

OREGON CURE

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants



A Newsletter for Families and Friends of Incarcerated Individuals

PO Box 80193 - Portland, OR 97280 (503) 977-9979

Spring 2018

Volume 53

The Most Powerful Elected Leader 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, diversion, 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 elected 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 the adult system, whether to charge police officer for misconduct, and whether to pursue the death penalty. DAs have the power to lock someone in or keep someone out of the criminal justice system.

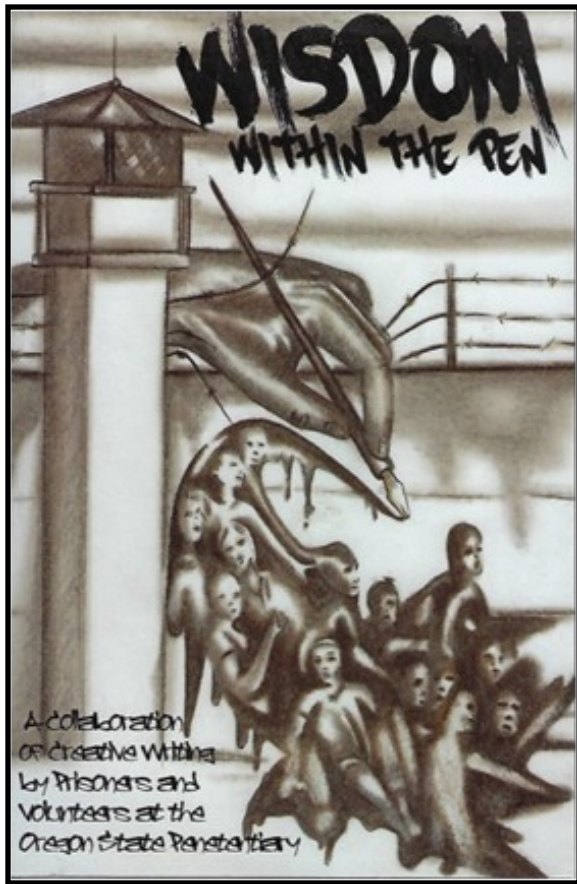
Here's the thing though: they should answer to us. DAs are elected officials, and if you're registered to vote, you're their employer. And since we decide if they get re-elected and keep their job, we can tell them that it's time for change. We can tell them that we want to prioritize treatment and rehabilitation over harsh prison sentences. We can tell them to not put young people in the adult system. And we can tell them to focus more on prevention and education, instead of filling prisons. We have power we aren't 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 DAs are, empowering voters to raise their voices for reform, and changing the culture to encourage DAs to spend more time listening to voters like us. It's a grassroots campaign, and we need your help! Go to www.TheyReportToYou.org to find out more and to sign up. And join us, as we hold DAs accountable and change our criminal justice system for the better.

Stayed tuned. This spring about a third of Oregon's DAs will be up for re-election. You will be able to find out more about which races are contested and when candidate forums will be held by visiting our website. By early April, we should have critical election information available.

Authored by David Rogers, executive director of the ACLU of Oregon; David has more than 25 years of social justice organizing, advocacy, and organizational development experience, and the last 15 years have been rooted in Oregon. David is the former Executive Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ), he spent nearly a decade leading groundbreaking work in the areas of criminal justice and public safety. This past year he consulted with national foundations to identify promising approaches to dismantle the policies and impacts of mass incarceration and criminalization.

(There will be work to do before the election this year, please go to www.TheyReportToYou.org to get involved)



Purchase your copy of

WISDOM WITHIN THE PEN

This is a 290 page book of short stories, essays, poetry and expressions written by prisoners in Oregon. These are sometimes funny and sometimes heart-wrenching writings of various aspects of the lived prison experience in Oregon, along with historical data relating to Oregon State Penitentiary.

Wisdom Within The Pen By Various Authors

Paperback: \$8.50

Prints in 3-5 business days
(1 Ratings)

Wisdom Within The Pen

is a collaboration of creative writers, both prisoners and volunteers, at the Oregon State Penitentiary. In 2013, a prisoner had an idea.

