

# Turning Point: The Newsletter of



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Citizens United for  
Rehabilitation of Errants

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## Autumn 2016

### Inside this issue:

6 Million Lost Voters	2
Back from the Grave	2
CURE Members	3
Advocacy Workshop	3
Hazardous Conditions	3
Revolving Door	4
Great Minds in Prison	5
Registry Destroys Families	5
Exonerate George Allen Dies	6
Lies and Extortion	6
Juvenile Justice & SB 590	7
Prisoner Health Workshop	8
Autumn Activities Highlights	8
Photos from Conference	9
Keith's presentation	10-11
Asante (Thank you)	12

## From the Chair

by Hedy Harden

## 2016 CURE Conference a Moving Event

More than 150 people attended CURE's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference September 24. Held at Kansas City's Southeast Community Center, State Representative Brandon Ellington, Chair of Missouri's Legislative Black Caucus, was our co-sponsor.

Missouri CURE celebrates 26 years in existence this year.

Awards were presented, and Audrey Chaney received our Courageous Citizen Award. Six workshops were held. Plenty of good food was provided.

After my welcoming address, Rep. Brandon Ellington gave a stirring speech. Author of a multitude of progressive bills, Rep. Ellington urged us to get involved in the legislative process and make our voices heard. Vice-Chair Keith Brown El received a standing ovation for his presentation (see pp. 11-12), and people reported being deeply moved.

Keynote speaker Max Parthas from South Carolina held the audience spellbound as he described modern-day slavery and the abolition movement.

Tribal Raine performed a penetrating poem called "The City is Full of Mourning Mothers." A dance troupe (I Dance Wit De) also provided cultural entertainment.

Kay Perry, Director of MI CURE and an executive officer of National CURE, spoke briefly and led a workshop on advocacy (see page 3).

Two new prisoners were added to the Ten Most Wanted (to be released) replacing Jon Marc Taylor, who died last year, and Jeff Mizans-

key, who was granted clemency and released. Finally, Evelyn Gates led annual election proceedings. Keith and I were re-elected, and Renese Drake is our new



Rep. Brandon Ellington, Keith Brown El, and Max Parthas

Secretary. Shirley Miner is our Recording Secretary in St. Louis.

Susan Lackamp and her crew of women from Neighbors Helping Neighbors manned the sign-in table and served lunch. Carl Greer worked hard on the sound system.

Thanks to all who helped make this conference memorable. By all accounts including a survey completed by those present, it was an inspiring experience. We welcomed several new members of Missouri CURE as a result. ♦



Audrey Chaney, recipient of our 2016 Courageous Citizen Award, was unable to attend the Kansas City conference due to sudden death of a family member. Keith presented the award to her at our October CURE meeting in St. Louis.

## Missouri CURE

### Executive Board:

Chair: Hedy Harden  
 Vice-Chair: Keith Brown El  
 Secretary: Renese Drake  
 Recording Secretary: Shirley Miner

### Committee Coordinators

Maria McEntire: Finance  
 Evelyn Gates: Fundraising  
 Frances Cummins: Membership  
 Angelika Mueller-Rowry: Prisoner Health  
 Ruthann Dunn: Special Communications

### Advisory Board

Kenneth Bell	Kevin Hammerschmidt
Damon Johnson	Judy Pickens
Patricia Prewitt	Roosevelt Price Jr.
David Ware	Joseph Williams
James Wilson	

### Special Liaisons

- Brianna Burton, IWW of KCMO
- Kim Jayne, OBS STL
- Nathaniel Johnson, STL Community Re-entry
- Bev Livingston, MISD KCMO
- Angelika Mueller-Rowry, Gateway Greens
- Margaret Phillips, MADP

***CURE is NOT a service organization. We are an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization. CURE has NO legal services—please do NOT send legal papers. We advocate for criminal justice reform, but we cannot take on individual cases.***

## Mission Statement

CURE believes that prisons should be only for those who MUST be incarcerated and that prisons should only exist for the purposes of education and rehabilitation. CURE is a membership organization. We work hard to provide our members with the information and tools necessary to help them understand the criminal justice system and to advocate for positive change.



November 7, 2016

### C-SPAN highlights The Sentencing Project's 6 Million Lost Voters Report

Marc Mauer, Executive Director of the Sentencing Project, was recently featured on C-SPAN discussing The Sentencing Project's publication, 6 Million Lost Voters: State-Level Estimates of Felony Disenfranchisement, 2016. The report found that 6.1 million people — 1 of every 40 adults — are disenfranchised because of state laws that bar voting by Americans with a felony conviction, and in some states even if they have completed all requirements of their sentence. Over three-quarters of this population (4.7 million people) are not incarcerated, but are living in their local communities — some on probation or parole, while others have completed their legal obligations. The program discussed the various state laws and recent reforms. Mauer responded to telephone calls and electronic communications from people for and against restoring rights to people with felony convictions, including a telephone line reserved for people with felony convictions.

