

highlights

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Director's Corner: Virginia CURE has been involved in a number of activities since our last newsletter. We held our 25th Annual Meeting in October, which is described below. In January we held our 21st annual Advocacy Day. As we did last year, we had booklets listing our major legislative priorities with talking points attached. The volunteers who attended once again either spoke with legislators, aides or left materials at every office. This year was a short session and things seemed to happen with lightning speed. We have seen one "CURE bill" go forward, a parole bill that successfully passed the House and Senate. Although the bill is not as strong as we would like, each step, no matter how small gets us closer to reforming the system. See page 2 for legislation details. Virginia CURE joined a coalition of organizations, led by the Justice Policy Institute to plan strategies for 2014 legislation. CURE volunteers also attended hearings such as the School to Prison Pipeline hearing in Washington and also a hearing appealing the decision to retry Justin Wolfe after a previous court acquitted him due to a mistrial. Virginia Board of Corrections meetings were attended when topics involved CURE concerns. CURE also co sponsored with SALT (Social Action Linking Together) a Richmond Wrap Up meeting in Northern Virginia featuring a number of Northern Virginia legislators.

Virginia CURE Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on October 13, 2012. The meeting planned jointly with Families And Allies of Virginia's Youth, focused on Restorative Justice as applied to juvenile justice. The keynote speaker was Sylvia Clute, a well known activist and author of a number of books on Restorative Justice.

Ms. Clute began by noting that before organized states were established, people in small villages handled those who broke village rules by having the community come together to discuss the circumstances and decide the community response. Once the state was established and a king placed at the head, broken rules were considered to have offended not only the victim, but the state and the king took over the role of pronouncing judgement. We all know that even though a victim may be forgiving, the state is not. It now owns the crime.

Restorative Justice, she informed us, is an approach that looks back to the manner in which early human communities practiced justice, an approach that involves not just the victim and the perpetrator but the community as a whole. Today, there are restorative practices in many countries. In this country these practices often involve students in schools and juveniles with non violent infractions.

Following Ms. Clute's talk we heard from some practitioners of Restorative Justice in Virginia. They included Donna Chewing, Coordinator of the Restorative Justice Program at the Conflict Resolution Center in Roanoke, Peter Van Akers, Superintendent, at the Harrisonburg Men's Diversion Center, and Sue Prail, Director, Restorative Justice Initiatives at the Fairfield Center in Harrisonburg.

The meeting also heard from Virginia CURE issue representatives. Chapter leaders were updated on national issues from National CURE leader Charlie Sullivan. A short business meeting elected our 2013 Board of Directors. A breakout session with small groups discussing the possible impact of Restorative Justice on CURE issues today ended the meeting. -Carla

Two Views:

Criminal Justice:

- What laws have been broken?
- Who did it?
- What do they deserve?

Restorative Justice:

- Who has been hurt?
- What are their needs?
- What can be done to repair the harm?

Restorative Justice Programs:

- Identify and take steps to repair harm
- Involve all stakeholders
- Transform traditional relationships between communities and their governments in responding to crime

Some Restorative Justice Methods:

- Victim offender mediation
- Conferencing
- Circles
- Victim assistance
- Ex-offender assistance
- Restitution
- Community service

From www.Restorativejustice.org

2013 Legislative Wrap Up

This year, we were able to have one successful piece of legislation pass. Unfortunately, the all voting rights bills were folded into a bill by Del. Charmiele Herring which was then defeated in the House; but we are hopeful for future successes. Legislation included bills addressing the cost of telephone calls, FOIA exemptions, juvenile sentence modifications and other familiar CURE advocated bills. There were also several Writ of Actual Innocence bills in response to the growing number of people who have been exonerated. One such bill addressing the situation of juveniles was passed. One bit of light was the passage of a parole bill patroned by Del. Mark Sickles which was finally able to pass subcommittee #2 of the House Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee. This bill mandates the Parole Board to give individualized reasons for denial, not “pick from list” reasons. It is a modest bill, but an important step forward. Several Sex Offender bills were killed. A lengthy bill by Del. Gilbert greatly expanding the number of crimes defined as violent was passed. Two other bills of interest were directed at jails and made it possible for jails to operate online stores with profits going toward the operation of the jail, and to charge for Internet visitations using free Internet programs like Skype. Only a few of the many bills passed or killed could fit on this page. If you want to see the whole list, please write to us and we will send the 6 pages to you. Some bills are listed below.

