



Missouri CURE

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FROM THE CHAIR ~Paula Skillicorn

We have several pieces of good news to share with members this month. Hedy (Edna) Harden has offered to take over newsletter publication, something she did so incredibly well for many years. A huge thanks and welcome back to Hedy, who we have missed in many ways. A big thanks also to Becky Williams, who has been juggling newsletter production with nearly ever other Missouri CURE role for far too long.

In the past year or so, funds have been minimal. As a result, we have had many complaints from members about the lack of newsletters. Part of the problem is unpaid dues, but donations also have been down. Thanks to two recent lifetime membership donations, this newsletter was possible. We urge you to pay your dues and encourage others to join Missouri CURE, so that we can get back on schedule. Donations always are appreciated.

We also welcome and thank Lisa Harrison, who has volunteered to improve our website. Once her finals are over, Lisa will help turn Missouri CURE Web site into an effective resource for prison families and their incarcerated loved ones.

One more thanks goes to Kay Heidemann, who has agreed to be our liaison with AfterCare-MO, which is a faith-based group that focuses on re-entry support and programs for parolees and their entire families. Kay also has been very helpful in our research efforts.

A reminder to all members who have access to the Internet: We invite you to join the Missouri CURE list server, to stay abreast of new legislation, problems occurring in Missouri prisons, and upcoming events that deal with prison issues. To join, contact Becky at missouricure@hotmail.com.

One advantage of joining Missouri CURE is your automatic membership in the national organization, which fights for positive change in all our states. One of the latest issues CURE members across the nation are participating in is a campaign to improve phone service and lower prices.

The highlight of my day is a phone call that says, "... I have a collect call from Dennis Skillicorn, an inmate at Potosi Correctional Center...." As in most prison families, the phone is the closest thing I have to having my loved one home. We share the good things that happened during the day and gripe about the things that got on our nerves. Dennis and I are blessed by being able to talk on the phone as long as we want nearly every night. We have not always had this capability, nor is it the norm for most prison families.

The phone call that links families together is precious to all of us, but does not appear to mean much to the phone companies that have a monopoly on prison calls. Phone companies across the country – including Missouri's provider, MCI – are notifying some customers that their local phone company no longer will handle billing for prison calls. They now require deposits up front, and block the phone once it is used up.

The Equitable Telephone Charges (eTc) Campaign is trying to change that and other phone problems. The Web site has a new computerized campaign that makes it easy to contact your legislators and other officials with letters about prison call problems. I urge you all to participate, even if your phone calls are not yet affected. For the Web site address, see page 4 of the newsletter.

Until next time, remember that we stand when united, and fall when we try to change things on our own. Let's work together for positive change.

KAIROS OUTSIDE – St. Louis

May 5-7, 2006



KAIROS OUTSIDE is designed to support women impacted by the incarceration of their loved ones. This is done by providing a safe environment for a short time with Christian people and the opportunity to interact with women in similar situations. We believe that the wives, sisters and mothers of the incarcerated are 'doing time' right along with their loved ones. We want to let them know that there is a Christian community who cares about them and their needs. The weekend is held in Eureka, Missouri, and is of no cost to guests! Sign up now!!!!

For more information call **636-577-4733 or 636-225-5818**

What Can We Do About The Effects Of Incarceration On Children?

~ Kay Heidemann

There is an increased awareness in the St Louis area of the impact of incarceration on the families of those who are incarcerated thanks to a new organization called AfterCare-St. Louis and its parent lead organization: Restorative Justice. On February 25th, 2006 Missouri CURE asked one of its members to attend a recent Round Table Discussion held at Rock Hill Baptist Church in Brentwood, Missouri. An open and honest panel discussion after the speakers shared their life journeys, challenged speaker and listener alike to delve deeper in to this long silent issue surrounding the families who suffer in silence for standing by those they love no matter what, even in the face of ostracization by society, family, and friends - often for no more regard than being related or affiliated with any offender in any way. It was apparent early in the discussions that AfterCare-St. Louis was not alone in their vision for reaching out to the hurting families and children of the incarcerated and the needs that go unmet because no one cares about these "other victims" of every crime. AfterCare-St. Louis envisions a much broader scope of outreach and counseling than can be adequately detailed in a brief article, but at the heart of the soon-to-be-named: AfterCare-Missouri is the urgent mission to comfort the hearts of the wounded children and garner resources and support that will enable and equip the families to cope and thrive in spite of this terrible ordeal in their lives.

AFTERCARE– St. Louis

On Saturday, **May 6th, 2006**, from 9 am to 12 pm

at **Rockhill Baptist Church** at 9125 Manchester Road, we will be having a

Prayer Brunch for the families of the incarcerated!