### Young man asks to vote before pleading guilty to a felony

A young man facing up to 20 years in prison asked a federal judge if he could vote before pleading guilty to a felony. "I've been waiting to vote all my life," said 20-year-old Reginald Albright. Albright says he has always felt an obligation to vote because he knows how hard his Mississippi ancestors fought for their voting rights, and what they had to endure just to register to vote. The U.S. Attorney did not object to Albright's request and the U.S. District Judge John T. Fowlkes Jr. granted him permission to vote. After Albright returned to the courthouse and pleaded guilty, he said, "It made me feel good to vote, to do this one time before it was taken away from me. Maybe I'll get another chance." ♦

## Back From the Grave Dreams by Hedy Harden

Shortly before our annual conference in Kansas City this year, I had the following dream:

I was on a bus filled with dead prisoners. Apparently they were being transported somewhere and I needed to go there too, so I was riding along. I entered the front of the bus and walked all the way to the back and sat in the corner. I was creeped out, hoping one of the bodies wouldn't fall over on me. There were no lights on the bus, and everything was hazy. When the bus started moving, the prisoners started waking up and talking quietly to each other. They didn't seem to notice me at all. One man got up and walked over to look out the window. That's all I remember. I call the dream Resurrection.

Shortly after the conference, I dreamed the following:

I was in a large cavernous place

like the gym where the conference had been held, with a similar balcony going around the top. Suddenly I heard loud pounding and looked up to see giants marching along the balcony. They appeared to be prison martyrs like George Jackson, come back to life. I interpreted it to mean that the spirits of these ancestors and heroes had been present at our conference.

When I recalled the dreams at our KC CURE meeting September 26, Keith recited the following quote from George Jackson:

"There will be a special page in the book of life for the men who have crawled back from the grave. This page will tell of utter defeat, ruin, passivity and subjection in one breath—and in the next, overwhelming victory and fulfillment. So take care of yourself, and hold on.

Love, Comrade George" ♦





Some of the members at Missouri CURE’s 2016 Annual Conference in Kansas City MO



L-R (front row, not standing): Shaheer Akhtab, Hedy Harden, Keith Brown El, Veronica Love, Shelby Day and Max Parthas. L-R (others): Gladys Redmond, Maurice Copeland, Chaquita Roby, Kay Perry, Billy Ford, Evelyn Gates, Renese Drake, Shirley Sutton, Denorce Starks, Susan Lackamp, Angelika Mueller-Rowry, Brianna Peril (hiding), Shirley Miner, Stephanie Charles, Carl Greer, Frances Cummins, Maureen Flynn, Jeff Humfeld, Brittany Frazier, Erin Burroughs, Rev. Ester Holzendorf and Tribal Raine.

*From Michigan CURE Director Kay Perry’s workshop at our Annual Conference*

### The Role of Individuals in Advocating for Criminal Justice Reform

**W**e discussed the importance of individuals advocating for improvements in the criminal justice system by describing their personal experiences, without exaggeration, to friends, family members, work associates and church members. For those who want to go beyond their personal experiences, there are a number of organizations that regularly publish information related to criminal justice issues, including Missouri CURE, the Marshall Project and the Sen-

tencing Project.

Advocacy can take the form of supporting existing organizations through memberships, financial support, or volunteer work. One can also advocate through political action, which might include supporting a candidate, contacting legislators to express views, or testifying before legislative committees.

Writing letters to the editor and viewpoint articles can help to sway opinions, and we discussed some pointers on how to

write an effective article. Someone might also agree to be interviewed for a news article. The facilitator spent some time discussing how to prepare for an interview and how to conduct an effective interview.

Finally, we discussed some things to consider if you are going to advocate on behalf of an individual who is incarcerated. We were able to answer questions that arose during the presentation, but time constraints prohibited a full-fledged question and answer period. ❖

### Black Mold & Asbestos at Tipton

**A** prisoner writes about hazardous living conditions at Tipton. “Housing units 1B, 2B, 3A and 3B are contaminated with black mold and asbestos. This is the old section of the prison, built around 1900. (The other housing units are newer prefab buildings.) Many offenders and staff members in this old section have a continuous cough that has been going on for some time. Offenders are told by medical that their cough is related to a virus.



However, staff members indicate their cough is related to respiratory conditions, and the coughing among both groups appears to be the same.

“There is no ventilation/exhaust system to circulate the air flow. In the summer the housing units are extremely hot and in the winters extremely cold, without circulation of air flow, which

means we’re breathing in the same foul air.”

**Note:** Leaders in the American Correctional Association (ACA) are very interested in supporting the need for **climate control** in the nation’s prisons. They are currently strategizing to determine the best way to ensure passage of a

motion to that affect. Passage would make climate control a requirement for prisons to be certified. ❖



## The Inevitable Return to Prison

by Carl Brock, MECC

The statistics of how many Americans are locked up in jails and prisons across the country is alarming. We incarcerate more people in this country than any other nation in the world. What is worse, once released, the national average of offenders returning to prison is over 70%. In Missouri that number climbs to nearly 80%. We have all heard of the tough on crime sentences and laws that have been passed. Unfortunately, this is not working. Today there are more people imprisoned than ever before, so what is going on inside the Department of Corrections? What is being done to lower the recidivism rate? Is there training? Has the DOC turned to human warehousing for profit?

Recidivism, by Webster's definition, is the tendency to relapse into a previous condition. After serving the sentence imposed, offenders must produce a home plan. Whether you served six months, a couple of years, or 20 years, usually you are placed in the same area you resided in before coming to prison. If no family member or friend is available to allow you to live with them, you are placed in what's called a halfway house or re-entry center. There are several thousand offenders who have no choice but to be placed in these facilities. In St. Louis and Kansas City these centers are located in areas of poverty, crime and where many offenders sold their drugs or bought their drugs before coming to prison. Missouri has used this system in the same way for decades—so the question is, does Missouri really want crime and drug addiction to stop? Over the past 20 years Missouri has spent millions and millions of dollars building new prisons, but yet not a dime has been put into pre-release or post-release to improve the recidivism rate.

