

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

**Fall 2018
Volume 55**

Thoughts from a parent:

Year One: Out on Bail

Reality had hit. It was true, he had been arrested. Now all of a sudden we are facing a series of events that are unknown and downright scary. Bail has been set, and we're not sure how we can come up with it, because it exceeds the limit of our credit card, the first option suggested. We figure it out and make it happen.

Now on to what's next. Because of his perceived suicide risk, in order for our son to live with us while on bail, we have to buy a gun safe for an old shotgun, the pistol that has not been fired in nearly 35 years, and another son's hunting rifle. We read the restrictions of release and the legal jeopardy we'd be in if we all don't comply. One more layer of stress is added as well as the feeling that we no longer have control of our lives.

He's out and at home with us now. The search begins for a private attorney since public defenders are overloaded with cases. He finds one and we write a check. I step back one, or maybe ten paces to acknowledge the roller coaster ride of emotions I'm on, we're all on. Then the lawyers tell us that the less everyone knows about this, including the rest of the family, the better off everyone will be. You never know, they say, who may be called upon to testify and for what reason if he goes to trial. My guts roll over one more time. Do I really know this kid, our son, even if he is 43 years old now? What has happened while I thought he had a good marriage and life was moving forward for him? How can I hold all this inside without bursting? I would so like to be able to talk to someone outside of the house. I am not sleeping very well.

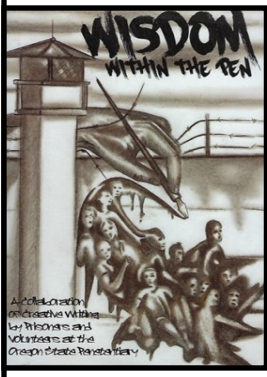
In a few days the grand jury hearing takes place. This is where the District Attorney reads the original charge and a lot of others we were not prepared to hear, although we have been told by the lawyers to feel free to place our hands over our ears. The court, however, wants us to hear it all, and a good portion of it goes well beyond what I expect to hear, and doesn't seem real. He is whisked back into custody. This is a first time offense and it appears to include a lot of exaggerated charges created by taking the original one apart so that it becomes several. Now what? Well, now the bail amount is much larger. Release amount is 10% of that. We certainly don't have that on hand. His attorneys tell us that if we can come up with it, they then can work with our son much more effectively, including the scheduling of evaluations and counseling.

Oh, and by the way, the police may come to the house with a search warrant looking for a cell phone that might have information which interests them. Try sleeping with that in your head, the thought of a group of officers churning through every drawer, closet and you name it looking for that phone that I know is not in our possession. What other thing, which they think is damning, might they find? We've never been here before, and I don't sleep. Now, how do we find the additional bail on top of the original amount? We tell our son, during visits, that we are working on it but don't know how fast we can put that amount of money together. And by the way, careful what you say during visits because everything is recorded. What may be used against him in court, or maybe even against us, we don't know. The thick glass you talk through is intimidating and the experience of walking into a county jail cell area is eerie to me.

We have always lived below our means, saving for retirement, so yes; we can come up with the money. They tell us that if our son were to skip out while on release, the bail money is forfeited and we will be responsible for the entire amount. If he does not, we'll get most of the bail money back.

Did you know that the largest bill they print any more is a \$100 bill? I did not. We find it's easiest to deliver the bail in cash, so we walk into the county jail very casually with the money in a briefcase just like we'd done it every day, hoping to not look conspicuous to anyone who might be looking our way. However, a level of distrust is surging through me about my fellow man and all the people we encounter between the parking lot and the jail.

Continued



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](#) :\$8.50

Continued:

He's out again, and in his mother's custody with his son and myself as alternates. He can hardly drive himself and his son to our house fast enough from that county jail. But even back at the house, it's just the next step into the unknown. I don't sleep well.

Trips to see the lawyers begin. The counseling starts. It's another expense

to absorb since he has no money of his own now, no longer having a job and because his savings have been drained to support his kids. The first counselor does not work out well but the second one does and he is able to go twice a week. We find that the son we talk to during the day is all over the place with his emotions, from hatred to fear, but the one who writes very long letters in the middle of the night is another person, with much more to offer and full of insight. So which is the real one? I prefer to think the one who writes, and who, like me, isn't sleeping much these days.