HB 1989 Parole; earned sentence credits. Jennifer L. McClellan. Allows a maximum of 15 sentence credits to be earned for each 30 days served for non-violent prisoners under the abolition of parole law (post January 1, 1995). **01/17/13 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table**

HB 1854 Prisons; telephone systems.: Patrick A. Hope. Provides inmate phone services commissions paid to the Commonwealth shall not exceed 10 percent of the overall net revenue realized by the provider. All commissions or revenues received by the Commonwealth on prisoner telephone calls shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to a special non reverting fund known as the Prisoner Reentry Fund to be used for independent pre-release and post-release reentry and transition service programs. **Passed by indefinitely in Militia, Police and Public Safety (15-Y 7-N)**

SB 835 Eligibility for TANF; drug related felonies, Barbara A. Favola: Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive Temporary Aid to Needy Families assistance should not be denied assistance solely because he has been convicted of a felony offense of possession of a controlled substance provided that he complies with all obligations imposed by the court and the Department of Social Services, is actively engaged in or has completed substance abuse treatment and participates in drug screenings. **02/07/13 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (4-Y 0-N)**

HJ 745 FOIA; Council to study whether Act should be amended. Patrick A. Hope Directs the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council to study whether the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, specifically § 2.2-3703 of the Code of Virginia, should be amended to eliminate any exemption from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act not otherwise generally applicable to other public bodies of the Commonwealth and to report its findings and recommendations. **01/22/13 House: Stricken from docket by Rules Committee**

HB 2103 Parole Board; parole review and denial. Mark D. Sickles Requires the Parole Board to ensure that each person eligible for parole receives a timely and thorough review of his suitability for release on parole, including a review of any relevant post-sentencing information. If parole is denied, the basis for the denial of parole shall be in writing and shall give specific reasons for such denial to such inmate.. **01/18/13 House: Reported from Militia, Police and Public Safety with amendment (17-Y 5-N)**
01/23/13 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (98-Y 0-N), 02/08/13 Senate: Reported from Rehabilitation and Social Services (14-Y 0-N) , 02/12/13 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N), 02/18/13 House: Signed by Speaker, 02/19/13 Senate: Signed by President, 03/23/13 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 708 (effective 7/1/13)

HB 1308 Writ of actual innocence for juveniles adjudicated delinquent.: Gregory D. Habeeb. Provides that a juvenile adjudicated delinquent of an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult may petition the Supreme Court to issue a writ of actual innocence on the basis of biological or non biological evidence regardless of his plea or the classification of the felony for which he was adjudicated delinquent. Currently such petitions are limited to those convicted (i) in the case of biological evidence, of a Class 1 or Class 2 felony or equivalent felony upon any plea or of any other felony upon a plea of not guilty or (ii) in the case of nonbiological evidence, of any felony upon a plea of not guilty **01/29/13 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (99-Y 0-N 02/06/13 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice (14-Y 0-N)), 02/12/13 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)**

HB 1766 Sexual offenses; prior offense admissible as evidence in criminal case. Robert Bell Provides that in a criminal case in which the defendant is accused of an offense of sexual abuse, evidence of the defendant's conviction of another offense or offenses of sexual abuse is admissible and may be considered for its bearing on any matter to which it is relevant. **Passed by indefinitely in Courts of Justice with letter (15-Y 0-N)**

SB 832 Pornography; mandatory minimum sentence. Richard H. Stuart Provides that the sentence of a person convicted of certain pornography offenses which carry a five-year mandatory minimum term must serve that term consecutively with any other sentence imposed. The offenses include a second offense involving the reproduction, transmission, or distribution of child pornography or the solicitation of child pornography in order to gain entry into a group engaged in trading or sharing child pornography. **02/01/13 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (33-Y 5-N), 02/20/13 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (100-Y 0-N)**

Parole Grant Rates 2012

Month	Granted		Not Granted		Revoked
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	
January	4	4%	102	14	
February	9	6%	139	16	
March	9	2%	397	37	
April	7	3%	261	16	
May	12	3%	353	25	
June	10	3%	285	38	
July	18	6%	279	16	
August	13	4%	312	6	
September	10	5%	209	40	
October	9	4%	208	31	
November	9	3%	272	11	
December	6	3%	223	23	
Total 2012	116	4%	3040	273	

The number of parole board decisions dropped sharply by 17.4% in 2012 in contrast to 7.4% in 2011 and 5.2% in 2010. Some decline annually with the abolishment of parole effective January 1, 1995 is to be expected with an aging population of "old law" prisoners, but it may well be that policy, administrative or communication changes by the Parole Board or the Department of Corrections are resulting in many prisoners not bothering to apply for a parole hearing given the depressing results of recent years.