The book **Wisdom Within The Pen** is the result of that idea.

Both prisoner and staff took a liking to the idea, especially since all profits resulting from the book's sale would benefit Angels in the Outfield, an Oregon non-profit, which helps youth that have been the unfortunate victims of crime and abuse.

The writing in Wisdom Within The Pen encompasses poetry, short story, and other forms of creative expression that are often autobiographical in nature.

There are also many interesting, historical facts relating to the Oregon State Penitentiary and the inner workings of life behind bars.

If you believe in the redemptive value of creativity, if you believe that people can change through hindsight and personal reflection, or if you would just like to get a glimpse into the thoughts of those who are incarcerated....

Wisdom Within The Pen is the book for you. Order your copy today at Lulu.com.

CURE NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 80193
Portland, OR 97280

Quarterly

Release Orientations

Release Orientations are co-facilitated by Community Corrections and Oregon CURE. Find out how you can help your recently or soon to be released loved one successfully re-enter our communities. Before attending, please phone one of the numbers below to the county coordinators / department listed below to confirm the date, time and location.

Washington County

Contact: Marcus Ford (503) 846-3494

Held Quarterly: 1st Thursday of February, May, August, November

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Varies, please call to confirm

Multnomah County

Contact: (503) 988-3081 press "0" for TSU

Held Monthly: 3rd Thursday

Time: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Mead Building
421 S.W. 5th Avenue, Portland

Clackamas County

Contact: Gayle Terjeson (503) 655-8790

Not being held at this time

Marion County

Contact: Kayla Thompson (503) 540-8017

Call to confirm date and time

Intake Orientations

Intake Orientations are co-facilitated by Oregon Department of Corrections and Oregon CURE. Find out about Oregon's prison system, the intake process, phones, mail and visiting requirements. You will receive a packet of informational brochures. There will be opportunities for you to ask questions. Our goal is to help you learn how you can get through your loved one's incarceration. Maintaining family contact is vital to your loved one's time in prison and upon release.

Portland Metro Area

Held Quarterly: 1st Thursday of April, June, September and December

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Varies, please call Oregon CURE to confirm: (503) 977-9979

Salem Metro Area

Held Quarterly: 3rd Thursdays of February, May, August and November

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: First Christian Church / Parlor Room
685 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Corner of Marion and Church streets on the north side of downtown. There is parking on the street or in the Department of Energy parking lot next door. The entrance is on the west side of the building in the parking lot.

Support Groups

Oregon CURE support groups are intended for adult family members and friends only. Some topics of discussion may not be suitable for small children or pre-teens. Attend a support group and network with family members who have "been there" and who can help you gain perspective.

Beaverton Support Group

1st Thursday: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Please call to confirm the location.

(541) 301-2205 Sharon

Salem Support Group

1st Saturday, 10:00 - 11:30am

The Keizer Senior Center

930 Plymouth Dr NE

Keizer, OR 97303

(503) 269-7141 Vickie -(503) 409-3329 Wayne

Portland East Side Support Group

Abundant Life Church

17241 S.E. Hemrich Rd.

Damascus, OR 97089

(503) 757-7762 Will and Corinne

Eugene Support Groups

1st Thursday: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

3rd Tuesday: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Please call to confirm the location.

(541) 344-7612 Dave-(541) 342-6817 Don

“VISITING INCONVENIENCE . . .

Friday: It's this weekend. Weather's iffy, but I'll hope for the best. It's been ok so far. I am SO tired of this drive; I have to really push myself to get ready.

Go to work. Court 9:30-11:00; are we ever going to get called?! Hey, it worked for that guy. I think he's from SCF too. Have client give deputy note on my business card that I'm here with client and can her case be heard next. Not next, but moved up. Take client home. Go to office and check out. Have worked late last two nights. Go to DOC Orientation 'sub-team' meeting, 11:30-12:45. Eat sandwich in car. Go pick out and pay for Christmas tree and pick up mail at post office. Go back to office; check messages and return phone calls for an hour and 15 minutes. Get file, make sure all paperwork is in it. Go to court. Get downtown; traffic jam because traffic signal in middle of town is not working. I'm late, park in first empty space: 30-minute limit. Get to court with one of the attorneys. Wait in chambers until it's our turn. Get out at 4:30+. Have \$10.00 parking ticket; better than last one at \$14.00. (Turns out later there are 2 parking tickets . . .) Go to bank, cash check for money for trip (\$175.00). Do not go back to work. Will have to use a little vacation time.

