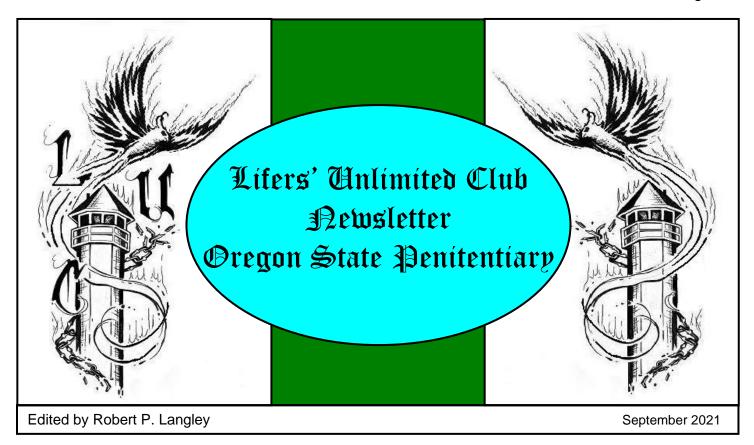
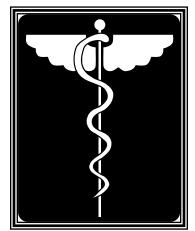
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Why OSP Should Reinstate Visitation... (By Robert P. Langley)



Due to recent concerns over the increase in positive COVID-19 cases, the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) is currently operating under Tier 4 status. In practice, at least with respect to visitation, it means that the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) has initiated COVID-19 protocols that prohibit AICs from having contact with their visitors (friends, families, attorneys, etc.) for fear of spreading the coronavirus within the institution. A measure, that on its surface seems reasonable enough, but in application less so. Here's why: First, the visiting room's COVID-19 safety protocol is second to none within the institution. Masks and social distancing are required and are strictly enforced. Where else at OSP does this occur? Secondly, the visiting room is thoroughly sanitized before, in between and after every visit. ("Institutions continue to clean and disinfect numerous

times a day." – 8/27/2021, ODOC press release). Simply put, there's no other room within the institution that's kept cleaner – or – more capable of mitigating the spread of COVID-19 than the visiting room. In fact, in terms of *preventing the spread of the coronavirus*, I would argue that it's one of the safest – if not the safest – places in OSP.

Although the administration has increased COVID-19 safety measures throughout the institution, no one is able to understand their arbitrary nature and/or unintended shortcomings. For example, in order to maintain social distancing in the law library, we cannot exceed more than ten masked AICs in that area at one time. In contrast, if these same ten AICs wanted to go eat lunch they would be required to sit in the crowded dining room with over 300 unmasked AICs. Similarly, if an AIC is unable to maintain six feet distance between themselves and other AICs outdoors, the current protocol require them to ware their masks even though they're outside. Again, in contrast, if the same

AIC wanted to come off the yard to take a shower, he would be required to stand shoulder to shoulder in the damp shower room with over 100 unmasked AICs.

Left unexplained is why the institution's social distancing rules are permitted to become the least effective in the areas where AICs are most vulnerable to becoming infected. And, assuming one was to say: "Well, the health risks these areas present are a 'necessary evil' in order to manage the institution." I would say: "Okay, I get that... But why is the *safest room* at OSP off limits to AICs and their visitors? What objective is served by prohibiting visitation when both the AICs and their visitor(s) have been vaccinated?" Further, if one were to claim that suspending visitation is primarily about maintaining the health and well being of our community. I would challenge them to pull up the digital recordings taken in the visiting room and play them side-by-side next to the digital recordings taken in the dining room. After reviewing these recordings, I would ask them: "Which of these two areas do you believe presents the greatest risk of dispersing the coronavirus within the institution?" (Presumably, their integrity would prevent them from pretending the dining room was safer than the visiting room). I would also ask: "Why should the area presenting the greatest risk of transmission be compulsory, while the area presenting the least amount of risk be restricted?" Particularly, in light of the fact that AICs interact with unvaccinated OSP employees every day of the week – and – have been for months.

"DOC has offered COVID-19 vaccinations to all DOC staff, contractors, Oregon Corrections Enterprises employees, and AIC. Vaccine acceptance rates are estimated at 78% for AICs and 55% for DOC employees." (8/27/2021, ODOC press release). (Emphasis added).

Additionally, on the walls inside OSP are posters that inform us:

"To stop this pandemic, we need to use all of our prevention tools.

Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent disease. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines." (Emphasis added). ("DOC follows guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the Governor's Office.") (8/27/2021, ODOC press release).



Hmmm... If this isn't sound medical advice, why is it posted on the walls inside the infirmary's waiting room?

In prison, a good example has twice the value of good advice. That's why suspending visitation as a means of suppressing the spread of COVID-19 – while at the same time permitting 45% of ODOC employees to come to work unvaccinated – equates to putting a screen door on a submarine to prevent leaks.

In my opinion, ODOC should reinstate visitation at OSP for everyone who has been vaccinated. Doing so would meet the objectives of ODOC while accommodating the needs of our community. (RPL).

Editor's note:

For the record, I support ODOC employees' right to refuse the COVID-19 vaccination. However, rather than put our community at risk by waiting months to fire them (i.e., for refusing the vaccine). I would reassign them to posts and shifts on the perimeter of the institution; namely, where their daily presence posed the least amount of risk to our community (i.e., night shifts, towers, special housing,

etc.). Now, would this cause a major disruption to their peer's work schedules? Of course... But peer pressure can work as an incentive for the outliers to get vaccinated *before* they have to be fired. Besides, the disruption it caused would be no greater than the disruption AICs suffer as a result of staff members bringing COVID-19 into the institution. As a pure safety measure, this would seem to make more sense than permitting AICs to be exposed to *unvaccinated* staff – but prohibited from being exposed to *vaccinated* visitors. (RPL).

A Message From The Marshall Project

Hello! My name is Lawrence Bartley. I am the Director of News Inside, The Marshall Project's award-winning print publication, which is distributed in hundreds of prisons and jails across the United States. The Marshall Project is a nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a national sense of urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system.

Because my team and I have sat where you are now, our lack of capacity to respond to you has been troubling us. We want to let everyone know several things:

- We appreciate the letters, written submissions, comments/feedback (good and bad), requests for subscriptions and support you provide. We receive massive amounts of mail every month. While we enjoy all of the mail, unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to respond to individual requests
- 2. If you request to be placed on the individual subscription list, you will receive the next issue when it is released. Please keep in mind that 3 issues are released per year (April, August and December) so it may be roughly 2-3 months before you receive the next issue
- 3. News Inside is FREE. Many of you have written requesting to be placed on the individual subscription list and offering to pay. While we appreciate the gesture, it is unnecessary.
- 4. News Inside is provided as a print publication to people in correctional facilities because there is no Internet access in prisons. Family members can view News Inside for free as well online at www.themarshallproject.org/tag/news-inside
- 5. We are not advocates. We are non-partisan and, personal opinions aside; we must remain objective in order to maintain credibility and fairness. We are journalists who seek to uncover the truth and spread awareness about the state carceral system: advocates, lawyers, judges, correctional staff and certainly YOU.
- 6. We are not lawyers. Please do not send us your legal work. As we mentioned, we do not have the capacity to write back or return your legal work, and we cannot advocate for you. Instead, please provide feedback on what kind of articles would be relevant to you so we can provide you with the relevant information while you are traversing this system.

Please know we appreciate each and every one of you and we will continue to provide you with journalism you can count on. Stay safe.

Sincerely, Lawrence Bartley

The Marshall Project – Written Submissions Guidelines

The Marshall Project is a nonprofit news organization committed to shedding light on prisons and criminal justice issues. One of the things we are hoping to do is publish first-person writing from inside prisons, written by incarcerated people themselves. We believe that the writers who are actually in prison are the best people to write about what's going on inside. Our hope is to create a

platform for writers who are incarcerated, and in the process to challenge the public's assumptions about prison life.

What we are looking for: Nonfiction writing that is focused on a very specific story from life inside prison.

The best submissions tell a personal story from the writers own experience. Tell a story about a friendship (with a friend or cellmate) or about food in prison, playing sports or chess or watching TV, how you spend your hours, a violent encounter, something powerful or unusual that happened, the ways in which you interact with staff, a story about punishment, or about trying to stay in touch with people on the outside, etc.

Tell a story from the inside – from your own experience. Tell a story that needs to be told.

What we are not looking for: Theoretical essays, essays about life before prison, fiction, and poetry.

<u>LENGTH</u>: 500-2,000 words. Preferably typed, but we will type it for you if you prefer to write by hand!