An area of continued concern is the actions of the Virginia Parole Board with respect to prisoners 60 years or older. For the past seven months 1% of prisoners 60 years or older were granted parole out of 289 in their 60's, 70's and 80's that were reviewed. In December parole was not granted to any of 37 prisoners reviewed age 60 and over. This certainly raises questions regarding the Parole Board, the effectiveness of Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) programs and cavalierly adds to the burden of Virginia taxpayers to continue to incarcerate these older prisoners. While these individuals may have committed crimes of a "serious nature and circumstances" questions can be raised regarding how much retribution and revenge needs to be extracted at public expense to care for and house these older felons or the apparent lack of confidence of any positive results of rehabilitation efforts on the part of the Commonwealth DOC programs.

Bob Bohall

Nationally:**Fewer Parolees Reincarcerated, A Hint That Some Reforms are Working**

A U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics report says that of 500,000 parolees who leave supervision each year, 32 percent were re incarcerated in 2011 compared with 36 percent in 2008, which means that 30,000 fewer parolees were sent back to prison last year than three years earlier.

The New York Times says this suggests that state reforms are cutting the numbers of parolees who are bounced back to prison for minor infractions. Many states are remaking "hair-

trigger" systems that send large numbers of people back to custody not for new crimes but for violations like failing a drug test or missing an appointment with a parole officer. Several states have cut recidivism by giving newly released inmates access to drug treatment or mental health care, focusing parole supervision on the riskiest offenders, and developing community-based sanctions that send only troubled or repeat offenders back to prison.

In Virginia**Dillwyn Correctional Center Has Established the State's Third Veteran Oriented Dorm**

Those residents who previously served in any branch of the US military are currently being moved to one dormitory where the re-entry needs of Veterans can more easily be met. At present there are around 70 men at Dillwyn who have served the United States in military service; from those who served in Vietnam to those who have served in conflicts after 9/11. Other Veteran's dorms have been established at Haynesville and Indian Creek .

State To Continue Operating Civil Commitment Facility

Last year unsolicited bids by two for-profit prison operators to operate the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR) were received by the Department of Health and Behavioral Rehabilitation. One corporation the GEO Group, in fact, operates Lawrenceville Correctional Center, a level three prison. CURE opposed the takeover of the VCBR as the profit motive provides an incentive to keep prisoners incarcerated. The bids were rejected in January. We are relieved, but will continue to object to the practice of civil commitment itself, which has been studied and determined to be ineffective, harmful to many people who are committed unnecessarily, and very expensive for the state.

Virginia Ends Mandatory Prison Gerrymandering

On March 25th, Governor McDonnell signed [HB1339](#), ending a state requirement that forced some local governments to engage in prison gerrymandering. Rural counties that host prisons find that relying on the Census Bureau's counts to draw districts can result in a single prisoner being the majority of a district, even though the incarcerated population is denied the right to vote. This distorts representation by giving disproportionate influence to the residents of the prison district and diluting the votes of residents of all other districts. HB1339 caps a twelve-year effort to roll back a unique provision of Virginia law that barred local governments from making adjustments to the federal Census data," said Peter Wagner, Executive Director of Prison Policy Initiative. Virginia's law now matches that of most states

River North Prison in Grayson to Open In October

A budget item was approved by the 2013 General Assembly that directed \$14,301,181 from the general fund to the DOC to open the River North Correctional Center in Grayson County by October 2013. The facility will be a level 4 and will be headed by Warden Benjamin Wright, currently at the Greenville Correctional Center. The 1,024 person facility has been empty for 2 years for lack of operating funds.

Meetings

Legislative Coalition

Virginia CURE joined a coalition of groups concerned with criminal justice reform to discuss legislative priorities for 2014. The group, brought together by the Justice Policy Institute, had their first meeting in November and will meet monthly throughout 2013. Members of the coalition include: the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NOBLE), ACLU Virginia, Resources Help for the Disadvantaged (RIHD), Justice Fellowship, The Advancement Project, the Richmond City Youth Department, Bridging the Gap, the NAACP, and Virginia CURE. More organizations will be added for the next meeting.