Human warehousing for profit? It seems ludicrous, but the reality is that it's very lucrative. Unfortunately I have spent 15 years on these shelves and can offer a first-hand account of what goes on day to day, week to week, and year to

year. The best way to describe the area inside the fences is as a city within a city. The corrections officers' wages are below the national average, and many are treated unfairly by their superiors, causing a huge turnover rate—which brings in far less qualified people to deal with the prison population.

Today on the outside everything is computerized—banking, shopping, job applications, resumes and the phone. One entry level computer class is offered on the inside, but not until you are close to release, and even then the waiting list to be accepted into this class is a year or two.

The amount of people that depend on prisons is astronomical. Some towns across Missouri have survived solely because the prison was built there. There are thousands of prison-based jobs across the state, including the distributors of food and supplies, snack vendors, soda vendors, and vending companies who supply the visiting rooms. There are many more who have millions of dollars in accounts with the Department of Corrections. Most of our prisons in Missouri have small factories with old technology that employ offenders and pay them third-world wages.

Some of the general public may say, "They should not make anything." Well, let's get the whole story. Take, for example, Southeast Correctional Center in Charleston MO. They have a furniture factory inside the prison where they basically hand-make most of their furniture. These items are sold at top dollar prices to colleges and universities (to furnish dorm rooms) and many other state agencies. Other prisons make clothing items which they sell to the offender population, which is taxed and sold for top dollar. The offenders who create these items are only making 15 to 70 cents per hour. Not to mention that the prison may be sitting on the very spot where the town's furniture factory used to be!

At each prison across the state, the money made from offenders is in the millions. This includes the profit from the canteen, the phone calls, and the fees

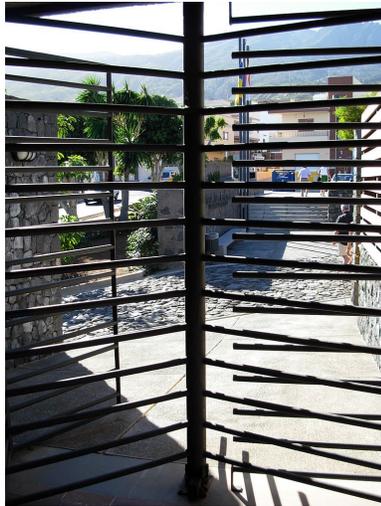
charged to our family and friends just to send money to us. The items we purchase at the canteen are already marked up by the DOC, sometimes near 20%. Just this year we started paying taxes to purchase our canteen items. Then, depending on the city/county where you are warehoused, an additional tax has been added. There are two problems with this: When the state purchases these items from a distributor they are tax exempt. Then, our families and friends who send us the money have already paid Missouri taxes, so the money is being taxed twice.

Again, does Missouri—or our nation as a whole—really want crime and drug addiction to stop? Do oil company executives, employees, and the trillion-dollar investors in oil want electric cars to take over the roads? The answer is obvious—NO! The prison employs many thousands of people across the state, and prisoners spend millions on canteen, clothing, telephone calls and vending services. Each prison is in fact a little city inside the larger city where it is located. So when the parole board says, "Do not come back! Good luck! We do not want to see you again!" it is nothing more than smoke and mirrors.

You coming back is what their livelihoods depend on—sad, but true. Today, people in our country are finally starting to see the truth. Washington University (WU) has started college courses for offenders at the prison in Pacific MO. The Concordance Academy of leadership led by former Wells Fargo Executive Mr. Danny Ludeman, former politician Jeff Smith and others are teaming up with researchers from Brown School of Social Work at WU with a vow to revolutionize the re-entry field in Missouri. Lisa Jaegers from St. Louis University is also leading a re-entry program for men transitioning from prisoners to law abiding citizens.

The Missouri DOC is not spending any money on these programs. Their goal for many years has been to keep offenders uneducated, with low self-esteem and, like the Motel 6 commercials, "We'll leave the light on for you!"

It is time for society to start seeing the light and stop wasting tax dollars on a system that profits off harsh sentencing like the 85% law, other mandatory minimums, and the revolving door. ❖



## Some of the World's Greatest Minds are in Prison

*from a speech given several years ago by Bobby Bostic, CRCC*

Prison is a place where you can find a scholar of every kind. The system can lock up a person's body, but it can't incarcerate the mind. Right here in this room we have some great minds. We have scientists, mathematicians and preachers right here in front of us. In fact, many of you have excelled in the most difficult of all politics, prison politics. These politics can get real messy, but guys in here network to make things happen on scales great and small. We must continue to apply ourselves and not settle for a label that has been placed upon us.

The mind can accomplish what it will. It is stronger than concrete, razor wire and steel. The mind is an architect that constructs the plans that build the structures that house the institutions that change the world. Throughout history, prison scholars have used their minds to change the world. For evidence of this we can go back to Biblical times and look at Joseph's journey in prison. Look at how he changed history from his prison cell when he interpreted the king's vision and saved Egypt from a famine. If we look at contemporary history we have the example of Nelson Mandela and how his words from his jail cell shook the world. It has been from these dungeons that some of the world's greatest words ever written originated.

Let's bring it back to modern history and look at Gandhi. What about Malcolm X? Look at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how the famous letter written from his cell in the Birmingham Jail

changed the course of Kennedy's presidency.

We can do what we put our minds to, and even these walls can't stop us. We say that we want to go home. We can train ourselves to be legal scholars in order to obtain our freedom. We can get laws changed to benefit us. We can change the prison culture. All we have to do is devote our minds and energy to it.