PAY: \$50 if your submission is published.

MAIL TO:

The Marshall Project 156 West 56th Street, Suite 701 New York, NY 10019

Please include you full name and how to contact you. (RPL).



Public Record Regarding Brandon Kelly (By Robert P. Langley)



Although stated slightly different - depending on which article you read - the public record regarding Superintendent Kelly's leave consists of:

"Brandon Kelly, the superintendent of Oregon's maximumsecurity prison, is on paid leave pending an investigation by human resources at the state Department of Corrections. Kelly has led the Oregon State Penitentiary since 2016, said department spokesperson Jen Black. He was first hired as a correctional officer at the prison in 1997. Kelly was placed on leave Aug. 10.

Black said she did not have any information about how long the investigation could take.

The matter concerns employees of the department, so it is being investigated by HR – investigations concerning inmates are conducted by a special, separate unit. 'I cannot tell you any details about the investigation,' Black said in an email. 'However, we typically duty station someone at home to, in part,

to protect the employee and to protect the integrity of an ongoing investigation." (Claire Withycombe, Salem Statesman Journal).

That's all we know because it's all that's been released to the public. To be clear, I'm not one to trust the local media - but what's printed above has also been confirmed by the administration (recall Tonya Gushard's video discussing Supt. Kelly's leave). Everything else that we hear about Supt. Kelly's situation is simply speculation and/or gossip.

With respect to speculation, it's important to be reminded that people tend to "speculate" towards the outcome they most desire. This means if you know someone who is spewing doom and gloom scenarios about Supt. Kelly's demise and all the horrible changes that are bound to follow... Or, possibly, promoting baseless accusations as "facts" in order to reach their preferred outcome. Remind yourself that they're actually disclosing more about themselves than they are about Supt. Kelly. Once more, the major problem with "speculation" is that it requires us to bridge gaps with information that we don't possess; which, often times, leads to theater and exaggeration rather than the truth. So, listen cautiously, but pay more attention to what the person is doing rather than to what they're saying.

As for gossip, there are two rules that pertain to it: The first is that if someone is gossiping *to you* - they will gossip *about you*. The second is that gossip will travel around the world before the truth can cross the street. Nothing more needs to be said about this subject.

My personal take on Supt. Kelly's situation is that I'm going to remain neutral and not expend any energy imagining outcomes. As far as I can tell there hasn't been any rollback of his policies, therefore, until that begins to happen - I'm not going to imagine any. In the end, I'd like to see the investigative process play out fairly and have the facts return Supt. Kelly to his position. But whether he is or is not is beyond my control so I'm not going to waste my time speculating about it. (RPL).

Humor Me...

Two men were out golfing. As one was about to take his shot, a funeral procession drove by the golf course. The man stopped what he was doing, put down his club, took off his hat and placed it over his heart. His partner was moved by this and said: "That's the nicest thing I've ever seen you do!" The man looked back at him and said: "Well, it's the least I could do after 20 years of marriage..."

Brenda McDonnell is home making dinner, when Tim, her husband's coworker, arrives at the door. "Brenda may I come in?" he asks. "I've got something to tell you."

"Of course you can come in, you're always welcome, Tim. But where's my husband?"

"That's what I'm here to tell you, Brenda. There was an accident down at the Guinness brewery..." "Oh, God no!" cries Brenda. "Please don't tell me..."

"I must, Brenda. Your husband Michael is dead and gone. I'm sorry." Finally, Brenda looks up at Tim.

"How did it happen, Tim?"

"It was terrible, Brenda. He fell into a vat of Guinness Stout and drowned."

"Oh my dear Jesus! But you must tell me the truth, Tim. Did he at least go guickly?"

"Well, no Brenda... no. The fact is, he got out three times to have a pee." (RPL).



It Won't Take Long (by Ferron)

They said some men would be warriors
And some men would be kings
And some men would be owners of land
And other man-made things
And false love as the eternal flame
Would move some to think in rings
And gold would be our power
And other foolish things

For you who dream of liberty
Must not yourselves be fooled
Before you get to plea for freedom
You have agreed to be ruled
If the body stays a shackle
Then the mind remains a chain
That'll link you to a destiny
Whereby all good souls are slain

And it won't take long
It won't take too long at all
It won't take long, and you may say
"What has that got to do with me?"
And I say "You mean to tell me that's all?"

