

highlights

- 1 Virginia CURE Chapter News
- 1 Quarterly Meeting
- 2 Director's Corner
- 4-6 Annual Meeting
- 7 Book Corner



Virginia CURE's 23rd Annual Meeting and Conference

Families Matter! Addressing the Impact of Incarceration

**Saturday,
October 30, 2010
9:00 a.m - 3:30 p.m.**

**Virginia Wesleyan
College
Blocker Hall Building
1584 Wesleyan Dr.
Norfolk, VA 23502**

(see pages 4-5)

Virginia CURE Chapter News

The Richmond CURE Chapter has re-formed under the leadership of Al Simmons. Al has represented Virginia CURE at a Board of Corrections meeting. He also accompanied, Tom Petersik, CURE's prison industry representative, to a meeting with Banci Tewelde, Prisoner and Juvenile Reentry Council Coordinator. He will attend Reentry Council workgroup meetings as well. The Richmond CURE Chapter hosted CURE's Legislative Committee for its July meeting at the Friends Meeting House in Richmond. We extend a hearty welcome to this new group of volunteers.

Cynthia Gibbs, former Coordinator of Hampton Roads CURE, has stepped down after a successful tenure. We thank Cindy for her hard work in maintaining the viability of this active Chapter. We welcome the new Coordinator, James Bailey who has served as Vice President of and the Legal Redress Chairman for the Virginia Beach NAACP. He is also Regional Director of the Missing Voters Project. Stephen Northrup, attorney for the plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit against the Parole Board, spoke to the September chapter meeting via conference call and more informative meetings are being planned.

Virginia CURE's President and former Director, Jean Auldridge, coordinates the Northern Virginia CURE Chapter. In May, guests speakers were residents of The Guest House in Alexandria, a halfway house for women returning to the community. In June, the guest speaker was Delegate Patrick Hope (D-47th), who discussed goals for reforming Virginia's criminal justice system, and the upcoming Town Meeting that he, Delegate Adam Ebbin (D-49th) and Delegate Charniele Herring (D-46th) hosted in late June. After a summer recess, Charlie and Pauline Sullivan, Co-Directors of National CURE, took part in the September meeting.

Contact Virginia CURE if you are interested in starting a chapter in your community, or in joining an existing chapter. See meeting information on the back page of this newsletter.

Judge Declares Reading Policy Unconstitutional September 7, 2010

A federal judge declared the Virginia prison system's policy on inmates' access to literature unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge James Turk in Roanoke ruled in favor of an inmate who was denied access to the novels "Ulysses" by James Joyce and "Lady Chatterley's Lover" by D.H. Lawrence (from the prison library). Prison officials cited a policy that gives them broad authority to deny access to sexually explicit reading material.

Turk said in an opinion Wednesday that there is no logical connection between the ban and the state's interests in inmate rehabilitation and maintaining order. "The irrationality of O.P. 803.2 stems from the fact that it encompasses much of the world's finest literature, but does not extend to 'soft core' pornography such as Playboy magazine," Turk wrote in the opinion...

replaced. No changes in practices for dealing with extreme heat were forthcoming. DOC officials advised that no prisoners have died in state prisons this summer due to the extreme heat.

Continued on page 3

Virginia CURE / DOC Quarterly Meeting

Virginia CURE's Board of Directors meet quarterly with the Department of Corrections after submitting an agenda of issues for discussion derived from communications CURE receives. The August 5, 2010 agenda resulted in the following discussions:

Population & Budget: VDOC has lost 2,400 beds. Jails currently house about 3,500 state prisoners. It is likely that more will be cut from the Department's budget next year and the Department is looking for ways to address this situation.

The DOC advised that it prefers to close facilities rather than to cut programs.