Go pick up Christmas tree. Go home. Get tree into house and spend next hour and a half with son trying to get it into new stand. Get it into stand and add water: tree tips over. 7:00 pm, mop up water, prop tree up in stand in corner, add water and abandon it until Monday.

7:20 pm: eat some dinner. Go to grocery store with son (always takes longer). Get gas, home at 9:00 pm; put food away. Have missed phone call from L due to being at grocery store. Figure out what to wear, pack overnight bag, books, stuff to do on Saturday night. Organize most of food to take and money. Am getting tired and unfocused.

Saturday: 1:30 am, get to bed. Have put dog outside and forgotten her; fortunately son notices (he hasn't gone

to bed yet.

3:15 am: alarm goes off. I turn it off; can NOT get out of bed.

4:45 am: Wake up again. OH S__T! I'm supposed to leave in 15 minutes! Get up, eat, dog scratches on son's door; let her out and feed her. Put dog back in her bed. Take shower, put on makeup, get dressed, finish packing, load car, leave emergency money for son, leave note that I have left late so he can tell L when he calls.

6:50 am: Finally LEAVE! 7.5 hour trip ~ damn! I won't even get there in time to visit in the afternoon!!! Decide to drive as fast as I think I can get away with. Set cruise control for 75 mph. Thank God for cruise control. Drink iced coffee for caffeine content. It works. 10:20 am: stop in Pendleton for gas, use bathroom, get lunch (sandwich & Pepsi) out to eat while in transit. Have made pretty good time and am pleased. Should be at SRCI by 2:00 pm their time (2.5 hours from here).

10:35 am, head out, cc at 75 again. Have not seen any state cops. Maybe I should get a fuzz-buster: wonder what they cost?

2:05 pm, Mountain Time: arrive at SRCI – on schedule! Saw a few more state cops this side, as usual.

Can slow down without braking by turning off cruise control. Legs a little wobbly by this time, also as usual. Check in; visit until 3:30 approximately 1.25 hours. Sit in ergonomically INCORRECT position: in plastic patio chair, hunched over a small table. Neck, shoulders, elbows and rear end hurt. L works graveyard, he's tired, too.

3:45 pm: arrive at cheapest AAA-rated motel and check in. Put stuff in room, turn up heat, then head to Wal-mart and do some Christmas shopping. Also buy hot pot so I can have a hot drink in motel room. To grocery store and buy hot chocolate mix and a mug. To Chevron and buy gas, Taco Bell and buy dinner. Go back to motel, put on slippers, eat dinner, heat up water for cocoa. Hope the steam will add some moisture to the air, as room is very dry with the heat on. Look for card to send L; forgot it at home. Read novel, decide to finish that instead of writing Christmas cards; turn on CMT→

(son refuses to hear it at home). Keep nodding off while reading; finally give it up and get into bed, after putting foam pad on hardest mattress I have ever tried to sleep on.

Sunday: 6:00 am: alarm goes off. Get up, eat breakfast, shower, get ready and dressed, pack up most stuff and go to prison to get there by 8:30. Ask about double visit, they have the paperwork this time. Visit; L worked last night, got off work, changed clothes and laid down; now can hardly keep his eyes open. Get pics taken and go to bathroom; only chances to get out of chair. 11:15, Visiting closed until afternoon.

11:30 am: back at motel, change clothes (dress warmly – visiting room is always **COLD**), pack up stuff and load car, leave Christmas card for owners who are nice. Go into town, get burger but not what I ordered. Call friend about storing son's Christmas present (too big to hide at home). She's surprised to hear from me still in Ontario. A few snowflakes (pellets) wafting around.