Of three men in a desert wandering One is knowing and two are scared They say time is in the river
But the river is not there
Dry in spirit dry in body
Two will lend themselves to death
And in grief one weeps into his hands
And drinks his bitter tears

'Cause it don't take long
It don't take too long at all
It don't take long, and you may say
"I don't know what you're talking about,"
And I say "You mean to tell me that's all?"

And as I stand before you now I am hopeful in my rage
You know love has finally called for me I will not wilt upon its stage
But still smaller than my nightmare
Do I print upon the page
Do we have to live inside its walls
To identify the cage?

'Cause it takes so long
Why does it take so long
But it takes so long, and you may say
"I don't really care what you're talking
about,"
And I say, "Are you trying to say you don't
belong?"

I am my mother's daughter But I have seen myself in you It's this blessing that I follow now And so I must speak true

I dreamed of thousands dying It was you and you and you And while the city sleeps so quietly There is something we must do

And it won't' take long It won't take too long at all It won't take long, and you may say "I don't know if I wanna know what you're getting at," And it makes me wanna say, "So long."

Because grief will come in measures Only grief alone will know And you'll see it on your family

On your own face it will grow And they'll try to keep you hungry Then they'll tell you to eat snow You know pride can be a moving thing If we learn the strength of "NO!"

And it won't take long It won't take too long at all It won't take long, and you may say "I don't think this has anything to do with me." "But did you ever think you could be wrona?"

At noon on one day coming Human strength will fill the streets Of every city on our planet Hear the sound of angry feet With business freezed up in the harbor The kings will pull upon their hair And the banks will shudder to a halt And the artists will be there 'Cause it won't take long It won't take too long at all

It won't take long, and you may say "I don't think I can be a part of that," And it makes me want to say "Don't you want to see yourself that strong?"

Division between the peoples Will disappear that honored day And though oceans lie between us Lifted candles light the way Half will join their hands by moonlight The rest under a rising sun

> As underneath the sun and moon A ritual'd wailing has begun

And it won't take long It won't take too long at It won't take long, and you may say "I don't know how to be a part of what you're talking about,"

And it makes me want to say, "Come on!"



For you will not hear one gun And though our homes be torn And ransacked we will not be undone For as we let ourselves be bought We're gonna let ourselves be free And if you think we stand alone Look again and you will see:

We are children in the rafters We are babies in the park We are lovers at the movies We are candles in the dark We are changes in the weather We are snowflakes in July We are women grown together We are men who easily cry We are words not quickly spoken We're the deeper side of try We are dreamers in the making We are not afraid of "Why?" (RPL)

Counting <u>Down</u> the 100 Books to Read Before You Die (Trust book recommendations from real people, not robots)

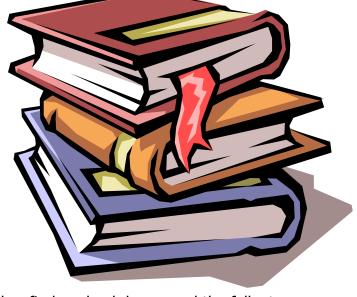
Continuing from August 2021's newsletter...

29. The Death of Artemio Cruz - by Carlos Fuentes

Lying on his deathbed, corrupt soldier and politician Artemio Cruz is surrounded by family and a priest as they attempt to coax him into confessing his betrayals and crooked dealings. *The Death of Artemio Cruz* is a milestone in the boom of Latin-American literature.

28. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - by Mark Haddon

Narrated by Christopher John Francis Boone, a 15year old with autism, *The Curious Incident of the Dog*



in the Night-Time is the story of the night that Christopher finds a dead dog — and the fallout. Haddon invites readers to see the world through another's eyes in this captivating mystery novel with a twist that instantly became one of the must-read books of the 21st-century.

27. Crime and Punishment - by Fyodor Dostoevsky

In this 1866 epic novel, a poor student in St. Petersburg makes the fateful decision to rob and kill an elderly pawnbroker for her money. The work that made Fyodor Dostoevsky one of the greats, *Crime and Punishment* remains a hallmark study of greed, morality, and the dangers of radicalism.

26. The Count of Monte Cristo - by Alexandre Dumas

Edmond Dantès, a young Frenchman, is falsely accused and imprisoned without trial in an island fortress off the coast of France — until the day he escapes and sets out to avenge himself. *The Count of Monte Cristo* is revenge tale for the ages.