Extreme Heat: CURE has received complaints about high temperatures in the prisons without air-conditioning. DOC advised that ice is delivered at regular intervals to pods that are not air-conditioned. CURE suggested larger fans be installed. DOC advised it is unable to install large fans to improve circulation. Prisoners can purchase individual 8" fans from the commissary for \$27. These fans have a tendency to freeze and are not

Director's Corner

Carla Peterson

CURE members have been very active through late spring and summer representing CURE at meetings with legislators including staff of Senator Webb's office to discuss prison industry and the PIE program and state legislators to discuss 2011 legislation. CURE members Bill Richardson and Helen Trainor participated on a panel in the Criminal Justice Town Meeting in Arlington sponsored by Delegates Hope, Herring and Ebbin (see *Chapter News*). Eileen Grey, Juvenile Justice Representative, was a member of the Blueprints for Change workgroup of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in July and Carla Peterson represented CURE on the DCJS Blueprints Adult Recidivism workgroup. Both groups will make recommendations this fall. (See below for CURE members who are participating in various workgroups of the Reentry Council.)

Several conferences were covered this summer including the Virginia Organizing Project's 15th Anniversary Meeting and Workshop, the Virginia

Chaplain Service's 90th Anniversary Celebration and the Out4Life Conference sponsored by Prison Fellowship Ministries. PFM is planning to coordinate reentry councils in several communities. DOC Director Gene Johnson, spoke at this Conference, telling attendees that, "You've got to change the mind-set of lock-them-up-and-throw-away-the-key." Mr. Johnson stated that we need to think of crime and punishment in a different way, adding, "At some point in time we need to stop locking up people we're mad at and lock up people we're afraid of."

CURE's Legislative Committee has had two meetings since July and will meet again in September. CURE's Web site Committee has continued to explore positive changes to our web site, www.vacure.org. Our Quarterly meeting with the DOC occurred on August 5 and is described in this issue.

Plans are going forward for CURE's 23rd Annual Meeting and Conference in Norfolk. This meeting will focus on the impact of incarceration on families

and will feature local, state and national speakers. In addition, Jane Brown, Director for Community Partnerships, Office of the Governor, will review the progress of the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Reentry Council. Our annual meetings are held in different parts of the state so that members from those areas can conveniently attend. Information about the 23rd Annual Meeting and the pre-registration form is included in this issue of the newsletter (pp 4 and 5). Much work goes into planning our meetings, so please make an effort to attend!

Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Reentry Council

Workgroup meetings began in May and will continue through October. Recommendations were forwarded to the Council on August 31 for consideration. The Community and Interagency Leadership Team composed of state agency staff and members of the General Assembly will review recommendations, which will be finalized by December 31st. Recommendations are too numerous to detail in this publication, but do address the many issues that affect newly released people. There are seven Council workgroups: Employment/Education/Workforce; Housing; Mental Health/Substance Abuse; Financial Obligations, Health-Family Reintegration; Offender Reentry Preparation; and Local/Regional Jails. In addition there are three Focus Area Committees; Juvenile Reentry, Women's Reentry and Veteran's Reentry. A Task Force on Sex Offender Reentry Issues was added at the request of the Governor. CURE members serving on Reentry Council Workgroups include: John Horesji, (SALT) Health and Family Reintegration; Tom Petersik, Financial Obligations; Sandra Brandt, (Step-Up, Inc.) Employment/Education/Workforce; Eileen Grey, Juvenile Reentry; Rev. Bill Twine, Task Force on Reentry Issues Related to Sex Offenders. Al Simmons, Richmond chapter leader, will attend and report on open sessions of workgroups not including a CURE member.

VA Receives Reentry Funds

September 7, 2010: Governor McDonnell Announces Reentry Funding for Virginia

\$750.00 from the Second Chance Act will go to 6 areas of the state for reentry councils, including: Culpeper, Albemarle/Charlottesville, King George and Planning District 16 (Caroline County, Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford), Norfolk, Richmond City and surrounding counties of Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover and fourteen localities of far Southwest Virginia. The federal grant award along with a \$750,000 in-kind match of services from Virginia localities and state agencies will result in a \$1.5 million reentry project for the Commonwealth.