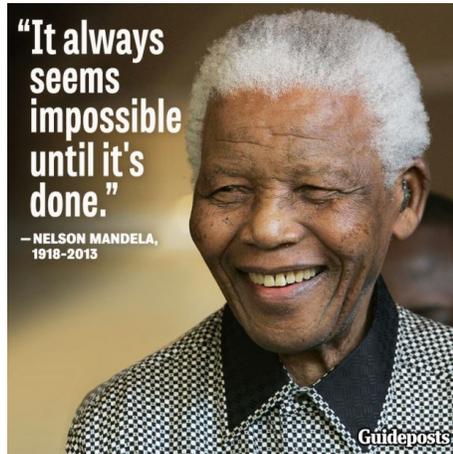
Through self-rehabilitation a criminal can transform him or herself into a law-abiding citizen. I am not a model prisoner because prison does not model me. Still, I am determined to be the best that I can be. We all have an excellent example right here in this room. Dr. Jon Marc Taylor obtained his doctorate degree while in prison. Just look at the fortitude that it took to get a doctorate degree in a violent, chaotic place like this. Imagine the hurdles that he had to overcome with the administration to get this accomplished. Imagine the obstacles that petty guards and small-minded inmates put in his way along the course that he was traveling. Imagine the tens of thousands of dollars that he had to raise to pay for

this doctorate degree all while in a jail cell. That required a lot of hard work and effort. Reflect a minute on the violence and ignorance that he was surrounded by in several different prisons while he pursued his degrees and studied his lessons.

We must not allow our talents to go to waste in here. We have to harness our creative energy with haste. The library is full of hundreds of books that we must start reading. Right there in that library we can train ourselves to be scholars. We were not meant to be crooks. We are sitting here in prison because

we were not great criminals. Nothing is holding us back but our own lack of effort.

The smartest people in the world do some of the dumbest things, and that is why we have so many great minds stuck inside these prison wings. We came to prison as a threat to society. We were the problems, but now we can become the solution and help to heal the world. We have to succeed against the odds and claim the greatness that we each possess. There is no limit to the goals that we can accomplish. It is from the lowest depths that the greatest of men and women have risen. ❖



### Fighting the Destruction of Families

*from Vicki Henry*

There are numerous studies (empirical evidence) showing that the sex offender registry is ineffective, costly and not protecting the public. As it relates to juveniles, there are many studies indicating the juvenile brain is not fully developed until approximately 25 years of age. Therefore, youngsters should not be subjected to registry, which will undoubtedly alter their lives.

There are 851,870 registrants across the nation, which impact another four million family members. The "crimes" range from urinating in public (indecent exposure), sexting, incest, mooning, exposure, false accusations by a soon-to-



be ex-wife, angry girlfriend, or spiteful student, viewing abusive OR suggestive images of anyone 18 years old or younger, playing doctor, prostitution, solicitation, "Romeo and Juliet" consensual sexual dating relationships, rape, endangering the welfare of a child and many others. Once individuals have been adjudicated, paid their debt to society and are living a law abiding life, they should be allowed to do so with their family in peace.

Vicki Henry, President, Women Against Registry (WAR) Phone 800-311-3764  
P.O. Box 463, Arnold MO 63010  
<http://www.womenagainstry.com>

## Exoneree George Allen dies, free 4 years after 30 years in Prison

Last month a good man died. George Allen was a young man of 25 with schizophrenia when he was framed by St. Louis police for a rape and murder. He was given a sentence of 99 years and served 30 years in prison before being exonerated. During his incarceration an attack by another prisoner caused George to lose an eye. Turning Point published an article about George upon his release in November of 2012.

The Innocence Project had taken up his case and proved that not only was George innocent of the crime, but that police had given false testimony against George and deliberately withheld evidence of his innocence.

Back in 1982 St. Louis was hit with a huge snowstorm on January 30. During the night 24 inches of snow fell, and most of us were snowed in for several days. I was in school at UMSL, and the school was closed for 4 days. George and his family in University City were snow-bound like the rest of us. On February 4 he helped dig out his sister's car so she could go to work. Meanwhile, 10 miles away in the city, court reporter Mary Bell was raped and murdered in her home.

In November 2012 Circuit Judge

Daniel Green threw out Allen's convictions for murder, rape, sodomy and first-degree burglary, stating that Allen's rights to due process were violated. Lead detective Herb Riley failed to disclose evidence that favored the defense.

"The undisclosed evidence, considered together, points unavoidably to the conclusion that the police — and Detective Riley in particular — ignored and hid evidence pointing to someone else as the perpetrator in their zealous pursuit of Allen's conviction." The judge wrote that this evidence "would have provided the defense affirmative proof — foreign semen and fingerprints that could not have come from Allen — that someone else raped and killed Ms. Bell."

When the story of George's exoneration broke on November 2, 2012, the offices of the Innocence Project in Manhattan were closed, without electricity due to Hurricane Sandy. Regular phone and mail service was disrupted,

but e-mail alerts related the good news.

"Oh, thank the Lord. I am so overjoyed," cried Allen's 80+ year old mother, Lonzetta Taylor, when a reporter told her the news. "I knew he was innocent — he was with us that day."



Young George Allen

George Allen read a brief statement to reporters in Jefferson City upon his release on November 14, 2012. "I have spent 30 years in prison as an innocent man, and those have been difficult years for me and my family, but I never gave up hope," Allen said. "I knew that someday the truth would come out. Thank God this nightmare is finally ending."

