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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner

P.O. BOX 1806
CONCORD, NH 03302-1806

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Assistant
Commissioner

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December 7, 2021

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, 1. (D)., authorize the NH Department of Corrections to pay the Association of State Correctional Administrators (Correctional Leaders Association) (VC# 164215), Iona, ID, the amount of \$5,555.00 for membership dues effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. 100% General Funds

Funding is available in account, *Commissioner's Office*: 02-46-46-460010-7101 as follows:

Account:	Description:	FY 22 Total
026-500251	Membership Fees	\$5,555.00

EXPLANATION

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), newly renamed Correctional Leaders Association, 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 ASCA 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

¹[Home \(correctionalleaders.com\)](http://www.correctionalleaders.com)

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

The ASCA has been in existence since 1960 and the NH Department of Corrections (NHDOC) has been 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 ASCA and 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 ASCA, 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 ASCA 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 ASCA organized surveys with correctional agencies from the other states and membership on specific national committees (i.e. Behavioral Health Committee, Technology Committee, Managing Complex Populations Committee). ASCA 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 ASCA members. These conferences assist all members in advancing correctional and field service operations by sharing program design and outcome data. ASCA also coordinates a grant information network and works with other national organizations to provide training for correctional staff at different levels.

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 were a number of on-line forums created during the time in which travel was reduced due to COVID-19 which were conducted to review correctional practices associated with COVID-19 and national comparative review of state responses and challenges through the year associated with the pandemic. Commissioner Hanks attended the 2021 Northeast ASCA annual business meeting held in Niagara Falls, NY. This was a multi-day conference which reviewed national practices in corrections and field services in areas including but not limited to internal affairs investigations and professionalism within correctional law enforcement, managing women who are pregnant during incarceration and vocational programs, managing transgender populations, staff wellness and recruitment practices. There are opportunities for travel to conferences at a minimum of biannually with other opportunities to participate in advocacy at the Congressional level in the field of Corrections. These are important opportunities to learn from other State leaders. This group continually examines security practices, community reintegration strategies, treatment approaches in behavioral health and managing unique populations such as those with dementia and acquired brain injury, to list a few.

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 ASCA with voting privileges and is a committee member of the Behavioral Health Committee, the Recruitment and Retention 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.

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 ASCA, the State would lose the opportunity to gain critical information on a regular basis that allows the NH Department of Corrections 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 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

Association of State Correctional Administrators
(Correctional Leaders Association)
PO Box 102
Iona, ID 83427

INVOICE 1336



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

Invoice # 1336
Invoice Date 12/02/2021
Invoice Due 12/31/2021

Amount Due	\$ 5,555.00
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Transactions

Description	Amount
Membership Renewal - Organization - New Hampshire Department of Corrections - 1 (through December 31, 2022) Helen Hanks	\$ 5,555.00

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

Please remit payment to our address above.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Katie Scott at kscott@correctionalleaders.com.

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE STILL DOING BUSINESS AS THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS (ASCA). PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ASCA" OR "ASSOCIATION OF STATE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS."