The Second Chance Act also provided \$135,692 to create the Norfolk Circuit Re-entry Docket (NCCRD) pilot project which will provide coordinated and comprehensive reentry planning, supervision, substance abuse treatment, case management, and judicial oversight with a goal of reducing recidivism.

Another federal grant, totaling \$300,000 will target female offenders receiving drug treatment in DOC facilities who are returning to the counties of Tazewell, Russell and Buchanan. In private and public partnership, Verizon Wireless donated \$10,000 to supplement the grant to be used specifically for women with history of domestic and sexual abuse.

Quarterly meeting continued

Prison Wages: Wages have been adjusted across the system consisting of three pay levels moving from unskilled to skilled workers. The only way to receive higher pay is to go up a skill level. Prisoners will only be docked if they miss work. This is a change endorsed by DOC Director Gene Johnson. No new funds were appropriated for this adjustment. *(This information corrects Spring 2010 Inside Out in which the word “raise” was used incorrectly.)*

Parole, HB30: CURE was informed that the DOC's August 1 report to the Parole Board, in compliance with HB30, listed 14 people. We were advised that the list will not be made public, though those listed were to be notified. Prisoners who are eligible for parole are cautioned that the Parole Board is an independent agency and how the DOC list is used cannot be predicted.

Reentry: The lengthy discussion of current reentry proceedings is too long to detail here. The cognitive reentry program and the community council programs were described for CURE Board members. Religious, and other groups, can establish community reentry councils. Prison Fellowship plans to organize councils in the Martinsville/Danville, Roanoke and Newport News areas.

Health Issues on Reentry: Ex-offenders can qualify for Medicare/Medicaid and those with medical issues are pre-qualified for Medicaid. For severely disabled prisoners, the challenge is finding a nursing home that will take them. There have been several cases of people not being released for lack of nursing home or family to care for them, though there are fewer than 20 per year who need a nursing home upon release. Veteran's organizations are supplied with lists of all the veterans and a VA representative meets with veterans in prison regarding eligibility for assistance. There are approximately 1,902 vets in Virginia prisons.

Medical: The DOC responded to a CURE question about the treatment of diabetics by denying that people do not receive appropriate and timely medication. A CURE Board member brought up the Virginia Institutionalized Person's Project report on medical care in Virginia prisons. The DOC had not seen this report. A copy was left with the Chief Nurse. We were informed of a new program for deaf prisoners involving the use of beepers that will vibrate, calling the person's attention to a special screen providing information.

Global Tel Link: Dissatisfaction with the Global Tel Link billing process and hardware problems were brought to the attention of two representatives of the company who promised to look into malfunctioning phones and the billing issue. Global Tel Link discussed the two types of bills. The collect call bill is an actual bill, while prepay is an account statement. Board members were informed that there are three billing levels within a state and one level out of state. In 2006, a new contract simplified the billing process. Intrastate phone calls average about \$8.00 depending on the distance involved. A comment concerning the Argentinean call center elicited the information that this has been closed and customer assistance is local now.

Meeting attendees: **Virginia CURE:** Jean Auldridge, President, Frances Boatman, Bob Bohall, Sherry King, Carla Peterson, Director, Christa Pierpont, James Rivers, Rev. Bill Twine, Board Chair

Department of Corrections: Gene Johnson, Director, Gary Bass, Chief of Operations, Offender Management Services, Dr. Lewis Cei, Special Programs Manager, Teri Crisley, Chief Nurse, Health Services, Christine Eacho, Reentry Services Manager, Mike Leininger, Director, Office of Communications, Scott Richeson, Director, Statewide Programs, Buck Rogers, Assistant Director of Operations. **Global Tel Link:** Loren Studebaker, Senior Vice President - Services, Tom Zider, Field Services Manager.

A Note About Letters to Virginia CURE!

While CURE cares about your concerns and appreciates being kept informed, we don't have a volunteer staff large enough to reply promptly to all requests received.