Lonzetta Taylor had waited years to be able to hug her son; prison visits were non-contact.

Despite this chilling injustice, not a dime was received in compensation. Taylor, now in her late 80s, had to request donations to bury George.

Part of the CURE family, George was the nephew of active member Denorce Starks. His mother Lonzetta is also a member.

by Hedy Harden ❖

## Lies, Extortion and Manipulation

Once again I'm hearing the bold-faced lie that the number of people locked down in Missouri prisons has been drastically reduced and that no one is being kept in segregation longer than 30 days. If Director Lombardi really believes this, he needs to delve a little more deeply into his prisons.

Throughout Missouri prisons, men and women are locked down for months and YEARS in deplorable conditions. Lack of attention to medical needs, lack of reading material, lack of adequate clothing, lack of outside recreation, lack of access to the grievance procedure—these are only the tip of the iceberg.

This is true in maximum security prisons like Potosi, JCCC, SECC, SCCC, CRCC and ERDCC as well as lower level prisons such as NECC and FCC. I've had

a lot of respect for Lombardi over the years, but in his twilight years, as he calls them, I'm afraid he's losing control.

Recently all prisoner organizations in several prisons were ordered to "contribute" moneys from their treasuries to Puppies for Parole, reportedly to be given to Stray Rescue to pay for distemper treatment after 40 dogs died of distemper there in early November. An NAACP officer at one prison announced that he approved the contribution for \$100.00 under duress, rather than go to the hole. At SCCC, several hundred dollars were extorted from prisoner organizations for the dogs.

While this may be a worthy cause, "donations" are just that—money freely given to causes decided on by the organizations themselves.

This sounds eerily reminiscent of the situation in SECC Charleston under former warden Ian Wallace. For years,

sincere and active NAACP officers were regularly being transferred to other prisons. As in some other prisons, the organization was told to "donate" large sums of its money to the warden's pet charities. In SECC the organization was destroyed by Wallace, then re-started with a president hand-picked by the warden. The new president was told he would have "free rein" except for a couple of things.

First, no money was to be donated to Missouri CURE, which he said was "just a bunch of women trying to get their men out of prison."

Secondly, said Wallace, "I'm going to need some money." Ultimately, the entire organization was shut down, and Wallace seized the several thousands of dollars in the group's treasury.

Instead of being fired and charged with a crime, Wallace has been promoted to a position in central office. He is now the Deputy Director for the Division of Adult Institutions. We're beginning to see his handprints (or footprints) in new directives being implemented system-wide. ❖

by Hedy Harden



## Interview with the MacArthur Justice Center about Senate Bill 590 and JLWOP in Missouri

Missouri CURE sat down with Amy Breihan and Mae Quinn, attorneys with the MacArthur Justice Center at St. Louis, to discuss their work seeking a second chance for juvenile offenders who have been sentenced to mandatory juvenile life without parole sentences in Missouri. Since the case of *Miller v. Alabama* was decided in 2012, Breihan and Quinn have been representing



several impacted inmates in seeking to obtain sentencing relief. But the issues have become very complicated in Missouri, largely because of the passage last year of Senate Bill 590, so we asked them to provide us with some updates.

**Hedy Harden:** We have heard that some lawyers are trying to challenge Senate Bill 590 for failing to provide Missouri's *Miller*-impacted inmates with a new sentencing hearing.

**Amy Breihan:** That's right. Three different groups of attorneys – including our office – have asked the United States Supreme Court to intervene to set aside SB 590 as we believe it does not satisfy *Miller*'s mandate of an individualized sentencing proceeding at which constitutional rights are fully protected, where the sentencer considers *Miller* mitigation factors, and where no life without parole sentence or its equivalent can be imposed unless it is found beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is “irreparably corrupt.” We think there are many other problems with the bill too. But it will be some time before we know what the United States Supreme Court might do.

**Hedy Harden:** In the meantime it sounds like the Missouri DOC is proceeding with parole hearings under SB590. Are you handling any of those hearings?

**Mae Quinn:** Yes, we are. But we do not want the government to argue that by participating in an SB590 parole hearing our clients have waived their right to challenge the bill or the way the proceedings are conducted.

So, we are doing a few things on these cases to both protect our clients' legal rights while also trying to maximize the possibility that they will be released.

FIRST, in some cases we may decide with our client that it makes sense to hold off on filing a petition for seeking a parole hearing while certain documents are obtained or we can do other work on their behalf, like put together a life history and mitigation packet for the Board's review.

SECOND, when it does come time to petition for a hearing we lay out certain legal arguments to try to make sure everyone knows we do not agree that the parole hearings should substitute for an in-court resentencing AND we do not believe they can be conducted just like every other parole hearing.

**Hedy Harden:** So what kinds of things do you include in the petition?

**Amy Breihan:** Well, FIRST we write down on the petition that by agreeing to a SB590 hearing the individual does not waive any of his/her constitutional rights to an individualized sentencing hearing under *Miller v. Alabama*, 132 S.Ct. 2455 (2012), *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, 136 S.Ct. 718 (2016), or state law.