Our son and grandson join a bowling league. It is very therapeutic for both of them. It gives us a bit of a break also. Then they join another so they can get out of the house and on their own two evenings a week, a little more like old times. I don't believe I mentioned that our grandson moved in with us so that he could finish his college courses. Our living room has been converted into a dorm room for the two of them. The garage is full of their belongings because they no longer have a home of their own. Emotions are on high all the time. Things get tense between the two of them, and between our grandson and ourselves, and flare ups happen. Anxiety has disrupted life as we knew it. I try to put on a good face to keep things as calm as possible, but that's not at all what's going on inside of me.

Time goes by and the time draws near when a decision is needed to plea or go to trial. Another check goes to the lawyers. Everyone is on pins and needles, but I realize I am no longer thinking of police at the front door with a search warrant, that seems such a minimal concern now.

It's been nearly a year since the release and a plea is decided upon in the eleventh hour. Twenty years seems better than going to trial, knowing that if he loses it would mean 25 years minimum in prison, or maybe 125 with all the extra charges that were created from one. The District Attorney thinks they are being generous offering just 20 years, mitigating circumstances carry little weight and mandatory minimums prevent the judge from making a determination and also seem to limit what the defense can do. Did you know that juries do not know how long sentences are if you go to trial? They have no idea when they return a guilty verdict that that could mean anything from a year to 40 or more in prison. Seems a trial by jury of your peers ought to have some say about sentence length. I'm still not sleeping well, still too many unknowns.

The plea is entered and back into custody he goes. Another small check to settle the lawyers' bill.

Through all of this I worry about what my wife is going through. She is up late every night doing online research, trying her best to understand it all. She sleeps later in the morning than I do. I'm up early, having trouble staying asleep. I try to answer our grandson's questions and know that, in some ways, I will be assuming the role of his dad. And so ends year one. The next twenty begin.

Since our son's arrest in 2013 I have been a part of the Oregon CURE family first to get help in understanding what was going on and what to expect next. Today I am more actively involved with Oregon CURE in an effort to help others on the outside better understand what happens and how to deal with it from arrest to conviction and beyond. What I have also learned is that working with people that are or have been incarcerated is very enlightening. There is life behind the bars and there are several people I've met that are working to turn their lives around and right the wrongs the best way they can in a restricted environment. I applaud them, their insights into themselves and their desire to grow. I am all for second chances for these folks that put forth the effort to be the best they can. (Now let's educate the public and change laws.)

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

Annual Oregon CURE Meeting with Oregon Department Of Corrections Director

On June 14, 2018

CURE Board Members Patty Katz, Karen Cain and Terry Stein met with DOC Director Colette Peters at the Dome Building. The CURE Board developed a list of topics and concerns for discussion with Director Peters. We had originally been scheduled for a half hour, but when the meeting needed to be re-scheduled, we requested an hour, which was granted. It still wasn't long enough!

We began by asking about the trip to visit Norway's prisons and study their system: Director Peters was very enthusiastic and spoke at some length about her observations, and the plans taking shape to introduce changes in programs, practices - and even more important, in attitudes of Oregon's DOC staff - with a vision that by 2026 staff will be coming to work dedicated to changing the lives of those in prison in a positive direction. We asked how CURE members can help bring that about: by educating our membership and contacts about the proposed changes and progress, and by engaging with our legislators to support DOC's goals, and requests for the funding required to institute new programs and training.

Mental Health/Disabled: Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) gave the DOC 4 years to achieve 20 hours of out-of-cell time per week: that goal will be reached well before then. Joe Duvaskin has implemented a normalized treatment space, and AICs are able to go outside. An example of a paradigm shift: when an AIC refused to shower, the staff person just unlocked his cell door and waited: the AIC eventually just came out of his cell and took his shower. No need for forceful intervention.

CURE members presented information and letters of support about the Insight Hearings we have been holding with the Lifers Club at OSP for the past two years, involving men at OSP who will be appearing before the Parole Board. We discussed our grave concern over a decision by a newly appointed administrator that severely and adversely impacted the program, which has proven extremely helpful to those who participate. Shortly afterward, we received notice that the Insight Hearings were approved to continue in the same manner as previously: that decision was enthusiastically received by all concerned, and the hearings have resumed with the original format.