25. Coraline - by Neil Gaiman

Young Coraline Jones has just moved into an old house when she discovers a mysterious door. What lies beyond might even be beyond the limits of your wildest imagination in this dark fantasy novella that has become a universal favorite.

24. The Color Purple - by Alice Walker

The acclaimed story of two women and the strength of their bond in the racist society of 1980s America. *The Color Purple* won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, deservedly making Alice Walker the first African-American woman to receive the award.

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23. The Collected Tales of Edgar Allan Poe - by Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe is synonymous with horror today and this is the collection that proves it. Packed with his best short stories, including "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Masque of the Red Death," and "The Tell-Tale Heart," it completely presents Poe's dark imagination and uncanny ability to capture the shadowy depths of the human heart.

22. The Code of the Woosters - by P.G. Wodehouse

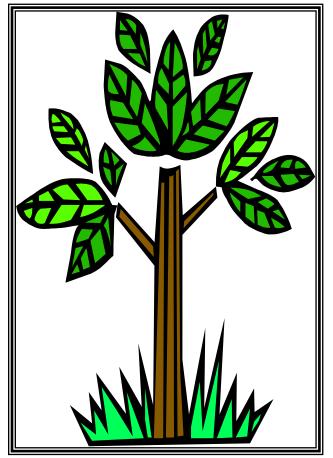
Reading P.G. Wodehouse is one of the few things in life that will reliably delight. And *The Code of the Woosters* is Wodehouse at his sparkling best: a romp through Britain with an uproarious cast, including Jeeves, Bertie, and cow-creamers.

21. A Clockwork Orange - by Anthony Burgess

It is an indeterminate year in the future and Alex is arrested by the government in the midst of an ultraviolent youth cultural rebellion. *A Clockwork Orange* is one of the most enduring examinations of good and evil, and what it means to be free to choose one or the other.

20. The Call of the Wild - by Jack London

In the 1890s, a young dog named Buck hears the call of the wild. But can he answer it, especially when nature and man's cruelty are stacked against him? This rugged, gripping novel has inspired millions of adventures for many years. (RPL).



"Waste no tears

Upon the blotted record of lost years,
But turn the leaf, and smile, oh smile, to see
The fair white pages that remain for thee.
Prattle not of thy repentance. But believe
The spark divine dwells in thee; let it grow.
That which the up reaching spirit can achieve
The grand and all creative forces know;
They will assist and strengthen as the light
Lifts up the acorn to the oak-tree's height.
Thou hast but to resolve, and lo! God's whole
Great universe shall fortify thy soul."

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Oregon prison system announces first COVID-19 death in months (by Conrad Wilson - OPB)

The man is the 43rd person in Oregon custody to die from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. The last death was back in January, before vaccines were widely available.

The Oregon Department of Corrections announced its first COVID-19 related death in months on Friday. The state's prison system doesn't release the identities of people who die from COVID-19.

What we do know is that a man died on August 21 while serving a sentence at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem. He was between 50 and 60 years old and died at a local hospital, according to prison officials. The man is the 43rd person in custody to die from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. The last death was back in January, before vaccines were widely available.

The death comes amid a new wave of infections driven by the more contagious delta variant, which has filled intensive care units and emergency rooms across the state, testing the limits of the health care system.

Following a wave of COVID-19 deaths in January, a federal judge ordered the state to offer vaccines to all adults in custody. On Friday, the Oregon Department of Corrections noted that, not only has it offered vaccines to all adults in custody, but also all staff.

Corrections officers also were among the highest priority groups to get access to the vaccines after they were first available. Despite that, ODOC estimates 50% - 55% of staff have received a vaccine, while 78% of the adults in custody are vaccinated. Union officials who represent the corrections workers say the vaccination rate is higher than ODOC has stated.

So far in August, of the roughly 115 positive cases of COVID-19 reported by the Oregon Department of Corrections, some 60% of them have been from staff. Just 40% of the infections were adults in custody, according to prison data.

Cases this month among staff at the Oregon State Penitentiary - where the most recent death occurred - largely preceded and outpaced the cases among inmates, according to ODOC data.

So far in August, at least 13 staff members at OSO reported testing positive for COVID-19. Just four inmates have tested positive in the same time period. (RPL).

