

# Proposal Updates:

# SECRETARY

<u>Adding additional Tablets</u>	<u>10/12/17 Submitted</u>
<u>Accessing Law Library Info on Tablet</u>	<u>10/12/17 Submitted</u>
<u>Accessing GED materials on Tablets</u>	<u>10/12/17 Submitted</u>
<u>Getting released for Call Passes to Education Floor</u>	<u>10/12/17 Submitted</u>
<u>Is there a replacement for the MP4 yet?</u>	<u>11/2/17 Submitted</u>
<u>DRU Microwaves</u>	<u>1/20/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Clear Hot Pot to be sold to population</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Rain Coats (clear)to be sold to population</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Donation table for St Jude Children Research</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Membership book service program</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Ice Cream Sales on yard</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Drink area in visiting room</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>New chairs in visiting room</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Visiting room floor repair</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Email Kiosk notification system</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>
<u>Incentive Level 3 fundraiser for NON- A-Block</u>	<u>6/5/18 Submitted</u>

## The Desk Of Your V.P.

**Gentleman,**

Well, another month is behind us. July here we come! It's also my first month as Vice President under my belt. I'm enjoying everything so far; it's all so new to me. There are so many challenges and hurdles up here, but I feel as if I'm making leaps and bounds in personal growth from my duties. One thing I've always heard from every club executive is how many times you'll hear "No". Guys, our executive body has, and is doing so much more than you can imagine. We are working diligently; we're submitting ideas, proposals, and working together for the betterment of this club as well as the general population. So far it's been rough, but we don't give up, right? We are just getting started though and I really hope many of you will help us by communicating with your ideas and/or imparted wisdom on how to move forward. On another note, our fundraiser is tonight; it's a bit on the expensive side for me but we did fill every seat. We will do so much good with the funds generated and as you hopefully know, it's also allowed us to keep the cost of our upcoming banquets lower. I will admit, it was good eating though and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did? See you all next month, until then remember the words of Joe Dirt, "life's a garden, dig it," and "you cant have no in your heart, you've got to keep on keeping on." I believe in our – **Unlimited Potential** fellow lifers, I hope you do too!

**Lifer Brian - V.P.**

## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

We're all we got in here, but are mindful that caring could cost you everything.

On 5/18/18, I watched as a staff member verbally bullied an inmate during the dinner meal in the dinning-hall. I advised the inmate to find another job. On 5/31/18 I entered the dinning-hall only to witness the same officer berating and pointing his finger at the same inmate from the 5/18/18 incident. This went on for a minute or two with the inmate repeatedly telling the officer that he was being unprofessional. When I finally got near the inmate I told him to stop talking, and out of respect for me he did. Twenty minutes later as I was leaving the dinning-hall the officer who was now accompanied by another approached me. It was my turn to be subjected to the bullying. They told me that it was disrespectful for me to interfere. I was accused of being "passive aggressive" because I asked the officer not to point his finger at me. I was charged with failing to look at the officer while he talked and pointed his finger at me. I received a misconduct report for two major rule violations; disrespect 1 & disobedience of an order1. On 6/5/18 someone overheard one of the officers saying that he was going to make sure that I lost my level and that I needed to be *punished*. I immediately contacted the lieutenant and asked her to look into the officers' misguided statements, because I believed the need to see me punished fell outside the scope of his job to provide security. On 6/6/18, after a lengthy disciplinary hearing the two rule violations were dismissed. The situation that began with me telling another inmate not to go back and forth with a staff member was over after nearly costing me my program. Consequently this is who I am, this is what I do. I truly am my Brothers keeper.