Solitary Confinement

The central library in Arlington was the scene on December 3 for a public meeting concerned with the use of solitary confinement in Virginia. Panelists included Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), a strong supporter of Virginia CURE, who detailed his impressions of Red Onion State Prison on a visit there last year, Heather Rice of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture who spoke on conditions in solitary confinement prisons and how they amount to torture, and Attorney Abigail Turner of the Legal Aide Justice Center in Charlottesville, who spoke against the practice and supported her contentions with anecdotes received from several clients in Red Onion and her own personal experience while visiting them. The crowd numbered over 100. Solitary confinement is becoming a big issue if this crowd if the several hundred who showed up for Sen. Durbin's hearing on solitary earlier in the year are any indication.

Other Meetings

On November 17, Carla Peterson, Director of Virginia CURE, spoke at a meeting in Washington hosted by the DC League of Women Voters. The meeting featured several panelists who spoke on sentencing in the US particularly to the problem with overly long sentences. Carla also was one of the speakers at the **League of Women Voters Legislative Roundtable for 2013**, held in Richmond on December 5th. Virginia CURE joined other organizations in attending a briefing by the DOC concerning updated information about the **DOC reentry initiative**, especially relating to changes in Red Onion and Wallens Ridge prisons. Prisoners were transferred from Wallens Ridge to Red Onion and a general population pod had been established in Red Onion. There are changes underway to create a more humane climate in these prisons. Director Clark and wardens from both prisons spoke at the meeting.

On Capitol Hill

Virginia CURE attended a Congressional hearing on the **School to Prison Pipeline** on Dec 12th. held by a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee and attended by hundreds of onlookers. Witnesses included Bobby Scott, Congressman from Virginia, Danny Davis, Senator from Illinois, administration officials Deborah Delisle, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, and Melanie Hanes, Acting Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Dept. of Justice. Other witnesses included an Attorney General from Ohio, a Chief Judge from Georgia and several representatives from non profits heavily involved in this issue. All agreed in their testimony that the last 10 years has seen a strong increase in schools relying on suspension or expulsion to handle discipline problems. Minority and disabled children are more likely to be affected by this practice. Kids have been suspended for talking back or being late to class, for example. In too many cases, kids are referred directly to the courts to begin a journey through the system that will ruin their lives adding to the large number of people incarcerated in this country. Chief Judge Steven Teak stated that he was tired of seeing his court awash with kids whose "crimes" could have been handled within the schools, short changing others who needed more time spent on their cases. He and others agreed that schools need help and that they should work with the community to deal with behavioral issues. He cited a group of American Indian schools in California that had been successful in reducing bad behavior in the schools by focusing on keeping students in schools, not expelling them. Administration officials stated that they were aware of this pipeline and were creating programs to deal with it. Ms. Lisle stated that her agency was focusing on three main areas: 1. producing a consensus report as to best practices for keeping kids in schools, which report is soon to be published. 2. working to develop guidelines and 3. steering resources to states to help reduce detention. Memphis, TN schools for example, used an Office of Juvenile Justice funding model to develop after school programs that helped to lower the suspension rate by 53%. Connecticut has reduced referrals to Court for African American students by 62%. Data is being collected on these issues and reports will be generated on many facets including early childhood education which is seen as critical.

CURE hopes that these efforts will bear fruit as feeding juveniles into the maw of our prison system is one of the most counterproductive things we can do if we want to reduce our prison population.

A Note About Letters to Virginia CURE

While Virginia CURE cares about your concerns and appreciates being kept informed, we currently don't have a volunteer staff to reply promptly to all letters received. Please, keep letters short and to the point. **Do not send legal papers.** We are unable to deal with legal issues. Send mail to **P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, VA 22183**

National News

FCC Takes Action toward Fair Prison Phone Rates

In December 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) took a critical step toward lowering the cost of telephone calls from prisons by issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The FCC labeled interstate inmate calling services (ICS) a government-sponsored "monopoly" that it wants broken up. The agency opened for public comment its proposed rules to lower interstate prison phone call rates. Its' plans include the establishment of an interstate rate benchmark, caps on rates and the end of exclusivity agreements. The fees providers pay to the states add about 43% to the calls. Some calls can cost up to 24 times that of a normal call.