SECOND, we spell out all the things we think the hearing process should include to even come close to what *Miller* intended. So, for instance, we have written things like Petitioner requests the Parole Board to:

(i) Permit petitioner to appear in person (not by video conference) at his hearing and to have an attorney appear with him;

(ii) provide petitioner with a copy of all information provided to the Board at or in advance of the hearing, and all other information upon which the Board will base its decision, no later than 21 days before the scheduled hearing;

(iii) provide petitioner with a copy of his entire institutional record no later than 30 days before the scheduled hearing;

(iv) permit petitioner to submit written material to the Board in advance of the hearing;

(v) permit petitioner the right to present lay and expert witness testimony at the hearing;

(vi) permit petitioner to cross-examine at the hearing those who have provided evidence against him and otherwise challenge evidence presented against him;

(vii) provide a court reporter to transcribe the hearing before the Board, or permit petitioner to provide his own recording device or court reporter for that purpose;

(viii) refuse to admit or review any victim impact evidence under *Bosse v. Oklahoma*, No. 15-9173, 2016 WL 5888333 (Oct. 11, 2016); *Booth v. Maryland*, 482 U.S. 496 (1987); and

(ix) state its decision on the record and in petitioner's presence, along with the specific reasons for its decision.

**Hedy Harden:** What if the Parole Board doesn't grant these requests?

**Mae Quinn:** Well, we still think that saying these things is important. That is because we believe there may be another set of legal challenges to be raised in the courts following SB 590 hearings if these rights are not provided and *Miller*-impacted inmates are not released.

But every case is different and by talking with you Hedy, we are not seeking to advise anyone about what to do in their individual case. Folks should talk with their lawyers if they have counsel. And if they are not represented they can respond to our JLWOP needs assessment questionnaire, which is available on our website, to let us know they are seeking assistance. ❖

### Contact Info:

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St. Louis MO 63118  
Phone: 314-254-8540**

Email: [admin-stl@macarthurjustice.org](mailto:admin-stl@macarthurjustice.org)  
Web: [STL.MacArthurJusticeCenter.org](http://STL.MacArthurJusticeCenter.org)

## Notes from Prisoner Health Workshop *from Angelika Mueller-Rowry*

We touched on very diverse topics. Concerns included:

- ◆ How to help a mentally ill loved one suffering from neglect while in solitary confinement for several years
- ◆ How HEP C infected prisoners can finally get the new treatment
- ◆ How to get medical care after release for illnesses acquired in prison
- ◆ The Board of Nursing's refusal to deal with prisoner complaints about medical staff's malpractice, abuse and/or intentional torture. We agreed that although such complaints are routinely turned down as "not following procedures," it is important to not let them off the hook and to use this avenue to create a paper trail.

We were fortunate in having Attorney Mae Quinn present to address

statutory requirements that MODOC routinely uses to deny medical parole for sick and dying prisoners.

Another route for addressing human rights violations is to provide IWW with 3 sentences about a prisoner's concerns/situation. This is also an easy way to become active and get involved! For more information contact IWW IWOC, P.O. Box 414304, Kansas City MO 64141.

We touched on the importance of requesting a nutritious, healthy daily menu for prisoners, tailored diets (when needed) as well as healthy canteen choices, because these things will reduce the likelihood of prisoners acquiring chronic illnesses.

An Affidavit (to be signed by the prisoner in the presence of a Notary Public) to request his/her medical records/health information was made available. It

can also be obtained by e-mail from Angie at [amuellerrowry@gmail.com](mailto:amuellerrowry@gmail.com). Please include information about your loved one's health problems, if applicable.

As we had several activists in the group, we also discussed strategy—how to more effectively combine forces, including with legislators who are willing to be supportive of our cause.

Reminder: When dealing with Corizon, 'correctional' staff and/or Central Office: **Document Everything**, and send the information to Angie at Missouri CURE for future use in a broader context. ❖

*Note: Angie underwent an eye procedure in November. As a result her responses to prisoner letters about health concerns has been and continues to be slowed down significantly.*



September	Selected Autumn Activities
9	Elliott Davis FOX 2 interviewed Hedy for prison segment of "You Paid for It"
10	Death Penalty Event in STL (MADP & 2nd Chance Freedom Foundation)
12	KKFI Jaws of Justice--Keith & Hedy discussed upcoming CURE Conference
19	Lunch meeting at MacArthur Justice Center (Hedy)
21	Membership Committee meeting
<b>24</b>	<b>Annual CURE Conference KCMO</b>
26	KC CURE Meeting
<b>October</b>	
12	Membership Committee meeting; Prisoner Health Committee meeting
14	STL CURE meeting/George Allen died
15	Keith, Angie & Hedy visited Lisa Stanton in Hospital
16	Keith, Angie & Hedy attended play "Every 28 Hours" at COCA
18	Keith & Hedy attended OBS meeting
19	Keith & Hedy attended SMART Re-entry Conference in Farmington



Scenes from Missouri CURE's 2016 Conference held in KCMO September 24.



Below: New "Most Wanted" (to be released) Patty Prewitt, represented by her daughter Jane Watkins, and Walter Hunter, represented by his sister Renese Drake.



## Understanding Modern-Day Slavery

by Keith Brown El

**G**ood Morning: My name is Keith Brown El and I am the Vice Chairman of *Missouri CURE*, and today I am very happy to welcome you to our 13th annual statewide conference. As you know, the theme for this year's conference is: "Prisoners' Lives Matter: What Part of Modern Day Slavery Don't You Understand?"

There is a reason why this particular theme was chosen for this conference. This is Conference Number 13, and the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution authorizes the enslavement of people who have been convicted of crimes. This theme is also appropriate because Kansas City is located in a county that is named after a slave owner and slavery advocate—former U.S. President Andrew Jackson.