**\*\*\*Note: there is more to being the secretary than working on proposals and keeping the meeting minutes.**

J.Hickman

# You Matter

**President:** Robert Kelley  
**Vice President:** Brian Waybrant  
**Secretary:** Jerrin Hickman  
**Treasurer:** Bill Knepper  
**Meeting Facilitator:** "Bo" Diaz-Miller  
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Gentlemen,

I hope we are all doing well and making the best of our time here. I am extraordinarily excited to be a part of the club's direction and proposals we're working on. Some of the proposals I speak of can be read on the last page of this newsletter. It's refreshing to see the new executive body working together with new ideas for our benefit. I'm pleased to see the members showing support by volunteering. Thank you to all who have decided to step up during this transition period. We have seen some changes of the day to day tasking our club deals with, all of which will in time make this a stronger club for all. With our fundraiser behind us, I am happy to report a great turnout and little to no hiccups or complaints. Our next large event is the banquets. PLEASE get your cd-28s to me along with your visitor information as soon as possible, if you need us to work with you on dates or holding payment for a minute, let me know.

**Don't wait until the last minute.**

I will close with thanking everyone for allowing me to service your club again this term. It is an honor and a privilege

Bill Knepper

Whether we choose to believe it or not, a battle is happening within each of us. We are in a constant state of evolution – this process is the courageous outcome of change. Changing the maladaptive thinking errors that which brought us to this reality we face every day. This month I would like to bring to your attention something I've learned during the course of my stay here at the vertical bar motel. I sincerely hope you take the time to look deep within yourselves and affirm victory over these issues that we've carried for far to long. This principle will inevitably bring change to your lives and turn stumbling blocks into stepping - stones my fellow lifer's. So stand firm in all you do and be that courageous one who welcomes change.

There are many ways to interpret the words "Claim" and "Responsibility". These words together provide a specific perspective that makes this a powerful tool with which you can move forward in life. There are many things that happened in the past, and many of them were our responsibility. Claiming responsibility for our past actions helps to unlock the door to a more harmonious future without the burden of carrying unnecessary luggage from the past.

Rather than remain stuck and unable to move forward, CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY is about your choices today. It is kind of like having a broken car at the side of the road, but not having any tools or help to fix it. You can remain at the side of the road all day long complaining about how you have a broken car, or you can gather up the things you need, shut the door, and start walking to your freedom. The choice has always been in your hands. So choose rightly my fellow lifers. This is from the one among you all.

Announcements/Upcoming Events

**2018 Meeting Dates**

- July 12<sup>th</sup> Open – ACLU
- Aug 9<sup>th</sup> Banquet #1
- Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Banquet #2
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Open – Misha Isaac – Clemency; Rep. D. Stark
- Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Open – Just Outcomes
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party

**Attention members:** We are seeking those with the ability to donate used books for the fellas on death row. So search you're shelves and cubbyholes for those lost pages not needed anymore and help these individuals out.

Address Label

*Chuckle Corner...*

The only sure way to never forget your wife's birthday, Forget it ONCE!



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Oregon State Penitentiary  
Salem Oregon

### **Most Powerful Elected Leaders Most People Don't Know About**

Oregon's criminal justice system is out of balance. We're locking too many people in prison and jail, while there is not nearly enough emphasis on treatment, diversions, and rehabilitation. We're sentencing people of color more harshly than white people for the same crimes. And we're putting too many young people in the adult system, even though we know that kids are different than adults. Oregonians from every background know that our system has serious problems.

But how can we reform it? Try talking to your district attorney. District attorneys are the most powerful people in our criminal justice system. They're the top prosecutors in each county, and they get to decide who gets charged with a crime or who goes free, whether to put a kid in an adult system, whether to charge police officers for misconduct, and whether to pursue the death penalty. DA's have the power to lock someone in or keep someone out of the criminal justice system.

Here's the thing though: they should answer to us. DA's are elected officials, and if you're registered to vote, you're their employer. And since we decided if they get re-elected and keep their job, we can tell them that it's time for change. We can tell them that we want to prioritize treatment and rehabilitation over harsh prison sentences. We can tell them to not put young people in adult systems. And we can tell them to focus more on prevention and education, instead of filling prisons. We have power we are not fully using.

The ACLU of Oregon has launched a campaign to hold district attorneys accountable. It's called "They Report to You", and it's focusing on educating voters about who their DA's are, empowering voters to raise their voices for reform, and changing the culture to encourage DA's to spend more time listening to voters like us. It's a grassroots campaign, and we need your help! Go to [www.TheyReportToYou.org](http://www.TheyReportToYou.org) to find out more and to sign up. And join us, as we hold DA's accountable and change our criminal justice system for the better.