To increase your chances of receiving a reply, keep it short and to the point. Writing frequently about the same issue also slows down the process.

Please do not send legal papers. We are an advocacy, educational and support organization, not attorneys, and cannot provide legal services, including legal analysis or research.

Family Support Organizations

Presenters Include:

Juanita Shanks, Founder and President, FAILSAFE-ERA, Fredericksburg

FAILSAFE-ERA is a community resource ministry organized for charitable and educational purposes to provide avenues to educational opportunities, sources of rehabilitation, and a means of adapting to family members affected by the incarceration of a loved one. The organization recently released a Reentry Resource Handbook for the Fredericksburg area. Juanita has over 28 years of experience in administrative management and strategic planning for the Department of Defense. She possesses a B.S. Degree in Business and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Superior Civilian Service Award. (web site: www.failsafe-era.biz/)

Kim Foreman, LCSW Director, Mentoring Children of Prisoners-Seton Youth Shelters, Virginia Beach

Kim has worked with youth and families for 14 years and Seton Youth Shelters for 6 years. She has a B.A. in Criminal Justice, an M.A. in Social Work, and a license in clinical social work (L.C.S.W.). (web site: setonyouthshelters.org/)

Reesy Floyd-Thompson, Founder & President, Prisoners' Wives, Girlfriends, & Partners (PWGP), Norfolk

Reesy is a freelance journalist and marketing consultant. She is also a certified professional coach, specializing in relationships and self-esteem, and a certified marriage counselor. In 2009, she founded PWGP, an organization dedicated to those with an incarcerated partner. Reesy is a public speaker and offers workshops on how to sustain and maintain a healthy relationship despite incarceration. She hosts a weekly online talk show dedicated to issues related to prisoner's families. (web site: www.reesyfloyd-thompson.com/)

Carolyn LeCroy, Founder, The Messages Project, Norfolk

Carolyn is an award-winning film and video producer with her own company, Women in Transition. She was a member of the Governors Reentry Policy Academy and the Community-Based Reentry Committee for the pilot program in Norfolk. Carolyn was nationally recognized as a "CNN Hero" for her work with The Messages Project that videotapes messages from incarcerated parents to their children. Carolyn works for the Virginia Department of Corrections. (web site: www.themessageproject.org/)

Melissa Anderson, Our Daughters and Sons Support Group, Hampton

Melissa, is Southside Representative for Our Daughters and Sons Support Group. She came to the group as a family member of a prisoner. Although Our Daughters and Sons began as a support group for parents, members realized that advocacy needed to be an important part of the group's mission. In 2009 ODS began to work with a Reentry program in Norfolk, and sponsored a reentry conference entitled "After Release from Prison, Then What?" The group has worked with local probation and parole offices, and community services and has assisted several ex-offenders to find work.

Families Addressing the Imp

Virginia CURE's 23rd Annual Saturday, Oct

9:00 a.m.

Virginia Wesleyan C
1584 Wesleyan Drive,

Featured

Keynote Speaker: Liz Gaynes, Executive D

Elizabeth Gaynes is Executive Director of the C organization dedicated to serving those affected approaches for strengthening families and cor reliance on incarceration. She has designed or programs, including FamilyWorks. In 2004, she the prestigious International World's Children's began her legal career representing men involved worked in Albany at Prisoners Legal Services o Pretrial Services Resource Center (now Pretrial degree from Syracuse University. (Web site: <http://>)

Jane Brown, Director of Communi

For many years, Jane was Director of Communi Services. She served as a member of the interage the Kaine and Warner administration's Reentry Financial Obligations, Housing and Community R ly, she was instrumental in the design and co currently operating throughout of the state. She and Juvenile Reentry Council, Chairing the Cour

Directions from 64E Take exit 282, Virginia off exit, turn right at Wesleyan Drive, take 2 at check in and say Blocker Hall Building.

What's Matter! Impact of Incarceration

Annual Meeting and Conference
October 30, 2010

3:30 p.m.