Distress Tolerance Skill Series (OSP's Behavioral Health Services)

Distress Tolerance Skill: Radical Acceptance

Have you ever spent time trying to control a situation or person only to realize that you have no control? Have you noticed times when you spent energy trying to effect change only to feel stuck, powerless or frustrated? *Radical acceptance* is making an *intentional* choice to accept a person or situation without trying to change it. This does not mean that you give up. You have a choice:

- 1. Spin your wheels trying to influence change and feel frustrated; or
- 2. Accept the reality of the situation.

Radical acceptance is realizing that "it is what it is" and that spending your energy trying to change something that is not changeable only creates suffering for you. The process of acceptance is difficult at first, but the effort will lessen frustration and help you move forward.

Skill Benefits

- Radical acceptance reduces suffering because rather than fighting the reality of the situation, you are accepting the situation for what it is at the time.
- The process of acceptance helps you move forward and keeps you from feeling stuck or powerless. (RPL).

RESOURCES...

Adopt An Inmate

PO Box 1543 · Veneta, OR 97487 971-236-7897 · http://adoptaninmate.org Nonprofit volunteer organization that connects outside volunteers with prisoners seeking mentors, support and friendship. (They are not a dating service). Their website is a comprehensive source of tools and resources to advocate for inmates. They welcome stories, poems, artwork, and book reviews by inmates and their advocates for publication on their website (indicate submission type on outside of envelope). Send your request for a survey with a short bio (1-3 paragraphs) and incude a pre-addressed, stamped envelope when possible. To follow up on an existing request, indicate "follow-up" on outside of envelope.

All of Us or None

4400 Market St · Oakland, CA 94608 415-255-7036 x 337 ·

http://www.allofusornone.org

All of Us or None is a grassroots-organizing project of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. All of Us or None fights for the full restoration of our civil and human rights of formerly-and currently incarcerated people and families. They are fighting against the discrimination that people face every day because of arrest or conviction history. The goal of All of Us or None is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration and the growth of the prison-industrial complex.

Solitary Watch

PO Box 11374 · Washington, DC 20008 https://solitarywatch.org/

Solitary Watch works to expose and oppose the use of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons and jails, and offers a free quarterly newsletter to prisoners. Solitary Watch also welcomes submissions of writing by those currently or formerly serving time in solitary. In Sept. 2017, published an anthology called Hell is a Very Small Place, although it does not sell the book directly. May not respond timely to letters. Serves people nationally.

National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated

405-7 Cooper St. Room 103 NRCCFI at Rutgers–Camden · Camden, NJ 08102 (856) 225-2718 ·

https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/

NRCCFI is the oldest and largest organization in the U.S. focused on children and families of the incarcerated and programs that serve them. Has a library of resources downloadable from its website; publishes fact sheets and a directory listing programs in the United States and around the world that offer services specifically for children and families of the incarcerated.

Oregon Innocence Project

PO Box 5248 · Portland, OR 97208 503-944-2270 ·

http://www.oregoninnocence.org

The Oregon Innocence Project's mission is to exonerate the innocent, educate and train law students, and promote legal reforms aimed at preventing wrongful convictions.

Lifers' Unlimited Club Newsletter

Oregon State Penitentiary
Activities Department
2605 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310-0505

Lifers' Unlimited Club 2021 Calendar

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 protocols all events are semi-closed until social distancing restrictions are lifted. We will, however, do our best to keep everyone advised as events open up and/or our circumstances change. Thank you for your patience.

Courtney McFadden, Staff Advisor

Lifers' Unlimited Club Phone: 503-378-2289

Email: courtney.d.mcfadden@doc.state.or.us

Just a reminder the Lifers' Club Pop-Up BBQs are every weekend. All purchases will be by punch card only. Also, please know that we're open to suggestions as far as the menu goes; therefore, if you have any ideas please send them to the Lifers' Club for consideration. Thank you.

Lifers' August Birthdays! Here's wishing you all a happy and satisfying birthday!

Tyehimba Yafeu - 9/3 Andrew Metz - 9/3 Paul Fahey - 9/19 Amos Osborn - 9/19 Robert Connelly - 9/21 Kyle Forester - 9/21 William McCamman - 9/25 Thomas Musto - 9/26

~*~*~ WE ALL HAVE UNLIMITED POTENTIAL ~*~*~

Lifers' Unlimited Club Executive Body

President: Robert Kelley
Vice President: Marty Wendt
Secretary: Juan Solis
Treasure: Jeff McCarty
Facilitator: Stephen Weavill

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Lifer's 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 prosocial behavior we can create a more productive future.