Fellow lifers this article certainly paints an unprecedented problem with our criminal justice system. We, the incarcerated, will most certainly not be voting anytime in the near future, but we do have voice's that can be heard under the banner of unification. So stay strong my fellow lifers and never give up fighting the good fight.

### **FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Lifers' & Supporters;

As we work to finish out the calendar year it is already time to start working on next years calendar. If any of our membership has any ideas or suggestions of what they would like to see as a part of next years calendar as a general meeting or special event let us know. Those that would like to be more involved in the operation of your Lifers' Club let us know how, we are looking for committee members to assist us in flushing out ideas for proposals. I've put a heavy workload on our club Treasurer hiring him as our Office Clerk as well as his executive duties and I'm getting a strong impression he'd appreciate some aid in typing up some of the News Letter article mail ins. Thanks Dan!

At the time of my typing this our staff advisor is out with Medical Issues I like to take this opportunity to wish him well and a speedy recovery. We can't get it done without him.

### *Mission Statement*

The purpose of the Lifers' Unlimited Club is to unite the incarcerated men of OSP with a goal of improving the quality of life for those inside and outside of these walls. The club will work with charity programs, informational services, youth speaking panels and other positive programs. We cannot change the past, however, we believe through rehabilitation and pro-social behavior we can create a more productive future.

After the dispute of 2011, I sat bruised, tired, and silent. I was kept company by the screams of clinically insane inmates who remained uncared for or attended to. Others around me yelled broken in desperate need of another's voice for company or conversation. I heard my own voice from inside me, ask. Is this all you, we, have to look forward to? I broke down. At 18 years old I was told my life was over. That at 20, I finally believed it, but that same night I wrote my first song ever. I sang and rap, at the top of my lungs through a steal door. Now in 2018, music has become my passion, and a motivation, that I can change the direction of my life and reach out to others. I wish to make my craft work for me and to provide a sound way of living for my family & myself. The Oregon Department of Corrections does not allow most AIC to provide their music to the public, nor do they allow music-recording equipment. This is why in spite my pride, my pain and embarrassment. I'm asking for help from anyone who reads this letter, and hears my music. Please help me become a voice among the music that matters.

Le'VarHoward@cdbaby.com

When we do things without truly focusing our minds on them, we immediately decrease our strength to do the work set before us to do, and do it well. By putting our hands to the one thing and our minds to another, we divide the muscle behind our abilities and make the task much more difficult. However, by directing all of our faculties to the thing we are doing on a particular day, at that hour, or in that specific moment, we find it much easier to do. The ability to concentrate and stay focused can only come from discipline. "The feeling of being hurried is not usually the result of living a full life and having no time. It is, on the contrary, born of a vague fear that we are wasting our lives."

## *What do you think?*

Last month we ran an article on college classes being facilitated inside prisons. More specifically what it would look like if those of us who live within these walls surrendered themselves to a higher education. What do you think that would look like fellow lifers?

Think about this for just a minute, instead of living as caged animals with nothing more than the tick tock of time to pacify our own thoughts, we could have a immense decision to make. One in which would grant the opportunity to expand our educational prowess. Instead of being connected by an insurmountable amount of time, or crime specifics, we would have the chance to change our circumstances by placing emphasis on long-term goals. We could very well create a unified front both for the individual and the community with which we live in today.

I've had a humbling experience as I traversed some of the college courses offered here at Oregon State Penitentiary. With every hard earned credit I found that my perspective on the life lived inside these walls began to expand. Growing exponentially I now know that there is more to my life. That anything worth having is worth working for. I see the tenacity of my fellow comrades who are in the trenches with their studies. In my opinion they are the true warriors who walk among us. It is my own belief that time is best spent in a forward thinking way.

If there has been a desire to start anew, may I suggest contacting the education floor to schedule an appointment to discuss your opportunities? Your education will open doors to a much broader paradigm, and leave an ever-increasing sense of fulfillment. Thoughts from the one who lives among you.