and Retention Committee

This committee works hard at seeking ways to decrease turnover in our correctional ranks and also create innovative ways to attract people to this rewarding profession.

Examples of activities associated with this Committee:

CLA on the Hill Review

The first 1.5 days of the Hill event were devoted to a summit on the workforce crisis corrections is experiencing. CLA has been invited to the White House three times within this past year to raise staffing shortages in corrections to a national priority level. In addition to correctional leaders and their executive teams, CLA invited prison advocates, union representatives, and other non-profit stakeholders to problem solve and share best practices. The CLA audience benefited by having candid conversations about the disconnect between officer level staff and DOC leaders and how focusing on mid-level roles will be critical to making necessary changes to impact the crisis.

Reentry and Community Corrections Committee

The Reentry and Community Corrections Committee were formed to identify and promulgate disciplinary practices that are likely to reduce the number of offenders returning to prison after release. To that end, this committee does the following:

- Solicits presentations and reports on promising reentry projects;
- Monitors several information sharing projects produced by other committees and entities when they relate to reentry successes;
- Participates in the Council of State Governments (CSG) National Reentry Resource Center; and
- Searches and shares with members, federal funding for institutional and community reentry programs and services.

Restrictive Housing Committee

The Restrictive Housing Committee was formed in January 2017 in response to an increasing national focus relative to the use of restrictive housing. The primary purpose of the committee is to facilitate member dialogue on the use of restrictive housing. CLA has undertaken a number of initiatives to facilitate dialogue and to identify potential best practices for members to employ in their jurisdictions.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

Without active participation by the Commissioner in CLA, the State would lose the opportunity to gain critical information on a regular basis that allows the NHDOC to anticipate and prepare for legislative and legal issues, learn from other state's past and current practices, to advance and/or adjust operations in a timely manner, and receive communications of national correctional relevance from which to consider policy implications or adjustments. This association focuses on the needs for rehabilitation, sustainable workforce initiatives and is extremely collaborative to assist all correctional leaders from avoiding adjustment to rules and policies that can be costly to the State as well as sharing practices that serve to advance our department.

Respectfully Submitted,


Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner

CLA
P.O. Box 102
Iona, ID 83427

OR

CLA HQ
504 Shoup Avenue, #260
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

INVOICE 2520



New Hampshire Department of Corrections
P. O. Box 1806
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1806

Invoice # 2520
Invoice Date 11/01/2023
Invoice Due 12/31/2023

Amount Due	\$ 5,555.00
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Transactions

Description	Amount
Membership Renewal - Organization - New Hampshire Department of Corrections - 1 (through December 31, 2024) Helen Hanks	\$ 5,555.00

Total Amount	\$ 5,555.00
Amount Paid	-\$ 0.00
Amount Due	\$ 5,555.00

Please make checks payable to Correctional Leaders Association.
You may remit payment to our address above.

You may also pay by credit card from the invoice link or by logging into our website.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Tanna Perez at tanna@correctionalleaders.com.