*If you are a friend or relative of someone in jail or prison OR you are interested in ministering to these hurting families in a **dynamic mission opportunity**, then please be sure to attend this special event! There will be a split agenda....one for the children and one for the adults! Puppets, clowns, snacks, and special speakers will be the highlight of the morning! **Please spread the word about this event**, ESPECIALLY if you know someone who would benefit from this in any way...whether they know someone in prison or just want to work with those whose lives are affected by prison! **For more information**, or **to help** in getting ready for this event, please feel free to contact the following people:

David Nowell, M.A. * 314-258-5446; Director of AfterCare-MO

R. K. Heidemann, B.A.* 636-376-2185 or 314-583-1832; Missouri CURE Liaison

Rev. Bill Ming * 314-740-3284; Co-director of AfterCare-MO

Muslim Prisoner Ministry

This is a new support for of Muslim prisoners and others of the Islamic faith. They offer a wide range of services, information on religious rights, referral assistance obtaining religious material, and selected legal assistance. They also publish a quarterly newsletter called "The Muslim Prisoner Bulletin" for \$4.00 per year. There are also pamphlets and other educational material available.

CONTACT: Muslim Prisoner Ministry, 3936 South Benton, Kansas City, MO 64130

www.muslimprisonerministry.org

Transportation to Missouri prisons from St. Louis

Lutheran Ministries Association's Prisoner Family Services can help!
Buses leave from Immanuel Lutheran Church at 3540 Marcus Ave., St. Louis, MO 63115.

Children are only \$10 to any facility.

Transportation provided to these facilities on the 2nd Saturday of each month. To make a reservation please call: 314-381-5955	
\$40	Ozark CC at Fordland Western Missouri Reception and Diagnostic CC at St. Joseph Missouri Western CC at Cameron Crossroads CC at Cameron Chillicothe CC for women at Chillicothe
\$35	Boonville CC Moberly CC Tipton CC
\$30	South Central CC at Licking
\$30	Algoa CC at Jefferson City Central Missouri CC at Jefferson City Jefferson City CC Fulton Reception and Diagnostic CC at Fulton

Transportation provided to these facilities on the 3rd Saturday of each month. To make a reservation, please call: 314-381-6001	
\$35	Southeastern CC at Charleston
\$30	Central Missouri CC at Jefferson City
\$25	Northeastern CC at Bowling Green Women's Eastern Reception and Diagnostic CC at Vandalia Eastern Missouri Reception and Diagnostic CC at Bonne Terre Farmington CC Potosi CC
\$15	Missouri Eastern CC at Pacific

Restorative Justice 101: Principles, Practices and Myths

**Friday, April 28, 2006
2:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**St. Louis County Police Academy
1266 Sutter
Wellston, Missouri**

What is restorative justice and how does it differ from the current approach of our criminal justice system? What is the impact of restorative justice practices on those who have suffered harm and those causing harm to others? What role does the community play in restorative justice? Where are the resources and what obstacles prevent us from implementing restorative justice programs?

Restorative Justice 101: Principles, Practices and Myths offers criminal justice professionals, law enforcement, public policy analysts, victim advocates, community re-entry workers, and juvenile service providers an opportunity to learn the basics about restorative justice. Those working in the field will share their expertise and engage their colleagues in a spirited discussion about restorative justice.

**Please RSVP to Miranda Duncan by Monday, April 24
(314) 516-6040 DuncanM@missouri.edu**

SEX OFFENDER INFORMATION

~Lorretta Masters

Please note: Angela had to take a break from her duties due to family concerns. Lorretta Masters will take her place

The current session of the Legislature has had more than 15 bills introduced on sex offender issues. On both the House side and the Senate side, their respective bills have been combined into one bill. As of right now, the Senate version has passed and is currently in the house awaiting hearing. The House version has not yet passed but is expected to soon, and then will go to the Senate. Both of these bills drastically increase the penalties and with absolutely no provision for treatment except for MOSOP. We have been talking to some of the legislators, pointing out that there needs to be better treatment options on the outside.

We expect that at least one of these bills will pass. We oppose both of them for several reasons:

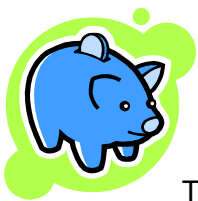
1. They are based on high-profile sensational cases that do not represent the typical sex offender.
2. They are based on media-driven fear and the false assumption that 90+ percent of sex offenders re-offend. (The actual rate is approximately 10% with treatment.)
3. There is no provision made for treatment on the outside. Every professional who can help a sex offender is a mandatory reporter, and that does not encourage anyone to get help.