CURE asked who 'outside' people should contact when they have questions or concerns. Kelly Rath and Heidi Steward are no longer the contact people due to changed assignments in the Administration. Rob Persson is the new contact person: phone number 503-945-0932.

The water situation in Salem at that time (contaminated water supply in the Salem area) was discussed, with particular mention of signs in Spanish in the Visiting Rooms. Not currently an issue, but a suggestion in case of another such situation.

CURE asked about educational opportunities: Director Peters stated that all facilities have ABE/GED programs; the larger institutions have English Language and Special Education; also there is work-based education throughout the state. At this point our time was up, so we weren't able to get into more detail. One of the Administration positions is Education Administrator, currently Jeremy Yraguen: anyone interested should be able to contact him for further information.

At the CURE Board meeting following our meeting with Director Peters, it was suggested that we consider requesting two meetings per year, due to time constraints. We have not acted on this yet, but all felt it to be worth pursuing.

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Please notice the graft on the next page-

If only we as voters could see that by educating our incarcerated loved ones

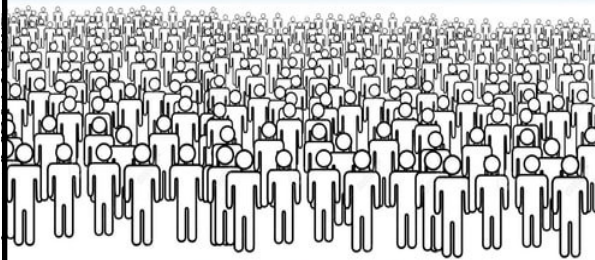
We could sure save a bundle of money!

However we always seem so busy trying to correct what went wrong,

we don't take the time to

prevent and educate! (please note- this is just an opinion from Patty Katz)

Prison Education Reduces Recidivism



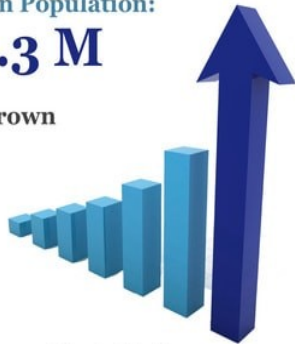
U.S. Prison Population:

2.3 M

That number has grown

10X

since the 1970s



70%

of America's prisoners are nonviolent offenders

So why do **70-85%** of prisoners return to prison?

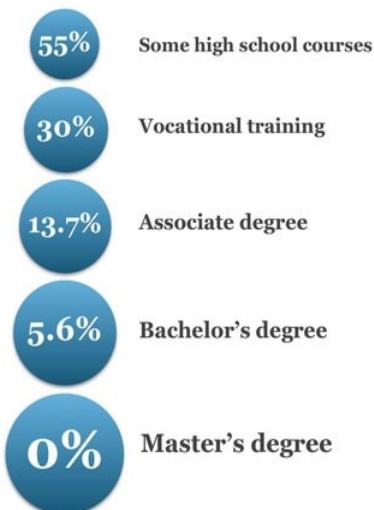


Lack of education



Lack of skills

Recidivism Rates with Education Levels



prisoneducation.com



BOOKS NOT BARS!

Prison Education Reduces Recidivism (These resource papers are excerpted from the book -*College for Convicts: The Case for Higher Education in American Prisons*) The prison population in the US is at 2.3 million. Since 1970, the number of people incarcerated has grown almost tenfold. Our nation incarcerates far more people per capita than any other country in the world.

The financial burden this creates for state and national budgets is unwelcome and unacceptable.

- Over half these prisoners are in on drug charges. Most of these individuals are serving time for nonviolent crimes.
- An additional 10% are imprisoned over immigration violations. In total, over 70% of America's prisoners are nonviolent offenders.

No matter what your view on crime, we can all agree that prisoners endure daily horrors. Yet the recidivism rate is 70% to 85%. Why in the world would people who have served their time risk returning to prison?

The reason is simple. Most prisoners are released with job skills and educational levels that are so low they can only qualify for poverty level incomes. Faced with the very real need to earn money but the harsh reality of few jobs, many turn back to crime to survive.

The single solution that will decrease crime levels, relieve the financial strain on state and federal budgets, and enhance our communities today and in the future is education in prison.