His image appears on the \$20 bill, and a statue of him on a horse sits on our courthouse lawn. This is a testament that Jackson is still this very day considered one of America's greatest heroes. And I will tell you why:

After President Abraham Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed by Congress (which was supposed to have freed the slaves), this country was still steeped in racism. So much so that some people were moved to conspire and assassinate their own President, Mr. Lincoln.

The South was absolutely furious with Lincoln because depriving their economy of slave labor meant that whites accustomed to relaxing, sitting in the shade on their porches and drinking iced tea now had to go out in fields and work like dogs in the hot sun just like the slaves did.

After Lincoln was killed, Vice President Andrew Johnson became his successor. Johnson considered Andrew Jackson as his role model and made it clear to everyone that he did not give a damn about the Emancipation Proclamation. In fact, he stated that as long as he was President, America would remain "a white man's country" and whites would remain in control.

Andrew Johnson is one of the main reasons why black people never got their 40 acres and a mule, because he reversed this decision endorsed by Lincoln. He

took back the land and the mules which had already been given to some former slaves and gave it all back to the former slave owners.

After this was done, these former slaves had no way to provide for themselves and their families. So many of them were forced to return to the slave

plantations, continue to accept their mistreatment, and work from "can't see" in the morning until "can't see" at night—not to make a profit for themselves, but for their mere day-to-day survival.

I can find no records of Andrew Jackson having ever lived anywhere in the

State of Missouri. But the obvious reason why this county is named after him and his statue sits on our courthouse lawn is because he symbolizes contempt for the Emancipation Proclamation. Even after the slaves were supposed to be freed, Jackson's successor Andrew Johnson (a so-called "Jacksonian") took steps that he knew would only force them back onto the slave plantations.

**I**t is also no coincidence that Jackson's statue sits on our courthouse lawn. Courthouses send people to prison. Prisons (or "correctional centers" as they are called these days) have replaced the old slave plantations, and the men and women who now occupy them are forced to work for no pay or mere pennies a day.

This is very close in similarity to what many of us out here on the streets are being forced to work for right now. The salaries we earn do not even amount to a livable wage. Some of us have to work two and three jobs just to make ends meet. Others work a single job that requires two or three people's labor.

When we get off from work most of us are too exhausted to spend any time trying to properly train or raise our children. Eventually these children end up in the streets. And those streets are just waiting to give our children a full education on how to become murderers and other kinds of criminals. And we wonder why the crime rate in our communities is so high.

We have mothers and fathers in this audience today who have lost sons and daughters to criminal violence, here in

Kansas City or elsewhere. We have people here such as myself who have also lost a lot of friends and family members to that same kind of violence. We have people who have been victims of property theft, property damage, physical assaults, rapes, child abuse, molestation, domestic violence, etc.

Therefore, I understand that *Missouri CURE* may not be very popular with some of the people in our audience today because we are not an anti-violence movement nor an anti-crime organization. We are an organization which *advocates* for the rights of people who have been convicted of crimes, people who are confined—the people who are now living under conditions of modern-day slavery.

**And, believe it or not, a good many of these people are actually innocent of what they have been accused.**

But please understand that nothing in the position *Missouri CURE* has taken means that the personal tragedies of anyone of you have been lost in our awareness. So we have asked all of you to be here today, because we want you to know that we *do* hear your voices. And the only thing we ask in return is that you also listen to ours.

Now, I'm not going to stand here and tell you that the persons who have committed crimes against you are not responsible for their actions. And I'm not going to argue that even if those persons did in fact commit those crimes that they still should not have been sent to prison.

But I think we all know that law enforcement in this country and our criminal justice system are unfair, fraudulent and very corrupt. And whether you, me or anyone else ends up being accused and convicted of a crime has little to do with actual innocence or guilt. Too often being arrested by the police, convicted in the courts, and winding up in prison—or dead as a result of being shot by the police—has far too much to do with the color of one's skin, his or her financial or social status, and the system's need to profit from the enslavement of the poor and the underprivileged.

So what I *do* argue is that no one in this gymnasium and no one in this country, regardless of whether you are actually a criminal or not, is safe from the evils of this kind of insatiable, legalized crime and predatory behavior.

And I do think you need to know that you being the victim of a crime



**Slavery—from page 10**

was neither the beginning nor the end of that story. In many ways this system of government is even more responsible for you being a victim of a crime than the criminals are who victimized you

Many of the people who are in prison now would have never become criminals in the first place had they not been forced to live in a greedy, selfish and uncaring economic system that is designed to benefit only the wealthy and powerful. Sexual predators might not have developed their twisted sense of self-gratification had they not grown up in a society that is vehemently obsessed with the belief that *white male dominance has always been God's intended purpose, and that one's ability to control and impose one's will on others is the highest fulfillment of God's Commandments.*

You don't have to be a white male to suffer from this affliction because this kind of mental disease is itself very contagious. All the police have to do is whack you upside the head with a club, body-slam you on the ground, or let you witness somebody being shot down like a dog. From that moment on you become subliminally aware of how easy it is to get compliance once you show people that you are willing to use violence. Add this to the elements of already being poor and/or desperately in need, and then either instantly or gradually, you become motivated to do the same to someone else.

It's like Salman Rushdie once said: *"If the powerful trample you underneath their feet, you become infected by the very soles of their shoes."*

So, for those of you who insist on morally indicting black people and trying to convince them that it's wrong to

kill each other, you first need to start by trying to convince the cops. It is obvious that black lives don't matter to a lot of people who are supposed to be upholding the law, and they are getting away with killing us *every year by the thousands.*

*So, if we are teaching our people to respect the police and always obey the law, then subliminally they are being taught that what the cops do to us is right, and it must be okay for us to imitate them by killing black people just like they often do.*

Black people are not the ones who are making sure there are plenty of guns out on the street. The politicians, the gun factories and the *National Rifle Association* are doing this, ensuring that people on the street can keep right on killing each other.