12:15 pm: back at SRCI. Check in, visit. Buy L 'lunch' out of machines: his unit has last lunch so he always misses it. He's still tired, but food helps a little. He's having trouble now without his glasses: has run into walls a couple of times because depth perception is off. Have been watching weather, doesn't look too bad but decide to leave at 3:00 MT. Leave SRCI; always a bit hard. Weather ok here. Eat roll and drink iced coffee. Between Baker City and LaGrande has started snowing and sky is looking dark ahead. Semis are putting on chains. Figure I can make it if I follow a semi (has worked before). Hoping to get to Pendleton before dark. Forlorn hope . . .

4:20 pm: (Pacific Time): outside Meacham, semi stops in left lane after having gone about 20 mph this far. All northbound traffic is stopped. Right-hand lane is full of semis putting on chains. Sit there for 40+ minutes, snow continues briskly, sticking very nicely to everything, and sky is getting darker and darker. Cannot find any radio station with weather or traffic info. Finally a state cop on foot slides up and asks if I have enough traction (as I was considering trying to put on chains); I decide I do, and he can get me in between two trucks and moving down the road. I go, and am on my way! Snow continues VERY briskly: why does it always blow right into your face? I drive between 5 and 30 mph (mostly 5). Don't see any other vehicles until I'm just out of Pendleton. Sometimes I put on the brakes so I know I am NOT moving, and open the window so I can tell if I was still moving; then I get myself reoriented and move along at a crawl again. I go from reflector post to reflector post (they are NOT close enough together!), keeping them on my left so I know I haven't driven off the road. Winter wonderlands should be enjoyed at home, from a cozy fireside and a comfortable chair, with hot cocoa and central heating to boot! Windshield is frozen over: defroster going full blast on windshield to keep a small clear spot. Am pulling self up on steering wheel to peer through that quite small clearing on windshield. Head is hot, feet are cold, sinuses hurt, eyes burn, throat is sore and arms are tired. So is brain. If it's this bad in Pendleton (or close) I have enough money to spend the night at a motel there, and that's what I'll do. Truthfully, I'm almost looking forward to doing that; this is *SO miserable!*

6:40 pm: (approximately), get into Pendleton. It is dark and wet but not snowing and not even foggy! I want to go HOME! I keep going. May need to stop having double visits until spring.

7:04 pm: Call son to tell him about weather and consequent delay, but that I am through the worst and continuing on. No idea when I will get home. Son is just finishing dishes (has had 2 days . . .)

8:30 pm: pull into Jack's 76 station in The Dalles for gas and a break. Pump attendant asks how I am, tell him I'm exhausted. Walk around market, buy a couple of cards and a sandwich. Pay for gas, pull off to side to eat, and call friend to tell her where I am and don't know when I'll get to Salem. She says she'll be up until 11:00 at least, so it's ok to come by. Tell her about trip so far while I'm eating, then head on to Salem.

10:58 pm: get to friend's house. Take gift in, visit for a bit. We cannot figure out why fog outside would be a reason for prisoners not being allowed in day room inside, instead being celled in. Road signs and taillights had reached a point of not even making sense: brain just wouldn't compute them any longer. 11:57 leave for home.

Midnight: finally HOME! Bring most stuff in house; son is still up playing computer game. Get some things situated, eat something, wash face, etc., go to bed about 1:15 am. Have to go to work tomorrow ...

Monday: 6:00 am, alarm goes off . . . fall back asleep . . .

IS NOT CONSIDERED A HARDSHIP."

Oregon Department of Corrections

Come to a
Meeting
(see page 3)

Money Talks!
\$\$\$\$\$\$
Buy A Membership for
you and a friend

Wanted
'CURE-osity'

Call or Email
About Attending a
Board Meeting

Send us a
Story about your
Corrections Related
Experiences

Watch for our
Annual Meeting!

Two Old Ladies Go To Prison Choosing life on the installment plan!

Hi Terry, thanks for agreeing to meet with me about your prison experience! And thank you Patty for meeting with me to speak of your many prison experiences.