Several years ago, President Barack Obama administration announced a 3- to 5-year test project to see if college classes help reduce prison recidivism by offering financial aid under the Pell Grants program.

Our research has shown recidivism rates are inversely proportional to a released prisoner's level of education. A study by Emory University found that:

- Ex-offenders who complete some high school courses have recidivism rates around 55 percent.
- Vocational training cut recidivism to approximately 30 percent.
- An associate degree drops the rate to 13.7 percent.
- A bachelor's degree reduces it to 5.6 percent.

A master's brings recidivism to 0 percent.

The money that goes toward building and maintaining prisons, operating costs, staff salaries, safety measures and more drains social programs that can help our nation. Educating the prison population creates better citizens...and frees up more money to help people in need.

Speaking of 'books' - for those of you who have loved-ones inside, The **Ford Family Foundation's Select Books Program** sends free books to people. They have an interesting selection, focused on community building, nonprofits, and families.

(<http://www.tfff.org/select-books>)

CURE called their office and checked, all requests need ordered online. If you have a loved one on the outside, they might get a list of available books and order for you. The books are free and they will ship to any Oregon address.

Prisoner Voices / Votes Count



As a prisoner, you may not be able to cast your vote-
However please take the time to learn about the
candidates and ballot measures!
AND then talk to your family and friends on the outside and to your
friends and neighbors in prison
Encouraging them talk to their friends and family on the outside and
vote for the things that are important to you!

2018 OREGON AFL-CIO BALLOT MEASURES ENDORSEMENTS

- **Support Constitutional Amendment 102** The constitutional amendment would make affordable housing bond dollars go farther by allowing Local governments to partner with non-profit and private housing providers.
- **Oppose Constitutional Amendment 103** Tax carve out for corporations like Walmart who want to avoid paying their fair share. Blocks the ability of voters and local governments to make their own decisions about local issues and address public health crises.
- **Oppose Constitutional Amendment 104** Would make it harder to eliminate tax loopholes or hold corporations and the wealthy accountable for paying their fair share.
- **Oppose Ballot Measure 105** Repeals 30-year-old sanctuary state law. Backed by a known hate group, it would increase racial profiling, harm immigrant communities, and jeopardize public safety.
- **Oppose Ballot Measure 106** Backed by anti-choice extremists, it would reduce access to abortion by eliminating funding for abortion and women's healthcare for people on Medicaid and public employees.

2018 PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFETY & JUSTICE ENDORSEMENTS

"When people are targeted or denied the opportunity to thrive, our communities are less safe. That's why we're taking a stand on three ballot measures facing Oregon voters this November. Our staff and board urge you to join us in promoting safety and justice"

- **Vote NO on Measure 105**
- **Vote YES on Measure 102**
- **VOTE YES on Metro Housing Bond**

Learn as much as you can about the candidates running for office / Always vote in your self-interest (and the interest of your friends, family and community. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Our elected officials are just that—

we hire them with our votes AND we can fire them with our votes!

What does criminal justice reform mean to you? Does it mean giving the judging back to the judges? Doing a 'presentence investigation' on the accused and sentencing appropriately, are you okay with the 'cookie-cutter' approach to sentencing our loved ones? When are we going to give the sentencing back to the judges? Let the prosecutors—prosecute, the defenders, defend and the judges judge! Or are you okay with 'one-size fits all' ????

I DO WANT TO HELP *OREGON CURE* CONTINUE ITS WORK IN 2018

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:

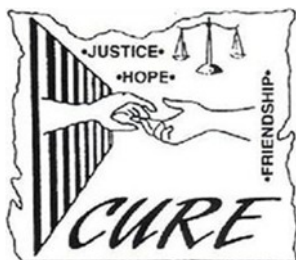
This way, you can give to Oregon CURE while you are doing what you have to do – buying your everyday items like Milk, Bread, Socks etc.

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
7805 SW 40th Ave.
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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Chair, Hank Schoeffel, Terry Stein, Secretary, Paul Erickson, Treasurer
Patty Katz - Newsletter Editor,

Cheryl Erickson, Karen Cain, Randy Geer - Members at Large

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 organization. Do not send us any legal documents. We are not a legal service. We are not qualified to assist you in legal matters.

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
Benefactor: \$250 Plus*