Study: Static 99 Risk Assessment Unreliable

An article in the current edition of *Criminal Justice and Behavior* concedes that the Static 99 risk assessment tool for sex offenders is inaccurate. Various versions of the tool have been created as updates, however, a study of 23 groups concluded that there was an alarmingly large variability in risk estimates depending on the underlying sample. For example, at a low score of "2," an offender's predicted sexual recidivism rate after 10 years ranged from a low of 3 percent to a high of 20 percent, depending on the sample. Conversely, the Static-99R score that would predict a 15 percent likelihood of recidivism after five years ranged from a low-risk score of "2" to a high-risk score of "8," an enormous difference (greater than two standard deviations). The study's authors conceded that such large variability in risk estimates "could lead to meaningfully different conclusions concerning an offender's likelihood of recidivism." In fact, the rate of recidivism among typical sex offenders after five years was only 7 percent or less (with a range of 4 to 12 percent), lower than had been reported in a previous analysis. The researchers speculated that the risk inflation in earlier analyses may have been due to the characteristics of the underlying samples, with data from higher-risk offenders more likely to be preserved and available for study. (*Please contact Virginia CURE if you want a copy of the whole article from which this excerpt was taken. It is very technical.*)

Correction: In our last issue we reported on a bill (SB 314) that mandated new procedures for examining sex offenders for civil commitment, stating that the new legislation forbid the use of Static 99. It did not and the Static 99 is still in use in Virginia. Our confusion was due to a bill by Sen. Janet Howell that did end use of Static 99 being incorporated with Sen Blevins' bill that did not. The clause ending use of the tool in Howell's bill was deleted in the incorporated bill.

Supreme Court to review sex offender registration law

The Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether the government can require a former federal sex offender to register a change of address even after he had served his sentence and been unconditionally freed from custody. The court agreed to hear the government's appeal of a July 2012 decision overturning the conviction of Air Force veteran Anthony Kebodeaux for violating the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2006. While in the military, Kebodeaux at age 21 had consensual sex with a 15-year-old and was sentenced in 1999 to three months in prison. He was no longer under federal control by the time SORNA was enacted. In August 2007, he registered with authorities in El Paso, Texas, as a sex offender but never updated his registration after moving later that month to San Antonio. He was later apprehended, and sentenced to one year in prison after a bench trial. But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the conviction and found the registration requirement unconstitutional. Congress, it said, was not entitled to assert "unending criminal authority" over Kebodeaux because of his earlier criminal sexual activity. The Justice Department appealed, saying Congress acted within its power in subjecting Kebodeaux to the SORNA registration requirement. It also said voiding of an "important" act of Congress warranted the court's review. A decision is expected by the end of June.

In Memorium



Clifton A. (Chip) Woodrum III, who represented Roanoke in the House of Delegates from 1979 to 2003 and was a member of the Virginia State Crime Commission, died recently. Chip was a force in the House of Delegates and a supporter of Virginia CURE's issues. Virginia CURE grieves his death.

Virginia CURE was also saddened to learn of the death of another good friend, Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of the Diocese of Richmond. He was nationally known as a tireless leader for justice and peace. He had a heartfelt personal passion for prison ministry. Virginia CURE was a recipient of grants from the generosity of his Respect Life Fund. Virginia CURE mourns his passing.

Local Chapter Updates:

Hampton Roads: The chapter has focused on providing reentry information and help for returning citizens. A reentry handbook for the Tidewater area has been prepared and a job fair held which was attended by over 1000 people. Chapter leader, James Bailey met with Congressman Riegle's office to acquire support on a Ban the Box drive and removal of restrictions on ship repair employees at the naval base in Norfolk. The chapter this year has also participated in voting rights activities, registering hundreds to vote in at risk communities and also pre trial prisoners in local jails.

Northern Virginia: The chapter is currently focusing on expanding membership in Virginia CURE, through utilization of the web site and technology such as Google + and Google for non-profits. The chapter will help to plan our 2013 Annual Meeting and examine fund raising opportunities .

Richmond: Richard Walker, founder of Bridging the Gap in Virginia, spoke to the Richmond Chapter of CURE in January. Richard is a leader of a campaign to "Ban the Box" on City of Richmond job applications. On March 25 the City Council unanimously passed a resolution to eliminate a requirement that applicants for city jobs acknowledge prior felony convictions.

Virginia CURE Board/DOC Meeting March 21, 2013



Attending: Virginia CURE : Carla Peterson, Director, Mary Anne Stone, Board Vice Chair, James Bailey, Board Member and leader Norfolk chapter, Al Simmons, Board Member and Leader, Richmond chapter. Frances Boatman, Board Member. Virginia DOC: Dr. Louis Cie, Special Programs Manager, Dr. Mark Amonette, Medical Director, Scott Richeson, Reentry and Programs Director. Terry Wiggins, Veteran's Advocate stopped by and was introduced as the meeting ended. Several DOC staff were absent due to illness causing some items to be postponed till the next meeting.