So Terry, why do you continue to go in and out of the revolving prison doors? How many years have you been going to prison? In 1998 I began going in as a visitor and found camaraderie with the other visitors and didn't feel so alone. I found that prison isn't necessarily a scary place to visit, and the people I met weren't scary either.

What about you, Patty? Well I began going to jails and prison in 1986. I was a drug addict who continued to break the law- prison became my personal resting up place. None of my crimes kept me there very long. However one of the things I learned though my prison life was only about 3% of the women I met were people I thought were 'bad' people. After I became a woman in long-term recovery from substance-use-disorder, I couldn't wait to return to prison....in the front door and leave on the same day.

Terry, What about volunteering? My friend asked me to attend a 'club meeting' at Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) I went to the meeting, I met the guys, I became motivated and *I kept coming back*. I guess you could say I am doing life on the voluntary installment plan!

Well, Patty, what about you? I continue to go to prison to let the people living there know there is life after incarceration. I show up to let the correctional officers know that people can change and WE DO! I meet with the families of prisoners to offer a little hope.

One of the promises in my recovery program states, 'No matter how far down the scale you have gone, you don't shut the door on your past, because your experience can benefit others.'

So for both Terry and Patty: being members of Oregon CURE, and serving on The Board we are a beacon of hope to others; promoting positive change and assuring representation for families, friends and prisoners at the decision making table with Oregon Department of Corrections.

I DO WANT TO HELP *OREGON CURE* CONTINUE ITS WORK IN 2017

Suggested tax-deductible Contributions:

\$3 / Prisoner \$15/yr Individual \$25/yr Family \$50/yr Organizations \$ / Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

(Optional)

Name of Incarcerated Loved One: _____

SID # and Facility: _____

I would like to volunteer my services!!! My skills are: _____

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:
7805 SW 40th Ave. PO Box 80193
Portland, OR 97280

The board of directors of Oregon CURE understands that financially contributing to our cause is not always an easy thing and that most members would like to give more than their budgets allow. It is with this thought in mind that we have enrolled in:

Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program:

This way, you can give to Oregon CURE while you are doing what you have to do - buying your everyday items like Milk, Bread, Socks etc.

To become a contributor, simply link your Fred Meyer rewards card to Oregon CURE and quarterly, Fred Meyer makes a donation to CURE based upon our enrolled members' spending. You will still accumulate your own Fred Meyer rewards and benefits already afforded to you by Fred Meyer as an individual. This simply expands your rewards to help us out too! And what could be better than that?

To enroll, go to the Fred Meyer Community Rewards website: www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards Under "Are you a Fred Meyer Customer?" click the big purple button to **Link Your Rewards Card Now. Login** to your Account. (If you haven't registered your account, you will need **Sign Up** to do this step). Search for Oregon CURE or enter our non-profit number **91917**. (or number **93-1085488**)

Thanks in advance! Funds are used to print handouts, print and mail newsletters, maintain a phone line and web site. We are an all volunteer organization with no member receiving financial compensation.

Oregon CURE
Po box 80193
Portland, OR 97280



Publication Notice

This newsletter is a publication of Oregon CURE. Oregon CURE is a 501 (c) (3) organization whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform.

The opinions and statements contained in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Oregon CURE.

Contributions of articles, letters to the editor, notices, etc., are welcome, but may be edited or rejected for space considerations. Articles may be copied in its entirety with credit going to the author or to the publication.

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Member Contributions and Inquiries can be directed to: Oregon CURE (see below)

Oregon CURE is an all-volunteer organization. Oregon CURE volunteers typically work at other jobs. Oregon CURE is not a service

Renew your Membership to Oregon CURE Today!!

Send your Member donation to:

Oregon CURE

PO Box 80193

Portland, OR 97280

Website: www.oregoncure.org / Email: oregoncure@gmail.com

Be sure to include: Your Name, Address, City, State and Zip, Phone/Email, Name of Adult in Custody with SID# and Facility

*Type of Donation: Adult in Custody: \$3 /Individual: \$15 / Family: \$25 /Sustaining: \$50 - \$100 /Sponsor: \$100 - \$250
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