We would like our legislators to look at this issue from a fact-based point of view instead of what from a media sensationalist point of view. However, at this point in time, it does not look like that is going to happen.

Missouri Supreme Court

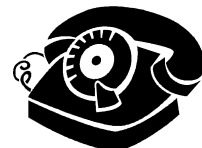
Arthur Benson II, a lawyer from Kansas City, has challenged the Sex Offender Registry Act as a class action suit (*Doe et al. v. Phillips, et al.*, Case No. SC86573). He argued the constitutionality of Missouri's 11-year-old Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA), a law he maintains has been applied "broadly, deeply and harshly." Violent rapists and repeat child molesters convicted after July 1, 1979, are required to register for the rest of their lives. As it is written, Benson says the law today is "over-inclusive." All those on it are lumped into one category with no effort to differentiate between those who might be dangerous and those who are not. It also does not allow a person the opportunity to show that they are not a risk to re-offend. This case was originally filed in August 2004 and was appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court on January 10, 2006.

Also, a case was filed against MOSOP by an offender in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri (Guerra v. Public Safety Concepts, case 4:05-CV-02322-FRB). For more information, contact Tim Guerra, 524618, at FCC.



National CURE Campaign regarding prison phone charges

The Equitable Telephone Charges (eTc) Campaign was launched in January 2000. At that time, over 37,000 campaign packets were mailed to participants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The packets contained materials that were to be sent to state legislators, governors, prison system leaders, and telephone company leaders. We also sent materials to state legislators from Campaign headquarters. In most states, campaign materials were also personally delivered to each legislator's office. They now have easy to follow steps on their website: www.etccampaign.com



BOOKS

I am an avid reader and have come across some great books that I would like to share. This journey that many of us are on is difficult at best, and books help me try to figure out some of its twists and turns. If any of you know of any good books, please let me know, and we may include them.

~Loretta Masters

- * All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated by Nell Bernstein

When sentencing an offender, the family of an offender is rarely considered by the justice system. Today, 1 in 10 children has a parent either in prison or on probation/parole. This book gives us a chance to look through a child's eye regarding a parent's incarceration and its affect on the family.

- * An Expensive Way to Make Bad People Worse by Jens Soering

A compelling look into our prison system, how it does little to nothing to change for the better the people who are entangled in it, and looks at ways that could make a difference.

- * Prisoners' Guerrilla Handbook to Correspondence Programs in the U.S. and Canada by Jon Marc Taylor

If you want to further your education, this is a great resource. There are listings for just about any area you could be interested in pursuing.

- * A Map Through the Maze: A Guide to Surviving the Criminal Justice System by Ned Rollo

Written by someone who has been there. The focus of this book is on the mental and social changes needed to survive in prison and after release. Also a chapter "Advice for Families of Offenders."

- * My Soul Said to Me by Robert E. Roberts

This is the inspiring account of someone trying to make a difference in the Louisiana prison system.

- * Prison of My Own by Diane Nichols

- * When Prisoners Return by Pat Nolan

- * Death by Design: Capital Punishment as a Social Psychological System by Craig Haney



Because Freedom Can't Protect Itself

Thursday, April 20, 2006
Join us in Jefferson City for a Rally for a
Moratorium on the Death Penalty

The death penalty has not proven to be an effective deterrent to crime and it cost more to execute someone than to rehabilitate them. Notwithstanding, many people on death row have been found to be innocent through recent technology and some have been sentenced to die as a result of people corrupting the criminal justice process. As a concerned citizen it's your time to help bring an end to this injustice. Join us for the day and let your voices be heard. Stand up and speak out! Tell lawmakers to support a moratorium on the death penalty.

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MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES

JOIN Missouri CURE TODAY!

Date: _____
 Name/ID#: _____
 Facility: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

(Please check the annual membership type)

- OFFENDER \$2.00 *(stamps if applicable)*
- INDIVIDUAL \$10.00
- LIFETIME \$100.00
- SPONSOR _____

How did you hear about Missouri CURE?

CURE is **NOT** a service organization; CURE has **NO** legal services.
 CURE is an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization.

Restorative Justice-

What is it and how can it help our community

**When a crime is committed, the offender is dealt with – but what about the victim and the community?
 Come find out what this new movement, restorative justice, is all about through film and discussion.
 Whether you are victim, offender or part of the community, crime affects us all!**

**Monday April 24, 2006
 6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.**

Columbia Regional Library



Open to the public, the evening is part of the “LET’S TALK, COLUMBIA!” community Study Circles program in conjunction with National Crime Victim’s Rights Week, Victim’s Rights: Strength in Unity April 23-20.

Come – Explore the Benefits of Restorative Justice in the Circle

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/CommunityServices/Commissions/CSCP/#circles>