You can get out in the streets and hold all the prayer vigils you want; you can organize marches, draw crowds and make speeches. But if you are only using those tactics, you are fighting a losing battle and you don't stand a chance of putting even so much as one dent in the violence out here in these streets.

It is utterly insane to continue allowing gun manufactures to keep turning out the volumes of weapons that are being produced and think that many of those guns will not fall into the hands of irresponsible people here in K.C. and elsewhere in this country.

We have to stop letting people waste our time with things that are not going to

get us any results. And we have to let politicians know that if they don't have a solution to our problems or they are unwilling to embrace what the obvious solution is, then we will not keep settling for them doing over and over again what we already know is not going to work.

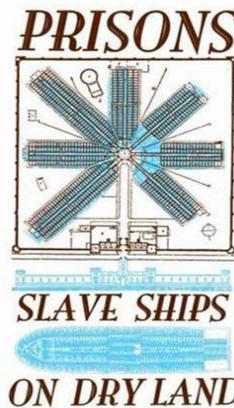
Therefore our fight to end violence is not with the people out here in these streets, it is with the people downtown in City Hall and the Missouri legislature in Jefferson City.

These politicians know that making harsher laws designed to dictate who can and cannot have guns is not the solution to the problem. Criminals and lunatics don't think about getting caught and they don't care about laws. So they are going to find a way to get their hands on guns no matter what the law says.

Politicians and mainstream media keep trying to create the illusion that it is *us, and not them, who are the problem* and that all we need are more and more guns, to make society safe. Every legitimate study that has ever been done has proven this theory wrong, but politicians continue to perpetuate this lie.

These are the reason why I maintain that this government uses innocent, unsuspecting people as bait to lure people into traps it has set for them, and then it does what any twisted, purposely misleading, calculating and brainwashing system of control does best: It rides in like the cavalry to the rescue at the last minute, takes the suspect into custody, locks him or her up in jail, then feigns innocence and lets the "criminal" be used as the scapegoat.

Again, this is Keith Brown El, Vice-Chairman of Missouri CURE. Thank you for listening. ❖



**October Activities (Cont. from page 8)**

21	Membership Committee meeting; Prisoner Health Committee meeting
26-29	Journey Across Missouri for Youth Justice
<b>November</b>	
2	Hedy met with Chris Gagne' of Vermont CURE (see p. 12)
9	Empower MO Criminal Justice Task Force meeting (Hedy)
11	MO CURE STL meeting
17 & 23	National CURE Chapter Support Committee phone conference (Hedy)
21	KC CURE Meeting Bluford Library
25	Keith speaks on KPRT Radio Show about Mass Incarceration
27	National CURE Board Conference Call (Hedy)

Missouri CURE  
P.O. Box 28931  
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## Help Stop Mass Incarceration—and CURE the Madness!

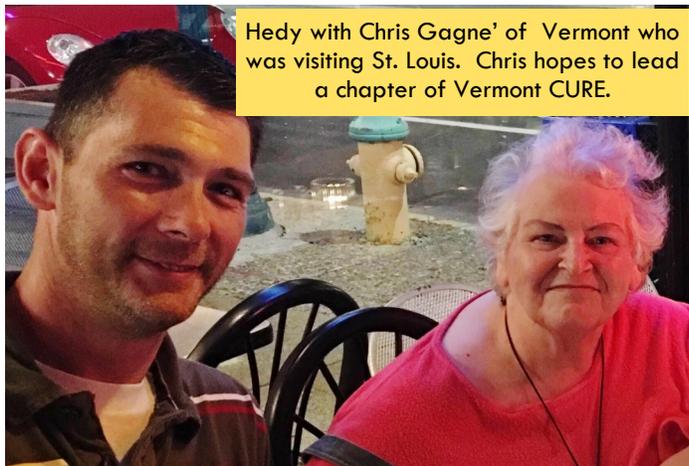
*Asante! We appreciate your support!*

**M**any thanks to the following people who donated to Missouri CURE: Chtonia Battile, Matthew Handlang, James Harris, Marlow Johnson, Jerome Jones, Gary Lyerla, Jane Sorgea, Timothy White and Joshua Williams. Thanks to Costco & Gates Barbecue for contributing to lunch for the conference. Special thanks to the WERDCC NAACP for its donation of \$250.00; to the JCCC Brighter Tomorrow Group for its donation of \$200.00; and to the SCCC Gavel Club for its most generous donation of \$500.00. Continuing appreciation to Clare Peterson for help with the Prisoner Health Committee and our website. Once again, we are deeply grateful to Action Mailing for the printing of our newsletter. Thanks so much to all of you!

All prisoners suffering from Hep C are advised to contact Attorney Mae Quinn at the MacArthur Justice Center of St. Louis—address is on page 7.

### Positive News!

The ACA (American Correctional Association) has passed a motion calling for **repeal of the exception clause in the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment**. This is the clause that permits slavery in U.S. prisons. Dianne Tramutola-Lawson, Chair of both Colorado CURE and National CURE, has been a member of the ACA for several years representing CURE.



Hedy with Chris Gagne' of Vermont who was visiting St. Louis. Chris hopes to lead a chapter of Vermont CURE.

## Join Missouri CURE!

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Make checks payable to Missouri CURE.