Dr Mark Amonette ,who has replaced now retired Dr. Stevens, discussed the Hepatitis C issue. Dr. Amonette explained that the treatment was complicated due to the various tests necessary to determine the condition of the sufferer. The American Society for the Study of Liver Disease recommended the use of protease inhibitors but did not make a protocol. Dr. Amonette is currently studying this issue to establish guidelines to prioritize treatment. Treatment does not typically start and stop and start again when tests show a change, he stated. Frances suggested that Dr. Amonette prepare an information sheet for Hepatitis C similar to those given out by doctors on the outside to patients. Carla Peterson presented several cases from letters received and Dr. Amonette promised to examine these cases.

Scott Richeson updated reentry information. Programs are running and are being monitored. It takes, she stated, two to three years for programs to uncover and deal with unforeseen complications. The communications between the DOC and Community Corrections are working well. There are 73% fewer homeless discharges than previously, though the DOC is still concerned for those for whom homelessness looms upon release. The VA DMV is visiting a number of prisons in a mobile office van and providing IDs. Local Extension Services are running money management training for the soon to be released. The UVA's Darden School of Business is presenting an entrepreneurial class for selected offenders that is the same program offered to students at the university. A program for those incarcerated for driving offenses under VSAP (The driver training agency) can reduce the fees by as much as half. The DOC is working in the employment area as well, making an effort to hire ex offenders and holding two job fairs this year. A pilot program for women 90 days prior to release has begun at Deerfield Work Center. The next big focus Scott stated will be on families. Mary Anne Stone recommended a long look at visitation. DOC suggested that CURE bring a proposal to the next meeting.

MP3 Players are now in use at 6 sites: Sussex I and II, Red Onion, Wallens Ridge, Keen Mountain, and Nottoway. Prisoners use a kiosk to access the music. Greenville now has access to "secured messaging", which also uses a kiosk to access and respond to email.

Frances Boatman brought up telephone costs. Dr. Cie responded that he will be dealing with a new Request for Proposal (RFP) for the phones and that the cost will be reduced, though he could not say by how much.

Carla Peterson brought up a concern from a church group suddenly faced with extra security measures. Some volunteers did not want to return since they found the new protocols offensive. Scott Richeson informed CURE that the DOC has received two new mandates for all volunteers to take gang issues and prison rape training.

CURE Chapters

Northern Virginia CURE
 Carla Peterson
 Vacurel@cox.net
 3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
 Walter Reed Community Center
 2909 16th St. S
 Arlington VA 22081

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 vacurel@cox.net. (vacure one)

**Board of Directors Issue Representatives
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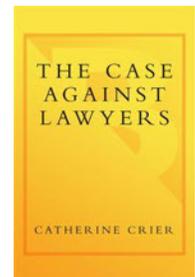
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Book Reviews:

The Case Against Lawyers Catherine Crier decries a system of laws so complex even the enforcers – such as the IRS – cannot understand them. It indicts a criminal justice system that puts minor drug offenders away for life, yet allows celebrity murderers to walk free and it excoriates the sheer corruption of the iron triangle of lawyers, bureaucrats, and politicians who profit mightily from all this inefficiency, injustice, and abuse. This book takes a long look at our whole legal system which, according to the author, needs total restructuring. Although the book has been criticized for not providing solutions, it is well worth a read.



Are Prisons Obsolete? Angela Y. Davis With her characteristic brilliance, grace and radical audacity, Angela Y. Davis has put the case for the latest abolition movement in American life: the abolition of the prison. As she quite correctly notes, American life is replete with abolition movements, and when they were engaged in these struggles, their chances of success seemed almost unthinkable. For generations of Americans, the abolition of slavery was sheerest illusion. Similarly, the entrenched system of racial segregation seemed to last forever, and generations lived in the midst of the practice, with few predicting its passage from custom. Professor Davis seeks to illustrate that the time for the prison is approaching an end. She argues forthrightly for "decarceration", and argues for the transformation of the society as a whole.

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants– Virginia, Inc.
Virginia CURE
P.O. Box 2310
Vienna, Virginia, 22183

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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 2310, Vienna, Virginia 22183

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

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*Prisoners may send five stamps.

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_____ 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 2310, Vienna, Virginia 22183

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