College Blocker Hall
Norfolk, Virginia 23502

Speakers

Director, Osborne Association, New York

Osborne Association, a 75-year old nonprofit
by incarceration and to developing effective
communities, preventing crime, and reducing
implemented numerous prison and reentry
was the first American ever nominated for
Prize for the Rights of the Child. Ms. Gaynes
in the 1971 Attica prison rebellion. She later
of New York, and in Washington DC at the
al Justice Institute). Ms. Gaynes holds a law
<http://www.osborneny.org/>

Community Partnerships, Office of Governor

Community Partnerships for the Department of Social
Agency team coordinating the reentry activities of
Policy Academy, and served as the chair of the
Resources Academy Subcommittee. Additional-
ordination of the Reentry Council Programs
shares her expertise with the Virginia Prisoner
Council Leadership Team.

Wesleyan College, stay to the right coming
2nd right turn into Wesleyan College, stop

Community Resources Panel

Panelist Include:

Fran Bolin, Executive Director, Assisting Families of Inmates, Inc., Richmond

Fran Bolin has a B.A. in Social Work and an M.S.W. in Social Work. While attaining her M.S.W., she worked as an intern for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. She has worked on such issues as child abuse and neglect, juvenile competency, the needs of children with incarcerated parents and most recently offender reentry into the community. Before joining the staff of AFOI, in January, 2001, Fran worked as a Local Probation Officer for Community Corrections Services in Chesterfield County. (*web site: www.afoi.org/*)

Sandra Brandt, Executive Director, STEP UP, Inc., Norfolk

Sandra is the chairwoman of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Health Care Task Force and serves on the transportation committee of the Hampton Roads Partnership, a workgroup of the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Reentry Council, and on the board of the South Hampton Roads Urban League. Sandra has been working with reentry and family issues for 35 years. She is a member of the Virginia CURE Board of Directors. (*web site: stepupincorporated.com/*)

Emma Waller, Deputy Director, Guest House, Alexandria

Friends of Guest House was founded to provide a temporary home for women charged with or convicted of a criminal offense, who are in the need of basic human services to facilitate their new start in life and adjustments to the community at large. The organization has been honored by Catalogue for Philanthropy of the Greater Washington area as a Best Small Charity and has also received the Washington Area Women's Foundation Leadership Award in 2009. (*web site: friendsofguesthouse.org/*)

Bernard Curry, Ph.D., Director, In-Home Clinical & Casework Services, Norfolk

Bernard is a professor at Strayer University. He has a M.S.W. degree and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He is also a Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider. Bernard has taught at Norfolk State and Christopher Newport Universities. He recently earned a Ph.D. in Social and Community Services. Bernard owns and operates a community mental health agency.

Rachel Satiafa, Therapist, Helping Families Cope & Grow Stronger, Richmond

Rachel is a writer and philanthropist working in the fields of African American Folklore and Women's Studies. A graduate of the University of Virginia and the Howard University Program for Small Business/Community Development, she is the author of two books, [Broom Jumping: A Celebration of Love](#) and [Grandmother's Gift of Memories](#). Her latest book, [Love Locked Down](#) is her first novel and deals with the effects of punitive incarceration on minority populations.

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants-Virginia, Inc.
P.O. Box 6010 • Alexandria, Virginia 22306-0010
Phone and fax: 703-765-6549
Email: vacurel@cox.net or jean4virginiacure@gmail.com

Virginia CURE 23rd Annual Meeting and Conference

Saturday, October 30, 2010

Virginia Wesleyan College, Blocker Hall

1584 Wesleyan College Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Families Matter! Addressing the Impact of Incarceration

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

Registration Fee – Includes morning coffee/tea, luncheon and meeting material
Checks and money orders are payable to Virginia CURE

Note: Pre-registration extended to October 15, 2010

CURE Members \$25 Non Members \$30.00

October 16-30, 2010

CURE Members \$35.00 Non-Members \$40.00

To pre-register, mail form with remittance to:

Virginia CURE
P.O. Box 6010
Alexandria, VA 22306-0010

CURE Chapters

Northern Virginia CURE
Jean Auldridge
Jean4vacure@gmail.com
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Arlington Unitarian Church
4444 Arlington Blvd.
Arlington VA 22204

Richmond CURE
Al Simmons
Al22s@hotmail.com
4th Sunday, 1 :00 PM
Friends Meeting House
4500 Kensington Ave
Richmond VA 23221

Hampton Roads CURE
James Bailey
Jbailey383@aol.com
3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Norview Baptist Church
1127 Norview Ave.
Norfolk VA 23513

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

If you have an email address and are not receiving updates from Virginia CURE, please send a message to vacure1@cox.net. (vacure one)

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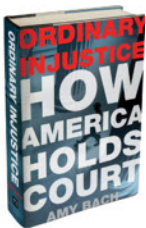
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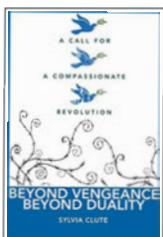
Please see membership
form on back page.

We can't do this
without you.

Book Corner



Ordinary Injustice: Amy Bach The author spent eight years investigating courtroom failures around the country. During this time she found that professionals who work in the system cannot see the harm they are doing to the people they serve. *The National Law Journal* says: “One of the most powerful and important books on the law published in 2009...”. *The New York Review of Books* says: “Amy Bach, a writer and attorney, has found a powerful and frightening story in the day-to-day workings of the justice system and, in particular, how it fails to live up to its ideals. “The routine injustice”, she writes, “is happening in courtrooms across the country.” This is a powerful and well researched book that will be eye opening to those unaware of the situation and a tool for those trying to change it!



Beyond Vengeance, Beyond Duality: Sylvia Clute, Sylvia Clute is a former trial lawyer who became disillusioned with the prevailing justice system and began a search for a better way. She begins with a description of the our current criminal justice system, a win/lose system in which everyone loses. She then presents a new approach, “unitive” justice; an approach based on ancient customs, which involves the community and aims for healing and reconciliation, not vengeance. She describes today’s system as based on duality, good/evil, friend/enemy, win/lose. Sylvia suggests that this duality is false and that we can do better by recognizing the oneness of life and seeking to restore balance and harmony through methods that involve collaboration and allow everyone to win.

**Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants– Virginia, Inc.
Virginia CURE**

P.O. Box 6010
Alexandria, Virginia
22306-0010

Virginia CURE web site
www.vacure.org

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**Today's prisoners
are tomorrow's neighbors**

Are you a Member of Virginia CURE?



Member

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants– National, Inc.



Use form for new memberships or to renew your membership for

Membership in Virginia CURE

Join Virginia CURE today and become a part of the effort to work for criminal justice reform and safety in our communities. Send dues payment to:

Virginia CURE, P.O. Box 6010, Alexandria, Virginia 22306-0010

Dues are payable January 1 on a yearly, non-prorated basis for current year. Prisoner members need to include state number on all communications to CURE.

Remember to send address changes.

Check type of membership

- Prisoner* \$ 2.00
- Individual \$ 15.00
- Family \$ 25.00
- Sustaining \$ 50.00
- Organization \$100.00
- Life \$100.00
- Renewal

Please make checks payable to **Virginia CURE**. Contributions are tax deductible under the provisions of 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

*Prisoners may send five stamps.

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name _____

address _____
street/or p.o. apt.

_____ city state zip

e-mail _____ prisoner birthday _____

phone day () evening ()

fax () _____

Involvement: prisoner family friend professional volunteer

other _____ Institution _____

please specify

Virginia CURE invites prisoners to submit original articles, poetry and artwork for consideration for publication. Virginia CURE reserves the right to edit submissions accepted for publication.

Virginia CURE will not return submissions unless prior arrangements are made. Send submissions to: Newsletter Editor, Virginia CURE, P.O. Box 6010, Alexandria, Virginia 22306-0010

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